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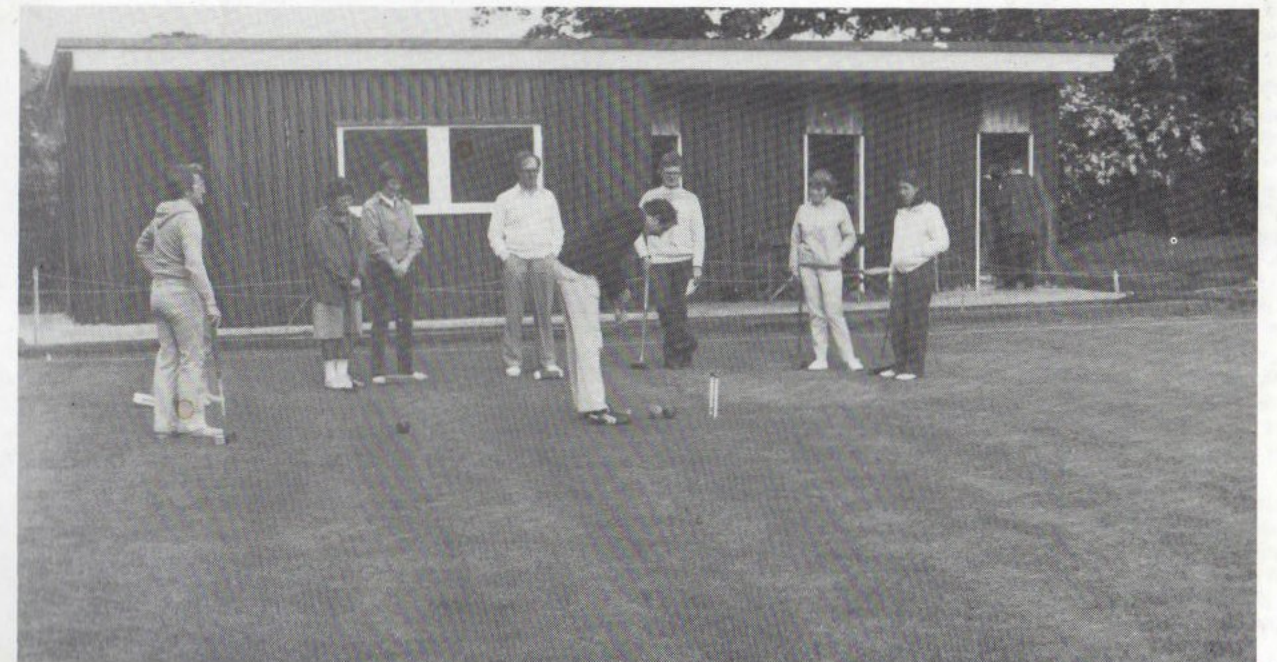
# THE CROQUET GAZETTE

ISSUE No. 174

SPRING 1984



From left to right: Ray Jones, Fred Trout, Ron Welch, Bunny Austin and Councillor Norman Green at the opening of the new pavilion at Edgbaston (July 1983).



Ken Jones demonstrates a hoop approach at a coaching session for new members last season . . . Edgbaston's new pavilion in the background.  
Photos by Brian Hallam (see article in this issue)

### The Secretary and the Editor

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

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

## CHANGING CUSTOMS

by S.S. Townsend

During the Veterans Tournament at Eastbourne last summer, some of which was featured in a Channel 4 programme, I was asked by the TV producer present what changes I had noticed during the 30 or more years that I had been playing croquet. I summoned up a few thoughts on the spur of the moment, and it has since occurred to me, at the risk of covering some of the ground which Colonel Prichard has already done in his definitive History of Croquet, that there have in particular been a number of changes in the Customs of the Game which would be of interest, or indeed surprise, to those who have taken up croquet in the last decade or two. The present Note will deal with just three which come to my mind.

### Dress

As an indication of the different image of players on the courts today compared with that of a generation ago, it was not until I had been playing croquet for five years that I bought my first pair of white flannel trousers, and even then because of my participation in a parents versus school cricket match rather than for croquet wear. In the early nineteen fifties only a minority of players in fact wore white, and it is no exaggeration to have to admit that too many players come on to the courts dressed in a slovenly manner. I still recall with embarrassment an article in the Daily Mail reporting on the Open Championships which referred to one player as appearing to have just emerged from his potting shed.

What then caused the change to the virtually compulsory white clothing of today? To our President John Solomon can be attributed a first significant step. In the May 1951 issue of the Gazette a letter appeared over the signatures of John and Humphrey Hicks, who had just returned from New Zealand after a Test Match series — "It is no exaggeration to say that what has struck us most in our croquet tour of New Zealand and Australia was the excellent effect produced by all players wearing white on the courts. We most strongly urge that English croquet players — one and all — shall adopt a uniform of white". An Editorial in the following number gave somewhat qualified approval to the suggestion, but welcomed the fact that men no longer played without coat or waistcoat, having learned that however beautiful their expensive Bond Street braces might be, spectators were not in the least impressed by them. At any rate the letter, coupled with the example set by many of the top players of the time, had the effect of increasing the proportion of players dressing in white.

The next stage which I recall is the Club Delegates Conference in 1963 which devoted a large part of the time to discussing the image of croquet. I remember Professor Skempton emphasising that for some of our then bad image we had only ourselves to blame so long as we dressed so shabbily and thereby invited contempt. As I remember it, he was not advocating compulsory wearing of whites, but that, failing this, players should at least take trouble to turn out neatly dressed. The Professor's remarks were greeted with approval, and more and more players moved to the present custom, although it is I think only in the last few years that the principle of wearing whites has become fully accepted. David Openshaw, our Captain in the recent successfully Test series, will forgive me when I recall that on

his first appearance at Hurlingham in 1975 he played in what appeared to be boy scout buff-coloured shorts.

I believe I am right in saying that the first official pronouncement on the subject was only three years ago when among the General Conditions for All Tournaments which appear at the front of the Fixtures Book the words "predominantly white clothing should be worn" are included, which seems a sensible compromise.

### On Shaking Hands

For many years after I had started playing croquet I cannot recall ever shaking hands with my opponent at the end of a game, or indeed being aware of the practice. Evidence of this is found in an Editorial in the August 1951 issue of the Gazette when the writer remarked that he had noticed recently that at the end of an important match, when the outplayer had been well and truly beaten, he rose from his seat, advanced to the victor, and shook him by the hand with apparent warmth. The writer went on to ask what this was intended to convey, either to the opponent or to the spectators, and added that the gesture was unnecessary and misleading. Nevertheless, the practice has gradually spread although today it is far from universal. The purposes designed to be served are presumably to congratulate the winner and at the same time a mutual exchange of thanks for an enjoyable game. The practice is of course widespread in a number of games, and in tennis for example would appear to invoke critical comment if not observed, albeit there must in the case of some players who are much in the public eye a temptation for one of the contestants to resort to a rude gesture rather than an apparently friendly handshake. My habit for what it is worth is when I win a game to raise my arm to my opponent when pegging out and often find that he acknowledges by a similar gesture, but if however he approaches showing an obvious wish to shake hands well and good. Similarly, on my losing a game, if my opponent turns and waves without any indication that he wishes any further action from me I merely acknowledge by likewise raising my arm. It will be interesting to know whether there is a strong feeling that handshaking should be recognised as one of the Customs of the Game. An arguable question on which I will not dwell is whether embracing would be acceptable when the opponents are of opposite sex, or indeed between the partners in a mixed doubles game.

### On Buying Drinks for the Loser

In view of today's widespread habit of a winner offering to buy a drink for the loser it may surprise many to learn of the relatively recent growth of the custom. In the middle nineteen fifties when I was particularly active on the courts and won more games than lost, I cannot recall offering a drink to the loser. Had the custom been in vogue I could hardly fail to have been aware of it, and I certainly do not remember being invited to a drink when I lost a game. I can only assume that like Topsy it just grew. For my part, while accepting the practice as wholly laudable, I do deprecate the occasional remark which I have heard, "he doesn't even buy his opponent a drink when he wins". Not everybody's means are such that if they have a successful week winning perhaps as many as a dozen games they can happily face the expenditure involved if after winning every game they felt it incumbent to spend the best part of a pound to palliate the loser's feelings. On more than one occasion I have politely excused myself from accepting a drink when I have sensed that the winner is doing this only because he thinks it the correct thing to do. Only last summer, after I had been comprehensively beaten by a teenager just after 3 o'clock, he appeared very surprised when I turned down his offer of a drink. There are occasions, happily very isolated, after a game against an opponent who had irritated you beyond measure, when the thought of sitting and drinking with him while he recapitulates details of the game would be a severe penance.

There are no doubt other examples where the Customs of the Game have changed, and this Note may well tempt Noel Hicks out of his shell for him to draw upon his memories of half a century of croquet and then writing in his usual felicitous style.

## THE HEART OF THE LAWS

It must have been the Autumn of 1958 that D. D. Steel told my husband that he ought to go to the Peels as it was the best possible way to learn the game. The following Spring David was standing in the dilapidated much-lamented pavilion at Roehampton when the talk drifted to the proposed re-writing of the Laws; "I hope they have not asked a lawyer to re-draft them — if they have nobody will understand them" said David to his neighbour. "They have — me!" ...

it was Ian Baillieu. That was how a friendship started which took both David and me to the heart of the Laws.

In the 1961 re-draft there were not only quite a number of changes in the Law but the whole format was altered to bring it into a more logical order. But what seasoned players could not — or would not — master was the new wording which replaced the phrases they knew by heart. By the late sixties the shortage of referees was acute: there were seldom more than one or two referees in any of the Invitation eights. In 1969 Ian Baillieu — then Editor of the Gazette — launched a Kitchener-style campaign for new referees, and at his request, I wrote a bold letter in the April issue, criticising the 'skirm-shanking' A class players and, as an afterthought, offering £5 to the Club which produced the highest ratio of new referees to their playing membership. That £5 had a dramatic effect.

The Meachems had long been involved with the Edgbaston Club and Barbara Meachem — the family's newest recruit — organised a weekly meeting at her house for members to learn and discuss the Laws and tactics of Croquet. They argued to such good effect that within a few months four or five of them were passed as Referees. Of course Edgbaston won the £5 (you could buy a wheel barrow for about £5 then) and later when Barbara had become one of the new Area Development Officers, she persuaded the Development Council to mount a course for would-be referees.

I was asked to be the Instructor on the telephone and was stunned. I wriggled and stipulated that I must have David (by this time Chairman of the Laws Committee) by my side as a monitor and that there must be one Referee to every six players for instruction on the courts. Later I was appalled to realise what I had accepted.

'Wednesday always comes' and December 1972 duly arrived. I had put in copious preparation but the candidates only had their Law Books. They were 'instructed' from the moment they arrived after tea on Friday until 11 p.m. on Saturday night. Happily we were all under one roof in the hostel at Wrest Park so every moment was filled with questions and problems and why's and wherefores until the candidates had lost the power of thought and I had lost my voice. On Sunday they were examined!

In the month that followed David wrote his Commentary on the Laws and the Meachems had it printed in time for the next course in February, and thenceforward every candidate had it to study before coming on a course. Later I produced lists of problems, their answers to which candidates discussed at courses. In addition I carried on correspondence courses with candidates who could not attend courses. Later still we started on Laws courses for new players and many enjoyed the new understanding of our complicated game. As others have now taken over the running of such courses I hope they will get the same rewards I did: many friendships and a facility for interpreting the Laws.

Now, in 1984, we are to have a new edition of the Laws. The stocks of the 1972 edition are exhausted and the opportunity to adopt 'certain elements of refurbishment' (as the American Ambassador said to the Queen) has been seized. This involves mainly changes in wording and emphasis, and only one significant change in the Law but, this time, some of the Laws have been renumbered. Which means that our 'battered books' must be cast aside: everyone will need a copy of the 1984 edition. Referees must grasp any changes as soon as the new book appears. The best thing they could do is to run a short course on the Laws at their Clubs: I promise you that the surest way of learning the Laws is to teach them.

E.A.M.P.

## ON RUNNING FIRM HOOPS

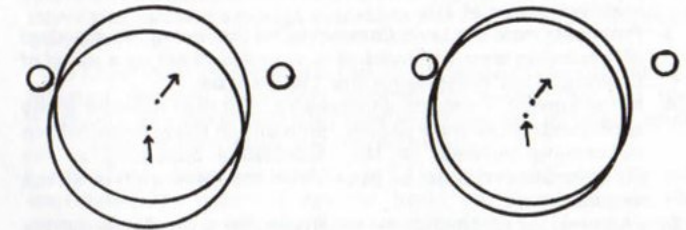
I hope to avoid the mistake, of which so many contributors to this periodical are guilty, of expressing opinions and beliefs as if they were rules and facts. The reader must decide for himself whether this article is correct, if he is fortunate enough to have access to a lawn with firm hoops.

It will have been the experience of most players that, when you make a slightly inaccurate attempt to run a firm hoop, the effect of hitting harder is just to make your ball bounce further away; whereas you can often simply bully a loose hoop into submission. However, rather to my surprise I have recently come to the conclusion from personal experience that you can also bully a firm hoop if you hit hard enough.

My explanation for this is that in the case of a firm hoop it is not the hoop that gets bullied, but the ball. When a ball hits a wire it gets

squashed a bit and then springs back into shape. This deformation is not instantaneous. It takes some time — a small fraction of a second — and during this time the ball does travel a short distance. The harder the ball is hit, the more squashing takes place. A hard-hit ball will travel further during the deformation not only because the deformation itself takes longer but also because the ball is travelling faster.

This is illustrated in the following diagrams (which by themselves prove nothing), showing the situations at first impact between ball and wire (the same in each diagram) and then at their parting.



The harder hit ball has a sporting chance of wriggling through the hoop, whereas the softer hit one does not.

I am afraid that this article, if acted upon, is going to shorten the life of a good many croquet balls.

Keith Wylie

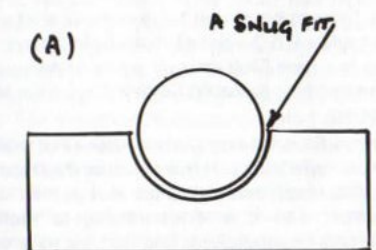
## MAKING A CROQUET BALL

### Materials

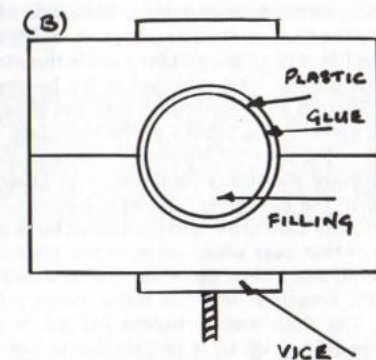
- Plastic for the surface of the appropriate colour.
- An old croquet ball.
- A block of wood about 15cm x 15cm x 15cm.
- About 15½oz compressed cork, wood chipping and glue.

### Stages

- Saw the block of wood in half, hollow out a hemisphere in the centre of each half so that the old croquet ball fits snugly.



- Line the half blocks with plastic.
- Put in the filling and apply glue to the edges of the plastic shells.
- Put the half blocks together in a vice and leave until the glue is set.



- Remove the new ball from the half blocks and trim off excess glue and plastic.

Leslie Riggall.

## Extracts from Proceedings Council Meeting 11th February 1984

1. A very hearty vote of thanks was accorded to David Foulser for all his work as Editor over the past four years.
2. The final draft of the Laws and Regulations was approved and authority was given for the reprint. Copies will be sold to Associates at £2.00 and to Registered Clubs at £1.50 (for a minimum order of 10).
3. Proposals from the Laws Committee for improving the standard of refereeing were approved. It is intended to set up a panel of Championship Referees for the 1985 season.
4. It was agreed, if considered desirable, that the Chairman of the appropriate Committee should comment on all correspondence concerning business of the Association appearing in the Croquet Gazette as far as possible in the same edition as the original letter.
5. Proposed amendments to the Rules for submission to the Annual General Meeting were approved.
6. A National Junior Championship will be held at Colchester 3rd to 5th August. It is also hoped to start an Inter-Schools competition. Townsend Croquet Ltd have offered to sponsor one event and R. F. Rothwell offered to present a trophy.
7. It was decided that members of the Council would have a free vote at the Annual General Meeting on the motion to alter the name of Golf Croquet to Hoop Golf, as the matter has not been debated in Council.
8. The Japanese CA has been affiliated to the CA.
9. It was reported that over 200 Associates have to date not paid their 1984 subscription. Reminders are to be sent to them.
10. It was noted that the winners of the Apps/Heley Award for 1983, the Edgbaston Club, had not previously been published.
11. By unanimous vote R. F. Rothwell was nominated for election as a Vice President at the Annual General Meeting.

