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THE CROQUET GAZETTE

ISSUE No. 168

WINTER 1982

Carrickmines — August 1982
Ireland v England B



In play Peter Rothwell v (on sidelines) Terence Read in the top singles match



Budleigh Salterton — September 1982. The 8 competitors in the Chairman's Salver and Officials.
Top Row (left to right): Bill Perry (Referee), Martin Coward, Phil Cordingley, Tim Haste and Ken Schofield (Manager);
Bottom Row: Ian Vincent, Ian Bond, Colin Prichard, David Foulser and Eddie Bell

The Secretary, the Editor & Assistant Editor.

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Tournament Results & Reports to be sent direct, within 7 days of completion of the tournament to the Secretary of the C.A.

Other Contributions other than tournament results and reports should be sent to the Editor. They will be much welcomed but not acknowledged.

All correspondence about non-delivery of Gazettes, changes of address, telephone numbers, handicaps or officials should be sent to the Secretary C.A. and **not** to the Editors.

Deadline. Copy for the Spring issue of the Gazette must reach the Editor by no later than 25th March 1983.

Notes from The Editor

Despite difficulties experienced in 1982 it has been decided to repeat the practice of issuing large Gazettes in Spring and Winter interspersed with smaller newsletter type Gazettes during the playing season of 1983, as was successfully done in 1981.

In February I signified my intention to cease being Editor because I was about to complete the purchase of a large house which required extensive modernisation. However, I was prevailed upon to continue, if I could, by getting someone to assist me. Fortunately, Phil Johnson agreed to help and as a result all the 1982 issues were jointly produced. This situation was formalised by Council on 4th December when Phil was officially appointed Assistant Editor.

There is to be an important change in 1983 for the procedure of submitting tournament results and reports. These are to be sent direct to the C.A. office in future rather than to me, because with the additional secretarial assistance available to the C.A., the process of chasing clubs who fail to submit reports and results can be effected more efficiently. It will also reduce postage charges to those involved. This brings me conveniently to my next point. All too often results and, more often, reports either get sent weeks or even months after an event has finished, and sometimes not at all! A case in point is that I did not receive reports on either the Chairman's Salver or the Spencer Ell Cup last September which is a terrible pity for events of such importance — perhaps those responsible for these omissions will now send them to me, even though it is so long after the events took place.

Incidentally, I should explain to anyone in any doubt, that the report headed "Not the Chairman's Salver" which appeared in the previous issue, was not meant to be a report on the Chairman's Salver itself. It was in fact a report on a bowls tournament which the 8 competing players in the Chairman's Salver organised themselves to fill in their time when they were not playing croquet at Budleigh during that week. It was written by one of the 8, and though intended to be satirical and amusing, was not meant to be a replacement for a proper report of the Chairmans, just an addition. Apologies to anyone who thought it possibly an insult to the players, for it certainly was not, but this shows how terrible it was that those responsible for the proper reports failed to write them. Clubs and individuals must realise that it is their responsibility to ensure that reports and results must be sent to the C.A. office within a week of a tournament being completed otherwise it is quite possible that they will not be published on time, if at all.

I would very much like to receive contributions from Associates for publication in the Spring Gazette, such as correspondence, croquet crosswords or puzzles, articles, photographs and anything else thought to be of interest. It will be noticed that earlier in this issue a deadline has been given for last copy to be received, a practice once discontinued but now to be revived.

D.R.F.

THE MACROBERTSON SHIELD

The Contest for The MacRobertson Shield — Australia 1982

Reproduced below are the results and brief reports of the Test Matches in November and December as telexed by the British team to the Editor. Some of these will have been read in The Times, Sunday Times, Daily Telegraph, Sunday Telegraph, The Observer and elsewhere. All these newspapers and any others who published details are to be thanked. More detailed reports of the series will no doubt be included in the Spring Gazette.

GREAT BRITAIN v WESTERN AUSTRALIA at Perth

Early promise by Great Britain

1st & 2nd November

In the only warm-up match before the test series began the Great Britain team sparkled to an impressive 9-0 victory including a couple of triple peels by Keith Wylie and David Openshaw.

Results

K. Wylie & D.K. Openshaw bt R. Harewood & G. Maslen +23
W. de B. Prichard & S.N. Mulliner bt D. Weaver & Mrs. O. Metherall +14
M. Murray & A.B. Hope bt Mrs. E. Hogben & Mrs. J. Screaigh +26
K. Wylie bt R. Harewood +15TP
S.N. Mulliner bt D. Weaver +16
W. de B. Prichard bt G. Maslen +20
D.K. Openshaw bt Mrs. O. Metherall +26TP
M. Murray bt Mrs. J. Screaigh +16
A.B. Hope bt Mrs. E. Hogben +24

Western Australia 0 Great Britain 9

THE MACROBERTSON SHIELD

GREAT BRITAIN v NEW ZEALAND

1st Test Match at Sydney

Saturday 6th November

Great Britain made an excellent start in their bid to regain the international MacRobertson Shield, the Ashes of croquet, on the opening day of their first test match against New Zealand, the defending champions.

Martin Murray and Andrew Hope, the 1982 British Open Doubles champions made short work of New Zealand Test newcomers Roberts and Clarke in straight games. Keith Wylie and David Openshaw then scored a fine straight games victory over the experienced and highly rated pair of Prince and Skinley. Steve Mulliner and William Prichard, the 1980 British Open Doubles champions rounded off the day with a comprehensive tactical triumph over Hogan and Murfitt.

The Test Matches, which also involve Australia, continue for the next 4 weeks.

Results

K.F. Wylie & D.K. Openshaw bt J. Prince & P. Skinley +15 +14
W. de B. Prichard & S.N. Mulliner bt J. Hogan & R.J. Murfitt +17 +10
M. Murray & A.B. Hope & Dr. G.J. Roberts & R.J. Clarke +19 +21

Sunday 7th November

Great Britain win First Test

Great Britain continued their excellent start to the MacRobertson Shield series by winning two singles matches to take an unbeatable 5-1 lead against New Zealand.

The New Zealand No. 6, Richard Clarke, was demolished by Aridrew Hope in straight games in under two hours whilst David Openshaw defeated Roger Murfitt, the New Zealand No. 4 in a couple of close games as the temperature soared over 90°F. The second game was of particular high quality. New Zealand gained some consolation in the win by Paul Skinley who came out on top in a keenly contested 3 game battle with Steve Mulliner. The match lasted nearly 7 hours and was notable for the good shooting of both players.

The three remaining singles matches will be played tomorrow and the British team commences its first test match against Australia on Friday. During the week New Zealand and Australia face each other for the first time this series.

Results

A.B. Hope bt R.J. Clarke +26 +14
D.K. Openshaw bt R.J. Murfitt +8 +4
S.N. Mulliner lost to P. Skinley —12 +5 —15

Monday 8th November

New Zealand recover some ground

With the Test already decided, New Zealand regained some confidence by winning the last three singles. However, Great Britain have no reason to be disappointed as both Keith Wylie and William Prichard took their opponents to three games of high quality and although Murray lost in straight games to Roberts, he played excellent croquet. Wylie indeed seemed certain to beat Prince after winning a long tactical struggle in the final game and but for an accident at the very end would have given Great Britain a much more decisive final margin. In the only straight games match between Murray and Roberts there were no serious errors on either side.

In summary, Great Britain's established doubles partnerships and careful preparation for the series were the key factors which gave them a well deserved victory. New Zealand now face Australia in what promises to be a very close contest.

Results

K.F. Wylie lost to J. Prince —12 +23 —3
W. de B. Prichard lost to J. Hogan —3 +29 —26
M. Murray lost to G.J. Roberts —17 —17

Overall Result

GREAT BRITAIN 5 NEW ZEALAND 4

AUSTRALIA v NEW ZEALAND

1st Test Match at Sydney

9th November

N. Spooner & P. Olsen lost to J. Prince & P. Skinley —4 —16
S. Buck & B. Chambers bt J. Hogan & R.J. Murfitt +12 +19
M. Prater & L. Herington lost to G.J. Roberts & R.J. Clarke —10 —8

10th November

S. Buck lost to P. Skinley
P. Olsen bt R.J. Murfitt
L. Herington bt R.J. Clarke

11th November

N. Spooner bt J. Prince —26TP +17TP +26TP
B. Chambers lost to J. Hogan —26TP —7
M. Prater bt G.J. Roberts +4 —26 +13

Overall Result

AUSTRALIA 5 NEW ZEALAND 4

AUSTRALIA v GREAT BRITAIN

1st Test Match at Sydney

Friday 12th November

Great Britain made sound start in the first match against Australia. Steve Mulliner and William Prichard scored a virtually faultless victory in rapid time against Buck and Chambers embellished by an excellent triple peel from Prichard. Martin Murray and Andrew Hope led throughout against Prater and Herington and although the innings changed hands frequently towards the end of the match they emerged comfortable winners. Spooner's reputation for hard hitting suffered no damage in Australia's only win made notable by several long roquets and long hoops.

Australia defeated New Zealand 5-4 in a nail-biting finish yesterday to record their first test victory since 1974. This means that the defending champions, New Zealand, have narrowly lost their first test matches against both Australia and Great Britain.

Results

K.F. Wylie & D.K. Openshaw lost to N. Spooner & P. Olsen —25 —12
S.N. Mulliner & W. Prichard bt S. Buck & B. Chambers +17TP +15
M. Murray & A.B. Hope bt M. Prater and L. Herington +17 +13

Saturday 13th November

Great Britain demolish Australia

In a marvellous day of croquet Great Britain won the first test against Australia by winning all three singles. Steve Mulliner rapidly demolished Buck with a triple peel in the first game and a hitting bombardment in the second to give Britain a 3-1 lead before lunch. Both Andrew Hope and David Openshaw lost their first games to Herington and Olsen respectively but fought back to win both matches. Openshaw's victory was extremely exciting as he fell a long way behind in the final game before hitting and completing an excellent win with a most precise triple peel.

Although three more singles take place tomorrow the British team will travel to Adelaide on Monday with every reason to feel satisfied with their performance to date.

Results

S.N. Mulliner bt S. Buck +25TP +15
A.B. Hope bt L. Herington —26 +25 +23
D.K. Openshaw bt P. Olsen —14 +17 +4TP

Sunday 14th November

Great Britain win 7-2

Great Britain completed a comprehensive victory over Australia by winning two of the remaining singles matches today. Martin Murray defeated Mark Prater, the Australian No. 5, by large margins in both games whilst William Prichard recovered from losing a close first game to the Australian No. 3, Barry Chambers. Australia recovered some consolation from Neil Spooner's win over Keith Wylie in the top singles match and his receipt of the Dunhill "Man of the Match" award.

Results

K.F. Wylie lost to N. Spooner —16 —14
M. Murray bt M. Prater +26TP +20
W. de B. Prichard bt B. Chambers —4 +24 +13

Overall Result

AUSTRALIA 2 GREAT BRITAIN 7

AUSTRALIA v NEW ZEALAND

2nd Test Match at Adelaide

18th November

Australia lead New Zealand 3-2 after 2 days play. The match between Richard Clarke and Leigh Harrington adjourned after one game to each and then abandoned because a hoop was found to be too narrow.

Overall Result

AUSTRALIA 6 NEW ZEALAND 2

GREAT BRITAIN v AUSTRALIA

2nd Test Match at Adelaide

Saturday 20th November

Great Britain emerged with a 2-1 lead over an improved Australian side after a fluctuating doubles day. Australia, fresh from a 6-2 victory (one match was abandoned) over New Zealand, fielded three new doubles combinations. The top pair, Buck and Olsen, proved too strong for an out of form Wylie and Openshaw. Mulliner and Prichard once again showed their reliability in taking complete control of the third game against Chambers and Prater. However, the main drama centred on the remaining match, for after two close games, Murray hit a 25 yard long shot followed by a somewhat lucky 30 yard take-off before compiling what proved to be the winning break against the formidable opposition of Spooner and Herington.

The British team face their severest test yet in the singles on Sunday and Monday.

Results

K.F. Wylie & D.K. Openshaw lost to P. Olsen & S. Buck —16 —20
S.N. Mulliner & W. de B. Prichard bt B. Chambers & M. Prater +16 —12 +26

M. Murray & A.B. Hope bt N. Spooner & L. Herington —3 +8 +15

Sunday 21st November

Australia had their best day yet in the 1982 Test Series, when all three singles played today went to the home country. Peter Olsen was at his confident best against Steve Mulliner and won in straight games aided by a remarkable succession of successful long roquets. Leigh Herington and Andrew Hope had a lengthy encounter which could have easily gone either way. Hope looked the likely winner after he easily took the second game but Herington, aged only 20, fought back in the third to display an admirable touch and temperament. He has certainly proved to be an inspired choice for Australia. However, David Openshaw, the British captain, deserved most sympathy. After winning a fluctuating first game against Barry Chambers, he had to endure the frustration of taking a commanding lead in both the subsequent games, only to see victory slip through his fingers and go to his opponent who spent all day catching up.

Australia now look a very different team to that defeated 7-2 only a week ago. The destination of the MacRobertson Shield is very much at large.

Results

S.N. Mulliner lost to P. Olsen —26 —17
D.K. Openshaw lost to B. Chambers +7 —5 —4
A.B. Hope lost to L. Herington —5 +22 —5

Monday 22nd November

Australia today recorded their first test match victory over Great Britain since 1937. This leaves the score between the two countries at one test all in the present series, thus making the Melbourne test the decider. If Britain defeat New Zealand during the next 3 days at Adelaide, the final Australia v Great Britain clash will also decide the ultimate victor of the MacRobertson Shield.

British hopes of a 3-0 victory in today's singles, to take the Test 5-4 were raised when Keith Wylie engineered a good chance of a triple peel to win the first game against Neil Spooner in the top singles. However, a mishap at hoop 6 ended his break and his fine chances. Nevertheless, British performances in the other matches gave no reason for pessimism for Murray bounced back from losing a first close game to Mark Prater to take the next two easily. William Prichard always looked too strong for Spencer Buck and proved it by taking the final game without argument.

