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R	O	B	I	N	I	A	E	N	O	T	S	N	R	U	T
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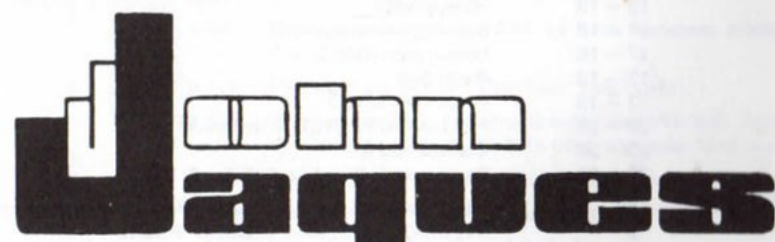
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THE CROQUET GAZETTE

ISSUE No. 164

DECEMBER 1981

1981 ANNUAL REVIEW

Trend confirmed

Most of those deeply involved in croquet agree that the game must expand if it is to survive into the next century or at all. As labour-saving technology advances, so the age of retirement will retreat and the demand for organised leisure of all forms will increase. Croquet can either advance to take its share of these youthful retirees or stand idly by, waiting for the inevitable competition from sports that covet large areas of flat turf for their more profitable ends — and ultimately suffocate. With this intentionally sombre backdrop it is slightly reassuring to conclude that the past season has seen a small acceleration in the drive for public awareness of the virtues of croquet.

Turning more specifically to trends in the tournament arena, the widening of the class of champions continued. David Openshaw had an outstanding run of 39 matches without defeat from May to August in which he won the Mens Championship, the Northern Championship, the West Park 'A' Block, the Open Championships and the strong Harrow Invitation. Steve Mulliner at last won a major event by taking the Presidents Cup — and having to defeat Nigel Aspinall twice to do so. John McCullough continued his impressive progress by winning the Chairman's Salver at his first attempt. Eddie Bell took the Spencer Ell and Martin Coward, from Cambridge, achieved a most promising "triple" by winning Southwick (August), Hunstanton and Parkstone (September) in successive weeks.

April

The season opened at Devonshire Park where Terence Read made a welcome and successful visit, winning the Ionides. There was a strong university contingent in the first week — Bowen reached the Ionides Process final, Hilditch and Burn the 'B' Class finals and, with Coward, provided 3 of the Sussex Challenge Cup semi-finalists. However local talent, in the form of David Parker, triumphed. The second week had a more traditional entry and Owen and Dab Wheeler took the top honours. C.E. Knight won both the 'B' Class and the Sussex Union Challenge Cup. At the other end of the country, Openshaw won the Southport & Birkdale Open Weekend for the second successive year.

May

Aspinall retained his 'Coles' title at Cheltenham, beating Spencer Buck, one of Australia's strongest players, in the final. Eric Solomon and Eddie Bell reached the semi-finals and Keith Wylie won the 'Swiz'. The Golf Croquet Championships also featured Antipodean interest in both finals, but Mulliner beat Murfitt and Solomon and Stephen Wright defeated Murfitt and Buck. The Peels demanded great determination from the contestants, given the wet conditions, and Alec Coleman and Betty Weitz were worthy winners of the main events. The month was concluded by the first of the three Pimms' home internationals in which Scotland and Wales drew 2-2 at Southport.

June

The Pimms series continued with wins for England over both Wales and Scotland and, thus, ultimate victory. The last match received useful coverage from two Sunday papers. Rod Williams led a Scottish invasion of Compton, William Ormerod won at Parkstone and Graeme Roberts defeated Steve Mulliner in the play-off of a very strong Roehampton Evening Tournament, with newcomer Denis Goulding taking both the 'B' and the 'X'. Bill Perry and Martin Granger Brown were the respective victors at the Challenge & Gilbey — now to be held at Roehampton during the Evening Tournament week. In the Veterans Harry Green won both halves but Lionel Adams stole the limelight with a straight two-ball triple! The major event this month was, of course, the Mens & Womens at Cheltenham. Veronica Carlisle defeated Sue Sykes in the female final after both had hard fights against Misses Hampson and Joly respectively. In the Mens upsets were everywhere. David Foulser's straight game defeat of the holder, Martin Murray, was undoubtedly the most impressive and was followed by a three-game match with Openshaw, the ultimate winner. The losing finalist was Roberts who survived near squeaks against Latham and Hands. Murray and Mrs. Meachem regained the Mixed Doubles and Martin also won the Du Pre after what was in effect a best-of-three against Bernard Neal. At Bowden Open-

shaw retained the Northern Championship — now an established event in the calendar — despite the efforts of Roger Murfitt and John Rose.

July

John Cooper put Bill Perry in the Budleigh shade and won the Colman Cup. Parkstone 'novice' Frank Shergold was the impressive winner of the 'B' event and the 'X'. Roger Murfitt won the Colchester 'A' Class played the weekend before the Opens with Martin Coward the winner of the 'AB' event in the week proper. The Opens saw David Openshaw triumph in the Singles, beating Messrs. Neal, Aspinall, Murray, Ormerod (William) and Murfitt — the last being the only one to take the champion to three games. Murfitt had survived a missed peg-out by Mulliner in their semi-final before executing two superb triples to reach the final. His consolation was that he became the first winner of the Solomon trophy for the most successful peeler. Mulliner and Mark Ormerod survived two extremely close matches to take the Doubles and Nigel Aspinall won the Plate for the first time in his career — no doubt entirely for want of trying! — after beating the same Ormerod in the play-off. Two qualifiers, Cordingley and Jones, had good reason to be grateful to the new system as it permitted them each to defeat established players in the Singles and pave the way, no doubt, for an early appearance in the Eights. In Cheltenham's main week David Foulser scored a notable success, defeating Terence Read in the 'A' class final. Mark Avery and Stephen Hoole were the strongest contenders in the so-called 'B' event with victory going to the former. Roger Murfitt defeated William Prichard in the final of the Cowhorn at Compton to round off his most successful month so far.

August

This month kicked off at Hurlingham where Eric Solomon retained his Hurlingham Cup title at the expense of Bernard Neal. Bernard's opponent in the Process final was none other than Veronica Carlisle who had beaten three mere men on the way and one in the Draw for good measure. At Carrickmines an era ended when Murfitt succeeded where Wylie and Phillips had failed the year before. After nine successive wins Terence Read failed to retain the Championship of Ireland — but only after three games in an excellent final. Up in Edinburgh Harrow member Geoff Roy faced Margaret Lauder in the final of the 'A'. To her great credit the local lady won. Martin Coward's feats at Southwick, Hunstanton and Parkstone have already been mentioned. In the first-mentioned David Parker took the 'B' and that most faithful of regulars, the Rev. Charles Townsend the 'C'. At Hunstanton Coward also took the Doubles with Allison while Paul MacDonald from Roehampton took the 'B'.

September

At Parkstone Coward had a clean sweep in all three events and beat William Ormerod into the bargain. At the Eights the emphasis was on togetherness with the two lower events both resulting in a tie for first place for the first time. The President's could very easily have ended the same way and, to cap it all, so had the Ladies Field Cup in the previous month when Sarah Hampson and Jocelyn Sundius-Smith shared. It is also worth considering that the Spencer Ell could have ended in a six-way tie for first if only two games had gone the other way. The winners have already been mentioned so it is only fair to commiserate with Messrs. Aspinall, Foulser, Vincent and Sykes, the gallant runners-up. Nigel got rapidly back into winning form by retaining the Ranelagh Gold Cup at Roehampton. Richard Hilditch rounded off an excellent season by beating Robin Godby into third place. Roehampton as a team also featured rather well in the Inter-Club. They defeated the might of Hurlingham, Harrow and Cheltenham (twice) to retain the title with a series of excellent performances — most notably against Harrow with a 6-0 win.

Having reached the end of a most fascinating year it seems appropriate to say goodbye to three people from New Zealand who will be greatly missed from the scene next year. Roger and Mary Murfitt will have finished 18 months spent teaching mathematics and playing (or loyally

The Secretary & Editor.

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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.

EDITOR'S NOTE

The Deadline for copy for the large Spring issue of the Gazette (No. 165) will be Staurday 6th March 1982.

As I am a little short of material I would much appreciate correspondence, articles and other items from as many readers as possible.

watching) croquet. They made friends wherever they went. Graeme Roberts has been over here so long (six years, in fact) that New Zealanders think he has an English accent! Having spent his time in the highest realms of theoretical physics he has now returned to develop his career in New Zealand. Oxford croquet will always be greatly in his debt. With a little luck both Roger and Graeme will have reason to visit us again in 1986 for the Tests — if not before.

I. Manon

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
to be held at the Hurlingham Club on Saturday 3rd April 1982 at 11.30 a.m.

A G E N D A

- MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**
The Minutes of the meeting held on 11th April 1981 are published elsewhere in this issue of CROQUET.
- PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS**
- CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**
- TREASURER'S REPORT**
Copies of the audited accounts for the year ended 31st December 1981 will be available at the meeting. Copies will be sent to Associates in the United Kingdom on request to the Secretary when available.
- ELECTION OF PRESIDENT**
E.P. Duffield wishes to resign from the Presidency as of 3rd April 1982. The Council nominate J.W. Solomon for election as the new President.
- ELECTION OF VICE PRESIDENTS**
In accordance with Rule V the Council nominate Lt. Col. D.M.C. Prichard and S.S. Townsend for election as Vice Presidents.
- ELECTION OF TREASURER**
The retiring Treasurer, A.J. Oldham offers himself for re-election.
- Under Rule VI (a) (i) the following members retire having completed their term of office and seek re-election:-
Dr. R.W. Bray, R.A. Godby, A.J. Oldham, K.S. Schofield, E. Strickland, OBE.
Under Rule XII, Miss P. Shine retires and seeks re-election.
Having completed their term of office the following retire and do not seek re-election:-
Mrs. H.B.H. Carlisle, Mrs. N. Tyldesley.

C. Hudson seeks election under Rule VI (a) (ii) having been proposed by R.A. Godby and seconded by R.F. Rothwell, as does B.A. Keen proposed by A.C. Mason and seconded by Mrs. N. Tyldesley.

Thus to date there are eight candidates for eight vacancies.

In accordance with Rule VI (a) (ii) any further notices of candidature for election must be received in writing by the Secretary not later than first post on Wednesday 17th March 1982, duly proposed and seconded by two other Associates.

If Lt. Col. D.M.C. Prichard and S.S. Townsend are elected Vice Presidents on 3rd April there will be two further vacancies.

9. ELECTION OF AUDITORS

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

10. BENEFACTORS

The Secretary will read the names in the Benefactors Book.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

R.F. Rothwell
Secretary

25th November 1981

Alterations to Regulations

- The amendments to Regulations 8, 10 and 19 passed by the Council on 14th March 1981 and subsequently published in CROQUET (No. 159, April 1981, page 6) were re-considered by the Council on 17th October 1981 in accordance with Rule XIV (a) (i) and passed nem con, and so became law.
- The following amendment to the revised Regulation 10 (as passed by the Council on 17th October 1981) was passed by the Council on 17th October 1981 and is published in CROQUET in accordance with Rule XIV (a) (i) after which it will be re-considered by the Council at the first possible occasion and if then passed by a majority of 6 to 4 shall become law:-

Regulation 10

Add additional paragraph as follows:-

"(c) The selling and repair of current equipment, the preparation of lawns and peripheral activities such as catering and building maintenance are not regarded as services to the game of the purpose of this Regulation."

EXTRACTS from PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNCIL MEETING on 17th October 1981.

Before the commencement of business The Council stood in silence in memory of Mrs. E. Rotherham, Vice President of the Association, who died last July.

- E.P. Duffield has expressed the wish to retire from the Presidency at the next AGM. This news was received with much regret. The Council voted unanimously to nominate J.W. Solomon for election as our new President.
- In accordance with Rule V The Council resolved unanimously to nominate at the next AGM Lt. Col. D.M.C. Prichard and S.S. Townsend for election as Vice Presidents in recognition of their services to the game.
- The resignation of T.F. Owen from the Council was announced. Miss P. Shine of the Southwick Club was co-opted under Rule XII to fill the casual vacancy so caused.
- The Open Championships will again be limited to 32 entries in the Singles for the competition proper at Hurlingham in July. Preliminary competitions will again be held if necessary to bring entries down to this number. The Plate will be played as a Swiss competition.
- The Inter-Counties is being transferred to Southwick where play will take place over Saturday and Sunday (20 — 23 May). The Peel Memorials will be played in September (also at Southwick) and

the Challenge and Gilbey returns to Roehampton after a long absence.

- Newsletter type Gazettes, containing mainly tournament results, will again be published during the playing season, with two main Gazettes in April and December.
- It is proposed to elect the Test Selection Committee at the November Council. The Test Tour Committee will select the Manager.
- A Test Tour Fund Raising Committee under the chairmanship of A.B. Hope is actively working out means of raising funds to give financial assistance to members of our team, due to leave for Australia in October 1982. It is intended to hold another draw on the lines of 1978.
- A vote of thanks to Lt. Col. Prichard was minuted for hard (and successful) work he put in writing his History of Croquet. It was reported that sales of the book are going well (published in August at £8.95, copies are available from the C.A. office to Associates and Clubs at £6.00 plus £1.00 postage and packing).

EXTRACTS from PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL MEETING 21st November 1981.

- Miss P. Shine was welcomed at her first Council meeting.
- In presenting the minutes of the Publicity & Development Committee held on 26th September the Chairman, L. Wharrad, reported that although some clubs had not returned their census forms as of 1st August 1981 about 32% of club members are now also members of the C.A. About 40 new Associates joined during the 1981 season over and above the number joining in 1980.
- It was the general consensus of opinion that the Committee should not stress Golf Croquet when trying to get television coverage.
- The design of a cheap mallet for sale to Associates is almost complete and it should be possible to sell one for about £25.
- The estimate of the Finance Committee of £4,200 for printing and distributing the Gazette in 1982 was approved as was up to £1,000 for the Publicity and Development Committee.
- The present Selection Committee was elected en bloc to be the Test Selection Committee, namely:
G.N. Aspinall, D.J.V. Hamilton-Miller, R.A. Godby, Lt. Col. D.M.C. Prichard and S.S. Townsend.
- It is hoped to have another match in 1982, Ireland v England B, probably to be held at Carrickmines in August.
- It was announced that there will be no Club Conference this Winter.

MINUTES of the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING held at The Hurlingham Club on Saturday 11th April 1981.

The Chair was taken by the President, E.P. Duffield, and there were present 39 other Associates.

- The minutes of the last General Meeting held on 19th April 1980, published in CROQUET No. 158, were adopted.
- In his address the President referred to the campaign carried out during the past season to increase the number of members in the clubs and congratulated L. Wharrad, his Committee and all those concerned in the clubs for its success, and expressed the hope that the campaign in the coming season to increase the number of Associates would be equally successful. He thanked the members of the Council and officials and others in the clubs for their continued voluntary hard work during the year in furthering the interests of the Association. He referred to the first major sponsorship by Pimms. The new Home Internationals had been an undoubted success despite the bad weather at each match.

3. The Chairman, R.A. Godby, reviewed the year's activities (reprinted in CROQUET No. 159) and was congratulated on his excellent report.

- The Treasurer, A.J. Oldham, presented the audited accounts for the year ended 31st December 1980 (published in CROQUET No. 159) and, after a few questions had been answered, the accounts were adopted.
- A.J. Oldham was unanimously re-elected as Treasurer, and was thanked sincerely for all the devoted hard work he has spent in the interests of the Association over many years.
- The Secretary reported that only eight candidates had been nominated for the eight vacancies on the Council and therefore the eight retiring members had been deemed re-elected:-
G.N. Aspinall, Mrs. E.E. Bressey, A.B. Hope, Mrs. W. Longman, Professor B.G. Neal, C.B. Sanford, S.S. Townsend and L. Wharrad.
- The proposed alterations to Rules XXIII and XXVI, as set out in the agenda for the meeting, were passed nem con.
- Messrs. Nicholass, Ames & Co. were re-elected Auditors.
- The Secretary read the names in the Benefactors Book.

OBITUARY**Mrs. E. Rotherham**

With the passing of Hope Rotherham on 26th July at the age of 87 the whole croquet world mourns the loss of a beloved character. She was one of the great women players of all time, her crowning glory coming in 1960 when she won the Open Championship. Only two other women have won this accolade since the Championship was first played in 1867 — Mrs. Beaton (as Miss Gower) in 1905, and Miss D. D. Steel in 1925, 1933, 1935 and 1936. Her other victories were legion — the Women's Championship seven times between 1952 and 1969, the Mixed Doubles Championship seven times between 1953 and 1965 with four different partners, ten appearances in the President's Cup between 1946 and 1963, winner of the first Chairman's Salver competition in 1966, six times winner of the Ladies Field Cup in over 20 appearances, winner of the Association Plate in 1951 and 1967, winner of the du Pre Cup in 1961 and 1962, South of England Singles Champion and Doubles Champion each eight times, winner of the All England Handicap in 1947 off a handicap of -1, and she played for England in the MacRobertson contest in 1956. All these national events in addition to many victories in club tournaments.

She was always immaculately turned out on the court and graceful in victory or defeat. Her unique back-swing will long be remembered. She is reputed to have spent a whole winter practicing in front of a mirror to try and straighten it, only to find her play so disastrous at the beginning of the next season that she soon reverted to her old style.

Apart from her prowess on the court she devoted much time and energy to the administration of the Association. She was elected to the Council in 1954 and served on it until she was honoured by being made a Vice President in 1974. She was long a powerful force on the Tournament Committee serving as its Chairman for the maximum period permitted of four years. All this from remote Budleigh Salterton which never deterred her, and the miles she drove on behalf of the Association ran into many thousands. Apart from croquet she was an accomplished singer and amateur actress.

Her many friends in the croquet world extend their deepest sympathy to her two children Eve and Donald. They can be assured that the courage with which she bore her long illness was much admired and they share the loss in the passing of a great personality and friend.

RFR

OBITUARY**Miss K. D. Hickson**

Older members of the C.A. will be sorry to hear of the death, after a long illness, of Miss Hickson on the day after her 86th birthday.

"Hickie", as she was known in the Croquet world, was a considerable personality and a frequent competitor in tournaments. In her younger days she played tennis for her County and was a very competent snooker player.

Obituary

J.G. Warwick

One of Croquet's Old Brigade, Guy, aged 87, died peacefully at St. Cecilia's Nursing Home, Budleigh Salterton on November the 3rd. He had been in poor health for some years, but only recently realised he could no longer manage a full game, nevertheless he seldom failed to be a spectator and critic at all the Budleigh Tournaments.

He will be remembered as having represented Devon many times in the Inter-Counties, and also for being chosen to play in the President's Cup in 1963 (when he finished seventh with 4 wins). He used to be a regular entrant for the Hunstanton Tournament, lying in a part of England where he spent much of his early life, and once had the distinction of defeating the great John Solomon on level terms! He was runner-up in the Surrey Cup in 1957, runner-up in the first Chairman's Salver in 1966 jointly with Edgar Jackson, won his C.A. Silver Medal in 1960, won the Du Pre Cup in 1963, won the South of England Championship in 1962, the South of England Men's Championship in 1964 and the South of England Doubles Championship in 1968 and 1969 with Lt. Col. D.M.C. Prichard & E.C. Tyrwhitt-Drake respectively.

He will be sadly missed.

A.J.C.

Obituary

Miss Muriel Chancellor

The Editor was recently informed by Humphrey Hicks that Miss Chancellor recently died at the age of 92. She won the Ladies' Field Candlesticks in 1926 with Mrs. L.E. Kitchingman, and also in 1931 with her mother, Mrs. W. Chancellor. Muriel, who won her C.A. Silver Medal in 1913, was about handicap 1½ and played nearly all her croquet before the first world war.

Roving Eye

Members of Southwick Croquet Club enjoyed a very pleasant party on 15th October when the "Man of the Match" was Alan Sheppard, a much loved member who was celebrating his 90th birthday. "Shep" still plays in tournaments and comes to the Club very regularly, taking a full part in all its activities. About 50 members were at the celebration and were delighted to meet Mrs. Sheppard and their daughter and son-in-law. A beautiful "croquet lawn" iced cake was cut with due ceremony and Shep's health was drunk with great acclaim. Among his presents was a lovely croquet player in action, carved in olive wood by a club member.

During October Graeme Roberts left Britain to return to New Zealand for a job interview, with the intention of staying there to live even if his interview was unsuccessful. Graeme unfortunately withdrew from the Chairman's Salver in September because he had two months work to complete in a moth, and then played no serious croquet until the Cheltenham October weekend handicap tournament, just a week before his home flight. He set his target on completing a triple peel in his last tournament game in this country and duly achieved it. Graeme has been a most popular young man on the open tournament circuit and will be much missed by those who knew him well. However, his success and improvement during his last three or four years here, may see him selected for the New Zealand test team, if not in 1982, then possibly in 1986 in Britain when his experience of conditions here would be of benefit to his country, and give him the opportunity to renew friendships. His address in New Zealand will be 7 Burdendale Grove, Johnsonville, Wellington 4. (Tel: 010 644 785 700).

Another pair of New Zealanders will have left these shores by the time many people read this article — Roger and Mary Murfitt. They left England in September to do a sightseeing tour of Europe but will be returning briefly in December before returning to New Zealand around Christmas. Roger's skilful relaxed style of play was delightful to watch and he was particularly successful during his one and half seasons here finishing in the top half of the President's Cup and being runner-up in the Open Singles in July. Whenever Roger was playing, his attractive wife was not usually far away, and for a non-croquet player was very knowledgeable about the game — so much so that the editor believes that with a little practical experience she could have passed the Referee's exam. They too will both be missed but I am sure that I speak on behalf of all croquet players here who knew Graeme, Roger and Mary in wishing them well back in New Zealand.

