



**DEBENHAM
TEWSON &
CHINNOCKS**

THE 94th OPEN CROQUET CHAMPIONSHIPS

ORGANISED BY THE CROQUET ASSOCIATION

TO BE PLAYED AT
**THE HURLINGHAM
CLUB**
LONDON SW6
SATURDAY 14th JULY-
21st JULY 1984



DEBENHAM TEWSON & CHINNOCKS INTERNATIONAL REAL ESTATE CONSULTANTS AND CHARTERED SURVEYORS
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THE CROQUET GAZETTE

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BRUSH-UP ON THE 1984 LAW BOOK

The revised edition of the Laws is now published and all decisions by Referees will be governed by this 1984 book. Many paragraphs have been divided and renumbered which may be confusing at first, but the structure of the book remains unaltered, so I will fingerpost the changes in their logical order.

Part 1—Standard Court and Equipment. Tolerances for deviation from the various standards for courts, hoops and balls are specified. Lawn Managers will welcome Law 1(g) which allows a 6 inch tolerance for moving boundaries and hoop positions.

Mallets Law 2(e). Metal faced Mallets have been made illegal the end face must be 'of wood or any other non-metallic material...'. Unfortunately so much damage, both here and overseas, has been attributed to some metal mallets that the axe has fallen on all.

Part 2 Ordinary Singles Play. A. Only an outline of the game remains in this section (Law 4). The other laws have been moved to B in a different order which necessitates new numbering until Law 13—now called Wiring Lift. I like the clarity of this heading which will become part of our vocabulary. A player's responsibility for the position of a ball is spelt out clearly in Law 13(c).

Peg Point Law 15. Here is a change in the Law. A ball that is pegged out remains in play throughout the stroke and it may only be arrested if it is not going to affect any other ball (15d). It no longer becomes an outside agency the moment it hits the peg. If the pegged out ball goes off the court on a croquet stroke the turn is not ended. Law 20 (old 19) has been amended.

Croquet Law 16. Para (d) defines 3 and 4-ball Groups. They are only so designated if one of them is a yard line ball, and are also mentioned in Law 19(b) Placing the balls for a Croquet stroke.

Croquet Law 20(b). The words 'must play into the croqueted ball' have been added. If the striker plays away from the croqueted ball, which nevertheless still moves due to an irregularity in the court, it is now defined as a fault. Playing into the croqueted ball is a mandatory element of the stroke.

C Miscellaneous Laws. If a ball has to be moved under Laws 23 and 24 (lawn damage and impediments outside the court) and it is not disturbed by that stroke and two further strokes it must be replaced. Previously it had to be put back after the first stroke.

D. Errors and Interference with Play. The word 'error' is now used for 'irregularity'—well, it is shorter I suppose.

Definitions Law 26(e). Compound Errors is a new definition to clarify what was thought to be a grey area.

Playing a Wrong Ball Law 28 (old 30). (a) Playing the partner Ball at the start of a turn has been added to deal with any infringement of Law 8(b). A player may need to move one of his balls at the start of a turn because he is about to take croquet or is entitled to a lift. Law 8(b) states that he must play the ball he first moves. If he changes his mind and the opponent forestalls before he has struck the partner ball, the striker having replaced that ball if necessary, starts his turn with the ball he first thought of. If the opponent fails to forestall the stroke is valid. In neither case has the striker played or attempted to play 'a wrong ball'. Do not be misled into thinking that the same applies if you change to your 'partner's' ball in Doubles (40). Law 28(b) Playing an adversary ball that is not a ball in play used not to have a limit of claim, now the error is condoned if it is not discovered before the start of the fifth turn.

Faults Law 32. Some faults have been sub-divided but the only new faults are:

- (x) 'moves or shakes a ball at rest by hitting a hoop or the peg with the mallet'—same as old (ix)—'or any part of his body or clothes'. (If you have been kicking hoops—during the striking of course—hoping to dislodge a ball on a wire, you have been rumbled).
- (xv) 'in a croquet stroke plays away from or fails to move or shake the croqueted ball' (The penalty end of Law 20(b) referred to above).
- (xvi) 'deliberately plays a stroke that is likely to cause and does cause substantial damage to the court or its equipment' (This does not include accidental damage from orthodox strokes).

Playing When Misled Law 35. The change of heading is timely, this Law deals with a player being misled both by a clip not properly placed and by incorrect information given by an opponent—as it always did.