## EDGBASTON CROQUET CLUB

Avid readers of the fixtures book will have noticed that since 1982 a new name has been added to the list of clubs holding tournaments. . . Not that Edgbaston is a new Club exactly — its history can be traced since the turn of the century; it would be more accurate to describe it as a rejuvenated one.

The pavilion, recently erected, is tangible evidence of the spirit which now pervades the Club and has sent the membership into the 70's for the first time ever. Such achievements are not gained without hard work and imagination, and it is encouraging to realise what is possible for a small club unsubsidized and leasing its grounds from a private landlord. The Club's achievement was recognized last year by the Association in making the Apps-Heley award for 1983.

Edgbaston has occupied its present site in Richmond Hill Road since before the First World War and its original facilities were developed in the twenties. At that time, it seems to have relied heavily on the personal generosity of one or two well-to-do members, especially two catholic priests from the Birmingham Oratory, one of whom was an early president of the Club. In those early years, Bridge became an important part of the life of the Club and for a while threatened to take over as the principal pursuit. This was not to be, however, and the Club survived the Second War, emerging into the fifties with both games in a parlous state. It is a tribute to the members at that time (and in 1951 there were only 17 playing members) that the Club survived, while its more illustrious neighbours at Leamington and Buxton succumbed to the changing post-War conditions. From the mid-fifties until 1970 the Club grew and flourished but was to suffer a dramatic set-back in that year when nine of the leading members simultaneously moved away from the area. These included the Club President, Secretary, Treasurer and the three minus players in the Club at that time. The Club was fortunate indeed to survive this upheaval; that it was able to do so is largely due to the unremitting efforts of small but growing number of people who were determined that Edgbaston should not be lost to Croquet for ever. From a very low ebb ten years ago, it has been a pleasure to see the Club develop into a much more viable enterprise.

In 1974, Edgbaston had a small and ageing membership of around

30, three lawns of which one needed urgent attention, and a fifty year old wooden pavilion in an advancing state of dilapidation. It seemed then that little could be done to reverse the Club's fortunes but the first step at any rate was clear — it was essential to boost the membership figures. Accordingly a Spring recruiting drive has been an annual event for several years now. Although the response to the poster and house-to-house leaflet campaigns has not always been overwhelming, these have ensured an increase in new recruits to the game which has persisted over the years and has led to an eventual increase in the established playing membership. It was on the initiative of one of these new members that the Club undertook the first of its recent major projects — the re-laying of the second lawn. Some help was provided by the City of Birmingham Parks Department, and a professional foreman was engaged, but most of the manual work was undertaken by the members themselves over a period of about six consecutive weekends in the autumn of 1980. Although some who took part in this mammoth task have been heard to mutter "Never again!" it has made a difference to the lawn surface and, almost more important, showed what could be achieved by a concerted effort of Club members. This demonstration was vital since it had by now become apparent that the replacement of the pavilion was essential to the Club's future.

The main obstacle to such a project had always been lack of funds. But once a serious feasibility study was set in hand it turned out that sources of funds and ways of avoiding expenses could be found. In fact significant grant aid was received from the Sports Council, the City of Birmingham and the Croquet Association: but perhaps the largest single contribution was made by the Community Industry organisation who provided labour free of charge, thus halving the effective cost of the building. (The CI organisation in Birmingham exists to provide work experience to unemployed youngsters). Of course there were disadvantages in using CI — not least that the construction took much longer than had been anticipated and that constant daily liaison was necessary at the site. Nevertheless, without their help the project would have been beyond what the Club could afford; with CI and a lot of hard work from many Club members (in designing and supervising the building) it proved possible to put up the pavilion with minimal need for borrowing.

The pavilion was open for use at the beginning of the 1983 season and already seems to be having a beneficial influence on the fortunes of the Club. It must be due, in part at least, to the improvement in the Club's facilities that 1983 saw the membership rise to 73 — close to the limit at which a three-lawn club can function. Of course there are problems as well as advantages in such a development. The distribution of Club handicaps is heavily weighted towards the maximum of 24 because a high proportion of the members are comparatively new to Croquet. But the situation can only improve as time goes on. With this in view, it is planned to concentrate the 1984 effort on improving the standard of recently-joined members rather than recruiting newcomers.

And what of the future? No club can aspire to become a major centre for Croquet (capable of staging national events and test matches) unless it enjoys the use of at least four full-sized lawns. Unfortunately, Edgbaston is likely to be hampered by the absence of space for a fourth lawn unless extra land can be obtained from a neighbouring site — a possibility being actively considered by at least one member of the Club committee. In the meantime, it is hoped to enlarge the third lawn (which has always been slightly under-sized). It is inadvisable to be complacent; a small club is always vulnerable to the loss of key members. But for a few years at least Edgbaston seems assured of good prospects and further improvements in facilities and playing strength.

In the coming season, weekend tournaments are to be held in June and July at which visitors are assured of a warm welcome in the setting of one of our oldest small clubs.

A.J.G.

## AN UPRAISED MALLET

It began as an amicable, if somewhat Aunt Emmaish game between the Lawyer and the Pragmatist in the long-bisquers block of the tournament. It was the first tournament for both, and whilst the Lawyer had studied the Laws of Croquet with a professional interest, he had little experience of their practical application. The Pragmatist had not actually read the laws beyond Law 15, since he had taken the advice in the Foreword literally, and was only too aware that he had not yet fully mastered the Laws up to that point. However, from his fellow long-bisquers, he had acquired an incomplete and occasionally

wholly misguided comprehension of the scope and impact of the laws. The scene was thus set for misunderstanding and disagreement, and they were not long in arising.

After some play, the Pragmatist found himself taking croquet from his partner ball directly in front of the first hoop, and he excitedly seized the opportunity to score two hoops for the price of one. The croqueted ball, Yellow, went through the hoop, ending up four inches clear of it. Red stopped immediately in front, and mindful of the need to avoid a crush, the Pragmatist merely tapped it, Red going cleanly through and striking Yellow. Unfortunately, it had been a long hard summer on the lawns, and a sizeable depression had been worn in the turf between the wires. Red rolled slowly backwards, and came to rest protruding slightly from the running side of the hoop. The Pragmatist bent down to pick up his ball, but was forestalled by the Lawyer: "I am sorry, but your ball has not run its hoop, since it has finally come to rest in a position in which it has not completed the running".

"But I made my roquet", said the Pragmatist. "I am entitled to pick my ball up and take croquet".

"I'm afraid not", said the Lawyer. "You had already roqueted Yellow before you tried to run the hoop. You hit it again, but unless you also scored the hoop it doesn't count". The Pragmatist felt aggrieved. It seemed to him that the ball had run its hoop *before* it hit Yellow, since it could not run the hoop *after* making a roquet, and it was the making of the roquet which had sent it back again. He privately considered that Red was a ball in hand, and that if he had been quick enough he could have picked it up before it rolled back, thus avoiding the argument. However, the Lawyer seemed certain of the facts, so he remained silent, and the game continued.

Soon afterwards, at the same hoop, the Lawyer found himself in a similar situation. He peeled Black through the hoop about four inches clear, with Blue just short of the hoop and dead in front. Not wishing to fall into the same trap as his adversary, he followed slightly through on the stroke, but managed to avoid a crush. Blue struck Black, and was just rolling back into the hole when it was re-struck by the mallet and went forward, stopping clear of the hoop. The Lawyer picked up Blue to take croquet, but was forestalled by his adversary. "That was a foul stroke", he said. "You made a double-hit on Blue".

"Yes, I hit it twice," agreed the Lawyer, "but it was not a foul stroke. The second contact was due to the making of the roquet on Black, and is thus exempt from penalty".

"But if you hadn't hit it twice it wouldn't have run the hoop", said the Pragmatist.

"Possibly not", replied the Lawyer, "but the stroke was legal, the ball had run the hoop in its final position of rest, the roquet was made, and I am entitled to take croquet from Black".

The Pragmatist brooded, but said nothing. After a few more turns, he again found himself in a similar position. Attempting to peel Yellow through the hoop with Red in a single croquet stroke, he got Yellow through just clear of the wire, but Red hit the wire and stopped in the jaws. Fortunately for him, it was in a clear running position, taking a leaf out of the Lawyer's book, he followed through on the stroke. Red struck Yellow and was checked before passing completely through the hoop, but was then re-struck by the mallet and completed the running. Before he could pick up his ball, he was stopped by the Lawyer. "That was a foul stroke", he declared. "You struck Red twice, and you had not made a roquet. The law says that when you hit another ball when running a hoop but before completing the running, the point is deemed to be scored and the roquet made in that order. Since you had not run the hoop when you re-struck your ball, you had not yet been deemed to have made the roquet. Therefore the second hit was a fault in striking".

The Pragmatist was dumbfounded. He could see no distinction between the two cases. Somewhat dispiritedly, he surrendered the innings, and the game continued. Eventually the Lawyer, playing with Black, made 2-back off Blue, roqueted it, and took off to Yellow at 3-back, making his roquet. In attempting to make the hoop with Black off Yellow, he hit the wire and Black lodged in the hoop, having just entered the jaws from the 3-back side. Yellow had been put two feet past the hoop on the 4th hoop side, and Yellow was for 4th hoop. The Pragmatist pounced with glee. It was his hoop now, and he intended to take full advantage of his good fortune. He roqueted Black with Yellow, which followed on through the hoop. The Pragmatist removed the solitary Yellow clip and put it in his pocket. Placing Yellow in contact with Black, he executed a perfect roll approach to 5th hoop, and ran the hoop with his continuation shot. As he went to

take his stance the Lawyer stopped him. "I am afraid that you have not run either of those hoops", he declared.

"Why ever not?" expostulated the Pragmatist.

"Well", said the Lawyer, "you remember that my ball was partly into the hoop at 4th?"

"Yes", agreed the Pragmatist, "but what difference does that make?"

"A great deal", replied the Lawyer. "You start to run a hoop when your ball begins to come out on the far side, not when it enters on the running side. Since Black was within the uprights, you hit it before starting to run, and although you made your roquet, you didn't score the point".

"You knew that I believed that I had run it when I took my clip off", returned the now thoroughly irritated Pragmatist. "My clip was misplaced and you should have told me. If you had done so I could have taken off from Black and made the hoop".

"Not so", responded our legal expert. "I may have suspected that you considered that you had run the hoop, but your clip was not misplaced. A clip is only placed or misplaced when it is on a hoop or the peg, and the requirement under the laws is that the striker should place the clips correctly at the end of his turn. But you were entitled to remove any or all of the clips from a hoop which you were attempting to run, since these are court accessories only and may be temporarily removed if they are impeding you. You might equally well have removed the clip because it was impeding your take-off shot. When instead you rolled up to the 5th hoop with the obvious intention of running it, I was prevented by the Laws from informing you of the facts. It is specifically prohibited to warn a player in a tournament that he is about to run the wrong hoop".

So saying, the Lawyer roqueted Yellow with Black, and placed his ball with the intention of rolling once more to 3-back and again trying to run it. However, wheels were whirring in the Pragmatist's head. The Lawyer had said that all clips must be placed correctly at the end of a turn. He himself had removed and eventually replaced only the Yellow clip. Where was the Black clip? In his chagrin, the Lawyer had forgotten to replace it, and it was in his pocket. "Your clip was not on the hoop at the start of my last turn", said the Pragmatist. "I would have played differently if I had known it was your hoop too".

The Lawyer considered the situation. The clip had been misplaced, and it was his responsibility. The claim had been made inside the limit, just, and the Pragmatist was clearly entitled to replay his last turn. With an inward sigh, he picked up Yellow and Black and replaced them, Black in the jaws of 3-back and Yellow two feet away on the running side of 4. This time he carefully put his clip on the side of the hoop. The Pragmatist again roqueted Black with Yellow, and positioned the balls for a backward take-off for the hoop. He was utterly bemused when the Lawyer forestalled him yet again. "Your claim for a replay due to misleading information was based on the incorrect clip at the start of your turn. However, you adopted the same line of play. If you had claimed that you were misled after making the roquet, you could have elected to play the croquet shot differently, but since you claimed that you were misled from the start you were not then entitled to play the roquet on Black in the replay".

At long last the Pragmatist had had enough. "I think we should call a Referee", he said. And the Lawyer, who was really a very fair player, and was not completely sure from the wording of the Laws what the interpretation should be on this point, immediately raised his mallet above his head.

★ ★ ★ ★

While awaiting the decision of the Referee, the reader may care to form his or her own opinion, not merely on the final disputed point, but on the earlier ones also. Would you have agreed with the Lawyer? Would the Referee? The situations are not contrived, but drawn from games observed by or played in by the author. However, he cannot supply definitive answers, since no referee was called to adjudicate in any of them.

18 Littledown Rd.,  
Cheltenham,  
GL53 9LP

Yours sincerely,  
Mike Finn

## CROQUET IN AFRIKAANS

The translation of the "Basic Laws of Croquet" into Afrikaans represents an important development for South African croquet. Although croquet has been played in South Africa since the eighteen-

sixties, no Afrikaans description of the game has previously been available. The Hon. J.F. Marais, who has now completed the translation of Prof Bernard Neal's condensation of the full Laws, has emphasized that the translation should be sent to all clubs for examination and comment before finalization.

Those who have seen the translation agree that it has been extremely well done. The only question which has so far arisen is the use of the word 'Kroukie' for the name of the game. Although 'kroukie' is undoubtedly the term used as well as the Dutch 'kroket' to describe garden croquet, some years ago the Association decided that the word 'croquet' is an internationally accepted word like 'rugby' and would be used when referring to the international game of "Association Croquet". The Afrikaans title of the Association is thus 'Suid-Afrikaanse Croquet Vereniging'. It will be interesting to see whether any other points arise but whether they do or not, it is certain that Judge Marais has done a great service to the game in South Africa.

## CHARLES BARLOW TRIUMPHS IN J & B S.A. OPEN

The ten year long domination of the J & B South African Open croquet tournament by Tom Barlow came to an end in Somerset West this year when his 15-year-old son Charles, playing in only his second tournament, took the laurels. Long-standing rivals Tom Barlow and David Cunningham were unable to achieve even a place in the finals, being defeated by Corrie Carter and Gary Culligan respectively in one leg of the draw and process event and by Charles in the other.

### Open Singles

Charles' opponent in the final was Dick le Maitre, who at one stage looked as though he was going to relieve the Vergelegen staff of the duty of cleaning the Singles trophy. Charles, a long way behind, was able to gain the innings just when it looked as though Dick was in total command, with his forward ball for penultimate, Charles was able to set up a classic four ball break. Using his partner ball as the pivot, he was always trying for the double peel which would have won the game in the one break, but, perhaps understandably, refused to take any risks in pursuance of this goal. Accordingly, he laid up at the end of his break in the fourth corner, with Dick cross-pegged. Under pressure Dick missed the lift shot, and Charles took his other ball round from penultimate to peg out with consummate ease. A whoop of triumph preceded the applause as Ilse Barlow, paying scant attention to footwear requirements, ran onto the court to congratulate her son with rather less inhibition than the rest of the spectators.

### Open Doubles

Charles Barlow also won the open doubles, in partnership with Reginald Bamford, who knocked him out of the one leg of the open singles. At no stage did the pair of teenagers look at all likely to lose a game. The strongest challenge came from the reigning partnership of Tom Barlow and Dick le Maitre, who had to settle for second place this year, as Charles and Reginald won both the draw and process sections of the event. Tom and Dick won the play-off for second place against Ian Gillespie and Carole Knox.

The most amusing incident of the tournament occurred in the second game in which Charles and Reginald played Tom and Dick when, losing control of a four ball break, Reginald was forced to leave three balls about seven yards from each other. Dick le Maitre took full advantage of this opportunity to hit in — using his partner's ball! It was the beginning of the game, and none of the spectators noticed, but nonetheless the fault was detected.

Tom Barlow also had to settle for second place in the open handicap, in which he was beaten by his doubles partner, Dick le Maitre, despite holding the advantage for most of the game.

### Restricted Singles

In the J&B restricted singles, Charles Gainsford beat Jemima Benn, who won the Scottish Croquet Association salver for the player to win the greatest number of games without winning an event. In the J&B restricted handicap singles, Harry Chadderton struck a blow against women's lib by beating his wife (only on the croquet lawn). George Turnbull won the newly created veteran's singles from Joe Inman, to become the first holder of the magnificent Riggall gold cup. The very generous doner was the loser in the final of both the draw and process sections of this event. However, he must have derived at least some consolation from winning the J&B restricted handicap doubles in partnership with Elizabeth Olsen, with whom he beat Harry and Dulcie Chadderton in the final of a double elimination event, after a series of marathon games.

