

Answer: (b). So you thought we didn't know, Terry!

CROQUET MALLETS

PERMALI HEADS

★ ★ ★ ★

ALUMINIUM ALLOY SHAFTS
Standard specification

RUBBER GRIPS

Weight 3lb.

36 inch shaft

15 inch grip diameter 1 1/4 inches

Other shaft and grip lengths and 1 1/8 inch grip to order

£25 to Associates and Registered Clubs

£33 to Non-Associates

★ ★ ★ ★

B. G. NEAL

Moat Cottage, Kidnappers Lane, Cheltenham, Glos. GL53 0NR

0242-510624 or 01-731-6188

British and best
Jaques
Equipment

The renowned
Eclipse
Championship Ball

Known and used all over the world

Mallets

made to your own
specification
by Jaques craftsmen



Jaques
& Son Ltd.,

Complete sets or single items,
accessories, from all good sports
shops and stores.

361 Whitehorse Road,
Thornton Heath, Surrey, CR4 8XP. Tel: 01-684 4242

Printed by Stoa & Bishop (Printers) Ltd., Cheltenham & Gloucester

THE CROQUET GAZETTE

SPRING 1983

ISSUE No. 169



Mrs Pat Hague, winner of the Ladies' Second Event at her first appearance in 1982

(Photograph courtesy of Peter Alvey)

The Secretary, the Editor & Assistant Editor

The Administration Secretary of the Croquet Association is Mr. B. Macmillan, The Hurlingham Club, London SW6 3PR. Tel: 01-736-3148.

The Editor of the Croquet Gazette is Mr. D.R. Foulser, "Riverhead", 5 All Saints Villas Road, Cheltenham, Glos. GL52 2HB. Tel: Cheltenham (0242) 580295 (Home).

The Assistant Editor is Mr. P.M. Johnson, 21 Selkirk Street, Cheltenham, Glos. GL52 2HJ. Tel: Cheltenham (0242) 518035.

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 and 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.

Editor's Notes

On behalf of the Officers of the CA I should like to express grateful appreciation to Nancy Skempton for her generosity in continually producing beautifully bound volumes of the Croquet Gazette for the CA archives.

Croquet Handyman

The Editor would particularly like some contribution, to be published under this heading, dealing with the repair and maintenance of all croquet equipment. For instance, has anyone any ideas on how hoops and pegs should be painted so as to make the colouring last longer?

South African National Championships

Tom Barlow won the Open Singles for the tenth successive year to complete a splendid personal triumph. Neither he or the runner-up, David Cunningham, dropped a game before the final. In the best of three final Cunningham went ahead early in the first game and seemed set to win when Barlow made a great recovery to win +2. In the second Cunningham gave Barlow little chance winning +15 but in the decider both players showed signs of tension but when in sight of victory Cunningham just failed to get through 4-back giving his opponent the chance to win +11 which he did confidently. Tom Barlow also won the Open Doubles with his fellow Somerset West player Dick Le Maitre defeating Cunningham and George Jackson of Rondebosch +12.

A new generation of croquet players, perhaps?

There is an air of expectancy in certain parts of the croquet world with the imminent additions to the following: Dave & Sally Foulser at the end of April, twins to Steve & Sarah Mulliner in mid-summer, Steve & Marion Hemsted for the third time and Paul & Penny Hands in November.

STOP PRESS — the Editor's wife gave birth to a little girl, Katie, on 24th April.

C.A. Secretary

As from 1st May 1983 Brian Macmillan is appointed the Administration Secretary of the Croquet Association and his hours in the C.A. office at the Hurlingham Club will be 9.30 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. Monday to Friday. Richard Rothwell, the former C.A. Secretary has been appointed a Consultant to the C.A. as from 1st May for one year, a capacity in which, no doubt, his experience and knowledge of the game and its players will prove invaluable. On behalf of all Associates may the Editors wish Brian all success in his new position and to thank Richard for all his efforts over the years for the C.A. and to wish him happiness in his retirement and his appointment as a Consultant.

Southwick Open Weekend

At the time of going to print there were still 3 vacancies for this four round best of three Swiss advanced play tournament. This means that over the three days competitors are assured of a minimum of 8 and a maximum of 12 games which is exceptional. Anyone interested in filling those spare places should telephone Steve Mulliner at home on 01-540 8805.

Test Tour Dinner

A Dinner was held at The Hurlingham Club on Saturday 9th April to honour the victorious Test Tour team. Five of the six players with their ladies attended.

The President John Solomon congratulated them on their success and said it was good to see the MacRobertson Shield back in Britain. The captain David Openshaw thanked everybody on behalf of the team for their support and said how much they had enjoyed not only playing, but also the social activity.

Before the dinner Martin Murray showed slides that he had taken on the tour, these were enjoyed by all those present.

Compton Croquet Club

Last year DENNO HARRIS gave up the Secretaryship of the Compton Croquet Club after 14 years in the post. During that time he has cheerfully carried out the paperwork of running the club as well as applying his talents as a carpenter and handyman to repairing mallets, painting everything from hoops to clubhouse, building shelters and seats and being generally indispensable. For me, taking over as Secretary, it has been a hard act to follow! But I'm pleased to say that we haven't let him off entirely because he still sits on our club committee as Chairman and continues to be a tower of strength in all aspects of the life of the Club. In recognition of his long and devoted service Compton members subscribed to a farewell present for him which was presented at our prize-giving meeting in September. Denno's genuine surprise and delight at the gift of more than £100 was one of the few occasions on which his colleagues have seen him at a loss for words. In keeping with his disposition, he used the gift to buy a sunshine roof for his car!

The enclosed photograph (courtesy of the Eastbourne Herald) shows a view of Denno familiar to all who have seen him in action on the courts.

This letter and photograph are published as a fitting tribute to one of croquet's tireless workers and to express the appreciation and affection of all his friends at Compton.

R. Wood
Hon. Sec. Compton Croquet Club



Chairman's Report 1980/81

1982 was another year of steady progress in all fields. The number of players in the registered clubs continued its upward trend, and for the second year there was a very significant increase in the number of Associates—nearly an 8% rise. Seven new clubs were registered — at Dublin University, Farlingale High School (Ipswich), Havering (Rainham, Essex), High Wycombe, Jersey (St Mary), Nottingham University, and Stowe School offset against the closure of Maidenhead. There are hopeful possibilities of several more starting up in 1983 in local authority parks.

Increased publicity was obtained in national local press and on television, in particular for the Home Internationals (sponsored by Pimm's), the Inter County Championships (sponsored by Mateus Wines), the Open Championships, the President's Cup and the International contest for the MacRobertson Shield recently in Australia.

Largely through the activities of the Publicity and Development Committee under the inspired leadership and enthusiasm of its chairman, Lionel Wharrad, the deeply engrained popular image of the game as a light-hearted if vicious pastime played by Victorian ladies in crinolines on vicarage lawns is being steadily dispelled. The public at large is at last getting the message that croquet is a serious and skilled outdoor sport suitable for men and women, young and old alike.

The Association is co-operating fully with The Sports Council in its '50+ and all to play for' campaign into which category croquet fits admirably. Retired people and those currently with more leisure at hand than they would wish could find in croquet a fascinating and absorbing and healthy recreation. With the increased interest in the game clubs should welcome and encourage everyone who shows interest. Most clubs have existing lawn capacity to absorb many more members to their financial advantage, some up to 50%. Another possible way in which clubs could absorb more members is being actively considered. A committee has been formed to try and evolve a game acceptable to low and high bisquers alike played on a smaller lawn: on half a present full sized lawn, the size of a lawn tennis court. If this can be done not only would it make available many more lawns but it would reduce the time taken to play a game (one of its present disadvantages), and televising the games would be more practical, an essential factor if sponsorship is to be attracted. Some diehards are strongly opposed to sponsorship in croquet, but as with most other minor sports the Council has come round to the fact that one of the potential sources of income is through sponsorship. One that we must tap to cope with current and future financial problems. Another is that despite the Sports Council grant we are getting our Croquet too cheaply, as our necessarily increased C.A. Office expenditure is about to exceed our income.

In congratulating our Test team on their recent success in Australia in regaining the MacRobertson Shield sincere thanks are due to Clubs and Associates who responded so magnificently to our new President's appeal for funds and to the Sports Council for its generous grant, over and above our annual administrative grant, which together made it financially possible for us to send our strongest possible available team to the other side of the world. At least we will be spared that expense for the next contest. We look forward to the visit of the Australian and New Zealand teams, who will be coming to England in the summer of 1986 in an effort to wrest the trophy from us.

Lastly I will refer to recent changes in the C.A. office. The Council was sorry to hear that Richard Rothwell felt it necessary to ask for the termination of his employment agreement due to his deteriorating health since he developed diabetes. The work in the office has increased during the six years since he was appointed and he felt unable to carry on single handed. Brian Macmillan has now taken over the office administration and it is hoped that Richard will continue for a while, probably as a Consultant, whilst we attempt to find the funds and a successor as Secretary and Development Officer. Brian is welcomed and Richard thanked for his past dedicated services to the Association in his semi retirement.

For Sale

1 Boxed croquet set (without mallets but with Association hoops). Two mallets could be included, if desired. Offers Please, to Miss Susan Hay — 0753 884850.

"ALICE IN HURLINGHAM — THROUGH — THE — LOOKING GLASS"

(with apologies to Lewis Carroll)

"Look, Duchess!" cried the Red Queen excitedly, "Here she comes!" as Alice, catching sight of their *Hands* waving, made her way down from the terrace towards Lawn 4. "What a lovely reunion after all these years!" exclaimed Alice, sitting down between them, "but what a different world from Wonderland!" "Yes, indeed" laughed the Duchess. "I expect that when you found yourself in *Pountney* High Street you thought that you would have a dab at taking a four-*Wheeler* to bring you here?" "Yes," nodded Alice, "or, even better, a hansom-cab." "My dear child," cried the Red Queen, "*Hampson*-cabs went out with Sherlock Holmes! We live in a changed world." "Que sera, Sarah!" as the saying goes."

Alice surveyed the scene in front of her. "I see," she said, "that croquet is popular with women as well as men?" "Most certainly," replied the Duchess, "though I'm afraid that as far as expertise goes, it is a *Mansfield* today." "And I see that you have some young players also?" "Oh, yes," said the Red Queen, "one might say that there are some very promising fledgelings in our *Avery*. We have a Matthew, a Mark, a James and a young Solomon Eagle, who all seem likely to be high fliers soon." At this point her eye caught sight of a figure advancing towards them. "Here's a treat in store for you, my dear. It's our friend, the Mad Chatter! Chatter, come and meet Alice!"

"How do you do?" said Alice politely, shaking hands.

"Have some of my orangeade!" exclaimed the Chatter, pointing to the small canister which he was carrying.

"No, thank you!" replied Alice, "I never drink between meals."

"Well, what about a packet of crisps?", and pulling a very crumpled paper bag from his pocket he extended it towards Alice.

Alice regarded this offering a little doubtfully and suspiciously. "I am wondering," she said timidly, "whether these are really edible?"

"Not *Eddie Bell*?" cried the Chatter, hardly able to believe his ears. "I would have you know that this is one of the best products from the North of England, a real Lancashire hot-pot!" He shook his head disapprovingly. "I can see that you are new here. Do you play croquet?"

"Well, I have played once," replied Alice. "But I found it very difficult under the existing conditions at that time. Do you remember the occasion, Your Majesty?" "Indeed I do!" chuckled the Red Queen. "My powers of execution were never seen to better advantage. I fear that before the game was over several players quite —"

"Lost their heads!" laughed the Duchess.

"This must have taken place before I began playing," observed the Mad Chatter. And then turning to Alice he continued, "You will be given a handicap of 16 and you will start on the Cricket Field on Lawn 10, a real testing ground for beginners. After this when you have improved, you will graduate successively to Lawn 9, then 8, then 7 —"

"By which time," interrupted the Duchess excitedly, "you should have reached B Class and be promoted to Lawn 6 over there!" She waved her hand in the direction of the trees surrounding the two Bowling Greens.

"You have finished with the Cricket Field now," said the Red Queen, taking up the story. "Lawn 6 will lead you on, presently, to Lawn 5."

"And finally," shouted the Mad Chatter who was determined to have the last word, "to Lawn 4, here in front of us. This is our Centre Court where the Finals of the Open Championships are played. Hopefully," (he added) "you will be in the A Class by now."

"I can see," said Alice thoughtfully, "that I shall have a long distance to travel. It will be like my journey to the Eighth Square in 'Through the Looking Glass'."

"Well, I must be on my way," said the Mad Chatter. "I've been looking everywhere for my friends." "Why, are they lost?" asked Alice.

"Of course they are," replied the Chatter, rather testily, "otherwise I wouldn't be looking for them, would I? *Allim*-entary, my dear girl!"

And with a wave of his hand he walked off.

After a short pause the Duchess turned to Alice. "Can you tell me the answer to this conundrum? If a Cat may look at a King, should a Professor . . . *Neal* before a Queen?" But before Alice had any time to consider her reply, the Red Queen chimed in.

"That reminds, me, Alice. You were always fond of reciting and so I have brought along a new piece of verse. It is entitled "The Novice". Here, take it and read it aloud to us."

"Oh, thank you very much," said Alice. "What a pleasant surprise!" and without more ado she began to recite as follows.

How *Duthie* would-be-Solomon
begin to fume and fret
when first he settles down to con
his croquet *Alvey*-bet.

Though *Exell*-ent my friends' advice,
confusingly they talk
with phrases of "the Duffer's Tice"
and "lifting into baulk".

They cry, "Beware th' Aunt Emma snare,
the crush, the double tap,
if you would one day hope to wear
a *Murray-Andrew* cap!"

Within a book of reference
a copy I must draft
to learn by stern experience
more patience and *Moorcraft*.

My chief desire is, over all,
to win my life's ambition
and reach, like Nigel Aspinall,
the "Number One" position."

"Bravo, Novice!" cried Alice, clapping her hands. "I do hope that he succeeded in the end. Aspinall must be a very good player, I suppose?"

"Indeed he is," replied the Duchess. "When you watch him in play, you think to yourself, 'What an easy game croquet is!' That is the hallmark of a real *Campion*."

"Oh dear!" said Alice to herself, "there she goes, dropping her aitches. I wonder if she is of foreign descent? I think that I will ask her. Tell me, Duchess, do you speak any foreign languages?"

"Foreign languages, eh? Well, I reckon that I could pass roll-call in French and *Chairman*. That's about my limit."

"It's time that we took a short stroll, Duchess," said the Red Queen. "I want to point out some of the more interesting competitors to Alice. You see that tall upright figure, Alice, with a wide-brimmed Panama hat on Lawn 2? He is the Founder of the "*Borrettry-Orretry*" School. A distinguished elocutionist. His voice comes over loud and clear and he is a model for those who wish to speak our native tongue with correct diction and pronunciation."

Alice nodded appreciatively and thought to herself, "The Duchess could take some lessons from him to her advantage".

"And over there," continued the Red Queen, "is one of our recently-successful International Team."

"Oh, I do like his dress!" exclaimed Alice with enthusiasm, "those handsome white knee-breeches and white stockings! Do you know (she added reflectively), I can picture him as D'Artagnan with the Three Musketeers at the French Court of Louis the Thirteenth!"

"What an imagination you have, child! But certainly, since I believe that he is an expert in the art of fencing, he would have been a worthy ally of the Three Musketeers. He wastes no time on the croquet court. 'Full speed ahead!' is his motto."

"In fact," said the Duchess, "quite often it is just Bang! Bang! and the game is over before you can say '*Vandaleur Robinson*'!"

"The younger generation," said the Red Queen as they were walking back to their chairs, "have made a great impact on the game in recent years. It is now a popular sport at several of the Universities. Cambridge is especially strong at the present time. Eh, Duchess?"

The Duchess, who was a strong supporter of the Dark Blues, nodded her head gloomily. "Yes, we certainly had a proper *Wiggins* this year, I must admit."

"Do you think," suggested Alice, "that those who did not go to the *Cam, Roux* their choice?"

"Certainly not!" replied the Duchess indignantly. "Why, a little later in the season their elder graduates knocked their rivals head-over-*Heley* in the Club Championship Competition! So, there!"

"I see that they are going to double-bank on Lawn 1," observed the Red Queen. "This means, my dear, that two games are played at the same time with a second set of differently-coloured croquet balls."

"Goodness!" exclaimed Alice, "What a lot of croquet balls on one court!"

"Yes, *Aiton* the court at the same time!"

"But surely that would lead to a lot of pushing and jostling?"

"Pushing and jostling?" The Red Queen contemplated this possibility.

"A most unlikely thing to happen," observed the Duchess. "I cannot think of any player who would be so ill-mannered as to be pushin' *Jocelyn*, when she was about to take her turn."

The Red Queen nodded. "No, *Jocelyn* would not like that at all, would she, Duchess?"

"Well, I hope that she would give the offender a piece of her mind, if such a thing occurred," said Alice spiritedly.

The Red Queen smiled quietly. "I am sure that she would, my dear."

"When I was walking along the terrace, I noticed a kind of swing door. I hadn't seen one like it before," said Alice.

"Oh, you mean the re-*Volvo*-ing door. It is made of Harrow Oak and if you go through it at the right time you may meet the Captain of our Test Team. He is an Executive of a well-known car manufacturing company."

"I see. And is the door always open?"

"Always *Open? Shaw!*" exclaimed the Red Queen.

Alice looked at her wrist-watch. "It's time that I was leaving. What a lovely afternoon it has been! I have enjoyed it and meeting you both again. I have to find my way to the Barbican now. Peter Pan is going to give me a lesson in flying, isn't it exciting?"

"Just *Gobion* the *Townsend* and you'll see the Barbican in front of you," said the Red Queen, "and don't forget to enter for our August Tournament".

"I won't!" laughed Alice. And after an affectionate hug from each of them she made off up the grass slope towards the terrace.

"What a sweet child!" said the Duchess, "she never grows any older, does she?"

"And she never will," replied the Red Queen. A far-away look came into her eyes. "Don't you see, me dear," she murmured, "like Peter, she belongs for all time to the Ever-Ever Land."

THE END

D.J.V. H-M

In Praise of our Tournament Managers

Oh, please don't shoot the Manager!
his task is Herculean,

Who knows what tricks the fates may mix
and games endure an aeon?

Considerate is the Manager
and always most agreeable,
So give him hope that he may cope
with what is unforeseeable.

Two elements there are, unknown,
most deadly if combining,
Time and the weather can wreck, together,
his pre-arranged designing.

Yet, what of Cheltenham in July?
In charge of all the data
G.E.-P.J. will have them play
till half past eight or later.

But, (so I'm told), though games may hold
until the light is waning,
Never is heard an angry word
nor any voice complaining.

So please don't shoot the Manager!
And here's a thought revealing,
If fate gave you his job to do,
just how would you be feeling?

D.J.V. H-M

OBITUARY

BRYAN LLOYD PRATT

Bryan Lloyd Pratt died in Cape Town on 20th March 1983. He was stabbed to death by a young acquaintance after a fierce struggle. He was 52.

Bryan was born on 6th June 1930. He was adopted from an orphanage at the age of one and a half by the Lloyd Pratts, a childless middle-aged couple, and at their home at Dersingham, near Hunstanton, he was surrounded by every luxury. He himself told the story of how at the age of five, dressed as little Lord Fauntleroy, complete with velvet knee breeches, silver-buckled shoes and lace ruff, he was chosen to present the Village Charity Purse to Queen Mary at Sandringham: it pleased him to record that he performed perfectly, with never a foot out of place. But though his parents doted on him a succession of nannies found him a difficult child and at the age of seven he was sent to Taverham Hall Preparatory School ("the most traumatic experience of my young life"). He progressed to Uppingham School (1944-8) where he had an undistinguished career and is remembered for being "precious" and "out of the ordinary"; but he discovered music and became a not untalented cellist. National Service (of which I have no details) was followed by three years at Emmanuel College, Cambridge (BA 1953; MA 1962); he read French and Spanish in his first two years and then changed to English.

His feel for solemn music drew Bryan to the Church and his father sought to persuade him to take Holy Orders. But Bryan decided to pursue another interest, drama, and joined a small repertory company as stage manager. He later said that he abandoned the stage because it was "too exhausting", and for a time he was a schoolmaster. He returned for two terms to Taverham Hall where he is remembered affectionately for sheltering beneath an umbrella while refereeing the junior soccer game. The same source told me that "Bryan had toured India with a theatre company which included the two Hermiones".

During the 1955 summer holidays Bryan was watching the finals of the Hunstanton Tennis Tournament when over the fence he happened to see croquet being played. There and then he joined the club and his interest in the game was born. Others have agreed to write of his croquet career but I must record the generous and unflinching support given by him over the years to the Hunstanton Croquet Club, of which he later became President.

After the 1963 Test Tour in New Zealand, Bryan returned via the United States and remained there for a year in various teaching posts. His adoptive mother had died when he was 15; he was very close to her and her death left a gap which he was unable to fill. When he was in the US in 1963 his father remarried and Bryan was never again welcome at home. Despite research he could not ascertain the identity of his natural mother and this always troubled him: he used to say "I like to think I was found on the Cathedral steps".

In 1970 Bryan was invited to South Africa as a coach. He was charmed by the life and climate and emigrated there in early 1973. He continued his croquet by joining the Rondebosch Club and made many friends: he served on the committee and managed tournaments. He also pursued other interests such as literature, music, drama and bridge. His articles in the Cape Argus newspaper were widely read. And only last Christmas did he direct with great success a Charity Music Festival at the home of Major and Mrs Erskine.

Our thoughts go to Sarah Hampson, who was Bryan's only remaining friend from childhood and who has supplied much of this detail. When teaching her croquet, with emphasis on the Lloyd Pratt stance, he said much of his comment to her: "It doesn't matter, dear, if you never hit the ball, so long as it looks nice". Bryan was a remarkable extraordinary man who forced reaction in everyone he met. But whereas many good players are concerned only with (their own) excellence Bryan deplored so serious and limited an approach and enjoyed play at all levels, particularly with high bisquers. My favourite story is of his giving 19 bisques in the first round of the Hunstanton "X" and of his giggles of delight when his elderly opponent failed to make the first hoop after taking 6 bisques — and ended up cross-wired. Bryan certainly had his faults but dullness was not one of them; he was a croquet enthusiast and a croquet contributor and we mourn his passing. By kind permission of the author I end with a quote (of which Bryan would have approved) from D.M.C. Prichard's History of Croquet:

"No more will he be seen tripping down the slope from the club-house at Hurlingham proclaiming, 'I'm not late' (for he was not an early riser), with his blazer draped casually over his

shoulder beneath a straw hat adorned with the ribbon of the Cambridge Young Conservatives. To those who remember him, tournaments will never seem quite the same again.

Bryan Lloyd Pratt
In his yellow straw hat
Gives the Manager plenty of troubles
See him gossip and giggle.
And walk with a wiggle
While he revels in handicap doubles."

H.C.

Bryan "emerged" at Hurlingham in 1956 following his first tournament in Buxton that year, where he had started with a handicap of 10. By the end of the season he was in print in this magazine expressing forthright views. He became a peripatetic competitor of the old school moving around to many of the smaller tournaments as well as the more fashionable ones. His progress was rapid, winning the Association Plate and getting into the Surrey Cup within two years, and into the President's Cup a year later. He never won a Championship title, but was often not far from doing so. A stylish player, who endeavoured to play as elegantly as the fashion he adopted sartorially, he was probably at his best in doubles, and it was in these events that he came nearest to the top honours of the game.

J.W.S.

Between 1959, when he made his first appearance in the President's Cup, and his last tournament in this country in 1972, when he was runner-up in the Chairman's Salver, Bryan devoted much of the summer each year to croquet and had many notable successes. In 1963 he played in the Test Match Series against New Zealand and Australia and was undefeated in all the six singles in which he took part. He was always seen at his best when playing on a fast lawn requiring a delicate and accurate touch, which he possessed to a marked degree.

Always immaculately dressed, his tall slim elegant figure with a pink and grey be-ribboned straw hat invariably caught the eye in any tournament in which he was playing. He was a lively and amusing talker with a quick wit which could at times be both provocative and barbed when he allowed a too-critical tongue to run away with him. For while he possessed great charm, diplomacy was never his strong point. I always remember coming off the court at the end of a game in the President's Cup which I had just lost by a whisker after sticking in the rover. And Bryan came up to me and said with a honey-sweet ingratiating smile, "I know that I *shouldn't* say this to you, Dudley, but I *am* glad you lost the game, for now it makes your score and mine level!" I could have *hit* him, feeling all tensed-up and furious with myself.

D.J.V. H.-M.