Part 3 Other Forms of Play C. Laws of Handicap Play. **Bisques Law 38.** this Law has been subdivided with headings and old Law 39A incorporated. this complicated subject has been set out so clearly that I would award it a 'Best Buy'.

Part 4 Customs of the Game. Old Law 50 Unpenalised Infringement has been incorporated with the Emergency Law, now Law 51.

Appendix 1 Metric Equivalents of Standard Dimensions

Appendix 2 Guide to Conduct in Double Banked Games.

Appendix 3 Full bisque Handicap Play.

Appendix 4 Alternate Stroke Handicap Doubles Play.

These have been included for guidance, they are not Laws.

The Regulations for Tournaments have been extensively revised, perhaps we may 'brush up' on them in a later issue.

I summarise below the points of which you should make note:

Mallets: Metal-faced mallets have been banned.

Peg Point: A pegged out ball remains in play throughout the stroke.

Damage: It is a fault to play a stroke liable to cause damage which does cause damage.

Double Banking: The Guide to Conduct is essential reading.

Time Limits: Now Reg. 13 and much clarified.

Commentary on the Laws by D. M. C. Prichard. Old stocks are exhausted and obsolete. A fourth edition with some additional material has been completed and should now be available.

E.A.M.P.

MAKING A CROQUET BALL

As most readers will have realised, there was something a bit odd about the article that appeared under this title in the last *Gazette*. It was in fact written by myself and was intended as a practical joke on our long-suffering Editor. The original article was a bit more outrageous, but the Editor excised portions that he felt might have offended John Jaques & Son Ltd. I apologise to Leslie Riggall for adopting his name (a ruse to put the "author" resident in South Africa—beyond the Editor's reach) and to the Editor for pulling his leg.

Keith Wylie

A MESSAGE FROM RICHARD ROTHWELL

I was most flattered and appreciative on being elected as a Vice President at the recent Annual General Meeting, and quite overwhelmed at being handed a cheque for nearly £850 as a result of our President's generous appeal on my retirement as Secretary.

Quite rightly I think I was not given a list of names of those who subscribed to this incredible sum—I gather over 150—and though I would have liked to have thanked everyone individually I must ask then one and all to accept this rather impersonal acknowledgement and thanks for their generosity, which is none the less most sincere.

I have much enjoyed the privilege of serving the Association for many years in various capacities, and hope to be able to continue to do so in the future, if at a reduced rate, so long as my health permits. Although my eyesight and lack of energy is not conducive to my playing much serious croquet I hope to maintain contact with the vast number of friends I have made over the years in the world of croquet.

74c Grosvenor Road,
Caversham,
Reading,
Berkshire RG4 0ES

Yours very sincerely,
Richard Rothwell

Minutes of the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

held at the Hurlingham Club on Saturday, 7th April 1984

Present:

J.W. Solomon (President in the Chair), Lt Col D.M.C. Prichard, S.S. Townsend, Dr. W.R.D. Wiggins (Vice Presidents) and 87 Associates.

1. MINUTES

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 9th April 1983, copy in Spring *Gazette* 1983, No. 169, were taken as read and adopted.

2. PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

The President, J.W. Solomon, opened his remarks by stating that this would have been the 117th A.G.M. except for the War. The Association was formed in 1867, the first Chairman was elected in 1885 and the first President in 1905.

He observed that what had struck him most forcibly during the last year was the substantial increase in both clubs and Associates joining the C.A. In 1950 the membership was around 650. It remained static until almost three years ago, since then it has increased by almost 50%. Last year's increase was 8%.

Whilst the increase in Clubs is possibly the most important aspect of our current development, we must ensure that the members of these Clubs appreciate what part the C.A. has played and can play in the future to the benefit of these new players, and we hope that many more hundreds will join the Association.

He was pleased to hear that the Chairman, C.B. Sanford had acknowledged the hard work put in by Lionel Wharrad and his helpers, and that one should bear in mind that sometimes it takes a lot of time and hard work before one gets results. He also stated that there are still a number of good prospects which we hope will mature this year.

He congratulated Professor B.G. Neal for his part in getting the Japanese C.A. to align themselves with the British rather than the American, also his Committee's part in getting out the new addition of the Laws.

He spoke of the need for more Referees, also of the Schools and Junior Tournament which a few years ago could not have been contemplated.

He was also pleased to see that some of the MacRobertson Shield matches were being played in new venues in the North and Midlands which had not been included in previous tours.