The Varsity Match — 8th June

Hurlingham was as usual the venue for the annual clash between the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge. What distinguishes this fixture for the protagonists is the unique (in croquet, that is) atmosphere in which it is played. While it is not unknown for players from the opposing sides to be on almost friendly terms when they meet elsewhere, the Varsity match remains an opportunity to misplace for a time the rigid rules and customs of etiquette by which croquet players normally are bound.

The teams arrived traditionally late for the start of the match. Following some criticism last year by Oxford of the opposition's attire, Cambridge had paid particular attention to dress, and had invested in some light blue hats in order to improve morale. Oxford evidently had the same idea but had opted for a less conventional approach to the problem, including a pair of bright red shoes, presumably calculated to strike fear into the hearts of the opponents.

However Cambridge quickly demonstrated that this tactic was ineffective by winning the first game, through Keith Aiton, on lawn 5. Soon after, the score was levelled when the erratic Hilditch succumbed to some very fine shooting from Chris Crowcroft on lawn 2. Honours were divided between lawns 1 and 3, when Martin Coward beat Martin Burn and P. West beat Richard Bowen respectively, neither game featuring any very distinguished play. Towards the end of the morning Raouf Allim (Cambridge) needed to hit a long lift shot, did so, and won, putting Cambridge 1 up. The players from both teams then settled down around lawn 6 to watch the inevitable conclusion on time. For Cambridge, Martin Burgess was one hoop ahead and was entitled to a lift with just over a minute to go. Showing a fine appreciation of the balance between tactics and etiquette he unhesitatingly elected to play with the further ball, which was near 1st corner from the B-baulk. Although he covered the 75 yards at brisk pace, there remained time for only one further turn in which Oxford were unable to score.

So Cambridge needed only one win from the 3 doubles games in the afternoon. On lawn 3 Robin Boswell substituted for Martin Burgess on the latter's request, partnered by K. Aiton, lost to some solid play from the Oxford pairing of P. West and Miles Holford. Excitement grew around the remaining games, Hilditch and Bowen against Burn and A.N. Other on lawn 1 and Coward and Allim against Crowcroft and Jones on lawn 2. Oxford looked to have the first game won until Burn stuck in rover with his partner for the peg. This mistake let in Hilditch who later incurred the wrath of his partner by rolling past penult from about 2 feet away.

Meanwhile some interesting events were occurring on lawn 2, where Cambridge particularly hoped to win. Crowcroft, playing third, had hit a long tice and moved it to near 2nd hoop. Allim hit it anyway from the A baulk and went to 4-back in the fourth turn. After this start Cambridge expected to win quickly, but Coward did his best to dent this complacency by failing first hoop five times. However fortune in the end favoured Cambridge, who actually won the two games for a 6 — 3 victory.

So the Varsity Trophy returned to Cambridge, if only in September.

Results

Cambridge	Oxford
M.J. Coward beat	M. Burn +18
J.R. Hilditch lost to	C.R. Crowcroft
Dr. R.D. Bowen lost to	P. West
R.M. Allim beat	Jones +6
K. Aiton beat	M. Holford +20
M.F. Burgess beat	A.N. Other +1 on time

2 & 3 beat	1 & 6 +3
1 & 4 beat	2 & 4 +13
5 & R. Boswell lost to	3 & 5 —15

Cambridge won 6 — 3

Carrickmines 8 — 13 June

Event 1: *Champ of Co. Dublin, Advanced Play*

DRAW

First round: A.D. Craig bt Mrs. H.M. Read +5. G. Henshaw bt R.E. Steen +23.

Second round: C. Von Schmieder bt Mrs. R.J. Leonard +14. R.J. Leonard bt Craig +13. Henshaw bt C.A. Gamble (opp. ret'd). G.E.P. Jackson bt M. McWeeney +24.

Semi-final: Leonard bt Von Schmieder +4. Jackson bt Henshaw +20.

Final: Jackson bt Leonard +12.

PROCESS

First round: Jackson bt Mrs. Leonard +23. McWeeney bt Von Schmieder +5.

Second round: Jackson bt Craig +19. Leonard bt Steen +25. McWeeney bt Henshaw +16. Mrs. Read bt Gamble w/o.

Semi-final: Jackson bt Leonard +7. McWeeney bt Mrs. Read +8.

Final: Jackson bt McWeeney +8.

Winner: Jackson

Event 2: *Duff Matthews Cup B Class singles*

First Round: H. Webb (11) bt P. Browne (12) +13.

Semi-final: Webb bt F. Rogerson (11) +2. P. Thornton (16) bt Mrs. M. McWeeney (16) +14.

Final: Webb bt Thornton +5.

Event 3: *Boxwell Cup Handicap Singles*

First round: Mrs. R.J. Leonard (7) bt Mrs. M. McWeeney (16) +15. M. McWeeney (4) bt A.D. Craig (4½) +8. R.J. Leonard (4) bt G. Henshaw (3) +24. F. Rogerson (11) bt C.A. Gamble (3) +12. H. Webb (11) bt P. Browne (12) +4. Miss G. Hopkins (7½) bt R.E. Steen (8) +23. C. Von Schmieder (2½) bt G.E.P. Jackson (—½) +26.

Second round: Mrs. Leonard bt McWeeney +5. Leonard bt Rogerson +12. Webb bt Miss Hopkins +12. Von Schmieder bt Mrs. H.M. Read +16.

Semi-final: Leonard bt Mrs. Leonard +13. Von Schmieder bt Webb +10.

Final: Leonard bt Von Schmieder +10.

Event 4: *Coronation Cups. Handicap Doubles.*

First Round: Mrs. R.J. Leonard & G.E.P. Jackson (6½) bt Mrs. H.M. Read & Miss G. Hopkins. C. Gamble & P. Thornton (19) bt C. Von Schmieder & F. Rogerson (13½) +8(OT). R.J. Leonard & G. Henshaw (7) bt Mr. & Mrs. M. McWeeney (20) +10.

Semi-final: H. Webb & A.D. Craig bt Mrs. Leonard & Jackson +11. Leonard & Henshaw bt Gamble & Thornton +1.

Final: Webb & Craig bt Leonard & Henshaw +9 (OT).

Event 4: *Coronation Cups. Plate*

First Round: F. Rogerson (11) bt P. Browne (11) +12. G.E.P. Jackson (—½) bt M. McWeeney (4) +3. A.D. Craig (4½) bt Mrs. M. McWeeney (16) +20.

Second Round: Mrs. R.J. Leonard (7) bt Mrs. H.M. Read (6) +12. F. Rogerson bt R.E. Steen (8) w/o. Jackson bt Craig +15. C. Von Schmieder (2½) bt G. Henshaw (3) +12.

Semi-final: Rogerson bt Mrs. Leonard +1. Von Schmieder bt Jackson +14.

Final: Rogerson bt Von Schmieder +16.

Wrest Park — Block A 3 — 5 July

The Manager increased the block to nine players as an experiment and thus created an even more testing warm-up for the Opens. Given the rapidity of play usual at this level there were few difficulties with time, and it is greatly to be hoped that eight games will be provided in the future. The block was dominated by David Openshaw with 8/8. As the recent winner of both the Mens' and Northern Championships he was in formidable form. Although both Roberts and Mulliner snatched defeat from the jaws of victory by missing rather stunted roquets the usual fate of an opponent was to watch David cruise solidly round — rather like the Ark Royal on manoeuvres. An Openshaw error was generally as likely as Martin Murray refusing a pepsi — and neither happened more than half-a-dozen times in the weekend.

John McCullough scored a most impressive 7/8 to establish himself as a potentially supreme performer. He displays a most natural Irish style coupled with a phlegmatic temperament as yet unsoftened by peilitis. Some carp at this wanton refusal to give his opponents a few decent chances. No doubt they feel that John is missing out on the keen pleasure Steve Mulliner clearly gets when breaking down on an ultra-delayed triple. Still — give the lad time. All these lie before him.

Keith Wylie made one of his guest appearances and came third with 5/8. Although lack of practice made itself occasionally evident his highly individualistic skills seemed as refreshingly different to the ordinary as ever. There was another item that was hardly run-of-the-mill. The Daily Mail arrived to interview Hurricane Higgins (sic) and learn about real croquet. Some doubted the seriousness of the likely end-product, reinforced by the indecent haste with which the photographer struggled to unship his camera and snap Openshaw's elevated stern as he inspected a peel. However the eventual article was moderately respectful; no doubt the Mail men were properly impressed by the nationwide variety of accent and the quantity of beer consumed.

HH

BLOCK A D.K. Openshaw 8 wins; J.R. McCullough 7 wins; K.F. Wylie 5 wins; S.N. Mulliner 4 wins; G.J. Roberts (—6) 3 wins; P.W. Hands (—55) 3 wins; R.J. Murfitt (—64) 3 wins; D.R. Foulser 2 wins; S.R. Hemsted 1 win.

BLOCK B E. Bell 6 wins; J. Rose 5 wins; B.A. Keen 5 wins; I.G. Vincent (+27) 4 wins; H.C. Green (—1) out of 6 4 wins; J. Meads 2 wins; J.A. Wheeler (out of 6) 1 win; A. Reed 0 wins.

BLOCK C P.L. Alvey (+70) 6 wins; J. Coufts (+47) 6 wins; A. Girling 5 wins; R.E. Wallis 4 wins; P. Cordingley (—1) 3 wins; E. Audsley (—6) 3 wins; N.A.J. Norman 1 win; G. Henshaw 0 wins.

Woking Irish Week 4 — 12 July

Four separate tournaments in 9 continuous days of croquet from 4th to 12th July! On the first weekend and the following four evenings there was the "Open" and Levels Singles, played as an American with a minimum of 4 games plus an X-Y Open Doubles, 6 games in all followed by a play off for the Open 2 blocks. Play in the Open was undistinguished but in the Levels mention must be made of P.G. Gunn who won the block, and he and D. Goulding, the outsiders in the Doubles who reached the Finals where they lost to R.A. Godby and Miss S. Hampson by only 3. Robin Godby was the worthy winner of the Silver Open Challenge Cup, which bears a great number of very distinguished names. He won it last year also, so will somebody come next year and beat him to it? The "Day" Tournament lasted 3 days and was played under similar conditions with a minimum of 3 singles and 2 doubles. Again Robin Godby won the special Royal Wedding Mug, Margaret Newman the Levels — she is having a wonderful year.

The Level events in these 2 Tournaments provided a rare opportunity for higher bisquers to experience Advanced Play. It is hoped that more will take advantage of it next year.

On the Thursday, there was the very popular handicap doubles X-Y. The 4th Tournament was the American Handicap Singles with a minimum of 6 games, played from Friday to Sunday.

Several players took the unique opportunity to play in all 4 Tournaments and had a feast of croquet with a minimum of 19 games! Only 4 games were won on time and 3 of these were in the Open Day doubles which had to be restricted to 2 ¾ hours. All doubles started at the 3rd Hoop which in the Open ones nullified the contact law.

In the handicap singles, due to the capacity entry of 30, the number of points played depended on the sum of the 2 players handicaps and because of the larger entry had to be reduced slightly on last year, namely up to 7 full game, 7 ½ to 14½ 22 points, 15 and over 18 points (from 5th Hoop). The players greatly prefer this to time limits especially as we had to double bank throughout. The average time taken was 2 hours 5 minutes. Total games played was 98 on 4 lawns and in the 9 days, using only 2 lawns for the first two and half days, 3 for half a day, and 4 thereafter the astonishing total of games was 176!

There were 2 exciting games in the handicap singles. Pearson (3) playing Haigh (½) raced to the peg and pegged out opponent's ball with double peel using his bisques. Both were then on Hoop 2. Haigh hit in twice and failed Hoop 3 twice! Pearson reached the peg with Haigh only on 4 and for some inexplicable reason failed to peg out one of his balls! Result Haigh won by 1, including a superb split from 1 back to 3 back to Pearson's ball in the 1st corner from which with another fine shot he made 2 back. The other also involved John Haigh, against Denis Moorcraft who had pegged out Haigh and one of his balls by accident, leaving Haigh for 4 back and Moorcraft for Penultimate. There was cat and mouse around 4 back and ultimately Haigh rolled short of Penult, Moorcraft hitting him into the jaws but managed to take off to 4 back leaving the ball in the jaws, ran the hoop and found himself unable to hit. Haigh ran Penult and landed 3 yards in front of Rover, took position. Moorcraft took position at Penult but Haigh in running Rover

couldn't hit Peg. Moorcraft ran Penult hard and lodged on wire of Rover and that was the unfortunate end.

The weather was superb to the relief of the Management the catering excellent, the events were contested in the Woking spirit of 'bonhomie' and over £400 passed over the bar! Congratulations to all on a unique series of Tournaments which left everyone exhausted but happy.

Event 1(a): American Open Singles (Weekend & Evening)

BLOCK 1 A. Lindley bt R.A. Godby +22, W.B. Denison +10, L. Wharrad +7, G. Hopewell +26. R.A. Godby bt L. Wharrad +15, G. Hopewell +20. G. Hopewell bt W.B. Denison +11. W.B. Denison bt R.A. Godby +12. L. Wharrad bt W.B. Denison +6.

BLOCK 2 J.S. Maude bt J. Haigh +12, G.E. Strutt +11, D.C. Caporn +5. J. Haigh bt G.E. Strutt +3, D.C. Caporn +12. D.C. Caporn bt G.E. Strutt +19.

Semi-final: J. Haigh bt A. Lindley +4. R.A. Godby bt J.S. Maud +26.

Final: R.A. Godby bt J. Haigh +3.

Event 2(a): American Level Singles — Caporn Casket

P.G. Gunn 3 wins (+21) bt R.J. Smith +6, D. Goulding +9, G.C. Roy +9. D. Goulding (3 wins +16) bt R.J. Smith +12, G.C. Roy +1, F. Newman +12. G.C. Roy bt R.J. Smith +11, F. Newman +14. F. Newman bt P.G. Gunn +3.

Event 3(a): Open Doubles.

First Round: D. Goulding & P.G. Gunn bt J.S. Maude & R.J. Smith +10. D.C. Caporn & G.E. Strutt bt W.B. Denison & A. Lindley +14. R.A. Godby & Miss S. Hampson bt J. Haigh & G.C. Roy +4.

Semi-final: Goulding & Gunn bt Caporn & Strutt +6. Godby & Hampson bt L. Wharrad & M. Pearson +3.

Final: Godby & Hampson bt Goulding & Gunn +1.

Event 1(b): Open Singles (Daytime)

BLOCK 1 R.A. Godby bt C.G. Pountney +9, W.B. Denison +13, L. Wharrad +7. L. Wharrad bt C.G. Pountney +13, W.B. Denison +3. W.B. Denison bt C.G. Pountney +9.

BLOCK 2 A.F. Coleman bt Miss S. Hampson +8, F. Newman +12, Mrs. B.G. Neal +7. F. Newman bt Miss S. Hampson +8, Mrs. B.G. Neal +12. Miss S. Hampson bt Mrs. B.G. Neal +10.

Final: R.A. Godby bt A.F. Coleman +13.

Event 2(b): Level Singles

BLOCK 1 Mrs. M.K. Newman bt Mrs. B. Mansfield +13, R.A. Gosden +3 (OT), G. Cuttle +17. Mrs. B. Mansfield bt R.A. Gosden +5, G. Cuttle +19. R.A. Gosden bt G. Cuttle +17.

BLOCK 2 Mrs. W.J. Browne bt G.C. Roy +4, Mrs. M. Nalder +6, Mrs. B. Gosden +15. G.C. Roy bt Mrs. M. Nalder +16, Mrs. B. Gosden +15. Mrs. B. Gosden bt Mrs. M. Nalder +9.

Final: Mrs. M.M. Newman bt Mrs. W.J. Browne +16.

Event 3(b): Open Doubles.

First Round: Miss S.E. Hampson & G.C. Roy bt L. Wharrad & D.C. Caporn +1 (OT). A.F. Coleman & Mrs. B.G. Neal bt R.A. Godby & G. Cuttle +2 (OT). W.B. Denison & C.E. Pountney bt Mrs. W.J. Browne & Mrs. B. Mansfield +11. Mr. & Mrs. F.H. Newman bt Mr. & Mrs. R.A. Gosden +2 (OT).

Semi-final: Hampson & Roy bt Coleman & Mrs. Neal +11. Mr. & Mrs. Newman bt Denison & Pountney +8.

Final: Hampson & Roy bt Mr. & Mrs. Newman +6.

Event D: American Handicap Singles

BLOCK A: R. Gosden (7½) 6 wins.

BLOCK B: A. Lindley (3½) 6 wins.

BLOCK C: B. Whitehouse (4½) 5 wins.

BLOCK D: J. Gosden (2½) 6 wins.

Event C: Handicap Doubles

First Round: Mr. & Mrs. Wharrad (12) bt Mr. & Mrs. S.S. Townsend

(14½) +15. D.C. Caporn & J. Wankling (11½) bt R.S. Eades & Miss A. Searle (7½) +7. R.A. Godby & Dr. C. Marshall (10) bt Mrs. M. Nalder & Mrs. C. Marshall (17) +13. J. Rose & Mrs. W.J. Browne (7) bt Mr. & Mrs. R.A. Gosden (16½) +2.

Semi-final: Caporn & Wankling bt Mr. & Mrs. Wharrad +12. Godby & Marshall bt Rose & Browne +7.

Final: Caporn & Wankling bt Godby & Marshall +12.

Colchester 10 — 11th July

The experiment of holding an open week-end on the Friday and Saturday immediately following the Annual Tournament can be considered a success in spite of some late scratchings.

The weather was fine, though dull, and the courts fast but manageable. This enabled the 8 competitors to play each opponent and all 28 matches were completed by 6.30 on the second day.

Three triple peels were accomplished, two by Bryan Sykes and one by Roger Murfitt, but several more were attempted and failed (naturally!) only by bad luck.

It was pleasant to renew acquaintanceship with Roger Murfitt — he visited Colchester in 1977 to play for New Zealand against Australia. He won six of his seven matches, losing only to Bryan (by 26). He also survived a very close contest against Mark Avery, winning by one only.

15 year-old Mark gained invaluable experience playing level against redoubtable opponents, and in addition to winning 2 of his 7 matches lost 2 others by only a single point.

Bryan Sykes was a worthy runner-up, with 5 wins and 68 points — more than the winner.

Sue Sykes also performed with considerable credit and her 5 victims included Bryan!

Advanced Level American

R. Murfitt 6 wins +64; B.C. Sykes 5 wins +68; H.O. Hicks 5 wins +30; Mrs. S.E. Sykes 5 wins +19; M. Avery 2 wins —21; A.A. Reed 2 wins —31; H.C. Green 2 wins —69; R.M. Hobbs 1 win —60.

Cheltenham 20 — 26 July

The croquet chronicler of 1981 is in a similar position to the historian Thucydides 2400 years ago. He depends for his information on what he saw himself, or what he can learn from eyewitnesses. And eyewitnesses, as Thucydides complains, "do not always say the same things about the same things. So to anyone whose exploits I have omitted or misrepresented, I offer my apologies.

The level of entry and standard of play were slightly lower than last year (fewer B class players, no Mark Avery or Carol Chard in the D class, only three triples done in the A class), possibly because there were fewer visitors. But with the lawns varying from fast and tricky to slow and easy, it was good test of croquet, and winners won on merit.

The A, B and D classes were played in blocks, with play-offs for winners and runners-up. The C class was played as a Swiss. In the A class Bernard Neal and Bernard Weitz each had 4 wins out of 4, with Terence Read and David Foulser runners-up on 2. The most notable victories were Steve Jones' +25 (TP) win over Dennis Moorcraft (his first tournament triple), and Toby Bolton's +17 win over Foulser. This was a victory purely on merit, not through the opponent's mistakes as Bolton went round on the 5th and 7th turns.

In the semi-finals Weitz quickly got going against Read but broke down after 5 hoops. In again, he missed a 17½ inch roquet (actually it looked all of 18 inches to me, but he assured me it was less), and Read gave him no third chance. Meanwhile Neal and Foulser were putting on an exhibition which few of those privileged to watch it will ever forget. We saw Neal ("experimenting with a new grip for short roquets") miss from 3 yards, and then again from 2. Foulser too missed twice from three yards trying to rush hard on each occasion (once an act of mercy towards a bee which had settled on the target ball"). Each hit his own ball off the lawn in the croquet stroke, and Neal, playing a split roll after running hoop 1, jammed his own ball firmly into the jaws of hoop 1 again. Finally Neal played with Foulser's ball. Stirring stuff. After an hour's play the score was one hoop each. Then play suddenly improved — Foulser went to 4-back, Neal missed the lift, Foulser went to the peg and did one peel. Neal then gained the innings and pegged Foulser out, leaving Foulser for rover and himself for peg and 3-back. Foulser promptly hit from 12 yards to win by 6.

So the curious situation had arisen whereby the finalists had won 3 games out of 5, and the beaten semi-finalists 4 out of 5. In the final Read started quickly, but inadvertently wired himself from his partner ball which he wanted to roquet, after making 5 hoops. Foulser hit in and got a break going, but broke down at 1-back, leaving a near-perfect 4-ball break laid out for his opponent. Read, quite uncharacteristically, failed to make hoop 1. Foulser hit in with his forward ball, and went to 4-back, and soon finished the game with a neatly-executed delayed triple to win the Cheltenham Challenge Cup at his first attempt.

It was unfortunate, both for him and for his opponents, that Mark Avery found himself in the B class, as he failed to notify the organisers of his handicap reduction (to 2) too late for him to be switched to the A class. He duly won his block, and his semi-final against Bobby Crane. In the other block Stephen Hoole had 4 wins, and he defeated Betty Weitz to reach the final. Here Avery soon got to 4-back, then broke down trying a triple. He had been trying triples all week, and did well to keep winning despite some disastrous breakdowns. After some interesting manoeuvring on both sides, and much progress by Hoole, Avery again got the upper hand, but could peg out only one ball, charitably leaving the other a yard from 4-back, with Hoole for 4-back and penultimate. Hoole, always the perfect gentleman both on court and off, was too sporting to take advantage of what was clearly a momentary and unintentional lapse. He made only one hoop from this promising situation, whereupon Avery unhesitatingly hit the peg from near the 3rd corner.