A highly controversial part of Bryan's contribution to croquet lay in his editorship of this Gazette. Bryan had a strong nostalgic feeling for the Edwardian days of, as he put it, a *douceur de vivre*, an aspect which the Gazette during his short tenure of office reflected in full measure. Gothic print began to play a prominent part in headings, obituary notices were clothed in a heavy black frame, the Calendar Fixture List as printed resurrected titles long fallen into desuetude, such as the Championship of Essex (at the Colchester Tournament), while the Men's and Women's Championships acquired the more genteel title of the Ladies' and Gentleman's Championships. Accompanying this new image, however, Bryan began to take delight in Editorials criticising Council policy, in particular he vigorously opposed the Development Scheme undertaken with the co-operation of the Sports Council. His fears were that the croquet world had sold its birthright for a mess of "unplated egalitarian pottage", and he was strongly critical of the acceptance of a grant for the development of croquet.

The situation could not be tolerated and he ceased to be Editor at the end of 1970. He had laboured hard and diligently, but had become a luxury which the Croquet Association could not afford.

S.S.T.

It has often been said, by the older generation, that the English Croquet Scene has been the poorer by Bryan's absence. Taught at Hunstanton, by Charles Bird, he had a very long pendulum swing; and, at his best, was a very good player indeed. He was an excellent referee, and a particularly fair player; on one occasion, at Hurlingham, after pegging-out from two inches, he declared a foul (and subsequently lost the match).

H.O.H.

How sad to know that Bryan is no longer with us. He was a character and there are all too few characters in croquet to-day. To say that he was devoted to the game is almost an understatement; and his panache and elegance on the court gave much pleasure to so many spectators, some not even croquet players themselves. Like all characters he had his detractors as well as his admirers — I was an admirer, not only of his skill at the game but of his quick wit, sometimes unkind, but not too often, and of his many talents.

His dedication to the support of the Hunstanton Club never faltered and his appearance at the annual tournament had much to do with attracting the interest of the locals, a good number of whom became members. He was elected President of the Club in due course and fulfilled this office admirably and with diligence.

A tough opponent, never to be underestimated, a modest winner and a gracious loser — I remember how some years ago now, I, a moderate to decent player, had managed to reach the final of the Norfolk Championship and to meet Bryan. Needless to say he had the game in his pocket, with both my clips only on the third hoop, when he embarked on a quadruple peel, in those days considered a great achievement. He stuck in three-back, missed two long shots and I limped home to win. Bryan came over to congratulate me and I said "You had me stiff — why did you try a quadruple?" He replied with a charming smile "My dear, it never entered my head that I could lose to you, but I was a damn fool, wasn't I?". I agreed.

A.D.K.

BOB CALDER

Croquet in Scotland has suffered a great loss with the death of Bob Calder who had played such a leading role in all Scottish Croquet Association and Edinburgh Croquet Club activities for so many years.

As Chairman from its formation in 1974 Bob piloted the SCA through its early years until 1978 when he became editor of its "Bulletin". He was one of the first two Scottish players to become CA referees and was undoubtedly the most knowledgeable player in Scotland on the laws of the game, and as such his experience was invaluable. He ran several referees' courses and was the examining referee for the SCA. His death has left a big gap in this aspect of the game in Scotland.

He was one of the small band of Scottish players who regularly played in tournaments in England and his enthusiasm for the game led to a very sound understanding of tactics, and, as a result, he was at his best in handicap doubles helping a high handicap partner.

Away from croquet, he gave considerable assistance to Boy's Clubs and Youth Organisations in general. He will be sadly missed.

F.E.M. PUXON

Francois Puxon (known to his many friends as Peter) died suddenly of a heart attack on Christmas morning, at the age of 75.

He had served the Colchester Club as Treasurer for over 20 years and his advice on legal matters, particularly in relation to dealings in land, was invaluable.

He and his wife Mary greatly enjoyed their Croquet, but unfortunately visits to Tournaments over the last few years were curtailed by ill health.

In 1963 he moved to the picturesque village of Long Melford in Suffolk, and soon the amenities of his large Country House and grounds included a Croquet Court.

He was a man of many facets, not easy to assess. The author and poet, James Turner, who lived in the same district for a time, described him in one of his books as "an 18th Century figure, a closed-in man who gives the impression of being withdrawn and unapproachable. The kind of man who could be a formidable adversary if he considered an injustice was being done; a man with a great depth of anger within him side by side with a fine compassion".

He strongly advocated that club members who had drawn pleasure from the game of croquet might reasonably wish to leave some small legacy to the club in recognition. This seems to be unassailable advice, which Peter himself followed.

G.S.D.



"I SAY WOULD YOU MIND
HITTING THEM AROUND A BIT
SO I CAN TUNE IN!"

MACROBERTSON SHIELD 1982

Captain's Summary

A close and exciting MacRobertson Shield just went our way with the narrowest of victories over Australia.

Before we left England we had expected a tough tournament. New Zealand we knew would be without Bob Jackson, but on the evidence of the 1979 tour and our more recent knowledge of Roger Murfitt's form in England in 1981 and Graeme Robert's steady improvement I think they must have started favourites. Australia were obviously going to be much stronger than in 1979 but were rather an unknown quantity. Our team seemed to be a similar standard to our 1979 team and we set sail (by British Airways) with a view that if we could reproduce our English form in Australia we would have an excellent chance of victory.

Looking back on what actually happened in the Test Matches a number of significant factors stand out in my mind. The New Zealanders were not in the same form as they had been in 1979 and all their players seemed to be suffering from a lack of top class match practice during the last year. Perhaps they also suffered from being the favourites and expecting the wins just to happen. (Something most of us have suffered from on occasion). After losing to both ourselves and Australia in Sydney and after some unfortunate incidents in the first two days at Adelaide they became a somewhat dispirited team but still capable of some excellent croquet when they got into their stride.

The Australians were stronger than we expected. Neil Spooner and Peter Olsen playing number 1 and 2 both recorded 5 wins out of 6 in their singles games (higher scores than any other players). Individually they were all very tough competitors but did not show the same spirit as a team. Our performance was excellent. We had a wonderful start winning the doubles 3-0 on the first day against New Zealand and winning our first two Test Matches on the second day with 5 wins out of 6 matches played. I'm sure our better preparation and greater experience were important factors. We tended to win the close games whereas we had lost so many close games in New Zealand.

Our real strength came from our doubles matches. Steve and William in particular won all of their 5 'live' matches all against tough pairs. Keith and I had a very good win at Sydney against John Prince and Paul Skinley. Andrew and Martin had two good wins in Sydney and also an exceptionally good win against Spooner and Herington in Adelaide, notable not only just for the result but also for Spooner's first loss against us — he never looked quite as invincible after that.

Amongst our wins the ones that stand out in my memory were: In Sydney — Andrew's fight back against Leigh Herington, having lost the first game -26. Steve's convincing win +25 +15 against Spencer Buck. My own two wins against Roger Murfitt with scores of +8, +4, +4, +4, and a further +4 win in the third game against Peter Olsen. In Adelaide — William's fine and crucial win against John Prince +2 +6, and Keith's win against Paul Skinley at Adelaide which marked his return to his best form. And then in the crucial third Test in Melbourne against Australia, Andrew won a rather scrappy but crucial game against Spencer Buck and on the final day Martin was at his speedy best to dispose of Leigh Herington +25 +23 and leave the stage set for Keith's win against Neil Spooner to clinch the Shield.

Of our opponent's the play of Neil Spooner stands out. His shooting and roll strokes were exceptional and at Sydney when he was really on song he seemed unbeatable. I'm sure his performance put a lot of heart into the Australian team. Apart from Neil Spooner and Keith (sometimes) there was little truly outstanding play. On the other hand the general standard of play was high and very little separated the teams. We won because of our better preparation, convincing doubles play, greater experience and level of team spirit. I know all the players appreciated the support we received from the followers who watched the matches and many others in England who encouraged us both before and during the tour. In such a close contest it is factors like this which make all the difference.

And so from a MacRobertson Shield viewpoint we turn our attention to 1986. This is not the place to speculate on the outcome of this event but I believe we may find it difficult to retain the Shield.

The 1982 Test Tour to Australia

— A Martin Murray view

The decisive defeat suffered by the 1979 team in New Zealand perhaps resulted in a more realistic approach by those involved in the 1982 tour. The unexpected absence of Nigel Aspinall from the team raised more doubts about our chances of winning, though we were subsequently encouraged by Keith's availability and the absence from the New Zealand team of Bob Jackson. These two factors certainly made us feel we had an even chance against N.Z., particularly as there was no evidence of their reserves being as strong as ours. As for Australia, they were very much an unknown quantity; some of the names were familiar, but we had only seen Spencer Buck and Mark Prater play since 1974, and we could only guess how the others might play.

Looking back on the first week we spent in Perth, it is tempting to say that the groundwork of our victory was laid during that week. We certainly put in a reasonable amount of practice, though I don't feel any of us were playing particularly well. More important perhaps was the happy atmosphere which developed in those few days; everyone was enjoying themselves, helped by the fine weather, the Australian hospitality, and of course the two cars generously provided by Volvo. Also the feeling that we were in charge of the tour ourselves, able to decide any questions that arose between ourselves, helped us to relax and concentrate on our game. The match against West Australia was of little significance, though it was important psychologically to record a maximum margin of victory.

Two days practice in Sydney, in continuing warm weather, helped to consolidate the gains made in Perth, and by the time that the first Test match against New Zealand came round we were all keen to get into some serious croquet action. The results of that magnificent first day have already been recorded in the Gazette. My principal memory of my doubles with Andrew is of the nerves displayed by our two opponents, in Richard's case probably the result of a long absence from high-class tournament play. Neither Andrew nor I played very well, but we each felt we could rely on our partner in a tight spot. This probably applied equally well to the two other pairs, and the fact that our doubles pairings were clearly right and acceptable to everyone in the team gave us a great psychological advantage which lasted throughout the Test series.

Winning three doubles makes winning a Test match much easier, and on the second day we picked up the two wins needed without too much trouble. Andrew had the advantage over Richard through having won the doubles the day before, and Richard couldn't do anything right. David has a long series of close but important wins over Roger Murfitt, and this was yet another; just when Roger looked like saving the second game one vital error threw it away. Unfortunately for Steve, Paul Skinley had recovered from his indifferent form in the doubles, and stayed in control throughout, despite some fine shooting by Steve.

The fact that we lost all three singles on the third day suggests that we might have been in trouble if the order of play had been different. Certainly the 4-2 singles verdict for N.Z. could support the argument that they were a better team than the 5-1 margin after two days suggested; more than that however, it showed just how important our doubles victories had been.

Keith's defeat against John Prince when he should have won, prompted the kind of fears, common for his admirers, that he was still too capable of beating himself. How often have we seen Keith, faced with the simple requirement of scrambling home, finding an elegant way of getting into trouble. It was easy, on this occasion, to make excuses; it was hot, the end of a long day, and the Test match was already decided. But the series had only just begun, we needed to win at least three more Tests, and 5-4 was too close for comfort.

What we saw of a close match between Australia and New Zealand gave us a few pointers as to what to expect from the Australians. Neil Spooner was clearly their top player, his prowess based, like the absent Bob Jackson, on hard hitting of single ball strokes, hoops and shots. Angled hoops of two or three yards seemed no problem, and any length of shot seemed to give him a better than 50% chance; Keith was certainly going to be in trouble. Peter Olsen, the newcomer who had such a high reputation for sextupling and even octupling, turned out to be another typical antipodean, hard hitting, accurate with single ball strokes, but almost too eager to do early peels, and aggressive to extremes, or so it appeared to us, trained in England where the subtle tactics of defence find more appreciation than the boldness of long hit-ins. To take a 30-yard shot with a single ball in a

pegged-out game at the opponent's balls guarding the boundary would be regarded as wild even in a Cheltenham friendly by Paul Hands. To hit, as Peter did against Roger, merely compounds the offence!

To win the doubles again, even if this time only by 2-1, pleased us immensely. The way Neil Spooner played we could hardly have expected to win that one, though Peter Olsen gave us some hope as he struggled with attempted triples in both games. But our two other pairs were firmly in control, and it was clear that we were going to give our opponents a difficult task in the other Tests. Again, Andrew and I hardly sparkled against Leigh Herrington and Mark Prater, but their erratic play gave us an easy win.

On the second day Keith and I were late arriving at the ground, but still in time to witness one of the dramatic moments of the tour. Steve had already had an easy win over Spencer Buck, Andrew a more difficult one over Leigh, so the score was 4-1 in our favour. David was approaching the third hoop in his second break of the third game against Peter Olsen, who was for peg and penult, having failed to complete a triple. David had a good position for his triple, and must have been as aware as anyone how important this one was. The last match to finish always attracts the most attention, and the large crowd now had a perfect spectacle. One of David's strongest points is his ability to concentrate when it is most needed; he takes his time, and this was not one of his fastest breaks. But the longer it proceeded, the more it seemed inevitable that he would complete the triple, and the jubilation of David and the rest of us when he finally did complete it can be imagined. For the second match running David had scored the vital fifth win, and, as we joked afterwards, taken the pressure off the three of us who had to play on the final day.

The last day fortunately did not see a repetition of our performance against New Zealand. I remember arriving at the ground to be asked by Ron Sloane, the Australian manager, how I felt. "Very tired", I said, "I had a late night last night, and had to get up too early this morning". Less than an hour later I was back in the pavilion, one game up, having completed my first Test match triple in the sixth turn against Mark Prater. From then on Ron was always apprehensive if I said I was tired! The second game was almost a repetition, though Mark got one break going, but managed to cross-peg himself from two balls after the fifth hoop. Meanwhile Keith was having the expected tough time against Neil's shooting. One of the problems of playing someone shooting so well is that on the few occasions one gets the innings, one is all too aware of the necessity of making an immediate break; laying up in a good position is useless, as the opponent is almost certain to hit. Keith was not yet playing nearly well enough to take the half chances, and Neil's victory did not take long. Our seventh victory came from William's three game defeat of Barrie Chambers, whose good long shooting was mixed with too many simple errors.

A comparison of our 7-2 win over Australia with our 5-4 win over New Zealand confirmed our initial belief that New Zealand, who we knew could do much better, were the real threat, though we couldn't really understand how they had lost to Australia. From my experience, for example, it seemed inexplicable that Graeme Roberts, who played flawlessly against me, could have lost to Mark Prater, who had impressed neither in singles or doubles against us. Australia's two wins were largely the result of Neil Spooner's phenomenal shooting, but we felt that we could afford to let him get two victories if we had control of the rest of the match.

On arrival in Adelaide we had plenty of time for both practise and relaxation, as the first match was between Australia and New Zealand. This was notable for a strange incident in which a hoop shrank, and the game was restarted. The resultant delay held up a following match, in which Spencer Buck responded to his disappointing form by playing slower and slower, such that this match against John Prince, himself below form and unable to force victory, had to be abandoned.

For their match against us, Australia, aware of the important role our doubles had played in our victories in Sydney, changed their doubles pairings. As a result Andrew and I found ourselves pitted against Neil and Leigh, who proved to be a formidable combination. The match was packed with incidents and excitement; we lost a very close first game after I was pegged out, fought back to take the second, but the third game seemed to be slipping away when I had two great strokes of luck. First I hit a technically wired 30 yard shot, then had to take off the length of the lawn to the opponents' balls. The take off was far too strong, and Neil and Leigh must have been horrified to see it hit one of their balls plumb! This got me round to

the peg, and Neil in desperation took most of the last shots, when tactically Leigh should have moved. On this occasion his shooting was less than perfect, and we scraped home. The two other doubles were shared, and we realised how close Australia's gamble had come to paying off.

The second day of the match was our worst of the tour, all three matches going to Australia. Steve was easily beaten by Peter Olsen, who was obviously gaining in confidence with a string of victories. One incident in their match deserves comment in view of its possible effect on the laws. Peter had failed at the third hoop, his ball resting close against the wire. Steve had joined up near the fourth corner, confident that Peter could not run the hoop hard. However, Peter proceeded to do just that, avoiding a crush by playing the shot so that his mallet was driven into the ground. A large divot was the natural result, which he tapped down with his foot. Several spectators, of whom I was one, felt that this type of shot, though strictly legal as the Laws stand at present, should be outlawed, not least because the resulting repaired divot was in a critical position close to a hoop. One Australian comment was: "What is the groundsman for?"

The other two singles, involving David and Andrew, were long tense affairs, the largest margin in the four games we lost being 5. Several crucial errors were made at vital moments, particularly at 4-back, and it seems likely that the increasing heat, over 90°F, may have been part of the reason. After the results in Sydney we might have expected to win both these matches, and it was now going to be very difficult to save the Test.

Faced with our first real test on the third day, Keith, William, and I made a good start. Keith was obviously approaching his true form, and looked like completing a triple when a careless shot at 6 let him down. Meanwhile I had recovered from a breakdown on a triple, and should have got to the peg, but stuck in an easy 4-back. William kept our hopes alive by winning his first game, but soon after lunch Neil took the second game from Keith and thus achieved Australia's first win over GB since 1937. Mark then jokingly asked if we needed to bother to finish our match; my response was that I was going to beat him, which I then proceeded to do with two easy wins, including a triple which must rank as my hottest triple ever; the temperature had by now climbed to over 102°.

The temperature continued to climb on the first day of the Test against New Zealand. They too had changed their doubles order in an attempt to avoid another 0-3 deficit. As a result Andrew and I were faced with the strong pairing of Joe Hogan and Roger Murfitt, against whom I had lost two close matches in NZ in 1979. This proved to be a repetition, more a test of stamina than skill; certainly by the end we two "old" men were probably just too tired to play at the standard needed to beat such a strong pair. Fortunately our two other pairs were just strong enough to give us a much needed 2-1 lead.

Luckily I was not involved next day, when the temperature reached its peak at 106°. David's win over Roger, by a familiar score of +4, +4, was an impressive performance in the heat, and he certainly looked tired when the teams retired to the hotel swimming pool to cool off. But Steve and Andrew had both lost, so the score was 3-3. On a much cooler third day I was determined to get the better of Graeme, who had by now lost twice to Mark Prater. I managed to control a tight first game, giving Graeme few shots, and although Graeme got the first break in the second game I got back into it and was feeling confident when William followed Keith's win by beating John Prince and making the score 5-3. At this stage the mood of our match seemed to alter, Graeme took a risky shot, and though he missed. I promptly failed at 1-back and gave him the game. Since we were now of course the only match in progress, the crowds gathered for entertainment, and the standard of croquet fell somewhat. We both stuck in 5, I followed up with an attempted octuple, completed three peels (5 attempts at the 1-back peel), but stuck in rover when everything was set for a good contact leave. Since Graeme was for 5 and 4-back, he had an easy job to go round, peg me out, and win soon after.

Our second 5-4 win over New Zealand was some compensation for losing to Australia, and particularly encouraging was Keith's improved form, which would be critical in the decider. We only had one day's practise in Melbourne before the match, although some people had proposed changing the programme so that the decider would be the last Test match. The Melbourne clubs have a much finer grass than the couch grass found in Sydney and Adelaide, in fact much more like the grass in England. I found this particularly to my liking, and played better on that practise day than at any time before in the tour.

For the doubles, Australia had again changed their pairings. Andrew

and I had to play Peter and Spencer, whose slow play at Adelaide had caused some comment. In the event the match was of a high standard; we were too slow in settling down in the first game, so had to sit through a Spencer triple which took 55 minutes. We played better in the second game, and I went out from 4-back and peg with an adventurous break which included three roquets over 10 yards! We also seemed to have the third game under control when Andrew missed a short roquet to give Spencer the chance of a second triple which took 45 minutes. Fortunately for us however the two other pairs won, so once again we emerged from the doubles in front.

The second day saw Australia pull back to level the scores, David again losing to Barrie Chambers and William just failing against a very confident Peter Olsen. Our only win was a fine performance by Andrew against Spencer, who had been demoted to number 6. My match next day against Leigh could not therefore have been more important, and luckily I found the lawn to my liking and got off to a good start when Leigh stuck in both 1st and 2nd. Although I failed to peg out after doing the three peels, Leigh missed again and I won +25. The second game also started well, and although Leigh hit the lift after I had gone round, he got hoopbound after the 3rd. This gave me the second break, in which I did two peels, and Leigh's lift shot missed by nearly a yard, leaving me an easy finish.

With the score now at 4-3, only one more win was needed to secure the Shield, and our main hope was Steve, playing Mark Prater. But here things were not going our way. Steve's shooting, usually so reliable, was way off, and he was also failing to make the most of the occasional chances Mark offered by missing shortish roquets. The decisive factor in the match was Mark's long shooting, which on the day was phenomenal. Mark ended up with a relatively easy win, so attention turned to the remaining match, between Keith and the as yet unbeaten Neil. This match had reached the stage of game all, so the stage was set for what an extravagant publicist might have labelled the most important single game in this history of croquet. Certainly the destination of the Shield has never before rested on the result of a single game.

The details of this remarkable game are recorded elsewhere. My impression, as a nervous spectator, was that the pressure of the situation affected Neil more than Keith. The first early chances that Neil had and failed to utilise contrasted with the coolness with which Keith took the critical 11 yard shot, hit, and went round. When Neil failed to capitalise on Keith's error after 3-back, one had the feeling that the match was already decided, though there were a few more anxious moments before Keith finally achieved the victory. Afterwards, a possible insight into Keith's coolness could be seen in his remark that his win was no more important than the four others that made up the match result. Rationally, he is of course right; but how many of us can convert that rational assessment into the emotional calmness so necessary to play well under such pressure?

Victory was duly celebrated with Australian 'champagne', with a bottle of genuine Moët Chandon for Keith, the hero of the hour, in our eyes if not his. The celebration was sweeter for the fact that we had all contributed at least one win to the overall margin; indeed one notable feature of our overall performance had been the evenness of our results. No-one had performed much better, no-one much worse than the rest of the team, so we all felt that we could share in what was truly a "team" victory.

Our last match, against New Zealand, was now of course without any real significance, but the good spirit that had developed between the teams made it most enjoyable.

Overall, the most remarkable feature of the Test matches was the closeness of the scores. Six of the nine matches ended 5-4, and I would be reluctant to claim that our win reflects any clear superiority over the opposition. The early impression that New Zealand were the stronger team was certainly not borne out by the results. Probably the truth was that the Australians were that bit keener to win, and this determination may well have been the key factor in the heat of Adelaide, conditions to which they are accustomed anyway. At the end, our greater match experience was probably decisive, it being an amazing fact that the Australians play no best-of-three matches at national level. Three of our team, however, have been regularly playing best-of-three matches since the late sixties, and the number of opportunities for this kind of play are increasing in our tournament programme at the moment.

Looking ahead to 1986, the easiest prediction is that the rising standards of play in all three countries will ensure that the series is again close. Playing at home may give us a marginal advantage, but more important will be the determination to win, the support of the

team members for each other, and their ability to concentrate on practise and playing.

Detailed reports now follow on a few of the more important matches

SPOONER v PRINCE (Sydney) Spooner won -26TP, +17TP, +26TP

This match was one of the great MacRobertson encounters. It was played on one of the "bad" lawns which, not having been mown recently, was on the slow side of easy. The players rarely approached the boundaries and never got near the infamous second corner, so that the match was hardly affected by the bare patches.

Prince got the first break and went to 4-back with the old standard leave (one ball East of the peg and the other near 2). Spooner shot and missed. Prince went out with a standard triple.

In the second game Prince again got the first break and went to 4-back with the same leave. This time Spooner hit, and he went to 4-back with the same leave but with a backward rush. Prince took the long lift shot towards the third corner and missed. Spooner split his partner ball to 2 and got a rush on the peg ball to the first hoop, and went out with a standard triple.

In the third game, Spooner got the first break and thereafter the game was a carbon copy of the second after he had hit in.

The match was not quite faultless. Prince once failed to get a break going first time when perhaps he ought to have; some of Spooner's hoops were rather uncontrolled; and I rather think that one of the players hit a tice but failed to make a roquet near the fourth corner. Also, what is surprising at this standard of croquet, only one shot was hit after the opening. But these little things cannot detract from the greatness of the match. Spooner's bearing when game and break down was particularly impressive.

But this was very much a match in the old style, not at all the croquet of the eighties. Though there were undoubtedly other matches in which as great skill was displayed as in this one, there were very few of this type. Certainly at first string, players were rarely granted the luxury of attempting to go out in two successive turns: the standard of shooting was too high and the short lift shot simply got hit. Indeed for this reason the opportunity to take the short shot was often denied by the use of more modern leaves.

This is not the occasion for a discourse on tactics, but it is worth referring to the fact that, despite the ingenuity employed over the last 15 years or so in attempts to improve on the sort of tactics used in this match, it is not yet clear that a significant improvement has been effected. One may hope that such an improvement will soon be generally recognised: for however impressive this match was, it was notably lacking in imagination, variety and the other aesthetic qualities of croquet from which many people derive pleasure.

