The Croquet Gazette

IDEAL GIFTS

12

THE **HISTORY OF CROQUET**

BY D.M.C. PRICHARD

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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 vet.

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 lan'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 (O 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 (21/2), S.M. Godsi (5) (5 wins); A.J. Palmer (2), I.P.M. MacDonald (31/2) (5 wins); M. Haggerston (14) (4 wins); R.D.C. Prichard (1) (only 6 rounds), Mrs D.J. Croker (71/2) (3 wins); D. Jesson-Dibley (41/2), Mrs B. Mansfield

(7), Mrs I.P.M. MacDonald (61/2) (2 wins); Mrs W. Jones (9) (1 win) (only 6 rounds)

Event 4. Handicap Doubles

Semi-final: I.P.M. MacDonald (31/2) & Mrs I.P.M. MacDonald (61/2) bt Mrs B. Mansfield (7) & M. Haggerston (14) +9; Mrs W. Browne (7) & S.M. Godsi (8) bt Mrs D.J. Croker (71/2) & J.E. Guest (21/2) +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 varder 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 lan'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

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.

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

Other Contributions other than tournament results and reports should be sent to the Editor. They will be much welcomed 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.

Wrest Park Open Weekend 1-3 July

The weather was ideal, with ample sunshine and more of the showers that are so frequent at Wrest Park during May and September. A fine evening was had on the Friday night in the NIAE's "Bull at Wrest" amidst the ebullient Institute staff, who were celebrating their existence. On the lawns a degree of sloth was evident from the 25% of games that went to time.

A.G.W.

Advanced Play

BLOCK A: P. Cordingley 6 wins (+65) bt Noble +25, Murray +23, Irwin +20, Vincent +16, Wheeler +9, Jones +2; E. Bell 6 wins (+52) bt Cordingley +23, Noble +13, Jones +12, Vincent +5, Murray +4 Irwin +3; C.J. Irwin 6 wins (+52) bt Noble +26, Wheeler +16, Jones +12, Bond +10, Murray +9, Vincent +2; I.D. Bond 5 wins (+12) bt Wheeler +19, Jones +10, Noble +9, Bell +7, Cordingley +7; M. Murray 4 wins (-15) bt Wheeler +18, Vincent +8, Bond +4, Jones +1; J.A. Wheeler 3 wins (-62) bt Jones +14, Noble +9, Bell +1: I.G. Vincent 2 wins (+1) bt Bond +26. Wheeler +24: K.E. Jones 2 wins (-18) bt Noble +19, Vincent +14; G.W. Noble 2 wins (-87) bt Murray +6, Vincent +4.

BLOCK B: J.R. Hilditch 7 wins (+102) bt Meads +20, Audsley +19, Aldridge +16, Girling +16, Green +12, Keen +10, Death +9; W.O. Aldridge 5 wins (+52) bt Green +19, Audsley +18, Keen +17, Girling +12, Meads +9; P.J. Death 4 wins (+21) bt Girling +17, Keen +16, Aldridge +7, Green +3; J.D. Meads 4 wins (+8) bt Green +16, Girling +13, Death +10, Audsley +8; E. Audsley 4 wins (-28) bt Green +5, Keen +5, Girling +4, Death +3; B.A. Keen 2 wins (-45) bt Meads +10, Green +8; A.J. Girling 2 wins (-47) bt Keen +15, Green w/o; H.C. Green 0 wins.

BLOCK C: J. Coutts 5 wins (+41) bt Guest +20, von Schmeider +20, Wheeler +18, Peterson +9, Collin +3; T.W. Anderson 5 wins (+21) bt Collin +16, Coutts +6, Wheeler +4, Bottomlev +3, von Schmeider +1; J.E. Guest 4 wins (+12) bt Peterson +25, Bottomley +19. Wheeler +9, Collin +1; Peterson 4 wins (-25) bt Bottomley +11, Anderson +10, Wheeler +9, Collin +2; von Schmeider 4 wins (-35) bt Wheeler +14, Guest +9, Peterson +3, Anderson +1; H.J. Bottomley 3 wins (+39) bt von Schmeider +26, Coutts +23, Wheeler +19: A. Collin 2 wins (-8) bt von Schmeider +16. Bottomlev +2: A. Collin 2 wins (-8) bt von Schmeider +16, Bottomley +2; D. Wheeler 1 win (-57) bt Collin +16.

BLOCK D: F.J. Rogerson 7 wins (+50) bt Wolfe +12, Harral +12, Collin +11, Anderson +7, Jones +6, Sutcliffe +1, Wheeler +1; A.F. Sutcliffe 6 wins (+59) bt Collin +19, Anderson +13, Wheeler +10, Wolfe +10, Jones +7, Harral +1; G.K. Collin 3 wins (+1) bt Wheeler +14, Wolfe +11, Anderson +7; Mrs J. Anderson 3 wins (-7) bt Wolfe +13, Harral +7, Wheeler +2; B.D. Harral 3 wins (-10) bt Wolfe +8, Wheeler +7, Collin +1: R.C. Jones 2 wins (-34) bt Harral +4, Anderson +2; J. Wolfe 2 wins (-34) bt Wheeler +17, Jones +3; R.F. Wheeler 1 win (-23) bt Jones +24.

Colchester 3–9 July

With a tight schedule to keep owing to overlapping with other tournaments our new manager, Pat Hetherington, was very successful, finishing the requisite events in time to allow players to get off to Cheltenham. The weather was hot throughout, although by no means as bad as in the subsequent week. The lawns were in top condition, as ever, (and no C.A. event to show for it), although they were a little slower than usual following overnight rain on Wednesday and Thursday. The small entry (20 in the handicap) allowed for a complete absence of double banking and time limits only for doubles (where they proved unnecessary) and for some later Y games.

On Monday, when the tournament began for most of the visitors, the Cambridge contingent actually arrived uncharacteristically early and duly apologised. With Peter West (in fact from the other place), who travelled with them, included it is fair to say that the seven of them dominated proceedings. A fine exception to this was the performance of our manager, who managed the rare distinction (for a manager) of winning the C class and getting to the closely contested doubles final

On Tuesday Dr Dean's lawn at Wivenhoe (surely one of the best privately owned lawns in the country) played host to a dour 434 hour struggle between Susan Wiggins and Robin Hobbs in the Open. Did the good doctor's hospitality or even his Sweet Peas have an effect? Later, at a critical time in a game between Bryan Sykes and Keith Aiton there was a chance for the two to test out their knowledge of the laws without the presence of an impartial referee. Aiton, having refused a ball movement under law 24 (due to a local brick wall always deeemed movable there), hit the wall on his backswing and partially checked his mallet but performed an airstroke above the ball. Careful subsequent reading of laws 31 (a) and (b) indicated that the replay had been the correct decision. (Perhaps clarification of this law should be included in the new edition?).

Wednesday saw the start of some fun with the doubles and a two hour visit from a TV crew with Gerry Harrison from Anglia. Gunasekera slipped in a TPO on Chris Sheen and on the next lawn Aiton failed miserably to TPO Julian Straw, getting himself pegged out subsequently. Nick Hyne managed to cope on his own, however, and the Cambridge pair went through.

In the Open event there was a largish entry of 12 and the locals proved unable to topple the visiting hordes. Susan Wiggins was unlucky in losing twice to Keith Aiton in her long series of games with him, once when he hit the wrong further ball in a pseudo-multiple target as his last shot. Indeed by teatime on Thursday Cambridge had the event sown up and the double victory of Keith Aiton over Richard Hilditch was hardly surprising to anyone.

The doubles final between Daval Gunasekera and Tim Harrison and Pat Hetherington and Peter West proved to be the usual joy for the spectator. The mixed pair got to rover (Pat) and peg (Peter having not got near the single peel from 3-back) when Dayal burned round and pegged Peter out (since he had been hitting in like a master). Tim was then on 2-back and the usual dourness followed with Dayal having to play several more times before finally winning +2.

The Y was an interesting 3 round progressive Swiss with a final 2 round knockout for those successful. It provided the opportunity for Hilditch to regain the Lexdon Goblet after two years absence, following two lucky wins over Bobby Wiggins and Nick Hyne in the play-offs.

Off the lawns on the Wednesday evening we had an interesting talk from Roger Bray on the history of croquet as an accompaniment to his exhibition, which was on display at the club throughout, and we were informed of the main use of croquet in the 19th century, which seems to have been courtship through displaying and examining ankles - a bit kinky perhaps.

It is nice to record the reappearance of a dubious character by the name of Hairy S. Wibble; it is good to see aliases back on the croquet scene after many years apparent absence.

J.R.H. Event 1. Colchester Bowl (Advanced) DRAW

First Round: J.O. Walters bt N. Hyne +2; G. Healy bt M. Avery +17; K.M.H. Aiton bt Dr W.R.D. Wiggins +17; Dr B.F. Sykes bt H.O. Hicks +16.

Second Round: J.R. Hilditch bt D.L. Gunasekera +7; Walters bt Healy +6; Aiton bt Dr Sykes +3; Mrs W.R.D. Wiggins bt R. Hobbs

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Semi-final: Hilditch bt Walters +23; Aiton bt Mrs Wiggins +3. Final: Aiton bt Hilditch +6.