Most tournaments turn up someone who plays throughout the week much better than his handicap. This week it was John Davis, a very Far Country member, playing in the C class, but looking as if he would have been more at home in the B, or even the A. He is an excellent striker of the ball, a good hoop-runner and an equally good shot. In his tactics he was sometimes bold to the point of rashness, but in the C class, when you are shooting well, I cannot see that this is a fault. And if it is, it is a fault on the right side.

Davis won 5 of his 6 games, losing only to Sos Roe on the last morning. Kay Yeoman played very consistently to win 5 games also, and in theory there could have been a play-off between these two. However, since Davis had already won the game they had played, he was adjudged the winner, and I do not think there is much doubt that he was the best player in the class.

In the D class Bill Bawden won his block with 4 wins, followed by Dick Ryan on 2. In the other block John Exell and Betty Wiseman each had 3 wins. There were encouraging performances, since only Exell had played much in tournaments before. Bawden, receiving bisques, was probably favourite to win the final, but after a good start he made more mistakes than usual, and Exell won comfortably by 9.

The doubles was divided into two sections — family pairs and non-family pairs. In the early stages the event seemed to be at the mercy of Stephen Jones and John Davis. They easily reached the last two of the non-family half of the draw. They then played the Cranes, one of the two successful family pairs. After wasting their bisques, the Cranes put up a tremendous fight, and with 20 minutes to go they were ahead, at rover and rover against 4-back and 4-back. Then Mrs. Crane failed to move the ball in a take-off approach, and this let the Welshmen in, to win +4.

In the other semi-final the Reads were much too strong for Sos Roe and Pat Shine, but were regarded as outsiders against Jones and Davis. However, as Colonel Wheeler says, the one certainty in doubles is that the favourites will not win. Terence Read was at his tactical best, with Mrs. Read giving him reliable support. Davis' shooting failed him at the crucial moment, for the Reads to win +3.

The final of the big handicap saw Davis, the manager's nightmare, in action yet again, against Hoole. Davis had perhaps come through the tougher half of the draw, beating Avery (who beat Jones) en route, but in the final Hoole just had the edge, winning +6. So Davis, who had looked like performing 3 events, finally won only one.

Other good performances in the handicap were Carmen Bazley's victory over Read, Bawden's heroic resistance (hitting in, time and again, in failing light, from all over the lawn) after squandering 14½ bisques against Foulser, and Hoole's brave but unconvincing attempt to persuade the handicapper that he needed all his bisques to beat Foulser +26, having allowed him only one shot.

Special mention, in a most enjoyable week, must go to Mark Avery, for the greatest number (5) of failed triples; to the Moorcrafts, for playing 10½ hours of Y doubles between lunch on Friday and lunch on Saturday; to Jean Wraith, for being the first person to beat John Davis (in a single-ball game late on Friday afternoon); to Bernard Neal, for winning the single-ball event; to the lunch organisers (Liz Neal and

Marjory Warren), for reducing the price of a still excellent lunch; and to Edgar Jackson, for managing with his usual assurance and panache. This was the 25th July tournament in which he has played, and the party which he gave to celebrate was a most happy and memorable occasion.

T. Griffith

Event 1a The Cheltenham Challenge Cup — advanced play

BLOCK 1: Prof. B.G. Neal 4 wins bt Moorcraft +20, bt Jones +26TP, bt Griffith +19, bt Read +18: T.O. Read 2 wins (+13) bt Moorcraft +21, bt Jones +20: Dr. S. Jones 2 wins (-1) bt Moorcraft +25TP, bt Griffith +20: T. Griffith 2 wins (-16) bt Moorcraft +13, bt Read +10.

BLOCK 2. Dr. B.G. Weitz 4 wins bt Bolton +16, bt McLaren +20, bt Jackson +8, bt Foulser +17: D.R. Foulser 2 wins (+9) bt McLaren +26, bt Jackson +17: G.E.P. Jackson 2 wins (-13) bt Bolton +8, bt McLaren +4: H.G.T. Bolton 1 win (-19) bt Foulser +17: J. McLaren 1 win (-38) bt Bolton +12.

SEMI-FINALS: Foulser bt Neal +6: Read bt Weitz +21.

FINAL: Foulser bt Read +21TP.

Event 1b The Money Salver — advanced play

BLOCK 1: M. Avery 4 wins bt Sturdy +26, bt Mrs. Wheeler +14, bt Mrs. Weitz +13, bt Miss Arkell +7: Mrs. B.G. Weitz 3 wins bt Sturdy +16, bt Mrs. Wheeler +15, bt Miss Arkell +20: Mrs. K.M.O. Wheeler 2 wins bt Sturdy +20, bt Miss Arkell +15: Miss E.H. Arkell 1 win bt Sturdy +6: W.J. Sturdy Nil.

BLOCK 2: S.J.W. Hoole 4 wins bt Crane +13, bt Mrs. Povey +26, bt Sisum +5, bt Lady Bazley +12: R.F.A. Crane 2 wins (+10) bt Mrs. Povey +14, bt Sisum +17: G.W. Sisum 2 wins (-5) bt Mrs. Povey +3T, bt Lady Bazley +12: Lady Bazley 1 win (-20) bt Crane +8T: Mrs. J. Povey 1 win (-45) bt Lady Bazley +2T.

SEMI-FINALS: Hoole bt Mrs. Weitz +15: Avery bt Crane +11.

FINAL: Avery bt Hoole +6.

Event 1c The Asa-Thomas Trophy — 22pt. games Handicap play — Swiss

E.J. Davis (4½) 5 wins (+56): Mrs. K. Yeoman (5) 4 wins (+23): C. Duckworth (4½) 3 wins (+26): Miss A. Searle (5) 3 wins (+25): Miss I. M. Roe (5½) 3 wins (+2): Mrs. B.G. Neal (6) 3 wins (-9): Miss P. Shine (7) 2 wins (-16): P.J. Shepard (5½) 2 wins (-22): G.F. Blumer (5) 2 wins (-28): Miss M.J. Lodge (6½) 1 win (0): Mrs. A. Warren (9) 1 win (-16): Mrs. H.M. Read (6) 1 win (-38).

Event 1d The Calthrop Cup — 18pt. games handicap play

BLOCK 1: W.R. Bawden (13) 4 wins bt Ryan +1T, bt Warren +12, bt Mrs. Adlam +16, bt Mrs. Moorcraft +17: G./Capt. R. Ryan (14) 2 wins (+8) bt Mrs. Adlam +6, bt Mrs. Moorcraft +6: A. Warren (9) 2 wins bt Ryan +3, bt Mrs. Adlam +13: Mrs. D.H. Moorcraft (10) 2 wins (-18) bt Warren +3, bt Mrs. Adlam +2: Mrs. N. Adlam (11) Nil.

BLOCK 2: J. Exell (9) 3 wins (+29) bt Miss Wraith +14, bt Mrs. Bawden +4, bt Mrs. Crane +14: Mrs. E. Wiseman (16) 3 wins (+3) bt Miss Wraith +10, bt Exell +3, bt Mrs. Crane +2T: Mrs. W.R. Bawden (15) 2 wins (+18) bt Mrs. Wiseman +12, bt Mrs. Crane +12: Miss J. Wraith (11) 2 wins (-13) bt Mrs. Bawden +2, bt Mrs. Crane +9: Mrs. R.F.A. Crane (10) Nil.

SEMI-FINALS: Bawden bt Mrs. Wiseman +12: Exell bt Ryan +12.

FINAL: Exell bt Bawden +9.

Event 2X: The Daniels Cup. Handicap Singles. (Law 54)

First Round: W.R. Bawden (13) bt Mrs. E. Wiseman (16) +3. Miss J. Wraith (11) bt Miss E.H. Arkell +6. A. Warren (9) bt Miss P. Shine (7) +8. D.R. Foulser (-1½) bt G/Capt. R. Ryan (14) +11. D.H. Moorcraft (2½) bt G.E.P. Jackson +17. S.J. Hoole (3½) bt Mrs. B.G. Weitz (2½) +1. Lady Bazley (4) bt T.O. Read (-½) +2. Miss A. Searle (5) bt Miss I.M. Roe (5½) +3. Mrs. H. Handley (4½) bt R.F.A. Crane (3½) +11. J. Exell w/o H.G.T. Bolton.

Second Round: W.J. Sturdy (3½) bt Mrs. A. Warren (9) +11. Dr. B.G. Weitz (½) bt Col. G.T. Wheeler (4½) +9. L.G. Ayliffe (5) bt G.W. Sisum (3½) +3. C. Duckworth (4½) bt Mrs. K.M.O. Wheeler (3) +2. Bawden bt Miss Wraith +19. Foulser bt Warren +19. Hoole bt Moorcraft +13. Dr. S. Jones (1½) bt Mrs. W.R. Bawden +11. M. Avery (2) bt G.F. Blumer (5) +15. J. McLaren (2½) bt Miss M.J. Lodge (6½) +5. P. Shepard (5½) bt Mrs. K. Yeoman (5) +18. T. Griffith (2) w/o Mrs. W.J. Sturdy. Mrs. J. Povey (4) bt Mrs. N. Adlam (11) +3.

Third Round: Weitz bt Sturdy +10. Duckworth bt Ayliffe +13. Foulser bt Bawden +6. Hoole bt Lady Bazley +6. Davis bt Exell +20. Avery bt Jones +14. McLaren bt Shepard +14. Griffith bt Mrs. Povey +20.

Fourth Round: Duckworth bt Weitz +8. Hoole bt Foulser +26. Davis bt Avery +8. Griffith w/o opp. retired.

Semi-final: Hoole bt Duckworth +16. Davis bt Griffith +19.

Final: Hoole bt Davis +4.

Event 2Y:

Final: Mrs. Neal bt Moorcraft +10.

Event 3X: Handicap Doubles.

First Round: S.J. Hoole & Mrs. H. Handley (8) bt C. Duckworth & Mrs. E. Wiseman (18½) +12. Dr. S. Jones & Mrs. E.J. Davis (6) bt M.N. Avery & L. Ayliffe (7) +6. G.W. Sisum & Miss M.J. Lodge (9) bt Mrs. B.G. Neal & W.R. Bawden (17) +1 (OT). Miss A. Searle & A.J. McLaren (2) bt Lady Bazley & Mrs. J. Povey (8) +18. G.E.P. Jackson & Mrs. N. Adlam (16) bt G.F. Blumer & G/Capt. R. Ryan (17) +11. Miss I.M. Roe & Miss P. Shine (12½) bt Mrs. K. Yeoman & Miss J. Wraith (16) +4.

Second Round: Jones & Davis bt Hoole & Mrs. Handley +19. Sisum & Miss Lodge bt Jackson & McLaren +18. Miss Roe & Miss Shine bt Miss Searle & Mrs. Adlam +15. T. Griffith & Mrs. W.R. Bawden (15) bt P.J. Shepard & Miss E.H. Arkell (9½) +10.

Semi-Final: Davis & Jones bt Sisum & Miss Lodge +7. Miss Roe & Miss Shine bt Griffith & Mrs. Bawden +6.

Event 3X: Family Pairs.

First Round: Mr. & Mrs. A. Warren (18) bt Mr. & Mrs. J. Exell (10) +18.

Second Round: Dr. & Mrs. B.G. Weitz (3) bt Mr. & Mrs. R.F.A. Crane (13½) +1 (OT). Mrs. & Mrs. Warren bt Mr. & Mrs. Sturdy (10½) +12. Mr. & Mrs. Moorcraft (12½) w/o opp. scratched. T.O. Read & Mrs. H.M. Read (5½) bt Col. & Mrs. G.T. Wheeler (7½) +15.

Semi-final: Mr. & Mrs. Crane bt Mr. & Mrs. Warren +5 (OT). Read & Mrs. Read bt Mr. & Mrs. Moorcraft +2 (OT).

Final: Read & Mrs. Read bt Mr. & Mrs. Crane +10.

Handicap Doubles & Family Pairs joined.

Semi-final: Davis & Jones bt Mr. & Mrs. Crane +4. Read & Mrs. Read bt Miss Roe & Miss Shine +12.

Final: Read & Mrs. Read bt Davis & Jones +4.

Event 3Y

Final: Dr. & Mrs. Weitz bt Avery & Ayliffe +9.

Event 4. One Ball Game. Block Winners.

Semi-final: C. Duckworth bt Avery +4. Prof. B.G. Neal bt Mrs. Warren +3.

Final: Neal bt Duckworth +1.

Bristol Weekend Handicap Tournament 24 – 25 July

The Bristol Croquet Club opened its three lawns to the Croquet world at large this year for the first time in its near 90 year existence to host a weekend handicap tournament and I was fortunate enough to be playing in it. This surprising information emerged during an interesting chat which I had with two of the many distinguished ladies and long serving members of the Club, Mrs. Violet Ormerod (Mother of William) and Mrs. Kay Ault. Mrs. Ault helped William's father Dr. Laurence Ormerod (a former President of the Club) to prepare the original manuscript in 1956 for the booklet 'Know the Game' on Croquet which was a bestseller. Since being founded in the 1890's the Club was located on a number of sites before settling in Cedar Park in 1939. There has been many visiting teams partaking in Club matches and the Roll Call of top players who can trace Croquet origins to Bristol is very impressive (Daisy Linton, William Ormerod, Nigel Aspinall and more recently John McCullough and Laurence Latham). In addition,

Martin Murray is an Honorary Member, who, (so rumour has it) made Lawn 2 tremble a few days before the tournament by completing a sextuple on it!

The tournament was splendidly managed by John McCullough who restricted the entry to 16 players (9 visitors) with a full spectrum of handicaps which enabled him to use the increasingly popular format of a Main Event single life knockout with a parallel Swiss for the losers as they become available. Each person would therefore get 4 games in two days. Six prizes were being fought for (two of them comprising wine) so the competitive spirit was intense.

The first day saw a number of very close games with two newcomers on a handicap (non CA) of 18 winning their first ever games, Neil Griffin and Trevor Walker (the mallet maker from Bath). Laurence Latham lost to one of the local young men, Hugh Watson who is rapidly improving 12. When asked if his opponent was having any trouble, Laurence replied "nothing his bisques won't handle". In the quarter finals of the Main Event, John McCullough narrowly beat Paul Hands after leaving Paul with one ball. Eddie Bell was fortunate to beat local lady Elena Porter (12) by 3 after just clipping a 'double' with what would have been his last shot. Martin Murray 'bulldozed' his way through by dint of his reputation and Marjorie Collins (14) triumphed well in her game.

Sunday started with great promise when blue sky, was sighted at 09.50 hours for the first time during the weekend. In fact the rest of the day was beautifully sunny and hot which was matched by the blistering nature of the Croquet. In the semi-finals of the Main Event, Martin did a TPO against Marjorie who then gamely tried to get her single ball round with her remaining bisques but did not quite succeed. John and Eddie had an up and down game, John after pegging out one of Eddie's balls was going out on a controlled 3-ball break and then inexplicably stuck in 4 on Eddie's ball who was for 3-back! The opportunity was gratefully grasped and Eddie finished the game. The scene was now set for a 'Grudge' Final between Mighty Martin and Steady Eddie (the tormentor and victor over MM for the last 2 years in the Coles open weekend at Cheltenham). Could 'Steady' live with the psychological pressure of having 3-bisques and retain his 100% record against 'Mighty'? Read on folks.

Turning to the Swiss, Paul Hands and Simon Garret had played an earlier 'grudge' game (Simon had mauled Paul in an Inter-Club match some weeks earlier). Simon however found Paul in scintillating form and had to bow out gracefully giving Paul his 3rd win of the weekend. The two other people in the Swiss with 3-wins were Elena Porter who played super Croquet to beat Laurence Latham and John McCullough who managed to beat Marjorie Collins. All three received a prize for their performances.

Returning to the Final of the Main Event. Eddie had by this time donned his shorts knowing full well that Martin had forgotten to bring his thereby gaining the first blow in the psychological battle. Eddie followed this by winning the toss and inviting Martin to start. Leaving the details of the game as a treasured memory for those who were fortunate to be present I will report that the game took 6 turns. EB went to 4-back in the 4th using 2 bisques, MM missed his long shot in the 5th, the ball colliding with EB's hoop and coming to an abrupt halt. EB went out in the 6th by using his 3rd bisque to stay alive and maintain his supremacy over 'Mighty'. More importantly, the two bottles of wine were mine! As consolation, Martin won a single bottle of wine.

Bristol are to be congratulated on running a very successful tournament. Many Club members worked hard behind the scenes to prepare the lawns, the grounds and the food (which really was excellent) and they are to be warmly praised. John McCullough deserves a special mention for his contribution to the organisation. I thoroughly enjoyed the weekend and I feel sure that all the local and visiting players share my view.

I understand that the Bristol tournament may become a regular event. I trust it will and I can recommend it to all CA members.

Eddie Bell

Compton Open Weekend – 25 and 26 July

The decision to increase the number of players from 14 to 16 and run the competition in the Paul Hands format (Knockout + Progressive Swiss for losers in the Knockout) proved popular with the players and well within the capacity of the lawns: 31 games were played on Saturday and a further 18 on Sunday at an average duration of 1 hour 37 minutes.

Roger Murfitt was in cracking form on Saturday: by 3 o'clock he had consigned three opponents to the Swiss, won himself a place in the final and completed three of his four games with triple peels. Meanwhile

William Prichard, on his way to the final, had been living much more dangerously displaying his prodigious talent for peeling but never quite finding himself in a position to peg out at the end of a peeling turn. In the first round he just scraped home against a tenacious John Haigh having made five peels along the way. Against Michael Stevens in the next round, William was tempted into starting a quintuple peel on his opponent when Michael failed at 2-back; but all was not plain sailing and, having done the first two peels, he preferred to lay for a sextuple peel on his partner ball. Michael took the sporting shot at William's balls and missed, whereupon William played a marvellously inventive turn which took both his balls to the peg. Sadly, the rover peel was only accomplished after he had made rover himself and he could only manage to peg out one ball. Inspired, Michael began a three ball triple but ran out of steam. In the semi-final William gave John Rose very few chances and went on to clock up another 10 peels in two games bringing his total for the day to 23! Other notable endeavours included triples by Graeme Roberts, Steven Mulliner, Colin Prichard and John Haigh.

If the first day belonged to the Knockout finalists then the second belonged to Steven Mulliner who won the Swiss in convincing style conceding only 2 points in his three games. In the shortest game of the weekend (34 minutes) he defeated Roger Wood by taking his clip to 4-back in the third turn and triple peeling out in the fifth. By contrast the final of the Knockout was something of an anticlimax, neither player finding anything like the form of the previous day. The first game was characterised by a string of careless errors from both players, Roger Murfitt emerging the eventual winner. In the second game Roger played much more steadily and was content to coast home without resort to fancy frills. He thus became the third holder of COWHORN and also the first winner of a newly invented "Ace Peeler" award (calculated in accordance with the points system initiated for the Solomon trophy at this year's Open Championships): the prize consisted of a policeman's hat adorned with a badge of original design. Another new trophy awaited the unsuspecting Steven Mulliner: the Swiss COWBELL, a continental cowbell painted with a Swiss mountain scene, tastefully suspended from a mock croquet hoop fixed on a baseboard. Devotees of bad puns and forced humour continue to flock to this tournament but some are beginning to wonder whether there will not soon be more execrable jokes than croquet! Watch this space for further details.

Roger Wood

Compton Open Weekend – 25 – 26 July – 16 Entries

Open Event (Knockout for COWHORN Challenge Trophy)

Winner: R.J. Murfitt bt (1) Dr. B.D. Yallop +26 (TP), (2) P.L. Alvey +15, (3) S.N. Mulliner +26 (TP) + 17 (TP), (4) W. de B. Prichard +15 +23.

Runner-up: W. de B. Prichard bt (1) J. Haigh +3, (2) M.J. Stevens +12, (3) J. Rose +26 +23.

PROGRESSIVE SWISS EVENT

Winner: S.N. Mulliner 5 wins +126.

Runners-up: C.H.L. Prichard 4 wins +63; J.G.C. Phillips 4 wins +48; J. Haigh 4 wins +31; J. Rose 4 wins +14; M. Ormerod 3 wins +15; Dr. G. Roberts 3 wins +14; Dr R Wood 3 wins –8; P.L. Alvey 2 wins –7; Dr. B.D. Yallop 2 wins –21; A.F. Coleman 2 wins –31; M.J. Stevens 2 wins –36; J.H.J. Soutter 1 win –31; E.C. Tyrwhitt Drake 0 wins –29.

Hurlingham 30 July – 8 August

Colonel Prichard in his History of Croquet refers to the Hurlingham August tournament as one of the highlights of the season, although of late having lost some of its prestige. In fact, while the quality of the entry for the A Opens does not now measure up to that of a decade or more ago when the top half dozen or so players competed regularly, in terms of quantity the entry remains satisfactory, with the lists usually closing well before the date of the draw. This year, Eric Solomon and Bernard Neal provided the cream of the entry, Eric retaining his hold on the Hurlingham Cup, beating Bernard in the final of one half and again in the play-off. In earlier rounds they had both lived dangerously, Eric rising from the dead in one game to beat Peter Alvey, while Barbara Meacham could count herself unlucky against Bernard when she was hoop bound after one-back with a ball in baulk.

It is pleasant to record that the only two competitors from outer space, if the Bowden Club can be so included, did not have wasted journeys. Both Bill Aldridge and Liz Taylor reached three finals and will have

heard from the handicapper. At a time when few promising ladies are coming into croquet Liz Taylor caught the eye as likely future material. She won the unrestricted doubles with her Bowden colleague and also garnered the spoils in the Longworth Cup, but just failed by two points in the Ladies Field Candlestick Final. Bill for his part won two of the three finals, falling in the Y final to John Greenwood after beating him in the Turner Cup. Liz Taylor's narrow win in the Longworth Cup deprived Ann Solomon of putting a fourth Solomon name on the plinth John père, John fils and Gregory having recorded earlier wins in 1948, 1971 and 1979, all three in their teens (Andrew the third offshoot prevailed in the Younger Cup in the early 1970s, but seems to have bypassed the Longworth Cup).