K.F. Wylie

OPENSHAW v OLSEN (Sydney) Openshaw won -14, +17, +4TP

The first day of the GB-Australian Test at Sydney saw GB take a 2-1 lead. Although we had visions of repeating our success against New Zealand and winning this Test in two days as well, we hardly expected to. However, Mulliner and Hope comprehensively defeated Buck and Herrington respectively by early afternoon and so is was all up to Openshaw!

Olsen was the first to get an innings in the first game but he was able to make little progress. Openshaw took full advantage of an error by going smoothly to 4-back, only to see Olsen hit the lift and reach 4-back himself. Nothing daunted, Openshaw hit the lift in turn and picked up a break. However, this came to grief at hoop 3 and Olsen took his backward ball to the peg, completing two peels on the way. Openshaw missed the lift and Olsen finished. This was an excellent game to watch which made it clear that the match would be decided by good shooting and positive play.

The second game began similarly to the first — Openshaw reached 4-back first, followed instantly by Olsen and, by hitting the lift shot left by the Australian, Openshaw promptly regained the innings. This time there was no early breakdown and Openshaw completed two peels of a triple before a badly placed pioneer at 1-back gave Olsen an opportunity. This could well have been dangerous for GB but, with the pressure on, Olsen did not take full advantage of the situation and Openshaw was soon back in to finish and square the match.

The final game was played before an absorbed gallery who had by now no competing attractions. Openshaw took the initiative with yet another long roquet after indeterminate play by Olsen in the early stages but his break came to a sad and unusual end in the sandy wastes of Corner 2 by playing a wrong ball in a corner cannon after making hoop 5. This time Olsen took full advantage of his good fortune and, playing with increasing boldness, took one ball to 4-back and, after the lift was missed, the other to the peg with a straight peel at 4-back on the way. Things looked grim for Openshaw, but Olsen's leave was not particularly tidy and left an 11 yard roquet. It would have been fatal to have missed, but Openshaw has the ideal temperament for such a situation. He hit, took his forward ball to 4-back and left a good leave. It was now Olsen's turn to feel the screw turning. His lift shot missed and Openshaw played one of the best turns of the tour to complete a triple which seemed to become yet more certain as it progressed and thus give GB the unusual honour of a second two-day win.

MULLINER & PRICHARD v SPOONER & CHAMBERS (Melbourne) GB won +26 +13TP

The 1979 Tour showed the importance of established doubles pairs and it was pleasing, not to say a little ironic, to see New Zealand and Australia compelled to ring the changes in an effort to achieve that magical 2-1 lead at the end of the first day. They never succeeded against GB in a live Test and we achieved the astonishing figures of 11 wins and 4 losses in these matches.

Mulliner & Prichard played together for the first time in 1980 when they became Doubles Champions and soon demonstrated that the partnership was working as well as ever. They won all five of their live encounters and established themselves as easily the most successful pair in any team. Their finest hour came in the crucial Melbourne Test against Australia when the draw pitted them against the might of Spooner & Chambers who constituted the most established pairing in the Australian team.

The first game was conducted on strictly tactical lines for the first part. Chambers was forced to play whenever possible and eventually Mulliner extracted a break and took it to 4-back with a tight leave. The lift was missed and Prichard, beginning with two superb rushes the length of the court, went round to the peg, completing two peels on the way. The lift was missed and Mulliner finished without further ado. This was a good example of the best way to beat good opponents — keep them sitting down.

Chambers had no intention of remaining a spectator and was the first to progress in the second. He reached 4-back only to see the lift hit and Prichard reply in kind. Spooner hit, but made no immediate progress. He made hoops singly until hoop 5 when a bad approach compelled him to concede the innings. Mulliner could not make a safe start to his break and instead chose to give Spooner a 17 yard roquet into the guarded 1st corner. Spooner never refuses this sort of challenge and hit ferociously hard — just wide.

It was now up to Mulliner and he took his chance well, playing with complete concentration. The triple slipped from standard to delayed but was maintained and all seemed well after the straight peel was safely achieved. But fate had one last trick to play — the peelee was rushed to within 2 feet of the peg but came to rest almost in contact with an enemy ball placed there *ex abundante cautela*. A straight croquet was impossible without committing a fault and the peelee could at best be aimed to clip one edge of the peg. Fortunately for GB and Mulliner contact was made and the match won. First blood to us.

WYLIE v SPOONER (Melbourne) Wylie won -13, +26, +24

At the start of the first game Wylie hit with the second ball and split to the first hoop from the fourth corner. (Showy, yes: but having been overwhelmed twice by Spooner Wylie felt he should assert himself.) The hoop shot was not quite inviting enough so he wisely retired to near the fourth corner. Spooner shot at him from B baulk and missed. Wylie hit and went to 4-back Spooner hit and went to 4-back. Wylie hit and started a triple, but after this sparkling start the play faded somewhat. With the first peel done, Wylie underhit a very simple rush to the fourth hoop and failed to negotiate what was only a slightly difficult hoop. Spooner proceeded to the peg unremarkably in about three turns. Wylie was allowed some shots that were shorter than they should have been, but he missed them all.

Spooner laid a tice with the first ball of the second game, which Wylie

hit and sent near the yardline by the second hoop. Spooner shot at him near the fourth corner from B baulk but missed. Wylie hit with the fourth ball and picked up a vintage break. He shaped up to peel each of Spooner's balls through the first hoop, but this got off to an unpromising start so he changed his plan and set up for a 1-back leave. He failed to crosswire at the first hoop, but had anticipated this and was able to rush to 1-back and continue the break. He ended up near the fourth corner, with one of Spooner's balls a few yards from the second corner and the other up against the peg in the direction of the first hoop.

Spooner shot at the peg ball from where he lay and missed, so that Wylie had no difficulty in picking up all the balls. However, the triple never really got off the ground and he took two turns to finish.

The players stopped for lunch after the second game. By the time they resumed, the other matches had finished and the deciding Test Match stood at 4-4. Their court was adjoined on two sides by rising ground on which by now the entire crowd of about 350 was seated, on the North side well set back in a temporary stand and on the West side a little way back in chairs two or three deep. There was a television crew recording the game for Australian television. What was pleasant for the players was that, with all this attention and atmosphere, there was little sense of being bottled in since the two outer boundaries were virtually unpeopled.

Spooner opened about nine yards out of the fourth corner. Wylie played to the second corner. Spooner shot from B baulk and went a few yards past his first ball. Wylie missed the double target and ended up in the fourth corner.

Trying presumably to rush his partner ball to the corner, Spooner only snicked it. He then failed to get behind Wylie's ball, sent it to the first hoop and retired. Wylie played to the third corner.

Spooner now had a rush of two or three yards in the general direction of the second corner, of the type which he can execute (le mot juste!) with devastating power and accuracy. However, he chose to play into the corner and to lay a rush there to the first hoop. (This was an interesting tactical decision. Spooner was well known to be happy to approach the second hoop from the second corner and make it, often from quite a distance. Wylie would therefore be under pressure to move the second corner ball, presumably by shooting in desperation at Spooner. There is a school of thought, to which Spooner may subscribe, that one should not sit in the first corner as many British players would have done in Spooner's position. At the time, Wylie thought Spooner's decision a bit feeble. He has changed his mind on reflection.) Wylie shot at him from the third corner and just missed. Spooner tried to get a three ball cannon but narrowly failed, and after an indifferent rush to the first hoop he overrolled it. Wylie once more played to the third corner. Spooner's rush along the yardline from near the fourth corner left him a 6 yard approach and once more he overrolled. He had little choice but to take position. Wylie shot from the second corner and missed.

Spooner's play had so far been uncharacteristically ineffectual in this game. He now began to make amends by playing a well controlled first hoop followed by a fine rush to the second, which he made getting a good rush back to the ball in A baulk. Then his play sagged again. He failed to get an accurate rush to the third corner, and the stop shot approach which he consequently made from the third corner was well to the side of the third hoop so he joined up near the end of A baulk.

It may be debated whether this was sound. Wylie had one ball at the third hoop and one at the fourth, and Spooner had a rush to the fourth. Wylie was therefore forced to shoot, and the shot was of only about 11 yards. Perhaps Spooner should have played to the first corner.

At all events, matters had very much been brought to a head, and fortunately for him Wylie hit the shot bang on the nose. Once he had made the second hoop the break presented no problems, but he once more failed to get Spooner's ball through the first hoop and had to be content with a pedestrian, if safe, leave.

Spooner took the lift shot at the peg ball but missed and went into the third corner. Wylie rushed his partner ball a little way down the court and then played a very lack lustre shot. The croqueted ball went about 7 yards short of the second hoop and he was about 4 yards due East of the peg ball. He played as good a cut rush as one could expect to about 5 yards WNW of the first hoop. His hoop approach slid well past, on what was beginning to become a fairly treacherous area of grass, leaving him a nasty angled hoop of some 4 feet. Another crisis: but Wylie made up for earlier inaccuracy by running the hoop with perhaps the best shot of the match.

Some good play by Wylie then went unrewarded and he eventually had the balls well placed for a straight triple, taking croquet from perfect position in front of 3-back. Then for no reason he hit the wires too heavily and left himself a slightly hampered roquet of five or six yards which he just missed.

Spooner now had an interesting choice: to risk a 5 yard roquet with his forward ball (for him a risk in name only) or to take a one yard roquet with his backward ball. He made the safer choice and by fine accurate play found himself taking croquet about 4 feet in front of the first hoop with a ball at the second. Then disaster struck him too. He blobbed the hoop from what cannot have been more than 2 feet away. He was clearly put off by sounds he heard from the crowd. (This was the only such incident, the large crowd being particularly well behaved.)

Wylie hit in with the ball by the second hoop, and used the croquet stroke to cannon the ball out of the first hoop so that he could rush it to his partner ball by the fourth hoop. After a few scares he reached the peg and retired to the second corner with Spooner's forward ball near the fourth corner and his backward ball by the peg. Spooner lifted his backward ball, and he was virtually forced to do, but arguably committed an error in choosing where to shoot. Any miss would have been almost fatal, and he might as well have shot at Wylie so as to give himself an immediate break if he hit. In fact he shot at and hit his partner ball and, having given himself the chance to come to grief with a corner-to-corner take-off, duly did so by just going off. (Spooners choice may have been affected by the fact that the shot at Wylie lay over an indifferent surface surrounded by spectators, whereas the shot he took lay over perfect grass free from distractions.)

The ground near the second corner was very patchy, and Wylie had difficulty in getting a decent rush in what would otherwise have been an easy winning position. In the event he got a cut rush to near the fourth hoop and took off to behind Spooner's ball, but after an indifferent approach he was only just able to make 4-back and could make no further progress. (This was the only occasion in the match when Wylie failed to pick up a break first time when he had the innings.)

Spooner just missed the short lift shot and, maintaining to the finish the interest of the spectators by further slightly inaccurate play, Wylie pegged out.

MURRAY v PRINCE (Melbourne) Murray won +12TP, +10TP

Such was the even spread of strength throughout the GB team that we could afford the luxury of playing Martin Murray at number 5. He plays the Australians' game and neither Prater nor Herington could cope with him. Only Graeme Roberts (who counts as English-trained) beat him and it was as a reward for his increasingly positive play that he was promoted to number 3 to play John Prince in the final Test. The match is best described in his own words . . .

"Our order for the singles had been changed somewhat, so I was playing John Prince, in his fifth Test series. John's record over those series is of course outstanding, and my record against him since we first met in the Open Doubles final in 1974 at Hurlingham confirms my estimation of him as one of the best players I have ever seen. Recently however John has played less croquet, and his shortage of serious match play showed up on this tour. Against me his rushing was very ragged, several rushes missing altogether, others being underhit disastrously. Three bad mistakes by John early in the first game allowed me to get away with two bad errors of my own, and eventually I got a ball round. John missed the lift, and although I failed to get a break immediately, I stopped John from shooting until I got a break together, did the three peels, but hit the peelee after running over. A careful stop-shot, hoping to leave the ball close to the peg for a combination peg-out, saw the ball just roll on to the peg.

In the second game John had the early play, got round to 4-back, and started his second break after I missed the lift. Another underhit rush before 1-back left him without a pioneer at 2-back, and he stuck there giving me an easy first break. When he missed the lift I picked up the triple by rolling out of the fourth corner to a ball at the second hoop, the kind of reason why, in my opinion, there is an advantage in leaving an opponent's ball on the wire of the second hoop rather than near the west boundary. No doubt my argument would be dismissed by those who consider 33 yard split pass rolls as not croquet, but after six tightly contested Test matches there is a lot of pleasure to be gained from such extravagant shots (when they come off!)."

Postscript

This was the first time that all three countries had been able to field genuinely strong teams. It was always felt that the outcome would be close. Had Bob Jackson not had to drop out of the New Zealand team the result might have been even closer, and since so little was needed to tip the scales his presence might well have led to his country's retention of the Shield. The reason for his absence, namely the need to attend to work, is one that is likely to affect the world's leading players more and more in the future, and we may never again see three such teams together. Perhaps 1982 will prove to have been an annus mirabilis in this respect.

Those who expected wondrous feats from these clashing Titans were in for a disappointment. Every one of the eighteen players from time to time played really good croquet, and there were some outstanding performances by some of the leading ones; but with the exception of Peter Olsen everyone had bad patches and there was a fair amount of erratic play by nearly everyone. Occasionally it was simply a question of people playing only as well as their opponents let them. The firmness of the hoops certainly contributed greatly to the excitement of the matches and the number of errors — and not just by British players. Even Olsen, with ten victories in twelve matches, failed to complete a single triple peel.

There are two features of the play that I should like to pick out for comment. The first is the general standard of shooting, which was high and which tended to restrict the number of runaway victories. Perhaps the high point was the Murray & Hope v Spooner & Herington match, where in four successive turns each of the four players hit in from at least 20 yards.

The other is the aggressiveness of the play. Breaks were gone for, and often got, from the most unpromising positions. Aggression did not always pay, but that did not seem to put people off. I am not sure that the risks taken were always justified, but it made for exciting croquet. (When I first reached the A class many people thought it rash to approach a hoop from the nearby corner. This attitude has no place in today's international croquet.)

It would be wrong to say that there were no "incidents": there always are. But they were few and far between, and the whole event was generally conducted in the best of humour. Our thanks are due to the numberless hosts, organisers, sponsors and contributors here and in Australia who made it possible.

K.F.W.

A Modest Song of Victory

(with apologies to Flanders & Swann)

The Southernmost parts of the Commonwealth mean
To play the best croquet the world's ever seen.
Perhaps they yet will, but they couldn't stop
The Kings of the Castle regaining the top.

The Pommies, the Pommies, the Pommies are best,
We wouldn't give tuppence for all of the rest.

Australian croquet has many a slip,
The men hold the mallets, the women the whip.
Their hoop regulations are firm and correct:
If Andrew can run them, they've got to be checked.
From every angle the Pommies are best,
So up with the Pommies and down with the rest.

New Zealand, the champions, can seldom be best,
But failed triple peels tend to lead to defeat.
They always hit in and they never break down,
Except after spending all night on the town.

The Pommies sleep soundly, the Pommies hit in,
The Pommies keep going, to triples and win.

We're sad at the Aussies' and Kiwis' collapse.
We tried to be kind to them — too kind, perhaps.
We're sure they'll be back after four more years' rest,
But they'll find that the Pommies will still be the best.
And the best of the Poms, we sincerely believe,
Are Andrew, Keith, David, Will, Martin and Steve.

The Pomorska Brigade

The World Invitation Competition of Two-Ball Croquet

At the end of the MacRobertson Shield a two-ball Croquet competition was held at the Victoria Croquet Association headquarters in North Brighton, Melbourne. All 18 players from the test teams plus Ron Sloane, the Australian Manager, were invited to play. Dunhill Ltd. presented a pewter tankard as the trophy. All matches were played as best of three games.

For those not familiar with this version of the game, it is played by two players, playing one ball each rather than the normal two. Almost all of the other rules of Association Croquet apply. The game requires two skills not usually important in four-ball croquet: the playing of a two-ball break and taking position for hoops from long distances. Players also tend to be much more adventurous in their hoop running as generally speaking a miss is much less costly than in the four-ball game.

1st Round

All three matches were close, particularly the all GB match, Hope against Mulliner. In their third game Mulliner was for the peg and Hope for 4-back but inspired shooting by Hope including running Rover from near the peg gave him the narrowest of victories.

Olsen (Australia) narrowly accounted for Prichard, and Openshaw beat Herrington (Australia).

2nd Round

The highlight was Openshaw's win against Olsen by the maximum +13 in their first game. Openshaw soon had a two-ball break but didn't get a forward rush after running hoop 3. He took position for four. Olsen then attempted position for 1. Openshaw ran four and hit Olsen's ball near 1 and with a good long roll to hoop 5 established a two-ball break and went round to the peg. Openshaw then went on to win the second game by +4.

Murray was in good form beating Murfitt +11 +3 and Skinley (NZ) played two good breaks to beat Prater +10 +11. Wylie beat Chambers (Australia) convincingly and Hope won narrowly against Clarke (NZ) to give Great Britain four players in the last eight.

Quarter-Finals

Murray and Openshaw had a very close, good quality game. Murray won the first +4, in the course of which he ran hoops 4 and 5 in the same turn without taking croquet. Openshaw won the second +9. The third was very close. Murray was ahead early on. This time he ran hoops 3, 4 and 5 in the same turn without taking croquet! but failed an easy (?) 8 yard sixth hoop. Towards the end Murray ran Rover with Openshaw in position for penult, and missed an attempted peg out with a jump shot over Rover. Openshaw then ran penult and took position for Rover. Murray went softly from the South boundary and was a yard short of the peg. Openshaw ran Rover by about 2 yards, was wired from the Murray ball and had only half the peg to shoot at, he hit to win by +1.

Buck (Australia) had a good win against Skinley in the first rain of our Australian tour. Prince beat Wylie and Hogan just managed to scrape home against Hope.

Semi-Finals

Openshaw beat Prince in two games. He was well behind in the second when Prince failed 4-back leaving the other ball 7 yards away. Openshaw (for hoop 4) hit in and played a good long roll, ran a four yard hoop, gradually got control and went out with a two-ball break to win.

Buck and Hogan had a cat and mouse game. Hogan was shooting at most opportunities with Buck content to play very cautiously. Hogan won the first game and Buck the second. In the third Hogan looked certain to win. Buck was for 6 and Hogan for Rover. Hogan took position a foot from Rover and wired from Buck's ball which was on the boundary near the end of A baulk. Buck's only chance was to roquet Hogan by running hoop 5. This he did! Furthermore he then went round on a two-ball break to win the game in that turn. A marvellous finish.

Final

The final was a rather dour affair with very few breaks and a number of situations occurring in which neither player was keen to make progress.

In the first game both players were for penult with Openshaw on the South boundary and Buck wired from him close to hoop 2. After much manoeuvring Openshaw had edged slightly nearer the hoop and

attempted it from 9 yards. This was successful and enabled him to win the game.

Buck was always ahead in the second and although Openshaw got a late chance with a two-ball break from hoop 6 he missed a roquet after 3-back and Buck then finished from penult.

The third game was close with Openshaw 2 or 3 hoops ahead for most of the game. Eventually he went further ahead to win +5 and with it the World Two-Ball Competition.

Results

1st Round

Openshaw (GB) bt Herrington (Aus) +3 +4
Olsen (Aus) bt Prichard (GB) +4 -5 +3
Hope (GB) bt Mulliner (GB) +9 -5 +1

2nd Round

Openshaw bt Olsen +13 +4
Murray bt Murfitt (NZ) +11 +3
Wylie bt Chambers (Aus) +4 +6
Prince (NZ) bt Roberts (NZ) +6 +9
Skinley (NZ) bt Prater (Aus) +10 +11
Buck (Aus) w/o Spooner (Aus)
Hogan (NZ) bt Sloane (Aus) +3 +10
Hope bt Clarke (NZ) +3 +2

Quarter-Finals

Openshaw bt Murray -4 +9 +1
Prince bt Wylie +3 +5
Buck bt Skinley +5 -3 +6
Hogan bt Hope +2 +4

Semi-Finals

Openshaw bt Prince +9 +4
Buck bt Hogan +3 -5 +2

Final

Openshaw bt Buck +3 -4 +5

Ryde Club's 75th Anniversary

Visitors to Ryde may possibly recall seeing in the Clubhouse a photograph of an idyllic scene in high summer, the Club's opening day in 1907. Lately it has been joined by a companion recording the Club's anniversary celebrations in 1982, when members put the clock back 75 years.

A press account of the earlier occasion reports that the opening day was graced by a garden party for 300 people and enlivened by the Band of the 1st Royal Fusiliers. And while an Edwardian visitor would have found much that was familiar about the latest celebration, he would perhaps have regretted the absence of the musical accompaniment. Hopefully, though, he would have applauded the members' enterprise in costuming themselves in a manner appropriate to 1907, even if candour compels one to admit that there was more than a whiff of Old Tyme Music Hall in the air.

The weather more than matched the original occasion, and after a celebratory lunch members took to the lawns to play an Anniversary Doubles Tournament. The lawns, however, wore an unfamiliar aspect, with the Hale court settings replacing the usual Willis lay-out. The rules of play likewise were those of 1907, and while strange at first, the players soon began to appreciate the attractions of the sequence game.

While the Club could not match the throng of the 1907 opening, the enthusiasm of those taking part compensated for lack of numbers, and the general feeling at the end of the day was that a notable occasion had been celebrated in a thoroughly satisfactory way.

R.W.N.

An Ode to Croquet

To the lush green lawns they come
Competitors every one
White-flannelled, white-shoed in the sun

Mallets in hand
This exclusive band.

This is a quiet and thinking game
No raised voices 'Hurrah's' or 'Shame'
on the hallowed squares they meet
Keen-eyed, eager to compete.

No genteel clapping may applaud
A point well-won or a point scored.
The click of mallet striking ball
Echo's loud as the cuckoo's call.

And all around the knowing sit,
The game's the thing — Oh, well hit!
All day long they watch and play
Till nights calls halt to the dying day."

What was the game, I forgot to say!
Why, (of course) it could only be Croquet.

J.N. Grant

Croquet — A More or Less Literary Quiz

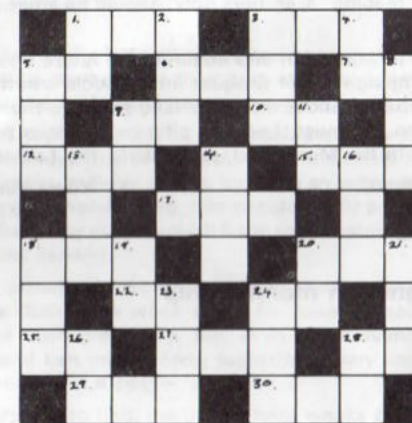
Literary references to croquet tend to reflect or to contribute to the popular misconceptions of the game. You may nevertheless be amused to consider the origins of these quotations:

1. Who was "neither a wit nor a croquet champion"?
2. Who "forgetting the labours of their elder allowed themselves to be carried away by the fascination of croquet"?
3. What was Jack Buchanan's musical suggestion "if you meet a croquet hoop when walking up a path?"
4. Whose croquet ground was "all ridges and furrows"?
5. Who claimed "that he came from croquet people, but that his character was 'not suited to the game' "?
6. Who "found it more amusing to invent new games of our own, such as Tenni-croquet, in which you had to move croquet balls about by throwing tennis balls at them"?
7. Who "played croquet with Herbert Bayard Swope while he kept Governor Al Smith waiting on the phone"?
8. Who cried "Croquet . . . don't you know that there is no surer way to a woman's heart than that footling game"?
9. Who "when the ball struck the wire of the hoop and bounced back . . . caught up his mallet in both hands, brought his knee up with a sudden access of blottingly furious violence and snapped the shaft clean in two"?
10. What was judged by Captain Smith's cousin Millicent to be "such awfully good practice for croquet"?

The answers appear later in this Gazette.

The Croquet Cross Figure Puzzle

(Solution appears on a later page)



THE ALL ENGLAND HANDICAP FINAL.

6 players A.B.C.D.E.F. play each other. American Block System. No time limit. The Handicaps were very good and all players got into double figures in each game. Who was the winner? Luke, John, Mark, Noah, Cain or Able.