The studious observer will have noticed that the same names seem to

## "WINNING CROQUET"

Jack Osborn's book *Winning Croquet*, which is sub-titled "From backyard to greensward — the skills, strategies and rules of America's most sophisticated outdoor sport", is a book which should do for American croquet what similar books such as those by Lord Tollemache and John Solomon have done for the English version of the game. With its maintenance of the original sequence game American croquet has of course a closer affinity with the game described in Tollemache's 1914 opus than that outlined 52 years later by John Solomon. Written in collaboration with Jesse Kornbluth (a contributing editor for *New York* magazine) the book combines an easy, readable style with clear exposition of the basic universal croquet strokes as well as the tactics of American rules croquet. The book is published by Simon and Schuster and has 224 pages with more than 100 excellent illustrations, diagrams and instructional photographs.

have been coming up with great frequency in this report. Certainly, the managers were aware of this. Olive Leech had to withdraw as manager after the first two days due to ill health, and her place was taken by Carole Knox, ably assisted by Shirley de Beer, who had the additional problems of trying to win their own games, and adhering studiously to the regulation compelling time limits to be imposed equally to all games in any round. That the tournament was finished on time is a tribute to their dedication and efficiency under pressure. The courts were scattered around the countryside, and this complicated the work of the managers still further. Many of the competitors received telephone calls late at night telling them where they would be needed the next day, as the managers burned the midnight oil to complete arrangements.

A surprise came on the Thursday afternoon when a team came from the SABC to make recordings for television of the play. The news that night featured a bulletin on the championships, which included an interview with Tom Barlow, and film shots which concentrated heavily on the prowess of Charles Barlow and Reginald Bamford. Given ordinary luck, this should result in an increase in interest in the game, and one hopes also an increase in membership and competition. Local newspapers also included articles on the championships, so that the subject of croquet got more airing than it has had in most tournaments.

Commenting on the tournament as a whole, Tom Barlow stated that he was most encouraged by the emergence of a number of first class players, giving South African croquet much more depth than it has had for a number of years.

## SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL RANKINGS

(reproduced from S.A. Croquet Gazette, December 1983)

The latest rankings at the time of going to press are as below. Players who have gained national colours as starred. Where more than one player has the same handicap, players are listed in order of seniority, i.e. those who have held that handicap or better longest are listed first. "P" indicates provisional.

Ranking	NAME	Handicap	Previous Handicap
1	★ T. Barlow	- ½	-1
2	★ R. Bamford	- ½	Scr
3	★ D. Cunningham	Scr	- ½
4	R. le Maitre	+ ½	+1
5	C. Barlow	+ ½	+1½
6	★ C. Coulson	+1	+1
7	★ C. Carter	+1½	+1½
8	★ G. Jackson	+1½	+1½
9	★ L. Sullivan	+2	+1
10	★ C. Knox	+2	+2
11	G. Culligan	+2	+1½
12	★ I. Gillespie	+2½	+2½
13	★ B. Stalker	+3	+3
14	G. Hobbs	+3½	+3
15	J. Davies	+3½	+3
16	J. Benn	+3½	+3½
17	E. Murgatroyd	+3½	+3½
18	R. Wucherpfennig	+3½	+3½
19	C. Gainsford	+3½	+3½

## NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS

OS  
 Winner: ..... C. Barlow +7  
 Runner up: ..... D. le Maitre  
 OD  
 Winner: ..... R. Bamford/C. Barlow (won both halves)  
 Runners up: ..... T. Barlow/D. le Maitre +13  
 RS  
 Winner: ..... C. Gainsford (won both halves)  
 Runner up: ..... Mrs J. Benn +3  
 OHS  
 Winner: ..... D. le Maitre +2  
 Runner up: ..... T. Barlow  
 RHS  
 Winner: ..... D. Chadderton  
 Runner up: ..... H. Chadderton  
 VETERANS  
 Winner: ..... G. Turnbull +9  
 Runner up: ..... J. Inman  
 RHD  
 Winners: ..... L. Riggall/E. Olsen +10  
 Runners up: ..... Mr and Mrs Chadderton  
 Scottish Salver (most number of wins without winning an event): ..... Mrs J. Benn

## GOLF CROQUET ON TELEVISION

On 29th October 1983, the Council considered a report by the Sponsorship Committee and decided by 16 votes to 7 to accept the unanimous recommendation of the committee that it should be authorised to proceed with negotiations with a view to securing sponsorship of a televised Golf Croquet tournament. It is understood that a motion will be proposed at the Annual General Meeting on 7th April 1984 to reverse that decision. In view of the nature of the motion and the complexity of the subject-matter to be debated, the Council has authorised the publication of an abridged version of the Sponsorship Committee's report to allow Associates to consider the arguments that were accepted by a majority of the Council.

### A report by the Sponsorship committee

- In September 1983, the Sponsorship Committee received an approach involving the sponsorship of a televised Golf Croquet tournament. Although we wish to proceed, we are aware that Council recently decided that Golf Croquet should not be promoted. Accordingly Council will be asked on 29th October 1983 to modify that decision to allow negotiations to go ahead.
- The issues relating to the sponsorship of croquet*  
 (1) Should the CA encourage the sponsorship of croquet?  
 (2) Does sponsorship of croquet inevitably involve television?  
 (3) Which form of croquet should be televised?
- Should the CA encourage the sponsorship of croquet?*  
 Sponsorship provides cash and publicity and the CA needs both. The benefits of cash are sufficiently obvious not to need further expansion here. However the benefits of good publicity are worth spelling out and run far deeper than boosting the recruitment of new members of clubs and of the CA. Croquet is in competition with many other activities for a limited amount of grant aid (whether central, regional or local), space, media interest and coverage and other less well-defined resources and urgently needs to improve its public image. Croquet must become a sport recognised generally to be reasonably serious, skilful and worthwhile. It must produce the same reaction in the minds of the public and the media as that produced by bowls, snooker, fencing, chess and bridge.
- Does the sponsorship of croquet inevitably involve television?*  
 This is really a matter of commercial fact. The principal justification of commercial sponsorship is that it achieves effective advertisement of a product or a name more cheaply than buying time on television. There are no crowds at croquet matches to place billboards before and the newspaper coverage of the game (although improving rapidly) is still very limited. Although a sponsor does benefit from the opportunities created

for press launches, functions for business clients and guests at the sponsored event and linking the product or name to something out of the ordinary, these are ephemeral benefits which cannot alone justify the expenditure of thousands of pounds. The agents of Mateus, sponsors of the Inter-Counties, have already indicated that Mateus will not continue to sponsor croquet after 1984 unless they can obtain TV exposure thereby.

- Which version of the game should be televised?*  
 Minor sport on television can be divided into the 'specialist' games and the 'entertainment' games. The specialist games, such as chess and bridge have complicated rules which are not explained in the programmes and are accordingly watched almost exclusively by players. An average audience is 250,000. Such programmes are justified by the large numbers of chess and bridge players in the country. Entertainment games include snooker, darts and bowls and attract enormous television audiences of up to 5 million for snooker and darts and up to 2 million for bowls. In contrast to the specialist games the rules of these games are easy to understand and the great majority of the television viewers are not regular players. It is clear that croquet has too few adherents to justify specialist television coverage and must therefore justify television on its merits as an entertainment game.

Successful entertainment games have 5 common features, namely — (1) simplicity, (2) interaction, (3) variety, (4) quickness and (5) ease of filming.

*Simplicity:* The viewer must enjoy the contest without having to make an effort to understand what is happening. Neither must he be distracted by a commentary that is mainly concerned with why things are being done instead of adding to the competitive atmosphere. The principles of darts and bowls are self-evident and even the snooker break is hardly difficult to understand.

*Interaction:* The contest must be seen to be an active one between two sides, not a one-sided massacre. Bowls is very interactive as each turn consists of only one shot and each shot can disturb the opponent's last shot. Darts is not directly interactive but each turn is over in a few seconds. Snooker breaks are one-sided but usually last only a few minutes (some 10 to 20 shots) and the game also includes some fascinating safety duels.

*Variety:* Snooker is a game of almost infinite variety and each end in bowls is different, although most shots are either the draw to the jack or the drive (the latter being the TV producer's favourite). Darts can be repetitive and owes its popularity to the other features listed here.

*Quickness:* 25 minutes is the television producer's ideal. An average snooker frame lasts 20 minutes. A bowls match consists of a number of ends each lasting about 3 minutes on television and a game of 501 at darts also takes about 3 minutes. Both games can thus easily be fitted into the required time by showing as many ends or games as required.

*East of filming:* It has been remarked that a snooker table must have been designed with television in mind but a darts board and a bowling rink are no less convenient. All three games can be satisfactorily covered with two cameras, although more may be used in practise.

There are four forms of croquet to be considered as potential entertainment games: Association Croquet, 2-ball Croquet, Small Lawn Croquet and Golf Croquet.

### Association Croquet

This game is too difficult for a TV audience requiring entertainment without effort. Croquet coaches know how difficult the novice finds the idea of the croquet break until he can get on the lawn and play the shots himself. This is obviously not possible for the TV viewer and very few will feel they understand the game after one programme. This will obviously reduce the probability that many will want to watch the next episode. The commentary would have

to be principally explanatory rather than adjectival and this too will decrease enjoyment of the contest. The game appears to be very one-sided when a break of up to 91 shots and lasting 30 minutes is in progress. Games usually take much longer than 25 minutes and do not edit well. Filming requires 4 or 5 cameras and a producer and cameramen who are familiar with the game to achieve the best effects. Camera-shots of the whole court are frequently needed to display a 4-ball break and the balls seem rather lost in an enormous expanse of grass. We therefore conclude that a series of Association Croquet programmes would not be a success with a mass audience.

#### 2-ball Croquet

This version is less complicated than Association Croquet but still needs an explanatory commentary whenever a break is in prospect. The tedious nature of the processions and impasses that can occur are its principal failings. Despite recent 2-ball championships, the impasse situation has yet to receive an established and satisfactory solution. The fact that there are only two balls on a large court compares poorly with the colourful spectacle of a snooker table. Although games are much quicker than in Association Croquet, prolonged tactical struggles can occur. Filming presents much the same problems as Association Croquet. Although small-lawn 2-ball croquet might repay investigation, we feel that the 2-ball game is only a little more attractive than Association Croquet as a TV spectacle.

#### Small Lawn Croquet

This game represents a real effort to simplify and shorten Association Croquet and, when its rules are finalised and the top players have become really familiar with its tactics, may well be a potential TV vehicle. However, although the game is simplified by cutting out the last 6 hoops the fundamental difficulty of the croquet break remains. Any further touches, such as mandatory peels, add complexity. The commentary will still be very explanatory and the viewer will still be unlikely to believe that he understands the game after one program. The one-sided nature of the break also remains and, although reduced to a maximum of 49 shots lasting 10 to 15 minutes, the reduction in size of the lawn makes long breaks easier and so much more likely. Any attempt to stop this by lifts or contacts will add further complexity. A game should last from 40 to 60 minutes which is still rather too long for TV and it would seem unlikely that this game will edit any better than Association Croquet. We conclude that, although Small Lawn Croquet is more suited to television than either of the two versions discussed above, it is still too difficult and a series of Small Lawn Croquet games is therefore unlikely to appeal to an entertainment audience which has never been exposed to any form of croquet before.

#### Golf Croquet

Viewed objectively, Golf Croquet is astonishingly well suited to entertainment television. Its principles are genuinely simple, certainly no more difficult than those of snooker. It is highly and directly interactive as each turn consists of only one shot and may directly disturb the opponent's position. It has more variety than bowls. The long approach from, say, hoop 1 to hoop 2 is similar to the draw shot, the clearance is similar to the drive and occurs much more frequently. The hoop shot, the stop shot roquet and the hamper have no parallel in bowls. An aggressively played game takes under 25 minutes and the game is easy to film as the action concentrates around a single hoop at a time. The game is familiar to the top players and contains all the most spectacular shots in croquet.

Accordingly, judging the issue solely on the suitability of each form of croquet as an entertainment TV game, we have no doubt that Golf Croquet is easily the best. We also believe that it is the only form of the game that is likely to be a TV success.

#### 6. The counter arguments

We believe that the reservations underlying the Council decision that Golf Croquet should not be promoted include the following:

(1) Promotion of Golf Croquet will waste time and money on a game we do not wish to expand.

There is no intention of spending a penny of CA money on Golf Croquet. The game already exists and is waiting to be used as a TV vehicle to produce a significant sponsorship income and publicity for croquet in general.

(2) Putting Golf Croquet on television will swamp Association Croquet.

This is very unlikely considering the nature of the audience and the relative playing merits of the two games. Only a tiny percentage of the entertainment audience are likely to have sufficient interest to make an effort to join a croquet club. Those that do will find themselves constantly exposed to Association Croquet by the existing members and will soon discover that, although Golf Croquet may be better to watch than Association Croquet, it is nowhere nearly as satisfying a game to play.

(3) Putting Golf Croquet on television will give the public the wrong idea.

This criticism seems self-evidently valid until one considers the nature of the television audience and the nature and quality of their existing impressions about sports. A non-player does not have a detailed view of a sport. His view on such a sport are expressed in general and non-specific terms. Thus croquet is "silly", "vicious" and "only fit for old people" if it is referred to at all. Such people do not know the difference between Advanced Play and Ordinary Level play, or between a roquet and a croquet or, in most cases, between Golf Croquet and Association Croquet. What is more, they do not care and will continue not to care even after they have seen and enjoyed a series of Golf Croquet programmes. But their generalised impressions of croquet and croquet players will have changed.

They will have noticed that the court is as level and closely mown as a bowling green, that the hoops are square and substantial instead of round and flimsy, that the mallets look different and efficient, that the players are reasonably young, fit and intelligent, that the game is played with style and involves considerable skill. They will see an exciting contest with shots at least as spectacular as those seen on the bowling green or the snooker table. In short, they will be very favourably impressed. This should achieve an acceptance of and respect for croquet (in general) and croquet players so far unobtainable. Croquet (species undefined) will have become a TV game and worthy of respect for that alone, sponsors will be more likely to emerge and the Sports Council and local authorities will look upon croquet with increased approval.

To conclude, the fear that the public will be misled by seeing Golf Croquet on television is based on the mistaken assumption that a television audience takes a detailed interest in what they watch. They do not. They have a general view and this can be improved by Golf Croquet in a way that will benefit us and Association Croquet.

#### 7. Conclusions and recommendation to Council

After careful consideration of the general question and of the merits and demerits of the various forms of croquet available for television, we have reached the following unanimous conclusions:

1. The decision to put a croquet series on TV is a very serious one. Failure, as measured by an unsatisfactory audience response, will discourage sponsors and TV companies from repeating the exercise for a considerable time. This could mean no significant sponsorship for several years.
2. Golf Croquet is easily the most suitable form of croquet for television and it is the only form of croquet capable of being an immediate television success although Small Lawn Croquet may have a future once the way has been paved by Golf Croquet.
3. The dangers said to attach to televising Golf Croquet, in particular that the public will get counter-productive ideas about croquet, do not stand up to close analysis.

Accordingly, we recommend that the Council authorises us to proceed with negotiations with a view to securing sponsorship of a televised Golf Croquet tournament.

R. A. Godby, S.N. Mulliner, C. B. Sanford, J. W. Solomon 19.10.83

## SPONSORSHIP

From the Winter Gazette (173), associates will have learnt of Council's decision of 29 October 1983 to seek sponsorship for golf 'croquet' and some members will by now have deduced that the reason for my resignation from Council is that I intend to oppose this policy with all the vehemence I can command at this year's AGM. It is a policy that I consider to be totally misguided and contrary to the best interests of our Association and of croquet generally; indeed, I am appalled that Council can even contemplate such a venture.

The recommendations of the Sponsorship Committee are reported

elsewhere in this issue and I have been invited to express my opposing point of view. I am very grateful for the opportunity to do this.

During the last year or two, many useful items of publicity have appeared, both in newspapers and on television, and we have started to feel that perhaps sports (and features) editors are at last beginning to take association croquet seriously instead of allowing their attitudes to be dictated by Lewis Carroll. Progress has certainly not been dramatic, but it has been detectable.

Let us ask ourselves why it is that we find such developments encouraging. Is it not because we are acutely conscious of the yawning credibility gap our sport still suffers from in the public imagination? When chatting to an acquaintance, does one let the subject of croquet come up and hope, by boldly confronting the inevitable ribald response, to overcome at least one person's prejudice; or does one studiously keep quiet about what one has been doing during the weekend and thereby avoid the wrangle? Pavlov could scarcely have found a better example of the conditioned reflex than this recipe: introduce the word 'croquet' into a conversation, count to three and stand by for the rejoinder of 'That's a spiteful (or vicious) game'. To ask a further rhetorical question: just why is that belief so widespread? I suggest that it is because most people's experience of what they believe to be croquet is of some garden game that does not include any croquet stroke at all but is based (with greater or less fidelity) on golf 'croquet'. One's opponent is observed to be in a good position and one's most obvious resource in that game is to bash his ball as far across the court as possible, and to that extent the tactics appear negative and vindictive.