Results

K.F. Wylie lost to N. Spooner —11 —18
W. de B. Prichard bt S. Buck +14 —11 +24
M. Murray bt M. Prater —7 +24 +21TP

Overall Result

AUSTRALIA 5 GREAT BRITAIN 4

GREAT BRITAIN v NEW ZEALAND

2nd Test Match at Adelaide

Tuesday 23rd November

Great Britain recovered from narrow defeat by Australia yesterday to win two doubles matches in the second test against New Zealand today. Mulliner and Prichard continued their unbeaten run at the expense of Prince and Skinley, in straight games featuring the pegging out of Skinley in the first game and an excellent if dramatic triple peel by Prichard in the second. Openshaw and Wylie always seemed too strong for Roberts and Clarke but had to concede the second game before taking the third with relative ease.

Hogan and Murfitt provided the only opposition victory by defeating Murray and Hope in a closely contested three games which lasted all day with temperatures of over 100°F.

New Zealand need to win 4 out of 6 singles over the next 2 days to take the Test and retain some chance of retaining the MacRobertson Shield.

Results

S.N. Mulliner & W. de B. Prichard bt P. Skinley & J. Prince +5 +15TP
D.K. Openshaw & K.F. Wylie bt G.J. Roberts & R.J. Clarke +14 —13 +20
M. Murray & A.B. Hope lost to J. Hogan & R.J. Murfitt +6 —3 —13

Wednesday 24th November

The second test between Great Britain and New Zealand stands at 3-3 after a second day in which New Zealand produced their best performance to date. Joe Hogan tamed a fast and uneven lawn by superb long hitting and hoop running to defeat Steve Mulliner in straight games. The New Zealand number 6, Richard Clarke, has had a disappointing tour so far, but after winning a close first game against Andrew Hope played faultlessly to take the second and the match. David Openshaw and Roger Murfitt staged another lengthy two game battle with victory going to the British Captain by a narrow margin in both games.

The temperature continues to soar and reached 41°C (106°F) today so it is just as well that croquet has become a game for the young!

Results

S.N. Mulliner lost to J. Hogan —18 —16
D.K. Openshaw bt R.J. Murfitt +4 +4
A.B. Hope lost to R.J. Clarke —13 —26

Thursday 25th November

Great Britain ended New Zealand's chances of retaining the MacRobertson Shield through two excellent victories by Keith Wylie and William Prichard over Paul Skinley and John Prince respectively.

Wylie produced his best form of the Tour to win the first game against Skinley with a double peel and then to complete four peels of a sextuple in the second. Although contact had to be conceded, the New Zealand no. 1 could make little progress and Wylie soon finished off. Prichard's victory was possibly even more meritorious as both he and Prince played two very close games almost without error. Prichard came from behind in both, displaying great precision and nerve throughout.

Graeme Roberts achieved New Zealand's only win after losing the first game to Martin Murray. The clip position enabled Murray to attempt the first octuple in a Test Match with a highly entertaining break. Three peels were achieved before a mishap at Rover gave Roberts the match. Overall victory in the 1982 Tests will now be decided in the first Melbourne Test between Great Britain and Australia from Sunday to Tuesday next. The match should be close but Great Britain's strength should tip the balance.

Results

K.F. Wylie bt P. Skinley +14 +16
W. Prichard bt J. Prince +2 +6
M. Murray lost to G.J. Roberts +16 —20 —6

Overall Result

GREAT BRITAIN 5 NEW ZEALAND 4

AUSTRALIA v GREAT BRITAIN

3rd Test Match at Melbourne

Sunday 28th November

Great Britain took a vital lead in the Third and deciding Test against Australia in the battle for the MacRobertson Shield. Australia switched their doubles pairs around again in an effort to win two doubles matches at last, but their plan almost backfired badly when Great Britain seemed likely to take a 3-0 lead soon after lunch.

Prichard and Mulliner stormed to their best win yet against the formidable Spooner and Chambers combination. In just over 3 hours, 3 breaks were enough for a 9th turn victory in the first game, and the second saw Australia lead for a time before Prichard went round and, later, Mulliner finished matters with an exciting triple.

Openshaw and Wylie were always too good for Prater and Herington, although Australia had a distinct chance to take the second game. Murray and Hope lost the first game to the Tortoise and the Hare pairing of Buck and Olsen but charged back to win the second and looked set to take the last when a missed short roquet allowed the Australian pair to win in 2 turns with a steady if deliberate triple from Buck.

Tomorrow, Prichard, Openshaw, and Hope play Olsen, Chambers and Buck respectively in the second, fourth and sixth positions.

Results

W. Prichard & S.N. Mulliner bt N. Spooner & B. Chambers +26 +13TP
K.F. Wylie & D.K. Openshaw bt M. Prater & L. Herington +24 +4
M. Murray & A.B. Hope lost to P. Olsen & S. Buck —20TP +17 —8TP

Monday 29th November

Australia won 2 singles matches today to level the third test at 3-3. Andrew Hope gave Great Britain a good start by beating Spencer Buck in two games of sound play and good shooting. William Prichard took the first game from Peter Olsen but Olsen played with increasing confidence to win the last two. This was a match of high quality with very few mistakes. David Openshaw lost his first game to good play by Barry Chambers but hit back with a superb triple to level the match. In the final game Chambers took an early lead and held on to win despite some errors by both players towards the end.

Everything now depends on tomorrow's games where Wylie, Mulliner and Murray play Spooner, Prater and Herington respectively.

Results

W. Prichard lost to P. Olsen +17 —17 —24
D. Openshaw lost to B. Chambers —13 +26TP —25
A. Hope bt S. Buck +14 +17

Tuesday 30th November

In circumstances of great drama Great Britain took two of the last three singles to beat Australia 5-4 in the Third Test and thus to take the series against Australia 2 Tests to 1. Great Britain already lead New Zealand by 2 Tests to 0 and so win the 1982 MacRobertson Shield contest.

Martin Murray played superbly solid croquet to overwhelm Lee Herington in two games and give Great Britain an excellent start. However, Australian hopes were raised by the performance of Mark Prater against Steve Mulliner, a match that Great Britain had some confidence of winning. Prater hit shot after shot to make up for occasional lapses and to punish two failures by Mulliner to make the most of a chance.

Meanwhile, Spooner had taken the first game against Keith Wylie in his customary positive fashion. Wylie replied with a love game to square matters and then hit an early roquet in the Third to score the first break. Spooner missed the lift and Wylie seemed set to reach the peg with his second ball. However, a missed roquet after 3 back gave Spooner a golden chance which he in turn squandered by failing Hoop 1. This saw Wylie reach the peg and Spooner hit the last lift but took off over the boundary thirty yards away and Wylie finished without further trouble to record a tremendous win under pressure.

Great Britain now face New Zealand in their last test over the next three days.

Results

K.F. Wylie bt N. Spooner —13 +26 +24
S.N. Mulliner lost to M. Prater —15 —15
M. Murray bt L. Herington +25 +23

Overall Result

GREAT BRITAIN 5 AUSTRALIA 4

GREAT BRITAIN v NEW ZEALAND

3rd Test Match at Melbourne

Wednesday 1st December

Celebration of overall victory may well have led to a slight reaction in the Great Britain camp as they lost their record of never losing the doubles in the current contest.

New Zealand took 2 doubles to lead 2-1 in the 3rd and final test between the two countries. Great Britain have already won the series against New Zealand by winning the first two tests.

All three matches went to 3 games. Murray and Hope lost their first to Murfitt and Hogan, but won the second with a Murray triple. The British pair took an early lead in the final game, but New Zealand caught up, Hogan attempted but could not complete a triple, Hope hit a last shot and Murray had a triple arranged before a difficult 4th hoop proved his undoing and gave New Zealand a 1-0 lead in the test.

Wylie and Openshaw lost their first game to good play by Roberts and Clarke but took firm control of the rest of the match. Wylie completing a good triple in the Third to make the score 1-1. Prince and Skinley laid up for sextuples in the first two games against Mulliner and Prichard, winning the first but losing the second to good recovery play by the British pair.

The third game looked an easy win for New Zealand until Skinley missed a short peg out. Mulliner hit the last shot and took his ball to the peg. Prichard created a good chance of a winning break before meeting an unkind slope at Hoop 5. As Prince was by the peg, this proved fatal.

Results

S.N. Mulliner & W. Prichard lost to J. Prince & P. Skinley —25 +7 —9
K.F. Wylie & D.K. Openshaw bt G.J. Roberts & R.J. Clarke —15 +23 +17TP
M. Murray & A.B. Hope lost to J. Hogan & R.J. Murfitt —17TP +15TP —14

Thursday 2nd December

New Zealand extended their lead over Great Britain by winning two singles today. Roger Murfitt was near his best and most rapid form as he defeated Andrew Hope in two games, featuring a triple in the first and good shooting by both players throughout. William Prichard took the first game against Paul Skinley and created a good chance of a triple in the second. However, Skinley fought back and shot fearlessly to level the match. Both players had chances but Skinley's shooting and an excellent triple saw him through.

Steve Mulliner gave Great Britain its only win by beating Graeme Roberts in two close games. Mulliner completed a delayed triple in the first, just failed to do the same in the second and very nearly paid the penalty. Roberts hit a 40 yard last shot and only just failed a long rover hoop.

Results

W. Prichard lost to P. Skinley +6 —14 —16TP
S.N. Mulliner bt G.J. Roberts +13TP +2
A.B. Hope lost to R.J. Murfitt —17TP —17

Friday 3rd December

New Zealand's hopes of a consolation victory were dashed when Great Britain took all three singles on the last day of the final Great Britain v New Zealand Test to record a close but deserved 5-4 win and a score of 3 tests to nil in the series.

David Openshaw was expected to be too strong for Richard Clarke and proved to be so, winning in two easy games. Martin Murray was thought to be quite capable of defeating the most experienced player in the entire contest, John Prince. Prince, 37, has played five MacRobertson Shield contests since 1963 and has begun to show his best form. However, Murray took full advantage of two errors by his opponent in impressive style and played really accurate and positive croquet to win in two games with a triple in each.

The test now levelled at 4-4 once more depended on Keith Wylie's match. Joseph Hogan, 24, is a formidable shot and, like Prince, is coming to his best. However, Hogan made a slow start and dropped the first game before storming back to win the second with an excellent triple. Errors crept into the third game and it was Wylie who took control and emerged as the winner.

The Great Britain team have now finished their tour and can justifiably look back with pleasure on a job well done. Although the timing of the 1982 contest favoured Great Britain being at the end of their 1982

season and at the very beginning of the New Zealand and Australian 1982/83 seasons, solid preparation, hard practice and, possibly commitment, to the task were what finally counted. The tour has been very happy as well as successful and represents the best use of the support of the croquet players and others who helped to send the Great Britain team to Australia.

Results

K.F. Wylie bt J. Hogan +16 —16TP +15
M. Murray bt J. Prince +12TP +10TP
D.K. Openshaw bt R.J. Clarke +26 +18

Overall Result

GREAT BRITAIN 5 NEW ZEALAND 4

AUSTRALIA v NEW ZEALAND

3rd Test Match at Melbourne

Australia beat New Zealand 6-3 to end the 1982 contest

4th, 5th and 6th December

Australia proved to be too strong for New Zealand in the final test between them at the end of the 1982 MacRobertson Shield Contest. Although once again Australia trailed 1-2 after the doubles matches, their singles strength proved decisive. Roger Murfitt was the only Kiwi to win, beating Mark Prater in a close 3 game match. Olsen, Herington and Buck had easy wins over Skinley, Roberts and Clarke respectively and although Spooner and Chambers had to struggle to beat Hogan and Prince, the results were deserved. Australia has proved itself to be once again a formidable force in the croquet world and it is the previous holders, New Zealand, who have the biggest mountain to climb before the 1986 contest in Great Britain.

The British team was officially declared the winners of the 1982 contest after the conclusion of the final test and Keith Wylie was named the Dunhill Man of the Series.

Results

N. Spooner & B. Chambers lost to J. Prince & P. Skinley —2 —1
L. Herington & M. Prater lost to J. Hogan & R.J. Murfitt —8 —17
S. Buck & P. Olsen bt R.J. Clarke & G.J. Roberts +16TP +26

N. Spooner bt J. Hogan +1 +2
P. Olsen bt P. Skinley +15 +26
B. Chambers bt J. Prince +26 +2
L. Herington bt G.J. Roberts +26TP +8
S. Buck bt R.J. Clarke +9TP +26TP
M. Prater lost to R.J. Murfitt +4 —17 —15

CROQUET CONFERENCE 23rd October 1982

Held at Hurlingham and attended by 60 people representing 34 registered clubs — it is a pity that the remainder of the clubs were not there.

As always the proceedings were conducted in the spirit of a real conference, not like so many which consist of lectures — we divided into Discussion Groups and we all had a chance to air our views. The proceedings were opened by our President, Mr. John Solomon whom we were delighted to welcome. The first session was devoted to discussing alternative ways of financing the income of the C.A. and was commenced by our hard working treasurer, Alan Oldham who presented for discussion two possible alternatives to the present system.

Option "A" — C.A. Member's club i.e. club collects the C.A. Subscription from Associates and forwards them to the C.A. All new members have to become Associates, existing members who are not Associates need not become Associates.

Option "B" — Individual C.A. Associates abolished. All registered clubs would pay a substantial fee to the C.A. either on the number of lawns or on the number of Croquet players or a combination.

Opinions were divided as was to be expected. All were against compulsorily making all players Associates. The vast majority felt that all players should make a higher contribution to the Governing body of the Sport without whose control it would not be possible for the game to continue with world wide rules etc. Some Groups thought more of the C.A. Administration should be done at club level i.e. collection of subscriptions etc.

One group supported Option B, another Option A, and the others

divided or opposed both. A suggestion was made that membership of the C.A. should be on a sliding scale for new members, and another according to handicap. Mr. Blumer gave his personal view that there was still a feeling of "them" and "us" amongst clubs. The Council has done everything possible to overcome this view and very much hopes that clubs do not feel this. One group suggested that clubs should act as agents for the C.A. in persuading their members to join and thought this was a possibility particularly if the Council offered an incentive to the Clubs. I received 8 letters from Clubs on the subject which created a lot of interest. The F and GP Committee will be looking into the matter early next year.