PROCESS

First Round: D.L. Gunasekera bt H.O. Hicks +19; J.O. Walters bt R. Hobbs +9; J.R. Hilditch bt Dr B.F. Sykes +23; Mrs W.R.D. Wiggins bt N. Hyne +15.

Second Round: Gunasekera bt M. Avery +17; Dr W.R.D. Wiggins bt Walters +3; Hilditch bt G. Healy +18; K.M.H. Aiton bt Mrs Wiggins +4.

Semi-final: Gunasekera bt Dr Wiggins +21; Aiton bt Hilditch +9. Final: Aiton bt Gunasekera +13.

Event 2. Handicap (3 and over)

First Round: P. Bishop bt P.J.C. Hetherington +6; R.S. Alford bt C.L. Sheen +4; G.K. Collin bt G. Hallett +22.

Second Round: T.D. Harrison bt Mrs R. Stanley-Smith +1; G.S. Digby bt Bishop +22; Collin bt Alford +4; Dr P.D.B. West bt J.C. Straw +16.

Semi-final: Harrison bt Digby +5; Dr West bt Collin +15. Final: Dr West bt Harrison +12.

Event 3. Cordy Cup. Handicap (7 and over). American

Mrs J.A. Hetherington (7) 3 wins (+24); Mrs G. Healy (11) 1 win (-6); S. Wibble (10) 1 win (-14); Cdr G. Baker (8) 1 win (-15).

Event 4X. Franklin Cup and Lexden Goblet. Handicap singles First Round: Dr W.R.D. Wiggins (11/2) bt T.D. Harrison (51/2) +14; C.L. Sheen (4) bt J,R. Hilditch (1/2) +4; Dr P.D.B. West (3) bt K.M.H. Aiton (0) +18; Dr B. Sykes (-1/2) bt J.C. Straw (5) +17.

Second Round: G. Hallett (4) bt P.J.C. Hetherington (4) +2; P. Bishop (5) bt R.S. Alford (4) +13: D.L. Gunasekera (1/2) bt D.P.D. Healy (1) +10; Sheen bt Dr Wiggins +14; Dr West bt Dr Sykes +17; Mrs W.R.D. Wiggins (0) bt J.O. Walters (21/2) +4; G.K. Collin (41/2) bt Mrs R. Stanley-Smith (6) +1; N. Hyne (21/2) bt S. Wibble (10) +20.

Third Round: Hallett bt Bishop +8; Sheen bt Gunasekera +26; Dr West bt Mrs Wiggins +12; Collin bt Hyne +25.

Semi-final: Sheen bt Hallett +6; Dr West bt Collin +4. Final: Dr West bt Sheen +24.

Event 5. Handicap Doubles

Semi-final: D.L. Gunasekera & T.D. Harrison (6) bt K.M.H. Aiton & N. Hyne (21/2) +21; Mrs J.A. Hetherington & Dr P.D. West (10) bt P.J.C. Hetherington & J.O. Walters (61/2) +4.

Final: Gunasekera & Harrison bt Mrs Hetherington & Dr West +2.

The McWeeney Trophy Match Bowdon: 4th and 5th July

This was the first time that the annual Trophy match had been played in England, as on the two previous occasions it had been played at Carrickmines. With both sides having won it once, a keen match was expected at Bowdon, particularly as the two teams were very evenly balanced.

Two of the Irish team, Carl von Schmieder and Fred Rogerson, came over 3 days before the match to play in the Wrest Park weekend, where Fred won all 7 games in his block. Terence Read, the Irish Captain, was staying with friends at Alderley Edge on a conveniently timed visit to England. The three other members of the Irish side came over on the ferry to Holyhead on the Saturday night, and were thus able to fit in a match against Southport on the Sunday which they drew 3-3 against Tim Haste, Andrew Bennet, and Don Williamson. The English players had also been preparing hard, Peter Death and Alan Girling having been at Wrest Park with Carl and Fred, and Paul Stoker having been at the Budleigh tournament for the previous week, where he reached the final of the handicap event.

Monday turned out to be a blazing hot day and at the end of the doubles, Ireland had taken a 2-1 lead. During the afternoon, BBC Radio went over 'live' from Ireland to receive an up-to-date account of how the match was going from Miles McWeeney 'on the phone from the grounds at Bowdon'. (Later, on Tuesday, someone turned up to

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whisker.

Doubles

B.A. Keen & E.J. Davis bt R.N. McLean & W.S. Spalding +11 +23 P. Alvey & T.W. Anderson lost to E. MacKenzie-Brown & A.H. Adam +10(T) + 2(T)J.M. Anderson & E.E. Scott lost to W.S. Kilpatrick & C.A. Rowe +7(T) +1(T)

take photographs for the local paper, and expressed surprise at the

size of the crowd - in fact, we had one spectator at the time, and she

After the doubles came the first game of each singles match (played

best of 3), leaving the position at 2 games all as night fell. Tuesday

was another scorching day and with the tension mounting, water

supplemented beer as the staple drink. Carl von Schmieder had a

straight win over Alan Girling, as had Chris Hudson and Steve Lewis

against Miles McWeeney and Charles Gamble, and after a see-saw

battle. Peter Death just triumphed over Terence Read in their third

game. The hoops had been set very tight, so the longer bisquers went

to time (9 hours, split 4, 3, and 2), and with Fred Rogerson well ahead

in his third game against Paul Stoker, the match hinged on the battle

between Mike Wilkins and Niall McInerny. Having just lost the first

game 21-22 on time, and won the second 15-10 also on time. Mike

won the third game 9-8 on time to bring the English team home by a

The 'Vera McWeeney' Trophy was presented by Miles in memory of

his mother who played hockey, tennis, and other sports for Ireland

and was a well-known sports writer. Croquet matches used to be

played annually between the two countries, and the presence of this

new Trophy will ensure that this very pleasant tradition continues.

The Trophy itself, which is in the form of a large cigar box on a

wooden plinth, has returned to Ireland to have the plinth fitted with

silver shields, and a book will be kept inside the box itself to record

T.O. Read & M. McWeeney beat P.J. Death & C. Hudson +17

C.M. von Schmieder & F.J. Rogerson beat A.J. Girling & P. Stoker +15

C.A. Gamble & N. McInerny lost to S.E. Lewis & M.J. Wilkins -12

the names of those who take part each year.

Results: (Irish names first)

Read lost to Death -10, +3, -2

Gamble lost to Lewis -8, -16

C.A. v Scottish C.A.

von Schmieder beat Girling +11, +17

McWeeney lost to Hudson -10, -1(T)

Rogerson beat Stoker +1(T), -13(T), +4(T)

McInerny lost to Wilkins +1(T), -5(T), -1(T)

Played at East Riding Club, Hull 9-10 July

was waiting to serve the lunches!).

Sinales

B.A. Keen bt W.S. Spalding +2 -4 +17 E.J. Davis bt E. MacKenzie-Brown +6 -17 +10 P. Alvey lost to R.N. MacLean -15 +7 -7 T.W. Anderson bt A.H. Adam +3(T) +17 E.E. Scott lost to W.S. Kilpatrick +2 -1 -1(T Mrs J.M. Anderson bt Mrs C.A. Rowe +16 +5(T)

C.A. won 5-4

Hunstanton — Challenge and Gilbey Tournament 18-23 July

CHALLENGE CUPS — each Division played as American, each with 4 entries

1st Division. Roehampton Cup (Open Singles Advanced Play) J.W. Wood 3 wins (+31) Mrs A Neville Bolfe 1 win (-2) J. Haigh 1 win (-13) Mrs H.B.H. Carlisle 1 win (-16)

2nd Division. Council Cup (Open Singles Advanced Play - 21/2 to 6 bisques)

R.A. Gosden 3 wins (+21) Miss S.G. Hampson 2 wins (+13) P.J. Shepard 1 win (+3) C. Abderhalden 0 wins (-37)

3

C.H.

3rd Division. Reckitt Cup (Level Singles 22 point games - 61/2 to 7 bisques) J.W.H. Carlisle 3 wins (+43) I Exell 2 wins (-16)

Mrs R. Stanley-Smith 1 win (-13) Professor K. Campbell O wins (-12)

4th Division. Stevenson Cup (Level Singles 22 point games - 71/2 to 9 bisques)

Miss P. Hampson 3 wins (+25) H.F. Barnett 1 win (+5) Mrs C. Abderhalden 1 win (-16) Mrs R.A. Gosden 1 win (-14)

Gilbey Goblet. Handicap (X)

First Round: Mrs H.B.H. Carlisle (2) bt Miss P. Hampson (9) +3; H. Barnett (71/2) bt P. Shepherd (31/2) +3; Miss S. Hampson (4) bt Mrs C. Abderhalden (8) +18; R.A. Gosden (6) bt J. Haigh (11/2) +16(T); Mrs R.A. Gosden (71/2) bt Mrs Stanley-Smith (6) +3(T); J. Wood (2) bt J.W.H. Carlisle (6) +5; Mrs A. Neville Rolfe (21/2) bt J. Exell (7) +13; C. Abderhalden (51/2) bt Prof K. Campbell (71/2) +4.