Clues Across

- 1 Total points scored bt E
- 3 Same as 3 down
- 5 5 times C score against B
- 6 ½ of 30 across
- 7 6 times D score against F
- 10 7 times E score against B
- 12 6 more than 8 times E score against D
- 15 10 times D score against B
- 17 10 times C score against E
- 18 3 times total score by F
- 20 6 times E score against F

- 22 4 times D score against E
- 24 F score against A
- 25 4 times B score against F
- 27 10 times 7 across
- 28 2 times A score against C
- 29 16 times E score against F
- 30 Total of all points scored

Clues Down

- 1 ½ of F score against E
- 2 7 times total score D
- 3 8 more than 6 across
- 4 7 times A score against E
- 5 Same figures of 21 down different order
- 8 4 times 17 across
- 9 ½ D score against B
- 11 ¾ A score against D
- 13 Total score of B
- 14 Same figures as 16D reversed
- 16 Total score of D
- 18 3 times total score of C
- 19 1 more than B score against D
- 20 1 more than 1 Down
- 21 24 times B score against E
- 23 11 times A score against F
- 24 Total points by A
- 26 4 times F score against C
- 28 3 times B score against A

Handicaps of

- A Total of the figures of 5 Across =
B Total of the figures of 26 Down =
C Total of the figures of 6 Across =
D Total of the figures of 1 Down =
E Total of the figures of 20 Down =
F Total of the figures of 8 Down =

Handicaps of

- LUKE 2 times winning games of A =
JOHN ½ no. of winning games of C =
MARK no. of winning games of F =
NOAH 2 times winning games of E =
CAIN ½ total of figures of 30A =
ABLE 3 times winning games of D =

Answers to Bird Competition

1. Writer of several travel books Swift
2. Keeper of the forest Reeve
3. The carpenter's friend Oyster Catcher
4. Could be an animal or a bird Harrier
5. Often seen on a building site Crane
6. Grand beer perhaps, but not real ale Bergander
7. One of three who sat on a tree Raven (old ballad)
8. Never seen at traffic lights Redstart
9. Does he Scout
10. Use this . . . for a hitch Knot
11. Everybody should have at least one Hobby
12. A famous ladybird Nightingale
13. Bird of the month Maybird
14. A member of the Speckled Band Reed Warbler or Sand Piper
15. Wizard bird Merlin
16. Could be a bird or a fish Ruff
17. Seen in the Sky at Night Dipper or Swan
18. Not often seen on the golf course Eagle
19. Look for our Sale Offer now. Last chance for a bargain. Fern owl
20. Often taken on manoeuvres Fieldfare
21. Said he might be late for dinner Teal
22. If only I could find this seabird, it might prove very profitable Ernie (Ernie)
23. Painter and decorator with a butterfly touch Whistler
24. Latent plant or insect, probably both Cormorant
25. Ship's Officer Boatswain
26. Highly coloured politician but no motorist Jay
27. Migrant from Eire Serin (S. Erin)
28. Seen on festive occasions Bunting
29. Found in America, U.K. and various European countries Auk
30. Partly seabird, wholly land bird Bittern
31. If he sang a bit louder, he could be in light opera Bee-eater (Bee(f)-eater)
32. Change a letter for a familiar politician Coot (Foot) or Maggie (Maggie)

33. Norfolk footballer. *Linnet (King's Lynn FC) or Canary (Norwich FC)*

Very few entries were received which was disappointing. People said they found it difficult. I was afraid I had made it too easy.

The winner is Mrs P. Sheldon, 19 Bernard Crescent, Hunstanton, Norfolk with 19 correct answers.

As no correct entry (or nearly) was received, the £5.00 prize will be withheld for a future competition.

J. Neville Rolfe

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Boring Old Triples

Dear Sir,

How long is a croquet generation? Twelve years, shall we say? That would justify the recent reappearance in your correspondence columns of that old chestnut, the complaint that croquet is too easy in the A class and that contact should be conceded at I-back. (Is it significant that the complainants always come from the B class?) Old hands will recall the correspondence on this subject in issues 102 and 104.

I think that, though I do not resilie from the arguments I then put forward, I should today answer the complaint slightly differently. It may be argued that triple peels are too easy when the hoops are forgiving and the lawns easy-paced. However, we found that it was a different matter in Australia this winter. When hoops are firmly set in firm ground and the lawn poses a few problems, then, especially when the balls are new, triple peels cease to be so trivial. Even picking up a break can be daunting. No one who watched the test matches, where great skill was often displayed, could possibly have complained that the game was boring or too easy.

You could have the same advantageous conditions here too, with a little effort. It is not enough to give the hoops an extra tap on the Monday morning of a tournament. Nor does it help to wedge the hoops in with grass cuttings. *You have to move the hoops.* This takes time; it takes effort; it sometimes costs money; it always calls for planning, just as does the management of a cricket square. But until this effort is made, British players and spectators must continue to sup beer while the Antipodeans take claret.

Some clubs do provide firm hoops at tournaments. I hope and believe that they are building up a distinguished and discriminating clientele. Expense cannot be an objection. Entry fees are absurdly low at present and can be raised to meet any extra cost. Even members of the host clubs could stomach having to pay a decent fee if they knew that they would be getting something more than everyday club croquet. In the annual calendar of events enterprising clubs could advertise the fact that the hoops would be freshly and firmly set.

Sir, British croquet is going through a sloppy phase. It must be bucked up. To make the game allegedly less boring by tinkering with the laws is feeble and shortsighted. If action is to be taken by the CA, let it be taken by the Tournament Committee and not by the Laws Committee.

Much can also be done by the players themselves. Boring croquet usually occurs because the players' ability to make breaks far outstrips their ability to hit in. The old standard leave, with a ball by the peg and a ball near the second hoop, had to go because the 13 yard shot was being hit too often. It was widely felt that the new standard leave, with a ball tucked behind the fourth hoop, was overwhelmingly powerful: British players do not hit in at 18 yards. However, the leave was well and truly debunked in Australia, where (a) players *did* hit in at 18 yards and (b) the hoops were testing enough to make the second break a difficult one if the shot was missed. The next development in croquet tactics should be a greater concentration on shooting ability and a reappraisal of what you should aim for when you get a four ball break. I tried to make a start on this in Australia. I hope it catches on.

17 Carlton Crescent,
Southampton

Yours faithfully,
Keith Wylie

Dear Sir,

You gave some space in the last edition of the Gazette to a review of the Coaching Handbook which is available at £3 from the CA Office (plus 45p if it has to be posted).

In your review you say that the Coaching Handbook could have more aptly been titled as a Coaching and Recruitment Handbook.

It is true that the Coaching Handbook does contain some information on recruitment and coaching of new members but it really only touches on the subject and it was always intended that there should be a second handbook entitled "Recruitment and Publicity Handbook". This has now been printed and copies are available for £2 plus 45p postage from the CA offices. The new handbook revises and enlarges upon the paper circulated to clubs a few years ago and it should prove to be a valuable help to all clubs wishing to secure more members, and those interested in widening public interest in the game.

L.W.

Dear Sir,

What excellent reading Lionel Wharrad's prognostic paper made. Having "read and pondered" as invited may I express some personal views which, I hasten to add, do not intend criticism of the achievements and hard work of the CA and individual clubs.

For expansion, clearly playing facilities are a fundamental need and maybe the small-lawn game would assist — particularly beginners. Do let us be sure, however, that the "full size" game is not sacrificed — rather concentrate on negotiating for the use of vast areas of adequately flat land such as school playing fields which lay idle for long periods of the year and could perhaps being together the many "private" players which Lionel refers to.

A second important factor is the image of the game. Personally, I think "the most intelligent outdoor game" was bad publicity. Many participants of sport achieve a high degree of enjoyment without ever reaching "A" (or "A+") class and it is I consider important that these latter remember that were it not for the contributions — financial and practical — of the less accomplished, facilities and amenities would be substantially reduced.

From my experience, the image of the game is still tarnished by "aloofness", "clanishness", "irascibility", "unfriendliness" — even within clubs — and, for those who are tempted to the game, the demoralising lapses of etiquette and courtesy referred to in Referees' Corner — Winter 1982. Let our aim be to demonstrate both now and in the future that among the dying embers of sportsmanship in other spheres — Croquet is not numbered. Notice boards — real and hypothetical — reading "Members only" should be amended to read "All welcome".

Finally, relative to expansion and ensuring the future should we not be seeing a campaign to get Croquet into schools whether state or private? As mentioned above adequate land areas are there with little extra preparation and must therefore offer tremendous potential for the future of both the Men's and, particularly, the Ladies' game.

39 Stanstead Road,
Caterham
Surrey, CR3 6AD

Yours sincerely,
Alec F. Coleman

Some thoughts on membership

The Editor
The Gazette

Dear Sir,

I am glad to be able to report that the UK membership of the Croquet Association is moving upwards. It was 696 in 1980, 729 in 1981 and at December 31st 1982 in was 790. This represents about 37% of the total *active* playing membership of clubs — although of course there are considerable differences between clubs in the percentage of their members who have joined the CA.

Clubs which have been particularly successful in persuading their members to join the CA are, not unnaturally, the clubs which stage tournaments which appear in the CA fixture book

London and the South East

Harrow Oak, Hurlingham, Roehampton, Woking, Compton, Southwick.

Southern and South West

Parkstone, Budleigh Salterton, Cheltenham, Phyllis Court*, Harwell*

Eastern Counties and East Midlands

Hunstanton, Nottingham

* Although mention must be made of two non-tournament Clubs — Phyllis Court and Harwell — both of whom have a high percentage of their members as members of the CA.

I hope that in 1983 we can persuade more people who enjoy croquet to join the Association. I believe that the first and most compelling reason for most people to do so is to support the sport from which they derive much pleasure.

The Croquet Association is the national body which primarily exists only because a lot of people give freely of their time to its various committees, to managing tournaments, to refereeing and to coaching. Without such a body croquet could not exist as an organised sport.

There are also other more tangible reasons for joining, not the least of which are that CA members can enter tournaments at less cost than non-members, CA members can buy mallets and publications at lower prices than non-members.

The CA is working very hard to ensure the continuance of the game, to help clubs which are in difficulty, to obtain publicity for the game, to open new clubs, and to do all it can to further the interests of croquet at all levels of play. It deserves and needs the support of all who are interested in the game.

Old Stable Cottage,
St Johns Hill Road,
Woking, Surrey

Your sincerely,
Lionel Wharrad

TIME TO DECIMALISE THE COINS IN THE CANNON

Dear Sir,

How many young players, and those new to the Association game, would today understand what is meant by cannons which are referred to in terms of; "half-crown, shilling, and threepenny".

These coin references were originally used to determine the distance between the striker ball and the one to be rushed, when positioning three balls for a yard line cannon shot.

To apply the same principle of measurement today, the equivalent coins and references would be, 10p (32mm), 5p (24mm), ½p (16mm).

Lime Parc
Bickwell Valley
Sidmouth

I.M. Dwerryhouse

SIX-DAY TOURNAMENTS

Dear Sir,

I was surprised and a little disappointed to hear Mr. Wharrad assert that "weekly tournaments as they now exist" will largely disappear, apparently to be replaced by more weekend events.

I cannot think that in this matter he is accurately interpreting the wish of the C.A. membership in general. Many members will welcome a possible increase in 3-day events, but with an anticipated increase in clubs and in C.A. membership, this should easily be attained without sacrificing the 6-day events which for many constitute the high-lights of the croquet season.

Weekend tournaments are invaluable to those who are tethered to office desks during the week and who have to measure out their annual leave with great care. But even these events have severe limitations and can involve long journeys in very limited time with participation only in a single "block".

But for others not so tied, the tournament weeks provide a splendid setting for pleasant holidays at most desirable centres, mostly at the seaside. For those whose fortunes are not so great on the courts, there is the compensation of additional time for shopping, exploring or merely watching.

Even so, it is quite unrealistic to think of participation in a 6-day tournament in terms of five games. Almost everyone wins at some stage and Monday morning pessimists usually find that they are still busy on Thursday and Friday — if not Saturday. Then too there is the opportunity of practice games on the day before the tournament begins and that "extra event" a skilful manager will put on for those who are unlucky in the early rounds. And towards the end of the week it is often possible to enjoy a friendly game on a court not otherwise in use.

There is a very special atmosphere about a full week's tournament, noticed particularly to those who go to the same events year by year. Because croquet has such a small following, one gets the feeling of knowing everyone who plays and it becomes a real joy to renew acquaintances and to do battle against those who have become our friends over the years.

Most clubs delight in entertaining visitors at their annual "weeks" as is very evident from the lengths to which they go in the provision of meals and other amenities and the wonderful spirit in which the games are organised and played. Long live the 6-day events!

2 Fairway Close
Worlesbury
Weston-super-Mare

Yours sincerely
Bill Scarr

Mateus Inter-Counties Championships

I am pleased to be able to announce that Mateus will once again be the sponsor for the Inter-County Championship in June.

Last year's sponsorship by Mateus to mark the introduction of a Mateus White wine was very successful. Quite apart from attracting an extremely satisfactory volume of publicity, the entire event turned out to be one of the most enjoyable Inter-Counties Championships that most players had experienced. This was not only because of the Mateus wine, both Pink and White, which was dispensed but because of the friendly atmosphere generated at the Southwick Club.

This year the Championships will be held from Wednesday June 1st to Saturday June 4th. There are two reasons for the change from last year; by finishing on Saturday there is a chance that we shall get some publicity coverage in the Sunday papers, and a number of players will be glad of the Sunday for travelling and/or for their families.

We had quite a few spectators last year — we hope to do even better in 1983. Perhaps friends and families of those taking part will use the opportunity to take a few days holiday by the sea and to see some interesting croquet. There were some really exciting moments in 1982 and I have no doubt that there will be mounted in 1983 a real attempt to ensure that the Northern Counties do not repeat their success of 1982. Eastern Counties, Surrey and Middlesex must feel that they can win in 1983 — and of course there could be a challenge from new counties this year.

I do hope that croquet players everywhere will come along to support their county teams and that the Championship will turn out to be the most popular social engagement in the croquet calendar for both spectators and players.

L. Wharrad
Chairman, Sponsorship Committee

Dear Sir,

'A' CLASS PLAY BOREDOM

Mr. Scarr raises a very important question. Not only is a 26-0 game boring, it is extremely unfair. In no other game in the world would such an absurd situation be tolerated, where players of equal merit whitewash each other regularly by 26 points to 0.

It is morally indefensible that the out player can only obtain an innings if he hits a long shot, which may be perfectly accurate but still miss, because of imperfections in the turf.

After watching his opponent take the first ball round, he is ENTITLED to an innings. If instead, he merely watches an opponent's triple peel, how can he be said to have played a game of croquet? It is the croquet stroke which gives our game its unique character, enriching it beyond all other ball games, and frequently the out player has not even taken croquet.

There is a very simple solution which I proposed years ago, but no action has ever been taken to deal with the problem. I propose that Law 36 (a) and (b) should be replaced by the following:

"When one-back is scored by either ball, the opponent in his next turn may begin his turn by placing either of his balls in contact with any other ball, and take croquet from it".

With one rare exception, this simple law would ensure that the opponent obtains an innings, and participates in the game, and of course it would ensure also that a player who has lost the innings can get back into the game. Note that the out player could not be deprived of his right to an innings by peeling through one-back. The ability to deprive the out player of a lift by peeling is one of the anomalies in the existing law which oppress the out player.

The only exception would be a successful sextuple peel, which certainly is never boring, and being so risky provides the ever-present possibility of a break-down, which with the help of his contact lift, should ensure that the opponent gets well into the game.

Many more sextuples would be attempted than at present, by those who currently rely on the triple peel to keep the opponent out of the game. There would be other exciting variations, for example to go

round to the peg with the first ball and peg it out. Without the fourth ball the opponent could not set up a sextuple, and fascinating duels would result. Because of the two possible contact lifts the leaves would have to be much more carefully arranged than they are now, and both the 'A' class game and the 'B' class game would be more interesting in many ways.

And the curse of the game, so rightly stigmatised as "vicious", or "cruel", would be removed, because with the rare exception of a successful sextuple peel, every player would enjoy true participation in the game.

Igwababa Road
Kloof 3600, South Africa

Yours sincerely,
Leslie Riggall

Sir,

SPECTATOR CROQUET

I am often asked if croquet will ever be televised and thus attract a large regular audience. Most people who raise the question then go on to explain to me their ideas of what we should be doing to encourage television and how we could, by a combination of devices, including computer graphics, provide a very watchable game.

Now the one thing all these people have in common is that they all believe there is a large potential audience for croquet. If this is so why do so few croquet players watch croquet? Why are our own major events so poorly attended?

It was not always so. I have seen photographs of past croquet tournaments in which the court is seen to be surrounded by spectators. There is one such in Prichard's History of Croquet on page 64 showing Devonshire Park in 1896.

Will the game appeal either to sponsors or to television producers unless they can see some evidence that croquet players themselves treat the game as an interesting spectator sport?

There are a number of reasons why so few people watch. Firstly we have not publicised our major events sufficiently well nor have we openly invited the public to come along and watch. Secondly we have played some major events at clubs which do not admit members of the public. Thirdly most clubs are not equipped to cope with large numbers of spectators — seating and lavatory accommodation are barely adequate in many cases for the club members and their families and friends.

Croquet is an inherently interesting game to watch — of course, like so many other games, it has its dull patches, but it also has very exciting moments. I would like to suggest that we make a real effort this year to provide an audience at some of our major events. An excellent starting point would be the Inter Counties Championship to be held at Southwick, from Wednesday June 1st to Saturday June 4th. Eight counties are involved as last year. They are:

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Middlesex | 5. Berks & Oxon |
| 2. East Midlands | 6. Sussex |
| 3. Eastern Counties | 7. Bedford |
| 4. Northern Counties | 8. Surrey |

Each county team consists of a minimum of six players — some counties change their team almost daily and use ten or twelve players in the course of the four days. There will thus be around sixty to seventy players from a wide variety of clubs.

I would like to suggest that all players and all clubs should try to provide spectators this year. Southwick is a very attractive club and it is of course very near to Brighton and Worthing and not too far away from Arundel and Chichester. There is no difficulty in finding accommodation of all types — self catering apartments, family boarding houses, small hotels, country hotels and luxury hotels. (Brighton Council produce a good list).

The first week in June is quite a good time for a little break by the sea, and a visit to Southwick will give croquet players and families a chance to watch some interesting open doubles, to meet some old friends, to support their county's team and to spend some part of the time exploring the lovely Sussex coast and countryside.

The members of the Southwick club who volunteer to do the catering will have their work cut out to provide food and refreshment for the competitors, officials and club members apart from the sponsors and their guests — so do please bring your picnic with you and something to sit on.

L. Wharrad

Dear Sir,

DOES YOUR AREA NEED A NEW CLUB?

I would like to hear from any Associate or indeed from any croquet players who are living some distance from current clubs and would therefore be interested in a croquet club being established in their vicinity.

There is some evidence that local authorities are responding to the Sports Council "50+ and All to Play for" campaign in a positive way, and there could arise a number of opportunities to start new clubs this year, provided we can identify local individuals who are prepared to help in a modest way, or at least to promise to join if a club is started.

So — if there is no club in your vicinity and you would like one — do please write to me.

Yours faithfully,
Lionel Wharrad

Dear Sir,

MRS E. MASKEW

Mrs D. Maskew, former West Australian President, and State Player, passed away on March 9th, peacefully at home. As Nell was well known in international croquet circles in earlier years, you may like to make mention of her passing in the Gazette.

She first played croquet in 1946, and very soon became a most proficient player, and ardent devotee of the game, and remained so until her death. Nell held every office, with the exception of Treasurer, in the WA Croquet Association, and served at various times on all related committees, in addition to which, she was active in the administration of the several clubs to which she belonged at various times.

Older members of the MacRobertson Shield teams, will remember her from earlier visits to Perth. In fact she instituted the West Australian coaching committee, and was its foundation President, after Dr Bray's visit.

3/41 Saunders Street,
Como. 6152

Yours sincerely,
Mrs D. Maskew
Hon Secretary,
The West Australian CA

Are you a Scot?

It is good to see that the "Home Internationals", started by Pimms, appear to be becoming an established part of the croquet calendar. Although the form has been changed for this season the principle is being maintained, which is the important thing.

One of the problems which the Scottish Selectors have is knowing which players are, in fact, eligible to play for Scotland. This is not as daft as it sounds, because, in today's mobile society, many young Scots move south of the border with their parents and learn their croquet in England, and others are born here while their parents are resident in Scotland for a few years and then moving south again.

The qualifications for playing in the Home Internationals which have been agreed between the Croquet Association and the Scottish Croquet Association are:-

- 1) Birth in Scotland of the player.
- 2) Birth in Scotland of one of the player's parents.
- 3) Residence in Scotland.

Would players who have any of these qualifications, and would like to play for Scotland, now or in the future, please write to me, giving details of their qualifications. No handicap limit is placed on this request — it is as nice to watch a promising career develop as it is to have a pool of experienced players to choose from.

I. Howard Wright,
Secretary,
The Scottish Croquet Association,
17 Greygoran,
Sauchie,
Clacks., FK10 3ET.

Letter to the Editor of the Croquet Gazette from R.S. Alford,
Chairman of the Grounds Sub-Committee, Colchester Croquet Club.
January 1983

I have read with interest the article on Croquet Lawns which has been included in the C.A. Fixture List 1983. Whilst I appreciate the value of

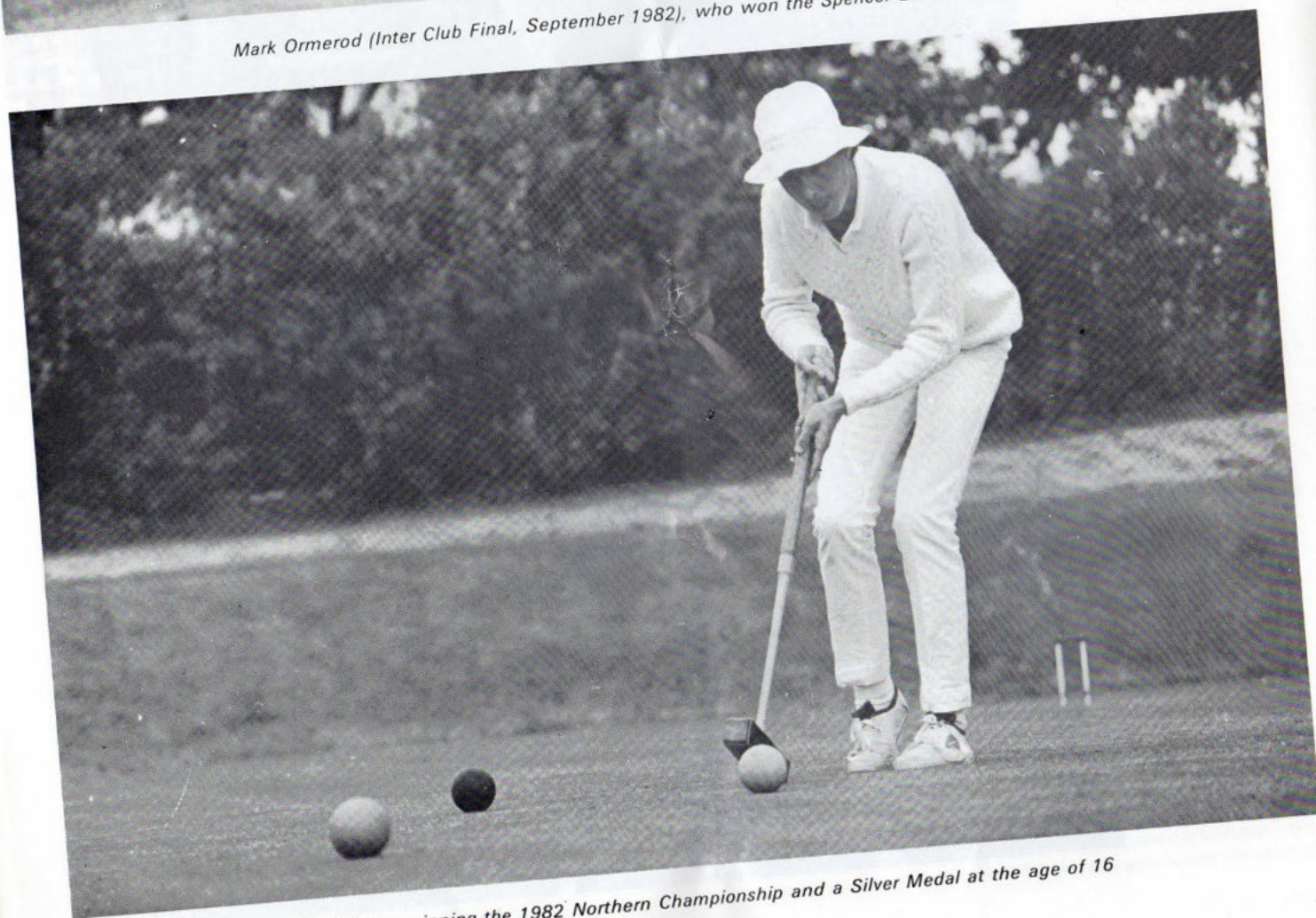


Nigel Aspinall during the triple peel with which he won the Mixed Doubles Championship 1982 (partnered by Carol Knox). The losing finalists, Carmen Bazley and Laurence Latham look on, resigned to their fate, although they did extremely well to reach the final. Nigel also won the President's Cup and the Open Singles Championship during 1982.

