

IDEAL GIFTS

THE

HISTORY OF CROQUET

BY D.M.C. PRICHARD

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THE CROQUET GAZETTE

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Plus or Minus

"Any hope of Female Minus Players?"

November 1982 page 11

How nice to find that a male croquet player is actually interested in lady players! Of course the main reason why ladies seldom improve beyond a handicap of three is because they are so occupied with catering and household chores, also lack of stamina.

These days I think there is far too much slow, ponderous and defensive play ('A' class too). I put the onus on too much importance of winning. Surely there should be more sporting play, isn't it better to enjoy playing well and lose, rather than to play badly and win?

The standard of play among the ladies is so poor at the moment that the 'Ladies Field Cup' should be put into mothballs until we improve. Then the format should be changed to playing each lady in one straight untimed game or Draw and Process knock out.

I believe the ladies tactics do not improve because of lack of practise in advanced play. At my request, Cheltenham have started a much enjoyed 'B' class tournament in September and as we get so little practise for this, Kitty (Sessions) Wheeler and I are running a 'B' Special during the season which is designed for practise for the above tournament. We have stipulated NO defensive play so maybe there is hope of a 'scratch' female yet.

Can't we do something about these awful timed games? We all know that a game can still be won when ones opponent's clips are on the Peg. It seems ludicrous to me that a player can win a trophy without ever pegging out a game. Perhaps everyone could read and remember 'Custom' 49/a p.33 in the Red Book . . . The 'A' class players in the 1983 Open Championships would have done well to draw each others attention to this paragraph!

While I agree with Ian Bond on his handicapping article 'Further thoughts on handicapping', I believe many beginners croquet has been spoilt by not having their handicaps put down. They have been bitterly disappointed and disheartened when they have played extra well through a tournament and not been reduced by one, from 14-13 say, quite harmless but encouraging. Remember only one person can win each cup and so often a player who could and would have won it is pipped at the peg by one of Ian's fast improving players. (Usually everyone knew he would win anyway, so surely his handicap should have gone down before the tournament).

Would you agree that a player who regularly makes breaks of 4 or 5 hoops should have a handicap in single figures?

Heather G. Handley
Cheltenham

TOURNAMENT RESULTS AND REPORTS

Roehampton (Evening) 30 May-6 June

Event 1. Hussars Challenge Cup. Advanced Singles (American)

Winner: A.J. Palmer (5 wins); J.E. Guest (4 wins); S.M. Godsi, R.D.C. Prichard, I.P.M. MacDonald (2 wins); D. Jesson-Dibley (0 wins).

Event 2. Advanced Singles (American)

Winner: Mrs I.P.M. MacDonald (4 wins) +54 points; Mrs D.J. Croker (4 wins) +28 points; Mrs W. Browne, Mrs B. Mansfield (3 wins); M. Haggerston (1 win); Mrs W. Jones (0 wins).

Event 3. Handicap Singles (American) — 8 rounds

Winner: Mrs W. Browne (7) (7 wins); J.E. Guest (2½), S.M. Godsi (5) (5 wins); A.J. Palmer (2), I.P.M. MacDonald (3½) (5 wins); M. Haggerston (14) (4 wins); R.D.C. Prichard (1) (only 6 rounds), Mrs D.J. Croker (7½) (3 wins); D. Jesson-Dibley (4½), Mrs B. Mansfield

(7), Mrs I.P.M. MacDonald (6½) (2 wins); Mrs W. Jones (9) (1 win) (only 6 rounds).

Event 4. Handicap Doubles

Semi-final: I.P.M. MacDonald (3½) & Mrs I.P.M. MacDonald (6½) bt Mrs B. Mansfield (7) & M. Haggerston (14) +9; Mrs W. Browne (7) & S.M. Godsi (8) bt Mrs D.J. Croker (7½) & J.E. Guest (2½) +6.

Final: Mrs Browne & Godsi bt I.P.M. & Mrs MacDonald +20.

Varsity Match — Hurlingham — 6 June

With the presence of several Boris Rankovs in the Cambridge side, Oxford appeared to be in a pretty pessimistic mood about their fortunes this year, and consequently the two sides were perhaps on a much friendlier footing than in recent years. Another factor was the presence of an ex-Cambridge player John Black who was playing in his first varsity match but for Oxford; the Cambridge side forgave his betrayal since it was his first match. After some negotiation with the guards the large number of hangers-oners took their seats to see battle resume at about 11 a.m.