Second Round: Barnett bt Mrs Carlisle +15; Miss S. Hampson bt Gosden +9; Wood bt Mrs Gosden +14; Mrs Neville Rolfe bt Abderhalden +20

Semi-final: Barnett bt Miss Hampson +7; Wood bt Mrs Neville Rolfe +6

Final: Wood bt Barnett +3.

Gilbev Goblet, Handicap (Y)

Semi-final: P. Shepherd (31/2) bt J. Haigh (11/2) +14; J.W.H. Carlisle (6) bt Prof K. Campbell (71/2) +21. Final: Carlisle bt Shepherd +21.

Handicap Doubles (X)

Semi-final: R.A. Gosden & Mrs R.A. Gosden (131/2) bt Mrs H.B. Carlisle & J.B.H. Carlisle (8) +6; J. Wood & Mrs Stanley Smith (8) bt H. Barnett & Miss S. Hampson (111/2) +5.

Final: Wood & Mrs Stanley Smith bt Gosden & Mrs Gosden +1(OT).

Handicap Doubles (Y)

Semi-finals: P. Shepherd & Mrs A. Neville Rolfe (6) bt J. Haigh & Miss P. Hampson (101/2) +4; C. Abderhalden & Mrs C. Abderhalden (13) bt Prof. K. Campbell & J. Exell (141/2) +14.

Final: Abderhalden & Mrs Abderhalden bt Shepherd & Mrs Neville Rolfe +1(T).

Edgbaston 22-24 July

The tournament opened on the Friday in the steamy heat of the July summer. The twenty one competitors included eleven visitors who must have been relieved to see the Club's new Pavilion replacing the hole in the ground which had greeted them in the previous years. As Friday progressed, the lawns became faster and faster and ever more tricky until the ultimate horror occurred when Lawn 1 finally produced a win on time. Alan Girling, managing with his usual efficiency, did not see his worst nightmares materialize on Saturday when intermittent thundershowers and sunbursts produced lawns so easily paced that the day's programme was through by six o'clock.

The weekend produced some interesting play with two relative newcomers in the tournament circuit playing consistently well. Brian Hallam (Edgbaston) demonstrated accurate hitting and precise break play which got better and better as the weekend progressed and easily guaranteed his six wins and first place in Block A. Penn Jones (father of Len Jones) just failed to win Block C which finally fell to David Peterson of Bowden, whose steady play over the weekend included only one loss (and that to Penn Jones). Block B too was closely contested but finally won on points by Harry Hawkins who had the same number of wins as Alan Gordon (of Hull) whose remarkably accurate shooting had been in evidence all weekend.

Play on Saturday was interrupted by the formal opening of the Club's new Pavilion by Norman Green of the Sports Council, with the Croquet Association represented by its Treasurer Alan Oldham. Perhaps the wine followed by a tea surpassing, if possible, the Club's The Croquet Gazette

usual standards sped the remaining games on their way and left competitors with plenty of time to prepare for the gastronomic assault at the tournament dinner later that evening.

The catering was handled by Rosemary Flutter and Valerie Tompkinson whose skill in making everyone anticipate the next meal was appreciated by every competitor.

R.C.J.

Results

Block A

B. Hallam (6) 6 wins G.W.R. Goodwin (71/2) 4 wins (+10) D.L. Gaunt (3) 4 wins (+9) R.A. Welch (6) 3 wins A.J. Girling (1) 2 wins Miss V. Worsley (9) 1 win (-30) G. Henshaw (3) 1 win (-83)

Block B

L.H. Hawkins (21/2) 5 wins (+52) A.G. Gordon (5) 5 wins (+42) I.C. Meredith (7) 3 wins (+16) R.C. Jones (4) 3 wins (-9) A. Collin (2) 2 wins (-16) Mrs R. Flutter (13) 1 win (-18) Mrs M.G. Tompkinson (81/2) 1 win

Block C

D. Peterson (3) 5 wins (+38) P. Jones (13) 4 wins (+28) Miss H. Hewitson (6) 4 wins (+28) Mrs A. Cillin (41/2) 3 wins (+23) Miss J.E. Assheton (41/2) 3 wins (+15) A.E.R. Watkins (81/2) 1 win (-52) M.G. Tompkinson (21/2) 1 win (-80)

Compton 23-24 July

Cowhorn Trophy. Advanced Singles

First Round: Dr T. Haste bt R. Hobbs +26; A. Palmer bt P. Cordingley +12; R. Hilditch bt E. Mackenzie-Bowie +5; G. Healy bt J. Guest +3; Dr R. Wood bt Dr W. Wiggins +11; T. Griffith bt M. Stevens +17; G. Noble bt Mrs W. Wiggins +9; D. Gunaskera bt Cdr G. Borrett +14.

Second Round: Haste bt Palmer +10: Hilditch bt Healy +12: Griffith bt Wood +16; Gunasekera bt Noble +17(TP).

Semi-final: Hilditch bt Haste +1 +6; Griffith bt Gunasekera +6 +3: Final: Hilditch bt Griffith +22(TP) +24(TP).

Event 2. Cowbell Trophy. Progressive Swiss (Open Singles)

Winner: D. Gunaskera (5 wins)

Runner Up: G.W. Noble (4 wins)

P. Cordingley, Mrs W.R.D. Wiggins (4 wins); G.P.N. Healy, Dr T.J. Haste, J.E. Guest, E. Mackenzie-Bowie (3 wins); A.J. Palmer, M.J. Stevens, R.M. Hobbs (2 wins); Dr W.R.D. Wiggins, Dr R. Wood (from 4 games) (1 win).

Cheltenham 25–31 July

Down under they may have had one such, or even several. In British records, however, the Cheltenham Open July Tournament must weatherwise surely go down as the tournament of the century.

The recollection of six glorious days of unbroken sunshine and Mediterranean temperatures in retrospect makes the memory of the deluge on the seventh rather hazy. Alas, the long spell of good weather was not good for croquet. Those minute irregularities of lawn that go unnoticed under a covering of grass, became devilish obstacles on the drier lawns where bare patches shone like a bald head. On these lawns, balls behaved on hoop approaches and those gentle tickles for a rush, with the bias of woods on a bowling green.

It was predictable, then, that even with Bray-shortened games, so favoured by player-manager Edgar Jackson, that some games would take over-long, 4, 5, and even 51/2 hours. In the first round of the Big Handicap, for instance, one game took 51/2 hours to reach a narrow conclusion. Immediately afterwards, on a grassy lawn that still behaved itself, the winner started his second round match at 7 o'clock and by 10 minutes past eight was home - and very dry!

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As an aside on the weather conditions, it is perhaps worth a remark that this particular player, a very lean septuagenarian, lost more than half a stone in weight during the week.

Regrettably, there were fewer visitors than usual, due to a clash of dates in the croquet calendar. A great pity, for this is a most enjoyable tournament, with plenty of games for everybody and nobody going home in the middle of the week. There are class events, so that the high bisquer need not feel overawed. For him there is that beautiful little trophy, the Calthrop Cup, well worth the winning and worth a place on the most elegant of sideboards. During the coming year it will no doubt frequently delight the eye of its new holder, Ingeborg Moorcraft, wife of the Cheltenham club's chairman, Dennis.

In spite of the difficulties in adjusting to conditions from lawn to lawn, some fine croquet was seen, mainly provided by the younger players. Of these, Joe King of Harwell coped better than most, and played consistently throughout the tournament to win the Big Handicap. He had the chance of winning the Asa-Thomas Trophy and indeed looked a certain winner with both clips on peg and Cheltenham's Robin Burnell some way behind. This is a situation that calls for the strongest of nerves, and one felt that in this game at any rate, with one ball now pegged out by his opponent, that rare degree of calm eluded Joe, for one miss after another enabled Robin to make up lost ground and win in spite of the occasional mistake.

Another outstanding player was the 17 years old athlete from Bowdon, David Peterson. Partnered by that old campaigner from Kettering, John McLaren, he did his share in the Y doubles to win against John Davies (all the way from Tee-side and thank you for your visit, John) and Jean Wraith. However, it was his match against Kitty Wheeler in the final of the Money Salver that calls for a comment on the game of croquet itself.

There was youth, all six feet two three or four of him, towering above the diminutive Kitty at the opening toss of the coin. The disparity in ages was as great, spanning, well, more years than one is able to say, for Kitty, is ageless. In what game other than croquet could two such contestants face one another as equals?

The game began with Kitty making all the running, with David failing to make first hoop after a beautiful rush from hoop 2. However, at the end of the game he made up for his false starts, with a delightfully executed combination peg out to win +4.

As might be expected, the most consistently good croquet was to be seen in the advanced play games for the Cheltenham Challenge Cup. In this, Cheltenham's David Foulser showed his customary determination and despatch, which, coupled with his great strength, gives an impression of ruthless agression. This calls to mind the famous American golfer, who used to quip on the first tee "who's going to be second?". At Cheltenham, it was the unfortunate John Toye, who not only lost to Dave in the final but also lost to him in the handicap and the doubles.

These notes opened with comment about the weather and its affect on ball behaviour, and end with like comment. Came the deluge late on the final day of the tournament, with two finals still in progress, the doubles, and the Y singles. There were now puddles to contend with. referring to earlier remarks on ball behaviour, for bias now read brakes

The Y final between Group Captain Dick Ryan and Laurence Latham provided an exciting finish, with Laurence on peg with one ball hopefully pegged out by his opponent, a similar situation to that in the King/Burnell final. Alas for Dick Ryan. His man was in no mood to mess about, and with one unerring shot, he decided the issue. The doubles final was won comfortably by Foulser and Burnell against Arthur and Marjorie Warren who did well to reach the final.