As often as not the Big Handicap (with an entry of 60 this year) is won by a middle bisquer who has been in the game for a short time and is improving rapidly with every tournament. Such was the case this year with the winner Roy on a handicap of 5 looking a likely winner from the outset. His play in the semi-final and final, both won by 26, merited the sizeable reduction imposed on his handicap.

The Skempton duo were much in evidence throughout the week. The professor having lived in croquet doldrums for the last year or two changed his mallet recently and had a welcome resurgence with his win in the Younger Cup. Nancy for her part resumed her hold on the Candlesticks which she had previously won over the years in the company of Joan Warwick and Veronica Carlisle (Veronica played throughout the tournament up to her Women's champion form.) Eleanor Glover was a sound partner of Nancy this year.

The feature of the last day was the superlative play in the two Doubles finals. In the morning's Men's Handicap Doubles, Nigel Aspinall during the course of an all round break quadrupled his partner's ball for the maximum entitlement from the 6th hoop to four-back, peeling and pegging out the opponent Paul Macdonald to boot. Robin Godby on two-back made brave efforts to regain the advantage, but young James Carlisle, still at the tender age of 13, kept his head and managed his last three hoops, Nigel then engineering a subtly contrived peg-out. In the afternoon's Mixed Open Doubles, the two seeded pairs Betty & William Prichard against Nigel Aspinall and Barbara Meacham, Nigel did all that was required of him, triple peeling and pegging out Betty after the latter had made a standard break to four-back. William however with the help of two spectacular shots undid Nigel's work, the Prichards winning for the third consecutive year.

Mention of Nigel leads inevitably to the manager's tent where he and Sarah Hampson presided with aplomb and efficiency. They successfully overcame the problems of lawns being twice flooded on the second Thursday disrupting the Ladies' & Men's Doubles Events, putting Fridays programme in disarray. However with late evening play till dusk on Friday the Tournament was safely wrapped up on Saturday evening except for one Doubles final which was deferred to Sunday morning. Warm thanks to Nigel and Sarah for their 10 hours (plus) day's work for 10 days!

Event 1. Hurlingham Cup Open Singles

DRAW

First Round: E.W. Solomon bt F. Rogerson +26. TP. P.L. Alvey bt G. Borrett +1. D. Hamilton-Miller bt R.F. Rothwell +12. Mrs. H. Carlisle bt L. Wharrad +4. J.S.H. Battison bt R.A. Godby +17. C.H.J. Cousins bt J. Haigh +19. J.G.C. Phillips bt B.G.F. Weitz +2. B.G. Neal bt S.S. Townsend +26 TP.

Second Round: Solomon bt Alvey +3. Hamilton-Miller bt Mrs. Carlisle +12. Cousins bt Battison +2. Neal bt Phillips +18 TP.

Semi-final: Solomon bt Hamilton-Miller +9. Neal bt Cousins +18.

Final: Solomon bt Neal +15.

PROCESS

First Round: R.A. Godby bt E.W. Solomon +16. D. Hamilton-Miller bt B.G.F. Weitz +12. G. Borrett bt C.H.J. Cousins +3. Mrs. H. Carlisle bt S.S. Townsend +15. J.S.H. Battison bt F. Rogerson +17. J.G.C. Phillips bt R.F. Rothwell +13. Mrs. B. Meacham bt P.L. Alvey +23. B.G. Neal bt L. Wharrad +18.

Second Round: Hamilton-Miller bt Godby +15. Mrs. Carlisle bt Borrett +17. Battison bt Phillips +2. Neal bt Mrs. Meacham +19.

Semi-final: Mrs. Carlisle bt Hamilton-Miller +7. Neal bt Battison +17.

Final: Neal bt Mrs. Carlisle +10.

PLAY-OFF

Solomon bt Neal +26.

Event 2. Turner Cup 'B' Level Singles

First Round: Miss S.E. Hampson bt Lady Bazley +15. M.G. Pearson bt R.O. Havery +8. Mrs. B.L. Sundius-Smith bt B.P. Whitehouse +10. Mrs. E.E. Bressey bt A.D. Karmel +2T. W.O. Aldridge bt F.H. Newman +19. Mrs. N.A.C. McMillan bt Mrs. B.G.F. Weitz +12.

Second Round: J.D. Greenwood bt Miss Hampson +5. Mrs. Sundius-Smith bt Pearson +10. Aldridge bt Bressey +24. G.C. Roy bt McMillan +23.

Semi-final: Greenwood bt Mrs. Sundius-Smith +7. Aldridge bt Roy +23.

Final: Aldridge bt Greenwood +16.

Event 3. Younger Cup 'C' Level Singles

First Round: Mrs. F.H. Newman bt S.G. Kent +13. A.W. Skempton bt J.G.O. Miller +18. B.H. Bliss bt Mrs. F.H.N. Davidson +8. I.P.M. MacDonald bt Mrs. B. Mansfield +12. E.B.T. Tanner bt O.A. Kerensky +6. A. D'Antal bt C. Newman +8.

Second Round: Mrs. Newman bt Mrs. B.G. Neal +19. Skempton bt Bliss +15. MacDonald bt Tanner +8. G.D.P. Solomon bt D'Antal +4.

Semi-final: Skempton bt Mrs. Newman +12. Solomon bt MacDonald +6.

Final: Skempton bt Solomon +15.

Event 4. Longworth Cup 'C' Class Handicap Singles

First Round: Mrs. A. Solomon bt Mrs. W. Jones +12.

Second Round: C.M. Fox bt J.R.N. Lisle +10. Mrs. Solomon bt Mrs. S.S. Townsend +3. Mrs. E.N.I. Taylor bt Mrs. I.P.M. MacDonald +8. J.W.H. Carlisle bt Miss J. Wraith +10.

Semi-final: Mrs. Solomon bt Fox +3. Mrs. Taylor bt Carlisle +14.

Final: Mrs. Taylor bt Mrs. Solomon +2.

Event 5. Open Mixed Doubles

First Round: P.L. Alvey & Mrs. B. Mansfield bt R.A. Godby & Lady Bazley +7. M.G. Pearson & Mrs. N. McMillan bt J.G.C. Phillips & Mrs. J. Soutter w/o. W. de B. Prichard & Mrs. D.M.C. Prichard bt Dr. & Mrs. B.G.F. Weitz +5. Prof. & Mrs. B.G. Neal bt G. Borrett & Mrs. B.L. Sundius-Smith +7. C.H.J. Cousins & Mrs. Browne bt C.G. Pountney & Mrs. E.G. Bressey +10T.

Second Round: Alvey & Mrs. Mansfield bt J. Haigh & Miss S.G. Hampson +9. Prichards bt M. Pearson & Mrs. McMillan +19. Cousins & Mrs. Browne bt Prof. & Mrs. Neal +1T. G.N. Aspinall & Mrs. B. Meachem bt Mr. & Mrs. D.J. Croker +25.

Semi-final: Prichards bt Alvey & Mrs. Mansfield +21. Aspinall & Mrs. Meachem bt Cousins & Mrs. Browne +17.

Final: Prichards bt Aspinall & Mrs. Meachem +7.

Event 6. Ladies Field Candlesticks Ladies' Handicap Doubles

First Round: Mrs. W.J. Brown & Mrs. B. Mansfield bt Mrs. A. Solomon & Miss J. Wraith +15. Mrs. B.L. Sundius-Smith & Mrs. Townsend bt Lady Bazley & Mrs. B. Meachem +7OT. Mrs. D.J. Croker & Miss S.G. Hampson bt Mrs. W.G. Jones & Mrs. I.P.M. MacDonald +9.

Second Round: Mrs. E. Glover & Mrs. A.W. Skempton bt Mrs. E.E. Bressey & Mrs. D. Torrington-Petrie +15. Mrs. Sundius-Smith & Mrs. Townsend bt Mrs. Brown & Mrs. Mansfield +3OT. Mrs. Croker & Miss Hampson bt Mrs. F.H.N. Davidson & Mrs. N.A.C. MacMillan +18. Mrs. B.G. Neal & Mrs. E.N.I. Taylor bt Miss P. Shine & Mrs. B.G.F. Weitz +20.

Semi-final: Mrs. Glover & Mrs. Skempton bt Mrs. Sundius-Smith & Mrs. Townsend +1OT. Mrs. Neal & Mrs. Taylor bt Mrs. Croker & Miss Hampson +18.

Final: Mrs. Glover & Mrs. Skempton bt Mrs. Neal & Mrs. Taylor +2.

Event 7. Mens Handicap Doubles

First Round: J.G.C. Phillips & G.D.P. Solomon bt P.L. Alvey & J.S.H. Battison +26. R.A. Godby & I.P.M. MacDonald bt W.O. Aldridge & E.W. Solomon +3. D.J.V. Hamilton-Miller & C.G. Pountney bt R.O. Havery & A.W. Skempton +4. Borrett & Kent bt Neal & Godfree +2T. G.N. Aspinall & J.W.H. Carlisle bt G.C. Roy & R.J. Smith +16. L. Wharrad & J. Haigh bt M.G. Pearson & B.G.F. Weitz +7. C.B. Sanford & S.S. Townsend bt F. Rogerson & R.F. Rothwell +9. C.M. Fox & D.J. Wilson-Haffenden bt A.D'Antal & B.H. Bliss +4.

Second Round: Godby & MacDonald bt Phillips & Solomon +26. Hamilton-Miller & Pountney bt Borrett & Kent +5. Aspinall & Carlisle bt Wharrad & Haigh +26. Sandford & Townsend bt Fox & Wilson-Haffenden +20.

Semi-final: Godby & MacDonald bt Hamilton-Miller & Pountney +14. Aspinall & Carlisle bt Sanford & Townsend +21.

Final: Aspinall & Carlisle bt Godby & MacDonald +4.

Silver Jubilee Cup X Handicap Singles

First Round: B.G.F. Weitz (½) bt W.O. Aldridge. C.G. Pountney (4) bt Miss J. Wraith (11). Mrs. A.W. Skempton (6½) bt Mrs. F. Stanley-Smith (6). I.P.M. MacDonald (8) bt J. Carlisle (13). J.S.H. Battison (1½) bt Mrs. L. Wharrad (11). E.W. Solomon (-2) bt C.H.J. Cousins (½). S.M. Godsby (5) bt G.D.P. Solomon (8). G. Borrett (1½) bt Mrs. W. Jones. E.B.T. Tanner (6) bt J.G.O. Miller (8). M.G. Pearson (3½) bt Mrs. E.E. Bressey (4). B.H. Bliss (5½) bt Mrs. F.H.N. Davidson (6½). Mrs. B. Meacham (½) bt B.P. Whitehouse (4). Mrs. H.B.H. Carlisle (1½) bt C.M. Gox (9) +9. A.W. Skempton (6) bt S.G. Kent (5) +17. Mrs. F.H. Newman (5) bt P.L. Alvey (1½) +16. Miss S.G. Hampson (2½) bt Mrs. B.L. Sundius-Smith (3½) +3. L. Wharrad (2½) bt A.D. Karmel (3) +7. R.J. Smith (5½) bt O.A. Kerensky (6) +22. R.A. Godby (½) bt C.J. Newman (4½) +2. Mrs. I.P.M. MacDonald (9) bt A.W.D. Nicholls (4) +8. Mrs. A. Solomon (11) bt J.D. Greenwood (3½) +2. A. D'Antal (7) bt Mrs. B.G.F. Weitz (2½) +20. D.J.V. Hamilton-Miller (1) bt D.C. Caporn (3) +8. Mrs. E.N.I. Taylor (11) bt Lady Bazley (4) +3T. Mrs. B.G. Neal (5½) bt Mrs. W. Longman (7) w/o. G.C. Roy (5) bt D.J. Wilson-Haffenden (6) +14. R.O. Havery (4) bt Miss P. Shine (7) +22. F.H. Newman (4½) bt Mrs. N.A.C. MacMillan (3) +7.

Second Round: Mrs. R. Mansfield (7) bt F. Rogerson (5) w/o. Weitz bt Pountney +6. Macdonald bt Mrs. Skempton +3. Solomon bt Battison +13. Cousins bt Borrett. Pearson bt Tanner +6. Mrs. Meachem bt Bliss +9. Mrs. Carlisle bt Skempton +11. Mrs. Newman bt Miss Hampson +12. Wharrad bt Smith +5. Godby bt Mrs. MacDonald +6. D'Antal bt Mrs. Solomon +24. Hamilton-Miller bt Mrs. Taylor +1. Roy bt Mrs. Neal +21. Newman bt Havery +12. Mrs. W.J. Browne (7) bt C.B. Sandford (3½) +13.

Third Round: Mrs. Mansfield bt Weitz +20. Solomon bt MacDonald +11. Pearson bt Cousins +3. Mrs. Carlisle bt Mrs. Meachem +10. Wharrad bt Mrs. Newman +6. Godby bt D'Antal +17. Roy bt Hamilton-Miller +16. Mrs. Browne bt Newman +19.

Fourth Round: Solomon bt Mansfield. Carlisle bt Pearson. Wharrad bt Godby. Roy bt Mrs. Browne.

Semi-final: Mrs. Carlisle bt Solomon +26. Roy bt Godby +26.

Final: Roy bt Mrs. Carlisle +10.

Event 9. Baillieu Plate

Final: J.D. Greenwood bt W.O. Aldridge +2.

Nottingham 10 - 15 August

Glorious sunshine and good food, as well as the odd game of croquet, were the rewards enjoyed by a record entry of 35 to Nottingham's annual tournament. For six consecutive days the sun beat down, and shorts exposed many an unseasoned leg. The number of lawns available was, as usual, swollen to seven by the addition of two superb bowling greens. Would that all croquet lawns could be so true!

Play was often interesting and entertaining, but it was the achievement of individuals rather than the overall standard which made for a memorable week. The age range of the entry spanned a remarkable 70 years, with those at either end of the scale playing well. Fifteen year old Mark Avery, sinking lemonade by the quart, and living, as I was reliably informed, on a diet of baked beans on toast and cheese, rapidly won the respect of all in attendance with the completion of his second and third tournament triple peels. Buck Bucknell, three score and ten years his senior, still gives no quarter to the best of players.

Owing to the success in a number of events by a small band of stalwarts, finals day was to prove somewhat traumatic for manager Ian Wright who was to demonstrate once again his organisational skills by bringing proceedings to a close barely ten minutes before the park keeper's whistle was scheduled.

The Open Singles event began promisingly with triples in the first round of the Draw by Geoffrey Taylor and Ian Vincent. The event proved to be truly "open", with seven different competitors filling the semi-final places of the two halves. Vincent went on to win the Draw in a final against Alan Girling, whose play was never really settled; and Mark Avery, in a protracted 3 hour game on the morning of finals day, triumphed in the Process.

The play-off proved particularly interesting, played as it was in the one and only shower of the week, at dusk on Saturday. Vincent began with the advantage of having beaten Avery earlier in the day while conceding 2½ bisques, and quickly took his first ball to 4-back. Avery, in his fourth game of the day, replied soon after, but failed at 2-back, leaving his opponent's backward ball in front of hoop 1 with a third ball at 2. All seemed over, but Vincent ran the hoop much too firmly and missed the return roquet, leaving his ball on the A-baulk, and enabling Avery, hardly believing his good fortune, to tidy up and prepare for a triple. Failing, however, to do more than the first peel, Avery went to the peg, where he left his opponent cross-wired. Vincent hit the lift and took his backward ball to the peg. Once again there seemed little hope, until Avery, to the applause of a large audience, many somewhat the worse for gin by that hour, hit in from the third corner to hoop 6 and finished on the next turn.

The B Level Singles (4½ - 8) provided its own share of thrills and spills, with a number of close finishes on time, and again seven different semi-finalists. Martin Kolbusewski defeated Tim Smith on the morning of finals day, thus giving him a total of four games to be played on that day. In the Process final Keith Aiton went to 4-back on the fourth turn against Julian Straw, and eventually triumphed on his third attempt at peg-out. Aiton went on to win the play-off against a by then flagging Kolbusewski, who had plenty of time during the match to put his feet up and recover before his next game.

The C Level Singles proved decisive for Lady Eleanor Porter, who defeated Stephen Thomas and Gilliam Hallam to win both the Draw and the Process halves.

In the major handicap the Y event turned out to be at least as interesting as the X. Martin Kolbusewski reached the X final with little sign of weakness, as did Peter Death. Martin overcame the psychological disadvantage of having already lost two finals earlier in the day, and reached peg and peg with a double peel before his opponent had started. Death, who had waited all day for this game, hit in immediately, went to the peg, laid up and began again with his other ball, failing after hoop 2. Kolbusewski, outwardly unperturbed, pegged yellow out with a shot from hoop 2, and, on the next turn, pegged out red from corner 4!

The Y event proved to be another battle between giants. Richard Hilditch powered his way through with wins of +24 and +26. Mark Avery also produced three convincing wins, including a +26 tp to eliminate Geoffrey Taylor. In the final Avery produced an early break leaving a cross-wire at hoop 1. Hilditch produced a long hit in, and several more of the same in subsequent turns, but Avery's almost nonchalant style and accurate break play proved eventually too much for him, and Avery ran out the winner +7.

The Z, an event for those losing their first two games in the handicap, was won by Ray Jones, beating Ron Gosden, an excellent shot who failed to find form in the latter part of the tournament.

The final of the Robin Hood Gold Cup, an extra, single-life handicap for Associates only, was another encounter between Mark Avery and Ian Vincent. Avery created a break with an adventurous shot at a boundary ball, and seemed impregnable with 1½ of his 2½ bisques remaining. These quickly disappeared, however, as he failed at hoop 1 with his backward ball. Vincent made no such mistake, and took both his balls round to finish with a single peel, +15.

It was clear after the first round that the Doubles was to provide a new winning combination, following the surprise defeat in the first round of Girling and Jones, winners in the previous two years. Keith Aiton and Richard Hilditch, to whom reference has already been made, arrived to contest the final on Saturday morning with bottles of squash even larger than those which had sustained them earlier in the week. Their opponents Martin Kolbusewski and Gilliam Hallam, playing together for the first time and with 4½ bisques, were perhaps intimidated by the sunglasses and five litres of orange juice. The bright morning sunshine, coming as it did after a rather heavy meal the previous evening, made for a slow start, with only four hoops being scored in the first hour of play. Constant imbibing, however, eased Aiton to penultimate, and Hilditch soon followed. A recovery was effected by Gill Hallam to 3-back, but too late, and it was not long before the Cambridge University pair polished off the game.

All in all a very enjoyable week.

Results**Event 1: Robin Hood Gold Cup Handicap Singles**

First Round: I.H. Wright (2) bt J.F.S. Thomas (11) +13. G. Healy (3) bt Mrs. A.J. Bucknell (10) +8. M. Avery (2) bt A.J. Bucknell (7) +8. C. Chamberlain (8) bt Mrs. R.F. Wheeler (2½) +3T. P.J. Death (1) bt M. Stevens (1) +3. C.G. Hopewell (2½) bt Mrs. S. Hudson (12) +16. Mrs. R.A. Gosden (9) bt Mrs. J. Haworth (14) +11T. Dr. I.G. Vincent (-½) bt Mrs. D. Lenfestey (8) +5. D. de Q. Lenfestey (6) bt L. Robinson

(7) +18. Dr. T.W. Smith (4) bt R.O. Calder (5½) +13. M. Kolbusewski (4) bt A.J. Girling (1½) +14. Dr. R.C. Jones (4½) bt Dr. G.K. Taylor (½) +10. R.A. Gosden (7) bt Mrs. C. Chamberlain (10) +22. J.C. Straw (6) bt Miss H. Watson-Walker (16) +9T.

Second Round: Wright bt G. Henshaw (3) +9. Avery bt Healy +20. Death bt Chamberlain +15. Hopewell bt Mrs. Gosden +1. Vincent bt Lenfestey +5. Kolbusewski bt Smith +2. Gosden bt Jones +1T. Straw bt J.D. Meads (1½) +2.

Third Round: Avery bt Wright +13. Death bt Hopewell +5. Vincent bt Kolbusewski +13. Straw bt Gosden +4.

Semi-Final: Avery bt Death +13. Vincent bt Straw +21

Final: Vincent bt Avery +15.

Event 2: Open Singles

DRAW

First Round: I.H. Wright bt P.J. Death +15. J.D. Meads bt M. Avery +6. Dr. I.G. Vincent bt R. Hilditch +26 TP. Dr. G.K. Taylor bt M. Stevens +26 TP. Mrs. R.F. Wheeler bt G. Henshaw +6.

Second Round: Wright bt G. Healy +7. Vincent bt Meads +15. Taylor bt Mrs. Wheeler +14. A.J. Girling bt C.G. Hopewell +11.

Semi-Final: Vincent bt Wright +22. Girling bt Taylor +7.

Final: Vincent bt Girling +15.

PROCESS

First Round: Healy bt Taylor +2. Avery bt Girling +16. Wright bt Mrs. Wheeler +20. Henshaw bt Death +9. Meads bt Hopewell +12.

Second Round: Avery bt Healy +12. Wright bt Vincent +5. Henshaw bt Hilditch +4. Stevens bt Meads +9.

Semi-final: Avery bt Wright +25 TP. Stevens bt Henshaw +11.

Final: Avery bt Stevens +7.

PLAY-OFF: M. Avery bt Dr. I.G. Vincent +5.

Event 3: "B" Level Singles

DRAW

First Round: A.J. Bucknell bt Mrs. D. Lenfestey +13. Dr. T.W. Smith bt J.C. Straw +19. Dr. R.C. Jones bt R.O. Calder +8. R.A. Gosden bt K. Aiton +14.