After a lengthy lunch break, at which numerous subjects were discussed, we were privileged to listen to an outstanding address from "Gipsy" Lionel Wharrad looking into his Crystal Ball! His talk is published elsewhere. I hope everyone will read and ponder its content. As can be imagined lively discussions in the Groups followed. All agreed expansion was necessary, that small lawn croquet might well provide the answer, and in any case this idea, if it can be established and is accepted by the top players as a challenging game would open up enormous possibilities, others were not so keen!

The final session was devoted to a Q and A forum. Many subjects were aired including a dislike by some members to the practice of some clubs making an increased charge for visitors, who had to incur considerable expense in attending the tournament. It gave the strong impression that visitors were being discouraged! C.A. was asked to consider fixing a charge for B and B provided by club members during a tournament, that Hurlingham Club would be prepared to consider staging the final of the Longman Cup free of charge, there was a discussion on synthetic surfaces, and a Croquet Car badge was produced (anyone interested should contact Pat Shine of Southwick).

The new Coaching Manual was on sale at the Bookstall which had considerable financial success taking over £170! All in all this was a happy occasion, where we renewed friendships, and I hope that we shall have an even bigger attendance at the next one in 1984 — maybe we can think up a "Big Brother" theme!

D.C.C.

OBITUARY

Cyril Ratcliffe

Cyril died on October 26th, less than 2 months before his hundredth birthday. We had been looking forward to presenting him with a memento signed by every member of the Colchester Club, but alas he could not wait.

Cyril joined our Club over 30 years ago. When his wife died in 1952 and he retired from business he became one of our keenest members. In fact, when the secretary was asked to report on the use of courts by members with a view to increasing our membership, he was in a category by himself under the description "lives there".

He was never a great tactician, but as a hoop-runner and a hitter-in, he had few equals and was always difficult to beat.

As might be expected of a man who first introduced motor bikes into this district, and spent some time before the first world war with the Canadian Pacific Railway Co. in their workshops he made his own mallets — of a somewhat original design but suitable to his small stature and the nature of his game.

He retained his puckish sense of humour in his later years and when some of his many friends used to complain about getting old (even though they might be 15 years or so his junior) he would put his hand on their shoulder and console them by saying "I shall miss you when you've gone".

In 1979 at the age of 96 he was one of the area finalists of the All-England Competition, and as Area Manager I told him there would have to be a time-limit on all matches: I asked him whether he would object to having a couple of "ball-boys" to speed things up. He seemed at first to consider that this might be a reflection on his capabilities, but when I explained that the President and the Chairman of the Croquet Association (Edward Duffield and Roger Bray) had offered their services, his face crinkled into a familiar grin, and I could well imagine that another story (possibly embellished) had been added to the repertoire from which he regaled his new friends at Balkeine Rest Home where he happily spent his final years. We shall miss you, Cyril.

G.S.D.

Speech made by Lionel Wharrad (Vice Chairman of The Croquet Association, Chairman of Publicity & Development Committee, Chairman of Sponsorship Committee, Chairman of Small Lawns Committee)

I am not sure why Derek Caporn thought I have an efficient crystal ball. If in past years I could have foreseen the future with any degree of accuracy — I would be a good deal richer than I am.

I should first say that although I am Vice Chairman of the Croquet Association the views I am about to express are purely my own and do not purport to represent the views of Council. This is a purely personal forecast of what I think will happen.

You will also need to be warned that any forecast of the future is likely to be subjective — that is to say it is inevitable that one projects into the future or sees in the crystal ball that *which one would like to see*.

You may agree or disagree with my forecasts — I hope at least they provoke some interesting and valuable discussions.

There are a couple of relatively minor but still quite important changes that I think will take place fairly soon.

EQUIPMENT

I do not expect the coming decade to require any major change in equipment specifications or sizes but:

- 1 There will be a further increase in manufactures of croquet equipment.
- 2 Aluminium Hoops costing about half the cost of Cast Iron Hoops will become standard.
- 3 The present Eclipse ball with its plastic cover over a cork core will be replaced by an all plastic ball of greater durability and less cost.

TOURNAMENTS

Weekly tournaments as they now exist will largely disappear except for National or Regional Championships — The format of a Two-life class event

- a Doubles event
- an X & Y handicap event

giving 5 games minimum just does not provide enough croquet to justify the hotel bills.

If weekly tournaments do continue to attract players from other clubs and not simply become local club events — Then this will be because they are organised to give better value for money so that even the successful player can expect a minimum of 10 games in the week rather than five.

ORGANISATION

As the game expands we shall move to a Regional organisation following roughly the 9 Regions of the Sports Council. I expect to see a major club in each Region taking on the role of Regional HQ's.

I would now like to deal with what I believe will be a *major change* in the game over the *next* 5-10 years.

In order to do so I must briefly sketch what we have been doing over the past 2/3 years and review the present position of the game.

We have over the past few years had three objectives:

- 1 To try and help clubs to increase their membership
- 2 To get more publicity for the game by:
 - (i) Encouraging clubs to take more positive action with their local media
 - (ii) To find sponsors with good Public Relations set-up
 - (iii) To provide more information to National Sports Editors
- 3 To increase the income of the Croquet Association:
 - (i) By persuading more players to join the Croquet Association
 - (ii) By Sponsorship fees.

The big membership drive of 1980 produced a splendid increase of around 24-25%. In 1981 there was a 3 or 4% increase and in 1982 I expect there to have been a 6% increase (at the moment only about 50% clubs have provided the census information).

But we are still a very small group of people — a very minor sport. There are only 44 clubs which a player can apply to join and 20 or 30 clubs belonging to companies institutions and where membership is naturally limited.

The total membership of all clubs is around 2,250-2,350.

There is some duplicate membership in these figures say 200-300 (i.e. people who are members of more than one club). Not all club members are players — if we eliminate *non* players, valuable though they are, the total number of actual active players is 1,800-1,900. About 1,500 of whom are in the 44 open clubs. These 44 clubs between them have 140 courts — the Croquet World is a very small community.

From the *club census material* now coming in, it seems that the average *active* membership is somewhere around 13 per lawn. There is of course a great variation between clubs.

The numbers per lawn depend on a number of factors:

- 1 How frequently the members play
- 2 If they are well distributed between:
 - (a) Those who work and play in the evenings and week-ends
 - (b) Those who can play during day time Monday to Friday
- 3 The amount of double banking that is acceptable.

In terms of active membership Colchester, Sidmouth and Woking manage about 22-23 per lawn, Edgbaston, Roehampton, Phyllis Court and Reigate about 18-19.

If we assume that an average over the country of 17-18 per lawn is realisable, then the 140 lawns will accommodate about 2,500.

This represents a possible increase of 700 or 800 in active players in the 44 open clubs.

If we assume that about 40% or so will join the Croquet Association then the membership of the *Croquet Association* will rise to around 1,000-1,100.

This is perhaps a good moment to compare croquet with one or two other minority sports — the Sports Council figures indicate the following:

	Clubs	Total Membership	Participants
Croquet	70	2,500	Not known
Fencing	316	3,000	15,000
Judo	1,000	60,000	125,000
Women's Football	230	5,000	
Women's Netball	2,400	33,000	
Nat. Rounders	27 Adult Leagues	100,000	

We *do* however have a vast hidden reserve of croquet players whom we might describe loosely as participants.

We do have some advantage in the fact that our game is known by name to most people even if all that is known is that it involves hitting a ball through a hoop.

But enormous numbers of people have at some time or another played croquet in some form or another either at home or in a friend's or relative's garden.

So that very large numbers of people, who have no connection at all with any club or with tournament play and who have never heard of the Croquet Association, are playing croquet of some kind, throughout the country. Given a garden large enough, many thousands use part of it for tennis or croquet or both.

The Secretary of the Croquet Association estimates that Jacques & Townsends between them probably sell 5-6,000 croquet sets a year — no doubt most of these are garden sets with wooden or light plastic balls and wire hoops.

But each set must surely be played by half a dozen or more people. So there must be a regular addition of many thousands of people each year to the ranks of croquet players. I believe these members are increasing quite fast.

We cannot even guess the number of people who play some form of croquet in their gardens — but these probably can be counted in terms of several hundreds of thousands. These thousands of people are important for they represent *Potential Spectators* — *Potential Viewers* — *Potential Association Croquet Players*.

Now let us consider the influences that will operate on croquet and probably change its direction in the coming years.

As publicity begins to bite a little more — through the
Publicity efforts of the Clubs and the Croquet Association
Sponsors P.R. efforts
Television News — Sport
Channel 4 perhaps — with time for minority sports

So people will want to find out more about croquet and to try to play it.

This will result:

- 1 In the sale of more garden croquet sets
- 2 An increase in membership at existing clubs
- 3 Demand for croquet facilities in areas where no clubs at present exist.

Second Influence

Tournament players — and especially perhaps the young top players all want to see more publicity for croquet. It is probably true that most tournament players would like to see croquet televised as a sport; we know that televising is difficult. The TV experts in both the BBC and IBA companies say:

- 1 The game is too long
- 2 The court is too big

for successful television to be possible.

Demand by the more active players for more publicity for the game will lead to attempts to modify the game so that it *can* be televised and enjoyed by greatly expanded numbers. Thus there will be inevitably be an acceptance of the fact that a shorter game on a smaller lawn is required.

Third Influence

Another force is also going to be at work. Over the next decade — there will be a move towards work sharing and earlier retirement — so that working hours will be fewer — and working life will be shorter. There will be a continual increase in the number of people wanting to participate in outdoor leisure pastimes.

In addition the Sports Council which has carried out considerable research into this and related matters has identified two target groups for which it will be trying to cater in the next decade:

- 1 Immediate Post School Groups
- 2 Pre-retirement Years 45-59

The Pre-retirement groups — 45-59 years old are a natural target group for croquet.

The SC is planning extensive campaigns through its 9 Regional offices and will be making funds available to encourage the development of facilities for these two particular groups.

Bowls which is also a good game for this age group has already had tremendous expansion (helped enormously by TV) — There are in excess of 10,000 bowling greens (compare this with 140 croquet courts), 500,000 *Registered* players in 5,000 clubs.

The Sports Council has itself set a target on increasing the number in this age group 45-59 who take part in organised outdoor sport by another 120,000 people over the next 5 years.

I am sure that we shall be expected and would wish to do our share in expanding our sport to take up some of these and I have some hope that we will be given some financial help to enable us to do so.

With these various pressures to increase the popularity of the game and to bring more people into playing it, — One of our problems is going to be how to acquire more courts. I do not think we can expect many existing clubs to be able to expand; another 700-800 active players will fill existing clubs to the maximum. So we must look to new clubs being formed.

Can we reasonably expect private clubs to be started along the lines of those which were started by enthusiasts in the hey day of croquet — at the end of the last century and the beginning of this like Budleigh, Southwick, Cheltenham, Compton?

Let us consider that possibility.

To start a four lawn club from scratch will probably require no less than £40-£45,000 for land purchase, laying down of lawns, provision of shelters, modest clubhouse, lawn maintenance, equipment and hoops and balls.

Let us assume that the provider of the (say) £40,000 requires 10% interest, that a part time groundsman plus, repairs, replacements, lawn fertiliser, seed and so on comes to £5,000, then the annual expenditure could be £9,000. Let us assume that light, heat, rates and maintenance of the clubhouse is paid for by the BAR, catering and tournaments.

Such a four lawn club can support say 17/18 *active* playing members per lawn, perhaps 20-23 in total — say 70-75 people to find £9,000 a year between them.

A more likely source for new courts is local authorities

- 1 Many have surplus amenity land
- 2 They will be under some social (and Sports Council) pressure to provide more leisure facilities especially for the pre-retirement groups.
- 3 Probability is some local authorities can be persuaded to make land available for croquet at little cost or at a small rent, and that lawns will be maintained by Council employees, i.e. partly subsidised out of rate income.

But it is difficult to justify the required capital expenditure on 1,000 square yards (one court) and provision of a small clubhouse because of the few games than can be played in the course of the day. We will be unable to disguise from any local authority that the average match between middle/long Bisquers take 3 hours or more. They will inevitably compare croquet with alternative use of that land, e.g. for bowls — where 48 people can play on an area 42 x 42 yards. We will however get some new lawns from some local authorities — mostly single lawns — but we shall be handicapped by the difficulty that too few people play for too long a time on too large a lawn. Clearly we would find it easier to secure local authority interest if we could reduce the length of the game and the size of the court. For instance if the average croquet game lasted about the same time as the average tennis game and was played on about the same area.

So — the reasons that will hamper our negotiations with local authorities will be very much the same reasons why televising of the game is not practicable. For these reasons I think for the game to expand we shall be looking to establish an official small lawn game. I believe that if we could establish a game which took 1-1½ hours rather than three and we used a court say the size of a doubles tennis court, then the game would begin to be attractive as an alternative to tennis and bowls to both local authorities and private groups.

Local authorities are quite used to providing tennis courts and we shall therefore think in terms of dividing our present croquet lawn into two by an East/West line to produce two courts each say 28 yds. x 16 yds. This area would fit within a doubles tennis court often allowing for the normal playing area around the tennis court itself.

There is no need to remind you that 35 x 28 yards are not sacred measurements; the laws permit Association Croquet to be played on much smaller lawns — Law 58.

So let me summarise:

The combination of four influences

- 1 The feeling amongst many croquet players that the game needs some change
- 2 The desire for more publicity for the game and the inevitable attraction of television
- 3 The Economic arguments for a shorter game and a smaller lawn
- 4 The increasing social need for more leisure activities.

This will mean that in the near future a new small lawn game *will* be introduced officially by the Croquet Association and included in the Book of Laws.

In fact a committee of 5 top players with myself as Chairman is already examining this subject and I believe that a fully acceptable game will result.

This game will need to require no less skill from the top players than the standard game before it will be acceptable; it must be a game which A class players will really enjoy playing. Thus the A class game on the small lawn will need to be made more difficult than the standard game in order to compensate for the smaller lawn. We should also take the opportunity of making the small lawn a simpler game for the newer players.

When this game comes into force we are bound to have a very considerable increase in interest in the game and in the numbers playing it.

Let me summarise the advantages

Economic Argument: Requires less space and a shorter game therefore easier to get investment because return would be better. True of Private clubs and local authorities.

A Doubles tennis court is an acceptable and established size for indoor and outdoor areas — transfer from tennis use to croquet use would be much easier to achieve especially in the early part of the season, if both games are played on the same size court.