A most memorable tournament - but aren't they all - for some?

Event 1(a). Cheltenham Challenge Cup. Advanced Play (Handicaps +1 and below)

D.R. Foulser (-1) (5 wins) bt Latham +17, Weitz +25, Davis +11, Moorcraft +12, Toye +6.

J.S. Toye (1) (4 wins) bt Jackson (ret.), Weitz +18, Davis +14. Moorcraft +12.

LV. Latham (1/2) (3 wins) bt Weitz +3, Davis +12, Toye +9. E.J.Davis (1) (3 wins) by Jackson +11, Weitz +7, Moorcraft +6 G.E.P. Jackson (0) (2 wins) bt Foulser +18, Latham +9 Dr B.G. Weitz (1/2) (2 wins) bt Jackson +2, Moorcraft +21 D.H. Moorcraft (1) (2 wins) bt Jackson +4, Latham +8

Event 1(b). Money Salver. Advanced Play-Law 55(a) (Handicaps 21/2-51/2) D. Peterson (3) (7 wins) 76 points Mrs G.T. Wheeler (3) (6 wins) 37 points Lady Bazley (4) (5 wins) 34 points Mrs Weitz (31/2) (3 wins) 8 points Mrs Neal (5) (2 wins) 12 points Mrs Asa Thomas (3) (2 wins) -4 points J. McLaren (3) (2 wins) 7 points Mrs R. Wheeler (21/2) (2 wins) -2 points M.T. Paddon (31/2) (2 wins) -5 points Miss Arkell (5) (1 win) -12 points W.J. Strudy (4) (1 win) -11 points H.G.T. Bolton (3) (1 win) -17 points G.F. Blumer (51/2) (0 wins) -25 points Dr R.F. Wheeler (41/2) (0 wins) -36 points

Event 1(c). Asa Thomas Cup (Handicap 51/2-9) R.E. Burnell (6) (5 wins) 8 points Dr J. King (6) (4 wins) 38 points Mrs Harris (7) (3 wins) 15 points J. Exell (7) (2 wins) 10 points W.R. Bawden (51/2) (2 wins) 4 points Miss I.M. Roe (61/2) (2 wins) -6 points Mrs R.E. Tucker (61/2) (2 wins) -4 points Mrs Warren (71/2) (1 win) -5 points Miss P. Shine (7) (1 win) -10 points A. Warren (9) (1 win) -25 points

Event 1(d). The Calthrop Cup (Handicap 9-14) Mrs Moorcraft (12) (5 wins) 41 points Mrs Latham (11) (4 wins) 13 points G/Capt R.S. Rvan (12) (3 wins) 9 points

Mrs M. Murray (9) (2 wins) -32 points Mrs Paddon (10) (3 wins) 6 points Miss Barber (14) (3 wins) 9 points Miss Wraith (11) (2 wins) -3 points Mrs Bawden (11) (0 wins) -31 points

Event 2(X). Daniels Cup (Handicap Singles)

First Round: Lady Bazley (4) bt Miss Arkell (5) +11; D. Peterson (3) by Mrs R. Wheeler (21/2) +4; R.E. Burnell (6) bt Mrs Neal (5) +2; D.H. Moorcraft (1) bt Mrs Bawden (11) +8; Mrs Weitz (31/2) bt M.T. Paddon (3) +8.

Second Round: G.E.P. Jackson (0) bt G.F. Blumer (51/2) +15: Dr B.G. Weitz (1/2) bt Mrs Latham (11) +3; Mrs G.T. Wheeler (3) bt L.V. Latham (1/2) +13; D.R. Foulser (-1) bt Miss I. Roe (61/2) +6; J.S. Toye (1) bt Miss P. Shine (7) +15; Peterson bt Lady Bazley +2; Burnell bt ? ? +?; Moorcraft bt Mrs Weitz +3; Mrs Harris (7) bt Mrs Asa Thomas (3) +4; Mrs Paddon (10) bt T.O. Read (1/2) w/o scr; J. McLaren (3) bt J. Exell (7) +8; Mrs Warren (71/2) bt Miss Wraith (11) +4; E.J. Davis(1) bt Mrs Read (7) w/o scr; W.R. Bawden (51/2) bt Dr R. Wheeler (41/2) +3; W.J. Sturdy (4) bt H.G.T. Bolton (3) +15.

Third Round: King bt Blumer +4; Weitz bt Mrs Wheeler +19; Foulser bt Toye +6; Peterson bt Burnell +15; Mrs Harris bt Moorcraft +21; McLaren bt Mrs Paddon +4; Davis bt Mrs Warren +18; Bawden bt Sturdy +21

Fourth Round: King bt Weitz +11; Foulser bt Peterson +15; McLaren bt Mrs Harris +2; Bawden bt Davis +13.

Semi-final: King bt Foulser +23: Bawden bt McLaren +5.

Final: King bt Bawden +21.

Event 2(Y). Daniels Cup (Handicap Singles) Semi-final: L. Latham bt Lady Bazley +3; G/Capt R.S. Ryan bt Mrs Asa Thomas +12. Final: Latham bt Ryan +5.

Event 3. Barwell Salvers and Secretary's Spoon (Handicap Doubles) Semi-final: D.R. Foulser & R.E. Burnell (5) bt Dr & Mrs Weitz (4) +11; Mrs & Mrs Warren (151/2) bt Rev W.E. Gladstone & Dr J. King (12) +6(OT). Final: Foulser & Burnell bt Mr & Mrs Warren +11.

Hurlingham 28 July-6 August

Event 1. Hurlingham Cup

DRAW

First Round: D.J. Croker bt J. Haigh +11; G.C. Roy bt Dr W.R.D. Wiggins +22(TP); Dr E.W. Solomon bt B.G. Neal +16; Mrs H.B.H. Carlisle bt R.A. Godby +16; Mrs W.R.D. Wiggins bt S.S. Townsend +10; D.J.V. Hamilton-Miller bt T. Griffith +13; P.L. Alvey bt C.H.L. Prichard +6.

Second Round: Croker bt Roy +3; Solomon bt Mrs Carlisle +15; Mrs Wiggins bt Hamilton-Miller +4; J.E. Guest bt Alvey +16.

Semi-final: Solomon bt Croker +15; Mrs Wiggins bt Guest +25. Final: Solomon bt Mrs Wiggins +26(TP).

PROCESS

First Round: Croker bt Townsend +12; Neal bt Alvey +12(TP); Hamilton-Miller bt Roy +10; Mrs Carlisle bt Guest +3; Mrs Wiggins bt Haigh +16; Solomon bt Prichard +9; Griffith bt Wiggins +11. Second Round: Croker bt Neal +16; Mrs Carlisle bt Hamilton-Miller +1; Solomon bt Mrs Wiggins +15(TP); Godby bt Griffith +23. Semi-final: Croker bt Mrs Carlisle +18; Solomon bt Godby +23.

Final: Solomon bt Croker +17.

Event 2. Turner Cup

DRAW

First Round: B.P. Whitehouse bt H.B.H. Carlisle +12.

Second Round: D.S. Cairns bt F.H. Newman +13; A. Mrozinski bt Mrs B.L. Sundius-Smith +7; Col E.L. Vulliamy bt C. Duckworth +17; Whitehouse bt Mrs D.J. Croker +8; Miss S.G. Hampson bt C.B. Sanford +3; I.P.M. MacDonald bt Lady Bazley +3; L. Wharrad bt Mrs F.H. Newman +8; J.W.H. Carlisle bt M.G. Pearson +20.

Third Round: Cairns bt Mrozinski +13; Whitehouse bt Vulliamy +18; Miss Hampson bt MacDonald +17; Wharrad bt Carlisle +6.

Semi-final: Cairns bt Whitehouse +7; Miss Hampson bt Wharrad +19.

Final: Cairns bt Miss Hampson +9.

PROCESS

First Round: J.W. Carlisle bt Cairns +21.

Second Round: J.W. Carlisle bt Whitehouse +12; Lady Bazley bt Duckworth +17; Miss Hampson bt Mrozinski +14; Mrs Newman bt Mrs Croker +10; Newman bt Sanford +8; Wharrad bt Vulliamy +3(T); MacDonald bt Mrs Sundius-Smith +2; H.B.H. Carlisle bt Pearson +6.

Third Round: J.W. Carlisle bt Lady Bazley +17; Mrs Newman bt Miss Hampson +6; Newman bt Wharrad +1; H.B.H. Carlisle bt MacDonald +16.

Semi-final: Mrs Newman bt J.W. Carlisle +7; Newman bt H.B.H. Carlisle +11.

Final: Newman bt Mrs Newman +1.

PLAY-OFF: Newman bt Cairns +9.

Event 3. Younger Cup

DRAW

First Round: P.G. Torrington bt Mrs A.W. Skempton +23; Miss B. Duthie bt Col C.M. Fox +5; B.H. Bliss bt S.G. Kent +8; O.A. Kerensky bt Mrs F.H.N. Davidson +17.