Second Round: D. de Q. Lenfestey bt L. Robinson +1 T. Smith bt Bucknell +7. Gosden bt Jones +2 T. M. Kolbusewski bt C. Chamberlain +16.

Semi-final: Smith bt Lenfestey +6. Kolbusewski bt Gosden +18.

Final: Kolbusewski bt Smith +7.

PROCESS

First Round: Lenfestey bt Gosden +12T. Mrs. Lenfestey bt Chamberlain +1T. Aiton bt Robinson +6T. Kolbusewski bt Bucknell +14.

Second Round: Straw bt Lenfestey +8T. Jones bt Mrs. Lenfestey +14. Aiton bt Smith +25. Kolbusewski bt Calder +26.

Semi-final: Straw bt Jones +15. Aiton bt Kolbusewski +24.

Final: Aiton bt Straw +13.

PLAY-OFF: Aiton bt Kolbusewski +13.

Event 4: "C" Handicap Singles

DRAW

First Round: Lady E. Porter (10) bt Mrs. R.A. Gosden (9) +4. J.F.S. Thomas (11) bt Mrs. C. Chamberlain (12) +2.

Second Round: Miss G. Hallam (16) bt Mrs. A.J. Bucknell (10) +1T. Lady Porter bt Mrs. J. Haworth (14) +20. Thomas bt Mrs. S. Hudson (12) +17. Miss A.R. Robertson (9) bt Miss H. Watson-Walker (16) +1T.

Semi-final: Lady Porter bt Miss Hallam +8T. Thomas bt Miss Robertson +26.

Final: Lady Porter bt Thomas +4T.

PROCESS

First Round: Miss Robertson bt Mrs. Bucknell +4. Miss Hallam bt Miss Watson-Walker +1T.

Second Round: Lady Porter bt Miss Robertson +11. Thomas bt Mrs. Haworth +21. Miss Hallam bt Mrs. Chamberlain +11. Mrs. Gosden bt Mrs. Hudson +9.

Semi-final: Lady Porter bt Thomas +13. Miss Hallam bt Mrs. Gosden +1T.

Final: Lady Porter bt Miss Hallam +10.

Winner: Lady Porter.

Play-off for second place: Miss Hallam bt Thomas +11.

Event 5: Handicap Singles "X" - "Y" - "Z"

"X"

First Round: J.D. Meads (1½) bt Miss H. Watson-Walker (16) +16. Mrs. D. de O. Lenfestey (8) bt Mrs. C. Chamberlain (10) +25. K. Aiton (4½) bt Mrs. S. Hudson (12) +20. M. Kolbuszewski (4) bt Dr. T.W. Smith (4) +15. Dr. R.C. Jones (4½) bt M. Avery (2) +11. D. de O. Lenfestey (6) bt J.F.S. Thomas (11) +2T. Dr. I.G. Vincent (-½) bt R.O. Calder (5½) +5. C. Chamberlain (8) bt Dr. G.K. Taylor (½) +12. Lady E. Porter (12) bt Mrs. A.J. Bucknell (10) +19. A.J. Girling (1½) bt Mrs. R.A. Gosden (9) +4. A.J. Bucknell (7) bt G. Healy (3) +19. J.C. Straw (6) bt Mrs. J. Haworth (14) +11. I.H. Wright (2) bt R. Hilditch (2½) +4. M. Stevens (1) bt C.G. Hopewell (2½) +18. P.J. Death (1) bt Miss A.R. Robertson (9) +19. R.A. Gosden (7) bt G. Henshaw (3) +10.

Second Round: Mrs. Lenfestey bt Meads +26. Kolbuszewski bt Aiton +22. Lenfestey bt Jones +15. Vincent bt Chamberlain +1. Girling bt Lady Porter +8. Bucknell bt Straw +4. Wright bt Stevens +7. Death bt Gosden +15.

Third Round: Kolbuszewski bt Mrs. Lenfestey +3. Lenfestey bt Vincent +26. Bucknell bt Girling +11. Death bt Wright +16.

Semi-final: Kolbuszewski bt Lenfestey +14. Death bt Bucknell +9.

Final: Kolbuszewski bt Death +12.

"Y"

Final: M. Avery bt R. Hilditch +7.

"Z"

Final: R.A. Gosden bt Dr. R.C. Jones +8.

Event 6: Handicap Doubles

First Round: G. Healy & Lady E. Porter (15) bt A.J. Girling & Dr. R.C. Jones +4. M. Kolbuszewski & Miss G. Hallam (18) bt M.J. Stevens & Miss H. Watson-Walker (15) +19. Mr. & Mrs. Lenfestey (14) bt Mrs. R.F. Wheeler & Miss A.R. Robertson (10½) +15T. M. Avery & Mrs. J. Haworth (14) bt Mr. & Mrs. R.A. Gosden (16) +6T. J.C. Straw & C. Chamberlain (14) bt C.G. Hopewell & Mrs. S. Hudson (12½) +4. Dr. T.W. Smith & A.J. Bucknell (11) bt J.D. Meads & R.O. Calder (7) +7. R. Hilditch & K. Aiton (7) bt G. Henshaw & L. Robinson (10) +17. P.J. Death & Mrs. A.J. Bucknell (11) bt Dr. G.K. Taylor & Mrs. C. Chamberlain (10½) +

Second Round: Kolbuszewski & Miss Hallam bt Healy & Lady Porter +14. Mr. & Mrs. Lenfestey bt Avery & Mrs. Haworth +1T. Smith & Bucknell bt Straw & Chamberlain +10T. Hilditch & Aiton bt Death & Mrs. Bucknell +16.

Semi-final: Kolbuszewski & Miss Hallam bt Mr. & Mrs. Lenfestey +5T. Hilditch & Aiton bt Smith & Bucknell +6.

Final: Hilditch & Aiton bt Kolbuszewski & Miss Hallam +15.

Edinburgh 17 - 22 August

The new venue for the tournament on the cricket field of Fettes College provided three courts of a better standard than previously and three about the same as before. The groundsman had done his best but the hard, dry ground had not responded to his efforts. After heavy rain early in the week he suggested that another treatment with the heavy roller should now iron out some of the roughness. His experience and advice produced the desired result of much better playing surfaces for the second half of the week during which the weather was also much better than earlier.

About half of the total entry of thirty came from the Edinburgh Club. The remainder of the entry consisted of members of other Scottish Clubs together with four English visitors. The visitors from South of the border stamped their mark on the tournament by a series of victories. Geoff Roy from Maidenhead won the Open event after a tense play off against Margaret Lauder. Paul Boddington from Oxford was the winner of the B Singles and Peter Thompson from

Norton Hall carried off the trophy for the Unrestricted Handicap Singles with Margaret Lauder again being the runner up. Geoff Roy capped his Open's win by victory in the Y of this event.

The facilities at Fettes were welcomed by both players and spectators. The pavilion adjacent to the courts provided shelter when necessary and enabled the tea makers to feel part of the tournament rather than, as previously, a distant appendage.

Result

Event 1: Cramond Cup Open Singles

DRAW

First Round: I.H. Wright bt Mrs. C.A. Rowe +8. Mrs. M. Lauder bt P.W.P. Campion +15. E.M. Bowie bt J.E. Rowe +6. G.C. Roy bt R.O. Calder +9.

Semi-final: Lauder bt Wright +17. Roy bt Bowie +3.

Final: Lauder bt Roy +1.

PROCESS

First Round: Rowe bt Wright (opp. scr.). Roy bt Mrs. Lauder +10. Bowie bt Mrs. Rowe +12. Calder bt Campion +5.

Semi-final: Roy bt Rowe +12. Bowie bt Calder +22.

Final: Roy bt Bowie +14.

Play-off for first and second place: Roy bt Mrs. Lauder +2.

Event 2: Silver Jubilee Salver Level Singles Handicap 6½+

First Round: P. Boddington bt Mrs. V.H. McPherson +6. A.G.M. Hunter bt J. Lomax +9T. A.D. Lamont bt R. Forth (opp scr). P.W. Thompson bt C.J. Tait +16.

Semi-final: Boddington bt Hunter +9T. Lamont bt Thompson +14.

Final: Boddington bt Lamont +13T.

Event 3: Laing Cup Handicap 9 & over.

First Round: J.C. McCulloch (9) bt G. Anderson (10) +10.

Second Round: R. Pirrie (16) bt Mrs. G. Clark (16) +6T. McCulloch bt F.R. Bishop (16) +16. C. Morrison (16) bt Mrs. J.S. Morrison (16) +12T. A.M. Ramsay (14) bt Mrs. M. Wright (13) +16.

Semi-final: Pirrie bt McCulloch +7. C. Morrison bt Ramsay +3T.

Final: Morrison bt Pirrie +5T.

Event 4: Norton Wright Trophies Handicap Doubles

First Round: E.M. Bowie & P.W.P. Campion (8½) bt A.C.M. Hunter & R. Pirrie (22) +1T. G. Anderson & A. Ramsay (24) bt Mrs. V.M. MacPherson & Mrs. M. Wright (20) +2T. F.V.Y. Norton & P. Simpson (6½) bt J.E. Rowe & Mrs. C.A. Rowe (11½) +6. R.O. Calder & J. Lomax (12) bt P.W. Thompson & F.R. Bishop (23) +4. G.C. Roy & Mrs. M. Lauder (8½) bt J.C. McCulloch & Miss A.M. Murray (18) +11.

Second Round: P. Boddington & C. Morrison (21) bt Bowie & Campion +3T. Norton & Simpson bt Anderson & Ramsay +16. Roy & Lauder bt Calder & Lomax +8. M.P.W. Smith & G. Mason (15½) bt A.D. Lamont & Mrs. M. Fotheringham (22) +15.

Semi-final: Norton & Simpson bt Boddington & Morrison +3T. Smith & Mason bt Roy & Lauder +1T.

Final: Norton & Simpson bt Smith & Mason +9.

Event 5X: Edinburgh Cup Handicap Singles

First Round: C. Morrison (16) bt A.D. Lamont +10T. E.M. Bowie (2½) bt G. Anderson (10) +13. P.W. Thompson (9) bt Mrs. G. Clark (15) +13. P.W.P. Campion (6) bt Mrs. C.A. Rowe (5) +1T. C.J. Tait (8) bt R. Borth (8) (opp scr). Mrs. M. Lauder (5½) bt Mrs. M. Wright (13) +8.

Second Round: P. Boddington (7) bt P.R. Bishop (16) +22. J.E. Rowe (6½) bt G.C. Roy (3) +12. Morrison bt Bowie +8T. Thompson bt Campion +8. Mrs. Lauder bt Tait +10. A.M. Ramsay (14) bt I.H. Wright (2) (opp scr). Mrs. V.M. Macpherson (7) bt J. Lomax (6½) +4T. A.G.M. Hunter (8) bt R.O. Calder (5½) +5T.

Semi-final: Thompson bt Rowe +13. Mrs. Lauder bt Hunter +11.

Final: Thompson bt Mrs. Lauder +8.

Event 5Y: Milne Trophy 'Y' Handicap Singles

Final: G.C. Roy bt Mrs. M. Wright +12.

Roehampton August Weekend 22 - 23 August

This was the weekend of upsets, giant-killers and general unpredictability. Round 1 opened proceedings demurely enough with only Roger Wood causing eyebrow elevation with a good win against Graeme Roberts. In fairness to John Rose one might also say that Richard ('Dastardly') Hilditch was not fancied to beat him - but so he did. In Round 2 there was one actual and one very near defeat of the high and mighty. Mark Avery played some stunning croquet against Steve Mulliner before sticking in rover with partner waiting by the peg. This led to an unusual leave. Mulliner took one ball to the peg, left the opponent peg ball by penult, left the opponent rover just in front of rover and his own balls in the west boundary south of corner II with a rush to penult. The gift of rover turned out to be Greek as the long shot afterwards was missed and Avery was pipped - desperately unlucky not to acquire a Presidential scalp. No such misfortune stood in Philip Cordingley's way. He beat the Test and President's Rowlock holder, Roger Murfitt, fair and square and confirmed the improvement he displayed at the Opens. In the Swiss Roll Steve Battison had a good win against Ian Bond.

The semi-finals of the main event each set a shark against a minnow - and in each case the shark got badly bitten. Both Cordingley and Hilditch took the second game off Eric Solomon and Steve Mulliner respectively - two very gritty performances. In the Mardi Gras atmosphere of the Roll Mike Stevens joined the Murfiteers - that distinguished company of plus handicappers who can tell their grandchildren (if any) how they took an international to the cleaners. In the remainder of the Roll event the most notable features were Mark Avery's Murfitticide and the strong finishing of Wood and Hilditch. The latter gentleman triumphed to win a remarkably strong consolation event.

The Rowlock final produced another three game thriller - well, almost. Game 1 was all Mulliner, belting round as of yore to go into lunch one up plus triple. Solomon replied in kind in the second game, albeit at a somewhat more sedate pace. In the third Mulliner's shooting became less than reliable and Solomon kept his head and the innings often enough to forge ahead and finish, rather nicely.

Southwick 3 24 - 29 August

We were nearly drowned during the Peels at Southwick in May and Samsonian muscles were needed to strike a ball through the puddles - the August tournament provided a complete contrast. Sunshine throughout the whole of the week, fast but not glacially impossible courts. The majority of the courts played quite well, although there are some difficult boundaries and some undulations. The extraordinary fact about courts - and losing croquet players talk of little else - is that the better players somehow still seem to win.

Southwick offers an abundance of lawns - and thus there was a total absence of double banking. The club is delightfully set in its own fringe of trees and is within easy reach of Brighton, Worthing and many country beauty spots. There are an abundance of small self-catering flats that can be rented by the week within a half-a-dozen miles.

There was a total entry of 54 - rather better than was expected. The Open class had 11; there were 24 pairs in the mixed doubles. The main handicap event is separated into Men and Women's events. There were 28 men and 17 women entrants.

The week was much enlivened by a contingent of five from Cambridge University who managed between them to win the Men's X, the Opens, the level singles and the 9 and over. Coward and Allim were the outstanding players and had their handicaps reduced to 1 and 1½ respectively. Gunasekera with a 6 bisque advantage whitewashed Allim in the X final despite using 3 of his bisques in a 'wind-screen wiping' attempt at a roquet. He also dominated the over 9 event, but will do so no more as the handicappers knocked four of his bisques out of the ground . . . he is still going to be a formidable opponent even at 5.

It is of interest to record that not one of these five young men survived the first round of the mixed doubles, in which a mixture of patience, cunning and skill is needed. Terry Wood demonstrated the skills required by piloting a virtual beginner through all rounds to the final. He and his partner Mrs. Bowyer had quite a near thing in the semi-final against the Wharrads winning by 5 on time and they must have felt pretty confident in the final when Terry Wood pegged out Charles Townsend, leaving Betty Weitz and his partner each with seven hoops to make. The greater skill and experience of Betty prevailed and she hit in when the opposition was laid up apparently quite safely at 2 back and was clearly set for her winning break, the reverend Charles showed his delight in a rather unclerical sort of disco dance on the boundary which he amplified as Betty proceeded to the pegout. A rather endearing display of enthusiasm which added to the fun of the week.

One of the games which gave great pleasure to the onlookers, if not to his opponent, was that between Alan Shephard and Janet Assheton . . . Alan is in his 90th year and was giving between 60 and 70 years to his opponent. He not only hit the ball firmly and accurately, but, perhaps to give himself additional exercise, kept his pipe going fiercely throughout the game, bending down to place it carefully on the ground before each stroke and scooping it up and puffing at it madly whilst moving towards his next shot. In the still warm air you could practically follow his path around the lawn from the smoke cloud.

But the event of the week was the Southwick 80th birthday party organised by the Tournaments Secretary Pat Shine. 135 people were present at the party which was held in the open air in front of the pavilion, with delicious eats and ample supplies of cooled wine and a huge centre piece of a cake representing a croquet lawn, which Mrs. Jackson the club Secretary ceremoniously cut into enough slices to feed everyone - and there was still plenty over.

Richard Rothwell proposed the toast to the Clubs' centenary; in his speech he appealed to the membership which had a rather high average age, to ensure that they did all they could to hand over to the next generation of croquet players, a club which has good lawns and is healthily solvent. There was an urgent need to introduce younger blood into the club and the CA would do everything it could to help. The Chairman of the Publicity and Development Committee was willing to spend as much time as was necessary during next spring and early summer to help with recruitment and coaching of newcomers - and he felt that there were other CA members who would be willing to help.

Richard was also able to announce that 16 of the leading croquet players in the country had agreed to play in an open week-end at Southwick next season.

Certainly this reporter was much heartened by this visit to Southwick - there is a distinct feeling that the club is beginning to acquire a new lease of life. I hope we are witnessing the beginning of Southwick's move to become once again, one of the country's leading Croquet clubs. A position very fitting for a club which the Guinness Book of Records describes as having more courts than any other Croquet club in the world.

Results

Event 1: The Abbey Challenge Cup Open Singles

DRAW

First Round: M.F. Phelps bt R.F. Rothwell +25. F. Reynolds bt E.C. Tyrwhitt Drake +11. B.G.F. Weitz bt E.E. Rees +10.

Second Round: M.J. Coward bt G. Borrett +13. Phelps bt Reynolds +8. Weitz bt W.E. Moore +6. T.F. Owen bt T.I. Wood +5.

Semi-final: Coward bt Phelps +6. Weitz bt Owen +5.

Final: Coward bt Weitz +10.

PROCESS

First Round: Moore bt Borrett +8. Owen bt Phelps +13. Wood bt Coward +15.

Second Round: Moore bt Tyrwhitt Drake +24. Rees bt Owen +16. Wood bt Reynolds +12. Weitz bt Rothwell +10.

Semi-final: Rees bt Moore +20. Wood bt Weitz +16.

Final: Rees bt Wood +5.

PLAY-OFF: Coward bt Rees +9.

Event 2: The Scott Cup Level Singles.

DRAW

First Round: L. Wharrad bt Mrs. E. Cox +10. Mrs. E.C. Tyrwhitt Drake bt D.M. Bull +11. R.M. Allim bt N.W.T. Cox +11. Mrs. B.G.F. Weitz bt G.F. Hallett +5. S.G. Kent bt R. Welch +13.

Second Round: Wharrad bt D.A. Parker +20. Allim bt Mrs. Tyrwhitt Drake +14. Weitz bt Kent +5. H.A. Sheppard bt Miss Assheton +19.

Semi-final: Allim bt Wharrad +18. Weitz bt Sheppard (opp scr.).

Final: Allim bt Weitz +21.

PROCESS

First Round: Parker bt Mrs. Weitz (opp scr.). Sheppard bt Mrs. Tyrwhitt Drake +2. Wharrad bt Kent +20. Mrs. Cox bt Welch +13. Miss Assheton bt Bull +5.

Second Round: Parker bt Sheppard +10. Allim bt Wharrad +8. Cox bt Mrs. Cox +20. Hallett bt Miss Assheton +20.

Semi-final: Parker bt Allim +10. Hallett bt Cox +2.

Final: Parker bt Hallett +9.

PLAY-OFF: Allim bt Parker +20.

Event 3: The Daldy Cup Handicap Singles

DRAW

First Round: Miss P. Shine (7) bt Mrs. A.E. Millns (8) +7. Rev. C.H. Townshend (5½) bt Mrs. M. Grout (7½) +12. K.H. Hope Jones (5½) bt E.B.T. Tanner (6) +8. C.J. Chandler (7) bt Mrs. E.J. Tucker (7) +7. Miss B.E. Dennant (8) bt G. F. Paxon (5½) +20.

Second Round: N. Hyne (8) bt Miss Shine +7. Hope Jones bt Townshend +9. Chandler bt Dennant +15. Mrs. E. Staddon (5½) bt Mrs. E. Lewis (8) +12.

Semi-final: Hyne bt Hope Jones +7. Chandler bt Mrs. Staddon +18.

Final: Chandler bt Hyne +7.

PROCESS

First Round: Chandler bt Hyne +10. Townshend bt Mrs. Staddon +7. Paxon bt Miss Shine +8. Mrs. Dennant bt Mrs. Millns +18. Mrs. Grout bt Mrs. Lewis +17.

Second Round: Townshend bt Chandler +7. Paxon bt Tanner +6. Hope Jones bt Mrs. Dennant +15. Mrs. Tucker bt Mrs. Grout +10.

Semi-final: Townshend bt Paxon +12 OT. Mrs. Tucker bt Hope Jones w/o opp scr.

Final: Townshend bt Mrs. Tucker +9.

PLAY-OFF: Townshend bt Chandler +9.

Event 4: 'D' Class Handicap Singles

DRAW

First Round: M.F. Burgess (9) bt Mrs. E.B.T. Tanner (12) +14.

Second Round: D.L. Gunasekera (11) bt Mrs. M Rankin (11) +16. Burgess bt Mrs. E.D. Osborne (10) +12. Mrs. E. Jackson (9) bt Miss A.M. Ryan (10) +2. Mrs. L. Wharrad (11) bt Mrs. E. Ross (14) +6.

Semi-final: Gunasekera bt Burgess +10. Jackson bt Wharrad +7.

Final: Gunasekera bt Jackson +10.

PROCESS

First Round: Gunasekera bt Mrs. Ross +12.

Second Round: Gunasekera bt Mrs. Tanner +10. Mrs. Osborne bt Miss Ryan +11. Mrs. Jackson bt Mrs. Rankin +12. Burgess bt Mrs. Wharrad +3.

Semi-final: Gunasekera bt Osborne +10. Burgess bt Mrs. Jackson +11.

Final: Burgess bt Gunasekera +1.

PLAY-OFF: Gunasekera bt Burgess +15.