Indoor croquet using standard equipment becomes at least feasible.

Social Advantages

- 1 Smaller lawn (say 28 x 16) would reduce the male physical advantage of strength — men and women could compete more equally.
- 2 We do fail to retain players who would like to play but find the present game takes too long and is too difficult.
- 3 The Aunt Emma player would virtually cease to exist — the small lawn game puts the making of breaks within most people's capacity.
- 4 Garden lawns — private tennis courts and lawns in pubs and hotel grounds — would all become potentially part of the game of croquet. The great numbers of garden croquet players, who currently belong to no club, would become more easily harnessable as spectators and viewers because they could identify more easily with the small lawn game. The gulf between the domestic player and the club players would be narrowed as it is already in tennis.

Publicity

- 1 Present size of lawn and length of game makes TV coverage unlikely. A long time is taken up with no play — walking to the next shot, etc., putting a ball on the yard line, collecting the ball after a roquet and so on. Even if these boring bits could be eliminated by editing — there is a problem of orientation caused by the size of the court.
- 2 A shorter skillful game played on a tennis court sized lawn would solve most of the technical problems so that television would at least become a real possibility, although of course the TV companies would need to be convinced that the game is not too difficult for the average viewer to grasp. If the large number of people who play garden croquet can be thought of as a possible viewing audience then the possibility of TV becomes greater.
- 3 Spectators more likely to watch a shorter 18 point game played on a small lawn; such games would be quicker — less time would be wasted — action more continuous — Aunt Emma play eliminated.
- 4 Use of Prestige surfaces would at least be possible (Croquet on the Centre Court?)
- 5 Sponsorship would be easier to attract both at club and National level and would be more lucrative because of TV and more spectator involvement.

So my main forecast for the future is that croquet will become a much better known sport because of the introduction by the Croquet Association of an official small lawn game.

I believe that within 3/4 years we shall all be enjoying such a game, that it will be televised, and that local authorities and sports clubs and hotels with lawn space will be providing some new areas for croquet possibly at the expense of tennis.

The progress of the small lawn game against the traditional sized lawn will I believe be rapid but it will not supplant it. It will compliment it and will grow purely in its own right.

In 2/3 years I think it could well be common for a club with six lawns normally to set them out as 3 full size and 6 small lawns. Some clubs with one or two lawns might decide to set out small lawns and normal size lawns in alternate weeks, so that both games can continue.

I think the next 3/4 years are going to be most interesting ones for the croquet world.

The "Coaching Handbook" published by the Croquet Association

This is a splendid publication for the coaching of beginners and more advanced players (down to a handicap of 3 or so). In fact it could

more aptly have been titled "Coaching and Recruitment Handbook" for it contains a wealth of imaginative ideas and suggestions to clubs as to recruitment of new members and membership drives, drawing upon the experience of others.

One only needs to see the list of contents to see what benefits can be derived from the handbook:

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Recruitment Drive
- 3 Preparing for new members
- 4 Some general guidance for those who coach
- 5 Drawing up a coaching programme for new members
- 6 Following on from the coaching of new players
- 7 Coaching players of intermediate ability
- 8 Coaching more advanced players
- 9 Activities to help players improve
- 10 Appendices:
 - 1 Notes on coaching
 - 2 Alternative games and competitions
 - 2a Progressive doubles or Notts
 - 2b Graded ladder competitions
 - 2c Games for fun: Pirates, 3-ball game, 2-ball game
 - 2d A competition for practising shots
 - 3 Course Notes
 - 3a The Croquet Association
 - 3b Croquet Etiquette and customs
 - 3c Useful techniques in play
 - 3d Using bisques
 - 3e Setting up a break
 - 3f Playing breaks
 - 3g Croquet literature
 - 4 A plan for practice

The handbook has 51 pages packed full of information which will interest virtually anyone interested in the game and can be obtained from the C.A. office.

Annual General Meeting

to be held at The Hurlingham Club on Saturday 9th April 1983 at 11.30 a.m.

AGENDA

1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING
The Minutes of the meeting held on 3rd April 1982 as published elsewhere in this issue of CROQUET.
The Special General Meeting called for 23rd October 1982 was not held and the business to have been conducted has been transferred to this meeting (Item 7 below).
2. PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS
3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT
4. TREASURER'S REPORT
Copies of the audited accounts for the year ended 31st December 1982 will be available at the meeting. Copies will be sent to Associates resident in the United Kingdom when available on request to the Secretary.
5. ELECTION OF TREASURER
The retiring Treasurer, A.J. Oldham, offers himself for re-election.
6. ELECTION OF COUNCIL
The following retire by rotation under Rule II(a) and seek re-election:
D.C. Caporn, A.J. Girling, Miss S.G. Hampson, C. Hudson, S.N. Mulliner, L. Wharrad and Dr. R.F. Wheeler.
R.S. Stevens retires under Rule XII and seeks re-election.
D.J.V. Hamilton-Miller retires under Rule II(a) and does not seek re-election.
Thus to date there are 8 candidates for 9 vacancies.
Under Rule VI(a)(ii) Associates proposed and seconded by two other Associates wishing to stand for election must submit their candidature in writing to the Secretary not later than 22nd April 1983.
7. ALTERATION TO THE RULES
The Council propose that Rule VI be amended to read as follows:
"Rule VI — Election of Council
(a) Candidates for election shall consist of:
(i) Members of the Council retiring under Rule II(a) provided they have notified the Secretary by 1st

November that they are willing to stand for re-election at the next Annual General Meeting.

- (ii) Associates duly proposed and seconded by two other Associates, of whose candidature notice in writing have been received by the Secretary by 1st November preceding the Annual General Meeting.
- (b) (i) If the number of candidates does not exceed the number of vacancies such candidates shall be deemed to be elected to fill the vacancies.
- (ii) If the number of candidates exceeds the number of full-term vacancies but does not exceed the total number of vacancies such candidates shall be deemed to be elected and the Council shall, at its first meeting, decide by lot which Associates shall fill the full-term vacancies and which the part-term vacancies.
- (iii) The election to fill vacancies on the Council shall be conducted as follows:

A voting paper shall be issued to each Associate resident in the United Kingdom either by post or with CROQUET not less than twenty four days before the Annual General Meeting giving the names of the retiring members of the Council offering themselves for re-election and the names of Associates offering themselves for election together with the names of the proposer and seconder of each.

In voting an Associate may not give more than one vote for any candidate and may not record more votes than there are vacancies. Any such error or errors will render the voting paper entirely null and void.

The voting paper must be signed and returned to the Secretary so as to arrive not later than the first post seven days before the date of the Annual General Meeting.

Two scrutineers, not being members of the Council, shall be appointed by the Chairman or Vice-Chairman. They shall report the result of the poll at the Annual General Meeting."

8. ELECTION OF AUDITORS

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

9. BENEFACTORS

The Secretary will read the names in the Benefactors Book.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

R.F. Rothwell
Secretary

1st December 1982

REPORT ON THE AUTUMN MEETING OF THE FEDERATION OF NORTHERN CROQUET CLUBS

There were fourteen people present with Mrs. Nell Tyldesley in the Chair, regrettably for the last time. In making a retirement presentation to Nell of a necklace pendant, in the form of a miniature gold croquet mallet, Chris Hudson said it was a token of appreciation from all the Clubs in the Federation for her unrelenting services as founder member of the Federation and then its Chairman for eight years. During that period croquet in the north had progressed from weakness to quite formidable strength. Nell said she was sad to vacate the Chair but nevertheless felt that it should be occupied by someone who was also a member of the C.A. Council. She had served on Council for a number of years and had ably represented the viewpoint of the North, but she had had to retire as she found that the effort of attending meetings had been increasing for some time. Mr. Chris Hudson, who is a member of Council, was elected unopposed to the Chair in her place. Nell's decision does not mean that she has abandoned croquet, a game which is dear to her heart. She will continue to play as much as her arthritic shoulder will allow, and she will continue to attend Federation meetings. She has been a tower of strength in the past and we shall continue to value her contributions.

On the whole the North had had a good season of croquet. Northern Counties had won the Inter-Counties Championship, upon which Mr. John Rose will feel duly rewarded for his hard work in organising the team. The Northern Championships held at Bowdon were well supported and the general standard of play was high. Mrs. Pat Hague won the Ladies Second Six Best Players Event at Southwick and Mr. Brian Storey reached the final of the All England Handicap Championship. In addition there had been stimulating publicity for croquet in the North on radio and television and in the press.

It was disappointing that schools showed an almost complete lack of interest in croquet so that the projected Schools Tournament had to

be abandoned. This is surely an area where the Association should try to stimulate interest.

Bowdon C.C. proposed to run a week-end referees' course in March open to all, with examiners in attendance. Also Bowdon would be the venue next season for the Chairman's Salver and the final of the All England Handicap Championship.

The Northern Federation League had been won by Chester C.C. without loss of a game and so they would be competing next year for the Secretary's Shield. The Inter-Federation annual match had been won this year by the West Midlands, who defeated the North by a narrow margin.

A.C. Mason

Croquet Grading System

RANKING LIST FOR 12 MONTHS TO 1982-3

Pos.	Name	Grade	No.
1	Aspinall G.N.	179	42
2	Mulliner S.N.	161	90
3	Openshaw D.K.	151	70
4	Hope A.B.	150	28
5	Murray M.	150	73
6	Prichard W. de B.	148	29
7	Wylie K.F.	145	19
8	Hands P.W.	143	30
9	McCullough J.	141	46
10	Solomon E.W.	139	47
11	Rose J.	135	55
12	Neal B.G.	133	66
13	Wright S.J.H.	133	37
14	Cordingley P.	132	89
15	Ormerod W.P.	132	16
16	Vincent I.G.	132	66
17	Noble G.W.	130	79
18	Bond I.D.	130	45
19	Prichard C.H.L.	127	33
20	Foulser D.R.	127	76
21	Bell E.	126	53
22	Coward M.J.	126	44
23	Avery M.	125	49
24	Croker D.J.	124	39
25	Aiton K.M.H.	123	47
26	Jones K.E.	123	50
27	Wiggins S.	119	62
28	Ormerod M.	116	49
29	Sykes B.C.	114	37
30	Latham L.V.	113	13
31	Hilditch J.R.	113	71
32	Haste T.J.	113	60
33	Griffith T.	111	17
34	Phelps M.F.	111	12
35	Johnson P.M.	111	30
36	Gunaskera D.	111	31
37	Tapp M.	111	23
38	Jackson G.E.P.	110	30
39	Wood T.I.	110	14
40	Phillips J.G.C.	109	32
41	Carlisle V.	108	15
42	Stevens M.J.	108	23
43	Death P.J.	108	35
44	Keen B.R.	107	18
45	Godby R.A.	104	33
46	Wheeler J.A.	104	32
47	Weitz B.G.	102	24
48	Owen T.F.	101	30
49	Moore W.E.	101	16
50	Wood R.	100	19

THE ESSEX/SUFFOLK CROQUET LEAGUE

The third season of the Essex Suffolk Croquet League saw one or two changes made in the format, six full games of singles and one full game of doubles now being played in each match.

It was the most successful season to date and all the programme was completed, although one match had to be abandoned in mid afternoon when torrential rain made the courts unplayable.

The winners in 1982 with three wins from four matches were Ingatestone and they were presented with the Harpers Shield by the Managing Director of Harpers Sports at an end of season party held at the Colchester Club and well attended by members of all the teams.

The final placings were:

Ingatestone Won 2 Lost 1 18 games to 10
Colchester (Essex) Won 2 Lost 2 14 games to 14
Colchester (Suffolk) Won 2 Lost 2 13 games to 15
Ipswich Won 2 Lost 2 12 games to 14
Bentley Won 1 Lost 3 11 games to 15

CORRESPONDENCE

CONTACT WANTED

Dear Sir,

I read Bill Scarr's letter in Issue 167 with interest. How right he is when he says how boring many A Class games become, with an opponent so often left with but two chances to hit a long roquet. Such shots require an element of luck, even on an apparently perfect lawn.

Surely it is time the Laws Committee amended the rules of Advanced Level Play, and, if possible, before next Season. May I suggest that a Contact (or optionally a lift) be conceded after making one back with either ball even if peeled, and a lift with either ball, even if peeled, at 4 back.

The benefits? An opponent would be sure of one contact, almost certainly two, except against a sextuplet peel! The sight of two balls, one in corner 1 and one in corner 3 with an opponent lining up for a peel at 1 back would be eliminated.

As a B player who plays the advanced game on most occasions, and who does not like to sit out, or see his opponent sitting out all the time, I usually arrange, if handicaps differ by more than one, to impose or concede a compulsory peeling of the last two or three hoops. This usually ensures a good game.

5 Worthington Crescent
Parkstone
Poole BH14 8BW

Yours sincerely
Bob Carder

Home-made Accessory Equipment

New clubs need corner flags and they are expensive to buy. Established clubs might consider replacing their existing flags by better ones.

The flag-stick is most conveniently constructed from stout gauge galvanised wire 1/8" diameter cut into 24-inch lengths. Bend the wire into a loop at one end, leaving a straight portion 20 inches long. Make a final closure of the loop with Araldite. Purchase Tricel material or preferably industrial nylon of the correct colours. Cut the flag to size 12" x 9" to make a finished flag, after hemming, of about 10" x 8". The hem through which the stick passes must be firm and open at both ends. Finally, stitch the top of the flag to the loop in the wire (which must first be painted black), to prevent the flag from slipping down.

Corner pegs may be made from 3/8" diameter dowel wood cut 5 inches long and sharpened at one end. The top 2 inches is then painted white and the remainder black.

Bisque pegs may be cut from 1/2" diameter dowel wood 10" long and sharpened. Half bisques should be shorter (say 6"). When many bisques have to be marked, it is convenient to have a few larger pegs, say 1" diameter dowel and 12" long, sharpened and painted white. These large pegs are used with normal pegs, so that their value is equal to the number of normal pegs taken. Thus for 8 bisques, take 4 normal pegs and one large one, or for 9 bisques take one normal peg, i.e. 5 normal and one large. When the normal pegs are used up reset the required number to replace the large peg.