Second Round: Lt Col R.M.D. Ponsonby bt T.G.S. Colls +20; J.G. Miller bt Rev G.E. Andrews w/o scr; Mrs B.G. Neal bt W.T. Coles +11; Torrington bt Miss Duthie w/o scr; Kerensky bt Bliss +17; C. Newman bt Prof A. Skempton +7; G.D.P. Solomon bt A.D. Karmel +17; Mrs P.M. MacDonald bt Mrs B. Mansfield +10.

Third Round: Miller bt Ponsonby +10; Torrington bt Mrs Neal +25; Newman bt Kerensky +15; Mrs MacDonald bt Solomon w/o scr. Semi-final: Torrington bt Miller +25; Newman bt Mrs MacDonald +7.

Final: Newman bt Torrington +6.

PROCESS

First Round: Solomon bt Ponsonby w/o scr, Mrs MacDonald bt Miller w/o scr; Colls bt Karmel +3; Mrs Mansfield bt Rev Andrews w/o scr

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Second Round: Solomon bt Miss Duthie +5; Mrs' Neal bt Mrs Davidson +2(T); Bliss bt Mrs MacDonald +4; Newman bt Mrs Skempton +22; Colls bt Fox +9; Coles bt Kerensky +7; Mrs Mansfield bt Kent +3; Torrington bt Skempton +12.

Third Round: Solomon bt Mrs Neal +4; Newman bt Bliss +25; Colls bt Coles +8; Torrington bt Mrs Mansfield +24.

Semi-final: Newman bt Solomon +8; Torrington bt Colls +25.

Final: Newman bt Torrington +2.

Event 4. Longworth Cup

DRAW

First Round: Mrs L. Taylor by Mrs H.G. Wharrad +7; Mrs P. Torrington-Petrie bt Mrs W.G. Jones +4; Dr R.J. Clayton bt Mrs L.A. Cheyne +7

Semi-final: Mrs Taylor bt Mrs Torrington-Petrie +9; Clayton bt D.J. Wilson-Haffenden +17

Final: Clayton bt Mrs Taylor +1.

PROCESS

First Round: Mrs Cheyne bt Mrs Taylor +2; Mrs Jones bt Wilson-Haffenden w/o scr; Clayton bt Mrs Wharrad +19.

Semi-final: Mrs Cheyne bt Mrs Jones +2; Clayton bt Mrs Torrington-Petrie +1

Final: Mrs Cheyne bt Clayton +2.

PLAY-OFF: Clayton bt Mrs Cheyne +13.

Event 5. Hurlingham Doubles

Semi-final: Dr. & Mrs W.R.D. Wiggins bt C.H.L. Prichard & Mrs R.W. Skempton +21; D.J. Croker & Mrs Croker bt Mr & Mrs H.B.H. Carlisle +9

Final: Dr & Mrs Wiggins bt Croker & Mrs Croker +7.

Event 6. Ladies Field Candlesticks (Doubles)

Semi-final: Lady Bazley & Mrs F.R.N. Newman (81/2) bt Mrs B. Mansfield & Mrs R.W. Wharrad (16) +1(T); Miss S. Hampson & Miss J. MacLeod (13) bt Mrs B. Neal & Mrs D. Torrington-Petrie (14) +6(T).

Final: Miss Hampson & Miss MacLeod bt Lady Bazley & Mrs Newman +2.

Event 7. Wine Coolers (Handicap Doubles)

Semi-final: L.W. Wharrad & B.P. Whitehouse (6) bt Dr E.W. Solomon & J.G.O. Miller (61/2) +11; D.L. Godfree & B.G. Neal (81/2) bt R.A. Godby & Lt Col R.M.D. Ponsonby (7) +2.

Final: Godfree & Neal bt Wharrad & Whitehouse +5.

Event 8. Silver Jubilee Cup

First Round: Rev G.E. Andrews bt B.G. Neal +24; Mrs H.B.H. Carlisle bt B.P. Whitehouse +6; O.A. Kerensky bt M.G. Pearson +12; D.J.V. Hamilton-Miller bt Mrs S.F.H. Newman +12; J.W.H. Carlisle bt Mrs D.J. Croker +16; Col E.L. Vulliamy bt Mrs B. Mansfield +3(T); F.H. Newman bt Miss S.G. Hampson +7(T); D. Cairns bt Mrs W.G. Jones +17; R.A. Godby bt L.W. Wharrad +13; T.S. Colls bt A.D Karmel +18; Mrs D. Torrington-Petrie bt J.G.O. Miller +17; Dr E.W. Solomon bt J. Haigh +6; Lt Col C.M. Fox bt S.G. Kent +9; J.E. Guest bt H.B.H. Carlisle w/o scr; A.J. Mrozinski bt Miss B. Duthie +5; Mrs I.P.M. MacDonald bt Mrs M.G. Wharrad +5(T); Dr R.J. Clayton bt Mrs B. Sundius-Smith +10(T); W.T. Coles bt D. Wilson-Haffenden +21; C. Newman bt Mrs F.H. Davison +15.

Second Round: P.G. Torrington bt C.B. Sanford +25; I.P.M. MacDonald bt Mrs L. Taylor +14; G.D.P. Solomon bt Mrs A.W. Skempton +16; Mrs Carlisle bt Rev Andrews +6; Hamilton-Miller bt Kerensky +1; Carlisle bt Vulliamy +12; F.H. Newman bt Cairns +7(T); Godby bt Colls +13; Dr Solomon bt Mrs Torrington-Petrie +3; Guest bt Fox +11; Mrozinski bt Mrs MacDonald +20; Coles bt Clayton +10; C. Newman bt B.H. Bliss +3; D. Caporn bt Lt Com R.M.D. Ponsonby

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+17: Mrs A.L. Cheyne bt P.L. Alvey +1; G.C. Roy bt S.S. Townsend +12.

Third Round: Torrington bt MacDonald +9(T); Mrs Carlisle bt G. Solomon +13; Carlisle bt Hamilton-Miller +17; F.H. Newman bt Godby +4; Dr Solomon bt Guest +4; Mrozinski bt Coles +6; C. Newman bt Caporn +12; Roy bt Mrs Cheyne +23.

Fourth Round: Torrington bt Mrs Carlisle +9; Carlisle bt F. Newman +18; Mrozinski bt Dr Solomon +24; C. Newman bt Roy +26. Semi-final: Torrington bt Carlisle +11; C. Newman bt Mrozinski +10.

Final: Torrington bt C. Newman +22.

Event 8(Y). Silver Jubilee Cup (Handicap)

Semi-final: C.B. Sanford bt Miss S.G. Hampson +6; J. Haigh bt B.H. Bliss +13.

Final: Haigh bt Sanford +22.

Event 9. Handicap Doubles (Unrestricted)

Semi-final: A.J. Mrozinski & G.D.P. Solomon bt D.C. Caporn & Prof A.W. Skempton +18; B.P. Whitehouse & Dr R.J. Clayton bt P. Torrington & G.E.J.A. Doughty +23.

Final: Mrozinski & Solomon bt Whitehouse & Clayton +7.

Nottingham Annual Tournament 8–13 August

There is always a special atmosphere at this tournament, partly because of the exceptionally jolly collection of players of all ages (covering, in fact, a range of some sixty-five years), and partly because of the superbly co-ordinated efforts of all the organisers and helpers. lan Vincent was once or twice heard to mutter things about "blockers" as he bent over the manager's table, but made it look so easy as he just kept sending people off to play. Tim Smith gave assistance to Bob Chamberlain, the tournament secretary, as well as keeping the bar well supplied, which is so important to those of us who prevent the mallet from twitching using the Bill Werbenuik principle. Magnificent lunches and teas were provided by Hilary Watson-Walker and Dab Wheeler, with Eve Chamberlain and many helpers

The lawns had been watered from the brook, so they were greener than at most clubs at the start of the week, but progressed from "allegro ma non troppo" on Monday to "prestissimo" by Saturday, a real test of delicate precision. The two bowling greens, with different handling characteristics caused by the narrow-leaved turf, were a beautiful surface to play on.

The handicap events which began Monday's and Tuesday's play revealed many unusual ways of using bisques. Traditionalists were still missing short roquets or clanging hoops with them, but a quick glance around saw one curling gracefully into the wire on a backwards take-off, another moving inexorably into a position wired from the pilot ball, yet another doing a lovely controlled jump over a rush, three in succession taken to miss a long roquet from progressively further away, and one to set up a preposterous triple peel which should have been abandoned at birth and whose demise was mercifully swift.

The first round of the Opens included a remarkable game in which Keith Aiton performed a triple peel on his opponent, John McCullough, and pegged both balls out with the other clips on hoop 1 (for artistic reasons). John established a lead and gave us a lesson in correct one-ball tactics, using parts of the lawn which Roger Wheeler said he never knew existed. (I'm still looking for them). The game reached an impasse when the balls were for 4-back and 3. ("Deeming" seems to be fashionable this season.) A huddle of officials threatened a time limit in the distant future, which resulted in a shot being taken. At penult versus six, there was another episode of cat-and-mouse play. The notes on the rest of the game keep repeating "Keith misses by whisker", and John eventually won.