Event 5X: The Douglas Jones Cup Men's Handicap Singles

First Round: T.I. Wood (½) bt H.A. Sheppard (5) +6. W.E. Moore (1) bt G. Borrett (2½) +15. Rev. C.H. Townshend (5½) bt D. Bull (4) +26. T.F. Owen (0) bt K. Hope Jones (5½) +9. E.C. Tyrwhitt Drake (1) bt G.F. Coates (5) +12. R.M. Allim (3) bt G.F. Paxon (5½) +22. R. Rothwell (1½) bt E.E. Rees +7. M.F. Burgess (9) bt M.F. Phelps (½) +11. L. Wharrad (2½) bt N.W.T. Cox (4) +5. M.J. Coward (1½) bt E.B.T. Tanner (6) +8. N. Hyne (8) bt S.G. Kent (5) +7. B.G.F. Weitz (½) bt G.F. Hallett (3) +7.

Second Round: F. Reynold (2) bt Dr. D.A. Parker (2½) +13. Wood bt Moore +22. Owen bt Townshend +8. Allim bt Tyrwhitt Drake +26. Rothwell bt Burgess +10. Coward bt Wharrad +6. Hyne bt Weitz +24. D. Gunasekera (11) bt R. Welch (6½) +2.

Third Round: Wood bt Reynold +6. Allim bt Owen +6. Coward bt Rothwell +20. Gunasekera bt Hyne +20.

Semi-final: Allim bt Wood +26. Gunasekera bt Coward +26.

Final: Gunasekera bt Allim +26.

Event 5Y:

Final: E.E. Rees bt D.M. Bull +21.

Event 6X: The Sussex Vase Women's Handicap Singles

First Round: Miss J. Assheton (6) bt Mrs. E.J. Tucker (7) +9.

Second Round: Mrs. E. Staddon (5½) bt Mrs. M. Grout (7½) +19.

Mrs. E.B. Tanner (12) bt Mrs. M. Rankin (11) +5 OT. Miss Assheton bt Miss P. Shine (7) +3. Mrs. E. Lewis (8) bt Mrs. E.D. Osborne (7) +10. Mrs. E. Cox (4) bt Mrs. A.E. Millns (8) +18. Miss A.M. Ryan (10) bt Mrs. L. Wharrad (11) +4. Mrs. B.G.F. Weitz (2½) bt Mrs. E.C. Tyrwhitt Drake (4½) +7.

Third Round: Mrs. Staddon bt Mrs. Tanner +13. Miss Assheton bt Mrs. Ross +13. Mrs. Cox bt Mrs. Lewis +20. Mrs. Weitz bt Miss Ryan +15.

Semi-final: Miss Assheton bt Mrs. Staddon +11. Mrs. Cox bt Mrs. Weitz +2.

Final: Mrs. Cox bt Miss Assheton +11.

Event 6Y:

Final: Miss B. Dennant bt Mrs. L. Wharrad +11.

Event 7: Mixed Handicap Doubles

First Round: E.C. Tyrwhitt Drake & Miss B. Dennant (9) bt B. Weitz & Miss P. Shine (7½) +9. E. Rees & Mrs. Turner (7) bt N. Hyne & Mrs. A.E. Millns (16) +8. R. Welch & Miss J. Assheton (12½) bt C. Chandler & Mrs. Chandler (8) +10. C. Townshend & Mrs. Weitz (8) bt D. Gunasekera & Mrs. Tyrwhitt Drake (13½) +5. D. Bull & Mrs. E.J. Tucker (11) bt G. Paxon & Mrs. Lewis (13½) +1 OT. L. Wharrad & Mrs. Wharrad (13½) bt S.G. Kent & Mrs. E. Jackson (14). D. Parker & Mrs. Staddon (8) bt R. Allim & Mrs. Pearman (16). M. Phelps & Mrs. Speer (6) bt R. Rothwell & Mrs. E. Ross (15½).

Second Round: W.E. Moore & Mrs. B. Mallinson (7½) bt M.J. Coward & Mrs. Rankin (12½) +14. E.B.T. Tanner & Mrs. Tanner (18) bt G. Hallett & Miss Hodgins (8½) +11. Rees & Mrs. Turner bt Tyrwhitt Drake & Mrs. Dennant +10. Townshend & Mrs. Weitz bt Welch & Miss Assheton +15. Mr. & Mrs. Wharrad bt Bull & Mrs. Tucker +4 OT. Phelps & Mrs. Speer bt Parker & Mrs. Staddon +8. Hope Jones & Mrs. Grout (13) bt M.F. Burgess & Mrs. C. Cox (14½) +8. T.I. Wood & Mrs. Bowyer (14½) bt G. Borrett & Mrs. Ryan (12½) +15.

Third Round: Moore & Mrs. Mallinson bt Tanner & Mrs. Tanner +7. Townshend & Mrs. Weitz bt Rees & Mrs. Turner +5. Mr. & Mrs. Wharrad bt Phelps & Mrs. Speer +20. Wood & Mrs. Bowyer bt Hope Jones & Mrs. Grout +15.

Semi-final: Townshend & Mrs. Weitz bt Moore & Mrs. Mallinson +8. Wood & Mrs. Bowyer bt Mr. & Mrs. Wharrad +7.

Final: Townshend & Mrs. Weitz bt Wood & Mrs. Bowyer +7.

Bowdon W/E 28 — 31 August

Once again this tournament was a great success, with players from as far away as Edinburgh and Brighton. There were four blocks of eight; one was won by George Collin from Chester, and the others by three comparative newcomers, Alan Sutcliffe from the Ellesmere Club, and David Peterson and Colin Irwin from Bowdon. Sutcliffe and Peterson both had wins by very large margins, the latter beating Eddie Bell by 25 and Andrew Collin by 26 with 2½ bisques unused. John McCullough had a couple of chances against Sutcliffe but unfortunately made nothing of them. He did however do two triple peels during the weekend, one against Alasdair Adam (though he failed to peg out) and one against Ian Maugham. This one became more and more delayed until it ended up 'straight', but this time he was successful and left Maugham with a bisque standing. Other triple peels were attempted by other players, but something always went wrong. Altogether the play was of a higher standard than previously, though some players are still too slow and many games went to the time limit. Owing to shortage of time it was not possible to complete the play-offs, but at the time of writing Collin had beaten Irwin, and Peterson, Sutcliffe in the semi-finals, with the final still to come. One should not fail to mention the enormous improvements that have been carried out at the Club since last year, with the aid of a Sports Council grant and a great deal of fund-raising by members. All four lawns have been relaid, and are now in much better condition (two had previously been parallelograms rather than rectangles!). The Clubhouse has been considerably extended and improved, with electricity laid on. The Club celebrated the 70th anniversary of its foundation this year and on the Saturday night of the tournament a party was held to officially open the Clubhouse. Mrs. Montgomery, Vice-Chairman of the North West Sports Council, was present, and she wished the Club every success in the future.

The writer can only do the same.

Cheltenham W/E 29 — 31 August

With 42 entries played off handicap in 6 blocks of 7, all 10 lawns of Cheltenham Croquet Club were fully occupied for the August Bank Holiday Tournament, much of the time with double-banking.

Weather conditions throughout were ideal, dry, sunny, and with little or no wind. However, some of the impeccably prepared lawns developed idiosyncracies as the tournament progressed, much to the chagrin of less experienced players. By the third day, a few lawns had become a mosaic of "quick, very quick, slow", overnight dew having had no affect whatever on bare patches, but having encouraged lush growth where grass had survived the drought. On these lawns games took longer than usual, thus prolonging the need for double-banking.

Nevertheless, the tournament progressed steadily under the management of Mrs. B.G. Neal, and produced some fine contests, none better than that between Kitty Wheeler and David Foulser. For those who were fortunate enough to be able to watch this game, it was a pleasure to see the tiny figure of Kitty masterfully stroking her way to victory against the power croquet of, not so much David, as Goliath!

Roger Murfitt, a Cheltenham Croquet Club far-country member from New Zealand, was playing in his last Cheltenham tournament before returning "down under". Cheltenham will miss the sight of his confident, upright, long-handled game (played in shorts, of course), and we wish him many happy returns.

Results

Block 1: R. Murfitt (—2½) 5 wins +55, G.F. Blumer (6½) 4 wins +24, W.J. Sturdy (3½) 4 wins +8, P. Elmes (1) 4 wins +7, Mrs. E. Wiseman (14) 2 wins —1, W.R. Bawden (12) 2 wins —20, Mrs. J.H.J. Soutter (5½) 0 wins —73.

Block 2: G.W. Sisum (3½) 5 wins +53, Prof. B.G. Neal (—1½) 5 wins +31, Mrs. W.J. Sturdy (7) 4 wins +27, L.B. Barnes (6) 3 wins +14, Mrs. B.G. Neal (5) 3 wins +4, G/Capt. R. Ryan (14) 1 win —49, Capt. P. Reid (11) 0 wins —80.

Block 3: Mrs. K.M.O. Wheeler (3) 5 wins +69, D.R. Foulser (—1½) 5 wins +62, Miss J. Wraith (11) 3 wins —9, L. Ayliffe (5) 3 wins —16, Lady Bazley (4) 2 wins —39, Mrs. D.H. Moorcraft (10) 2 wins —45, E.L. Gardiner (8) 1 win —80.

Block 4: G. Roy (3) 5 wins +36, Mrs. A. Warren (9) 5 wins +36, G.E.P. Jackson (—½) 4 wins +5, D.H. Moorcraft (2½) 3 wins, Mrs. V. Worsley (13) 2 wins —1, S. Garrett (4½) 2 wins —18, A. Blenkin (10) 0 wins —58.

Block 5: S. Hoole (2½) 5 wins +63, Miss I.M. Roe (5½) 5 wins +63, L. Latham (1) 4 wins +39, M.T. Paddon (5) 4 wins +19, A. Warren (9) 2 wins —44, Mrs. L.B. Barnes (9) 1 win —36, Miss J. Marston (15) 0 wins —104.

Block 6: P. Cordingley (1½) 6 wins +59, A. Shaw (12) 3 wins +6, Mrs. K. Yeoman (5) 3 wins +1, Miss M.J. Lodge (6½) 3 wins —13, J.H.J. Soutter (1) 3 wins —15, M. Duck (5½) 2 wins —13, Mrs. W.R. Bawden (13) 1 win —28.

After tea on the final day the Chelsea Building Society Tankard was presented to its first winner, Mrs. M.T. Paddon, by Mr. Brian Walden, manager of Chelsea Building Society's High Street branch. As a near neighbour of the club, Chelsea Building Society has taken a keen interest in our activities, having produced 4 good players in David Foulser, Phil Johnson, Steven Hoole and Carol Chard. It donated the tankard in 1980 for annual autumn/winter competition, originally for players of 17 handicap and over. In future, however, the competition will be open to members of handicaps 12 and over.

All-in-all a memorable tournament, of that happy format that gives every competitor two games each day, and enables less experienced players to measure their skills against those of the masters of the game, on handicap.

Hurlingham Weekend Tournament 29 — 31 August

The Hurlingham August Bank Holiday Weekend Tournament was played again as a Croquet Association event from August 29th to 31st and produced much enjoyable croquet in splendid weather. It was pleasant to welcome a number of young and not-so-young entrants on the Hurlingham lawns from a variety of places including Roehampton, Harrow Oak, Waterford, Phyllis Court, Oxford and Cambridge.

It was played in Swiss blocks and as usual featured some of those high-bisquers who "only really started this year" and seemed to improve by about 2 bisques a game till they were playing to about handicap 4. Such was Adrian Palmer of Roehampton playing Handicap 12 who in the course of his victorious career achieved a triple peel and finally beat

Jan Macloed of the same club in a six-hoop play-off that won him an engraved glass. The only competitor who succeeded in beating Adrian was Robin Godby through conceding a veritable forest of bisques. It was good to see this distinguished elder-statesman playing with such zest and ability and always ready to impart advice and encouraging instruction when asked. However, two giant-killers Jan Macloed and Andrew D'Antal, recorded victories over this formidable player. Another fast improving high-bisquer was J. Wolfe of Harrow Oak, who rapidly discarded his sheep's clothing, if he ever had any. Another, and more to be expected, triple peel came from Stephen Battison of Roehampton and the tournament was again pleasantly and efficiently managed by George Doughty, returned to civilian life from Northern Ireland, and now otherwise concentrating on matters of probate in Lincoln's Inn Fields.

B.H.B.

Swiss Handicap Singles

After 6 Rounds:

5 Wins: A. Palmer (12), J. MacLeod (12), (Play Off 1 Back start: A. Palmer beat J. MacLeod)

4 Wins: R.A. Godby (½), A.L. d'Antal (7), G.D.P. Solomon (7), J. Wolfe (10), J.R. Hilditch (2½), J.S.H. Battison (2)

3 Wins: R.M. Hobbs (2½), Lt. Col. C.M. Fox (10), B. Bliss (5½), G.E.J.A. Doughty (2½)

2 Wins: Dr. A. Elverson (5½), J.G.O. Miller (8), Dr. C.L. Greenbury (6), G.P.N. Healy (3), Mrs. D. Torrington Petrie (16)

1 Win: Mrs. B. Davidson (6½) (+), M.G. Pearson (3½) (=), C.B. Sanford (4½) (+), Dr. O.A. Kerensky (6), (=).

0 Wins: R. Hall (14), (+).

(+) = Only played 5 rounds. (=) = Only played 3 rounds.

Hunstanton 31 August — 5 September

Hunstanton's hundredth year was celebrated in a week of glorious sunshine, with lawns getting faster and competitors browner each day as the sun beat down, and was inaugurated by a centenary buffet supper held in the clubhouse on the evening before the tournament commenced.

In proposing the health of the club at the centenary supper, Roger Wheeler, exercising the mathematical skill expected of him, cast considerable doubt as to whether 1981 was in fact its centenary year, but he provided a range of other centenary dates which will give the club ample opportunity for further celebrations: those Hunstanton regulars who regretted having to miss "Hunstan's Ton" need not worry, there will be others!

The centenary celebrations concluded with a new event in the croquet calendar, Candlelight Croquet. This Carliol invention, golf croquet played after dark with each hoop and the peg adorned with little night lights, proved to be a hilarious success, and it is to be strongly recommended to the organisers of other croquet tournaments. (Enquiries, and royalties, to Veronica Carlisle please). The winners, fed on a diet of carrots and armed with radar-directed mallets, were John Wood and John Walters.

In the more serious but only marginally less exciting business of association croquet, the Norfolk Challenge Cup for the senior event was carried off by Martin Coward from Cambridge University, who won both the Draw and Process, the former only after Jane Neville-Rolfe had somehow failed when for peg and rover and with the innings, and the latter only after Tom Griffith, faced with the alternative of peg and wired ball in a two ball finish, had narrowly missed the peg. The runner-up was Mark Avery, the holder of the trophy, who defeated Tom Griffith in a play off. Martin went on to complete a good double, winning the handicap doubles with Raouf Allim, also from Cambridge, against the local combination of David Turner and Beryl Gosden, despite David's despairing peg out of Raouf with Martin at penultimate and Beryl at the third hoop.

The second and third events, the Hunstanton Challenge Bowl and the Silver Rose Bowl, went to Roehampton in the guise of the Macdonald clan. Paul won the Challenge Bowl, with narrow wins over John Walters and John Wood in the draw, a trouncing from the latter in the process, and a courteous hari kari from George Henshaw in the play off. Pat won the Rose Bowl, having defeated the much fancied Bill Barnett in the first round and eventually overcoming the evergreen and determined octogenarian Edith Wood in the final; this event was played on an X Y basis, the winner of the Y being Bill Barnett who overcame Oxford University's Miles Holford in that final.

The outstanding feature of the unrestricted Handicap Singles (the Ingleby Challenge Cup) was the brilliant and adventurous play of John Walters, who at the age of 17 and off a handicap of 8 (later rightly reduced to 6), achieved one triple peel in this event and narrowly failed with a second. The Y of this event, the Rothwell Cigarette Box, stayed in the hands of non-smokers, this year going to Paul Macdonald who, surviving Raouf Allim's break to penultimate on the fourth turn, hung on tenaciously to win.

The tournament was refereed by John Haigh with impish enthusiasm and authority. Sarah Hampson, as Manager, worked wonders in having 26 competitors play 107 matches during the week (helped of course by the lovely weather and by willing and enthusiastic contestants): the record speaks for itself — draw and process in both events 1 and 2, X and Y in event 3, X, Y and Z in the Handicap Singles and X and Y in the Doubles.

Finally, the author must endorse the tribute paid by Hugh Carlisle, the club's President, to Jane Neville-Rolfe and to Sarah Hampson, for the tremendous amount of work both had put into the running of the club and the successful organisation of the tournament, and to the ladies responsible for the catering arrangements which this year exceeded even the high standards associated with Hunstanton.

Event 1. Norfolk Challenge Cup Open Singles

DRAW

First Round: M. Avery bt T. Griffith +3. R.M. Allim bt J. Haigh +7.

Second Round: A. Coleman bt Mrs. R. Wheeler +19. M. Avery bt Mrs. A. Neville-Rolfe +3. M. Coward bt S.S. Townsend +13. R.M. Allim bt Miss S. Hampson +18.

Semi-final: Avery bt Coleman +10. Coward bt Allim +21.

Final: Coward bt Avery +13.

PROCESS

First Round: A. Coleman bt J. Haigh +24. T. Griffith bt R.M. Allim +6.

Second Round: M. Avery bt Coleman +15. M. Coward bt Mrs. A. Neville-Rolfe +3. Mrs. R. Wheeler bt Miss S. Hampson +12. Griffith bt S.S. Townsend +13.

Semi-final: Coward bt Avery +13. Griffith bt Mrs. Wheeler +8.

Final: Coward bt Griffith +1.

PLAY-OFF

Winner: Coward

Second Place: Avery bt Griffith +23.

Event 2. Hunstanton Bowl Level Singles 3 — 6½ Handicaps

DRAW

First Round: J. Walters bt Dr. R. Wheeler +2. I.P.M. MacDonald bt R.A. Gosden +22. D. Turner bt T.W. Smith +6. J. Wood. bt G. Henshaw +2.

Semi-final: MacDonald bt Walters +5. Wood bt Turner +23.

Final: MacDonald bt Wood +23.

PROCESS

First Round: Dr. R. Wheeler bt D. Turner +3. G. Henshaw bt R.A. Gosden +14. J. Walters bt F.W. Smith +3. J. Wood bt I.P.M. MacDonald +14.

Semi-final: Henshaw bt Wheeler +4. Walters bt Wood +9.

Final: Henshaw bt Walters +8.

PLAY-OFF

MacDonald

PLAY-OFF

MacDonald bt Henshaw +13.

Event 3. Silver Rose Bowl 7 bisques and over.

'X'

First Round: Miss E. Wood bt M. Holford. Mrs. W. Browne bt Prof. K. Campbell. Mrs. S.S. Townsend bt Mrs. R.A. Gosden. Mrs. I.P.M. MacDonald bt B. Barnett.

Semi-final: Wood bt Browne. MacDonald bt Townsend.

Final: MacDonald bt Wood.

Event 4. Hunstanton Challenge Cup 'X', 'Y' Handicap Singles

First Round: Miss S. Hampson (2½) bt Dr. B. Wheeler (4½) +11.

M.A. Holford (8) bt Prof. K. Campbell (11) +2(T). T. Smith (4) bt Mrs. R. Wheeler (2½) +19. R.A. Gosden (7) bt A. Coleman (1) +4. M. Coward (1) bt Mrs. I.O.M. MacDonald (9) +1. S.S. Townsend (1½) bt Mrs. A. Neville-Rolfe (2½) +17. G. Henshaw (3) bt R.M. Allim (1½) +4. M. Avery (1) bt Mrs. R. Gosden (9) +12. J. Wood (5) bt Miss E. Wood (12) +11. T. Griffith (2) bt Mrs. W. Browne (7) +13.

Second Round: B. Barnett (9) bt I.P.M. Macdonald (6) +14. Miss Hampson bt M. Holford +1. Gosden bt Smith +8. Townsend bt Coward +5. Avery bt Henshaw +4. Wood bt Griffith +25. J. Walters (8) bt D. Turner (3½) +9. J. Haigh (½) bt Mrs. I.P.M. Townsend (12) +19.

Third Round: Barnett bt Miss Hampson +23. Townsend bt Gosden +5. Walters bt Avery +15.

Final: Walters bt Barnett +9.

Rothwell Casket 'Y'

Final: MacDonald bt Allim +11.

Event 5. Hope Cups Handicaps Doubles.

First Round: Prof. K. Campbell & A. Coleman bt G. Henshaw & J. Walters +2. I.P.M. & Mrs. MacDonald bt T. Smith & Miss S. Hampson +5. D. Turner & Mrs. R.A. Gosden bt M. Avery & Miss E. Wood +5. B. Barnett & Mrs. A.N. Rolfe bt Dr. & Mrs. R. Wheeler +13. M. Coward & R.M. Allim bt J. Haigh & Mrs. W. Browne +20.

Second Round: S.S. Townsend & Mrs. S.S. Townsend bt Coleman & Campbell +5(T). Turner & Mrs. Gosden bt I.P.M. & Mrs. MacDonald +1(T). Coward & Allim bt Barnett & Mrs. Rolfe. T. Griffith & M.A. Holford bt J. Wood & R.A. Gosden.

Semi-final: Turner & Mrs. Gosden bt Townsend & Mrs. Townsend +8. Coward & Allim bt Griffith & Holford +15.

Final: Coward & Allim bt Turner & Mrs. Gosden +12.

Spencer EII Cup Hunstanton September 7 — 11.

A major appeal of croquet, so it is often said, lies in the rich variety of background and profession among its devotees. This years eight for the Spencer EII certainly backs up the claim with, among the competitors, a World War II flying ace, ping-pong international, lawyer, confidante of Hong Kong's underworld bosses, P.T. instructor, First Division footballer, banker, county cricketer and childhood choral prodigy. As well as Johnny Haigh the selectors had contrived to assemble the usual collection of hacks and has-beens that go to make up this annual marathon of gastronomic and hepatic endurance. The field survived the first onslaught from Ken Jones, the sitting reserve, who failed to eliminate any of the starters with his thinly-disguised generosity at "The Lifeboat Inn" on Sunday night. This venue became a favourite after receiving the seal of approval from ale buff Mike Stevens who on Monday morning supervised the installation of nine gallons of Abbot Ale at the clubhouse. With these preliminaries settled the official business of the week could begin.