Golf 'croquet' is a game few of us play or wish to play and it would probably be indulged in by even fewer had not some misguided donor given the C.A. those accursed golf 'croquet' cups that have to be competed for every year. It is perhaps because that misfortune did not befall polo 'croquet', (a similar diversion, mentioned in Rev Elvey's book), that that game has now become extinct.

I am not denying that experts playing golf 'croquet' are able to exhibit considerable skill and subtlety, but it is still a relatively foolish game and the C.A. should not be giving it publicity, much less hoping that it will be featured on television. The only thing that will achieve is a reinforcement, in an all too obvious way, of every ill-digested notion associated with the word 'croquet' that prevails in the population at large, and the image of 'croquet' will be fixed for the next 50 years.

I contend that the first serious exposure of croquet on television must be designed to counteract these misconceptions and that it is vital that the *only* game offered for potential sponsorship is association croquet or some modification that retains its essential features, especially the croquet stroke. Anything else will be disastrous. If (unmodified) association croquet is indeed impractical for television presentation, then so be it. Let us reject all offers of sponsorship linked to television, however tempting, until an acceptable game, tailored to the television medium, can be perfected.

In the meantime, let us confine our search for sponsorship to organizations that are willing to sponsor our (association) game as it is and without looking for television coverage. The examples of several other sports show that this is possible.

Finally, whether you agree with me or with the Sponsorship Committee, please take steps to make Council members aware of your views, so that these important decisions, so vital for the future of our sport, will be taken in accordance with the wishes of the majority of associates.

Roger Wheeler

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir,

I entirely agree with Heather Handley's letter in the November Gazette, particularly about slow and defensive play, and the fact that without actually pegging out, there can be a winner on time.

In a time limited game in an American tournament, with no outright winner, would it not be better if both players were minus their remaining points, rather than to have a winner on time. This would discourage slow play and delaying tactics.

2 Witherholt Park,  
Charlton Kings,  
Cheltenham, GL53 9BP

Yours sincerely,  
K.M.O. Wheeler

Dear Sir,

#### FURTHER THOUGHTS ON PLUS OR MINUS

In her article in Issue No. 172 Heather Handley writes about the low standard of play of the ladies, and all wish that this were not the case. There is, I am afraid, little hope of a significant improvement in the foreseeable future for the reasons given, as even the grannies in the game get their marching orders from time to time, and games and tournaments must be abandoned; indeed there are few females who can make the time for intensive and *regular* practise which brings a player into the top class.

Maurice Reckitt used to be astounded in his later years at the low standard of play of the ladies, saying that he could remember when there were many more good players, yet even so, few names are recorded as playing in the President's Cup.

On the other hand I do not think that because the ladies do not play to a minus handicap this is any reason for putting the Ladies Invitation Events away. It is never easy to revive events once they have been omitted from the official list, especially as there are a number of minus players who are not sympathetic to the Ladies' sixes, although when a fight had to be put up a few years ago to keep the Ladies Field competition, some male members of Council were firmly for its retention, as of course were the ladies. But it was the attitude of the majority of top players that caused Mrs. Longman to go away and organise for the ladies a second event, for which she gave a prize. We are, I am sure, very pleased that Mrs. Wiggins has come over to show that at least one lady can play an excellent game, and her success is encouraging.

Whilst the C.A. is willing to find the sum involved, the Clubs, especially Southwick, offer their lawns, and the ladies, even of "disgracefully high handicap" as was said to me, are pleased to play. I hope that the ladies, who certainly do their full share in fund raising and the day to day smooth running of the Clubs will not be denied their competitive experience.

Wall Garth,  
Coombe End,  
Kingston-on-Thames,  
Surrey

Eleanor Bressey

Dear Sir,

The accuracy of handicapping has improved greatly in the past years mainly due to the work Robin Godby has done in his capacity as Chairman of the Handicap Co-Ordination Committee. However, there is still some room for improvement as the handicap structure is by no means perfect (and never will be).

Theoretically, a player should win 50% of his handicap games if his handicap and those of his opponents are correct. This is not the case; the lower you are on the handicap scale the more successful you will tend to be.

The main reason for not lowering the handicap of scratch and minus players is that although they may win far more than 50 per cent of their handicap games, they may not be so successful in level play.

I submit that handicap play should be judged on its own merit regardless of performance in advanced play. Eligibility for advanced events should be measured on success in advanced play only.

How can we improve the accuracy of handicapping? C.D. Locock devised a method (see Gazette Nos. 129 & 143) which showed how successful players had been during a season and he presumably used this to help him with handicapping. I would like to see such a system used to-day. Individuals could keep their own score (as in golf) and handicappers would use these records to determine handicap.

A considerable amount of thought would have to be applied to the problem before such a system was officially adopted by the Association but I would urge clubs to experiment during 1984. The more ideas and practical experience we have the better.

Court Farm House,  
Witcombe,  
Gloucester.

Yours faithfully,  
Andrew Hope

Dear Sir,

**In Answer to WHAT WOULD YOU DO**

I disagree with Keith Wylie's analysis of his problem in the Winter Gazette. It seems to be clearly preferable in any situation to play a shot that requires accuracy with one ball rather than two. The split shot from yellow requires yellow to be placed reasonably close to hoop 3, leaving blue close to black; a mistake can be made with either blue or yellow, leading to a greater probability of a difficult continuation. Keith seems to overlook a simpler alternative which requires accuracy with one ball only as each shot is played. The sequence would involve a series of simple shots.

1) An overtaking roll, leaving red at hoop 3 — only the red ball needs accurate placement.

2) A split from yellow to black, yellow being left anywhere in the middle of the lawn — only the blue needs an accurate placement.

3) A rush from hoop 2 to yellow, after making hoop 2 off black — reversing red and yellow, still leaving a shorter shot for the pioneer to hoop 4, as Keith recommends.

"Rickstones",  
Cedar Road,  
Woking.

Yours faithfully,  
Colin Southern

Dear Sir,

**HOOP GOLF?**

The name of Golf Croquet is authenticated by the Croquet Association's book of Rules for Association and Golf Croquet. Important reasons would be needed to justify a change.

I feel that Golf Croquet when played seriously is a good game and also that it plays an important role in a club socially. Calling it Hoop Golf would be most undesirable, would imply a poor relations status and would dissociate it even further from the Association Game. It would alienate many beginner croquet players who would otherwise enjoy their Golf Croquet while serving their apprenticeship to Association Croquet.

Golf Croquet hasn't much to do with Golf either if it comes to that and if it needs to fulfil an "essential minimum requirement", Mallets Balls and Hoops should suffice.

As for the really important subject of TV coverage and sponsorship the problem is that of development of Association Croquet in such a way as to preserve its essentials and also make it more suitable for TV presentation. An unhappy and unnecessary change in the name of Golf Croquet would contribute nothing to this end.

3 Sidmount Gardens,  
Sidmouth,  
Devon

Yours faithfully,  
Aline Davis,  
Chairman, Sidmouth Croquet Club

Dear Sir,

**REFEREE'S CORNER**

Please could Referees Corner clarify some points for me?

Firstly, on faults in striking. I played a very short rush, with about 6 inches separating the balls. There were two distinct clicks, the first as the mallet struck the ball, and then, as it made its roquet and was checked, a second one as the mallet re-struck it. My opponent forestalled play, on the grounds that it was a foul stroke. I was and am under the impression that this circumstance is provided for under Law 32 (a) (viii), which specifically excludes from penalty second contacts caused by making a roquet or by interference from a ball pegged out. Incidentally, in this latter case, does the provision apply only for a ball actually roqueted into the peg, or does it also cover the case where, on a croquet stroke, the front ball is pegged out, but stops the back ball, causing a second contact?

The second point concerns Regulations 8 (c), Time Limits, which is less than crystal clear. I assume that the expiration of the time limit is to be taken as the end of the turn following the one during which time was called. If the scores are then level, can the in player immediately take a bisque or half-bisque, if he still has one, or must he wait until the end of his next succeeding turn? Similarly, when can the out player take a bisque? (This arose in a match in the long bisquers competition in the Cheltenham Club Trophies '83, played on full bisques, which went to time level, leaving both players with bisques standing).

18 Littledown Road,  
Cheltenham,  
GL53 9LP

Yours sincerely,  
Mike Finn

Dear Sir,

**CROQUET IN THE NORTH**

The Autumn Meeting of the Federation of Northern Croquet Clubs held at Bowdon on 12th November brought together many enthusiasts for the game, some travelling from as far afield as Newcastle-on-Tyne and Hull. The Chairman, Chris Hudson, congratulated teams and individuals who had done so well during the season. The Federation League was won again by Chester who beat Bowdon by 8 points to 7. In the Inter-Club Championship Bowdon were runners-up to Roehampton who beat them 6-1. The Mary Rose Trophy was won by Bowdon who beat Cheltenham (1) by 5-2. The Inter-Federation match between the Northern and West Midlands Federations was won by the North 8-3, and the Inter-Counties Championship was won jointly by Northern Counties who tied with Berks & Oxon. In addition it is very satisfying to record many individual successes. The All England Handicap was won by Colin Irwin (O) of Bowdon C.C., Eddie Bell of Bowdon C.C. was runner-up in the Chairman's Salver, Mrs Pat Hague of Ellesmere C.C. won the Ladies Field Cup and Mary Collin of Chester was awarded the Steel Bowl. John Meads of Southport was awarded a Silver Medal in the Northern Championships and Keith Aiton of Chester C.C. was awarded a C.A. Silver Medal in the Open Championships.

Thus croquet in the North is going from strength to strength, a circumstance which justifies the recognition accorded by the C.A. to the organising abilities and enthusiasm of Messrs. Hudson and Keen by appointing them as Chairmen respectively of the Publicity & Development Committee and of the Tournaments Committee.

During the year considerable effort has been given to the development of new clubs in the North. John Meads reported on the formation of a new club at Tyneside and the consolidation and broadening of a club at Teesside. Next year these two clubs propose to enter a joint team in the Northern League. George Potter reported that a viable club had been formed at Buxton but that they were not yet sufficiently experienced to take part in competitive events. Other initiatives had been taken to form clubs at Ambleside, the Wirral, Preston and Rochdale. It is hoped that there may be some viable clubs formed in these areas next year. Support from the C.A. and the North West Sports Council in the form of grants has made it possible to take such initiatives and this is gladly acknowledged.

If the C.A. is to maintain funds to sustain such activities and others to promote the game of croquet, it must be more fully supported financially by existing clubs. The Federation has proposed that club affiliation fees should be on the basis of £1 per club member and this suggestion is under consideration by the C.A.

12 Collingham Green,  
Little Sutton,  
South Wirral,  
L66 4NX.

Yours faithfully,  
A.C. Mason  
Secretary  
Federation of Northern Croquet Clubs

**CROQUET CHARACTERS No. 1****VISCOUNT DONERAILE (President CA 1939-41)**

The 6th Viscount Doneraile, an Irish peer who seldom set foot in Ireland . . . kept a store of his favourite food and wines at the club . . . after a particularly lavish banquet, he fell into the lake at Hurlingham, as a result of which large barriers were erected on the bridge and still remain as an anonymous memorial to his lordship.

**MISS D.D. STEEL (the greatest woman player ever — Women's Champion 15 times, Open Champion 4, President's Cup 6)**

Not a particularly good hooper . . . she would put her pilot ball to the side of her hoop, thus minimising the risk of being hoop-bound. This she could well afford to do since her split shots were so accurate that she could dispense with a forward rush . . . she trod the lawn with a springy step on the balls of her feet as the queen of the game which she knew herself to be; resolute, even a little grim, but the mistress of her art.

**M.B. RECKITT (International 1937, 1956)**

He lived on his nerves and died a thousand deaths. Picture him faced with a short roquet on a boundary ball. His face twitches with nervous apprehension and *sotto voce* he mutters his anxiety; about to strike, he checks and convulsively crams his hat more firmly on his head; then, with a heave of the shoulders and a sudden lunge forwards, he stabs at his ball as if to catch it unawares. Should he miss, his plaintive cry of distress is heart-rending.

(With acknowledgements to *The History of Croquet*, by D.M.C. Prichard (Cassell) 1981).

**ATTENDANCE AT COUNCIL MEETINGS 1983/4**

C. B. Sanford, Chairman *C5, F1, T0, P1, Sp1, Ed0, L1	Total 9/18
L. Wharrad, Vice-Chairman *C5, F3, T0, P2, Ed1, L1	Total 12/17
A. J. Oldham, Treasurer *C5, F3, T2, P2, Ed1, L3	Total 16/17
G. N. Aspinall C4, T2, S2, L3	Total 11/13
J. H. Bowman C4, L4	Total 8/9
Dr. R. W. Bray C4, P1, L2	Total 7/11
Mrs. E. E. Bressey C5, F2, Ed1	8/9
W. C. Caporn C5, F2, Ed1	Total 10/10
R. S. Eades C5, F3, P2	Total 10/10
A. J. Girling C4, P2, Ed1	Total 7/8
R. A. Godby C5, P1, Sp1, Hcp1, S2	Total 10/11
Miss S. G. Hampson C4, T2, Hcp1	Total 7/8
A. B. Hope C4, F3, P2, Ed1	Total 10/11
C. Hudson C5, F3, P2, Ed1	Total 11/11
B. A. Keen C5, T2, Hcp1	Total 8/8
S. N. Mulliner C5, F3, P2, Sp1, L4	Total 15/15
Dr. M. Murray C5, F2, L4	Total 11/12
Prof. B. G. Neal C5, S2, L4	Total 11/11
D. K. Openshaw C4, T2, Hcp1, S2	Total 9/10
C. H. L. Prichard C2, F0, Ed0	Total 2/9
Miss P. Shine C4, T2, P2	Total 8/9
R. S. Stevens C4, T2	Total 6/7
E. Strickland C3, T2, P0	Total 5/9
Dr. R. F. Wheeler C2, F1, S2, L4	Total 9/9

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 Treasurer's Commentary on the 1983 Accounts**

Subscription income reflects not only the higher rates which came into operation on 1st January 1983 but the increase in the number of Associates. The increased income from sales of books arises largely from our having had available a reprint of John Solomon's Croquet, publication of which was financed out of our own resources, and from a greater number of enquiries from the general public as a result of publicity in newspapers and elsewhere.

Sponsorship income has declined — we only had one sponsor this year — but we have not allowed this to detract from our efforts to increase publicity and development. Expenditure on this latter item, for which we achieve very worthwhile results, was in fact increased in 1983, since in addition to the amount of £1,287 shown in the Income and Expenditure Account a further £500 was taken from our reserves. A similar amount is included in our budget plans for 1984.

Increases in the normal items of expenditure, lawn and ball hire etc, during 1983 without any compensating increase in entry fees accounts for a large part of the deficit on tournaments. We also took advantage of an opportunity to purchase at a favourable price a stock of new balls for use in senior tournaments and the total cost of this has been written off during the year. Entry fees have been increased and it is therefore expected that there will be no loss on tournaments in 1984.

The item for office rent requires some explanation: there has been no change in the rent but our Landlords have agreed to absorb the lighting and heating costs within the rental charge and this has resulted in the release in 1983 of an over-provision made for previous years.

Other general overheads particularly postage, telephone, printing and stationery have increased markedly over the year but in large part this is due to increased activity, particularly in responding to enquiries from the general public.

The Association's investments were revised during the year; the proceeds of various sales were reinvested in an overseas fund which produces a high level of gross income — a form of return which is advantageous for us. A net capital gain of £2,000 was realised but because of timing differences a small loss of immediate income was involved. 1982 investment income was to some extent exceptional reflecting the high rates of interest then obtainable on our building society deposits. In 1983 we needed to employ some of these assets to finance our stock of books.

Our stock of books and croquet equipment is held in the balance sheet within the item 'sundry debtors' at the amount of £2,800.

The increase in the Test Four Fund arises mainly from the income of the investments held for that fund.

Income from its investments has accrued to the Benefactors' Fund but £500 has been used, as mentioned above, to support publicity and development; a loan of £100 has been made to the Norwich club out of the fund.

A. J. Oldham

10th March 1984

Honorary Treasurer

**Chairman's Report for 1983**

It is good to be able to record that the progress noted last year has continued in 1983 when 17 new clubs were registered, i.e. CHEAM, EXETER, GATESHEAD, DARLINGTON, BATH, RAMSGATE, WINCHESTER, WORCESTER, HELLEDON, HARLOW, I.C.I. HARROGATE, RIPON, CRAWLEY, DULWICH, GLASGOW, AUCHINCRIIVE and WORTHING. Already in 1984 three more have been registered at BOURNEMOUTH, TRACEY PARK (BRISTOL) and BISHOP VESEYS SCHOOL (SUTTON COLDFIELD).