Wednesday was doubles day, with an optional "friendly doubles" in the afternoon for the losers. This sort of event seems to inspire Alan Girling, and this inspiration was carried on into the Z on Friday, when he did a triple peel.

A different sort of Z-Z-Z had been your reporter's intention for the Wednesday afternoon, but he was required to open the car boot when John Meads snapped the metal shaft of one of the most robust

mallets available. At the end of the day he said he was going to a lateopening mallet-mending shop, and to our surprise played with the mallet, back in one piece, the following day. he did experiment with another mallet but broke it.

Thursday was even hotter and drier. B-class players found it difficult to get near balls and hoops, and in the Opens one game lasted over five hours, though it seemed longer. Everybody must have been very busy, otherwise the reporter would have had more time to observe!

Friday saw the beginning of the Z, in which a notable performer was "Buck" Bucknell, the senior competitor, playing bold and accurate croquet and striding decisively about the court in a way which some players more than half a century his junior would do well to emulate. The event was won by John Meads with the repaired mallet.

Finalists were beginning to emerge. As it happened, all the class events were won outright, with Gill Hallam the C-class and her brother Brian having a fairly easy ride through the B-class. In the Opens there was another Aiton-McCullough meeting. John took an early ball to 4-back but was repeatedly unable to start with his other ball. Keith performed another artistic TPO, missing the pegout of the opponent but in the same stroke hitting the peg himself. Correct wired leaves produced the expected win for John, making him the overall winner

The doubles final was between Sheila Hudson and Nick Hyne versus Eve Chamberlain and Keith Aiton. Both partnerships had adopted the tactic of guiding the higher bisquer round to 3-back and 4-back and then trying to finish with a peeling turn. As it happened, Eve's stroke play was superior, Sheila and Nick's bisque was wasted, and the game was over in 2 hours 20 minutes, a model lesson in how handicap doubles ought to be played. It also eased the manager's problems, as Eve still had a pegged-down C-class game to finish.

lan Vincent won the Y on a perilously fast and unpredictable lawn 2, with an amazingly accurate double peel, sending Mick Tompkinson to bed with a bisque. Mick won the coveted Robin Hood Gold Cup by beating Nick Hyne, and the X was won by John Davis in a game against Geoffrey Taylor which it would not be accurate to describe as inspiring.

Roger Wheeler's words before the prizegiving admirably summed up what we had all felt about the week, and as we drove into the sunset we resolved to put next year's entries in on the day the C.A. Calendar comes out: judging by this year's entries, we will need to apply very early to play in this splendid tournament.

Open Singles (Handicap Under 4) DRAW

First Round: K.M.H. Aiton (-1/2) bt C.G. Hopewell (21/2) +16; A.J. Girling (1) bt Mrs R.F. Wheeler (21/2) +13; J.R. McCullough (-1/2) bt Dr I.G. Vincent (-1/2) +22; A. Bennet (3) bt M.G. Tompkinson (21/2) +24

Second Round: N.G. Hyne (2) bt J.D. Meads (1) +22; Aiton bt Girling +16; McCullough bt Bennet +22; E.J. Davis (2) bt Dr G.K. Taylor (1/2) +24.

Semi-final: Aiton bt Hyne +5; McCullough bt Davis +14.

Final: McCullough bt Aiton +10.

PROCESS

First Round: Meads bt Tompkinson +12; Taylor bt Hopewell +24; Aiton bt Davis +10.

Second Round: Meads bt Mrs Wheeler +5; Vincent bt Taylor +6; Bennet bt Girling +15; McCullough bt Aiton +5.

Semi-final: Vincent bt Meads +17; McCullough bt Bennet +10. Final: McCullough bt Vincent +10.

'B' Level Singles (Handicap 4 and over) DRAW

First Round: I.C. Meredith (7) bt Mrs R.A. Gosden (71/2) +15; B. Hallam (41/2) bt Mrs M.G. Tompkinson (8) +13; Dr T.W. Smith (4) bt Miss A.R. Robertson (8) +22; G. Henshaw (4) bt R.A. Gosden (5) +13; Dr R.C. Jones (4) bt Dr R.F. Wheeler (41/2) +8.

Second Round: Meredith bt L. Robinson w/o scr; Hallam bt Smith +9; Jones bt Henshaw +18; A.J. Bucknell (7) bt H.S. Watson (3) +11.

Semi-final: Hallam bt Meredith +6; Bucknell bt Jones +12. Final: Hallam bt Bucknell +13.

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PROCESS

First Round: Henshaw bt Robinson w/o scr; Watson bt Mrs Tompkinson +2(T); Jones bt Mrs Gosden +9; Meredith bt Wheeler +9; Hallam bt Bucknell +8.

Second Round: Henshaw bt Watson +3; Jones bt Miss Robertson +22; Meredith bt Smith +15; Hallam bt Gosden +16.

Semi-final: Jones bt Henshaw +16; Hallam bt Meredith +22. Final: Hallam bt Jones +3.

'C' Handicap (9 and over)

DRAW

First Round: Mrs S.B. Hudson (9) bt Mrs D. Mitchell (10) +18.

Second Round: Mrs A.J Bucknell (10) bt Mrs J. Haworth +6; Mrs Hudson bt Mrs C. Chamberlain +15; J.F.S. Thomas (9) bt Miss A.M. Ryan (10) +20; Miss G.F. Hallam (11) bt Miss H. Watson-Walker (11) +22.

Semi-final: Mrs Hudson bt Mrs Bucknell +3(T); Miss Hallam bt Thomas +17.

Final: Miss Hallam bt Mrs Hudson +3(T).

PROCESS

First Round: Mrs Bucknell bt Miss Watson-Walker +6(T).

Second Round: Mrs Bucknell bt Mrs Hudson +7(T); Mrs Chamberlain bt Thomas +6(T); Miss Ryan bt Mrs Haworth +15; Miss Hallam bt Mrs Mitchell +20.

Semi-final: Mrs Chamberlain bt Mrs Bucknell +4; Miss Hallam bt Miss Rvan +20.

Final: Miss Hallam bt Mrs Chamberlain +16.

Robin Hood Cup (Handicap Singles)

First Round: Miss A.R. Robertson (8) bt Dr R.F. Wheeler (41/2) +15; Mrs R.F. Wheeler (21/2) bt Mrs S.B. Hudson (9) +6; C.G. Hopewell (21/2) bt Mrs M.G. Tompkinson (71/2) +15; R.A. Gosden (5) bt Mrs A.J. Bucknell (10) +11; M.G. Tompkinson (21/2) bt R.F. Fletcher (9) +18; Dr G.K. Taylor (1/2) bt Mrs J. Haworth (14) +16; J.F.S. Thomas (9) bt J.D. Meads (1) +20; Dr T.W. Smith (4) bt A.J. Girling (1) +19; Dr I.G. Vincent (-1/2) bt A. Bennet (21/2) +6; N.G. Hyne(2) bt E.J. Davis (1) +3; I.C. Meredith (7) bt Miss H. Watson-Walker (11) +12; H.S. Watson (7) bt C. Chamberlain (8) +4; Miss G.F. Hallam (11) bt Mrs R.A. Gosden (71/2) +10; K.M.H. Aiton (-1/2) bt Mrs C. Chamberlain (10) +17; J.R. McCullough (-1/2) bt A.J. Bucknell (7) +5; Dr R.C. Jones (4) bt G. Henshaw (4) +26.

Second Round: Mrs Wheeler bt Miss Robertson +10; Gosden bt Hopewell +15: Tompkinson bt Taylor +9; Thomas bt Smith +23; Hyne bt Vincent +15; Meredith bt Watson +9; Aiton bt Miss Hallam +2; McCullough bt Jones +10.

Third Round: Gosden bt Mrs Wheeler +4(T); Tompkinson bt Thomas +12; Hyne bt Meredith +7; Aiton bt McCullough +23.

Semi-final: Tompkinson bt Gosden +12; Hyne bt Aiton +7.

Final: Tompkinson bt Hyne +7.

Event 5(X). Handicap Singles

First Round: Miss Robertson bt Mrs Haworth +5; Meads bt Vincent +14; Gosden bt Mrs Mitchell +17; Davis bt Thomas +12; Hopewell bt Bennet +4; Chamberlain bt Girling +7; Miss Watson-Walker bt Watson +14; McCullough bt Mrs Wheeler +12; Mrs Gosden bt Henshaw +15; Bucknell bt Tompkinson +6; Meredith bt Smith +3; Aiton bt Miss Ryan +22; Mrs Hudson bt Mrs Chamberlain +3; Taylor bt Wheeler +17; Mrs Bucknell bt Mrs Tompkinson +9; Jones bt Fletcher +17.

Second Round: Meads bt Miss Robertson +18; Davis bt Gosden +10; Hopewell bt Chamberlain +8; McCullough bt Miss Watson-Walker +10: Bucknell bt Mrs Gosden +13: Meredith bt Aiton +8; Taylor bt Mrs Hudson +6: Jones bt Mrs Bucknell +16.

Third Round: Davis bt Meads +17; McCullough bt Hopewell +5; Meredith bt Bucknell +8; Taylor bt Jones +17.

Semi-final: Davis bt McCullough +5; Taylor bt Meredith +3(T). Final: Davis bt Taylor +7.