At first the lawns were fast and unpredictable but a downpour on Tuesday night made the conditions much easier from then on. After the rain the desert bloomed. The competition became festooned with triples, Bryan Sykes setting the pace and eventually beating his record of two years previously with a total of six. Others followed from Johnny Haigh, John Wheeler and Phil Johnson, the latter new to the eights this year and his first in level competition. Eddie Bell and Mike Stevens just failed at the very last minute. Chris Cousins, on the other hand, preferred to restrict his attempts at triples and higher multiples to the more exotic malt whiskies and, calling on all the accumulated experience of a mis-spent youth, succeeded every time.

In terms of attacking play the week must rank as one of the most refreshing with everyone trying positively to win rather than to avoid defeat — though sometimes things got a little out of hand. In one game, for example, Mike Stevens failed his triple early on. Bryan then made two peels of a sextuple before breaking down allowing Mike to execute a delayed triple peel — but he missed the peg-out. Bryan started a three-ball quadruple but even with the help of stereo-headphones which he was trying in a desperate attempt to regain form, he missed a short roquet and Mike swooped to win by 7. Mike was involved in another good game in which he managed to snatch defeat from the jaws of victory by losing to Chris Cousins having pegged himself and Chris out with a six hoop lead.

Spencer E11 Cup 1981

1981	E. Bell	B. C. Sykes	M. J. Stevens	J. A. Wheeler	J. Haigh	P. M. Johnson	C. H. J. Cousins	H. C. Green	WINS	PLACING
E. Bell		-11	+3	+7	-24	-8	+4	+10	9	1st
B. C. Sykes	+11 TP		+14 TP	+15	+7	-17 TP	+4		9	1st
M. J. Stevens	-26	-26		-7	+9	+16	+26	+22		
J. A. Wheeler	+26	-7	-16		-15	+25 TP	+6 TP	+26 TP	8	3rd
J. Haigh	-7	+7	+16	+10		+6	+14	+14	8	3rd
P. M. Johnson	+24	-7	-6	-10	+4		+5	-9	7	5th
C. H. J. Cousins	-9	+17 TP	+12	+13	-14	+2		-12	7	5th
H. C. Green	+8	+15	-14	+3	-4	-1	+9		7	5th
	-16	-25 TP	+25 TP	-3	+14		-15	+14	4	7th
	-4	-17	-14	-23	-5	+1		-11	4	7th
	-26	-6	+2	-20	-2	+15	+10		4	7th
	-10	-4	-17	-4	+9	-9	+11		4	7th
	-22	-26	+2	-11	+12	-14	-10			

* Play-off: Bell beat Sykes +17.
TP denotes triple peel

After the first two days it looked as though Bryan, having won all his games, was on course for a comfortable victory but on Wednesday he cracked and by Friday morning six players were still in with a chance of a title. Indeed at lunchtime that day, according to Mike's calculator which was taking a break from computing the beer consumption figures (Table 1), it was more than likely that the week would end with a six-way tie for first place. Only John Wheeler had a chance of outright victory but went down to Stevens. Sykes put Johnson out of the running and this made a play-off inevitable between himself and the winner of a pegged-down game between Bell and Wheeler. Eddie won this and then the play-off with a characteristic display of resolute break play combined with magnificent long shots.

The weather, apart from Tuesdays thunderstorm, was glorious. The heat was moderated by gusts of wind coming mainly from the South-West but sometimes from the champion whose physiology had apparently mastered the miracle of tertiary fermentation during the week. How much this was helped by Sarah Hampsons substantial and delicious catering is difficult to determine save that the highlight of each meal was bowlful of superbly succulent figs. The correct method of tackling these delicious fruits is now, thanks to John Wheelers intimate knowledge of modern classics, known to us all. Thanks too, and congratu-

lations, to Jane Neville-Rolfe for managing this difficult bunch, to Hunstanton Croquet Club and to the well-behaved crowd, John Wood.

BCS

Performance/Consumption Relationship Table 1

Initials	Pints Consumed (Gross)	Points (Net)	Points Per Pint*
E.B.	16	+47	2.93
B.S.	17.5	+44	2.51
M.S.	15.5	+52	3.35
J.W.	8.5	+30	3.52
P.J.	2	+10	5.00
J.H.	1	+10	10.00
C.C.	3.5	-100	-28.57
H.G.	0.5	-93	-186.00

* Positive correlation by LeStrange-Foulcault multiple dysfunction test R = 0.93.

Chairmans Salver 7 — 11 September

This event, managed by Gerald Birch, was endowed every day by sunshine, even though on one day a heavy storm was taking place, with the sun still shining over Highfields.

One must pay tribute to the Nottingham groundsmen who had the lawns in magnificent condition in spite of the past weeks of hot weather.

The visitors expressed their thanks and appreciation of the good appetising meals taken care of in the good hands of Mrs. Ward whose efforts are well known all over the country by visitors to the Nottingham Club.

As one can imagine in such an event as the Chairman's Salver, there were many games of interest to report on but the writer will have to leave it to the Gazette Editor to put in only that for which he has space.

At the presentation, the winner received the Salver and a memento of the occasion given by the Manager.

Mrs. Ward was presented with a plant and a box of chocolates from the contestants.

In the first round most of the players seemed to be "in and out" quite a lot, except for David Foulser, who finished his game against Mark Ormerod +25 with a Triple Peel in 57 minutes. The second round was similar to the first with inconsistent playing except for Foulser who did have 2 good rounds against John Rose. A fight back by Rose came too late. George Noble attempted a T.P. in his game against Ian Bond but failed to complete it. In the 3rd round Bond played 2 perfect breaks against Ian Vincent finishing off with a T.P. in 32 minutes. There was more consistency of play in this round.

At one stage in the game between John Rose & John Phillips, Rose had red on 4 back and yellow on penultimate, with blue on 1 and black on 3 back. Phillips hit in with blue and went round to the peg and attempted to cross peg yellow and red. Not satisfied with the effort he tried to scatter the balls by shooting along side the peg to hit the outer edge of the red but in so doing caught the peg and blue was out of the game. The red ball being replaced made it easy for Rose to hit in with yellow, and was able to go to the peg.

After a couple of more turns black hit in but was left with a roll shot from the bottom baulk almost opposite the rover hoop. This was accomplished, but after running 3 back black was too near the hoop to allow a shot on the red in front, so black was hit off to the boundary half way between 3 back and 4 back. A couple of turns later with black on the bottom baulk Rose had a long rush shot, driving the yellow with red to the top side of 4 back. Instead of attempting to make the hoop by taking off from yellow, Rose decided to play safe, and left red showing, but close by yellow completely obscured by the peg. Phillips shot for the red and found black hitting yellow almost full on. One of those inexplicable shots that one sees now and then. The end was insight, Phillips finished off the game +5.

Foulser, in his game against John McCullough finished off with a straight triple peel, the first one he has ever completed, by virtue of a wonderful cannon after running penultimate.

In the 4th round, there appeared to be nothing out of the ordinary, and no one succeeded with a T.P.

The next round brought the first win of +26. George Noble the victor over Vincent. One of those curious incidents — on each lawn the

Chairman's Salver 1981

POSITION	1981	J.R. McCullough	Dr. I.G. Vincent	D.R. Foulser	G.W. Noble	J. Rose	I.D. Bond	J.G.C. Phillips	M. Ormerod	WINS
1st =	J.R. McCullough		+6	-17	+13	+25	+20	+11	-9	9
			-21	+13	-26	+13	-8	+12	+9	
1st =	Dr. I.G. Vincent	-6		+4	-26	+3	-25	+25	+24	9
		+21		+26 TP	+19	+5	-1	+11	-26	
1st =	D.R. Foulser	+17 STP	-4		+25	+16	+14	+11	+25 TP	9
		-13	-26		-17	-26	+17	+11	+7	
4th	G.W. Noble	-13	+26	-25		-22	+5	-21	+24	8
		+26	-19	+17 TP		+5	-4	+19	+4	
5th	J. Rose	-25	-3	-16	+22		+18	-5	+3	7
		-13	-5	+26	-5		+14	+14	+2	
6th	I.D. Bond	-20	+25 TP	-14	-5	-18		-16	+3	6
		+8	+1	-17	+4	-14		-5	+20	
7th =	J.G.C. Phillips	-11	-25	-11	+21	+5	+16		-26	4
		-12 TPO	-11	-11	-19	-14	+5		-18	
7th =	M. Ormerod	+9	-24	-25	-24	-3	-3	+26		4
		-9	+26	-7	-4	-2	-20	+18 STP		

Play-off: tp denotes triple peel
 Vincent bt Foulser +26. stp denotes straight triple peel
 McCullough bt. Vincent +4.
 Winner:
 J.R. McCullough.

blue clip was the first to be put 4 back.

After the first round on Wednesday, Foulser's run of 6 successive wins was brought to a halt by Vincent who registered his 4th win and McCullough brought his tally up to 5. This round also brought the longest lasting game so far 3½ hours between Rose and Ormerod.

By Thursday morning Foulser had 7 wins with Vincent and McCullough hot in pursuit with 6.

In the first game against Foulser, Phillips left himself with a hampered shot after running 1 back and in the effort to contact the forward ball by shooting through the hoop, he broke his mallet shaft. Fortunately he had a spare mallet with him. This error cost him the game.

On Friday morning, the Manager was thinking that he could be faced with several permutations later on in the day with Foulser having

9 wins, and Vincent and McCullough each having 8. In the game between McCullough and Phillips, the latter triple peeled his opponent but in the subsequent peg out knocked McCullough's ball on to the peg. The contact was gratefully accepted by McCullough who went out on a 3 ball break from hoop 2. In the 13th round Foulser lost his game by 26 to Rose — whilst Vincent lost his game by 26 to Mark Ormerod.

The final round proved a win for Vincent against Foulser making them both equal with 9 wins and with Ian Bond overcoming his opponent McCullough, this meant a 3 way play off between Vincent, Foulser and McCullough.

McCullough drew the bye and in the first play off Vincent again beat Foulser by 26, but lost to McCullough by 4 in the final play off. After leading throughout the event Foulser's shooting completely deserted him as he lost all his 3 games on the final day by 26, having lost the toss each time. Due to heavy overnight rain, the lawns which had been fast, became very slow and easy to play so having the innings was crucial.

It is sad to record that for the third successive year the winner of the event did not do any triple peels nor make any tangible effort to do so. However, six of the eight players did a triple, Foulser having done two. Enterprising play was seen throughout from George Noble, who always finished his games very quickly, Foulser, Vincent, Bond and Phillips whilst McCullough, Rose and Ormerod were rather more cautious in their approach.

The Ladies Field Cup, Colchester 17 — 21 August

The wisdom of reducing the number of competitors to six with two games only each day was never more evident than at Colchester where the event took place this year. Three games a day would have been an impossibility. The courts, looking very gay with new colourful flags, were true and fast and were in excellent condition for first class croquet. However, and possibly due to the importance of the occasion, the ladies made a slow start and some games dragged on interminably. Good breaks were few and far between and safety play seemed to be the order of the day.

Early in the week it became apparent that Mrs. Joscelyn Sundius-Smith, belying her raised handicap of 3½, and Miss Sarah Hampson, greatly improved in latter years, was going to make the running and both players continued to lead the field. Mrs. Barbara Meachem last years winner and lowest handicap in this event failed to find her true form and Mrs. Jane Neville-Rolfe made a poor start but had a tremendously good second half in which she won all five games. Mrs. "Dabs" Wheeler suffering from lack of form during the season was unable to achieve her success of last year and had the additional worry of coping with husband Roger, who accompanied her to Colchester although suffering from a very bad back. This combined with the news that their home had been burgled whilst they were away! Mrs. Pat Asa-Thomas started badly but picked up during the week losing by only small margins to finally win her last game.

In view of the moderate standard of play little can be said of individual games but tension and excitement mounted towards the end of the week and the competition became alight with Joscelyn and Sarah in the lead with 6 wins each, Barbara with 5 wins and Jane with 4 wins. True to her increasing good form Jane beat Sarah by +10 and then ensued a fascinating battle between Joscelyn and Barbara. Joscelyn who was on the peg with red ran rover with yellow and the game seemed over but she missed her return roquet. However, she got in again with red and decided to peg it out with Barbara on penultimate and 3 back. Thereafter a game of 'cat and mouse' — Joscelyn dribbling up to the peg and Barbara struggling to make progress. However, after reaching the peg with blue she missed a short rush and Joscelyn's strategy paid off with an easy peg out with yellow to win by +5, and go into the lead.

Sarah was not to be outdone though and in a key match with Dabs she won an exciting game by +2. Showing something of her real form, Dabs reached the peg with both balls but unaccountably missed the peg out and allowed Sarah, who played with great determination, to creep up and win to give her 7 wins and so the tournament ended with Sarah and Joscelyn sharing the honours. In a final game Pat Asa-Thomas beat Dabs to win her only game amongst great jubilation and congratulations all round!

So the Ladies Field Cup (instituted in 1911) ended with a presentation by Mr. Edward Duffield, President of the Croquet Association, of the Barlow Bowl and Silver Brooch* jointly to Mrs. Sundius-Smith and Miss Hampson. The competitors expressed their appreciation of the hospitality shown by the Colchester Club and their gratitude for the smooth running of the event by presenting gifts to Mrs Ettie Digby who

was managing her first tournament and to Mr. Edward Duffield, Referee, who was always on hand to give his judgment in his inimitable manner. Mrs. Sundius-Smith's handicap was brought down from 3½ to 2½.

* C.A. to give official description.

President's Cup 1981 (Hurlingham)

1981	SERIES	Mulliner	Aspinall	Murfit	Murray	Prichard	Openshaw	Solomon	Hope	WINS	FINAL ORDER
S.N. Mulliner	1	+17 TP	+2	+23	+26	+13	+26 TP	+4		11	1st
	2	+4 TP	-26	+25	+26	-8	+13	-6			
G.N. Aspinall	1	-17	+24 TP	+26 TP	+21 TP	+26 TP	+17	+19		10	2nd
	2	-4	+4	+16	-4	+17	+22 TP	-15			
R.J. Murfitt	1	-2	-24		-5	+11	+14	-16	+23	8	3rd
	2	+26 TP	-4	+26 STP	-17	+25	+23	+8			
Dr. M. Murray	1	-23	-26	+5		+3	+16	+24	+26 TP	7	4th
	2	-25	-16	-26		+17 TP	-20	-4	+3		
W. de B. Prichard	1	-26	-21	-11	-3		-25	-7	+25	6	5th
	2	-26	+4	+17	-17		+17	+18	+17		
D.K. Openshaw	1	-13	-26	-14	-16	+25	+26 TP	-3		5	6th
	2	+8	-17	-25	+20 TP	-17	+16	-25			
Dr. E.W. Solomon	1	-26	-17	+16	-24	+7 TP	-26	+4		5	6th
	2	-13	-22	-23	+4	-18	-16	+26			
A.B. Hope	1	-4	-19	-23	-26	-25	+3	-4		4	8th
	2	+6	+15	-8	-3	-17	+25	-26			

TP denotes triple peel
 STP denotes straight triple peel

President's Cup — Hurlingham September 8 — 12

When the "Daily Telegraph" one morning referred us to the latest scores in the Presidents' Cup*, it called to mind a memorable pronouncement by "The Times" correspondent some years ago, reporting the final of the Open Championship. This stated that A seemed to have victory within his grasp when, suddenly and unfortunately, his ball "stuck in the reever"!

This year, however, no such strange accidents impeded the progress of Steve Mulliner who led the field from start to finish with a final winning score of 11 games. His quick, accurate and consistent play was a delight to watch, his second game and win against Aspinall being an especially brilliant performance. Aspinall was always in the chase, but in spite of the high quality of his play in nearly every game was unable to make up the one point which he had lost on the first day. These two players were quickly clear of the remainder, whose fortunes varied considerably from day to day.

Murray opened with a fine attack and was well placed at half-way, but then after a sequence of defeats his challenge faded away; Murfitt's end-play let him down in the first series, notably in his game against Mulliner, but then he found his best form to finish equal top in the second. William Prichard's record was perhaps the most remarkable — equal bottom in the first series, equal top in the second! Both Murfitt and he might have welcomed a continuation of the competition. Eric Solomon must have had the most disappointing experience of all the

contestants, for after winning his first three games on Tuesday he was only able to add two more between Wednesday morning and Saturday afternoon. Openshaw alone maintained a somewhat modest consistency, with two wins followed by three in the second series. He is, perhaps, a natural long-distance runner, more happy and relaxed in the best-of-three-games match as he has proved so conclusively this year. Andrew Hope would have finished level with Solomon and Openshaw, if he had not presented Murray with a virtual "gift" at the end of their game on Saturday morning. But he had the distinction of a victory over Mulliner and also Aspinall, while his perfectly-executed two-ball break from hoop six to the peg against Openshaw was one of the outstanding features of the week's play. It is interesting to note that this was the first year since 1969 that no player, new to the competition, was taking part.

Tuesday. A missed cut-rush by Aspinall in the course of his second break was the vital moment in his game with Mulliner, who now hit in and made a good break with his backward ball to the peg. Aspinall missed the lift-shot and Mulliner finished from 4-back. Having defeated Murray, Mulliner replied to Openshaw's first break by hitting the lift and triple-peeling him, a policy which proved highly rewarding. Murfitt and, later, Prichard were both in a strong position initially against Eric Solomon until the former stuck in hoop 2 and the latter became hoop-bound after 2-back. These errors cost each of them the game, Solomon playing with great accuracy and finishing with two consecutive triples. Then in a close match with Hope he pegged out his opponent's forward ball and soon established a winning 3-ball break. Aspinall and Murray ended the day with 2 wins apiece, although Murfitt only just failed to bring off a gallant late recovery and straight triple against Murray.

Wednesday. Mulliner, Aspinall and Murray now began to draw ahead of the field. Aspinall with two successive triple-peel games defeated Openshaw and Murfitt, and gave Solomon no second chance after the latter stuck in the first hoop with his second ball. A similar mistake by Openshaw led to a third win for Murray, who went on to outplay Solomon and then Prichard when the latter became stymied after running the third hoop with his backward ball. Mulliner played faultlessly to overwhelm Prichard and Solomon after a very narrow escape in the morning at the hands of Murfitt. Here, Murfitt had both clips on the peg with Mulliner at 4-back and the sixth, but now suddenly Murfitt could not connect with his roquets, whether long or medium, and never regained the innings. Prichard now opened his account with a good win against Hope, who replied in similar fashion by surprising Openshaw with his superb finish in their two-ball end-game, which Openshaw should have won. These three players were now level with 1 win, Openshaw having defeated Prichard convincingly on Tuesday.

Thursday. At lunchtime the half-way stage was reached and the morning's play had given us these results. A fine unchallenged win by Openshaw against Solomon; a dull game with an eventual triple by Aspinall who controlled the positional situation, giving Murray an extended series of long shots; a level but in-and-out game between Murfitt and Prichard, won by Murfitt; and an exciting match of good croquet in which Mulliner finally defeated Hope. The scores now read — Mulliner 7, Aspinall 6, Murray 5, Murfitt and Solomon 3, Openshaw 2, Prichard and Hope 1. In the afternoon came a wind of change. Aspinall, slow with his second ball, dropped a game to Hope who took his chances and made no mistakes; Murfitt and Prichard began their challenging upward climb, and a failure by Murray at hoop 1 set Mulliner on the path to another decisive victory.

The day's third session emphasised the delicate balance between all eight players. Solomon achieved a narrow but welcome victory over Murray in a game of rather poor quality; Murfitt came from behind with two late all-round breaks to defeat Hope; Mulliner at last was pegged back by Openshaw after an excellent encounter, in which Openshaw had the last word; and Aspinall suffered a second consecutive set-back, Prichard winning a close end-game when a difficult wired-ball decision after he had been pegged out was adjudicated in his favour. This enabled him to lift into baulk and complete an easy finish from penultimate, since Aspinall's two balls were also in baulk.

Friday. Today's "star" performer was Murfitt with two wins +26 and triple-peels, against Murray and Mulliner. The latter was unlucky to hit the wire of the second hoop in a lift-shot, an accident which considerably helped Murfitt to establish and finally complete his second break. Murfitt then faced Aspinall in a match which provided the best and most exciting croquet of the week up to date. The issue was in doubt until the very end when Aspinall hit the lift-shot and went round with one peel to peg out his opponent. With two clips now on penultimate, Murfitt had to hit the final lift but missed narrowly. Mulliner, undeterred by his second reverse, maintained his excellent form at the expense of Prichard and Solomon, who gave "contact" in order to peg out Mulliner's forward ball. Mulliner's score had now advanced from 8

to 10 and he stayed one point ahead of Aspinall who had 3 wins today. All eight players had had one or more successes today.

Saturday. Mulliner v. Aspinall. The "needle" match between the two leaders was a fitting climax to the week's play. After a hesitant start by both players, Aspinall hit in and went round to 4-back. Mulliner missed the lift-shot. Aspinall then took his second ball to the peg with one peel. Mulliner, now faced with the second and absolutely vital lift-shot, hit and played an admirably accurate break to 4-back. The lift-shot was a good target, not far removed from a "double", but Aspinall shot wide on the left. Could Mulliner now bring off a second all-round break and a triple-peel? Indeed he could — and did! Playing every stroke with care, determination and accuracy he never gave a single sign of faltering until the peg had been struck with both balls at the end of a splendid turn. He was now 2 up with 1 to play and had become the winner of this year's "President's Cup".