It soon became clear that the Oxford fears were well founded and Cambridge managed to obtain a clean sweep eventually. The top game between Martin Coward and Adam Berry saw some excellent play however, with early consecutive hitting and advancement to 4-back by Berry and Coward. Berry hit the lift but wristed off a three yarder after 2nd with the balls all laid out and Coward gratefully finished with a TP. Dayal the Cambridge captain also knocked off a delayed TP to go with the one he had in his first varsity match last year, this time the satisfaction was heightened as it was against the renegade!

Following Ian's suggestion in CG 167 I include the following for those playing at Hurlingham. At lunch a mixed band set forth in the Oxford minibus to try out the local chip shop (a few hundred yards from the tube station towards Hammersmith) which is to be recommended with the giant sausage, the lemon with takeaway fish, the saveloys and the service until 2 p.m. all coming in for special mention.

After sustenance the teams resumed with Cambridge playing a couple of substitutes at 5 and 6 who won very quickly on the 3rd lawn. The top lawn proved the most interesting again, where Raouf Allim for Cambridge failed a TP after making 4th and a peel allowing Adam Berry to double off Coward. His leave was to say the least unfortunate, as having left his partner at 5th he carefully put his ball 3 yards out of A baulk on the south boundary allowing Allim the perfect 3 ball break off the contact. Naturally he failed at 3-back, good attitude, but soon finished things off. The presence of a freelance photographer didn't put the players off and led to a picture in the DT the next day.

With the top 5 Cambridge players leaving this year (at last) next years seems to offer a more interesting fixture, but Oxford may still suffer from the low number of players in their central club to choose from, as opposed to the different set-up at Cambridge.

Results, Cambridge names first:

a.m.

M.J. Coward bt A. Berry (capt) +15(TP)

J.R. Hilditch bt R. Andrew +16

R.M. Allim bt A. harper +17

D.L. Gunasekera (capt) bt J.B. Black +(TP)

R. Tribe bt J. Watson +19

G. Whillock bt I. Plummer +15

p.m.

Coward & Allim bt Berry & Andrew +6

Hilditch & Gunasekera bt Harper & Watson +17

R.D. Martin & A.K. Soper bt Black & Plummer +20

Cambridge University 9 Oxford University 0

J.R.H.

the remaining matches (Prichard/Pearson, Haigh/Hobbs and Hyne/Palmer), Samuel Smiths bitter and the Riggall Hypothesis (the single ball ALWAYS wins). In the odd moment of relative quiet the players of these classics displayed the true meaning of playing croquet for fun. Palmer pegged out Hyne to a great cry of "R.....!" and, a few minutes later, lost the game when the last shot was (inevitably?) hit. Such was the volume of the second "R....." that followed this feat that the echoes seemed to pursue your reporter as he rode away on his bicycle at least as far as Wimbledon Common, where they died away on the still evening air, no doubt to the relief of the Wombles.

S.N.M.

Results:**Open Singles (Swiss)**

D.L. Gunasekera (5 wins)
S.N. Mulliner, J.R. Hilditch, J.O. Walters, R.D.C. Prichard (4 wins)
Dr E.W. Solomon, M. Ormerod, R.M. Hobbs (3 wins)
A.J. Palmer, N.G. Hyne, E. Mackenzie-Brown, J.E. Guest (2 wins)
M.G. Pearson (0 wins)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**Croquet at Chippenham?**

Following a recent demonstration by three of your members (Trevor Walker and Martin Murray and B.G. Neal) at Chippenham recently we are holding a meeting in this village in order to discuss "sport for the less athletic" on 18th August.

Tel. Chippenham 401

W.J. Cusack

Dear Sir,

Reg Pierce's suggestion for less formality should be wholeheartedly embraced but... Please, please not only Christian names otherwise, not being a Christian, I and my kind will be discriminated against!! Forenames please.

Tall Timbers, Horton Close,
Boulton Lock, Maidenhead, Berks.Yours sincerely,
Smokey Eades

Dear Sir,

There are two observations which I should like to make re Mr. Pierce's letter on "Less Formality".

There exists, surely, a marked difference between the appropriate usage of Christian names and surnames in (a) conversation and (b) print. Formality or informality apply very much more to the sphere of conversation, where Christian names today rightly take precedence by themselves. In print there should be a conjunction of both names, as evidenced by my checking through the sports reports of several copies of recent "Daily Telegraphs".

From these pages there emerges a uniform pattern. The writer begins with the Christian name and the surname ("David Gower", "Jack Nicklaus", "Jimmy Connors", "Bill Beaumont", "David Broome", "Joe Bugner", etc.) and when repeating the name in the course of his report uses the *surname* only.

This pattern seems to me to be the right and proper one, which I aim to follow in writing my reports on the Men's and Women's Championship and the President's Cup. It is perhaps a matter of greater importance that these reports should be (a) factually correct, (b) interesting to read and (c) as far as possible free of monotonous repetition, often not easy to avoid, ("but, George, I cannot understand why these players are always going round to 4-back. What do they do when they get there?").