Event 5(Y). Handicap Singles

Semi-final: Vincent bt Bennet +5; Tompkinson bt Wheeler +11. Final: Vincent bt Tompkinson +21.

Event 5(Z). Handicap Singles

Semi-final: Meads bt Bucknell +15; Girling bt Thomas +6. Final: Meads bt Girling +13.

Handicap Doubles (Combined Handicap 5 and over)

Semi-final: N.G. Hyne & Mrs S. Hudson(11) bt Dr G.K. Taylor & Miss H. Watson-Walker (111/2) +7(T); K.M.H. Aiton & Mrs C. Chamberlain (91/2) bt E.J. Davis & J.F.S. Thomas (11) +6.

Final: Aiton & Mrs Chamberlain bt Hyne & Mrs Hudson +15.

Colchester Weekend Tournament 5–7 August

Under the capable management of Pat Hetherington Colchester produced its first proper Swiss tournament with six instead of the previous five rounds for all 28 competitors. The entry was of a high standard: 4 minus players and over two thirds of the field under 6. However, the tournament was deservedly won by Martin French of lpswich playing off 9.

Gerard Healy, the runner-up, completed triple peels against Richard Hilditch and keith Aiton, the only other triple peel being by John Walters against Robin Hobbs. John had claimed a triple against Mark Avery, but this was subsequently disallowed when Mark disclosed John's use of a bisque to make a peel.

Robert Prichard was so overcome with disbelief on missing a half wired 5 yard roquet against George Digby that he and mallet tumbled over backwards, where he remained prostrate whilst George missed a similar shot. Double banking also caused some amusing incidents, with the aforementioned George remembering his Colchester United football days with a deft right foot pass of an alternate colour ball. Martin French managed to jump a cross-court exocet just long enough to land on the ball, causing a certain amount of discomfort.

Amid the clattering of many bisques - Keith conceded 25 in two games - one match comes to mind between Martin Coward (-1/2) and Paul Hetherington (4). Paul took his first ball to rover, where he broke down. Martin in turn took a ball round, completed an easy rover peel and pegged out both balls. Both players soon reached hoop 2 with no bisques remaining, at which point Paul managed to gain a slender lead, culminating in a near miss jump shot over rover at the peg. Martin ran penult, hit Paul's subsequent trickle to peg, made rover and went out winner by one.

After the prizes had been presented by Nan Zinn 16 players and spectators held a golf croquet doubles tournament, including one player on crutches, who showed remarkable balance to reach the final, which was won by Bob Sutherlands and Don Gaunt. A thoroughly enjoyable and successful weekend.

P.J.C.H.

Results:	1st M. Fre	nch 6 wins
	2nd G. He	aly 5 wins
	3rd J. Wal	ters 5 wins

4 wins: R..Allim, T. Anderson, M. Avery, M. Coward, G. Digby, D. Gaunt

- H.F. Barnett, R. Girling, T. Harrison, Mrs Healy, P. 3 wins: Hetherington, R. Prichard, Dr R. Sutherland, Mrs Stanley Smith, J. Wheeler, P. Williams
- Mrs Anderson, P. Bishop, D. Gunasekera, N. Hyne, 2 wins: D. Palmer, Mrs Zinn
- 1 win: R. Hobbs
- 0 wins: K. Aiton, R. Hilditch

Compton 15–20 August

Event 1. Open Singles Challenge Cup

DRAW

First Round: D.A. Harris bt Mrs R.F. Wheeler +7; A.F. Coleman bt Mrs P. Asa-Thomas +25; Mrs W.R.D. Wiggins bt G. Borrett +16; Dr C.A. Parker bt L. Wharrad +4.

Second Round: M.A. Holford bt E.C. Tyrwhitt-Drake w/o scr; Coleman bt Harris +15; Mrs Wiggins bt Parker +5; Dr W.R.D. Wiggins bt Dr D.A. Parker +13.

Semi-final: Holford bt Coleman +10; Mrs Wiggins bt Wiggins w/o SCL

Final: Mrs Wiggins bt Holford +13.

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PROCESS

First Round: Dr C.A. Parker bt Tyrwhitt Drake w/o scr; Dr D.A. Parker bt Harris +11; Holford bt Wharrad +23(TP); Wiggins bt Mrs Wheeler +17

Second Round: Dr C.A. Parker bt Coleman +16; Borrett bt Dr D.A. Parker +2; Holford bt Mrs Asa-Thomas +25; Mrs Wiggins bt Wiggins +18

Semi-final: Parker bt Borrett +17; Mrs Wiggins bt Holford +26. Final: Mrs Wiggins bt Parker +5.

Event 2. Level Singles (Handicaps 31/2-7)

DRAW

First Round: Dr R.F. Wheeler bt Miss B. Dennant +15; Mrs E.C. Tyrwhitt Drake bt D.M. Horne +18; T.G.S. Colls bt Mrs H. Wills +13; Miss P.E. Parker bt Lt Col D.F.T. Brown +19; Mrs I.B. Tucker bt R.A. Welch +5; Miss J.E. Assheton bt Lt Col R.P. Chappell +4.

Second Round: Wheeler bt D.W. Shaw +7; Mrs Tyrwhitt Drake bt Colls +1; Miss Parker bt Mrs Tucker +8; Miss Assheton bt W. Nicholson +12

Semi-final: Wheeler bt Mrs Tyrwhitt Drake +9; Miss Assheton bt Miss Parker +11.

Final: Miss Assheton bt Wheeler +13

PROCESS

First Round: Miss Parker bt Shaw +12; Miss Assheton bt Mrs Tyrwhitt Drake +20; Welch bt Miss Dennant +13; Wheeler bt Mrs Tucker +5: Mrs Wills bt Nicholson +11; Horne bt Chappell +8. Second Round: Miss Parker bt Miss Assheton +15; Welch bt Colls

+11; Wheeler bt Mrs Wills +20; Horne bt Brown +5. Semi-final: Welch bt Miss Parker +4; Wheeler bt Horne +21.

Final: Welch bt Wheeler +23.

PLAY-OFF: Miss Assheton bt Welch +4.

Event 3. Handicap Singles (Restricted Handicap 71/2 or more) DRAW

First Round: Mrs L. Wharrad (9) bt Miss E.A. Taylor (16) +12; D. Daintree (11) bt P.J. Mansfield (15) +15.

Semi-final: Miss D. Harding (14) bt Mrs Wharrad +2; Mrs C.A. Parker (10) bt Daintree +10.

Final: Mrs Parker bt Miss Harding +8.

PROCESS

First Round: Daintree bt Miss Harding +3; Mrs Parker bt Mrs Wharrad +8.

Semi-final: Daintree bt Miss Taylor +11; Mrs Parker bt Mansfield +10

Final: Daintree bt Mrs Parker +2.

PLAY-OFF: Daintree bt Mrs Parker +5.

Event 4. Handicap Singles (Unrestricted)

First Round: Dr C.A. Parker (2) bt D.G.T. Brown (5) +19; D.A. Harris (11/2) bt D.M. Horne (51/2) +7; Mrs R.F. Wheeler (21/2) bt D.W. Shaw (7) +10; A.F. Coleman (1) bt W. Nicholson (5) +12; Mrs P. Asa-Thomas (3) bt Miss B. Dennant (61/2) +12; Miss J.E. Assheton (41/2) bt Mrs M. Grout (7) +12; Dr D.A. Parker (21/2) bt Miss D. Harding (14) +8; T.G.S. Colls (7) bt Mrs L Wharrad (9) +5; R.A. Welch (6) bt Mrs I.B. Tucker (6) +21; Mrs W.R.D. Wiggins (1/2) bt E.C. Tyrwhitt Drake (2) w/o scr; L. Wharrad (2) bt P.J. Mansfield (15) +2; Miss P.E. Parker (51/2) bt Mrs E.C. Tyrwhitt Drake (5) +20; Dr R.F. Wheeler (41/2) bt Miss E. Taylor (16) +17; Dr W.R.D. Wiggins (11/2) bt Mrs H. Wills (5) +21.

Second Round: Dr C.A. Parker bt G. Borrett (2) +19; Harris bt Mrs Wheeler +21; Coleman bt Mrs Asa-Thomas +11; Miss Assheton bt Dr D.A. Parker +10; Welch bt Colls +17; Mrs Wiggins bt Wharrad +24; Wheeler bt Miss Parker +2(T); Wiggins bt M.A. Holford (21/2) +10.

Third Round: Parker bt Harris +13; Miss Assheton bt Coleman w/o scr; Welch bt Mrs Wiggins +2; Wiggins bt Wheeler +16. Semi-final: Parker bt Miss Assheton +4; Wiggins bt Welch +17.

Final: Wiggins bt Parker +4.

Event 5. Handicap Doubles

Semi-final: Dr C.A. Parker & Miss P. Parker (71/2) bt Mrs Wiggins & Mrs Wills (51/2) +4(T); Dr Wiggins & Miss D. Harding (151/2) bt R. Welch & Miss J. Assheton (101/2) +11.

Final: Parker & Miss Parker bt Wiggins & Miss Harding +3.