Of the remaining games Prichard finished strongly with two wins to overtake Solomon and Openshaw. The match between these two players ended in favour of Openshaw, who now drew level with his opponent with a total of 5 wins. Hope lost a close end-game to Murray, which he had several chances of winning, but played a fine 3-ball break from hoop 4 to defeat Mulliner, whom he had pegged out, leaving Mulliner's other ball at 2-back. Murfitt with a decisive victory against Solomon overtook Murray to finish in third position, two points behind Aspinall.

And so ended a very enjoyable "President's Cup", managed smoothly by Richard Rothwell who provided some admirable visual score-sheet aids for the benefit of the spectators. This was a good, well-balanced team of eight who, with the MacRobertson Trophy date approaching, will certainly be keen to be the chosen "Residents" again this time next year. But meanwhile each of them should remember the words of the Mock Turtle's song in "Alice" — "There's a Porpoise close behind me and he's treading on my tail!"

D.J.V. H.M.

SECRETARY'S NOTES

Deaths

P.J. Barnes (Walsall).
C.E. Knight (Compton).
Mrs. E. Rotherham (Budleigh Salterton — Vice President CA).

New Officials

REFEREES: M.J. Coward, Dr. T.J. Haste, R.M. Hobbs, R.J. Murfitt (NZ).

MANAGERS: G.B. Binks, L.S. Butler, Dr. T.J. Haste, M. Granger-Brown.

HANDICAPPERS: B.A. Keen, S.N. Mulliner.

Changes in the Clubs

BARBICAN New Secretary: J.M. WILSON, 306 Ben Johnson House, Barbican, London, EC2Y.

BOWDON New Secretary: B.A. KEEN, 20 Grove Park, Knutsford, Cheshire, WA16 8QA. Tel: (0568) 2420.

CARRICKMINES New Secretary: FREDERICK J. ROGERSON, 113 Lakelands Close, Stil Organ, County Dublin, Irish Republic. Tel: HOME (0001) 88.64.37. OFFICE (0001) 76.41.29.

PHYLLIS COURT New Secretary: MISS ANGELA SEARLE, 7 Ashby Road, Northchurch, Berkhamsted, Herts. HP4 3SJ. Tel: (0442) 2944.

SOUTHPORT & BIRKDALE New Secretary: G.B. BINKS, 75 Dunbar Crescent, Southport, Merseyside, PR8 3AA. Tel: (0704) 78068.

Hurlingham. New Croquet Chairman: Lt. Col. C.M. Fox, OBE., TD. 33 Rivermead Court, Ranelagh Gardens, London SW6 3RU. Tel: 01-736-4394.

Ipswich. New Secretary: D.L. Gaunt, 11 Swinton Close, Ipswich IP2 9AL.
Wrest Park. New Secretary: J.A. Wheeler, 4 Newbury Close, Silsoe, Bedford MK45 4EZ. Tel: (0525) 60134.

Inter-Club Championship 1981

Final (played at Cheltenham on 4th October).

ROEHAMPTON (holders) beat Cheltenham 2 by 6 games to 1.

Unmilled balls

Clubs that purchased sets of un-milled Jaques balls in April are requested to let the CA Secretary have their reactions etc resulting from the season's play, as soon as possible if they have not already done so.

Double Banking

Registered Clubs are requested to let the CA Secretary have any observations they may wish to make on the Notes for Guidance for Double Banking the draft of which was sent to Clubs in April.

Secretary

NEW REGISTERED CLUBS

Norwich

James Steward Gardens, Norwich (HQ Nelson Hotel), Secretary: Jeremy Kitchener, 6 Quebec Road, Norwich, NR1 4AU (1 lawn).

Waterfall Sports Club

Pymmes Green Road, New Southgate, London, N.11. Tel: 01-368-5025. Secretary: E.A. Willoughby, 142 Galliard Road, London, N9. Tel: 01-804-2696. (2 lawns).

NEW AFFILIATED CLUB

Jerez (Santa Clara)

Jerez de la Frontera, South Spain. President: H.F. de Bobadillo. Tel: (01034.9.56) 349050/51927. 91 lawn).

LONGMAN CUP

Semi-finals: Bowdon bt Colchester 4 — 1. Parsons Green bt Aldermaston 3 — 2.

Final: Bowdon beat Parsons Green 4 — 1 (at Edgbaston).

INTER-CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

Semi-finals: Cheltenham B bt Nottingham 5 — 2. Roehampton bt Harrow Oak 6 — 0.

Final: Roehampton bt Cheltenham 2 6 — 1 (at Cheltenham).

ALL ENGLAND HANDICAP FINALS (Roehampton 3/4 October)

W.S. Kilpatrick (Glasgow) (7)	Won 4	Net points +60
K.M.H. Aiton (Nottingham) (4)	4	+56
M. Tapp (Lewes) (1)	3	-28
J. Wurmlli (Cheltenham) (4)	2	+2
B.G. Neal (Hurlingham) (-1½)	2	-2
J.R. Hilditch (Cambridge Univ) (1½)	2	-5
T.I. Wood (Harwell) (½)	2	-52
P. Cordingley (Harrow Oak) (½)	1	-31

NEW DIRECTORY

A new Directory is due to be published early in 1982. It has not yet been settled whether this will now be published annually, nor has its price been finalised. Copy will be sent to each Registered Club when available.

Subscriptions Rates 1982

(due on 1st January)

Standard	£7.00
Reduced (Non-Tournament & Golf Croquet)	£3.50
Junior (under 21 on 31.12.81)	£5.00
Overseas	£5.00

It will be noted that the Standard and Reduced Rates are unaltered, but Junior and Overseas Rates have been increased, also the qualifying age for Juniors has been reduced from 24 to 21.

The Council is having to consider the introduction of penalties for overdue payments. Associates are reminded that under Rule XXIII (iii) they are not entitled to any of the privileges of membership until subscriptions have been paid. If they enter a CA Calendar tournament

before having done so they are liable to Tribute for that tournament (now £4 per tournament irrespective of the number of events). A list of outstanding subscribers on 15th March will be sent to all clubs holding CA Calendar fixtures. PLEASE pay PROMPTLY.

Club Registration Fees 1982

Club Secretaries are reminded that the system of compounding Club annual Registration Fees have been altered for 1982. Clubs will be required to pay 15p per croquet member of the club, excluding country members as of 31st December 1981. Fees are due on 1st January.

Closing Dates 1982

Inter-Club Championship)	
Longman Cup)	24th February 1982
Inter-Counties Championship)	
All England Handicap		28th June 1982

Inter-Counties Championship 1982

For 1982 the Inter-Counties Championship is being moved to SOUTH-WICK from *Thursday* 20th May to *Sunday* 23rd May. It is hoped that by moving the dates to include a weekend the possible inconvenience for some Counties moving the venue out of London will be neutralised. It would be helpful if County Organisers would let the Secretary know whether or not they intend entering without waiting until the approach of the closing date on 24th February.

Handicap Alterations

	From	To
Nottingham (10 — 15 August)		
K.M.H. Aiton	6	4
M.N. Avery	2	1
Miss G. Hallam	16 (D14)	15 (D13)
M. Kolbusewski	4½	3½
Lady Porter	12	11 (D9)
Cheltenham (Trophies: 14 — 23 August)		
Mrs. H.G.T. Bolton	11	13 (D11)
K. Cotterell	5	4
Mrs. R.F.A. Crane	11	13 (D11)
Mrs. H.G. Handley	4½	4
Ladies Field Cup (17 — 21 August)		
Mrs. B.L. Sundius-Smith	3½	2½
Roehampton (22 — 23 August)		
M.N. Avery	1	½
P. Cordingley	1½	1
Wolverhampton (Club: 24 August)		
Mrs. K.F.W. Townsend	10	12
Southwick (24 — 29 August)		
R.M. Allim	3	1½
M.F. Burgess	9	7
C.J. Chandler	7	6
M.J. Coward	1½	1
N.G. Hyne	8	7
D.L. Gunasekera	9	5
T.F. Owen	0	1
Rev. C.H. Townshend	5½	4½
Bowdon (28 — 31 August)		
A. Bennet	5	4½
W.E. Black	4	5
C.J. Irwin	5	4
G.K. Colin	7	6
M. Kolbusewski	3½	3
D. Peterson	10	8
A.F. Sutcliffe	9	6½
Mrs. M.G. Tompkinson	10	11 (D10)
Mrs. K.F.W. Townsend	12	13
Mrs. N. Tyldeslay	7	8
Hurlingham (29 — 31 August)		
J.R. Hilditch	2½	1½
Miss J.I. McLeod	12	10 (Non-Associate)
A. Palmer	12	8
Mrs. D. Torrington-Petrie	16 (D14)	14
J. Wolfe	10	8
Cheltenham (29 — 31 August)		
Captain P.H.S. Reid	12	13
G.C. Roy	3	2½

New Associates (31 August)		
Professor K. Campbell		11
F.J. Fowke		11
A.J. Mrozinski		13 (D12)
Mrs. E.G. Ross		14
Julian Wilson		7
Mrs. E.M. Wiseman		16 (D14)
Mrs. G.D. Harris		15

Parkstone (Club: 31 August)		
F.L. Shergold	4	3½
Hunstanton (31 August — 5 September)		
B. Barnett	9	7 (Non-Associate)
T. Griffith	2	1½
M.A. Holford	8	7
I.P.M. Macdonald	6	5
Mrs. I.P.M. Macdonald	8	6
J.O. Walters	8	6
J.W. Wood	5	4
Cheltenham (5 — 6 September)		
J. Wurmlli	5	4 (Non-Associate)
Hurlingham (Club: 6 September)		
Mrs. A.W. Skempton	6½	7½
Cheltenham (7 — 10 September)		
J.H. Bowman	3	2½
M. Kolbusewski	3	2½
W.J. Sturdy	3½	4
Spencer Eil Cup (7 — 10 September)		
E. Bell	½	0
Dr. B.C. Sykes	0	-½
Parkstone (7 — 12 September)		
M.J. Coward	1	½
Mrs. R.A. Gosden	9	8
Mrs. F.H. Newman	4½	4
Mrs. B.R. Saunders	12	11
Mrs. W.A. Scarr	5½	5
President's Cup (8 — 12 September)		
S.N. Mulliner	-2	-3
Cheltenham (11 — 13 September)		
D.H. Moorcraft	2½	2
P. Smith	8	6 (Non-Associate)
Mrs. J. Povey	4	4½
J.E. Ross	4	3½
Mrs. E.M. Wiseman	14	13 (D11)
Budleigh Salterton (Club: 12 September)		
B. Hancock	5½	5
Dr. C.W. Marshall	10	9
E. Redford	4	3½
Roehampton (14 — 19 September)		
S.J. Garrett	4½	4
Nottingham (14 — 19 September)		
D.G. Arthur	8	7
Miss H. Watson-Walker	16 (D14)	15 (D13)
Wrest Park (18 — 20 September)		
Mrs. T.W. Anderson	8	7½
Miss J. Assheton	6	5½
E. Audsley	3½	3
P. Cordingley	1	½
D.L. Gaunt	7	6
A.J. Girling	1½	1
Mrs. W. Hague	6½	6
R.D. Martin	13	11
R.J. Smith	5½	5
Ryde (18 — 20 September)		
T.I. Card	10	8
D. Goulding	5	4
P. Gunn	6	4
Mrs. S. Hudson	12	11
Miss S. McCord	16 (D14)	11
P.H. Mann	9	10
M.G. Tompkinson	2½	1½
New Associates (22 September)		
D.C.A. Goolden		13
K.H. Hope-Jones		5½
K. Rapley		8

Cheltenham (23 - 27 September)

Miss M. Coates	15 (D13)	15 (D11)
Mrs. G.D. Harris	15 (D13)	13 (D11)
Mrs. J.N. Rolfe	2½	2
P.L. Smith	6	5 (Non-Associate)
Mrs. E.M. Wiseman	13 (D11)	13 (D10)
Mrs. K.G. Yeoman	5	4½

Handicap Co-Ordination Committee (Appeal: 24 September)

Mrs. B.L. Sundius-Smith	2½	3
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Budleigh Salterton (25 - 27 September)

F.J.R. Landor	2½	1½
Mrs. G.H. Mapstone	6	5½
F.A. Rowlands	8	7
J.S. Toye	3½	2

All England Hanciap (Final: 3 - 4 October)

K.M.H. Aiton	4	3
K.S. Kilpatrick	7	5 (Non-Associate)

Woking (Club: 5 October)

I.G. McDiarmid	11 (D10)	10 (D8)
Mrs. I.G. McDiarmid	11 (D10)	10 (D8)
A.J. Mrozinski	11 (D9)	10 (D8)

Cheltenham (9 - 11 October)

T.W. Anderson	4	3½
L.G. Ayliffe	5	6
J. McLaren	2½	2
Mrs. D.H. Moorcraft	10	12 (D10)

New Associates (14 October)

D. Aintree		11
Miss D.E. Barber		16 (D14)
R.F. Hall		14

Stourbridge (Club: 17 October)

D. Willetts	5½	5
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Colchester (Club): 24 October:

R.S. Alford	from 3	to 3½
Mrs. I.D. Chadwick	9	8
G.S. Digby	2½	3
G.F.N. Healy	3	2

Southwick (Club): October:

F.J. Fowke	11	10
T.F. Owne	1	0
Mrs. E.G. Ross	14	12
Major T. Vale	9	8

Southport & Birkdale (Club): November:

A. Bennet	4½	4
G.B. Binks	6	8
Dr. B.R. Sandiford	6	8
J.D. Williamson	14	11

Cheltenham (Club): November:

W.R. Bawden	12(D10)	10 (D8)
Mrs. D. Exell	10(D8)	12(D10)
Mrs. B. Meachem	½	2
A. Warren	9	10(D8)
Mrs. A. Warren (M.A.L.)	9	10(D8)
Mrs. B. Weitz	2½	3½

East Riding Club: 2 November:

Rev. D. Anderson	7	10
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Parkstone (Club): 29 October:

Mrs. C.A. Parker	11	10
L.A. Taylor	4½	3

Wallingford (Club): November:

G.F. Rothwell	*4	4
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Phyllis Court (Club): November:

B.G. Bucknall	6	5
R.S. Eades	2½	2
Mrs. P.H. Mann	7½	6½
N.B. Morrison	5	4½

History of Croquet

Col. Prichard's History of Croquet, published by Cassells in August at

£8.95, is available to Associates and Clubs from the C.A. office at the reduced price of £6.00 plus £1.00 postage and packing.

The Croquet Grading System**Listing fro 12 months ended 31st July, 1981**

1. Aspinall G.N.	178 (57)	26. Vincent I.G.	121 (51)
2. Openshaw D.K.	162 (72)	27. Noble G.W.	118 (56)
3. Wylie K.F.	155 (29)	28. Ormerod M.	115 (46)
4. Murray M.	153 (63)	29. Godby R.A.	114 (68)
5. Hope A.B.	151 (61)	Latham L.V.	114 (12)
6. Mulliner S.N.	150 (79)	Perry B.G.	114 (13)
7. Murfitt R.J.	147 (77)	Prichard C.H.L.	114 (17)
8. Solomon E.W.	146 (55)	Taylor G.K.	114 (19)
9. Prichard W. de B.	145 (34)	34. Stevens M.J.	113 (54)
10. Read T.O.	141 (20)	35. Meachem Mrs. B.	112 (29)
11. Rees D.V.H.	138 (21)	36. Jackson G.E.P.	110 (30)
12. Ormerod W.P.	137 (14)	Owen T.F.	110 (22)
13. Croker D.J.	136 (59)	38. Cooper A.J.	109 (12)
14. Foulser D.R.	134 (53)	Green H.A.	109 (19)
McCullough J.	134 (60)	Johnson P.M.	109 (19)
Neal B.G.	134 (68)	41. Coleman A.F.	106 (20)
17. Roberts G.J.	133 (66)	Jones K.E.	106 (19)
18. Wright S.J.H.	130 (23)	Wright I.H.	106 (23)
19. Bond I.D.	129 (45)	44. Bell E.	105 (39)
20. Hands P.W.	128 (59)	Death P.J.	105 (20)
Rose J.	128 (31)	46. Weitz B.G.F.	103 (33)
22. Hemsted S.R.	126 (38)	47. Carlisle Mrs. V.	102 (20)
Phillips J.G.C.	126 (43)	Jones S.G.	102 (12)
24. Wheeler J.	124 (37)	49. Cousins C.H.J.	101 (16)
25. Sykes B.C.	122 (42)	50. Cordingley P.	100 (31)

Notes:

- All grades shown are AVERAGE GRADES which represent the arithmetic mean of all the current grades achieved by a player in the 12 months under review. The current grade is recalculated after every game played.
- The number in brackets is the number of games played in the 12 months under review. A minimum of 12 is required for inclusion in the listing.
- The minimum significant difference ('MSD') between AVERAGE GRADES is 1. The MSD between current grades is 10 and accordingly current grades are unsuitable for the compilation of a ranking list.

SNM 4.8.81

HISTORY OF CROQUET

By D.M.C. Prichard

CORRIGENDA

Frontispiece (M.B. Reckitt) For '1962-7' read '1967-75'

- p.52 5 lines from bottom. For 'law' read 'lawn'.
- p.65 Photograph. Add names (If not included, a slip giving names can be obtained from C.A. Office).
- p.82 Caption Photograph
- | | | |
|--------------|-----------|--------------|
| Top left | refers to | top right |
| Top right | refers to | bottom right |
| Bottom left | refers to | top left |
| Bottom right | refers to | bottom left |
- p.94 Line 2. For 'Seven' read 'Nine'.
- p.97 Photographs 1927 & 1928. In both transpose Klein and Du Pre.
- p.120 10 lines from bottom. For 'four' read 'three'.
- p.118 Photograph 1930. For Mrs. Ionides read Mrs. B.C. Apps. Photographs 1930 & 1934. In both transpose Klein and Du Pre.
- p.151 Photograph. For 'Australia' read 'New Zealand'.
- p.154 Photograph for 'New Zealand' read 'Australia'.
- p.199 Top line. For 'behalf' read 'belief'.
- p.215 Entries column. Opposite 1940-5. Delete '20'. All figures from 1946 misplaced one space downwards.

C.A. Calendar Fixtures for 1982

April	5 - 10	DEVONSHIRE PARK 1 (Eastbourne)
	10 - 12	Cheltenham W/E 1
	12 - 17	DEVONSHIRE PARK 2 (Eastbourne)
	16 - 19	Roehampton W/E 1
	24 - 25	Southport & Birkdale W/E 1 *
May	1 - 3	Cheltenham 1 *
	1 - 3	Hunstanton W/E 1
	6 - 9	Compton W/E 1
	8 - 9	GOLF CROQUET CHAMPIONSHIPS (Harrow Oak)
	8 - 9	Scottish C.A. W/E 1
	10 - 15	Budleigh Salterton 1
	14 - 16	Wrest Park W/E 1
	20 - 23	INTER-COUNTIES CHAMPIONSHIP (Southwick)
	28 - 30	Nottingham W/E 1
	29	PIMMS INTERNATIONAL 1 (Southwick: Wales v Scotland)
	29 - 31	Cheltenham W/E 2
	29 - 5 June	Roehampton Evening
	31 - 4 June	CHALLENGE & GILBEY (Roehampton)
	31 - 5 June	Parkstone 1
June	5	PIMMS INTERNATIONAL 2 (Colchester: England v Wales)
	5 - 7	Hunstanton W/E 2 *
	7 - 12	Carrickmines 1
	11 - 13	Bowdon W/E
	12	PIMMS INTERNATIONAL 3 (Southport: Scotland v England)
	14 - 19	MEN'S & WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP (Cheltenham)
	14 - 19	Ryde
	18 - 20	Edgbaston W/E 1 *
	21 - 26	VETERANS (Compton)
	25 - 27	Nottingham W/E 2 *
	25 - 27	Southwick W/E 2 *
	28 - 3 July	Budleigh Salterton 2
July	2 - 4	Wrest Park W/E 2 *
	3 - 11	Woking (several separate tournaments)
	4 - 10	Colchester
	5 - 10	Southwick 1
	12 - 17	OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS (Hurlingham)
	17 - 18	Scottish C.A. W/E 1
	19 - 25	Cheltenham 2
	23 - 25	Edgbaston W/E 2
	24 - 25	Compton W/E 2 *
	29 - 7 Aug	Hurlingham
August	6 - 8	Colchester W/E 2
	9 - 14	Carrickmines 2
	9 - 14	Compton
	9 - 14	Nottingham
	16 - 20	LADIES FIELD CUP (Nottingham)
	16 - 20	LADIES SECOND EVENT (Southwick)
	21 - 22	Roehampton W/E 2 *
	22 - 30	Northern Championships (Bowdon)
	23 - 28	Edinburgh
	23 - 28	Southwick 2
	28 - 30	Cheltenham W/E 3
	28 - 30	Hurlingham W/E
	30 - 4 Sept	Hunstanton
	30 - 4 Sept	Parkstone 2
September	4 - 5	ALL ENGLAND HANDICAP Area Finals (at various venues)
	6 - 9	Cheltenham 3
	6 - 10	CHAIRMAN'S SALVER (Budleigh Salterton)
	6 - 10	SPENCER ELL CUP (Compton)
	7 - 11	PRESIDENT'S CUP (Hurlingham)
	10 - 12	Cheltenham W/E 4
	13 - 18	Roehampton
	17 - 19	Budleigh Salterton W/E
	17 - 19	Nottingham W/E 3
	17 - 19	Ryde W/E
	17 - 19	Wrest Park W/E 3
	20 - 25	PEEL MEMORIALS (Southwick)
	22 - 26	Cheltenham 4
	25 - 26	Southport & Birkdale W/E 3 *
October	2 - 3	ALL ENGLAND HANDICAP FINAL (Roehampton)
	3	INTER-CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL
	8 - 10	Cheltenham W/E 5

Confirmed by
THE COUNCIL
17th October 1981

* = Level play only

R.F. Rothwell
Secretary