Shrewsbury House, Ditton Hill,
Surbiton, SurreyYours sincerely,
Dudley Hamilton-Miller

Dear Sir,

I was interested to read the letter in your July issue headed 'Less Formality'.

I used to move in croquet circles between the wars but now move more in tennis circles in which Christian names are freely used as a means of initial introduction.

In the twenties and thirties one used to know a person's surname sometimes months or years before one knew his or her Christian name. Today one usually knows the Christian name long before one learns the surname.

I am all for less formality than that which existed in the twenties and thirties but informality can be carried too far and I like to know a person's surname. Perhaps a suitable compromise is to introduce a friend as 'Bill Smith' rather than just 'Bill' or 'Mr. Smith'. I now address nearly all my friends, however slight the friendship, by their Christian names but with casual acquaintances I prefer to use the surname if I can find out what it is.

9 Carrwood, Knutsford,
Cheshire, WA16 8NGYours sincerely,
Richard Miller**SECRETARY'S NOTES****NEW ASSOCIATES** (to 1.8.83)

J BROWN, Adrian, 2 Kerrymount Green, Foxrock, Dublin 18, Eire.
O DICKER, J.M., 2/13 Hewitt Avenue, Rose Park, South Australia 5067.
R EMBLETON, Miss P., 3 Carisbrook House, 2 Lushington Road, Eastbourne, East Sussex, BN21.
J HALLAM, Brian, Computer Centre, Birmingham University, 15 Coleshill Street, Birmingham, B4 7PA. Tel: (021-359) 3611.
S ERITH, Mrs D.E., Middle Salterns, Ryde Road, Seaview, Isle of Wight, PO34 5AE. Tel: (098-371) 3506.
S LYONS, Miss M.C., 11 Copeland Grove, Clontarf, Dublin 3, Eire.
S Milne, M., 43 Goatstown Road, Goatstown, Dublin 14, Eire.
S PAISH, Mrs E., 6 Southcourt Close, Cheltenham, Glos. GL53 ODW.
S PEARMAN, Mrs B.K., 16 Meadow Court, Kingston Lane, Southwick, Brighton, Sussex.
J POOLE, Simon, 8 Seddon Road, Morden, Surrey.
S ROGERS, R.A.G., 27 Vicarage Lane, East Preston, East Sussex, BN16 2SP. Tel: Rustington (090-62) 5046. Worthing (0903) 31891.
O WARD, Mrs D.W., 6 Avoca Street, Lindisfarne, 7015 Tasmania, Australia.
S WATSON, P.A., 15 Dexter Close, Banbury, Oxon.
J WILLIAMS, S., 20 Aubrey Grove, Shankill, County Dublin, Eire.

NEW OFFICIALS

Manager: A. Bennet
Handicapper: K. Cotterell
P.M. Johnson

C.A. SILVER MEDALS

The following Associates have recently qualified for C.A. Silver Medals under Regulation 13:-

P. Cordingley (Compton, July 1982)
J.R. McCullough (Southwick, May 1983)
K.M.H. Aiton and D.L. Gunasekera (Open Championships)
Mrs W.R.D. Wiggins and D.H. Moorcraft (Buddleigh Salterton, July 1983)

To avoid qualifiers from being overlooked those who think they are entitled to a Silver Medal are asked to inform the Secretary giving details of their claim.

INTER CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

3rd Round
ROEHAMPTON beat Hurlingham 6-1
CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY beat Cheltenham 2 4-3

MARY ROSE TROPHY

3rd Round
ALDERMASTON beat Cheltenham 2
CHELTENHAM 1 beat Southport 5-2
BOWDON 1 beat Woking w/o
WREST PARK beat Wolverhampton 4-3

LONGMAN CUP

3rd Round
EDINBURGH beat Bowdon 3-2
BRETBY beat Edgbaston 3-2
WORCESTER beat Cheltenham 4-1
WOLVERHAMPTON beat Harwell 5-0
REIGATE PRIORY beat Southwick 4-1
WOKING beat Aldermaston 3-2
COLWORTH beat Cambridge University w/o
IPSWICH beat Wrest Park 4-1

4th Round

BRETBY beat Edinburgh 4-1
WOLVERHAMPTON beat Worcester 3-2
REIGATE PRIORY beat Woking 3-2
COLWORTH beat Ipswich 3-2

SECRETARY'S SHIELD

1st Round
WOLVERHAMPTON (west Midlands Fed.) beat Chester (Northern Fed.) 4-3

Handicap Alterations

(as approved up to 12th August)