The President concluded his speech by thanking the Chairman for his hard work during his term of office, stating that he rarely, if ever, gets acknowledgement. He also thanked David Foulser for all his hard work as Editor of the *Gazette* and Phil Johnson for taking on the Editorship. He commended him on his first Edition.

Finally, he thanked the Hurlingham Club, not only for the Tournaments which they had made it possible for us to hold there, but particularly for their co-operation in allowing us to hold the A.G.M. and Council Meetings at the Club.

3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman, C.B. Sanford, read extracts from his report which appeared in the 1984 Spring *Gazette*, No. 174. There were no questions arising and the report was adopted.

4. TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer presented the Audited Accounts for 1983, a copy of which appeared in the *Gazette* No. 174, also copies of his comments. There were no questions from the floor and the accounts were adopted unanimously.

5. ELECTION OF TREASURER

The retiring Treasurer, A.J. Oldham, was unanimously re-elected. He was warmly thanked for all the devoted work he had put in for the Association.

6. ELECTION OF VICE-PRESIDENT

Richard F. Rothwell was unanimously elected Vice-President. The President said it was a fitting and just reward for all the hard work over the years which Richard had done. He was pleased that the Association and the Council would not lose the benefit of his knowledge and experience.

Richard thanked the Council for the honour which throughout history had been sparingly bestowed. He hoped, through the Council, that he would be able to continue to serve for many years the game that was close to his heart.

7. ALTERATION TO THE RULES

The following alterations to the Rules were approved nem con after D.C. Caporn had explained the reasons.

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, Channels Islands and the Isle of Man".

In the penultimate line of the 4th paragraph for "7" substitute "10".

In line 2 of the last paragraph after "Vice chairman" add "In the event of a tie they shall decide by lot".

In 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 and 3 delete "at all tournaments" and substitute "some tournaments or matches".

8. ELECTION OF COUNCIL

The successful candidates for the Council were:-

G.N. Aspinall, Mrs W. Hague, Dr T.J. Haste, A.B. Hope, Professor B.G. Neal, A.J. Oldham, C.B. Sanford, Miss P. Shine, P. Stoker, L. Wharrad, who were duly elected.

The President congratulated the winners and commiserated with the losers.

He thanked Lt Col D.M.C. Fox and D.V. Hamilton-Miller for acting as scrutineers. Colonel Fox informed the meeting that there were 338 returned papers, plus 6 spoilt papers.

9. MOTIONS

Before the motions K.F. Wylie brought up a point of order referring to a decision made that members of the Council should not speak or vote against a recommendation which the Council had already approved. It was agreed by acclamation that they would be able to speak and vote.

(I) *The Motion 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".

The motion was discussed at some length. Before the vote was taken L. Wharrad asked the President to confirm that members of the Council were able to vote. The President stated that this already had been agreed.

The motion was adopted, 36 votes to 34.

(II) *Motion 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".

Dr. Wheeler was asked if he was prepared to alter the wording or withdraw the motion. He said he was not prepared to do this. After further discussion, the vote was taken and the motion defeated, 40 to 16.

10. ELECTION OF AUDITORS

Messrs. Nicholas, Ames & Co. were re-elected.

11. BENEFACTORS BOOK

Richard Rothwell read out the names of the Benefactors.

The 77th South of England Championships I 2nd-7th April

This year the venue was changed from Eastbourne's Devonshire Park to the Compton Croquet Club where the setting was beautiful with large groups of daffodils in full bloom around the six lawns, and congratulations must go to the club's groundsman, Tom Mewitt for getting the lawn in such perfect condition, even after a lot of rain during the previous few days.

During the competitions the rain kept away although the wind was rather cold so many competitors wore "woolies" under their whites.

Marjorie Vall played extremely well throughout the week to reach the final of the Luard Cup only to just lose to Kevin Carter, another up and coming player.

In the Anna Millns Salver, Marjorie partnered by Dorothy Harding beat last year's winners Tina Wills and Dennis Shaw by 6.

In the Sussex Union Challenge Cup Kevin Carter gave Dennis Shaw an exciting game, Dennis on rover and peg and Kevin on rover and one back. Kevin hit in, making rover and pegged out Dennis' ball. Dennis then hit in an then stuck in rover with his single ball, Keving on roqueting the hooped ball putting it through made his way to three back, missed a short roquet and gave Dennis the game. Dennis then went on to beat "Dab" Wheeler and "Tiny" Tyrwhitt-Drake to win the cup.

THE O'CALLAGHAN GOLD CUP

Lionell Wharrad beat Giles Barrett in the draw and Giles beat Lionel in the process and in the final play-off Lionel beat Giles by 10. A most exciting game much enjoyed by the watching members.