A.C. Mason

ALL ENGLAND HANDICAP

From a record entry of 545, whittled down from preliminary competitions in 32 Clubs, winners of the eight Area Finals (held at Cheltenham, Colchester, Compton, Edgbaston, Edinburgh, Harrow Oak, Hurlingham and Woking) assembled at Roehampton on 2nd and 3rd October to decide who would win the two Tingey Trophies and the New Zealand Tray. The Tingey Trophies, awarded to the winner and the runner-up were presented by the late Robert Tingey over twenty years ago, two trophies he had won in Australia, and the New Zealand Tray (held by the winner's Club for the year) was presented in 1956 by the New Zealand Croquet Council to commemorate their team's challenge for the MacRobertson Shield in England. Each Area winner had already been presented with an inscribed shield.

It is said that croquet players nowadays come from a wide variety of professions. How well this year's finalists demonstrated this. In no particular order they were an Accountant, an Undergraduate, a Scientist, a retired Chartered Surveyor, a Researcher, a Police Sergeant, a Merchant Banker and a Computer Systems Designer. Despite there being no teenagers this year and one being 65 the average age of the eight was only 32.

Ever since the competition was first played in 1928 the Final has always been played at Roehampton. Unhappily due to changes in management policy (incidentally not that of the club's croquet members) the Club will not stage the Final in 1983. The venue for 1983 moves north to Bowdon. Whilst Roehampton was the headquarters of the C.A. from 1907 to 1956 most of the main C.A. events were held there — the Opens, the Best Eight (originally the Beddow Cup and later the President's Cup), the Peel Memorials and the Challenge and Gilbey. Thus after 76 years without a break (apart from the War years) there will be no C.A. event played at Roehampton next year. The Club is now reduced to having only three lawns having as many as 14 in its heyday.

The Final took the form of a 5-round Swiss Tournament and the outcome was not decided until the last game in the last round had been completed. In Round 5 Aiton beat Arnot which put the latter out of the running, Goulding beat Storey but this did not affect the result, Watson crushed McMordie by 26 and in the last game to finish, Palmer beat Shergold after a well contested game. This made Palmer the winner (with Roehampton holding the New Zealand Tray) and just prevented Shergold from winning the runners-up trophy in favour of Watson, one of the two non-Associates in the Final.

Final scores:

Name	Club	H'cap	Wins	Net Points	Final Order
A.J. Palmer	Roehampton	3	4	+39	1
H. Watson	Bristol	7	3	+33	2
F.L. Shergold	Parkstone	3	3	+16	3
D. Arnot	Auchinenuive	12	3	+ 7	4
Dr J.A. McMordie	Parkstone		2	-20	5
D. Goulding	British Airways	2½	2	-23	6
K.M.H. Aiton	Cambridge Univ	0	2	-32	7
B.J. Storey	Bowdon	8	1	-20	8

EXTRACTS FROM THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNCIL MEETING ON 16th OCTOBER

- The Chairman announced the formal resignation of the Secretary, R.F. Rothwell, due to his deteriorating health. A small Committee was appointed to make alternative arrangements.
- The Chairman of the Editorial Board, A.J. Oldham, reported upon the present unsatisfactory delays in the publication of the Gazette. Steps are being taken to try and improve the situation.
- The main alteration for the C.A. Calendar of Tournaments for 1983 will be the switch of venues of the Men's and Women's Championships and the Open Championships as an experiment. The Caskets will be held at Hurlingham 13-18 June and the Opens at Cheltenham 9-16 July.
- It was announced that the Test Tour Fund has reached the magnificent sum of over £5,500. The Test Team Captain, D.K. Openshaw, thanked all those who had contributed on behalf of the members of the team.
- The Special General Meeting called for 23rd October has been cancelled and the business to have been conducted is being transferred to the Annual General Meeting, which was fixed for Saturday 9th April 1983 at 11.30 a.m. at The Hurlingham Club.

C.A. CALENDAR FOR 1983

Notes: 1. C.A. events are shown in capital letters
2. * = Level play tournaments

April	2-4	Cheltenham W/E 1
	4-9	DEVONSHIRE PARK 1
	11-16	DEVONSHIRE PARK 2
	21-24	Roehampton W/E 1
	23-24	Southport & Birkdale W/E 1*
	29-May 2	Southwick W/E 1
	30-May 2	Cheltenham 1*
	30-May 2	Hunstanton W/E 1
	30-May 2	Hurlingham W/E 1
May	5-8	Compton W/E 1
	6-8	Colchester W/E 1*
	7-8	GOLF CROQUET (Harrow Oak)
	7-8	Scottish C.A. W/E 1
	9-14	Budleigh Salterton 1
	13-15	Carrickmines W/E (to be confirmed)
	13-15	Wrest Park W/E 1
	21-22	HOME INTERNATIONALS (provisional)
	28-30	Cheltenham W/E 2
	28-30	Colchester W/E 2
	28-30	Nottingham W/E 1
	28-30	Southport & Birkdale W/E 2
	28-30	Southwick W/E 2*
	29-June 5	Roehampton Evening
	30-June 4	Parkstone 1
June	1-4	INTER-COUNTIES (Southwick)
	6-11	Carrickmines 1
	10-12	Bowdon W/E
	13-18	MEN'S & WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIPS (Hurlingham)
	13-18	Ryde
	17-19	Edgbaston W/E 1*
	17-19	Southwick W/E 3
	20-25	VETERANS (Compton)
	24-26	Hunstanton W/E 2*
	24-26	Nottingham W/E 2*
	27-July 2	Budleigh Salterton 2
July	1-3	Cheltenham W/E 3
	1-3	Wrest Park W/E 2*
	2-10	Woking (several separate tournaments)
	3-9	Colchester
	4-9	Southwick 1
	9-10	C.A. v SCOTLAND (East Riding, Hull)
	9-16	OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS (Cheltenham)
	16-17	Scottish C.A. W/E 2
	18-23	CHALLENGE & GILBEY (Hunstanton)
	22-24	Edgbaston W/E 2
	23-24	Compton W/E 2*
	25-30	Cheltenham 2
	28-Aug 7	Hurlingham
August	5-7	Colchester W/E 3
	8-13	Carrickmines 2
	8-13	Nottingham
	15-20	Compton
	20-21	Roehampton W/E 2
	20-29	Northern Championships (Bowdon)
	22-27	Edinburgh
	22-27	Southwick 2
	27-29	Cheltenham W/E 4
	27-29	Hurlingham W/E 2
	29-Sept 3	Hunstanton
	29-Sept 3	Parkstone 2
September	3-4	ALL ENGLAND HANDICAP — AREA FINALS (Cheltenham, Compton, Edgbaston, Harrow Oak, Scotland and 2 others)
	5-9	CHAIRMAN'S SALVER (Bowdon)
	5-9	SPENCER ELL CUP (Cheltenham)
	5-9	LADIES FIELD CUP (Hunstanton)
	5-9	LADIES SECOND EVENT (Southwick)
	6-10	PRESIDENT'S CUP (Hurlingham)
	9-11	Nottingham W/E 3
	9-11	Ryde W/E
	10-11	ALL ENGLAND HANDICAP — AREA FINAL (Hunstanton)

12-15	Cheltenham 3	
16-19	Budleigh Salterton W/E	
16-18	Wrest Park W/E 3	
19-24	PEEL MEMORIALS (Southwick)	
19-24	Roehampton	
21-26	Cheltenham 4	
24-25	Southport & Birkdale W/E 3*	
25	INTER-CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP — FINAL	
October	1-2	ALL ENGLAND HANDICAP — FINAL (Bowdon)
	7-9	Cheltenham W/E 5

Report on the Peels Tournament

It would have been pleasant to report good weather for the Peels this year after its move from the beginning to the end of the season, but this was not to be. Torrential rain on the Sunday prior to the tournament left the courts looking in fine shape but playing slowly. Further heavy rain throughout the early part of the week made every shot an effort. This was all in marked contrast to the lightning fast conditions prevalent in most clubs for the last month but despite this there was some good quality croquet to be seen.

Monday saw the start of the Draw event for both Men and Women. Many players were struggling to find their form in the soggy conditions but it soon became clear that Guy Whillock and Geoff Roy would be forces to be reckoned with in the Mens' event and that Edna Cox would be the one to beat in the Womens'. Geoff Roy beat Bill Moore in two well controlled breaks and a double peel, while Guy Whillock, having been a little lucky to survive against Philip Dwerryhouse, winning +1, began to display a quality of stroke play which belied his handicap of 6. Even at this early stage he was justifiably installed as hot favourite by the pundits in the clubhouse.

Tuesday had been designated Doubles day and this proved a very good piece of planning. Following several hours of continuous rain half of the lawns were unplayable but the remainder were sufficient to stage most of the Doubles programme with little delay. The event turned out to be a good one in that any one of half a dozen or more pairs could have won it. Tactics in the early games were predictable — joining up as far from the opponents as possible, two ball breaks and so on. Nonetheless, as is usual for doubles, there were some close tense games and some tight finishes on time.

Wednesday and Thursday reverted to the Singles competitions while the weather seemed unable to make up its mind. Lengthy showers were interspersed with the occasional fine spells and this was reflected in the croquet which was a little patchy. An interesting game developed between Humphrey Hicks and Guy Whillock after a stoppage for rain and a change of lawn. This became a considerable battle between the tactical experience of Humphrey and the occasional flashes of inspired stroke play of Guy. The game was ultimately decided by a time limit — Humphrey, slightly behind nearing time, was forced to adopt a more aggressive approach and finally made a mistake. In the Ladies' event, Edna Cox played well to beat Marjorie Vale, a promising 16 handicapper, who was perhaps a little overawed at meeting her doubles partner.

On Friday morning the managers had some problems since three players, Norman Cox, Geoff Roy and Guy Whillock all had 7 or more potential games remaining. In one of the first games of the day Roger Wheeler eased his difficulties by defeating Guy — this being his first loss, Singles or Doubles, of the week. Later in the day Dab Wheeler, the other co-manager, nearly created problems in the Ladies' event by beating Edna Cox who would then have had at least 3 games to play on Saturday and possibly more. Eventually though she lost narrowly — as any good manager would?

Saturday was Finals day and at last the sun shone — if only fitfully. Three of the finals provided an absorbing, and at times exciting, entertainment for the spectators. In the Doubles, the combination of the tactics of Tristram Owen and the all round play of his partner Tom Vale proved too strong for last years winners Bill Moore and Colin Chandler. In the play-off for the Peels Bowl, Gerard Healy for 3 and 4-back, finally managed to hit with his opponent Guy Whillock laid up for Rover and Peg and with his front ball pegged his opponent out. The resulting three-ball game began with Guy running Rover from 6 yards at an angle and although Gerard got to Peg and Peg, Guy hit the last shot from 20 yards to win the trophy. The final of the Big Handicap was equally dramatic. Dennis Moorcraft was for 2-back and Rover with Geoff Roy for 1 and 2 when Geoff hit in, went round and

after the single peel pegged his opponent out. Dennis then hit in and got as far as 4-back. Betting spectators now had the odds slightly in Geoff's favour and he confirmed their view by getting together a three-ball break and beginning to go round but unaccountably he stuck in a straight 2-back. Dennis hit, made the last two hoops and shortly afterwards claimed the cup. In both games the one ball player was the victor.

Looking back on the week it is too easy to think of the weather. Rather one should remember the friendly hospitality and the good company. And if the only triples in evidence were those consumed by the wet and weary players in the clubhouse bar, this did nothing to detract from the enjoyment had by all.

Tournament Results

Roehampton 29 May-5 June

Event 1: Hussars Cup. Open Singles

DRAW

First Round: G.W. Noble bt M.J. Stevens +16, P.L. Alvey bt P. Cordingley w/o.

Second Round: S.N. Mulliner bt B.G. Neal +25(TP), Noble bt J.D. Greenwood +3, E.W. Solomon bt Alvey +14, J. Rose bt R.D.C. Prichard +17.

Semi-final: Noble bt Mulliner +26(TP), Rose bt Solomon +5.

Final: Rose bt Noble +11.

PROCESS

First Round: R.D.C. Prichard bt S.N. Mulliner +3, J. Rose bt B.G. Neal +8.

Second Round: G.W. Noble bt Prichard +1, P.L. Alvey bt J.D. Greenwood +9, P. Cordingley bt Rose +17, E.W. Solomon bt M.J. Stevens +14.

Semi-final: Noble bt Alvey +24, Solomon bt Cordingley +25(TP).

Final: Noble bt Solomon +5(TP).

PLAY-OFF

Noble bt Rose +25(TP)

Event 2: Philpot Cup. Advanced 'B' Singles

DRAW

First Round: P.G. Gunn bt S.M. Godsie +12, A.J. Palmer bt Mrs. I.P.M. Macdonald +14.

Second Round: J.E. Guest bt Mrs. B. Mansfield +17, D. Goulding bt Gunn +23, Palmer bt Mrs. W. Browne +19, I.P.M. Macdonald bt P.W.P. Campion +2.

Semi-final: Goulding bt Guest +24, Palmer bt Macdonald +19.

Final: Palmer bt Goulding +12.

PROCESS

First Round: I.P.M. Macdonald bt J.E. Guest +10, P.W.P. Campion bt Mrs. B. Mansfield +10.

Second Round: Macdonald bt S.M. Godsie +10, D. Goulding bt A.J. Palmer +25, Campion bt Mrs. I.P.M. Macdonald +4, P.G. Gunn bt Mrs. W. Browne +18.

Semi-final: Goulding bt Macdonald +14, Gunn bt Campion +9.

Final: Goulding bt Gunn +19.

PLAY-OFF

Goulding bt Palmer +2.

Event 3: 'C' Swiss Handicap Singles (9 bisques and over)

DRAW

First Round: Mrs. S.S. Townsend (12) bt E.C. Matthews (11) +5(T).

Semi-final: Mrs. Townsend bt Miss J. Wraith (11) +6(OT), Mrs. S.N. Mulliner (14) bt Mrs. W. Jones (9) +11(T).

Final: Mrs. Townsend bt Mrs. Mulliner +7(T).

PROCESS

First Round: Mrs. W. Jones (9) bt Miss J. Wraith (11) +5.

Semi-final: Mrs. Jones bt E.C. Matthews (11) +19, Mrs. S.N. Mulliner (14) bt Mrs. S.S. Townsend (12) +10(T).