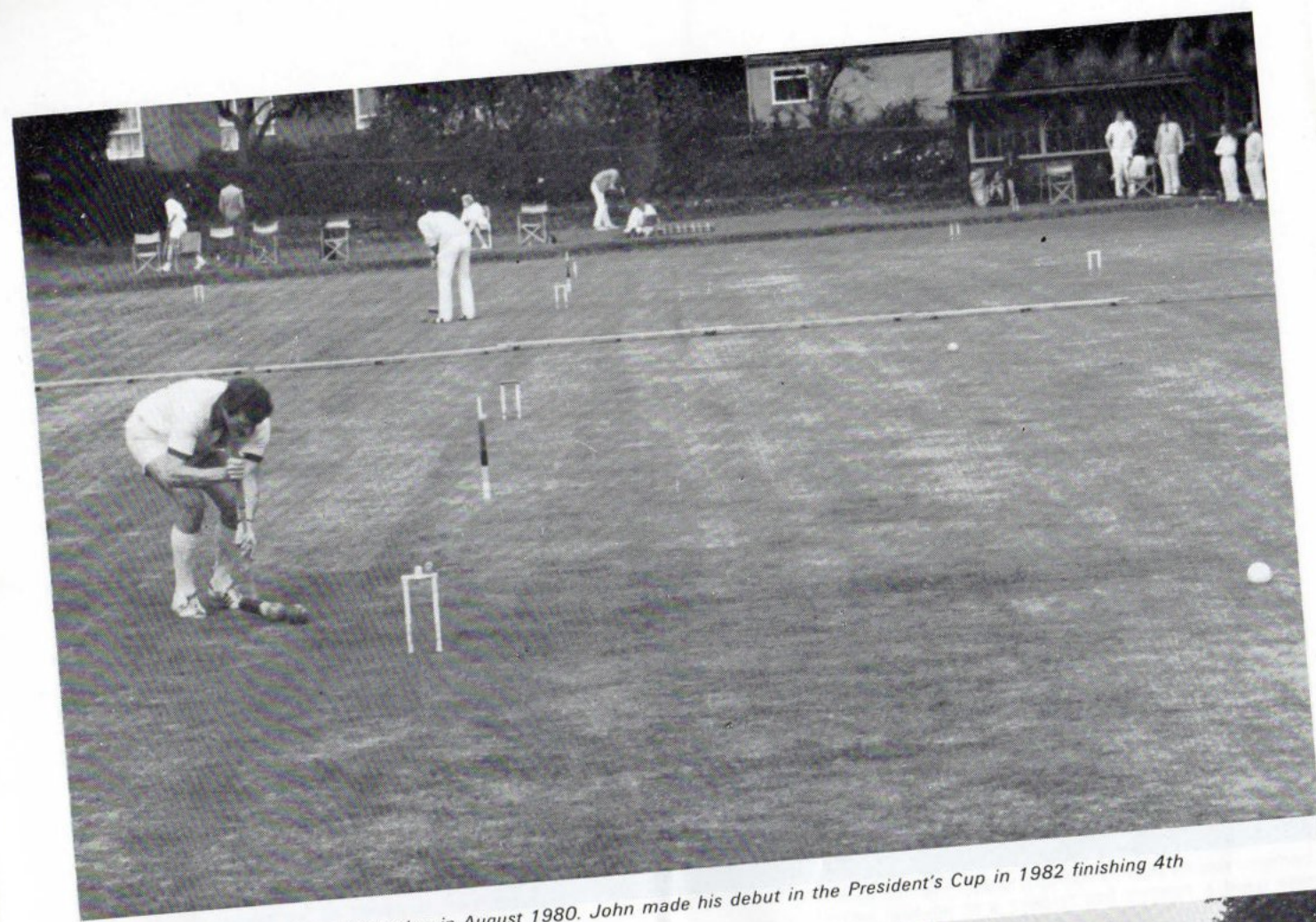
All Photographs in this central supplement courtesy of Peter Alvey.



Mark Ormerod (Inter Club Final, September 1982), who won the Spencer-Ell Cup in 1982



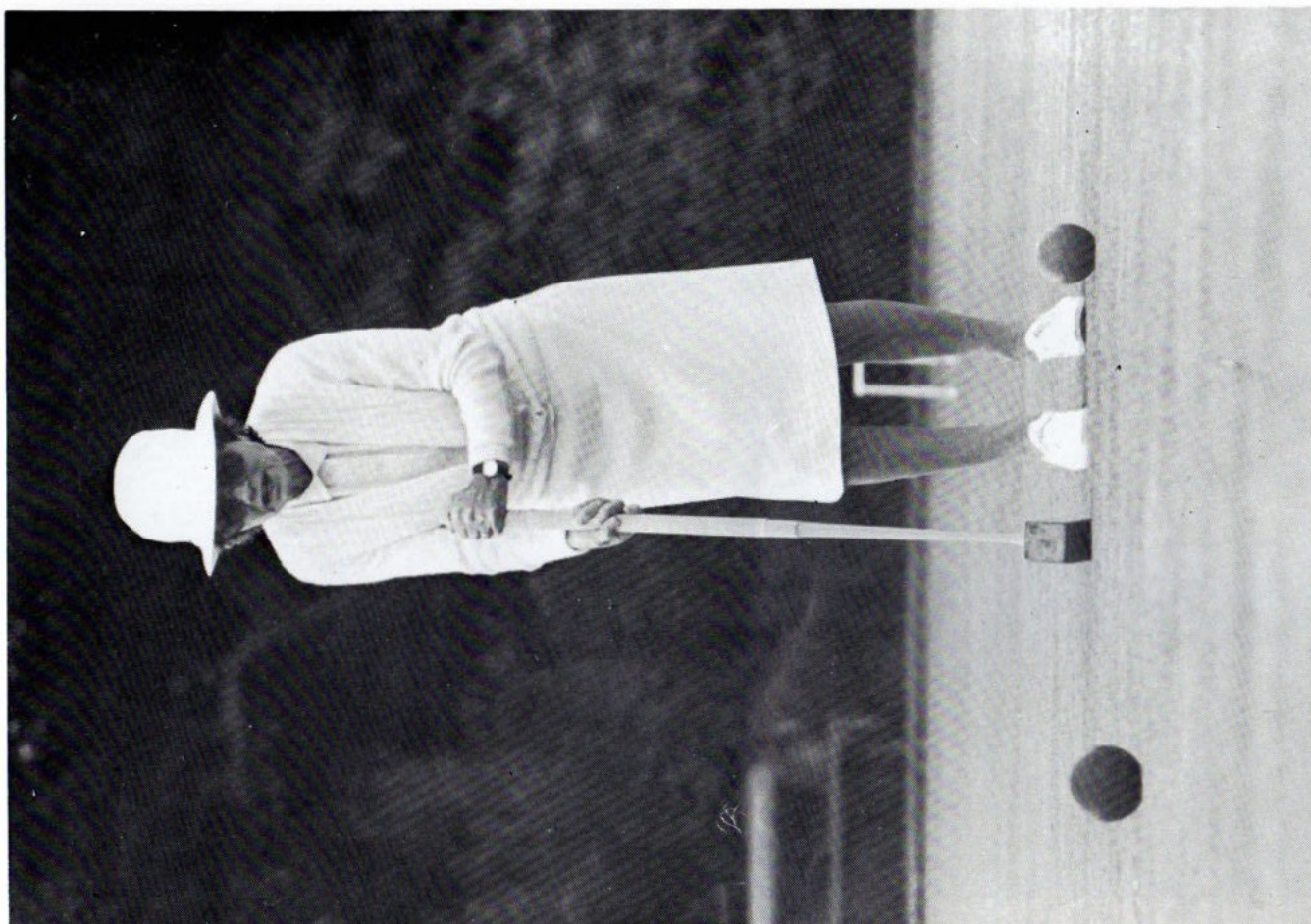
Mark Avery winning the 1982 Northern Championship and a Silver Medal at the age of 16



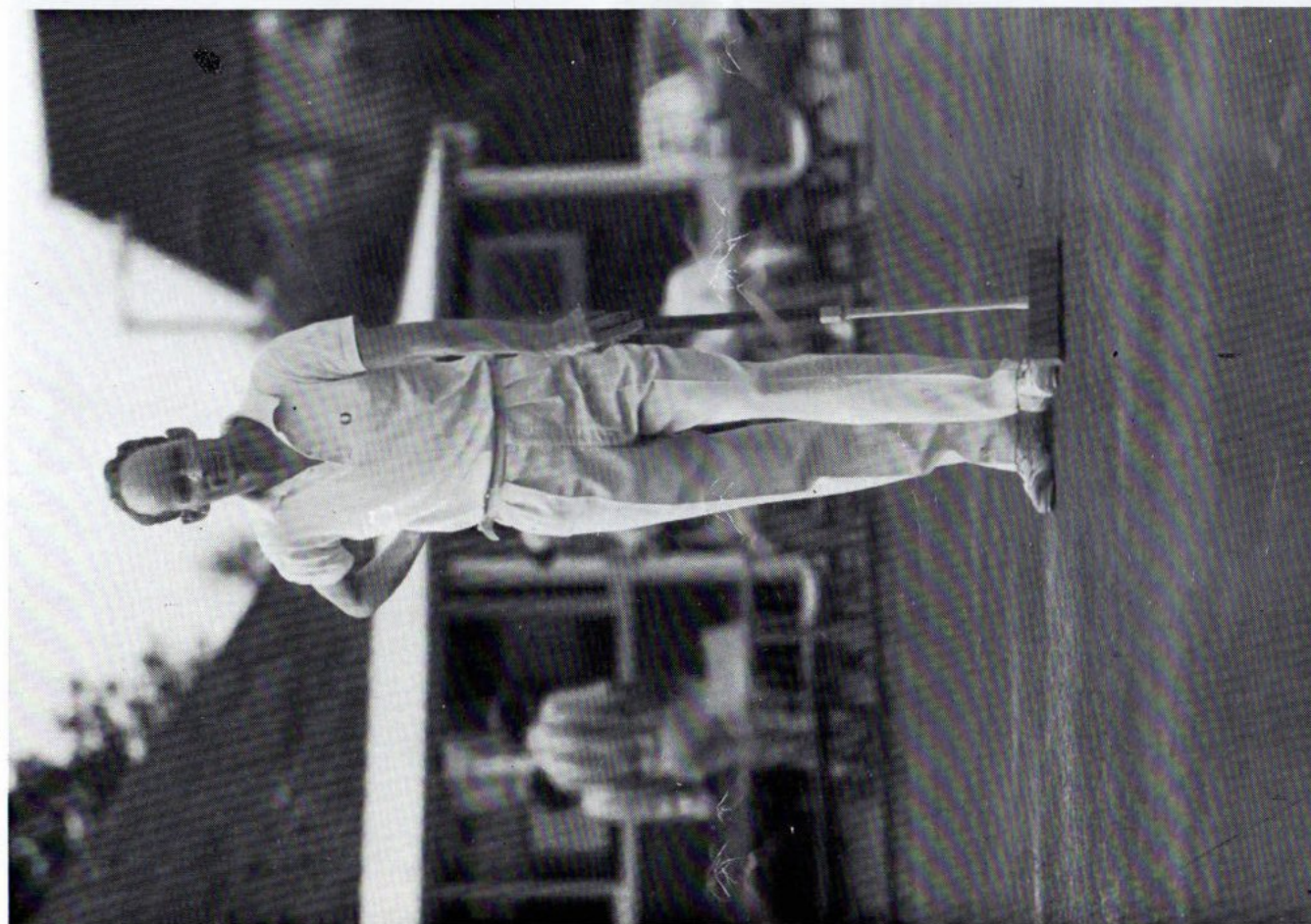
John Rose at Bowden in August 1980. John made his debut in the President's Cup in 1982 finishing 4th



Philip Cordingley winning the Association Plate at Hurlingham, July 1982



Mrs Susan Wiggins, from New Zealand, winner of the 1982 Women's Championship and the Ladies' Field Cup



Keith Wylie (GB v Rest), Cheltenham, September 1982
"The master tactician deep in thought"

publishing as much information as possible on this subject I would have thought that as relatively few Clubs are laying our new lawns, a more important aspect is the care and maintenance of established lawns and the equipment required.

Would it not therefore be desirable for the Croquet Association to find a sponsor who would give the best advice on the sequence of operations required throughout the year and the expertise needed.

Whilst in no way setting ourselves up as experts, we at Colchester, have carried out extensive maintenance and lawn care for many years and I give below some basic guide lines for this work.

1. **Autumn Work at the Close of the Season October-December**

- (a) Removal of hoops, corner flags and yard line markers and the temporary marking of these points to facilitate setting out next season.
- (b) Aeration by rota-rake: Sisis Slitter or similar to a depth of about 1/2 inch (13 mm) just sufficient to cut through the turf only — right angle and diagonal treatment — followed by a final cut by motor mower to remove scarified material.
- (c) This is followed by a programme of hollow tining using a special hollow tined fork. Look for minor high spots and give these areas a more concentrated piercing taking away all the cores. It is these same areas which will be most affected by soil compaction and a double purpose can thus be achieved. Next, deal with the minor depressions which have been noted during the rainstorms. For this operation a good long straight-edge, five or six yards in length is essential and the depressions will normally be found more verdant than the normal turf. On the light soil at Colchester depressions have been built up with sifted topsoil but on medium or heavy soils it would be preferable to use sharp sand instead. If carried out in early Autumn as much as half an inch of loose soil or sand can be applied and the grass will have grown up through it by the Spring and in time for the new season. It should not be rolled or touched until the Spring mowing.

Consideration should be given to overall treatment of the courts every 7-10 years. In this event a self-propelled hollow tining machine should be used — hiring if possible — removal of the cores and spreading of lawn compost. It is best to use a commercial compost consisting of sifted sterilised loam, sharp sand and peat incorporating a fertilizer spread with a True-lute 1.4 kg/sq metre (3lbs/sq yd).

- (d) During the season when rain storms occur a plan should be prepared showing the high and low areas on the Courts as shown by the pools of water. Particular note should be taken of the boundaries where balls "run off", hoop positions with hollows and corners where Croquet shots are made difficult by low corner spots and worn turf. It is vital that the faults in the lawns which become apparent during the season are eradicated before the next season commences.

2. **Spring, January-March**

Work should commence in February on the further filling in and dressing of low areas, making good and levelling hoop hollows and corner spots. As early as possible a first cut should be carried out with the cylinder set high and at the end of March or early April (subject of course to prevailing weather conditions) the Courts should be reset out. Where space permits it is desirable to move the boundaries in such a way as to establish new corner spots. It may also be necessary to find fresh hoop positions on level turf to clear low spots and to allow remedial work to establish itself. Particular care should be taken and the utmost accuracy observed in marking out boundary lines and a nylon cord should invariably be used. this is the hall mark of a well kept croquet lawn.

3. **Summer**

- (a) The major work involves cutting and marking out including constant resetting of hoop positions and correct gauging to tournament standards. The cutting of the grass is a skilled operation in which the sequence of cuts is all important to avoid sharp turns and possible damage to the turf. Time should be taken to work out this sequence. We use a 24" powered cylinder mower

with a special thin shear blade for close cutting. The first cut should be fairly high and progressively lowered during April and May. It is a matter of "trial and error" to achieve a correct texture of turf. A fine cut is needed particularly for tournament play.

- (b) Other aspects of court maintenance include the disposal and future use of grass cuttings. It has been our experience that grass mowings can be "composted down" and after 5/6 years they are sufficiently well rotted to have become friable and can be used as compost. The soil cores from hollow tining can also be stored and used for top dressing.
- (c) The regular use of artificial fertilizer is controversial and largely depends on the type of sub-soil and the sort of turf Clubs wish to establish. Many members will have experience of the 'lush' turf at Hurlingham and Roehampton where a rich sub-soil has been established whereas we at Colchester on light gravel, have established a fast even playing surface mainly by levelling with sifted top soil and little use of artificial fertilizers.
- (d) Watering during dry weather is an essential part of court maintenance. At Colchester we have a "Wright Rain" irrigation installation with automatic control which ensures a fairly even spread over the whole of the four courts. This is very important which ever system is used and over watering should be avoided. On light soil this is not so much of a problem but on heavy ground watering must be carefully controlled.
- (e) The painting of hoops ready for the next season is also required. Our procedure is to strip down to the bare metal with paint remover, scraper and wire wool then one coat of calcium plumbate primer. This is needed as most of our hoops are galvanised and ordinary primer is not suitable. Then an undercoat and gloss coat of white paint and red and blue enamel on the rover and first hoops. This process is very laborious and I should like to hear from any club of a quicker or more efficient method. The passage of a croquet ball through a hoop soon reduces the lower part to bare metal again!

I have summarised what we do at Colchester but there is much more to be said by the experts on turf cultivation and maintenance. Perhaps the CA will produce an article for the benefit of all clubs. In the meantime I shall be pleased to enter into correspondence with interested parties.



Humphrey Hides

Dear Sir,

JUMP SHOT

One of our Members who is fond of quoting Tollemache has been taking a look at the Jump Shot.

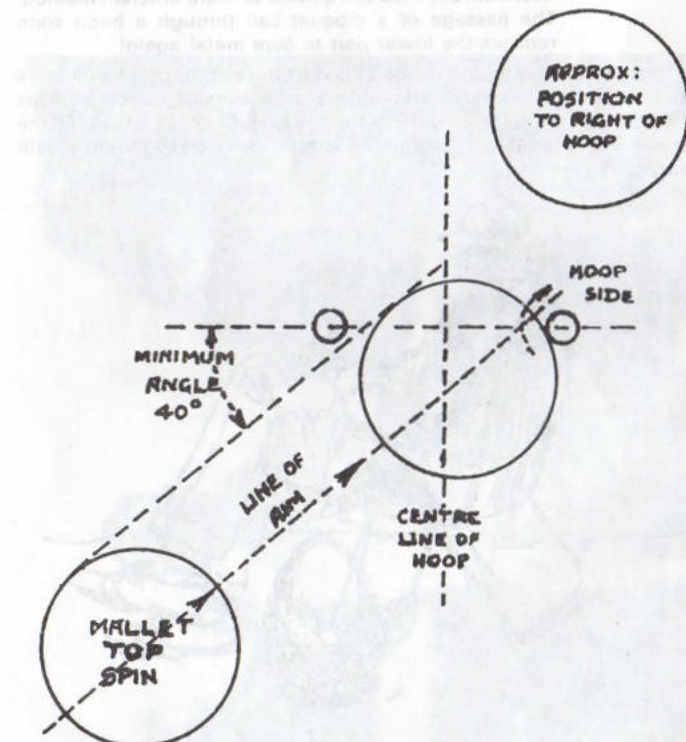
Tollemache avers that "the Jump Shot is one of the prettiest shots in the game . . . The amount of "spin" that it will impart to the ball and the hoops that it will run have to be seen to be believed. . . . A curious feature of the shot is that if the ball is played from the left side of the hoop, it will come to rest after running the hoop, on the right hand side . . . This is caused by the "side" on the ball."

There is an ambiguity about the use of the words "side" and "spin". In the current context and when approaching from the left, "side" is a lateral rotation of the ball imparted by hitting the ball with the mallet off the left centre of the ball. This will cause it to rotate in a clockwise direction. Later in the shot, impact off centre, with the hoop (see diagram) will impart a lateral clockwise "side".

Tollemache plays the Jump Shot with "mallet side". Although "mallet side", if used correctly, will undoubtedly help to persuade a reluctant ball to run the hoop, it is (in our correspondent's view) a refinement that all but the experts would do well to avoid. It would add yet another (and unnecessary) hazard to an already hazardous undertaking. Even Tollemache, elsewhere in his book, admits that "the use of "side" is not "absolutely necessary", but "merely an additional help towards the correct method" of following through.

"Spin", on the other hand, is a vertical rotation of the ball imparted by what is commonly known as "top"; the degree of which is governed by stance, angle of mallet and force when striking the ball. In the Jump Shot, it is the application of this "spin" that causes the ball to jump.

Turning to the diagram, which shows a successful shot from a maximum lateral approach from the left, a properly regulated stroke will cause the striker ball to "spin" and "jump". After clearing the near hoop upright, the ball will collide "off centre" with the far hoop upright. This "off centre" impact with the hoop will superimpose a lateral component of clockwise "side" on the existing vertical "spin". (The amount of "off centre" can easily be judged if the player views it from the far side of the hoop). After falling to the ground, the combination of both "top" and "side" will cause the ball to come to rest on the right side of the hoop.



This is characteristic of the shot and a logical rather than a "curious" feature of it.
 Yours faithfully,
 Garth, Knowle Drive, Sidmouth, Devon, EX10 8HN
 R.C. Case
 Hon. Sec. Croq. Sec. Sidmouth

The Bisquer's Lament

My bisques; a fence of certitude.
 Jerusalem! Jerusalem!

The lawns had never looked so green,
 Indeed, it seemed a lovely scene.
 My faculties were taut and keen.

The Rules had never seemed so clear,
 Nor victory more a sinecure.

How *could* things go so far awry,
 And fickle fortune pass my by —
 So cruelly?

Croquet — A More or Less Literary Quiz — ANSWERS

- Mr Cornelius Appin (in the short story *Tabermory* by Saki, *The Chronicles of Clovis*, 1911).
- Lily, Bell and Bernard Dale and Mr. Adolphus Crosbie (in *The Small House at Allington*, Anthony Trollope, 1864).
- Just stand and sing (in *Stand Up and Sing*, the Charig-Furber musical of 1931).
- The Queen of Hearts' (in *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, Lewis Carroll, 1865).
- "The Rugger International", while playing golf with G. Tearle (in the *Theory and Practice of Gamesmanship*, Stephen Potter, 1947).
- Gwen Raverat (née Darwin) and her brothers and sister (in *Period Piece*, Gwen Raverat, 1954).
- Harpo Marx (in *Harpo Speaks*, Harpo Marx with Rowland Barber, 1961).
- Gally Threepwood (in *Sunset at Blandings*, P.G. Wodehouse, 1977).
- Leonard Driver (in *A Rush on the Ultimate*, H.R.F. Keating, 1961).
- Polo (in a cartoon reprinted on p.112 of *Mr Punch's Book of Sports* Punch Library of Humour, ed. J.A. Hammerton. I don't know when it originally appeared in the magazine).

Solution: Cross Figure Puzzle

Winner: E
 Handicap: 2 Mark

1	1	7	3	1	9	
6	0	3	1	1	8	4
4		1	5	9	1	0
2	1	4	5	2	1	0
0		1	0	0	0	
2	8	2	1	1	5	6
7		7	2	1	1	2
6	4		8	4	0	4
4	1	6		6	2	2

Questions and Answers on the Laws

- Q. The striker attempts to peel Black with Blue, both being for rover. Black sticks in the jaws and Blue comes to rest 6 inches behind it. The striker then plays a half-jump stroke. Both balls go through and Blue, bouncing off Black into the air, then hits Black again when it is well clear of the hoop and comes to rest 2 feet south of Black. The striker then rushes Black towards the peg and is arranging the balls for the peg-out when the adversary forestalls play. What happens now.
 A. Blue made a valid roquet on Black under Law 16(a). Law 16(b)(iii) is irrelevant as Blue and Black did not start in contact. Law 16A is not relevant because Black was not clear of the hoop before the half jump stroke was played. Accordingly, the striker has failed to take croquet when entitled to do so (Law 29(c)) and the error has been discovered within the limit of claims (the next stroke but one of that turn). The balls are replaced in the positions they occupied after the half-jump stroke and the striker continues his turn without penalty by taking croquet.

- Q. Red is on the corner spot in Corner 1. The striker rushes Black into Corner 1 without disturbing Red and replaces Black on the corner spot, placing Red on the yard-line in contact with Black. The adversary forestalls play and states that Red, being a corner ball, cannot be disturbed. Who is right?
 A. The adversary. The striker must replace Black in accordance with Law 8(a) and (b), by placing it on the yard-line in contact with Red (which remains undisturbed) on either side.

- Q. Red in on the corner spot in Corner 1. The striker rushes Black into Corner 1 without disturbing Red and replaces Black on the yard-line in contact with Red. He then proceeds to arrange the balls for a cannon by lifting Red and replacing it in contact with Black in a different position. The adversary forestalls play and states that Red, being a corner ball, cannot be disturbed. Who is right?
 A. The striker. He has replaced Black correctly in accordance with Law 8(a) and (b). He is then entitled to arrange the balls for the croquet stroke as he did under Law 18(b). Red became a ball in hand once Black had been placed on the yard-line. This is a different situation to Question 2, which was dealing with the replacement of balls after the roquet only.