VICTOR VASES OPEN DOUBLES

Only two entries for this event, this was played best of three, "Denno" Harris and "Tiny" Tyrwhitt-Drake v. "Dab" and Roger Wheeler. The Wheelers won the first game +20, Denno and Tiny then "pulled their socks up" and won the next game +2 and in the final game +14.

Roger and Dab managed the week in their usual smooth and friendly style and the lady members of Compton kept everyone happy with a constant supply of coffee and tea during the week's events and the players much appreciated the variety of meals provided by the Saffrons Club which is in the same ground, just one minute away from the croquet lawns.

The general feeling is that the lack of support for these prestigious competitions is the fact that they are held too early in the year and there has been a suggestion made that if they were held later the entries would be far greater.

Event 1. O'Callaghan Gold Cup (Mens' Singles Championship)

DRAW

First Round: **G. Borrett** bt D.A. Harris +2; **L. Wharrad** bt Dr R.F. Wheeler +9.

Final: **Wharrad** bt Borrett +15.

PROCESS

First Round: **L. Wharrad** bt D.A. Harris +1; **G. Borrett** bt Dr. R.F. Wheeler +11.

Final: **Borrett** bt Wharrad +3.

PLAY-OFF: **Wharrad** bt Borrett +10.

Note: Event 2: Only one entry - Mrs R.F. Wheeler

Event 3 The Felix Cup (Handicap Singles)

First Round: **D.W. Shaw** (6) bt Mrs. E.J. Tucker (6) +21; **Lt Col R.P. Chappell** (4) bt Miss B.E. Dennant (6½) +19; **Miss D.V. Harding** (14) bt W.E. Philp (9) +8; **Mrs T. Vale** (11) bt K.J. Carter (8) +4.

Semi-Final: **Chappell** bt Shaw +2; **Mrs T. Vale** bt Miss Harding +7.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

K.F. Wylie asked if Condition Two in the Open Championship read correctly. He was informed that the Tournament Committee was already looking into the matter.

The President presented Richard Rothwell with a cheque for £845.00 and a copy of M. Reckitts book *Croquet*. The money was collected from members for his retirement. The President also read out some quotes from the many letters received stating the esteem that members had for Richard.

Richard replied, thanking everyone for their contributions and saying that the book would be a treasured possession.

The Apps Bowl was presented to Martin French (Ipswich). Mrs. B. Harris was unable to be present to receive the Steel Bowl award personally and East Riding were also unable to be represented to accept the award. Both wrote letters apologising for their absence and thanking the Council.

Mrs T.W. Anderson stated that the Colworth Club had not been presented with the Longman Cup they won last year, although it was thought that they might get it at this meeting. Richard Rothwell explained that he had written to the 1982 holders (Worcester) asking them for it to be returned, but had received no reply. He said he would contact them by telephone. It was agreed that in future it would be presented to the winners on the day of the Final.

To: Secretaries of Clubs holding C.A. Calendar Tournaments

In order to take some of the burden of work off the Editor I have undertaken to vet all tournament results received at the C.A. office in order that they are in the correct approved form for publication in the *Gazette*.

Few of the results of this season's tournaments received to date have been free of errors and in the hope of minimising these in the future, below are set out some points for your information.

- In all events the title, name and initials of each competitor must be as in the current C.A. Directory.
- In handicap events the handicap of each competitor must be that under which he played in that event.
- Where a player considers that he qualifies for a C.A. Silver Medal under the old Regulation 13 (not now included in the fourth Edition of the Regulations 1984) this should be clearly indicated on the score sheet.
- In Knock-out events, please comply with all the instructions given in the bottom right-hand corner of the sheet. Make sure that the details of the venue and event are completed at the top of the sheet. It would be helpful if the number of the event as in the Fixtures Book is shown clearly in the left-hand margin.
- In all events the number of entries should be shown. (this makes it easier for Brian Macmillan to check on the correct Levies due).
- In handicap weekend tournaments played as American in blocks or as Swiss, individual results should not be shown, only the number of wins of each competitor with net points in brackets. See Appendix A for example. Boxed results cannot be accepted. This also applies to events of full-week tournaments played as American or Swiss.
- In open week-end tournaments played as American or Swiss full scores should be given (as in Appendix B, as these are required for the information of the Selection Committee).
- for the Invitation Events, special boxed score sheets are provided. Names should be entered in the final finishing order.
- In order to reduce as far as possible the time taken for results to appear in the *Gazette*, please send these by first class mail to the C.A. office within three days of the conclusion of the tournament.
- Please note that reports of tournaments (to be limited to 400 words for weekends and 750 words for full week tournaments) should be sent to the C.A. office, but despatch of results should not be held up for these.