Our C.A. membership has increased by 8% and now stands at 834 + 30 Juniors and 86 overseas members. Clubs reported an 18-19% increase in new members and we can reasonably expect that old Clubs and new will be encouraging their new members to enter the Tournaments circuit as soon as possible and to join the C.A.

The establishment of willing and energetic members as honorary regional development officers at suitable centres is one of the principle reasons for the increase in Clubs and memberships. They are to be warmly congratulated on their successful work. Local Authorities and regional offices of the Sports Council have been approached and in many cases are being most helpful. The guiding hand for this Publicity and Development work has been Lionel Wharrad and his committee. As he is taking over the Chairmanship of the C.A. in April he has found an equally enthusiastic Chairman of the P & D Committee in Chris Hudson, whom we all know will continue the good work.

The embryonic Japanese Croquet Association invited the C.A. as well as the U.S.A. to Tokyo. Professor Bernard and Liz Neal accepted on our behalf and Teddy Prentice the American professional for the U.S.A. Ten days later the Neals returned with an application for Affiliation to the C.A. which we have naturally granted. Croquet is to be taught at the new University of Sport near Tokyo and the 30 strong croquet membership are already setting their sights on a vast expansion of their membership and our International trophies.

Another result of continual pressure has been generally good publicity in the National and Local Press, in Magazine articles, TV interviews and more Television coverage. This has led to over 300 enquiries arriving in one month at the C.A. office concerning Clubs, Laws, Literature and equipment.

Actual Sponsorships have proved more difficult to achieve, but the Inter Counties Championships were sponsored by Mateus Wines and advertisers have taken space in our fixtures book. Negotiations with sponsors continue. The revenue which we must regard as very variable is still most important to us and our development work.

The Sports Council is changing its Grant system away from supporting the administration to backing development work in the field. To maximise such aid our attentions are now fixed on producing a master plan for the Sports Council with hopefully, achievable targets to qualify for Grants both centrally and in the Regions.

Fishing for and landing Grants takes time and we are still short of a Development Officer. Our accounts, as always kept impeccably by Alan Oldham, show all too clearly what I mentioned last year. The Council has reluctantly, but we feel prudently, decided to raise the 1985 subscription mainly to meet the paperwork and general administration costs arising from the expansion already mentioned.

Statisticians tell me that inflation since 1970 has been 5 times. Our 1970 subscription was £4 so our increase for 1985 to £14 should not be too great a shock. However, as your outgoing Chairman I still believe that those of us who play in tournaments get our croquet very cheaply — possible too cheaply.

Richard Rothwell has now retired, but is most generously helping, mainly with tournaments in an honorary capacity. He is being proposed to the A.G.M. as a Vice-President by the Council. Brian Macmillan is proving an excellent and very hard working administration secretary and, of course, needs good secretarial assistance.

The Laws committee has worked furiously during the winter led by Professor Neal. The updated edition of the Laws agreed with Australia and New Zealand is at the printers. Our Patron, the Queen, has sent us an encouraging message to mark the advent of this 1984 edition.

The Hurlingham Club, the landlord of our C.A. Office, has been most generous in allowing us to use their Club House for our larger meetings, and has given us the use of their lawns not only, as in the past, for the President's Cup, but now for the Open Championships, thus enabling these two events to be played on the best lawns in the Country.

C. BEVIS SANFORD

## STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 1983

		1982
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>		
Office Furniture and Equipment at Written Down Value	890	1,140
Trophies, estimated to realise	10,000	10,000
Investments, as per attached schedule	19,024	23,628
	<u>29,914</u>	<u>34,768</u>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Sundry Debtors and Prepayments	4,230	1,305
Cash in Hand and at Bank	3,240	1,454
	<u>7,470</u>	<u>2,759</u>
	<u>37,384</u>	<u>37,527</u>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Subscriptions Received in Advance	459	624
Accrued Expenses	3,279	5,089
Taxation	913	269
	<u>4,651</u>	<u>5,982</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<u>£32,733</u>	<u>£31,545</u>
Representing:-		
Accumulated General Funds as at 1st January 1982	16,557	17,283
Add: Surplus on Sale of Investments, net of Tax	2,141	—
	<u>18,698</u>	<u>17,283</u>
Less: Excess of Expenditure over Income	1,157	726
	<u>17,541</u>	<u>16,557</u>
Life Membership Fund	1,850	1,885
Apps-Heley Memorial Fund	216	216
Test Tour Fund	1,709	1,416
Benefactors Fund	9,014	9,064
Tournaments and Trophies Fund	2,403	2,407
	<u>£32,733</u>	<u>£31,545</u>
C. B. Sanford, Chairman of the Council A. J. Oldham, Honorary Treasurer		

## INVESTMENTS HELD AT 31ST DECEMBER 1983

Nominal Value		Market Value
£	<b>QUOTED INVESTMENTS</b>	£
400.00	New Throgmorton Trust (1983) PLC	552
5,000.00	Income Shares of 25p each	5,050
	12% Treasury Stock 1984	
	Brown Shipley Sterling Bond Fund	7,462
6.97	Participating Redeemable Preference Shares of 1p each	7,318
		<u>12,818</u>
		<u>£12,920</u>
	<b>UNQUOTED INVESTMENTS</b>	
10.00	Roehampton Country Club	10
	Abbey National Building Society	1,999
	Britannia Building Society	4,197
		<u>£19,024</u>

## INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 1983

		1982
<b>INCOME</b>		
Subscriptions	7,428	4,588
Affiliation Fees and Overseas Members	820	460
Levy	2,010	1,994
Tribute	32	54
Sale of Books, Laws, etc.	1,703	831
Net Investment Income on General Funds	766	1,103
Sponsorship (net)	1,389	2,862
	<u>14,148</u>	<u>11,892</u>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Deficit on Tournaments	1,011	(10)
Magazine, less Income from Advertisements	5,201	4,666
	<u>6,212</u>	<u>4,656</u>
	<u>7,936</u>	<u>7,236</u>
<b>GENERAL OVERHEADS</b>		
Office Rent, Lighting, Heating and Cleaning	895	1,245
Staff Salaries	9,808	8,830
Committee Travelling Expenses	691	279
Postage and Telephone	1,460	810
Printing and Stationery	1,631	1,216
Insurance	298	266
Sundry Expenses	424	1,296
Audit and Accountancy Charges	350	325
Maintenance of Office, Furniture and Equipment	625	428
	<u>16,182</u>	<u>14,695</u>
Publicity and Development	1,287	1,314
	<u>17,469</u>	<u>16,009</u>
Sports Council Grant	8,376	8,047
	<u>9,093</u>	<u>7,962</u>
<b>EXCESS OF EXPENDITURE OVER INCOME</b>	<u>£1,157</u>	<u>£726</u>

C. B. Sanford, Chairman of the Council.  
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 1983 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 1983 and of the Deficit suffered for the year ended on that date.

Alhambra House,  
27, Charing Cross Road,  
London. WC2H OAU.

3rd February 1984

NICHOLASS, AMES & CO.,  
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS.

## CLUBS FAR AND NEAR

Dear Sir,

The Vale du Lobo golf club in the Algarve has recently opened a croquet lawn. They would I am sure welcome a visit especially from experienced croquet players with some experience of coaching. If any Associate is likely to be in the Algarve they might care to get in touch with Janet Walker who is golf Club Director in the Vale du Lobo and has been responsible for the introduction of croquet. Telephone (089) 94444.

I would be glad to have a note from anyone who does manage to call so that we can be kept up to date with the success of this venture. If it does work out well no doubt other croquet lawns will follow.

Hurlingham Club,  
Ranelagh Gardens,  
London, SW6 3PR.

Yours sincerely,  
Lionel Wharrad  
Vice Chairman

## FAMOUS "CROQUET" PLAYERS

Dear Sir,

I am collecting the names of well-known people who either play croquet now or played croquet in the past. I would be very grateful if your readers will write to me with the names of current celebrities who are known to play or even thought to play croquet . . . there is no need for any substantiating evidence. When it comes to people now dead or even fictional people it would be nice to know the source of the information . . . I already know about Alice!

There were a number of film set people who played in Hollywood in the thirties and perhaps even after the second World War; Sam Goldwyn, Harpo Marx, Alexander Woolcot and a group of actors of English origin who were then resident in Hollywood. We know that there was a lawn at Chartwell and that Lady Churchill and Lord Montgomery frequently played against each other. We also know that Somerset Maugham enjoyed the game and we assume that numerous other successful writers of that period also played either in private houses or in the hotels and clubs in the South of France.





Dear Sir,

### GOLF CROQUET

Dr. Wheeler is quite entitled to argue against the Council decision to allow Golf Croquet to be televised. However, his letter (CG 173) contains three statements that are rather misleading and should be challenged.

First, he implies that the Council was motivated solely by the lure of money. In fact, the publicity aspects of sponsorship in general and the televising of Golf Croquet in particular received much greater consideration, both in the Sponsorship Committee's report (published elsewhere in this issue) and in the Council debate on that report's recommendations.

Second, Dr. Wheeler states that the Council decision was "ill-considered". If this is just a euphemism for an opinion with which he disagrees, it is no more than a debating point. If it is a suggestion that the Council took a hasty decision, it is unfair. The Sponsorship Committee's report ran to 2,500 words and the Council debate was one of the longest and most interesting of recent years.

Lastly, Dr. Wheeler suggests that it is only a matter of time before a small-lawn game is available which will be suitable for television and will not sacrifice any of the essential features of Association Croquet. Sadly, this is most improbable. Successful television games (e.g. snooker, darts and bowls) are simple games that the uninitiated viewer can understand without effort. Any croquet coach will know how difficult almost all novices find Association Croquet at first. The break, so obvious to a good player, remains a closed book for an appreciable time. In fact, the main argument for accepting Golf Croquet as croquet's television game was the fact that, because of its very simplicity, it is the only version of croquet likely (some would say capable) of being a television success.

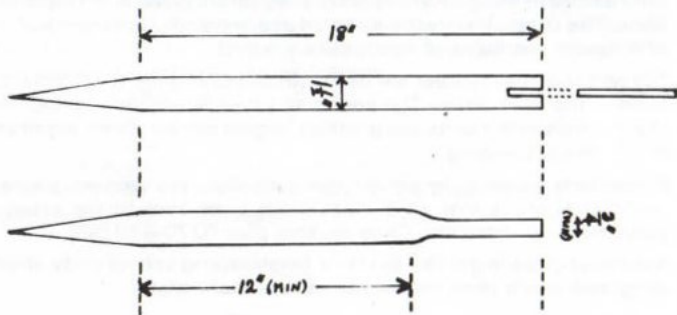
Dr. Wheeler also argues that Golf Croquet is not entitled to be called "croquet" because it lacks the croquet stroke and "the potentially break-making sequence of rush; croquet stroke; continuation stroke". Is this not a little pedantic? Is Rugby to be prohibited from calling itself "Rugby Football" because it encourages handling the ball, a penalty offence in the original game of Association Football? Surely the true hallmarks of croquet are that it is played on a lawn with hoops, mallets and balls? It cannot be a coincidence that the cover of Col. Prichard's excellent book is decorated with precisely these items. The family of Croquet includes Association Croquet, Golf Croquet, 2-ball Croquet, Robber Croquet, King-ball Croquet (an Australian variant) and now Small-Lawn Croquet. All these games are played by croquet players on croquet lawns with croquet equipment. In any case, it would be absurd to rename Golf Croquet as "Hoop Golf", a name which by ordinary English usage (adjective first, noun second), suggests, ridiculously, that this is a game played on a golf course (with a hoop to be putted through rather than a hole to putt into, no doubt).

148 Boundary Road,  
London SW19 2AX

Yours sincerely,  
S. N. Mulliner

## THE PEG

The peg is, surely, the least satisfactory item of our court equipment. The present design requires a detachable extension to hold the clips. This piece is usually so loose that it repeatedly falls out and gets lost. It has sometimes degenerated into a bit of broken bisque stick that is much too thin to hold the clips properly (and often too short as well). Most clubs can boast a collection of pegs whose extensions, having broken off inside, are no longer detachable. These lie around the clubhouse, waiting for some public-spirited member to take them home, drill out the offending stumps and make new extensions.



I feel that a rigid, one-piece peg (as shown) would be a much more satisfactory article. The top 5 inches or so is turned down to a diameter of 3/4 inch to hold the clips. The overall height of the peg above the ground remains at its present 18 inches, so that jump shots over the peg are not materially affected.

By making the measurements of 12 inches and 3/4 inch in the specification *minimum* dimensions, existing pegs do not become obsolete. But, if solid pegs of this pattern were made legal alternatives, they would, I suspect, rapidly replace pegs of the present unsatisfactory design as soon as these became due for replacement.

Roger Wheeler

Dear Sir,

### AIR SHOT AT CROQUET STROKE

After not having encountered the situation or even considered its possibility in 17 years of croquet I came across two instances in one weekend of an air shot at a croquet stroke. The first was by an elderly gent, who seeing me standing by, asked "Does that count as a stroke" and when I replied "Yes" he abandoned the court. The other was by a knowledgeable lady who did her air shot and walked off.

Chatting to other members it seems that the prevailing view of most players is that your turn ends — but should this be so? Why cannot the player use his continuation shot?

One naturally examines the laws to see what they say but this is not so easy as there are several laws with conflicting words and interpretations. So let us consider (a) the strict letter of the law (b) the spirit of the law and its intention and (c) what, in purity, should the law provide.

Law 32 is a catalogue of faults and admittedly 32 (a) (v) says "plays a stroke without first striking his ball audibly or distinctly" and 32 (a) (xiii) says "when making a croquet stroke fails to move or shake the croqueted ball".

In isolation these two would suggest that an air shot croquet stroke is a fault causing end of turn. In trying to judge intentions it seems to me that 32 (a) (v) was devised in the context of the push and pull type of shot which is unfair; I cannot believe that this clause or 32 (a) (xiii) were drawn up especially with the possibility of an air shot in mind!

Turning now to law 31 which broadly is not a penal law we find that, under 31 (b), in an air shot "a stroke shall be deemed to have been made if he misses the ball . . . and . . . deemed to have played it where it lies". I have italicised stroke because the croquet stroke is the only situation where the player has two strokes; if the continuation shot was to be forfeited, why was this not put into the penal law 32 defining an air shot positively as immediate end of turn? As it is it seems to protect the player's right under law 20 whereby ". . . the striker shall be entitled to play a continuation stroke".

I also italicised deemed (which covers a multitude of thoughts e.g. was it, as a corollary, deemed that the croqueted ball quivered); the dictionary definition of "deem" leans towards propriety (correct action) i.e. he is deemed to have played it fairly (not illegally).

Sometimes it is helpful to make comparison with other games e.g. a tennis player serving. If he hits the first ball out (an error of play) of course he has his 2nd service to come . . . but even if he footfaults (an offence against the game?) he is still entitled to his 2nd service.

Whilst I accept the force of the 2 clauses of law 32 I feel that all the other considerations make it fair and proper that the player should not surrender his continuation stroke.

4 Boucher Road,  
Budleigh Salterton,  
Devon, EX9 6HG.

Yours faithfully,  
Kenneth Schofield

Dear Sir,

Judging from my experience playing on "the other island" last year and from the many OT results, there were many "lawns that had become too fast to be ideal". Unnecessarily so — in my opinion. All that is required is to raise the cutting height before the grass stops growing. Even brown grass improves the trueness of a lawn. Should conditions change one can always cut lower again.

Unlike Steve Mulliner (Gazette 173) I don't enjoy the added difficulties of irregularities near boundaries and hoops. I am all for firm hoops in fresh settings but fast lawns need to be level. The idea that you need bad bounces to have the innings change more often and thus "provide sufficient difficulty for good games" make me wonder whether or not there is a case for changing the rules.

If today's Croquet were an interesting and exciting game to watch we would have many spectators. Not only are the interesting bits for ordinary mortals quite impossible to understand but there are also only too few occasions when there are more than a handful of player spectators — usually when the innings are changing often. Was the reason for the many spectators in 1896 the different rules? One has only to think of Snooker which derived from Croquet to realise the potential of our game.

Whatever the rules in the future. At present I think we would do well to stick to the ones we have — including this one: Hoops will be 3 3/4" wide (unless otherwise stated).

Corbalton Hall,  
Tara, Co. Meath,  
Rep. Ireland

Yours sincerely,  
Carlmax Von Schmieder

## EDGBASTON WEEKEND TOURNAMENTS 1984

### Correction

On p.34 of the current fixtures book it is implied that Walker balls will be used in the Handicap Singles Weekend in July. This is not so. The use of Walker balls will be limited to the Open Weekend 22nd-24th June. Jaques balls will be used for the July tournament.