Final: Mrs. Jones bt Mrs. Mulliner +1(T).

PLAY-OFF

Mrs. Townsend bt Mrs. Jones +9(T).

Event 4: Handicap Singles 'X'

First Round: J.E. Guest (7) bt P. Cordingley (½) w/o, E.W. Solomon (—1½) bt Mrs. B. Mansfield (7) +10, G.W. Noble (0) bt P.G. Gunn (4) +15, M.J. Stevens (1) bt I.P.M. Macdonald (5) +6, J. Rose (0) bt J.D. Greenwood (2½) +26(TP), P.W.P. Campion (6) bt Miss J. Wraith (11) +10, D. Goulding (3) bt Mrs. W. Browne (7) +9.

Second Round: S.N. Mulliner (—2) bt E.C. Matthews (11) +18, Mrs. I.P.M. Macdonald (8) bt S.M. Godsie (5) +12, Guest bt Solomon +26, Stevens bt Noble, Rose bt Campion +8, Goulding bt P.L. Alvey (1½) +11, A.J. Palmer (6) bt Mrs. W. Jones (9), Mrs. S.N. Mulliner (14) bt R.D.C. Prichard (1½) +16.

Third Round: Mulliner bt Mrs. Macdonald +11, Stevens bt Guest +2, Goulding bt Rose +17, Mrs. Mulliner bt Palmer +9.

Semi-final: Stevens bt Mulliner +16, Mrs. Mulliner bt Goulding +26.

Final: Mrs. Mulliner bt Stevens +14.

Event 5: Handicap Doubles (Foursomes)

Semi-final: M.J. Stevens (1) & J.E. Guest (7) bt S.M. Godsie (5) & Mrs. W. Jones (9) +10, J.D. Greenwood (2½) & Mrs. J. Bonsor (7) bt Mr. & Mrs. S.S. Townsend +5.

Final: Stevens & West bt Greenwood & Bonsor +5.

Roehampton 21-22 August

Event 1: Knock-Out. Advanced, Open Singles

First Round: E.W. Solomon bt M. Ormerod +25(TP), T.J. Haste bt J.E. Guest +17, K.M.H. Aiton bt I.G. Vincent +23, M.J. Stevens bt Mrs. C. Knox +22, S.N. Mulliner bt D.L. Gunaskera +23(QP), P. Cordingley bt M. Avery +23, J. Rose bt J.R. Hilditch +16, A.J. Palmer bt J.D. Greenwood +2.

Second Round: Solomon bt Haste +16, +5, Aiton bt Stevens +19, +13, Cordingley bt Mulliner +17(TP), —17, +25, Rose bt Palmer +10, +18.

Semi-final: Solomon bt Aiton +14, +26(TP), Cordingley bt Rose +16, +22.

Final: Solomon bt Cordingley +26(TP), —17(TP), +23.

Event 2: Swiss

First Round: Guest bt Ormerod +10, Vincent bt Mrs. Knox +17, Avery bt Gunaskera +10, Hilditch bt Greenwood +21.

Second Round: Vincent bt Guest +12, Hilditch bt Avery +19, Stevens bt Haste +26(TP), Mulliner bt Palmer +11, Ormerod bt Mrs. Knox +18, Greenwood bt Gunaskera +18.

Third Round: Hilditch bt Vincent +4, Mulliner bt Stevens +26, Avery bt Guest +9, Haste bt Palmer +17, Ormerod bt Greenwood +16, Gunaskera bt Mrs. Knox +9.

Fourth Round: Hilditch bt Mulliner +10(STP), Rose bt Aiton +11(TP), Stevens bt Vincent +3(T), Haste bt Avery +17, Gunaskera bt Guest +18, Ormerod bt Palmer +25, Mrs. Knox bt Greenwood +14.

Fifth Round: Hilditch bt Rose +26(TP), Aiton bt Mulliner +10(TP), Stevens bt Haste +22(OP), Greenwood bt Guest +22(TP), Vincent bt Haste +16, Ormerod bt Gunaskera +2, Palmer bt Mrs. Knox +12.

Edinburgh Tournament 23-28 August

The premier Scottish Tournament might have been called the Tournament of the Managers or the Tournament of the Alastairs since the co-managers A.G.M. Hunter (7) and R. Williams (1½) played 13 and 11 games respectively in 3 events while A.H.M. Adam played 11 games in 2 events. Time limits were applied to all games. As in recent years there were more high handicap players than low handicap ones. From a total number of 31 entrants there were 6 with a low handicap at advanced play with a range of 1½-6½ and 6 at the level play event all at 7/8 and 11 for the high handicap event ranging from 11 to 16., 15 pairs for the doubles and 21 entrants for the big handicap. After a wet previous week — good for lawn rolling — the week's weather was generally good with heavy showers on two days. It was even occasionally warm enough for shorts to be tried by one hardy soul.

Event 1 produced a not unexpected result with Williams winning both draw and process, his nearest challengers on handicap being three 5's. The visitors from Poole, W. and Mrs. S. Scarr had a family tussle for runner up. (2 out of 11 games went to time).

Event 2 produced hard games with a draw and process winner Adam winning as many games in time — usually by the narrowest margins — as outright. In the draw final he came back from 3/3 to Hunter's penultimate and four back to win by 7. In the process final they met again with Adam making an early surge to get well ahead only to go off on a long take off which let Hunter get round, but fortunes were reversed later, when Hunter made the same mistake, when Adam had a simple rush to 3 back; afterwards he kept the innings thus winning both draw and process (5 out of 10 games went to time).

Event 3 was run as a swiss and produced relatively quick games with only 5 out of 15 games going to time. Two rapidly improving members of Edinburgh club C. Morrison (11) and A. Ramsay (10) contested the final which was won narrowly by Morrison. In the Y event F. Mann (12) was a worthy winner possessing as he does a very good hitting in eye and stroke.

In event 4 the handicap doubles the eventual winners Ramsay and G. Anderson (18) struggled all the way winning all their games on time, even in the final when they met the unluckiest player of the week Hunter, who had been in four semi-finals and a very off form Mrs. M. Lauder (5) who had 3 shots at hoop 1 in 2½ hours. When time was called Mrs. Lauder was in but needed an unlikely and unforthcoming all round break to keep the game alive.

In the big handicap the early surprise was Williams going out to Anderson (8) on time. In the second round Adam beat the holder P. Thompson in one of their two encounters plus one on time after surrendering an early commanding lead. Many had thought the lawns difficult by comparison with the Edinburgh number 1 lawn or their home lawns, since three were level but very bumpy while the other three possessed good turf but were on the brow of a hill. Until 3 p.m. on Thursday only Williams had managed an all round break. Adam on taking a bisque to start a break against Mrs. S. Scarr completed one to penultimate. Later he broke down on his back ball at 6 with Mrs. Scarr's ball for the same hoop. Mrs. Scarr had the Irish peel, Adam's ball, but kept the balls too close together and committed a foul hitting Adam's ball when attempting to run the hoop. In the semi-finals R. Hissett (9) easily overcame Scarr while Adam again overcame Hunter by one on time to enter his second final meeting Hissett contesting his only event and playing well. Adam moved into a lead which he never surrendered to win on time in an undistinguished final. In the Y event Williams best Mrs. Lauder in the final by the narrowest of margins while Morrison won the Z beating Mann in a close game by 7 (8 out of 20 games went to time).

At the prize giving a minute's silence was observed for Jack Tait, the Club President, who had died on the lawn in the course of his game on the Wednesday. A new trophy, the Lauder Bowl, for the player with the greatest number of games played without winning an event was presented to Hunter who had played 13 games winning 9 and being runner up in events 2 and 4.

Roehampton Autumn Tournament September 13th-18th

The Roehampton swimming-pool closed on 12th September, so the following week was the hottest in September in London this century, with temperatures up to the high eighties (centigrade, like the metric system, has no place on a croquet lawn). Most of each lawn was nostalgically fast, especially on the south boundaries where gravity also proved a problem. As only four lawns were available, compared with five or six in previous years, the manager, Robert Prichard, needed double-banking to average nearly six games per lawn per day. He was not particularly genial (self-criticism is allowed), objecting for example to the universality of half-hour tea-breaks and laxity in remembering times of starting games. With sunset at 7 p.m. (no 24-hour clock either) he was unable to stick completely to time-limits of 3½ hours for singles and 3¾ for doubles. By providing the thirty competitors with an average of 1½ games per day he aimed to provide as good value for money as a three day tournament of five three hour matches. However, by playing the maximum possible of fourteen singles games himself he did derive most benefit from the somewhat Darwinian nature of a knockout tournament.

Nigel Aspinall was not defending "his" Ranelagh Gold Cup, so there was no odds-on favourite. The backmarker, Robin Godby, wilted in the heat. From the middle of the Chairman's Salver the week before came Tim Haste, whose cautious accuracy brought him narrow victories in the Process and wider ones in the Draw until he was defeated by a final lift-shot in the latter and long breaks in the former. The other Eights Week player, Richard Hilditch, did not find the lawns slow enough and had a poor week, but fortunately he derives as much

pleasure from other people's games as his own. Those who watch enthusiastically contribute far more to the atmosphere (and smooth-running) of a tournament than those whose prime wish is to be miles away. His ex-Cambridge colleague Richard Bowen had to beat Robert Prichard twice on the final afternoon to win the Cup, after being almost twenty-sixed in his first game. He was helped in that game by the opponent's poor tactics (more self-criticism: I should have pegged my own ball out, leaving my other for rover), and in the next by two just-wobbled-through penultimates at the end of good breaks.

In Event 2 both halves were won by John Walters. He has a fluent style punctuated by inexplicable errors (often in hooping), after which he hangs his head in shame, and rightly so. His only narrow victory was against Simon Garrett, last year's winner. Both were shorn of half a bisque, taking them out of the class, maybe some consolation for Paul Macdonald, who lost the play-off for second place. Event 3 was won by its only man, Prof. Kenneth Campbell from Hunstanton, whose successes in the Y and the doubles kept him on court all week. His games were slowed down but enlivened by his fondness for peels, of which he achieved nine in one game. After a dispute in one of his doubles as to how many peels had been done, he proposed a special marker to keep track of them: a sure way of mystifying future archaeologists.

As often happens when there are no rapidly improving B's, the Handicap did *not* handicap the better players. In the last eight were two 4's, otherwise all were 2½ or below. Deducing that he might get better if his handicap came down, Robert Prichard therefore won the event, beating Tim Haste for the third time in the week in the final. In the Y, Ken Hope-Jones from Reigate spoilt his wish for *mare* bisques by reaching the final, but there he fell to the Professor (of English at Geneva University). The Z was notable for the week's only triple peel, by Miles Holford.

In contrast to the singles, only one of the "best" five pairs got through the first round of the doubles, and that by one on time. That also proved to be the winning margin for Richard Bowen and Hilary Watson-Walker in both semi-final and final, galling for the losers but in both cases it seemed to be the eventual winners who made more panicky errors as time drew to a close. The tournament itself drew to a close after a cloudless week on a sad note as we learned of the death of John Phillips.

Event 1: Ranelagh Gold Cup

DRAW

First Round: L.D. Adams bt R.A. Godby +5, J.R. Hilditch bt Mrs. H.B.H. Carlisle +10, R.D.C. Prichard bt S.S. Townsend +7.

Second Round: D.J.V. Hamilton Miller bt L. Wharrad +8, T.J. Haste bt Adams +12, Prichard bt Hilditch +13, M.A. Holford bt R.D. Bowen +26.

Semi-final: Haste bt Hamilton Miller +22, Prichard bt Holford +6.

Final: Prichard bt Haste +17.

PROCESS

First Round: R.D.C. Prichard bt L. Wharrad +16, T.J. Haste bt M.A. Holford +5, R.D. Bowen bt D.J.V. Hamilton Miller +10.

Second Round: Prichard bt R.A. Godby +16, Haste bt Mrs. H.B.H. Carlisle +5, Bowen bt J.R. Hilditch +14, S.S. Townsend bt L.D. Adams +19.

Semi-final: Prichard bt Haste +5, Bowen bt Townsend +8.

Final: Bowen bt Prichard +3.

PLAY-OFF

Bowen bt Prichard +7.

Event 2: Brooke Cup (4 bisques and over)

DRAW

First Round: S.J. Garrett bt R.A. Gosden +2, J.E. Guest bt Miss P. Shine +25, K. Hope-Jones bt Mrs. P. Macdonald +5, Mrs. B. Mansfield bt K.F.N. Townsend +7(T).

Second Round: I.P.M. Macdonald bt Mrs. B.V. Gosden +19, Garrett bt Guest +5, Hope-Jones bt Mrs. Mansfield +8, J.O. Walters bt Mrs. W.J. Browne +13.

Semi-final: Macdonald bt Garrett +7, Walters bt Hope-Jones +21.

Final: Walters bt Macdonald +18.

PLAY-OFF (for second place)

Garrett bt Macdonald +8.

PROCESS

First Round: I.P.M. Macdonald bt K.F.W. Townsend +23, S.J.

Garrett bt Mrs. W.J. Browne +11, Mrs. B. Mansfield bt Mrs. B.V. Gosden +1(T), J.O. Walters bt R.A. Gosden +14.

Second Round: Macdonald bt J.E. Guest +2, Garrett bt K. Hope-Jones +16, Mrs. B. Mansfield bt Miss P. Shine +2(T), Walters bt Mrs. P. Macdonald +10.

Semi-final: Garrett bt Macdonald +19, Walters bt Mrs. Mansfield +18.

Final: Walters bt Garrett +2.

Event 3: Thorpe Cup. Handicap Singles (9 bisques and over)

DRAW

First Round: Miss H. Watson-Walker (14) bt Mrs. L. Wharrad (9) +14, Mrs. K.F.W. Townsend (12) bt Mrs. S.S. Townsend (11) +16, Prof. K. Campbell (9) bt Mrs. P. Healy (8) +1(T).

Semi-final: Mrs. Townsend bt Miss Watson-Walker +13, Campbell bt Miss J. Wraith (11) +11.

Final: Campbell bt Mrs. Townsend +8(T).

PROCESS

First Round: Mrs. L. Wharrad (9) bt Prof. K. Campbell (9) +3(T), Miss J. Wraith (11) bt Mrs. S.S. Townsend (11) +3(T), Miss H. Watson-Walker (14) bt Mrs. P. Healy (8) +17.