PROCESS

First Round: Mrs E.J. Tucker (6) bt Miss D.V. Harding +4; Mrs. T. Vale (11) bt Miss B.E. Dennant +22; D.W. Shaw (6) bt W.E. Philp +9; K.J. Carter (8) bt Lt Col R.P. Chappell +11.

Semi-Final: Mrs T. Vale bt Mrs Tucker +19; K.J. Carter bt Shaw +12.

PLAY-OFF: K.J. Carter (8) bt Lt Col R.P. Chappel +23; K.J. Carter bt Mrs Vale +9.

Event 4. The Sussex Union Challenge Cup (Handicap Singles)

First Round: Mrs T. Vale (11) bt G. Borrett (2) +22.

Second Round: Mrs R.F. Wheeler (2½) bt K.J. Carter +6; D.A. Harris (1½) bt Mrs Vale +3; Miss D.B. Harding (14) bt D.W. Shaw (6) +3; E.C. Tyrwhitt Drake (2) bt Dr R.F. Wheeler +1.

Semi-Final: Mrs Wheeler bt Harris +14; Tyrwhitt Drake bt Miss Harding +11.

Final: Tyrwhitt Drake bt Mrs Wheeler +6.

PROCESS

First Round: Mrs R.F. Wheeler (2½) bt Dr R.F. Wheeler +3.

Second Round: Mrs Wheeler bt Mrs T. Vale (11) +1; D.W. Shaw (6) bt D.A. Harris (1½) +23; K.J. Carter (8) bt Miss D.V. Harding (14) +5; G. Borrett (2) bt E.C. Tyrwhitt Drake (2) +10.

Semi-Final: Shaw bt Mrs Wheeler +12; Carter bt Borrett (opp. scratched).

Final: Shaw bt Carter +6.

PLAY-OFF: Shaw bt Tyrwhitt Drake +1 (on time).

Event 5. The Victor Vases (Open Doubles Championship)

Final: D.A. Harris and E.C. Tyrwhitt Drake bt Dr and Mrs R.F. Wheeler -20 +2 +14.

Event 6. The Anna Millns Salver (Combined H'cap of 8 or over)

First Round: Mrs H.G. Wills and D.W. Shaw (11) bt Mrs A.E. Millns and W.E. Philp (16½) +12.

Semi-Final: Mrs Wills and Shaw bt Mrs E.C. Tyrwhitt Drake and Mrs E.J. Tucker (11) +4; Mrs T. Vale and Miss D.V. Harding (23) bt Mrs G.F.H. Elvey and Miss P.J. Embleton +5.

Final: Mrs Vale and Miss Harding bt Mrs Wills and Shaw +6.

The 77th South of England Championships II 9th-14th April

A new feature this year was that the tournament was held at the Compton club, rather than at Devonshire Park. This was a great success, since the hospitality was excellent and the lawns in fine condition. The tournament ran very smoothly thanks to the organisation of Ed Strickland and the capable management of Giles Barrett. The hard work of Mrs Elvey, who was in great demand in her capacity as referee, was also a major factor in the success of the tournament.

The opening day was enlivened by a triple peel in the open singles by Dayal Gunasekera against Tyrwhitt-Drake, but he could not maintain this standard of play, and was beaten in the Draw and in the Process by some steady play from Mrs Susan Wiggins. In both finals she faced Guy Whillock, who had advanced there by beating Wharrad, Dr Wiggins and Harris.

The two games close and Whillock had his chances, particularly in a very exciting second game, in which he very nearly achieved his first triple peel in a tournament. He completed the first two peels before missing a short hoop. Mrs Wiggins continued to play well, as she did all week, to take the open title.

The handicap singles was won by Dr. Robert Wiggins, beating Dennis

Shaw in a highly fought final. Shaw, who had carried all before him in previous rounds with his accurate long shooting, was eventually foiled by the experience of Dr Wiggins. After trailing in the early part of the final, Dr Wiggins went round and pegged out one of Shaw's balls. Shaw could not recover and Dr Wiggins went on to win by +5. Another noteworthy event occurred in the game between Gunasekera and Robert Andrew, in which Gunasekera achieved his second triple peel of the opening day.