- Q. In a 3rd hoop start handicap game, L (a very long-bisqued player) runs hoops 1 and 2 after hoops 3 and 4. By now thoroughly confused, L runs hoops 3 and 4 a second time and continues the turn to the peg, using up all his bisques in the process. His opponent, M (a minus player), has not bothered to watch and returns to take an unsuccessful long shot. L starts off again with his other ball and, on running hoop 3, realises that something odd has happened as it is not usual to run any hoop 3 times. On discovering what has happened, M is highly amused and puts L's peg clip on hoop 5. L calls a referee. Is M correct?
 A. No. L was not entitled to play a continuation stroke after "running" hoop 1 (see Law 27). However, the error was condoned when M took his shot. Accordingly all points scored in order (ie 5 to rover) remain valid. In addition, all the bisques taken by L after "running" hoop 1 are restored on a plain reading of Law 39A(a). M is not so amused now and appeals to the referee of the tournament, N. N thinks M is a fathead for not watching the game but agrees that Law 53 should be applied to modify the effect of Law 39A(a). That Law was not intended to cover a case where a player runs hoops in order after running a wrong hoop. Accordingly any bisques taken by L after running hoop 5 should not be restored.

- DOWN:**
- Tool for tennis — or croquet? (9, 4)
 - A total miss is fresh. (3)
 - 'Bring me my — of burning gold. (3)
 - Stuck in penultimate. (2)
 - Bullets in the picnic-basket? (8, 5)
 - Lives at the top of the strand in 1 Across. (2)
 - 12 Across loses both ends. (3)
 - Honest side. (7)
 - Instruction from the British Croquet Council? (5)
 - A modern form of lift. (5)
 - Won, but confused for the present. (3)
 - Mallets could get this from rotten shots. (3)
 - Exists in the middle. (2)
 - Proceed to court. (3)
 - Start of the end of an innings for open ground. (3)
 - Initials of the unknown other player. (2)

- ACROSS:**
- Occidental tree strand for test match. (4, 4, 5)
 - Ego in the Middle East. (2)
 - Brawl? O, for a player! (6)
 - Exists at the end of Hurlingham. (2)
 - You are in front of Yellow. (2)
 - May have to do this to stay up. (3)
 - Boundary wind? (5)
 - Mathematical food from the umpire. (3)
 - Champion has lost his head. (3)
 - 'To — is human.' (3)
 - Now is the change for belonging. (3)
 - Fuel in reverse to depress. (3)
 - Expectations, or a shot, could be this. (5)
 - Possessed in haste. (3)
 - The renter figures to work out. (2)
 - 'And — the Hunter of the East has caught; The Sultan's Turret in a Noose of Light.' (2)
 - Hunts. (6)
 - Preposition of direction. (2)
 - Heaped tapers for overcrowding. (6, 7)

Croquet Crossword

(Solution to be printed in the Winter Gazette)

1			2		3		4		5
6		7			8			9	
		10						11	
12			13		14		15		16
		17					18		
		19					20		
21			22	23				24	
								25	
26			27		28			29	
		30							
31									

TOWNSEND CROQUET LIMITED

For a comprehensive range of Croquet Equipment, Mallets, Balls, Hoops, Winning pegs, Clips, Corner flags, Corner pegs, etc. All at competitive prices.

Ask for Townsend Croquet equipment at your local sports shop.

Write or 'phone for a free Croquet Aimer to help practise lining up the balls when taking Croquet.

TOWNSEND CROQUET LTD.
CLAIRE ROAD
KIRBY CROSS
FRINTON-ON-SEA
ESSEX CO13 0LX
TELEPHONE: FRINTON (02556) 4404



CROQUET TOURNAMENT AT HIGHGATE.

Whitmore, Mr. Law, Mr. Peel, and Mr. Muntz, contending in successive pairs against each other, displayed a high degree of skill. The competition was open to all gentlemen, whether members of the club or not, on payment of an entrance-fee of 2s.; the ladies were not invited to compete. There was but one prize, which was a silver cup, valued at £25, supplied by Messrs. Garrard and Co., with which the national championship was to be gained by the winner of the final heat. In

the first series of contests, Mr. Peel beat Mr. Beauchamp, Mr. Whitmore beat Mr. Law, Mr. Macfie beat Mr. Dalton, Mr. Wiggin beat Mr. Baker, Mr. Price beat Mr. Tolhurst, Mr. Elsmie beat Mr. Leach, and Mr. Muntz beat Mr. H. Leach. In the second heat Mr. Courtney, who was absent the first day, beat Mr. Price, Mr. Peel beat Mr. Whitmore, Mr. Elsmie beat Mr. Wiggin, and Mr. Muntz beat Mr. Macfie. In the third heat Mr. Courtney beat Mr. Elsmie, and Mr. Peel beat Mr. Muntz. In the final competition

Mr. Peel beat Mr. Courtney, and so became the croquet champion of England until 1870. He will be liable to be challenged by any one in England for a year, but will not be compelled to contend for any prize less than £10. Dr. Pryor acted as umpire during the tournament, and Mr. Whitmore and Mr. Holloway shared the duties of secretary. It is anticipated there will be a great concourse of competitors next year. Mr. Walter Holloway, of Charlbury, Oxfordshire, is the honorary secretary of the National Croquet Club

The two illustrations form part of an exhibition, "Croquet before 1880," of cartoons, line drawings and photographs to be held at the Colchester Croquet Club during their Open Tournament from 3rd to 9th July. Enquiries concerning the exhibition, which could be shown elsewhere by arrangement, should be addressed to Roger Bray. During that tournament, a Social Evening is to be held in the Colchester Club's clubhouse, when this most interesting display will be available. It is hoped that as many people as possible will attend both the tournament, and, in particular, the Social Evening, including representatives of the CA and other clubs.

CROQUET TOURNAMENT AT HIGHGATE is the first known pictorial representation of a croquet tournament, published in the Illustrated London News in 1869. The competition, organised by the National Croquet Club, the splinter group led by Whitmore (see Prichard's "The History of Croquet"), was "open to all gentlemen." had sixteen entries and was won by Walter Peel. The court-setting consisted of ten six-inch hoops, not always represented accurately here, and two pegs. The illustration suggests that the ground was hardly flat and smooth, and no doubt it was not unknown for spectators to obstruct the course of a game!

Oh Croquet!

You see them with their rushes and their rolls,
Approaching hoops as if they've called for tea,
You watch them with their cuts and corner cannons,
And you wonder if the game is really me!

You wonder why you ever came to Cheltenham,
(A game of golf tomorrow might be fun),
And then he fluffs a jump for a win by twenty,
And you — in some alarm, you win by one!

S.



A Croquet Match.

A CROQUET MATCH, by John Leech, first appeared as the coloured frontispiece to Punch's Pocket Book — a widely used pocket diary — for 1862. According to early accounts, it did much to popularize the game. It was one of the first of a series of cartoons published by Punch in the 1860's and early 1870's which was influential in "making croquet a by-word for effeminacy and silliness." Today it also gives an insight into the social aspects of a game which took Victorian society by storm.

Prize List 1982

This list covers events reported in the Croquet Gazette apart from team events. Figures in brackets indicate handicaps at the beginning and end of the season. This list and these handicaps are *not* authoritative.

M, W, Mx, R — Men's, Women's, Mixed, Restricted; O, H, L — Open, Handicap, Level; S, D — Singles, Doubles; B, C, D — Class; X, Y, Z — Tier; WE, BW — Weekend, Block Winner.

Abderhalden, C. (5½) Ryde RLSB2
Adam, A.H.M. (8, 6) Edinburgh RLSB1
Adams, L.D. (1) Veterans HD
Aiton, K.M.H. (3, 0) Eastbourne 1 RLSB1; Budleigh Salterton 2 OS1, HSX, HD, Colchester OS2, HS2, Nottingham OS1; Hunstanton OS1
Allim, R. (1½) Hunstanton WE2 OS BW
Anderson, G. (8) Edinburgh HD
Anderson T.W. (3½, 3) Wrest Park WE1 HS BW
Anderson, Mrs T.W. (7½, 6½) Cheltenham WE1 HS BW; Wrest Park WE1 HS BW
Aspinall, G.N. (-2) Doubles Championship MxODX; Open Championship OS1; Hurlingham MxHD, MHD; President's Cup 1
Audsley, E. (3, 2) Wrest Park WE1 HS BW
Avery, M.N. (½, -½) Colchester OS1; Nottingham HD; Bowdon OS1
Bailey, R.F. (7, 4) Parkstone 2 RLSBX
Baker, Col. G.L. (9, 8) Colchester RHSC1
Barnes, Mrs L.B. (9) Brighton 1 RHSD2
Barnett, B. (8, 6½) Hunstanton WE2 RLS BW
Bawden, W.R. (10, 7) Cheltenham 2 RHSD1
Bawden, Mrs W.R. (15, 13) Cheltenham 4 RHSC2
Bazley, Lady (4) Ladies' Field 6
Bell, E. (0) Chairman's Salver =3

Bennet, A. (4) Nottingham RLSB1
Betts, G.H. (3½, 4½) Veterans RLSB1, HD
Birch, G. (1, 2½) Ryde WE HS BW
Black, J.B. (12, 8) Eastbourne 1 RLSD2, HSX
Blackler, S.F. (9, 7) Budleigh Salterton 1 HS BW; Budleigh Salterton 2 HSY; Budleigh Salterton WE HS BW
Blenkin, Mrs A. (12, 12 D 10) Cheltenham WE3 HS BW
Boddington, P.B.H. (7, 6) Cheltenham WE1 HS BW
Bond, I.D. (-½) Chairman's Salver =3
Borrett, Cdr G. (2½, 2) Veterans HSX
Bowen, Dr R.D. (2, 1½) Roehampton OS1, HD
Bowman, J.H. (2½) Eastbourne 1 HD; Compton WE1 HS1; Brighton 1 RLSB1; HS1
Braddy, Miss M.A. (12, 10) Compton RHSC2
Bressey, Mrs E.E. (4) Challenge & Gilbey HD
Broad-Thomas, W.C. (11, 8) Budleigh Salterton 1 HS BW
Browne, Rev N.D. (12, 11 D 10) Carrickmines 2 RHS2
Browne, Mrs W.J. (7) Challenge & Gilbey RLSC
Butler, L.S. (½) Spencer Ell =4
Cairns, Dr D. (4½, 4) Cheltenham WE5 HS BW
Campbell, Prof. K. (11, 7½) Roehampton RHSC1, HSY
Campion, P.W.P. (6, 5) Compton RLSB2
Card, T.I. (8, 4½) Ryde RLSB1, HD; Ryde WE HS BW
Carlisle, H.B.H. (2½, 4) Hunstanton HD
Carlisle, Mrs H.B.H. (1, 2) Hurlingham MxHD
Carlisle, J.W.H. (11, 6) Hurlingham RLSC, HSX, MHD; Hunstanton HD
Chadwick, Mrs I.L.B. (8) Colchester RHSC2
Chandler, Dr C.J. (6, 5) Brighton 1 RHSC2; Brighton 2 RHSC2
Chandler, Mrs C.J. (11, 8) Brighton 2 RHSD1
Coetzee, Mrs A.E. (4½) Ladies' Second Event =2

Coleman, A.F. (1) Brighton WE1 HS BW
 Collin, A.J. (3½, 3) Edgbaston WE2 HS BW
 Collin, Mrs A.J. (13, 6) Southport WE2 HS1; Edgbaston WE2 HS BW
 Collin, G.K. (6) Wrest Park WE1 HS BW; Bowdon RLSC2
 Colls, T.G.S. (7) Brighton 2 RHSC1
 Coombs, Mrs L.A. (4½, 5) Ladies' Second Event =5
 Cordingley, P. (½, 0) Golf Croquet S; Association Plate OS1; Compton WE2 OS2; Chairman's Salver 6
 Cotterell, K. (4, 3) Cheltenham 3 RLSB =1
 Coutts, J. (4, 2) Wrest Park WE2 OS BW
 Coward, M.J. (½, -½) Eastbourne 1 HSY; Hunstanton WE2 OS BW; Colchester HS1; Chairman's Salver 1
 Cox, N.W.T. (4, 3) Compton WE1 HS BW; Compton RLSB1
 Cox, Mrs N.W.T. (4, 3½) Veterans RLSB2; Brighton WE1 HS BW; Brighton 1 RLSB2; Brighton 2 WHSY; Peels WHS1
 Crane, R.F.A. (3½, 4½) Cheltenham 4 RLSB2
 Croker, D.J. (-½) Roehampton WE1 HS=1; Cheltenham 2 OS1; Cheltenham WE5 HS BW
 Crozier, H.J. (16, 12) Budleigh Salterton 1 HS BW
 Danks, P.K.L. (13, 10) Budleigh Salterton 1 HDY
 Davis, E.J. (3½, 2) Nottingham WE1 HS BW; Nottingham WE2 RLSB; Cheltenham 2 RLSB1, HD; Nottingham, Robin Hood HS2; Nottingham WE3 HS1; Cheltenham WE5 HS BW
 Dawson, J.P. (5, 3) Hunstanton WE2 RLS BW; Parkstone 2 HSX
 Death, P.J. (1, ½) Brighton 1 OS1 HS2; Bowdon OS2
 Denison, W.B. (2½, 2) Challenge & Gilbey RLSB1; Woking ODY, OS1
 Digby, G.S. (3) Colchester RLSB2, HD
 Duckworth, C. (4½, 3½) Cheltenham WE2 HS BW; Cheltenham 2 HSY
 Dwerryhouse, P.A. (8, 7½) Budleigh Salterton 2 RHSCX; Parkstone 2 RLSBY
 Dwerryhouse, Mrs P.A. (7½, 6½) Peels WHS2
 Foulser, D.R. (-1) Brighton WE2 OS2; Chairman's Salver 7
 French, Mrs S. (16, 15 D 13) Brighton 1 HD
 Gamble, C.A. (3, 2) Carrickmines 2 OS2; HS1
 Garrett, S.J. (4, 3½) Roehampton RLSB2
 Gaunt, D.L. (6, 4) Brighton WE HS BW; Woking RLSB1; Budleigh Salterton WE HS BW
 Girling, A.J. (1, 2) Edgbaston WE1 OS BW; Colchester WE2 HS1
 Goacher, D. (13) Bristol WE HS2
 Gordon, A.G. (7, 6½) Edgbaston WE2 HS BW
 Gosden, R.A. (7, 5½) Hunstanton RLSB2
 Goulding, D. (4, 2½) Roehampton Evening RLSB1; Wrest Park WE1 HS BW; Woking RLSB1, HSBW, OD
 Granger-Brown, M. (2½) Budleigh Salterton WE HS BW
 Greenbury, Dr C.L. (6, 5½) Budleigh Salterton 1 HS BW, HDY
 Griffith, T. (1½, 0) Cheltenham WE2 HS BW; Hurlingham OS1
 Grout, Mrs M.M. (7½, 7) Compton RHSC1
 Guest, J.E. (14, 4½) Challenge & Gilbey HD; Roehampton Evening HD; Compton HS1
 Gunasekera, D. (5, 1) Eastbourne 1 RLSB2; Hunstanton WE2 OS BW; Budleigh Salterton 2 OS2
 Hague, Mrs W. (6, 4½) Ladies' Second Event 1
 Haigh, J. (½) Cheltenham WE1 HS BW; Woking ODX; Spencer Ell =4
 Hallam, B. (11, 9) Nottingham RHSC1
 Hallett, Rev P.D. (1) Parkstone 1 HSY
 Hamilton-Miller, D.J.V. (1) Veterans OS1
 Hampson, Miss P. (12, 9) Hunstanton RHSC2
 Hampson, Miss S.G. (2½, 4½) Woking RLSB2
 Hands, P.W. (-½, -1½) Cheltenham 1 OS2; Cheltenham WE1 HS BW
 Harding, Miss D.V. (16, 14) Brighton 2 RHSD2
 Hare, S. (4, 3½) Cheltenham WE4 HS BW
 Harmon, Dr C.S. (8, 4) Ryde WE HS BW
 Harris, Mrs G.D. (13, 11) Cheltenham 2 RHSD2
 Haste, Dr T.J. (1, 0) Wrest Park WE2 OS BW; Southport WE3 BW; Chairman's Salver =3
 Healy, G.P.N. (2, 1) Peels MHS2
 Hilditch, J.R. (1½, 1) Eastbourne 1 OS2; Wrest Park WE2 OS BW; Spencer Ell 8
 Holford, M.A. (7, 2½) Brighton 2 RLSB1, MHSX; Hunstanton HSX
 Hoole, S.J.W. (2½, 2) Cheltenham 3 RLSB=1; Cheltenham WE4 HS BW
 Hope, A.B. (-1½) Open Championship OD1
 Hopewell, C.G. (1½, 2) Nottingham WE1 HS BW; Nottingham HSY
 Hunter, A.G.M. (7, 6½) Edinburgh RLSB2
 Hyne, N.G. (7, 3) Budleigh Salterton 2 RLSB2
 Irwin, C.E. (12) Bowdon RLSD2
 Irwin, C.J. (4, 2) Southport WE1 OS=1; Bowdon RLSB1, HS2
 Jackson, G.E.P. (-½, 0) Men's Championship, Du Pre Cup 1 (divided); Cheltenham 2 OS2; Cheltenham 4 OS2

Johnson, P.M. (½, 0) Cheltenham WE2 HS BW; Cheltenham 4 OS1
 Jones, K.E. (1½, -½) Edgbaston WE1 OS BW; Woking HS BW; Nottingham WE2 OS; Spencer Ell 2
 Jones, Mrs W.G. (9) Roehampton Evening RHSC2
 Keen, B.A. (1) Bowdon HD
 King, J.W. (15, 12 D 10) Cheltenham 4 RHSC1
 Knox, Mrs C. (2½, 2) Women's Championship WOS 2; Doubles Championship MxODX; Ladies' Field 4
 Kolbuszewski, Dr M. (2½, 1½) Southport WE2 HS2; Bowdon RLSB2
 Laney, Dr D (13) Budleigh Salterton WE HS BW
 Langley, Mrs M. (14, 10 D 8) Cheltenham WE3 HS BW
 Latham, L.V. (1, ½) Cheltenham 4 HD
 Latham, Mrs L.V. (16, 15 D 13) Cheltenham 4 HD
 Leonard, R.J. (4, 6½) Carrickmines 1 HS2
 Leonard, Mrs R.J. (7, 5½) Carrickmines 1 HD
 Lindley, A. (3) Woking HD
 McCullough, J.R. (-½) Doubles Championship MxODY; Bowdon OS Plate
 MacDonald, I.P.M. (5, 4) Challenge & Gilbey HSX
 MacDonald, Mrs I.P.M. (8, 6½) Hunstanton RHSC1
 McInerney, M. (9, 8) Carrickmines 2 RHS1
 McMordie, J.A. (4) Parkstone 1 RLSBX
 McWeeney, M. (3½) Carrickmines 1 HD
 Mann, F. (12) Edinburgh RHSCY
 Mapletoft, Mrs E.A. (16, 12 D 10) Brighton 1 RHSD1
 Marshall, Mrs C.W. (8, 10) Parkstone 1 RHSCX
 Martin, R. (11) Eastbourne 1 RLSD1
 Maugham, F.I. (14, 8) Hurlingham RHSD2; Bowdon HD
 Meads, J.D. (1½) Southport WE1 OS=1; Bowdon HS1
 Mitchell, Mrs D. (11, 10) Parkstone 2 RHSCY
 Moorcraft, D.H. (2, 1) Cheltenham WE2 HS BW; Cheltenham WE3 HS BW; Cheltenham WE4 HS BW; Peels HS
 Moore, W.E. (1) Brighton 1 OS2
 Moores, F.T. (8, 7½) Budleigh Salterton 2 RHSCY
 Morrison, C.J. (11) Edinburgh RHSCX
 Mrzozinski, A.J. (10, 6) Woking HD
 Mulliner, S.N. (-2) Cheltenham WE1 HS BW; Open Championships OS2; Brighton WE2 OS1; Wrest Park WE2 OS BW; Compton WE2 OS1; President's Cup =2
 Mulliner, Mrs S.N. (14, 9) Roehampton Evening HSX
 Murray, Dr M. (-1½, -2) Men's Championship MOS1; Open Championships OD1; President's Cup =2
 Neal, Prof B.G. (-1) Men's Championship, Du Pre Cup OS1 (divided); Hurlingham OS2; President's Cup 8
 Neal, Mrs B.G. (5) Hurlingham WHD; Ladies' Second Event =5
 Newman, C.J. (7) Budleigh Salterton 1 HDX
 Newman, F.H. (4, 3) Budleigh Salterton 1 HS BW; Challenge & Gilbey RLSB2; Ryde HS2; Woking OD
 Newman, Mrs F.H. (5, 4½) Ladies' Second Event =2
 Newnham, R.W. (5) Ryde HD
 Nicholson, W. (5) Eastbourne 2 RHSC2
 Noble, G.W. (0, -½) Roehampton Evening OS1; President's Cup 7
 Openshaw, D.K. (-2) Cheltenham 1 OS1; President's Cup 6
 Ormerod, M. (0) Spencer Ell 1
 Ormerod, Dr W.P. (-1, 0) Parkstone 2 OS1
 Owen, T.F. (0, ½) Eastbourne 2 MOS2, OD; Peels HD
 Paddon, M.T. (5, 3½) Cheltenham WE2 HS BW; Cheltenham WE5 HS BW
 Palmer, A.J. (8, 2) Cheltenham WE1 HS BW; Roehampton Evening RLSB2; Nottingham WE2 RLSC; Hurlingham HD; All England HS1
 Parker, Dr C.A. (3, 2) Ryde OS; Compton HS2
 Peterson, D. (8, 3) Cheltenham 2 RLSB2; Hurlingham RLSB
 Phelps, M.F. (½, 0) Brighton WE1 HS BW; Brighton 1 HD; Brighton 2 OS1
 Pim, Dr H.A. (5½, 7) Veterans RHSCX
 Porter, Lady (8, 11) Nottingham RHSC2
 Prichard, C.H.L. (-½) Chairman's Salver 8
 Prichard, R.D.C. (1½, 1) Challenge & Gilbey HSY; Roehampton WE1 HS=1; Roehampton OS2, HSX
 Ramsay, A.M. (12) Edinburgh HD
 Read, T.O. (-½) Carrickmines 2 OS1, HD
 Rees, E.E. (1½, 2½) Eastbourne 1 HD
 Reynolds, G. (Jr.) (14, 10) Carrickmines 1 RLSB1; Carrickmines 2 RLSY
 Reynolds, G. (Snr.) (16, 15) Carrickmines 1 RLSB2
 Rigg, B.K. (9, 8) Hurlingham RHSD1
 Robertson, Miss A.R. (9, 8) Parkstone 2 HD
 Rolfe, Mrs A.N. (2, 2½) Ladies' Field =3

Rose, J. (0, -½) Golf Croquet D; Roehampton Evening OS2; Woking OS1, ODX; President's Cup =4
 Ross, J.E. (3½) Cheltenham 3 RLSB=1
 Rothwell, G.F. (4, 3) Veterans HSY; Carrickmines 1 HS2
 Rowlands, F.A. (7) Budleigh Salterton 1 HDX; Ryde HSX
 Roy, G.C. (2½, 2) Carrickmines 1 OS; Woking ODY; Cheltenham WE4 HS BW
 Russ, B.K. (9) Hurlingham HSY
 Saunders, Mrs B.R. (11, 9) Parkstone 1 RHSCY, HD; Parkstone 2 RHSCX
 Scarr, Mrs W.A. (5) Parkstone 1 RLSBY
 Schmieder, C.M. von (2, 1½) Carrickmines 1 HS1
 Searle, Miss A. (5) Cheltenham 2 RHSC1
 Sheen, C.L. (5, 4) Colchester HD
 Shepard, P.J. (5½, 5) Brighton 1 RHSC1
 Shergold, F.L. (3½, 3) Parkstone 1 HD; Budleigh Salterton 2 RLSB1; Parkstone 2 HD
 Short, J.A. (12, 9 D 8) Budleigh Salterton 2 HD
 Smith, Mrs C.A. (4, 3) Brighton 2 WHS1
 Smith, J.E. (14) Carrickmines 2 HD
 Smith, P.L. (5, 2) Cheltenham 2 HSX; Cheltenham WE3 HS BW; Cheltenham WE5 HS BW
 Smith, R.J. (5, 4½) Woking RLSB2
 Smith, Dr T.W. (4) Nottingham RLSB2
 Snowdon, Dr C.B. (3) Cheltenham WE4 HS BW
 Solomon, Dr E.W. (-1½) Challenge & Gilbey OS; Golf Croquet D; Roehampton WE2 OS; President's Cup =4
 Stevens, M.J. (1, ½) Roehampton Evening HD; Nottingham WE3 HS2
 Stevens, R.S. (1½, 2) Budleigh Salterton WE HS BW
 Straw, J.C. (6, 5) Nottingham WE1 HS BW
 Strickland, E. (6) Eastbourne 2 HD
 Sturdy, W.J. (4) Cheltenham WE2 HS BW; Cheltenham WE5 HS BW
 Sturdy, Mrs W.J. (7, 6) Cheltenham 2 RHSC2
 Sutcliffe, A.F. (6½, 4½) Bowdon RLSC1
 Sykes, Dr B.C. (-½) Eastbourne 2 MOS1 HSX; Spencer Ell =4
 Tapp, M. (1, -½) Eastbourne 1 OS1; Spencer Ell 3
 Taylor, Dr G.K. (½) Cheltenham WE1 HS BW; Nottingham, Robin Hood HS1; Cheltenham WE3 HS BW
 Thomas, J.F.S. (11, 9) Veterans RHSCY; Hunstanton WE2 RLS BW; Ryde RHSC
 Torrington-Petrie, Mrs D. (14, 12 D 10) Hurlingham WHD, HD
 Townsend, Mrs S.S. (12, 11) Challenge & Gilbey RLSD; Roehampton Evening RHSC1
 Townshend, Rev C.H. (4½, 3½) Brighton 2 RLSB2
 Tribe, R. (7) Bowdon RLSD1, HS
 Tucker, Mrs R.E.J. (4½, 6½) Ladies' Second Event 4
 Vale, Major T. (8, 5½) Eastbourne 2 RHS1; Peels HD
 Vincent, Dr I.G. (-½) Nottingham OS2, HSX; Chairman's Salver 2
 Wallis, R.E. (2½, 2) Eastbourne 2 OD
 Walters, J.O. (6, 3½) Colchester WE1 HS1; Colchester RLSB1; Hunstanton RLSB1; Cheltenham 4 RLSB1; Roehampton RLSB1
 Watson, H. (10, 7) Bristol WE HS1; All England HS2
 Watson-Walker, Miss H.E. (16, 12 D 10) Nottingham HD; Roehampton RHSC2, HD
 West, Dr P.D.B. (5, 3) Budleigh Salterton 1 HS BW; Budleigh Salterton WE HS BW
 Wharrad, L. (2½, 2) Compton WE1 HS BW; Ryde HSY; Woking OS2, HS BW, OS1; Brighton 2 HD
 Wharrad, Mrs L. (11, 9) Brighton 2 HD
 Wheeler, J.A. (½) Cheltenham WE1 HS BW; Nottingham WE1 HS BW
 Wheeler, R.F. (4½) Eastbourne 2 HSY; Nottingham HS2
 Wheeler, Mrs R.F. (2½) Ladies' Field =3
 Whillock, G.O.H. (10, 4½) Brighton 2 MHSY; Peels MHS1
 Whitehouse, B. (4) Woking HS BW
 Wiggins, Mrs W.R.D. (½) Women's Championship WOS1; Compton OS, HD; Brighton 2 OS2; Parkstone 2 OS2; Ladies' Field 1
 Williams, R.A. (1½) Edinburgh OS
 Wills, Mrs H.G. (6, 5) Eastbourne 2 HD; Compton HD
 Wood, J.W. (4, 2½) Hunstanton OS2
 Wood, Dr R. (½) Compton WE1 HS2
 Wood, T.I. (½) Parkstone 1 OS2, HSX
 Wraith, Miss J. (11) Cheltenham 2 HD
 Wright, S.J.H. (-½) Association Plate OS2
 Wylie, K.F. (-1½, -2) Men's Championship MOS2; Parkstone 1 OS1
 Yeoman, Mrs K.D. (6½, 4) Doubles Championship MxODY; Ladies' Field 2

WALKER CROQUET EQUIPMENT

Tournament Mallets — A New Concept in Mallets

- ☆ Now featuring round and square headed mallets.
- ☆ Synthetic head for durability.
- ☆ Metal shaft.
- ☆ Custom made to players own weight and length.