A.J.G.

## AMENDMENT TO FIXTURES LIST 1984

77th South of England Croquet Championships will now be held at Compton Eastbourne, not at Devonshire Park as advertised in the Fixtures Book 1984.

Dates and conditions remain the same for the new venue.

## OBITUARY

### COLONEL W. R. HEALING

Bill Healing died on February 1st a few days short of his 83rd birthday. He had been the secretary and treasurer of the Budleigh Salterton Club for 22 years and a member since 1954.

He was no mean croquet player and had a handicap of — 1/2 for many years. He didn't travel to play in tournaments but confined his competitive play to the Budleigh Club where he had many notable wins. He firmly believed that no game of croquet should last more than 2 hours and if neither he nor his opponent could win in that time he tended to lose interest.

He was an excellent tactician and very difficult to beat.

He will long be remembered at Budleigh for his devotion to the well-being of the Club.

R.S.S.

### K. S. SCHOFIELD

Ken Schofield died suddenly at Budleigh Salterton on February 15th.

He was a great sportsman and in his younger days was a very good association football player. He played in the Southern Amateur league and in the Isthmian league. One of his proudest moments was to play on the sacred turf of Wembley. He later became a senior soccer referee.

He was a first class chess player formerly at Harrow and later at Budleigh where he was President of the Devon Chess Association for 2 years.

He was a founder member of the Harrow Oak Croquet Club before retiring to Budleigh Salterton 13 years ago. He played for Devon in the Inter Counties competition a few years ago. He was a manager, handicapper and referee. He had been a member of the Council and a Chairman of the Tournament Committee.

He had many other interests and will be sadly missed.

R.S.S.

## H. HAWKINS

Harry Hawkins died peacefully in his sleep on 7th January 1984, after a short period of illness. His sudden and untimely death came as a great shock to all who knew him and he will be sadly missed by the West Hampton Croquet Club, the Edgbaston Club and throughout the West Midlands Federation.

Harry joined the Wolverhampton Club as a croquet beginner in 1976, and made rapid progress to become one of the Club's best players within two Seasons, at a handicap of 5 1/2. His careful and precise play earned him continuing handicap reductions, down to 2 1/2 for the 1983 Season, and an impending 1 1/2 for 1984.

Harry played regularly for the Club in both League and other fixtures, as well as for the West Midlands Federation in their matches with the Northern Federation and the Scottish C A, contributing notably to successes over the years. He gained many personal successes in the Club's internal competitions and in the Federation's Week-end Tournaments, particularly the Open Singles, and at the Edgbaston Week-end Tournaments. In recent years, Harry was also a member of the Edgbaston Club, and played with distinction for them in the Inter-Club Competitions.

It is fitting to recall some of his 1983 successes, winning the Advanced Play Championships of both Wolverhampton and Edgbaston, his block at the Edgbaston Handicap Week-end, and especially winning all his games for Wolverhampton in their two rounds of the new Mary Rose Trophy Competition. In the All England Area Finals he was runner-up to Terry Greenwood, his fellow-Club member from Wolverhampton.

Harry was held in high regard and affection by all who knew him, not only for his consistent and attractive play, but also for his quiet and unassuming manner and his unswerving loyalty. From 1978 he was a valued member of the Wolverhampton Club Committee where his counsels were always well received, and his quiet kindnesses to the Club much appreciated.

Our deepest sympathies are extended to his wife, Ann. We share her sorrow.

65 Codsall Road,  
Wolverhampton, WV6 9QG.

Nancy Lenfestey

## MISS MARY HAWKINS

The death of Miss May Hawkins removes from the Southport Croquet Club a cheerful, friendly member who, in company with her sister Ena has, for many years been one of the pillars of the club.

Though not in the top flight of players, May was a still improving and resolute player, often in demand for inter-club matches.

One will always remember her re-appearance at the club one sunny afternoon after her first operation and a long spell in hospital — a spontaneous welcoming cheer went up as members gathered round to greet her. Alas! she looked but a shadow of her former robust, jolly self and, after further operations and another long trying stay in hospital, patiently borne, she died on Christmas Eve.

We shall miss her!

B.R.S.

## EDWARD L. WARD PETLEY

This famous player died in January only a couple of weeks after the South African Croquet Gazette published an interview with him which is reproduced here.

The South African Encyclopaedia, in the entry on Croquet, states 'the most distinguished croquet player in South Africa is Edward L. Ward Petley'. It is some years since the Encyclopaedia was published but the statement remains true, despite the arrival of new stars in the South African croquet firmament. With the passing years, however, there are now comparatively few players who have had the privilege of knowing and playing with 'Mr Ward Petley' as he was widely known, or 'Eddie' to his closer friends. The Gazette accordingly felt it appropriate to recall some of his triumphs, and the Editor visited him in Bellville, Cape, his retirement home for nearly twenty years.

**An Early Start**

Now in his eighties, Mr Ward Petley retains his keen wit combined with great warmth and personal friendliness. He recalls first playing croquet on his father's lawn, being fired with enthusiasm and buying Lord Tollemache's famous book on 'Croquet'. That was in 1917. (Judging by the inscription in the book, Ward Petley was then probably about the same age as Reginald Bamford and Charles Barlow — a good augury for their future prospects!)

1935 was an early peak in Ward Petley's croquet career. In that year, according to the *History of Croquet*, he won the British Doubles Championship (with H.R. Poulter), played in the President's Cup for the first time and was a member of the British Test team which toured Australia. He again played in the President's Cup in 1936 (winning eight games) and in 1939, partnered by the great Miss D.D. Steel, won the Mixed Doubles Championship. Of playing with Miss Steel, he said "... she told me exactly what to do, and I did it..." In August of that year he had the distinction of partnering Miss Steel as a member of the England team which took on Ireland at Carrickmines, playing against two of the all-time croquet greats — Cyril Corbally and Duff Matthews. The *History* does not record the result!

**Post-War Triumphs**

After the Second World War Ward Petley took part in the 1946 President's Cup, winning ten games to tie with Dudley Hamilton-Miller, to whom he lost the play-off. The next year won the Men's Championship and, with Miss Steel, the Mixed Doubles for the second time. In 1950 he went to New Zealand as a member of the British team but owing to an unfortunate car accident was unable to play in the last Test.

About this time the Ward Petleys decided to come to South Africa. He recalls the last match of his British career, in the Brighton Spring Cup. "The position was three clips on the stick. The one not on the stick was mine. It was on hoop number 1! My opponent thought he would finish with a good hard shot at the peg. He pegged out one and missed with the other, which came down to my two balls on the A baulk. All I had to do was to make an all-round three-ball break." (How many of us would do so?)

**In South Africa**

In South Africa Eddie and his charming wife Leonie (a talented actress) endeared themselves to the croquet fraternity on and off the courts. In 1953 he won the South African Open Singles and Doubles Championship (with Reginald Belcher) and was also Rondebosch Club Champion (despite being unaccustomed to the then gravel courts). He was again South African Open Singles Champion in 1957, despite indifferent health. During this period he worked hard to help keep the Rondebosch Club (by then the only one in the Cape) going, and his last appearance on the croquet lawn was in January 1963 when he managed the first South African Championship to be played at Rondebosch and went out in the first round to the fine Maritzburg player, Frank Hough.

**Indomitable Spirit**

Ward Petley's play (in later years certainly) was characterised by an economy of movement and a delicate touch. He liked to have three or four balls at a hoop and was masterly in his stop shots on the gravel. In his retirement he continues to show great interest in South African croquet news. His one regret is that he was not able to play Tom Barlow, but with typical modesty says "I would have lost". To all croquet players overseas as well as in South Africa he sends his kind regards. The Editor can only describe his spirit as indomitable, and his Puckish sense of humour ever-present.

**'POM'S EYE VIEW'****NORTH ISLAND CHAMPIONSHIPS,  
NEW ZEALAND, 1984**

New Zealand hold their North Island and South Island Championships at the same time, at the beginning of January. This year the South Island was held at Nelson, with the North Island just over the Cook Strait in 'windy' Wellington.

Of several croquet clubs in the Wellington area probably the best is at Kelburn Park, which is up one of Wellington's many hills fairly near the centre of the city. Here there are five excellent lawns in a very pleasant setting. However it was necessary to spill over to two other clubs, one a few miles away and the other several miles out. Double banking is not used.

There were 49 entrants in seven events, these being Open, Women's, Men's, Open Doubles, Junior Singles (3 and over), Handicap Doubles and Handicap Singles.

All of the five level events were draw and process.

With this many events being played at three venues, managing the championships was fairly complicated and onerous. Management was in the hands of Barbara Domb assisted by Graeme Roberts, the latter having returned to Wellington after six years in England where he was a member of Roehampton.

Play commenced at 8.30 every morning and the writer was called upon, as were many, to start at that time for the first six days, which he did more or less following a new year's resolution concerning punctuality.

With the Australian balls, which were being used for the first time, the backward ball does not travel so far in a croquet shot. This makes rolls more difficult but stop shots much easier, so that a player can put out a good pioneer and his backward ball only travel a few feet. Also, pull on the forward ball when carrying out a spilt is very much less.

In a third round match of the Mens Championship Bob Jackson and Paul Skinley were playing in rain and wind on a true and fairly slow lawn. Paul Skinley went round but did not manage to peel his first ball, blue, through rover, leaving it in front and pegging out black. Bob Jackson's red was half way down the east boundary, being for four-back. He took yellow, which was for hoop one, to B-baulk, hit red and from there completed a three-ball triple to win the game.

The following day the sun was shining, the lawns had been cut and conditions were excellent. Paul Skinley did five peels of a sextuple but did not make the very long peel at rover. Using the Solomon grip in a very precise manner his play is usually extremely accurate, triple peels being common in his results. He and Bob Jackson were obviously the two outstanding players present in a field of reasonable strength for such a tournament, with Robert Bartholomaeus and Chris Shilling also playing very good croquet.

In the fourth round of the Mens the writer was up against Bob Jackson on a true, fairly heavy lawn. Guest elected to go in second, Jackson hit on third turn and laid up near the second corner. Feeling that desperate measures were called for against a player of such calibre Guest hit one of them and after a bit of messing about got his first ball to four-back. His second ball made two hoops, but then Jackson hit in and embarked on a T.P.O. However, the rover peel stuck, he had to jump over it and use another ball to put it through afterwards. But in that shot his own ball touched the peelee behind rover, this being wired from the peg. An attempt was made to peg it out off the fourth ball which was off at an angle on the way to the peg. This failed by a fraction, contact was given and Guest nervously finished for a fortunate win.

The final of the Open was between Paul Skinley and Robert Bartholomaeus. Bartholomaeus opened with an unsuccessful shot at hoop one, Skinley hit and came back for hoop one but failed, whereupon Bartholomaeus hit and went round on a three-ball break to four-back. Skinley missed and Bartholomaeus went to peg and penultimate. Skinley then hit down the east boundary, rolled over from the fourth corner to take hoop one but failed to get position for hoop two. However, he was soon to four-back, Bartholomaeus missed and Skinley started with his backward ball. He did two peels but failed an angled jump shot at two-back, whereupon Bartholomaeus had a fairly easy lift shot to win the title.

In the Mens Paul Skinley beat Bob Jackson.

In the Womens Creena Dawson, of Australia, won both sides.

In the Open Doubles Paul Skinley and Chris Shilling beat Robert Bartholomaeus and Les Kaiser.

In the Junior Singles C. Peterson beat D. Peterson.

The Handicap Singles was won by Chris Shilling.

The Handicap Doubles was won by Les Kaiser and Jerry Guest.

Many thanks from all the players to Barbara Domb and Graeme Roberts, to the ladies who kept everyone so well refreshed and fed, and to all who worked to provide good lawns. The Championships finished on the second Wednesday or Thursday which is quite usual.

**Footnote**

The writer attended the New Zealand Championships in Auckland later in January, intending to make some notes. These were held at six venues with headquarters at the Papatoetoe Club with six lawns

I.F.G.

which are fairly true but with a rough surface. Unfortunately the writer got involved for most of the first week in second class doubles at Remuera, a club with three fine lawns.

Since a lot of the singles matches were played at Papatoetoe he does not really know what went on spending only one disastrous day there being knocked out of three singles events. It seemed likely that these championships would take two weeks.

**PRIZE LIST 1983**

This list includes calendar fixtures 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) Challenge & Gilbey RHDY  
Abderhalden, Mrs C. (8) Challenge & Gilbey RHDY  
Adam, A.H.M. (4, 3½) Cheltenham WE2 HS BW  
Aiton, K.M.H. (0, -½) Open Championship OS2; Colchester OS;  
Nottingham RHD; Hunstanton HSY; Chairman's Salver 1  
Aldridge, W.O. (1½, 1) Bowdon WE HS BW  
Allim, R.M. (1½, 1) Wrest Park WE3 HS BW  
Anderson, T.W. (3) Cheltenham WE1 HS BW  
Anderson, Mrs T.W. (6½) Ladies' Second Event 2  
Andrew, R.G. (6, 4) Brighton 2 RHSC1; Budleigh Salterton WE HS BW  
Armstrong, A. (15, 13) Veterans RHSCX, HD  
Arthur, D.G. (7, 5) Nottingham WE3 HS BW  
Asa-Thomas, Mrs E. (3) Parkstone 2 RHD; Ladies' Field 5  
Aspinall, G.N. (-2) Men's Championship MOS1; Open Championship OS1; President's Cup 3  
Assheton, Miss J.E. (4½, 4) Compton RLSB1; Ladies' Second Event =5  
Bailey, R.F. (4) Parkstone RLSB1, HSX  
Barnes, L.B. (6, 5½) Brighton 1 RHSC2  
Barnett, H.F. (7½, 7) Hunstanton WE1 LS =BW  
Bawden, Mrs W.R. (13, 11) Cheltenham 4 HS BW  
Bazley, Lady (4) Women's Championship Ladies' Plate 2; Cheltenham 4 HS BW; Ladies' Field =3  
Beatty, D. (13) Carrickmines 1 RHSB2, HD  
Bell, E. (0, -½) Chairman's Salver =2  
Berry, A. (5½, 1½) Cheltenham WE1 HS BW; Budleigh Salterton WE HS BW  
Betts, G.H. (4½) Veterans RLSB1, HSY  
Bond, I.D. (-½) Colchester WE1 OS2; Chairman's Salver =6  
Bottomley, H.J. (2) Wrest Park WE3 HS BW  
Brown, A. (14) Carrickmines 1 RHSB1  
Browne, Mrs W.J. (7, 6½) Roehampton 1 RLSC, RHD; Roehampton 2 RLSB2, HSY  
Bucknell, A.J. (7) Nottingham WE2 LS BW  
Burnell, R.E. (8, 5) Cheltenham WE1 HS BW; Cheltenham 2 RHSC, RHD  
Cairns, Dr D.S. (2½) Hurlingham RLSB2  
Campbell, Prof K. (7½, 7) Hunstanton RHSC  
Campion, P.W.P. (5) Brighton WE3 HS BW  
Caporn, D.C. (3½, 3) Woking B OD, HD; Peels HS1  
Carder, R.H.C. (4, 3½) Parkstone 2 RLSB1  
Carlisle, H.B.H. (4) Hunstanton RHD  
Carlisle, J.W.H. (6, 3½) Challenge & Gilbey RLSC, HSY; Hunstanton RLSB1, RHD  
Chamberlain, Mrs C. (10) Nottingham RHD  
Cheyne, Mrs L.A. (10) Hurlingham RHSD2  
Clayton, Dr R.J. (10, 8) Hurlingham RHSD1  
Coleman, A.F. (1) Eastbourne 1 MOS1, OD  
Collin, A.J. (2) Cheltenham WE1 HS BW  
Collin, Mrs A.J. (6, 4½) Cheltenham WE1 HS BW; Ladies' Second Event 3  
Collin, G.K. (4½, 3½) Hunstanton WE1 OS BW  
Colls, T.G.S. (7) Brighton 1 RHSC1  
Coombs, Mrs L.A. (5) Brighton 2 WHS2  
Cordingley, P. (-½) Golf Croquet D; Brighton WE2 OS2; Open Championship OD; Wrest Park WE2 OS BW; Bowdon OS Plate; President's Cup 7  
Coutts, J. (2) Wrest Park WE2 OS BW  
Coward, M.J. (-½) Eastbourne 2 OS2; Wrest Park WE1 HS BW; Colchester WE1 OS1