Semi-final: Mrs. Wharrad bt Miss J. Wraith +12, Miss Watson-Walker bt Mrs. K.F.W. Townsend (12) +5.

Final: Miss Watson-Walker bt Mrs. Wharrad +1(T).

PLAY-OFF

Campbell bt Miss Watson-Walker +10.

Event 4: Trevelyan Cup. Handicap Singles

First Round: S.S. Townsend (1½) bt Prof. K. Campbell (9) +11, T.J. Haste (½) bt J.O. Walters (4) +7, I.P.M. Macdonald (4) bt Mrs. B. Mansfield (7) +8, Mrs. H.B.H. Carlisle (2) bt Miss J. Wraith (11) +4, R.D. Bowen (2) bt Mrs. B.V. Gosden (7½) +25, D.J.V. Hamilton-Miller (1) bt J.E. Guest (4½) +2, Miss H. Watson-Walker (14) bt Mrs. P. Macdonald (6½) +7(T), R.A. Godby (0) bt Mrs. K.F. Townsend (12) +12, R.D.C. Prichard (1½) bt Mrs. L. Wharrad (9) +14, Miss P. Shine (7) bt K.F. Townsend (10) +8, S.J. Garrett (4) bt Mrs. S.S. Townsend (11) +23, L.D. Adams (1) bt K. Hope-Jones (5) w/o, M.A. Holford (2½) bt Mrs. P. Healy (8) +8, R.A. Gosden (6) bt Mrs. W.J. Browne (7) +19.

Second Round: Haste bt Townsend +22, Macdonald bt Mrs. Carlisle +25, L. Wharrad (2½) bt J.R. Hilditch (½) +5, Bowen bt Hamilton Miller +5, Godby bt Miss Watson-Walker +10, Prichard bt Miss Shine +7, Garrett bt Adams +10, Holford bt Gosden +2.

Third Round: Haste bt Macdonald +12, Wharrad bt Bowen +4, Prichard bt Godby +7, Garrett bt Holford +9.

Semi-final: Haste bt Wharrad +8, Prichard bt Garrett +14.

Final: Prichard bt Haste +9.

Event 5Y: Handicap Singles

Semi-final: Prof. K. Campbell (9) bt J.E. Guest (4½) +1(T), K. Hope-Jones bt K.F.W. Townsend (10) +10.

Final: Campbell bt Hope-Jones +10.

Event 6: Creyke Cups. Handicap Doubles (3rd hoop start)

Semi-final: D.J.V. Hamilton Miller & Mrs. K.F. Townsend (13) bt Mr. & Mrs. L. Wharrad (11½) +16, R.D. Bowen & Miss H. Watson-Walker (14) bt J.R. Hilditch & Prof. K. Campbell (9½) +1(T).

Final: Bowen & Miss Watson-Walker bt Hamilton Miller & Mrs. Townsend +1(T).

Cheltenham 8-10 October

Mixed Blocks — Handicap Play (42 entries)

BLOCK A: P. Smith (2½) 5 wins +76, R. Burnell (11) 5 wins +60, A.F. Sutcliffe (4) 3 wins —5, Lady Bazley (4) 3 wins —25, J. Haigh (½) 2 wins —39, G. Henshaw (3) 2 wins —40, Mrs. A. Warren (8) 1 win —21.

BLOCK B: W.J. Sturdy (4) 6 wins +74, F.H. Newman (3) 4 wins +43, Mrs. M.T. Paddon (11) 3 wins +8, Mrs. E. Wiseman (13) +7, R.M. Hobbs (1) 3 wins —13, Dr. M. Murray (—2) 2 wins —37, B.C. Sanford (4½) 0 wins —61.

BLOCK C: D.J. Croker (—½) 5 wins +73, Mrs. M. Langley (12) 5 wins +61, A.J. Bucknell (7) 5 wins +37, G.W. Sisum (3) 3 wins —16, D.H. Moorcraft (1) 2 wins —64, Mrs. G. Harris (11) 1 win —33, F.J. Exell (7) 0 wins —59.

BLOCK D: Dr. D. Cairns (4) 5 wins +40, J. Rose (—½) 5 wins +36, C. Duckworth (4) 4 wins +13, R.E. Adlard (2) 4 wins +10, W.R. Bawden (7) 2 wins —19, Mrs. D.H. Moorcraft (12) 1 win —28, Mrs. A.J. Bucknell (10) 0 wins —52.

BLOCK E: E.J. Davis (2½) 5 wins +52, A. Warren (9) 4 wins +18, G.E.P. Jackson (0) 4 wins +16, G/Capt. R. Ryan (12) 2 wins —2, S.D. Garrett (3½) 2 wins —19, Mrs. K. Yeoman (4) 2 wins —27, Mrs. E.H. Newman (4½) 2 wins —28.

BLOCK F: M.T. Paddon (4) 6 wins +78, Mrs. D.J. Croker (7) 3 wins +24, A. Blenkin (10) 3 wins +4, D. Gaunt (4½) 3 wins +3, Dr. B.G. Weitz (½) 3 wins —17, J. McLaren (3) 2 wins —40, Miss J. Wraith (11) 1 win —30.

SECRETARY'S NOTES

HANDICAP ALTERATIONS

When submitting recommendations for handicap alterations will Handicappers and Club Handicap Committees PLEASE use an official Handicap Listing Form (supplies of which are available on request from the C.A. Secretary). Names should be in alphabetical order and full initials etc. as in the current Directory should be used to avoid any ambiguity.

Handicap alterations of non-Associates are only required following their participation in a Calendar tournament.

APPS & STEEL BOWLS

The Handicap Co-ordination Committee would welcome, through the C.A. Secretary, recommendations from Clubs for consideration for these awards for 1982. These are for the most improved male and female Associate of the year. Only improvement made since the person became an Associate will be considered. Recommendations should be accompanied with full details of achievements during the season in Club events as well as official tournaments.

SUBSCRIPTIONS 1983

As notified on an insert with Gazette No. 167 the subscription rates for 1983, due on 1st January, are as follows:

Standard rate	£10.00 (from £7.00)
Reduced rate (Golf Croquet & non-Tournament)	£5.00 (from £3.50)
Junior rate (under 21 on 31/12/1982)	£5.00 (no change)
Overseas rate (excluding Eire)	£5.00 (no change)

Bankers Order forms were also enclosed. It is hoped that as many Associates as possible will pay by this method. Standard and Reduced rate Associates already paying by Bankers Order are reminded that they should fill in a new form and hand it to their bank with instructions to cancel any previous Order.

DIRECTORY

It is intended to issue a new edition of the C.A. Directory early in 1983. Copies will be sent to all Registered Clubs and copies will be available for purchase by individuals.

Any amendments or additions for this new edition should be sent to the C.A. Secretary before Christmas.

NEW INTER-CLUB COMPETITION

A new inter-club competition, to be known as The Mary Rose Trophy, is being instituted for 1983. It will be run on the lines of the Inter-Club Championship with scratch (0) as the lower handicap limit with no other handicap restrictions. Associates may play in this competition as well as in the Inter-Club and Longman Cup. Full conditions appear in the 1983 Fixture Book.

CLOSING DATES

Club Secretaries are reminded that the closing date for the Inter-Club Championship, The Mary Rose Trophy and the Longman Cup close on 23rd February. Entries for the Inter-Counties Championship close on the same date.

CLUB REGISTRATION FEE 1983

The Club Registration Fee for 1983 will be 20p per croquet member as of 1st January 1983 (excluding country members) with a minimum of £5.00. Fees are due on 1st January.

DEATHS

R.O. Calder
J.G.C. Phillips
Mrs. S.S. Townsend

RESIGNATIONS

D.L. Angus
S.G. Jones
Miss L.H. Smith
Mrs. E.M. Speer
Miss W.K. Allardyce } from 31/12/82
H.A. Green }

NEW REGISTERED CLUB

DUBLIN Trinity College, College Green, Dublin 2, Irish
UNIVERSITY Republic. Secretary: P. Brown, 2 Kerrymount Green,
Cornelscourt, County Dublin.

CHANGES IN THE CLUBS

BOWDON F.I. Maughan is the CROQUET Secretary (Mrs. W.E.
Black is the General Club Secretary).
ELLESMERE New Croquet Secretary: Miss W.(P.) Hague, Brookside,
Brereton Drive, Worsley, Manchester, M28 4GW.

NEW HANDICAPPER

M.T. Paddon

C.A. SILVER MEDALISTS

M. Avery)
C.J. Irwin) — Northern Championships, August
P.J. Death)

TEST TOUR FUND

FOURTH List of individual donations received up to 10th November:
P.L. Alvey, Professor K. Campbell, Mr. & Mrs. D.J. Croker, C.G.
Hopewell, Dr. J.A. McMordie, Dr. M. Murray and Townsend Croquet
Limited.

Sums raised by Clubs which includes sale of draw tickets, proceeds of
functions and donations made individually by club members:

Aldermaston.....	£25.00	Ipswich.....	£76.25
All England.....	100.00	Jealotts Hill.....	5.75
Bath.....	94.73	Kent & Sussex.....	150.00
Bentley.....	15.00	Lewes.....	10.00
Bowdon.....	129.00	Maidenhead.....	21.00
Bristol.....	229.98	Nailsea.....	10.30
Budleigh Salterton.....	164.00	Norwich.....	18.50
Cambridge University.....	28.80	Nottingham.....	206.10
Carrickmines.....	49.61	Oxford University.....	10.00
Cassiobury.....	26.25	Parkstone.....	100.50
Cheltenham.....	526.75	Parsons Green.....	10.00
Chester.....	9.50	Phyllis Court.....	142.75
Coal Research (Chelt.).....	12.00	Reckitt.....	35.50
Colchester.....	207.90	Reigate Priory.....	110.25
Colworth.....	16.50	Roehampton.....	590.85
Compton.....	144.60	Ryde.....	27.00
East Riding.....	67.50	Scottish C.A.....	41.00
Edgbaston.....	53.25	Sidmouth.....	31.25
Ellesmere.....	95.00	Southport & Birkdale.....	28.25
Harrow Oak.....	119.00	Southwick.....	199.00
Harwell.....	35.75	Stourbridge.....	58.90
Hove Lawns.....	18.00	Woking.....	180.25
Hunstanton.....	127.50	Wolverhampton.....	65.50
Hurlingham.....	1,125.00	Wrest Park.....	46.50
Ingatestone.....	26.75		

HANDICAP ALTERATIONS**Veterans (Compton): 21-26 June**

Cdr. G. Borrett	from 2½	to 2
F.J. Exell	7½	7
H.C. Green	½	1
Lt.Col. A.W.D. Nicholls	4	5

Edgbaston W/E: 23-25 July

Mrs. A. Collin	9	6
A.G. Gordon	6½	6
A.E.R. Watkins	8	7½

Carrickmines (Club): August

P. Brown	12
M. McWeeney	3½
Mrs. M. McWeeney	13

Edinburgh: 23-28 August

A.H.M. Adam	7	6
A.G.M. Hunter	7	6½

Edgbaston (All England Area Final): 4 September

B.J. Storey	10	8
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Roehampton: 13-18 August

Dr. R.B. Bowen	2	1½
Prof. K. Campbell	9	7½
S.J. Garrett	4	3½
R.D.C. Prichard	1½	1
Mrs. K.F.H. Townsend	12	12 (D10)
J.O. Walters	4	3½
Miss H. Watson-Walker	14	12 (D10)

Budleigh Salterton W/E: 16-19 September

S.F. Blackler	8	7
P. Danks	11	10
D.L. Gaunt	4½	4
Dr. P.D.B. West	3½	3

Wrest Park W/E: 17-19 September

J. Coutts	2½	2
H.C. Green	1	1½
G. Roy	2½	2
P. Stoker	3½	4
J. Wolfe	6	5

Ryde W/E: 17-19 September

T.I. Card	5½	4½
Mrs. D. Erith	15	14 Non-Associate
P. Gunn	4	3½
C.S. Harmon	6	4
M.G. Tompkinson	1½	2½
J.H. Bowman	1½	3½ (to be confirmed)

Cheltenham: 22-26 September

P.M. Johnson	½	0
J.W. King	13	12 (D10)
Mrs. L.V. Latham	15 (D13)	13 (D11)

Southwick (Peel Memorials): 20-25 August

Dr. C.H. Chandler	6	5
Mrs. N.W.T. Cox	4½	3½
N.W.T. Cox	4	3
Mrs. P.A. Dwerryhouse	7	6½
G.P.N. Healy	1½	1
G.C. Roy	2	1 (not approved)
Mrs. R.E. Tucker	5½	6½
Major T. Vale	6	5½
Mrs. T. Vale	16 (D14)	13 (D12)
G.D.H. Whillock	6	3½ (confirm'd as 4½)

Sidmouth (Club): 28 September

F.T. Moores	8	7½
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Roehampton (All England Handicap Final): 2-3 October

A. Palmer	3	2
D. Arnot	12	11 (non-Associate)

Handicap Co-ordination Committee: 3 October

M. Tapp	0	½ (not approved)
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Woking (Club): 5 October

W.B. Denison	2½	2
I.C. McDiarmid	9	8
Mrs. I.D. McDiarmid	10 (D8)	9 (D8)
A.J. Mrozonski	7	6

Colchester (Club): 2 October

R.S. Alford	3½	4
G.S. Digby	3	4
Mrs. J. Hethrington	8	7½
E.A. Locke	5	6
D. Purdon	7	6½
C.L. Sheen	5	4

Aldermaston (Club): October

Dr. G.D. Coley	6½	6
N.A. Maclean	6½	5½

Parsons Green (Club): October

Mrs. J. Healy	8	7
Miss S. McCord	11 (D10)	11 (D9)
Miss J. Macleod	9	7
Mrs. L.A. Showan	6½	7

Cheltenham W/E: 8-10 October

E.J. Davis	2½	2
C. Duckworth	4	3½
Mrs. M. Langley	12 (D10)	10 (D8)
M.T. Paddon	4	3½
Mrs. M.T. Paddon	11 (D9)	10 (D8)
P.L. Smith	2½	2