Croquet Hoops

- ☆ Cast iron hoops to Croquet Association regulations.

Croquet Clips

- ☆ Strong steel clip.
- ☆ Stronger spring — Clip stays on.

Also available winning pegs, corner pegs and corner flags.

For details send to:-

Walker Croquet Equipment

82 Queens Crescent,
 Chippenham,
 Wilts. SN14 ONP

Tel: Chippenham 4319

TEST TOUR ACCOUNTS

The accounts covering the recent Test Tour are published below:

MacRobertson Shield International Test Australia Nov./Dec. 1982			
Income and Expenditure Account			
	INCOME		
Net Proceeds of Raffle		1,542.45	
		293.63	
			1,248.82
Net Proceeds of Appeal		4,506.47	
		122.00	
			4,384.47
Investment Income less tax and bank charges			353.44
Grant from Sports Council			6,064.00
Contribution from CA general income			598.63
			12,649.36
	EXPENDITURE		
Travel costs	Air	6,725.00	6,905.87
	Road	180.87	
Hotel Accommodation			3,279.96
Entertainment of Hosts and Presentations to ACC			323.80
Publicity, Telephone, Telex and Photographs			224.63
Miscellaneous expenses less recoveries			50.20
Estimated repayment to Sports Council			884.60
Carried to Test Tour Fund			980.30
			12,649.36

Test Tour Fund stands at **£1,474.33**

**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1982**

1981			
	INCOME		
4,479	Subscriptions	4,587.63	
484	Affiliation Fees and Overseas Members	460.39	
895	Levy	1,994.40	
5	Tribute	54.33	
833	Sale of Books, Laws etc.	831.21	
1,016	Income from Investments (Net)	1,102.61	
1,346	Donations and Sponsorship (Net)	2,861.89	
(8)	Surplus on Tournaments	9.62	
<u>9,050</u>		<u>11,902.08</u>	
	EXPENSES		
3,792	Magazine, less Income from Advertisements	4,666.49	
<u>5,258</u>		<u>7,235.59</u>	
	GENERAL OVERHEADS		
839	Office Rent, Lighting, Heating and Cleaning	1,245.00	
7,451	Staff Salaries	8,830.33	
274	Committee Travelling Expenses	278.83	
622	Postage and Telephone	809.54	
1,063	Printing and Stationery	1,216.40	
252	Insurance	266.00	
212	Sundry Expenses	1,295.56	
300	Audit and Accountancy Charges	325.00	
24	Maintenance of Office, Furniture and Equipment	428.34	
<u>11,037</u>		<u>14,695.00</u>	
684	Publicity and Development	1,313.54	
<u>11,721</u>		<u>16,008.54</u>	
7,591		8,047.00	
<u>4,130</u>		<u>7,961.54</u>	
(1,128)	EXCESS OF EXPENDITURE OVER INCOME (1981 SURPLUS)	725.95	
<u>=====</u>		<u>=====</u>	

INVESTMENTS HELD AT 31st DECEMBER 1982

Nominal Value			Market Value
	QUOTED INVESTMENTS		
141.75	Drayton Premier Investment Trust Limited Ordinary Shares of 25p each	186.64	1,202
168.00	Midland Bank Limited Ordinary Shares of £1 each	345.83	500
1,100.00	Temple Bar Investment Trust Limited Ordinary Shares of 25p each	1,811.74	3,146
400.00	The New Throgmorton Trust Limited Income Shares of 25p each	478.75	376
218.15	3½% War Stock	115.50	74
2,500.00	9¼% Treasury Stock 1983	2,492.87	2,490
1,500.00	12% Treasury Stock 1983	1,470.84	1,505
5,000.00	12% Treasury Stock 1984	4,876.99	5,112
		<u>11,779.16</u>	<u>14,405</u>
		<u>=====</u>	<u>=====</u>
	UNQUOTED INVESTMENTS		
10.00	Roehampton Country Club	10.00	
	Abbey National Building Society	4,400.00	
	Britannia Building Society	7,438.93	
		<u>23,628.09</u>	
		<u>=====</u>	

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS AS AT 31st DECEMBER 1982

		1981
	FIXED ASSETS	
300	Office Furniture and Equipment at Written Down Value	1,140.00
10,000	Trophies, estimated to realise	10,000.00
19,396	Investments, as per attached schedule	23,628.09
<u>29,696</u>		<u>34,768.09</u>
	CURRENT ASSETS	
2,328	Sundry Debtors and Prepayments	1,305.20
1,574	Cash in Hand and at Bank	1,453.78
<u>3,902</u>		<u>2,758.98</u>
33,598		<u>37,527.07</u>
	CURRENT LIABILITIES	
631	Subscriptions Received in Advance	571.00
2,203	Accrued Expenses	5,142.19
136	Taxation	269.21
<u>2,970</u>		<u>5,982.40</u>
30,628		<u>31,544.67</u>
<u>=====</u>		<u>=====</u>
	NET ASSETS	
		31,544.67
	REPRESENTING:	
16,155	Accumulated General Fund as at 1st January 1982	17,282.91
(1,128)	Less: Excess of Expenditure over Income	725.95
<u>17,283</u>		<u>16,556.96</u>
1,920	Life Membership Fund	1,885.00
215	Apps-Heley Memorial Fund	215.50
494	Test Tour Fund	1,416.36
8,454	Benefactors Fund	9,063.48
2,262	Tournaments and Trophies Fund	2,407.37
<u>30,628</u>		<u>31,544.67</u>
<u>=====</u>		<u>=====</u>

B. Sandford, Chairman of the Council, 12th March 1983
A. J. Oldham, Hon. Treasurer

We have examined the books, vouchers and other records maintained by The Croquet Association for the year ended 31st December 1982 and obtained such further information as considered necessary. To the best of our knowledge and belief the Accounts give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the business at 31st December 1982 and of the Loss suffered for the year ended on that date.

Alhambra House,
27, Charing Cross Road,
London, WC2H 0AU

7th February 1983

NICHOLASS, AMES & CO.
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

**The Treasurer's Commentary
on the 1982 Accounts**

Although the Association has passed from the position of having surplus income in 1981 to an excess of expenditure over income in 1982, a number of exceptional items have contributed to this result. The rent of the Association's office at Hurlingham has increased sharply though it is still below the probably market rate; a new photocopier has been purchased for the office and its cost, £1,265, is being written off over three years; fees and costs to recruit Mr B.C. Macmillan the new Administrative Assistant have amounted to £516; equipment, publicity and hospitality in respect of the Australian Test Tour, expenditure which Council did not wish to lie on the Test Tour Fund, have cost £479.

The increase in the rate of levy and abolition of the 'levy-free' and 'half rate' tournaments has very significantly increased the Association's income from this source. In 1982 we had the benefit of two sponsored events, the Home Internationals supported by Messrs Pimms and the Inter Counties by Hedges & Butler (Mateus Wines).

Although much work has been and is continuing to be done to secure sponsorship it must not, of course, be expected that this level of financial help can be generated every year. Donations amounted to £51.

'Ongoing' expenditure has also increased. The Gazette, in order to give full coverage of tournament results while also providing articles and other items of interest or information has been increased in size; the unit cost of production and distribution has also been higher. Publicity and Development expenditure has increased in line with Council policy of devoting more of the Association's resources to this purpose and is producing worthwhile results.

The Benefactors' Fund has grown during the year from the income of its investments and has received legacies from the late Hope Rotherham and Guy Warwick.

The Association's investments have produced a yield (net of taxation) of about 9¼% on balance sheet values though it should be noted that the income brought into the Income and Expenditure account excludes the income of the investments held for the Benefactors Fund and the Test Tour Fund. Capital appreciation in the

total investments has however only amounted to £1,490 over the year. An Investment sub-committee of the Finance & General Purposes Committee has been formed and some improvement in investment performance can be expected to follow from their deliberations.

19th March 1983

A.J. Oldham
Honorary Treasurer

THE CROQUET ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING held at The Hurlingham Club on SATURDAY 9th APRIL 1983.

Present: J.W. Solomon (President, in the Chair), Lt. Col. D.M.C. Prichard (Vice President) and 34 other Associates.

1. MINUTES

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 3rd April 1982, copies of which were circulated at the meeting, were taken as read and adopted.

2. PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

The President opened his remarks by congratulating our Test Team on successfully regaining the MacRobertson Shield in Australia last Winter. The team were to be officially welcomed home and congratulated at a CA dinner later in the day. Of the twelve contests held to date since 1925 we had won 7 times, Australia thrice and New Zealand twice — a fine record.

He mentioned how much the work of the Council and the CA office had increased in recent years. It was with regret that the formal resignation of Richard Rothwell as Secretary had been received due to his deteriorating health and accepted. He was thanked for all the dedicated service he had rendered the Association over many years. He was pleased to welcome Brian Macmillan who has taken over as Administration Secretary and announce that Richard has agreed to continue as Consultant for a year.

He referred to the very recent and tragic death of Bryan Lloyd-Pratt in Cape Town. Before going to live in South Africa some eight years ago, he had served on the Council, edited the Gazette and represented Great Britain in a MacRobertson Shield contest. Whilst sometimes controversial he was a loved and respected character. He also referred to the death of Cyril Ratcliffe last Winter within two months of his hundredth birthday. He had been playing and enjoying his croquet up to the end of last season.

3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Copies of the Chairman's Annual Report for 1982 were available at the meeting and will appear in a subsequent Gazette. No questions arising were put to the Chairman, C.B. Sanford, and the report was adopted.

4. TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer presented the audited accounts for 1982, copies of which were available at the meeting and which will be published in Croquet together with his comments.

Whilst the 1981 accounts had shown an excess of income over expenditure of £1,128 the 1982 accounts showed a deficit of £725, there were some one-off items to account for this. We had purchased a new photo-copier for £1,265 to be written off in three years, there had been advertising costs for a new Secretary, and £479 had been spent in connection with the Test Tour. With legacies from Mrs Rotherham and J.G. Warwick the Benefactors Fund now stands at over £9,000. There were no questions from the floor and the accounts were adopted unanimously.

5. ELECTION OF TREASURER

The retiring Treasurer, A.J. Oldham, was unanimously re-elected as Treasurer. He was warmly thanked for all the devoted work he has put in on behalf of the Association for many years. Under Rule VIII he becomes ex-officio a member of the Council having formally resigned as an elected member which saved a contested election for Council members.

6. ELECTION OF COUNCIL

With the resignation of A.J. Oldham there were nine candidates for nine vacancies, and in accordance with Rule VI(b)(i) the following are deemed to have been elected:-

D.C. Caporn, A.J. Girling, R.S. Eades, Miss S.G. Hampson, C. Hudson, S.N. Mulliner, C.H.L. Prichard, R.S. Stevens and Dr R.F. Wheeler.

7. ALTERATION IN THE RULES

The alterations to rule VI, proposed by the Council and which had been published in the agenda for the meeting in CROQUET No. 168, page 9, were agreed by unanimous vote and so become effective forthwith.

8. ELECTION OF AUDITORS

Messrs Nicholass, Ames and Co were re-elected as auditors, their remuneration to be decided by the Treasurer.

9. BENEFACTORS

The names of those in the Benefactors Book were read by the Secretary.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

R.D.C. Prichard asked for information on the number of the new Council. The Secretary informed him that the number is one greater than last year as A.J. Oldham is not now an elected member. The Council now consists of thirty, 24 elected members and ex-officio the President, four Vice Presidents and the Treasurer.

H.B.H. Carlisle considered that it would assist in management and might avoid embarrassment if elected members were ineligible for re-election for one year after they had completed their term of office.

EXTRACTS FROM PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 9th APRIL

- C.B. Sanford was re-elected as Chairman and L. Wharrad as Vice Chairman for the ensuing year.
- It was decided by lot (in accordance with Rule VI as revised at the Annual General Meeting held earlier, that R.A. Girling would serve for two years and the remaining eight for three years — D.C. Caporn, R.S. Eades, Miss S.G. Hampson, C. Hudson, S.N. Mulliner, C.H.L. Prichard, R.S. Stevens and Dr R.F. Wheeler.
- Chairman of the Council Standing Committees for the year 1983/84 were elected as follows:-
Editorial Board — A.B. Hope
Finance and General Purposes Committee — D.C. Caporn
Handicap Appeal Committee — Professor B.G. Neal
Handicap Co-ordination Committee — R.A. Godby
Laws Committee — Professor B.G. Neal
Publicity and Development Committee — C. Hudson
Tournament Committee — B.A. Keen
- The 1982 Selection Committee was re-elected for 1983, namely G.N. Aspinall, R.A. Godby, Professor B.G. Neal, D.K. Openshaw and Dr R.F. Wheeler.
- It was reported that R.F. Rothwell on his resignation as Secretary on 30th April has accepted the Council's request for him to be retained as Consultant for a year.

Handicapping Procedures

The following Handicapping Procedures are required under the Regulations to appear in the Spring Gazettes.

Attention is drawn to the temporary variation of the Note at the end of Regulation 23.

New Handicaps

A handicap is obtained either from:

- A Club Handicapper, or a committee of members, appointed by the Club to allocate handicaps. A Club Handicap will not necessarily be accepted for play in a C.A. Calendar Fixture Tournament: or,
- the Tournament Handicapper of a C.A. Calendar Fixture (including weekend tournaments) who will be on the list of Authorised C.A. Handicappers, appointed by the Handicap Co-ordination Committee of the C.A.

A player entering a Calendar Fixture Tournament who has not obtained a C.A. handicap may request the Tournament Handicapper to apply his Club Handicap, or, in the absence of any such handicap, will be given a starred handicap.

A starred handicap can be varied during the tournament but not in an event in which the player has already taken part.

At the end of the tournament the Tournament Handicapper will allocate a handicap, remove the star and advise the player and the C.A. Secretary. (See Regulations 22 and 23).

Alterations in Handicaps

Handicappers may recommend increases or reductions in Handicaps. (See page 19 of the Winter Gazette).

N.B. The Note at the end of Regulation 23 has been temporarily altered and the second sentence now reads "An alteration during play shall be effective for all events in which a competitor is still competing. This Temporary Variation overrules Regulation 22(a)."

Handicap alterations recommended by Tournament Handicappers resulting from play in Calendar Fixtures (including weekend tournaments) take effect immediately.

The Player concerned is notified of his altered Handicap before he leaves the tournament and is handed an official card showing the alteration. This he must show to the Manager of any tournament which he may enter. He should also inform the Handicapper(s) of his own Club or Clubs.

It is the duty of a player to ascertain before leaving a tournament whether his handicap has been altered.

COMPETITORS ARE REMINDED OF THEIR RESPONSIBILITY FOR PLAYING AT THEIR CORRECT HANDICAP UNDER REGULATION 11.

Handicap alterations recommended by Club Handicappers will also take effect immediately.

Increases in Handicaps

As well as an increase in handicap being made by Handicappers as set out above, an increase may be obtained by a player applying to his Club Handicapper or to a Tournament Handicapper.

A Handicapper is not permitted to alter his own handicap.

Notification to the Croquet Association

Both Club and Tournament Handicappers should inform the Secretary of the C.A. of new and altered handicaps as soon as possible on the Handicap listing form supplied by the Secretary.

Approval of Handicaps

New handicaps and alterations as advised to the C.A. are submitted to the Handicap Co-ordination Committee for approval.

The Handicap Co-ordination Committee in the exercise of their powers may request the Handicapper concerned for further evidence supporting an alteration.

The Handicap Co-ordination Committee has power to vary any alterations in handicaps which in their opinion call for modification and is empowered to make a review of handicaps at the end of each season.

Appeal

A player who disagrees with a Handicapper's decision has the right of appeal to the Handicap Co-ordination Committee.

Appeals against decisions of the Handicap Co-ordination Committee may be made by individuals through the Secretary of the C.A. to the Handicap Appeals Committee, whose decision will be final.

R.A. Godby

Chairman, Handicap Co-ordination Committee

Editor's Note—the text of a letter sent to the C.A. to all handicappers is reproduced below.

To All Handicappers,

HANDICAP PROCEDURES

There will be no changes in handicap procedures as last set out in full in Gazette No. 155 Spring 1980, and to be reprinted in Gazette No. 169 Spring 1983, other than the temporary variation in the note at end of Regulation 23 passed by Council on 4th December 1982. Under this variation the second sentence is deleted and substituted by "An alteration during play shall be effective for all events in which a competitor is still competing. This Temporary Variation overrules Regulation 22(a)". This Temporary Regulation is for 1983 only. Handicappers must therefore note that a handicap can now be reduced at any time during a tournament. The intention behind this change is its application in Handicap Events in cases where action becomes necessary in the interests of the Tournament. It would assist the Handicap Co-ordination Committee to judge the effectiveness and need of this change if in all cases where a handicap is altered during play the circumstances giving rise to the alteration are described in the Handicap Listing Form in the "During Play" section of the form. It would also be useful to include any views expressed by players in the Tournament.

In the opinion of the Committee the last two years have seen a fair adjustment of handicaps between players in so far as this is reasonably possible both in the cases of play in Open and Handicap Events. If there is one suggestion we would make it is that during the coming season we would like to see Handicappers giving more critical consideration before altering handicaps following the results of play in Level Events where we consider an alteration should only be made when there has been a marked improvement or deterioration over a period of several weeks, and a close comparison made with other players of near the same handicap, even though there may be no such players at the tournament concerned. In this connection it can be useful for handicappers to keep a book listing all players of similar handicaps. This may well be onerous to keep up to date, but if confined to players with handicaps of (say) 5 and below, where comparisons between players are more easily made, it can provide a useful tool when considering handicap adjustments in this area.

In handicap games, if players are correctly handicapped, in theory they should win 50% and lose 50% and the fact that a player wins an event does not necessarily mean his handicap is too high. Has he been winning most of his games recently? Or have his opponents' handicaps been too low? This Committee exists solely to Co-ordinate handicaps and this can only be done effectively after examining results at tournaments. In the past these have not always been available to the C.A. office in the week following the tournament. Managers are therefore requested to ensure that relevant papers are sent without delay since until these are available we cannot consider approval of handicap alterations.

R.A. Godby

Chairman, Handicap Co-ordination Committee

ATTENDANCES AT COUNCIL MEETINGS 1982/83

C. B. Sanford, Chairman *C3, F2, T0, P1, Sp1, Ed2, L0	Total	9/15
L. Wharrad, Vice-Chairman *C4, F2, T1, P2, Sp1, Ed2, L2	Total	14/15
A. J. Oldham, Treasurer *C4, F2, T1, P2, Ed2, L0	Total	11/14
G. N. Aspinall C1, T1, S2, L3	Total	7/10
J. H. Bowman C4, Ed2, L3	Total	9/9
Dr. R. W. Bray C4, P2, L2	Total	8/9
Mrs. E. E. Bressey C3, F2	Total	5/6
D. C. Caporn C4, F2, P2	Total	8/8
A. J. Girling C4, P2	Total	6/6
R. A. Godby C4, F2, P2, Sp1, Hcp1, S2	Total	12/12
D. J. V. Hamilton-Miller C3	Total	3/4
Miss S. G. Hampson C3, T1, Hcp0	Total	4/6
A. B. Hope C3, F1, P1, Ed1	Total	6/10
C. Hudson C4, F2, P2, Ed2	Total	10/10
B. A. Keen C4, T1, Hcp1, L3	Total	9/9
Mrs. W. Longman C1	Total	1/4
S. N. Mulliner C3, F1, T1, L1	Total	6/8
Dr. M. Murray C3, F1, L2	Total	6/8
Prof. B. G. Neal C3, S2, L3	Total	8/9
D. K. Openshaw C3, T1, Hcp1, S2	Total	7/8
Miss P. Shine C4, T1, P2	Total	7/7
R. S. Stevens C3	Total	3/3
E. Strickland C4, T1, P1	Total	6/7
Dr. R. F. Wheeler C4, F2, S2, L2	Total	10/11

Attendances at ad hoc Committees are not included.

* Denotes Ex-officio all Committees except Handicap Coordination, Sponsorship and Selection Committees.

KEY: C denotes Council, F Finance and General Purposes, T Tournaments, P Publicity and Development, Sp Sponsorship, Hcp Handicap Coordination, S Selection, Ed Editorial Board, L Laws.

The Chairman's Salver

September 6th – 10th, 1982

Our report on this event seems to have gone astray, but readers will have been entertained by the report on the games of bowls which were played on the adjoining green in between matches. One slight amendment is called for in case anyone gets any wrong ideas — for white stick read white yard stick. We are glad this side line was enjoyed.

This was the first time that the Budleigh Salterton Club had the pleasure of staging this competition, last won by a member, the late Mrs E. Rotherham, in 1966. Though the club was not represented this time, it was a real treat to see the top class croquet.

The long roquets and long and accurate rushes were a revelation to local players. Time and again apparently risky shots were taken and came off accurately, so there were no "Aunt Emmas" present. There was much wily tactical manoeuvring and cross-wiring — now the locals will be keen to follow suit and see if they can improve their standards.

The visitors were a bit slow to settle down in unfamiliar surroundings and two of the games on the first day went on for over four hours. However there was only one pegged down game and the balance was restored in the second half. Ian Bond finished a game in the sixth turn with a triple peel, time taken 25 minutes and this when his opponent had hit the 'tice in the third turn.