Cox, Mrs N.W.T. (3½, 4½) Peels WHS2, HS2, HD  
Crane, R.F.A. (4½, 4) Veterans HSX  
Croker, D.J. (-½) Roehampton WE1 HS=1; Open Championship Plate 1; Chairman's Salver =2  
Crozier, H.J. (11, 10) Budleigh Salterton WE HS BW  
Daintree, D. (11, 10) Compton RHSC1  
Danks, P.K.L. (10, 6½) Budleigh Salterton 1 HS BW; Budleigh Salterton RHSCX, RHD  
Darby, A.G. (14, 6½) Peels MHS1, HD  
Davis, E.J. (2, 1) Nottingham WE1 HS BW; Nottingham WE2 OS BW; Nottingham HSX  
Death, P.J. (½) Spencer-Ell =7  
Denison, W.B. (2) Eastbourne 2 HS2  
Duthie, Miss B. (8) Veterans RHSCY  
Eades, R.S. (2) Cheltenham 3 RLS=1  
Foulser, D.R. (-1) Cheltenham WE2 HS BW; Edgbaston WE1 OS BW; Cheltenham 2 OS, RHD; Cheltenham WE4 HS BW; Chairman's Salver =4  
French, M. (11, 5) Colchester WE3 HS; Brighton 2 RHSC2; Hunstanton RLSB2  
Gamble, C.A. (2) Carrickmines 1 OS2; Carrickmines 2 HS1, RHD  
Gaunt, D.L. (4, 3) Brighton WE3 HS1; Hunstanton HSX; Cheltenham WE5 HS BW  
Godby, R.A. (0, 1) Roehampton 2 RHD  
Godfree, D.L. (9) Hurlingham MHD  
Godsi, S.M. (8) Roehampton 1 RHD  
Gordon, A.G. (6, 4½) Nottingham WE1 HS BW  
Gosden, J.D. (2½) Roehampton 2 OS2  
Gosden, R.A. (6, 5) Challenge & Gilbey RLSB  
Gosden, Mrs R.A. (7½) Hunstanton WE1 LS =BW; Woking D HS BW  
Goulding, D. (2½) Woking A OD; B OS1; Woking B OS1; Woking D HS BW  
Granger-Brown, M. (2½) Budleigh Salterton WE HS BW  
Greenbury, Dr C.L. (5½) Veterans RLSB2  
Greswell, Air-Cdre J.H. (4) Parkstone 1 RLSB2  
Griffith, T. (0) Compton WE2 OS2  
Guest, J.E. (4½, 1) Eastbourne 2 RLSB1; Roehampton WE1 HS=1; Wrest Park WE1 HS BW; Men's Championship Du Pre Cup 1; Brighton 1 OS1; Parkstone 2 OS; Roehampton 2 OS1; Spencer-Ell =4  
Gunasekera, D. (1, -½) Budleigh Salterton 2 HSX; Colchester HD; Compton WE2 OS; Roehampton WE2 OS; Hunstanton OS2; Chairman's Salver =4  
Haggerston, M.J. (13, 14) Roehampton 2 RHSC1  
Hague, Mrs W. (4½, 4) Women's Championship Ladies' Plate 1; Ladies' Field 1  
Haigh, J. (½) Woking B OS2; Hurlingham HSY  
Hallam, B.G. (9, 4½) Nottingham WE1 HS BW; Edgbaston WE2 HS BW; Nottingham RLSB  
Hallam, Miss G.F. (12, 9) Nottingham RHSC  
Hamilton-Miller, D.J.V. (1) Veterans OS2, HD  
Hampson, Miss P. (9, 8) Challenge & Gilbey RLSD  
Hampson, Miss S.G. (4½, 4) Women's Championship WOS2; Hurlingham WHD  
Hands, P.W. (-1½, -1) Cheltenham 4 OS BW  
Hardman, Miss M. (14, 13) Budleigh Salterton 1 HS BW  
Hare, S.J. (3½, 2) Edgbaston WE1 OS BW; Nottingham WE3 HS BW  
Harral, B.B. (5) Wrest Park WE1 HS BW  
Harris, Mrs G.D. (10, 6½) Brighton WE3 HS BW  
Harrison, T.D. (12, 5½) Eastbourne 2 RHSD, RHD; Wrest Park WE1 HS BW; Hunstanton WE2 HS; Colchester RLSB2, HD  
Haste, Dr T.J. (½, 0) Spencer-Ell 6  
Hawkins, L.H. (2½) Edgbaston WE2 HS BW  
Hay, Miss C. (16, 15) Edinburgh RHSCY, RHD  
Healy, G.P.N. (1) Spencer-Ell =2  
Hetherington, Mrs J.A. (7) Colchester RHSC  
Hilditch, J.R. (½, 0) Eastbourne 2 RHD; Wrest Park WE2 OS BW; Compton WE2 OS1; Chairman's Salver =6  
Hobbs, R.M. (1) Cheltenham WE1 HS BW  
Hope, A.B. (-1½) Cheltenham 1 OS2; Cheltenham 4 RHD; President's Cup =4  
Hyne, N.G. (3, 2) Eastbourne 2 RLSB2; Budleigh Salterton 2 HSY; Nottingham Robin Hood HS2; Edinburgh OS1  
Irwin, C.J. (½, 0) Southport WE1 OS1; Bowdon WE HS BW; Bowdon OD, OS, HS; Wrest Park WE3 HS BW; All England HS1; Spencer-Ell =2  
Irwin, Mrs C.J. (11, 9) Bowdon RLSC2, HS2  
Jackson, G.E.P. (0) Cheltenham WE4 HS BW; Cheltenham WE5 HS BW

Jones, Dr R.C. (4½) Nottingham WE2 OS BW  
 Keen, B.A. (1) Bowdon OD  
 King, Dr J.W. (12, 4) Cheltenham 2 HSX  
 Lamb, C. (6, 5½) Woking A RLSB1  
 Laney, Dr D.L. (10, 6) Budleigh Salterton 1 HS BW  
 Latham, L.V. (½) Cheltenham WE2 HS BW; Cheltenham 2 HSY  
 Latham, Mrs L.V. (13, 11) Cheltenham 4 HS BW  
 Leonard, R.J. (5½, 5) Carrickmines 2 HS2  
 McCormack, A. (6, 5½) Woking D HS BW  
 McCullough, J.R. (-½) Cheltenham WE1 HS BW; Roehampton WE1 OS2; Brighton WE2 OS1; Open Championship OD; Nottingham OS; Bowdon OS2; President's Cup =4  
 Macdonald, I.P.M. (4, 3½) Hurlingham WE1 HS=1; Budleigh Salterton 1 HS BW  
 Macdonald, Mrs I.P.M. (6½) Roehampton 1 RLSB; Ladies' Second Event =5  
 McInerney, N. (7, 6) Carrickmines 1 HS2; Carrickmines 2 RLSB2  
 MacLeod, Miss J. (9, 7) Hurlingham WHD; Roehampton 2 RLSB1, HSX, RHD  
 Mann, F. (11) Edinburgh HS2  
 Mann, J.R. (15, 8) All England HS2  
 Mapletoft, Mrs E.A. (12, 7) Brighton 1 RHD; Brighton 2 RHSD2  
 Marshall, Mrs C.W. (10) Budleigh Salterton RHSCY  
 Mason, A.C. (10) Bowdon RLSC1  
 Maude, J.S. (2½) Cheltenham WE4 HS BW  
 Maugham, F.I. (8, 4½) Bowdon WE HS BW; Bowdon RLSB2; Cheltenham 3 RLS=1; Cheltenham WE5 HS BW  
 Meads, J.D. (1) Nottingham HSZ; Nottingham WE3 HS BW; Southport WE3 OS2  
 Mitchell, Mrs D. (11, 10) Parkstone 2 RHSC2  
 Moorcraft, D.H. (1) Budleigh Salterton 2 OS2  
 Moorcraft, Mrs D.H. (12, 10) Cheltenham 2 RHSD  
 Moore, W.E. (1) Brighton WE3 HS2  
 Morshead, R.M. (13, 11) Ryde RHSC  
 Mortimer, H.R. (10, 9) Parkstone 1 RHSC1  
 Mrozinski, A.J. (6, 3½) Woking B RLSB2, OD, HD; Hurlingham HD; Brighton 2 RLSB, MHS2  
 Mulliner, S.N. (-2) Cheltenham 1 OS1; Men's Championship MOS2; President's Cup 1  
 Murray, Dr M. (-2) Golf Croquet S, D; Doubles Championship MXOD; Open Championship Plate 2  
 Neal, Prof. B.G. (-1, -½) Hurlingham MHD  
 Newman, C. (7, 4) Budleigh Salterton 1 HS BW; Hurlingham RLSC1  
 Newman, F.H. (3) Woking A OD; Hurlingham RLSB1  
 Newman, Mrs F.H. (4½, 4) Budleigh Salterton WE HS BW; Ladies' Field 2  
 Nisbet, A. (16, 14) Edinburgh RHSCX  
 Noble, G.W. (-½) Nottingham WE2 OS BW  
 Norton, F.V.X. Edinburgh OS2  
 O'Driscoll, J. (16, 15) Carrickmines 2 RHD  
 Openshaw, D.K. (-2) President's Cup 2  
 Ormerod, M. (o) Spencer-Ell =7  
 Ormerod, Dr W.P. (0) Parkstone 1 OS1  
 Owen, T.F. (½) Brighton WE1 HS; Brighton 1 OS2; Brighton 2 OS2  
 Paddon, M.T. (3½, 3) Cheltenham WE2 HS BW; Cheltenham WE5 HS BW  
 Palmer, A.J. (2) Roehampton 1 OS  
 Parker, Dr C.A. (2½, 1½) Compton HS2, RHD; Parkstone 2 HSY  
 Parker, Mrs C.A. (10) Compton RHSC2  
 Parker, Miss P.E. (5, 4½) Compton RHD; Ladies' Second Event 4  
 Peterson, D. (3, 1) Edgbaston WE2 HS BW; Cheltenham 2 RLSB  
 Phelps, M.F. (0) Eastbourne 1 OD; Brighton 2 OS1, MHS1  
 Pountney, C.G. (6, 4½) Ryde RLSB1  
 Race, R. (8, 5) Cheltenham WE3 HS BW; Cheltenham WE4 HS BW  
 Read, Mrs H.M. (7, 8) Carrickmines 1 HD  
 Read, T.O. (-½) Carrickmines 1 OS1  
 Rees, E.E. (2½, 2) Eastbourne 1 HS1  
 Reynolds, G. (10, 8) Carrickmines 2 RLSB1, HS  
 Rogerson, F.J. (5, 3) Wrest Park WE2 OS BW; Carrickmines 2 OS2  
 Rolfe, Mrs A.N. (2½) Ladies' Field =3  
 Rose, J. (-½, -1) Woking A OS1; President's Cup 8  
 Ross, Mrs E.G. (10, 9) Brighton 1 RHSD1  
 Ross, J.E. (3½, 2½) Cheltenham WE2 HS BW  
 Roy, G.C. (2, 1½) Ryde WE HS  
 Ryan, Miss A.M. (10, 9) Parkstone 1 RHSC2  
 Sanford, C.B. (4½, 5½) Compton WE1 HS BW  
 Saunders, Mrs B.R. (9) Parkstone 1 RHD  
 Schmieder, C.M. von (1½) Carrickmines 1 HS1 Carrickmines 2 OS1  
 Shaw, D.W. (8, 7) Eastbourne 1 RHD; Eastbourne 2 RLSC2, HS1

Shepard, P.J. (5, 3½) Budleigh Salterton 1 HS BW; Budleigh Salterton 2 RLSB2; Brighton 1 RLSB2  
 Shergold, F.L. (3, 1½) Parkstone 1 RHD  
 Shine, Miss P. (7) Brighton 2 MXHD  
 Smith, Mrs A.L. (15, 13) Brighton 1 RHSD2  
 Smith, M.P.W. (6½) Edinburgh RLSBY  
 Smith, P.L. (2, 1) Cheltenham WE5 HS BW  
 Smith, R.J. (4½, 4) Woking A RLSB2; Cheltenham WE4 HS BW  
 Snowdon, Dr C.B. (3, 2½) Cheltenham WE3 HS BW  
 Solomon, Dr E.W. (-1½) Hurlingham OS, HD; President's Cup 6  
 Soper, A.K. (6, 5) Eastbourne 2 RLSC1  
 Stanley-Smith, Mrs F. (6) Challenge & Gilbey RHD; Peels WHS1  
 Stevens, M.J. (½) Hunstanton WE1 OS BW  
 Storey, B.J. (7, 5) Bowdon WE HS BW; Bowdon RLSB1; Wrest Park WE3 HS BW  
 Sutcliffe, Mrs A.F. (10, 7½) Southport WE2 HS1  
 Tapp, M. (0) Eastbourne 1 MOS2, HS2  
 Thompson, P.W. (7, 5½) Edinburgh RLSBX, RHD, HSY  
 Tompkinson, M.G. (2½) Cheltenham WE1 HS BW; Hunstanton WE1 OS=BW; Ryde OS1; Nottingham Robin Hood HS1  
 Tompkinson, Mrs M.G. (8, 7) Hunstanton WE1 LS=BW  
 Torrington, P.G. (12, 4½) Hurlingham RLSC2, HSX  
 Townsend, Mrs K. (12) Roehampton 2 RHSC2  
 Townsend, S.S. (1½) Veterans OS1  
 Toye, J.S. (1, ½) Budleigh Salterton WE HS BW  
 Tribe, R. (4½, 3) Budleigh Salterton 2 RLSB1; Cheltenham 3 RLS=1  
 Tucker, Mrs E.J. (6½, 6) Compton WE1 HS BW  
 Tyrwhitt Drake, E.C. (2) Compton WE1 HS BW  
 Tyrwhitt Drake, Mrs E.C. (5) Brighton 2 HS2  
 Vale, T. (5½, 4½) Eastbourne 1 RLS1  
 Vale, Mrs T. (13, 11) Brighton 2 RHSD1, WHS1  
 Vincent, Dr I.G. (-½) Nottingham WE1 HS BW; Nottingham HSY; Chairman's Salver 8  
 Vincent, R.E. (9) Parkstone 2 RHSC2  
 Walter, J.O. (3½, 1½) Hunstanton WE1 OS =BW; Hunstanton OS1; Southport WE3 OS1  
 Weitz, Dr B.G.F. (½) Brighton 2 MXHD  
 Weitz, Mrs B.G.F. (3½) Ladies' Second Event 1  
 Welch, R.A. (6, 5) Colchester RLSB2  
 West, Dr P.D.B. (3, 2) Colchester RLSB1, HSX  
 Wharrad, L. (2) Woking A OS2  
 Wheeler, J.A. (½) Cheltenham WE5 HS BW  
 Whillock, G.O.H. (4½, 2½) Brighton 1 RLSB1, HS1, RHD; Peels MHS2  
 Whitehouse, B.P. (4, 3½) Woking B RLSB1; Woking D HS BW; Parkstone 2 RLSB2  
 Wiggins, Dr W.R.D. (2, 1) Hurlingham WE1 HS=1; Compton WE1 HS BW; Parkstone 1 OS2; Men's Championship Du Pre Cup 2; Budleigh Salterton 2 RHD; Hurlingham MXOD; Compton HS1; Parkstone 2 OS, RHD  
 Wiggins, Mrs W.R.D. (½, 0) Eastbourne 2 OS1; Budleigh Salterton 1 HS BW; Parkstone 1 HSY; Women's Championship WOS1; Budleigh Salterton 2 OS1; Hurlingham MXOD; Compton OS; Spencer-Ell =4  
 Wilkins, M.J. (11, 7) Southport WE2 HS2  
 Williams, R.A. (1½) Edinburgh HSX  
 Wills, Mrs H.G. (5) Eastbourne 1 RHD  
 Wilson, J.M. (5) Wrest Park WE3 HS BW  
 Wood, J.W. (2) Challenge & Gilbey OSM HSX, RHDX  
 Wood, T.I. (½, 0) Parkstone 2 HSX; Spencer-Ell 1  
 Wraith, Miss J. (11) Cheltenham 4 RHD  
 Wurmlie, J. (3½, 2) Cheltenham WE2 HS BW  
 Wylie, K.F. (-2) Bowdon OS  
 Yeoman, Mrs K. (4) Doubles Championship MXOD

## WORLD-RATED CROQUET PLAYER JARDEN DIES

One of the world's top croquet exponents, Jean Jarden of Lower Hutt, died at the weekend.

Rated fifth in the world in 1970, Mrs Jarden had an outstanding career spanning four decades and was held in the highest esteem by all who played with her or against her.

Mrs Jarden took up croquet in 1943 and until 1955 was content to make her mark on local events.

Mrs Jarden's first New Zealand tournament was in 1955 and the following year she won the first of many national titles. There was hardly a year from then until 1973 that her name did not appear somewhere as an event titleholder at national championships.

Career highlights came during the 1960s and early 1970s. She won the New Zealand Open (men and women) title in 1966 and the women's singles title in 1961-63-64-66-70-71.