Ingatestone (Club): October

J.R. Douglas	10	9
J.S. Rhodes	10	9

New Associates

P. Coopman	14
Mrs. P. Coopman	16 (D14)
P. Emery	7
M. French	13
Miss M. Hardman	14 (D12)
R.S. Jenkins	16 (D14)
E. Lloyd-Jones	16 (D14)
J.W. King	16 (D14)
F.H. Northcote	9
R.W. Ransom	16 (D14)
B.J. Storey	8
J. Wurmlli	3½

Ellesmere (Club): 13 October

Mrs. J. Walker	15	13
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Compton (Club): October

Lt.Col. D.F.T. Brown	5½	5
Miss B.E. Dennant	8	6½
Miss D.V. Harding	16	14
D.A. Harris	2	1½

Budleigh Salterton (Club): October

Mrs. S.F. Blacker	10	9
Mrs. S.S. Cruden	7½	8
Mrs. M.J. Goode	7	8
M.M. Hawthorn	10	11
G.H. Mapstone	8	9
Dr. C.W. Marshall	9	10
Mrs. C.W. Marshall	9	10
Mrs. E. Pursey	7½	8
Mrs. R.S. Stevens	7	8
P.A. Tunmer	7	7½
Mrs. P.A. Tunmer	6	7
D.C. Wallace	4½	4

Southwick (Club): 19 October

Mrs. E.H.P. Mallinson	6½	5½
Miss K. Pitt	16 (D14)	15 (D14)
Mrs. M. Rankin	11	13
Mrs. E.G. Ross	12 (D10)	10

Parkstone (Club): 20 October

R.F. Bailley	4½	4
A/Cdr. J.E. Gresswell	3	4

Reigate Priory (Club): 23 October

A. Grant	9	7
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Stourbridge (Club): 26 October

T.C. Young		7½
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New Associates

R.E. Burnell	8
H.J. Crozier	12
Mrs. H.J. Crozier	16 (D14)
D. Laney	10
Dr. R.W. McNabb	3
Mrs. M.S. Piper	16 (D14)
A.P.J. Station	12
Mrs. A.P.J. Station	10

Edgbaston (Club): November

R.A. Welch	6½	6
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NEW ASSOCIATES

(All Standard rate unless otherwise indicated)

ADLARD, R.E., Buttermere, Winchcombe, Glos. Tel: (0242) 602213	
BAILLEY, R.F., 8 Clarendon Road, Broadstone, Dorset, BH18 9HX. Tel: (0202) 693902	
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BRADY, Mrs. M.A., Flat 14, Highview Court, Silverdale Road, Eastbourne, Sussex, BN20 7AQ. Tel: (0323) 640393	
BROAD-THOMAS, W.C., 28 The Rolle, Budleigh Salterton, Devon, EX9 6PH. Tel: (039 54) 5448	
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COOPMAN, Mrs. P., same address	
CROZIER, H.J., The Welkin, 4 Westfield Close, Budleigh Salterton, Devon, EX9 6ST. Tel: (039 54) 5713	
CROZIER, Mrs. H.J., same address	
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HILLER, Dr. E.J., 1 Potomac Mews, Clumber Road West, The Park, Nottingham. Tel: (0602) 47168	
HORTON, C.F., 14 Conway Road, Maidstone, Kent, ME16 0HD. Tel: (0622) 53695	
HUNTER, A.G.M., 3 Peel Terrace, Edinburgh, EH9 2AY. Tel: (031 667) 3941	
HUTCHINSON, J., 47 Merrow Woods, Guildford, Surrey, GU12 2LQ	
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IRWIN, Mrs. C.J., 61 South Grove, Sale, Cheshire, M33 3AR. Tel: (061 973) 5124	

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 KNIGHT, J.J., Little Thorpa, Blanford Road, Reigate, Surrey, RH2 7DP. Tel: Reigate (74) 44806. (STD outside London: (073 72)
 KNIGHT, Mrs. L.S., 31 Linkwood, Compton Place Road, Eastbourne, Sussex, BN21 1EE. Tel: (0323) 36476
 KNOX, Mrs. C.A., Late Vintage, Rust en Vrede Avenue, Constantia, Cape Town, 7800, South Africa
 LANEY, D., Orchard Dene, Lymington, Exmouth, Devon, EX8 5HL. Tel: (039 52) 5491
 LENOX-SMITH, A.J., 40 Limscott House, Bruce Road, London, E3. Tel: (01 981) 6346
 LLOYD-JONES, E., 5 Playfair Mansions, Queens Club Gardens, West Kensington, London, W14. Tel: (01 385) 0586
 MACDONALD, J.M., 4 Wells House Drive, Leeds, 8
 MACLEOD, Miss Jan, 21 Howmic Court, Arlington Road, Twickenham, Middlesex
 MCNABB, Dr. R.W., 43 Devereux Drive, Watford, Herts., WD1 3DD. Tel: (0923) 26791
 MAPLETOFT, Mrs. E.A., 30 Meadway Court, Kingston Lane, Southwick, Sussex
 MARTIN, R.R., University Hall, Birchwood Road, Penylan, Cardiff
 MATTHEWS, E.C., 94 Balmoral Drive, Hayes, Middlesex. Tel: (01 573) 7247
 MOORES, F.T., Flat 2, Sunnyview, East Street, Sidmouth, Devon
 MORESHEAD, R.M., Pightle House, Henley Road, Marlow, Bucks. Tel: (062 84) 2768
 NORTHCOTE, F.H., MBE, TD, Millbrook, Hillwood Close, Hutton Mount, Brentwood, Essex, CM13 2PE. Tel: (0277) 212864
 PIPER, Mrs. M.S., 9 The Paddocks, Ingatestone, Essex, CM4 0BQ. Tel: (027 75) 3369
 PURDON, David, 53 Malting Green Road, Layer de la Haye, Colchester, Essex, CO2 0JJ. Tel: (0206) 34603
 RANKIN, Miss Sally, 7 Elrington Road, Hove, Sussex, BN3 6LG. Tel: (0273) 502573
 RANSOM, R.W., 36 Old Sneed Avenue, Stoke Bishop, Bristol, Avon, BS9 1SE. Tel: (0272) 682255. Work: (0272) 290566
 SALMON, E.J.A., 34 Saffrons Court, Compton Place Road, Eastbourne, Sussex, BN21 1DZ
 SHAW, D.W., 9 Collingwood Court, Belmont Road, Ramsgate, Kent, CT11 7QQ. Tel: Thanet (0483) 51789
 SHAW, Mrs. H.W., same address
 SIMPSON, R.A., Wayside, 9 Kings Road, Pownall Park, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5PZ. Tel: (099 64) 528727 (rejoined)
 SMITH, Mrs. A.L., 114 Downside, Shoreham, Sussex
 SMITH, P.L., 12 St. Stephens Road, Cheltenham, Glos., GL51 5AA
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Testing for Wires Balls

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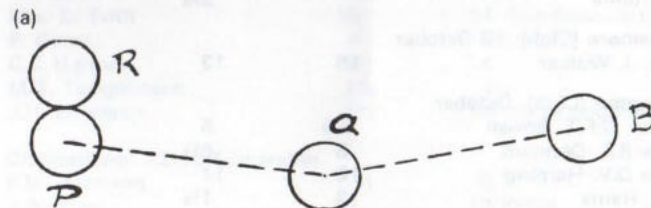
My attention has been drawn to the mis-use of the tests for wired balls when using testing balls. In the next issue, the matter of wired balls will be discussed in detail, but in the meantime the following diagrams are reprinted for the benefit of all players — J.M. Corry (N.Z. Referee).

DIAGRAMS:

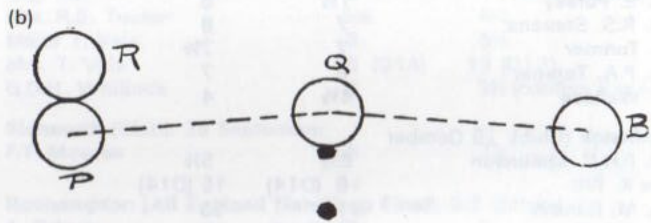
In all of them the circles represent balls, the black dots represent hoop-uprights.

Series 1. Wiring — The two ball test

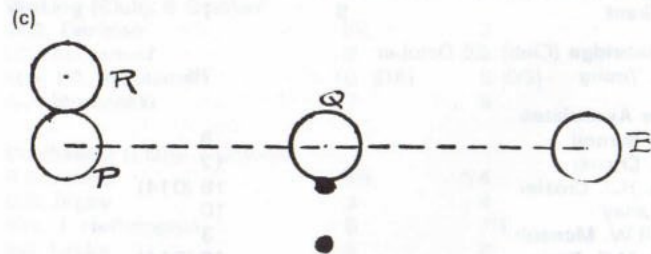
The question to be decided is whether the striker's ball B has an open shot at the ball R.



Two testing balls, Q and P, are placed as shown in the diagrams. Q in contact with the hoop upright and P in contact with R. It will be seen that the line joining the centres of B, Q and P bends towards the hoop. R is therefore, open to B.



The testing balls, Q and P, are placed as in diagram (a). Q in contact with the hoop upright and P in contact with R. In this case R is wired from B because line joining the centres of B, Q and P bends away from the hoop.



The testing balls, Q and P are placed as in diagrams (a) and (b). Q in contact with the hoop-upright and P in contact with R. In this case R is wired from B because the line joining the centres of B, Q and P is a straight line.

Series 2. Wiring — The one ball test

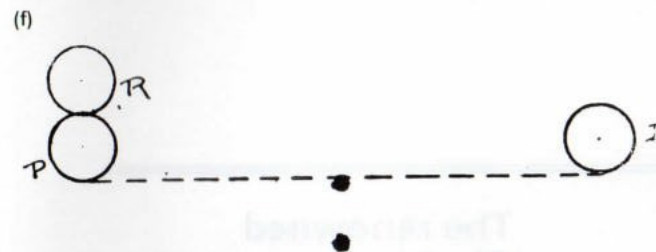
Again, the question to be decided is whether the striker's ball B has an open shot at the ball R.



One testing ball P is placed as in the diagram, in contact with R. R is open to B because the line joining the near side of B to the hoop-upright, to the near side of P, bends towards the hoop.

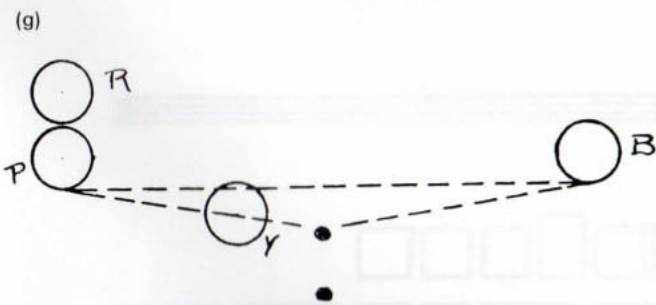


The testing ball P is placed as in diagram (d), in contact with R. R is wired from B because the line joining the near side of B to the hoop-upright, to the near side of P bends **away** from the hoop.



The testing ball P is placed as in diagrams (d) and (e), in contact with R. R is wired from B because the line joining the near side B to the hoop-upright, to the near side of P is a **straight line**.

Series 3. A ball, wired itself, obstructs the line of aim



B is the striker's ball and R the ball that may, or may not, be open to B. Y is a ball, wired from B, which obstructs the free passage of B towards any part of R.

P is a testing ball placed in contact with R.

R is open to B because the line joining the near side of B to the hoop-upright, to the near side of P bends **towards** the hoop.

REFEREES' CORNER

ETIQUETTE AND COURTESY

I am very concerned at the number of queries I am receiving on how to cope with rudeness to Referees and to Managers, and even sometimes to opponents. Unfortunately some players do not seem to appreciate the importance of etiquette and courtesy. I appeal to players to treat others as they would like to be treated themselves. Be considerate to the opponent and remember not to interrupt play except to forestall when you have to. If you cannot agree on a point call a Referee. Assist the Referee by each in turn explaining your problem, and then allow the Referee to decide.

If you should be unhappy with the decision you may if it is a matter of law appeal to the Referee of the Tournament. But please remember that nothing is gained by heated argument and endeavour to deal with any problem quietly and courteously.

Referees and Managers give their time voluntarily and willingly and without them players would not have the enjoyment of tournaments. I draw the attention of all players to Regulations 12 and 14 and suggest they be carefully read.

Finally I appeal to all players to remember that croquet is a sport and ask that they behave in a sportsman like manner. Fortunately for the sport the great majority of players are courteous and considerate, but sadly the minority can often spoil things for others.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

- Q.1. In a section play event it was advertised that if there was a tie on wins the winner would be found on points. What is the correct way to do this.
- A.1. If two or more tie on wins then add the points made by each; this means all points, counting wins as 26 points. The player with the most points is winner. If however there is still a tie then count the points made against each player. The player with the least points made against him will be the winner. Sometimes it is a Time Limit event and wins may be less than 26 points, therefore it is important to count all points including 26 points for each completed game.
- Q.2. Red roqueted Blue into hoop 2 and took croquet to run the hoop. However Red committed a fault and the turn ended. As Blue was in the jaws of the hoop, and put there by Red, Blue now claimed a wired ball. Was this correct?
- A.2. No. Law 13 (b) As Blue was in contact with Red it was not a wired ball.
- Q.3. Blue and Black are both Rovers and are in contact. Red, also a Rover, roquets the two simultaneously Black going onto the peg and being pegged out. Red went to take croquet from Blue but the opponent objected, saying the turn had ended. Was this correct?
- A.3. No. Law 16 (b) (i). The striker had the right to nominate which was the roqueted ball, and was entitled to nominate Blue and take croquet from Blue.
- Q.4. Striker of Yellow roqueted Red with Yellow, then took croquet with Red from Yellow and left a dead ball. Red, before going boundary, hit Blue through its hoop in order, but it was not a roquet on Blue as Red had already had Blue. Does the Adversary have the option of waiving the fault?
- A.4. The first error was playing the wrong ball; Red instead of Yellow. Therefore everything subsequent to that is null and void. All balls must be replaced, and the point for Blue does not count. Blue will be replaced where it was when hit by Red. Red will be replaced where it came to rest, or if necessary is lined, after being roqueted by Yellow. Yellow, being the ball in hand will then be placed in any lawful position in contact with Red. It must not be left in the yard-line area. Law 30 (b).