Colchester Club 25 June
Paul J.C. Hetherington 5 to 4

Buddleigh Salterton 27 June-2 July
M.F. Burgess 7 6
P. Danks 9 7
N.G. Hyne 3 2½
Mrs B.G. Perry 15 (D12) 14 (D12)
P. Stoker 4 3½
R. Tribe 4 3

Oxford University (Club) 16 July
R. Andrew 8 6

Cheltenham 1-3 July
H.G.T. Bolton 2 3
Miss I.M. Roe 5½ 6½
P.L. Smith 2 1½
C.B. Snowdon 3 2½
R. Race 8 6
R.S. Jenkins 15 12 (D10)

Southwick 4-9 July
L.B. Barnes 6 5½
Miss D.V. Harding 14 14 (D12)
A. Hittle 10 8 Non-Associate
Mrs A.E. Mapletoft 12 11 (D8)
Mrs E.G. Ross 10 9 (D8)
P.J. Shephard 4 3½
Mrs A.L. Smith 15 13 (D11)
G.D.A. Whillock 3½ 2½

Woking 2-10 July
C. Lamb 6 5½
A. McCormack 6 5½
A.J. Mrozinski 6 5½
Mrs P.H. Mann 8 9
C.B. Sanford 4½ 5½

Hurlingham (Club) 10 July
Dr O.A. Kerensky 6 7

Open Championships (Cheltenham) 9-16 July
K.M.H. Aiton 0 -½
J.E. Guest 2 1½
D.L. Gunasekera ½ -½
P.W. Hands -1½ -1
S.E. Lewis 1½ 1
Professor B.G. Neal -1 -½
J. Rose -½ 1

Colchester 3-9 July
G.K. Collin 4½ 4
Mrs G.P.N. Healy 11 11 (D10)
N.G. Hyne 2½ 2
Dr P.D.B. West 3 2

Challenge & Gilbey (Hunstanton) 18-23 July
H.F. Barnett 7½ 7
J.W.H. Carlisle 6 5
R.A. Gosden 6 5
Miss P. Hampson 9 8

Woking (Club) July 1982
D.C. Caporn 3½ 3

Parkstone (Club corrections) July
J.F. Pollard 6 5
Mrs D. Mitchell 11 (D9) 10 (D9)

Edgbaston 22-24 July
B.G. Hallam 6 4½
P.E. Jones 13 12 Non-Associate
A.G. Gordon 5 4½
G. Henshaw 3 4
D. Peterson 3 2½

Hurlingham 28 July-6 August
Before Play
W.T. Coles 8 7
Mrs D. Torrington Petrie 12 (D10) 11 (D9)
During Play
W.T. Coles 7 7 (D6)
Rev J.E. Andrews 6 4½
Dr R.J. Clayton 10 10 (D9)
After Play
J.W.H. Carlisle 5 4
Dr R.J. Clayton 10 (D9) 8
W.T. Coles 7 (D6) 6
Judge A.D. Karmel 5 6
C. Newman 6 4
Mrs F.H. Newman 4½ 4
A.J. Mrozinski 5½ 4½
G.C. Roy 2 1½
P. Torrington 6 4½

East Riding (Club) 1 August
E.E. Scott 4½ 4 (w.e.f. 14 June)
Mrs C.J. Irwin 12 11 (w.e.f. 31 May)
F.I. Maugham 6 5
P. Stoker 3½ 3
Mrs A.F. Sutcliffe 8 7½
P.W. Thompson 6½ 5½

Cheltenham 25-31 July
Before Play
Dr J.W. King 8 6
After Play
Miss D.E. Barber 14 (D12) 13 (D11)
W.R. Bawden 5½ 5
R. Burnell 6 5
Mrs G.D. Harris 7 6½
Dr J.W. King 6 5
Mrs L.V. Latham 11 (D9) 10 (D8)
Mrs D.H. Moorcraft 12 (D10) 11 (D9)
D. Peterson 2½ 2
G/Capt R.S. Ryan 12 (D10) 10 (D8)
J.S. Tove 1 ½

Ipswich (Club) 7 August
M. French 11 9
Dr R. Sutherland 13 11

Roehampton (Club) 7 August
L.D. Adams 1 1½
Mrs W.J. Browne 7 6½
Mrs B. Mansfield 7 6½

Colchester 5-7 August
Before Play
D.G. Palmer 14 Non-Associate
Dr R. Sutherland 11 11*
P. Williams 12 10 Non-Associate
After Play
M. French 9 7
G.P.N. Healy 1 ½
D.G. Palmer 14 12 Non-Associate
Dr R. Sutherland 11* 11
J.C. Walters 2½ 2
P. Williams 10 9 Non-Associate