Mrs Jarden first represented New Zealand at the triangular MacRobertson Shield event with Australia and England in 1963.

After playing against England in 1969, Mrs Jarden was invited to that country and the two years that followed provided her with her greatest moments in the sport and self-confessed biggest thrills.

Mrs Jarden won the All England women's championship in 1970 and was invited to play in the Presidents Cup at Hurlingham. The world's top eight players are invited and she became the first woman to gain a place and finished fifth.

When last interviewed by the "Post" in 1978, Mrs Jarden would only say she was "over 70" and still enjoying croquet. She collapsed at her home green, Waimarie, on Saturday.

Mrs Jarden is survived by three children and grandchildren. A son, Ron, died in 1977 after establishing himself as an All Black rugby great.

## THE CROQUET ASSOCIATION

Notice of ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING to be held at The Hurlingham Club, London, on SATURDAY 7th APRIL 1984 at 11.30 am.

February 1984.

B.C. Macmillan  
Administration Secretary

### AGENDA

- MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING  
The Minutes of the meeting held on 9th April 1983, published in CROQUET No. 169 (Spring 1983), page 26.
- PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS
- CHAIRMAN'S REPORT
- TREASURER'S REPORT  
Copies of the audited accounts for the year ended 31st December 1983 will be available at the meeting. Copies will be sent to Associates resident in the United Kingdom on request to the Secretary when available.
- ELECTION OF TREASURER  
The retiring Treasurer, A. J. Oldham, offers himself for re-election.
- ELECTION OF VICE PRESIDENT  
In accordance with Rule V The Council nominates R. F. Rothwell for election as a Vice President.
- ALTERATIONS TO THE RULES  
The Council propose the following alterations to the Rules:
 

RULE II	In line 5 after "Association" add "in the United Kingdom, Eire, Channel Islands and the Isle of Man".
RULE III	In line 3 for "Organ" substitute "Gazette".
RULE VI (a) (i)	In line 2 for "1st November" substitute "1st February".
(a) (ii)	In line 3 for "1st November" substitute "1st February".
(b) (iii)	In line 4 after "United Kingdom" add "Eire, Channel Islands and the Isle of Man". In the penultimate line of the 4th paragraph for 7 substitute "10". Line 2 of the last paragraph after "Vice Chairman" add "In the event of a tie they shall decide by lot." Last line of the last paragraph delete "result of the poll" and substitute "names of those elected in alphabetical order".
RULE X	In line 1 for "Election" substitute "Meeting".
RULE XIX A (a)	In lines 2 & 3 delete "at all tournaments" and substitute "some tournaments or matches".
- ELECTION TO COUNCIL  
In accordance with Rule VI as revised at the meeting on 9th April 1983 the closing date for receipt of nominations for candidature was 1st November 1983.  
The following retire by rotation under Rule II and seek re-election:- G. N. Aspinall, Mrs. E. E. Bressey, A. B. Hope,

Professor B. G. Neal, C. B. Sanford, Miss P. Shine and L. Wharrad.

Mrs. W. Longman also retires by rotation and does not seek re-election.

J. H. Bowman and Dr. R. F. Wheeler have tendered their resignations.

The following seek election under Rule VI (a) (ii):- Mrs. W. Hague, Dr. T. J. Haste, A. J. Oldham, P. Stoker and R. A. Welch.

There are thus 12 candidates for 10 vacancies. Voting papers will be sent by post to all Associates entitled to vote, and to be valid must be returned to reach the Secretary by first post on 31st March 1984. The result of the poll will be announced at the meeting.

### 9. MOTIONS

(i) By Dr. R. F. Wheeler:-

"That Council's decision of 29th October 1983 to seek sponsorship for Golf Croquet be reversed and that Council be debarred from making any further attempts to attract sponsorship or publicity for that game without obtaining the explicit authority of the Croquet Association's members at a General Meeting."

(ii) By Dr. R. F. Wheeler:-

"That the official name of GOLF CROQUET be changed to HOOP GOLF and that this name be used in all documents issued by The Croquet Association and in any correspondence or negotiations with potential sponsors."

### 10. ELECTION OF AUDITORS

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

### 11. BENEFACTORS

The names in the Benefactors Book will be read.

### 12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS



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## SECRETARY'S NOTES

### NEW ASSOCIATES

- Miss P. R. Bishop — Cheltenham  
Lt. Col M. A. Bayliss — Ramsgate  
Mrs. E. V. Burge — Rustington
- O J. E. Boyd — Australia  
H. B. Brownsdon — Ryde  
T. P. Betteridge  
S. L. Beaumont  
A. C. Collins — Bath  
Mrs. J. C. Cima — Cheltenham  
D. Jesson-Dibley — Hurlingham
- J J. J. Death — Reigate  
M. F. Eichner — Crawley  
Mr. & Mrs. L. J. Fotheringham — Edinburgh
- O C. C. Jones — Moscow  
A. F. Kirby — Peterborough  
C. Mackenzie — Wrest Park  
N. McInerney — Carrickmines  
J. O. Mayo — Burley  
H. R. Mortimer — Parkstone  
F. E. Ransom — Bristol  
J. H. Spens — Littleton
- O B. J. Thomsett — Australia  
D. B. Tribe — Cheam  
H. F. Thake — Edgbaston  
F. L. Whittaker — Nottingham  
D. C. D. Wiggins — Woking

All "S" except where marked

### Resignations

Dr. P. Abbot  
Mrs. C. J. Chandler  
Mrs. D. P. Horsley  
A. A. Rushbrooke

### Deaths

L. H. Hawkins  
D. P. Horsley  
E. L. Ward Petley — South Africa

### New Clubs Affiliated

"Thomas Cook" Peterborough Croquet Club  
Sec. A. Kirby  
Thomas Cook Sports & Social Club  
P.O. Box 13, Thorpe Wood, Peterborough PE3 63B  
Tel: 0733-63200  
Ramsgate Croquet Club, Montifiore Games Centre, Ramsgate, Kent  
Sec. Mrs. D. W. Shaw  
9 Collingwood Court, Belmont Road  
Ramsgate, Kent CT11 7QQ  
Tel: 0843-51789

### CLUB TIES

We now have in stock the Croquet Association Tie costing £6 plus 17p postage.  
Also the President's Cup, Chairman's Salver and Spencer Ell Cup Ties at £7 plus postage.

### SUBSCRIPTIONS AND REGISTRATION

I would appreciate it if those who have not paid their 1984 subscriptions would do so immediately as they were due on the 1st January.

Likewise, any club who has not yet submitted their registration fee of 25p per member or £5.00 the Minimum amount, please do so.

### APOLOGIES

Unfortunately owing to an error by the distributors only one Gazette was sent to every person wherefore some should receive two, as soon as I informed them they rectified this, I hope that the second copy was received. They wish to apologise for any inconvenience.

### HANDICAP OMITTED

Mrs T. Vale Southwick 11.

### ERRORS IN FIXTURE LIST

Southport Should be September 15th-16th only  
Bristol Should be June 30th-1st July.

### CLUB CHANGES

**Budleigh Salterton** — Secretary W. C. Broad Thomas, 4 Park Lane, Budleigh Salterton, Devon, EX9 6QT. Tel: 039-54-5448.  
**Harwell** K. Cotterell Tel: Office number 0235-24141 Ext. 3246/2658.  
**Oxford University Croquet Club** Secretary John Black, Room 205, 25 Wellington Square, Oxford OX1 25H. Tel: Evenings 0865-512084. Daytime 0865-53424 Ext. 272.  
**Federation of Northern Croquet Clubs** Secretary A. J. Collins, 65 Hillfield Road, Little Sutton, South Wirral, L66 4PL Tel: 051-339-3614.

### SECRETARY'S SHIELD

The play-off to determine the winner of the Secretary's Shield for 1984 will, as in former years, be between the winners of the various leagues played during the 1983 season. The draw is as follows:-

Preliminary Round	Final
CHESTER (Northern Federation)	.....
EDGBASTON (West Midland Federation)	.....
HARWELL (Thames Valley "A")	.....
WOKING (Thames Valley "B")	.....

The preliminary round to be played by 30th June (clubs to toss for home advantage). The final to be played by 23rd September (on a neutral ground).

Teams to consist of four players. Qualification: Each player must have played in at least one of the club's league matches in 1983. There is no handicap restriction.

Each match will consist of two rounds. Two singles and 1 double in the morning and 4 singles in the afternoon. Time limits to be imposed if necessary to ensure completion in one day. Double banking is permitted. All games to be played on current handicap.

### Spin, Side, and Jump

From Lord Tollemache to Mr Case (Gazette No. 169) so many players have been moved to make assertions concerning the behaviour of a croquet ball — and with reference neither to observation nor to the elementary laws of mechanics — that it is perhaps time for a few comments from a physics graduate and once competent player of the game.

Typical of the assertions which warrant demolition are:

*"In the jump shot, it is the application of (this) spin that causes the ball to jump."*

*"Side is the lateral rotation of the ball imparted by hitting the ball with the mallet off the centre (of the ball)."*

What I find very amusing is that those who make these claims for spin and side invariably suggest that their application is 'probably' best left to the experts. I would go further and suggest that they are best left to the likes of Prospero and Merlin.

I had intended to include an introduction to the concept of a 'vector' such as a velocity, a force, or a rotation, and to cover the basics of vector addition. However, these produced a rather long article, and those unfamiliar with the ideas can read about them in any primer of mechanics.

### Side-spin

First let us consider what happens if we apply a force to a croquet ball 'off centre'. The implications is that the line of action of the force does NOT pass through the centre of the ball. Figure 1 shows such a force labelled A and two equal and opposite forces of the same magnitude as A, acting through the centre of the ball, and along a line parallel to A.

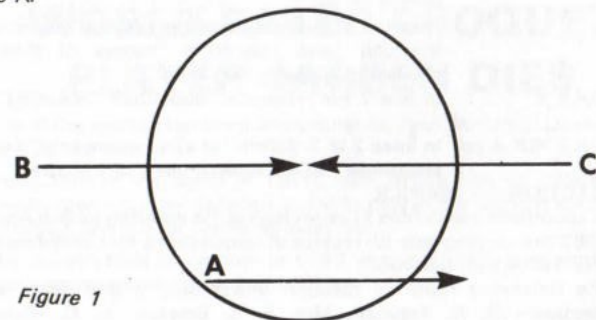


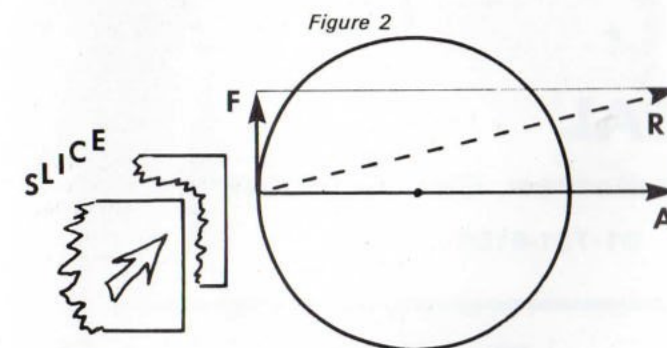
Figure 1

The two fictional (not frictional) forces labelled B and C exactly cancel and the ensemble of three forces is precisely equivalent to A acting alone. However, it is also equivalent to a force B acting through the centre of the ball plus a 'couple' comprising A and C to produce a rotation of the ball about its centre. The axis of spin is perpendicular to the plane containing the forces A, B, and C.

We see this effect in action on television whenever Steve Davis executes a 'deep screw' on the snooker table. But he has the unfair advantage that he is equipped with a sharp cue, not a blunt croquet mallet. He can actually produce a force whose line of action does not pass through the centre of the ball. For example, in applying 'screw' he strikes below the centre of the ball to induce backspin. By 'directly' striking a croquet ball with a mallet we cannot achieve this without using the bevel (a fault). Provided we avoid striking with the bevel the line of action passes through the centre of the ball irrespective of which part of the face is used. So far as the ball is concerned it has been struck by a plane face moving directly towards its centre. A billiards cue, on the other hand, is 'all bevel'. NO SPIN CAN RESULT SOLELY BY STRIKING THE BALL 'DIRECTLY' WITH ANY PART OF THE MALLET FACE.

In fact, the only occasions when experts deliberately play off-centre are when hampered, or in order to minimise (or maximise) the duration of contact when executing split croquet strokes.

But how about striking 'indirectly' — with slice? We must now consider frictional forces acting between mallet and ball. Figure 2 shows such a stroke in which A denotes that component of the net force which acts through the centre of the ball, and F denotes the frictional force acting perpendicular to A at the surface of the ball.



A and F may be combined by vector addition to produce a resultant R (shown dotted) which clearly does not act through the centre of the ball. The larger F the greater the deviation from the centre, and the greater the spin imparted by the mechanism already described. But F is actually very small as you can tell if you scrape a croquet ball across the face of a mallet (at least a legal one).

To determine the amount of spin resulting from slice I coloured one half of a ball white and the other half black, lined up the great circle junction with the direction in which the ball would move, and played some slice shots. With some practice I was able to discover that the side-spin amounted to considerably less than half a rotation over 12 feet of travel.

### Pull

A similar experiment was conducted with another ball interposed between the mallet and the specially coloured ball — in other words a croquet stroke was played. Slice was irrelevant to this operation. When a split shot was played a considerable amount of side-spin was evident, but none otherwise. Clearly the ball to ball friction was higher than the mallet to ball friction for the scored balls used.

The existence of the spin produced by a split croquet stroke indicated that frictional forces occurred, and that therefore the resultant force through the centre of the ball could not be parallel to the line joining the centres of the two balls. This effect is, of course (or should that be 'off course') 'pull'.

### Roll

Another source of spin is important. This is imparted by friction between the ball and the ground. Normally it is noticed only after the ball has travelled several feet in a powerful shot — sooner if the stroke is gentle. It is, of course, a 'rolling-spin', and has the axis of spin horizontal. Spins are vectors and may be added like forces and velocities. A croquet ball is a pretty rigid body and cannot

simultaneously have more than one spin axis — the resultant of adding any component spins.

We have seen that the friction between mallet and ball is small, but this is not the case for ground and ball. When a ball is struck horizontally it initially slides but quickly picks up roll until it is 'fully rolling'. We can greatly accelerate the onset of full rolling by 'holding' the ball against the ground during the stroke to increase the friction. This is achieved by striking downwards on the ball as all who can play a roll-stroke know. THE ROLL COMES FROM THE GROUND NOT THE MALLET.

### Jump-shots

There is no reason whatsoever why any spin, rolling or otherwise, should impart a vertical impulse to the ball such as is needed to execute a jump-shot. All the 'jump' comes from the recovery of compressed turf. In performing a jump-shot you are simply bouncing the ball against the ground. Mundane isn't it!

To produce such a bounce it is necessary to strike downwards on the ball, and in so doing you are bound to impart rolling spin as described above. But that is a concomitant — not a cause.

Finally, why does the ball which successfully jumps through a hoop tend to continue along its original direction? Simply because the top-spin accompanying that type of shot serves to re-accelerate the ball when it lands. Just as velocity is partly converted into roll in a normal shot, so roll can be converted back into velocity to establish the equilibrium of full rolling. The fact that the direction is similar to the original direction of the shot is sure evidence that any side spin imparted by the collision with a hoop upright has a negligible effect in changing the spin vector.

### Conclusion

Those who sincerely wish to break new ground in the field of croquet pseudo-science would now forget side and turn their attention to explaining those freak occurrences such as such as sticking in unmissable hoops and 'mega-pull'. They might consider the effects of vibrational deformations of the ball — dipoles, quadrupoles, sextupoles, and so on.

Eric Solomon, June 1983

### TO LET

A rather splendid single flatlet in Georgian Rectory totally self-contained (separate entrance) sittingroom, bedroom, bathroom, kitchenette. Garage. Fully furnished, warm and with service. Shared use of croquet lawn ("surely one of the best privately owned lawns in the country" Croquet Gazette November 1983). Over two acres of garden adjoining open country. On edge of interesting village on the Colne estuary. 55 minutes to London. Well-known croquet club Colchester 6 miles.

Rent £160 a calendar month, inclusive of rates (yearly tenancy agreement).

Dr William Dean, The Old Rectory, Wivenhoe, Nr. Colchester, Essex. Telephone Wivenhoe 6160.

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Price £76,000

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Extract from a letter to David Foulser from Graeme Roberts with results of the N.Z. Presidents Cup.

(The highlight was John Princes play on the second day, in wet and humid conditions, he started with a sextuple against Colin Johnston, then did a T.P.O. against Ashley Heenan from a 1 Back leave, next won +26 against Steve Jones (of England) — probably an incomplete sextuple, and finally completed a second sextuple against Paul Skinley, including a straight triple to finish!)