Roehampton 'Rowlock' Weekend 20-21 August

The usual field assembled for the fourth Rowlock - including three of the President's men, a triad of Chairmen, the holder of the Spencer Ell and a reserve. For once, all the seeds reached the semi-finals and even did so by winning their second round matches in straight games. However, appearances can deceive and only Mulliner had a totally comfortable passage. He conceded only 2 points to Gunaskera and inflicted a "52" on the luckless Hilditch. Aiton and Cordingley won their first games against Guest and Robert Prichard fairly easily but were well tested in the second. Solomon's opponents deserve most mention. Haigh, the doyen of the tournement, sprinted to 4-back in the first round and took full advantage of a botched straight rover peel by starting his own triple. He pulled off the first two peels in style and failed only when a long roll from 1-back left him too far from his partner by rover. Palmer did even better by holding his mighty opponent by margins of 6 and 8 and indeed looked to be winning the second easily for most of the game.

The two semi-finals produced results that may be of some significance for the selectors. Cordingley has been knocking on the door for some time and has been rewarded by a place in the President's Cup. He thoroughly justified his selection by defeating Solomon in two close games that were as much a test of resolve as of croquet skill. However, these players must forgive the reporter if he concentrates on the Mulliner/Aiton clash which contained easily the most memorable feat of the weekend, if not of the season so far. Both games started in similar fashion, with Aiton laying a "tactical" 5 yard tice on the west boundary in the second turn. Mulliner duly hit these burnt offerings and laid the enemy ball short of 2 with the usual rush towards it on the east boundary. On each occasion Mulliner duly picked up breaks after Aiton missed from A-baulk which he then politely handed to his opponent (bit of hill before 6 and a gorrilloid (att. Solomon E.W. ca. 1983) take-off before 2 respectively) who made no mistake in going to 4-back each time with admirable accuracy. However his leaves were at fault (double from A-baulk and 7 yard slightly hampered shot respectively) and Mulliner hit with gusto on each occasion. In game 1 Mulliner took his forward ball to 4-back and obtained a good leave. This was to no avail as Aiton hit a 20 yard lift and performed a splendid triple to take the game.

In game 2, Mulliner TPO'd Aiton and, after one chance each, seemed to have the match levelled when he played an excellent quasi-2-ball break to the peg. Lack of control at rover allowed him to peg out only one ball and that proved fatal! Aiton forsook a 14 yard shot, lifted to corner 1 and hit the resulting 20 yarder at the ball by the peg. A 6 yard backward take-off and a good 3rd hoop gave him a rush to hoop 4 and a 2-ball break which he maintained to the peg. The only element of luck occurred at 2-back where a long and angled hoop stroke took enough wire to trickle through and so preserve the rush to 3-back. Otherwise it was a masterly exhibition of control under great pressure and he thoroughly deserved the loud and prolonged applause that greeted the peg-out.

It would be unfair to describe the final as an anti-climax in comparison, but it can be described comparatively briefly. The main difference between the players was that Aiton was shooting well and Cordingley was not. Thus, although there were a few errors that gave Cordingley the opportunity to take one ball round in each game, he was unable to keep the younger man out or to get back in himself.

The Plate is usually the property of Hilditch and one other Cantabrian - past or present - and so it tuned out again. This time, Gunasekera disposed of Ormerod, Walters (very narrowly) and Hilditch before meeting Mulliner again to decide the bronze medal Mulliner had the first chance to wrap the game up with a triple but could not persuade partner to run 4-back. He reached the peg without incident but a ball placed at rover rolled out, giving Gunasekera too short a shot. On hitting this, the triple was performed with great control until rover when a half-jump was required to finish the job. Both Walters and Robert Prichard joined Mulliner and Hilditch on 4 wins (actual or notional), Prichard especially distinguishing himself by being the only winner on time!

Prize-giving over, kindly conducted by Eleanor Bressey, the mob took great pleasure in a prolonged academic discussion on the merits of 10

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.....l" 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.

Open Singles (Swiss)

Results:

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 (O 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. Chippenh	am 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,	Yours sincerely,
Boulters Lock, Maidenhead, Berks.	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,	Yours sincerely,	ALDERI
		CHELTE
Surbiton, Surrey	Dudley Hamilton-Miller	BOWDO
		RUWUI

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.

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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 8NG

Yours sincerely **Richard Miller**

SECRETARY'S NOTES

NEW ASSOCIATES (to 1.8.83)

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

NEW OFFICIALS

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Manager: A. Bennet

Handicapper: K. Cotterell P.M. Johnson

C.A. SILVER MEDALS

The following Associates have recently gualified 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 (Budleigh 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

RMASTON beat Cheltenham 2 ENHAM 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**

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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	
•				
Budleigh Salterton 27 June			0	
M.F. Burgess	7		6	
P. Danks	9		7	
N.G. Hyne		3	21/2	
Mrs B.G. Perry	15 (D	012)	14 (D12)	
P. Stoker		4	31/2	
R. Tribe	4		3	
Oxford University (Club) 16	S July			
R. Andrew	8		6	
Cheltenham 1–3 July				
H.G.T. Bolton	2		3	
Miss I.M. Roe	51/2		61/2	
P.L. Smith	2		11/2	
C.B. Snowdon	3		21/2	
R. Race	8		6	
	and the second			
R.S. Jenkins	15		12 (D10)	
Southwick 4-9 July				
LB. Barnes	6		51/2	
Miss D.V. Harding	14		14 (D12)	
A. Hittle	10		8 Non-Asso	ociate
Mrs A.E. Mapletoft	12		11 (D8)	Jointo
	10			
Mrs E.G. Ross	10 - 15 L		9 (D8)	
P.J. Shephard	4		31/2	
Mrs A.L. Smith	15		13 (D11)	
G.D.A. Whillock	31/2		21/2	
Woking 2-10 July				
C. Lamb	6		51/2	
A. McCormack	6		51/2	
A.J. Mrozinski	6		51/2	
	8			
Mrs P.H. Mann			9	
C.B. Sanford	41/2		51/2	
Hurlingham (Club) 10 July				
Dr O.A. Kerensky	6		7	40
Open Championships (Che	Itenham	9_1	6 July	
K.M.H. Aiton	0	10-11	-1/2	
J.E. Guest	2		11/2	
D.L. Gunasekera	1/2		-1/2	
P.W. Hands	-11/2		-1	
S.E. Lewis	11/2		1	
Professor B.G. Neal	-1		-1/2	
J. Rose	-1/2		1	
Colchester 3-9 July				
G.K. Collin	41/2		4	
Mrs G.P.N. Healy	11		11 (D10)	
N.G. Hyne	21/2		2	
Dr P.D.B. West	3		2	
	anton) 1	8-23	July	
Challenge & Gilbey (Hunst	anton			
	71/2		7	
H.F. Barnett	71/2			
Challenge & Gilbey (Hunst H.F. Barnett J.W.H. Carlisle B.A. Gosden	7½ 6		5	
H.F. Barnett	71/2			

S

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	Woking (Club) July 1982 D.C. Caporn	31/2	3
	Parkstone (Club correction	s) July	
	J.F. Pollard	6	5
	Mrs D. Mitchell	11 (D9)	10 (D9)
	Edgbaston 22-24 July		
	B.G. Hallam	6	41/2
	P.E. Jones	13	12 Non-Associate
	A.G. Gordon	5	41/2
	G. Henshaw	3	4
	D. Peterson	3	21/2
	Hurlingham 28 July-6 Augu Before Play	ust	
	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	41/2
	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 Judge A.D. Karmel	7 (D6) 5	6 6
	C. Newman	6	4
	Mrs F.H. Newman	41/2	4
	A.J. Mrozinski	51/2	41/2
	G.C. Roy	2	11/2
	P. Torrington	6	41/2
	East Riding (Club) 1 Augus		
	E.E. Scott	41/2	4 (w.e.f. 14 June)
	Mrs C.J. Irwin	12	11 (w.e.f. 31 May)
	F.I. Maugham	6	5
	P. Stoker Mrs A.F. Sutcliffe	3½ 8	3 7½
	P.W. Thompson	61/2	51/2
	Cheltenham 25–31 July		
	Before Play	~	
	Dr J.W. King	8	6
	After Play	14 (010)	10 (011)
	Miss D.E. Barber	14 (D12)	13 (D11)
	W.R. Bawden R. Burnell	51/2	5 5
	Mrs G.D. Harris	6 7	61/2
	Dr J.W. King	6	5
	Mrs L.V. Latham	11 (D9)	10 (D8)
	Mrs D.H. Moorcraft	12 (D10)	11 (D9)
	D. Peterson	21/2	2
	G/Capt R.S. Ryan	12 (D10)	10 (D8)
	J.S. Toye	1	1/2
	Ipswich (Club) 7 August		
	M. French	11	9
	Dr R. Sutherland	13	11
	Roehampton (Club) 7 Augus	st	
	L.D. Adams	1	11/2
	Mrs W.J. Browne	7	61/2
	Mrs B. Mansfield	7	61/2
	Colchester 5-7 August		
	Before Play		
	D.G. Palmer		14 Non-Associate
	Dr. P. Sutherland	11	11*

11

12

9

14

11*

10

21/2

11

10

12

9

11

Dr R. Sutherland

P. Williams

After Play

M. French

G.P.N. Healy

Dr R. Sutherland

D.G. Palmer

J.C. Walters

P. Williams

11

Non-Associate

Non-Associate

Non-Associate