There was one other triple peel when Ian Vincent had been trailing behind Colin Prichard; getting in, he went all round with his second ball and went out. On the way his forward ball stuck in Rover, but a masterly half jump shot took both balls through and the other balls being at hand he was able to get the required rush to the peg.

Martin Coward earned his win well as will be seen from his average of a six hoop win over the 14 games. His relaxed and easy style was a pleasure to watch and though he was under considerable pressure at times he was always able to produce hits at crucial moments. With Ian Vincent on his tail the issue was only decided in the 13th round. Though it just failed, one of his shots is particularly worthy of record. His opponent had left a wired rush on the north-west side of hoop 1, Martin's ball was two or three yards north of hoop 2. Taking a leaf out of John Solomon's book he jumped the hoop but struck the other one, his ball having passed between those of his opponent.

Martin was concerned in two three ball finishes; in one having missed with his forward ball and pegged out the other he took some time to finish. In the other Tim Haste pegged him out and was doing well until he stuck in Rover and lost -5. He turned the tables +10 in their other game.

Tim also pegged out Philip Cordingley to win. Had he done as well in the first half as he did in the second when he won five out of seven games he would have been in contention for a higher position than third. Philip, with Eddie Bell and David Foulser also improved on his first half wins. Colin Prichard, a previous holder beat one opponent +26 and scored equally in each half.

Special comment was made at the presentation at the happy comradeship between the players. The Manager, Ken Schofield could not tell when players reported whether a smile meant a win or satisfaction at a good game. As noted above, the bowling green was very popular when games finished early. All 56 games in the programme were got through smoothly and Ray Stevens, the Tournament Secretary, had all the arrangements in apple-pie order.

C.W.M.

SECRETARY'S NOTES

LONGMAN CLUB TEAM CUP 1983

1st Round (to be played by 15th May)

Southport v Chester
East Riding v Walsall
Cheltenham v Stourbridge
Bath v Nailsea
Parsons Green v Compton
British Airways v Aldermaston
Harrow Oak v Roehampton
Hunstanton v Ipswich

2nd Round (to be played by 5th June)

Norton Hall v Edinburgh
Bowdon v Southport or Chester
East Riding or Walsall v Bretby
Edgbaston v Ellesmere
Worcester v Coal Research
Bristol v Cheltenham or Stourbridge
Bath or Nailsea v Wolverhampton
Parkstone v Harwell
Hurlingham v Southwick
Reigate Priory v Parsons Green or Compton
British Airways or Aldermaston v Ryde
Woking v Oxford University
Cambridge University v Colchester
Colworth v Harrow Oak or Roehampton
Hunstanton or Ipswich v Nottingham
Wrest Park v Nottingham University

INTER-CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP 1983

1st Round (to be played by 15th May)

Colchester v Reckitt
Cheltenham 1 v Nottingham

2nd Round (to be played by 12th June)

Harwell v Cheltenham 2
Aldermaston v Cambridge University
Hurlingham v Compton
Roehampton v Colchester or Reckitt
Cheltenham 1 or Nottingham v Harrow Oak
Stourbridge v Edgbaston
Wrest Park v Bowdon
British Airways v Colworth

THE MARY ROSE INTER-CLUB TROPHY 1983

1st Round (to be played by 15th May)

Stourbridge v Southport
British Airways v Roehampton
Colchester v Hunstanton
Cheltenham 1 v Worcester
Southwick v Harrow Oak
Reigate Priory v Woking
Bowdon 1 v Bowdon 2

2nd Round (to be played by 12th June)

Budleigh v Cheltenham 2
Parsons Green v Aldermaston
Stourbridge or Southport v British Airways or Roehampton
Colchester or Hunstanton v Cheltenham 1 or Worcester
Southwick or Harrow Oak v Reigate Priory or Woking
Bowdon 1 or Bowdon 2 v Compton
Colworth v Wrest Park
Wolverhampton v Harwell

SECRETARY'S SHIELD 1983

The winners of the 1982 League competitions will play off for the Shield as follows:

Chester (Northern Federation) v Wolverhampton (West Midlands)
Parsons Green (London League A) v Aldermaston (London League B) (holders)

HURLINGHAM CLUB SPORTS SHOP

The Lessees of the Sports Shop at Hurlingham ceased trading on 28th February 1983. It is not yet known whether the shop will be re-opened under new management.

FOR ROVER NOTES

Those intending to take part of their holiday in the Channel Islands may find it worth while taking their mallet with them. There is now a registered club in Jersey (see New Registered Clubs for details) and one is being formed in Guernsey. The contact here is J.G. Lipscombe, La Pelleyrie, Route de St. Andre, St. Andrews, Guernsey. Tel: (0481) 36379, office: (0481) 26641. All croquet players will be welcomed at both clubs.

SOLOMON'S "CROQUET"

Solomon's CROQUET is being printed, but there have been unfortunate delays. It is hoped that copies will be available in hardback in May. The cost through the CA office will be £5.00 (plus £1.00 postage and packing).

TEST TOUR FUND

The names of the following donors were inadvertently omitted from previous lists:
Mr. & Mrs. F.J. Exell, Professor & Mrs. B.G. Neal

RESIGNATIONS

R.G. Barratt, G. Birch, Mrs. H.G.T. Bolton, Mrs. L.C. Bower, Mrs. K.M.R. Bowyer, Mrs. I.L.B. Chadwick, Patrick Cooper, Mrs. D.H. Crompton, J.H.T. Griffiths, Mrs. P.E. Jagger, Mrs. J. Kimber, B.R. Lawrence, Mrs. H.E.J. Owens, K.A. Ross, Miss A. Searle, A.E. Whitcombe, J.M. Wilson (Barbican), M. Wren-Hilton.

NEW OFFICIALS

Referees: M.A. Holford, Dr. R.C. Jones.
Handicapper: R.W. Newnham.

NEW REGISTERED CLUBS

DUBLIN UNIVERSITY. Trinity College, College Green, Dublin 2, Irish Republic. *Secretary*: Miss M.C. Lyons, Dept. of Mediaeval History, New Arts Building, Trinity College.
EXETER. *Secretary*: Mrs. M.E.A. Alderton, Flat 9, Adelaide Court, Queens Road, Exeter EX2 9EU.
HAVERING. Rainham, Essex. *Secretary*: Mrs. P. Osborne, 3 Guysfield Drive, Rainham, Essex. Tel: Rainham (76) 57191. (STD code outside London: 040 27).
HIGH WYCOMBE. Bassetsbury Manor, Bassetsbury Lane, off London Road, High Wycombe, Bucks. *Secretary*: Brian Hill, 107 Desborough Avenue, High Wycombe, Bucks. HP11 2SG.
JERSEY. F.B. Fields, Near Plat Douet Road, St. Helier, St. Mary, Jersey, Channel Islands. *Chairman*: R.C. Sowerby, Elmwood, Rue de Hurrel, St. Mary. Tel: (0534) 81826. *Secretary*: Mrs. B. le Metais, Parcoy, Les Quennevais Gardens, St. Brelade, Jersey. Tel: (0534) 44203.
NOTTINGHAM UNIVERSITY. c/o Athletic Union, Portland Building, University Park, Nottingham. *Lawns*: c/o Nottingham Croquet Club. *Secretary*: A. Holford, 102 Broadwood Court, Salthouse Lane, Beeston, Nottingham.

CHANGES IN THE CLUBS

BATH. *Secretary*: Mrs. W.V. Garrard, 10 Royal Crescent, Bath BA1 2LR. Tel: (0225) 29391.
BOWDON. *Secretary*: Miss S.E. Black, 57 Regent Road, Altrincham, Cheshire WA14 1RT. Tel: (061 928) 7540.
BRITISH AIRWAYS. *Secretary*: Keith Rapley, Lichern, Wynswick Road, Seer Green, Bucks. HP9 2AW. Tel: (049 46) 5066.
CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY. *Secretary*: J.R. Hilditch, Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge CB2 3HU. Tel: (0223) 67046 (Overnight), 65621 Extn. 260 (office), 61501 (messages only).
CARRICKMINES. *Secretary*: Charles Gamble, Sea Grange, Grange Lodge, Sandycove Avenue East, Dun Laoghaire, County Dublin, Irish Republic.
EDGBASTON. *Secretary*: I.C. Meredith, 2 Broom Close, Stoney Hill, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire B60 2NU. Tel: Bromsgrove (0527) 78729 (also new Secretary of West Midlands Federation).
IPSWICH. *Secretary*: Martin French, 2 The Row, Parish Pond, Bramford, Ipswich, Suffolk IP8 4JY. Tel: (0473) 40965. *Work*: Woodbridge (039 43) 2869.
NAILSEA. *Secretary*: Brian Thatcher, 93 Nightingale Gardens, Nailsea, Bristol, Avon BS19 2BN. Tel: *Work* (0272) 276121 Extn. 57.
OXFORD UNIVERSITY. *Secretary*: Ian Plummer, Balliol College, Oxford.
PARSONS GREEN. *Croquet Secretary*: Mrs. J. Healy, 13 Flat D, Kingswood Road, Fulham, London SW6 6SP. Tel: 01-381 0227.
RYDE. *Secretary*: Mrs. S.B. Hudson, 3 Princes Mead, Seaview Lane, Seaview, Isle of Wight PO34 5DG. Tel: (0983) 3516.
WELLCOME RESEARCH. *Secretary*: Mike Keen.
WREST PARK. *Secretary*: Adrian Williams, c/o N.I.A.I.

DIRECTORY

The 1983 Directory is in course of preparation. It will be sent free to all registered clubs, and will be available from the CA office at £2.00 plus 50p postage.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

As of 22.3.83 there were still approximately 200 Associates who had not paid their 1983 subscription, due on 1st January. The 1983 rates are as under:

Standard	£10.00
Reduced & Junior	£5.00
Overseas	£5.00

If you have not already paid PLEASE do so without further delay.

CLUB REGISTRATION FEE

Club Secretaries are reminded that the 1983 registration fee was due on 1st January. The rate is 20p per croquet playing member as of 31st December 1982, with a minimum of £5.00.

DOUBLE BANKING

A Code of GUIDE OF CONDUCT FOR DOUBLE BANKING will be included as an appendix in the LAWS when a reprint is undertaken. Meanwhile it is felt that it would be worth while reproducing this Guide in CROQUET.

THE LAWS OF ASSOCIATION CROQUET AND GOLF CROQUET AND THE REGULATIONS FOR TOURNAMENTS — 3rd Edn. 1972

GUIDE TO CONDUCT FOR DOUBLE BANKING

(To be included as an Appendix before the Guide to Limits of Claims)

A CUSTOMS

- General**
At all times, and especially before stepping onto the court, players should be aware of the course of play of the other game and should try to avoid crossing the line of aim.
- Expedition in Play**
Players should be especially conscious of the need for expedition in play, and in doubles should avoid mid-court conferences as far as possible (Law 49).
- Precedence**
 - If one player is making a break, he should generally be given precedence.
 - If both players are making a break, and both players are approaching the same hoop, precedence should normally be given to the player who is most likely to get clear of the hoop first, subject to 4(c).
 - If neither player is making a break, and both players are approaching the same hoop, precedence should normally be given to the player who has made the first roquet towards the hoop.
- Marking**
 - All players should carry markers (such as small coins).
 - If a ball of the other game is in the way of a player, and if it is not in a critical position (such as near a hoop) it may be removed temporarily and its position marked, with the consent of the players in the other game.
 - If a ball of the other game is in the way, and its position is critical the player should normally interrupt his game until it has been removed in the normal course of play in the other game.

B LAWS

- Interference with balls or players of the other game**
 - If a player causes a ball of the other game, which has finally come to rest, to move, it should be replaced without penalty (Law 33).
 - A ball or player of the other game should be viewed as an outside agency if it or he causes interference during a stroke, and Law 34(b) then applies.

C MANAGEMENT

- Start of Games**
The Manager may direct play in a second game to start as soon as the fifth turn has been played in the first game on the same court, or after a specified length of time.
- Timed Games**
The Manager may at his discretion allow extra time for double-banked games, in accordance with Regulation 8(b).

Approved by the Council
4th March 1981

R.F. Rothwell
Secretary

DEATHS

E. ASA-THOMAS (Cheltenham)
A. GRANT (Reigate Priory)
M.M. HAWTHORN (Budleigh)
Mrs E.A. LOCKE (Colchester)
Mrs B. de C. MATHEWS (Cheltenham)
W.F. MORTON (Hurlingham)
B. LLOYD-PRATT (South Africa)
F.E.M. PUXOM (Colchester)
Mrs E.M. TEMPLE (Compton)

NEW ASSOCIATES

(up to 22.3.83. All Standard rate unless shown)

- ALDRIDGE, Mrs. W.O., 4 Bramley Close, Wilmslow, Cheshire. Tel: (0625) 522517.
 BERRY, A., Corpus Christi College, Oxford.
 BLACK, Miss S.E., 37 Regent Road, Altrincham, Cheshire. Tel: (061 928) 7540.
 BOTTOMLEY, H.J., 25 Saturn Close, Leighton Buzzard, Bucks. LU7 7UU.
 CAIRNS, Dr. D.J., Perch Cottage, Post Office Lane, Kempsey, Worcester.
 DAWSON, Miss A.E., Hunters Moon, Petworth Road, Ainsdale, Southport, Merseyside PR8 2OL.
 DENNETT, Mrs. D.C., 2 Delaford Avenue, Worsley, Manchester M28 4QS. Tel: (061 790) 4771.
 FITZSIMMONS, P., 38 Albert Road, Pittville, Cheltenham, Glos.
 FREEMAN, J.A.D., 1 Shillinglee House, Chiddingfold, Godalming, Surrey GU8 4TA. Tel: Haslemere (0428) 52227.
 GRIFFIN, N.M., 5 Julian Acres, Berrow, Burnham-on-Sea, Somerset TA8 2LZ.
 HAGGERSTON, M.J.B., 49 Cloncurry Street, London SW6.
 HAGGERSTON, Mrs. M.J.B., same address.
 R HANLEY, Sub/Lieut. P., The Wardroom, HM S/M Spectre, BFPO, London.
 HARVEY, B.C., 151 Woodland Drive, Watford, Herts. WD1 3DA.
 HISCOTT, Mrs. D.M., 66 The Paddock, Ingatestone, Essex CM4 0BH.
 HOAR, Mrs. E.A., 2 Camden Crescent, Bath, Avon BA1 5HY.
 J HOLFORD, Andrew, 102 Broadway Court, Salthouse Lane, Beeston, Nottingham.
 KITCHENER, E.J., Byes End, Byes Lane, Sidforth, Sidmouth, Devon EX10 9QX. Tel: (039 55) 2812.
 LEACH, P.F., 3 Oxford Street, Cheltenham, Glos. GL52 6DT. Tel: (0242) 35275.
 R LIPSCOMBE, J.G., La Pellyrie, Route de St Andre, St Andrews, Guernsey, Channel Islands. Tel: (0481) 36379. Office: (0481) 26641.
 MACARTNEY, G.C.A., 79 Munster Road, Fulham, London SW6 5RF.
 MANSFIELD, P.J., 43 Devereux Avenue, Watford, Herts. WD1 3DD. Tel: (0923) 26791.
 R MEADOWS, Miss S., 23 Crescent Road, Worsley, Manchester M28 4PW. Tel: (061 794) 4856.
 ORMEROD, Mrs. B.M., Sunnybank, 15a West Hill, Budleigh Salterton, Devon EX9 6CD. Tel: (039 54) 3509.
 O PEARSON, G.B.N., 17 Rother Street, Oamaru 8901, New Zealand
 PHILP, W.E., 10 Rustington Court, St. Johns Road, Eastbourne, Sussex.
 PLUMMER, I.R., Balliol College, Oxford.
 POTTER, J.W., 49 Thicknall Drive, Chawn Park, Pedmore, Stourbridge, West Midlands DY8 0YH.
 POTTER, Mrs. J.W., same address.
 RACE, R., 6 St. Margarets Place, Bradford-on-Avon, Wilts. BA15 1DT.
 STRACHAN, Mark, Hewlitts Mill, Galhampton, Yeovil, Somerset BA22 7BG. Tel: North Cadbury (096 34) 308.
 SUTHERLAND, A.A., 11 Foxgrove Gardens, Felixstowe, Suffolk IP11 7JX. Tel: (039 42) 3439. Work: (039 42) 0473.
 O TYRALL, J. (Australia)
 VINCENT, R.E., Holmwood, 182 The Street, West Horsley, Leatherhead, Surrey. Tel: (048 65) 2680.
 VINCENT, Mrs. R.E., same address.
 WATSON, H.S., 53 Thornleigh Road, Horfield, Bristol, Avon.
 WATSON, J.P.G., Silvertrees, 20 Merriefield Road, Broadstone, Dorset, BH18 8BP. Tel: (0202) 692128.
 WICKHAM, Lt.Col. A.M., Cherry Grove, Stoke St. Mary, Taunton, Somerset TA3 5DE. Tel: (0823) 44284.
 WILKINS, M.J., 84 Howey Lane, Frodsham, Warrington, Cheshire WA6 6DT. Tel: (0928) 33759.
 WILKINS, T., 44 Northend, High Ferrers, Wellingborough, Northants. NN9 8JB.
 WOOLFE, H., 38 Dunston Road, London NW11. Tel: 01-458 1147.

Devonshire Park, Eastbourne: Week 1 (4-9 April)

There was a disappointingly small entry for this, the first C.A. tournament of the season. The uncalled for transposition of the two

weeks may well have had an effect, and it is to be hoped that this will not be repeated. It was especially sad that there were no entries for the Women's Championship. But those who came found the weather mostly kind, and Eastbourne, self-styled 'suntrap' of the South, lived up to its name. If at times the trap was not properly set this was only to be expected in April. The standard of play was surprisingly good for the time of year, with Matthew Tapp and Alec Coleman in particular good form. Tommy and Marjorie Vale got a good deal of play during the week, beating Ralph Chappell one after the other on Monday, and beating each other later in the week. Tommy went on to retain the Felix Cup which he won last year; Marjorie, though not winning an event, has improved a great deal and will do even better as she gains confidence. Ray Hall is another improving player with a very nice style, who lost to Vale twice by small margins. Dorothy Harding did well to reach the final of the Draw in the Felix Cup; whether by good play or by sheer intimidation was unclear. She certainly discomfited one of her opponents, Tina Wills, by accidentally locking that lady's belongings in one of the beach-huts that had been provided as shelters.

On Tuesday afternoon there was heavy rain which continued through the night, so that on Wednesday the groundsman forbade play in the Park until afternoon. Three of the doubles games were therefore played at Compton and competitors were very grateful to the Compton Club for making this possible.

There were some interesting games in the Open Doubles. Matthew Tapp, partnering Evelyn Taylor, a 14-bisquer, decided to try to peel her ball through as many hoops as possible, and did extremely well in all their games. Their opponents took some time to adjust to the different tactics required, but always won eventually. In the game against Coleman and Phelps, Tapp triple-peeled Phelps out, but he and Miss Taylor were too far behind to prevent Coleman, who is a very good shot, from winning.

Matthew Tapp generally played very well throughout the week, and the accuracy of his large split-shots was especially impressive. He reached the final of the Big Handicap, where he was beaten by Ted Rees, who made good use of his bisques and played well. In one half of the Men's Championship Matthew beat Michael Phelps by 26 with a triple peel but he lost narrowly to Alec Coleman in the other half, with the result that he had to play him again in the play-off. Alec quickly got ahead, picking up a break from a difficult position, and it was some time before Matthew made any headway, as his shooting seemed to have deserted him. When he did get in he played a perfect break before unaccountably sticking in 2-back, and did not get another chance. It was Alec Coleman, therefore, who won the Gold Cup and added to the number of Southwick members who won events here. John Bowman, who started the week badly, gradually improved and won the extra 'Y' event.

The small entry produced quite as many blocking problems as a large one, as the same people did well in different events. Apart from this however all went smoothly under the command of Giles Borrett, who even appeared in his managerial scarlet trousers on Saturday. To see Nora Elvey, even if not as a player, is always a delight; this time doubly so, for her presence doubled the number of referees available. Thanks must go mainly to Ed Strickland, who works so hard as Tournament Secretary and in so many capacities to keep this tournament going. Why more people do not enter is a mystery to the writer. The days are long gone when the reporter could write that the winner of the Open Championship here was usually a President's Cup player, but why? Why do none of the top players enter this tournament? It ought to offer an unrivalled opportunity of showing the public what first class croquet is. The tournament must surely be in danger if not better supported; let us hope that 1984 will produce greater numbers.

Event 1. O'Callaghan Cold Cup. Men's Open Singles.

DRAW
 First Round: Cdr. G. Borrett bt T.F. Owen w/o scr.
 Second Round: A.F. Coleman bt J.H. Bowman +18, Borrett bt G.C. Roy w/o scr., M. Tapp bt E.E. Rees +18, M.F. Phelps bt D.A. Harris +10.
 Semi-final: Coleman bt Borrett +10, Tapp bt Phelps +17.
 Final: Coleman bt Tapp +1.

PROCESS

First Round: Bowman bt Harris +5.
 Second Round: Bowman bt Borrett +21, Tapp bt Roy w/o scr., Rees bt Coleman +6, Phelps bt Owen w/o scr.

Semi-final: Tapp bt Bowman +17, Phelps bt Rees +16.

Final: Tapp bt Phelps +26.

PLAY-OFF

Coleman bt Tapp +10.

Event 2. Franc Trophy. Women's Open Singles.

No Entries.

Event 3. Felix Cup. Handicap Singles.

DRAW

First Round: Mrs T. Vale (13) bt R.P. Chappell (3½) +11.

Second Round: T. Vale (5½) bt D.W. Shaw (8) +19, R.F. Hall (11) bt Mrs Vale +2, Mrs A.E. Millns (7½) bt Miss A.E. Taylor (16) +16, Miss D.V. Harding (14) bt Mrs H.G. Wills (5) +5.

Semi-final: Vale bt Hall +6, Miss Harding bt Mrs Millns +12.

Final: Vale bt Miss Harding +18.

PROCESS

First Round: Vale bt Mrs Wills +9.

Second Round: Vale bt Mrs Vale +6, Hall bt Miss Taylor +22, Mrs Millns bt Shaw +8, Chappell bt Miss Harding +11.

Semi-final: Vale bt Hall +8, Chappell bt Mrs Millns +10.

Final: Vale bt Chappell +11.

Event 4. 'X'. Sussex Union Cup. Handicap Singles.

First Round: D.A. Harris (1½) bt M.F. Phelps (0) w/o scr.

Second Round: M. Tapp (0) bt A.F. Coleman (1) +13, Mrs H.G. Wills (5) bt R.F. Hall (11) +7, E.C. Tyrwhitt Drake (2) bt Miss D.V. Harding (14) +14, D.W. Shaw (8) bt Harris +17, Mrs T. Vale (13) bt J.H. Bowman (2½) +13, T. Vale (5½) bt R.P. Chappell (3½) +18, Cdr G. Borrett (2) bt G.C. Roy w/o scr., E.E. Rees (2½) bt Mrs A.E. Millns (7½) +19.

Second Round: Tapp bt Mrs Wills +12, Shaw bt Tyrwhitt Drake +14, Mrs Vale bt Vale +11, Rees bt Borrett +6.

Semi-final: Tapp bt Shaw +15, Rees bt Mrs Vale +18.

Final: Rees bt Tapp +22.

Event 4. 'Y'. Handicap Singles.

Final: J.H. Bowman (2½) bt D.A. Harris (1½) +22.

Event 5. Victor Vases. Men's Handicap Doubles.

Winners

A.F. Coleman & M.F. Phelps 4 wins

J.H. Bowman & E.E. Rees 2 wins

E.C. Tyrwhitt Drake & D.A. Harris 1 win

M. Tapp & Miss Taylor 0 wins

Event 6. Anna Millns Salvors. Ladies' Handicap Doubles.

Winners

Mrs H.G. Wills & D.W. Shaw 3 wins

R.F. Hall & Miss D. Harding 2 wins

T. Vale & Mrs Vale 1 win (-8)

Mrs A.E. Millns & R.P. Chappell 1 win (-34)

INCIDENT FROM "DOWN - UNDER"



What is Terry Cresswell doing in this incident photographed at Melbourne? Choose between the following:

- The new "suction shot" is being demonstrated: but has the referee noticed the right hand resting on the leg?
- Splinters of glass are being removed so as to make the lawn safe for the unofficial after-hours strip croquet competition.
- Crushed blades of grass are being brought back to their natural vertical position at the request of Spencer Buck, who was proposing to shoot at the tice.
- Grass cuttings are being removed from the lawn after a successful appeal against the use of them to smooth over one of the normal hazards of an indifferent court.

(See over for answer)