There was much interesting play in the doubles, with Tim Harrison and Jeremy Short reaching the final using the Eric Solomon opening to good effect in the previous two rounds. The other finalists, Andrew and Whillock had a very convincing first round win against Dr and Mrs Wiggins by +26. The final itself, in the true tradition of handicap doubles, was quite a dour tactical battle early on, with little attempted and less achieved. Eventually, Harrison and Short each had breaks using their bisques, but before the end Whillock had a brilliant rover peel from 4 yds at 45°. However the subsequent hoop attempt was not successful.

It was a pity that Andrew and Raph Chappel were the only two participants in the B class event, which was staged as a best of three. Andrew emerged as winner but only after both players had produced good breaks in the latter stages of the second game.

Harrison won both halves of the C class, beating Shaw and Short in the finals. The game with Short provided some entertaining if not very adept croquet. After the first four turns, due to some pretty duff shooting, all four balls lay on the East Boundary near 4th corner with a balls spacing between each of them. Unfortunately for Short, who played 5th turn, his balls lay in the middle. It seemed nearly impossible for him to make a roquet legally, and in trying to do so he duly played a foul stroke. Later in the game, Harrison was in the happy position of having all four clips in hand after peeling each of the other three balls.

The D class, which was held as an American block, was convincingly won by Don Daintree, who won all three of his games.

J.S.-T.H.

2nd Week 9-14 April

Event 1. Ionides Trophy Singles Championship

DRAW

First Round: G.D.H. Whillock bt Dr W.R.D. Wiggins +10; D.A. Harris bt E.C. Tyrwhitt Drake +20; Mrs W.R.D. Wiggins bt G. Borrett +23; D.L. Gunasekera bt L. Wharrad +4.

Semi-Final: Whillock bt Harris +20; Mrs Wiggins bt Gunasekera +17.

Final: Mrs Wiggins bt Whillock +4.

PROCESS

First Round: G.O.D. Whillock bt G. Borrett +22; L. Wharrad bt D.A. Harris +10; Mrs W.R.D. Wiggins bt Dr W.R.D. Wiggins +12; D.L. Gunasekera bt E.C. Tyrwhitt Drake +20.

Semi-Final: Whillock bt Wharrad +4; Mrs Wiggins bt Gunasekera +11.

Final: Mrs Wiggins bt Whillock +7.

Event 2. Devonshire Park Salver (2½ bisques or over)

Final: R. Andrew bt Lt Col R.P. Chappel +19 +15.

Event 3. Luard Cup (5½ and over)

3First Round: T.D. Harrison bt D.W. Shaw +17.

Semi-Final: Harrison bt Mrs M. Grout +22; J.H. Short bt Mrs A.E. Millns +23.

Final: Harrison bt Short +10.

PROCESS

First Round: Mrs M. Grout bt Mrs A.E. Millns +11.

Semi-Final: D.W. Shaw bt Mrs Grout +3; T.D. Harrison bt J.H. Short +19.

Final: Harrison bt Shaw +2.

PLAY-OFF: Short bt Shaw +12.

Event 4. Trevor Williams Cup (Hcp 9 and over)

Table with 4 rows: D. Daintree (3 wins +4), W.E. Philp (2 wins +9), Miss D. Harding (1 win -14), M.D. Bennett (0 wins -36)

Event 5 (X). Sussex Cup (Unrestricted)

First Round: G.O.H. Whillock (2) bt D.A. Harris (1½) +16; D.W. Shaw (6) bt Miss D.V. Harding (14) +6; E.C. Tyrwhitt Drake (2) bt Mrs M. Grout (6½) +6; T.D. Harrison (5½) bt Mrs W.R.D. Wiggins (0) +13; R. Andrew (4) bt M.D. Bennett (12) +17; D.L. Gunasekera (-½) bt Mrs E.C. Tyrwhitt Drake (5) w.o. opp. scr.; J.A. Short (8) bt Lt Col D.F.T. Brown (5) +16; Dr W.R.D. Wiggins (1) bt G. Borrett (2) +20.

Second Round: Shaw bt Whillock +2; Harrison bt Tyrwhitt Drake +23; Gunasekera bt Andrew +21 (TP); Wiggins bt Short +6.

Semi-Final: Shaw bt Harrison +8; Wiggins bt Gunasekera +4.

Final: Dr. Wiggins bt Shaw +5.

Event 5 (Y). Sussex Cup

First Round: D.A. Harris (1½) bt Miss D. Harding (14) +6; Mrs. W.R.D. Wiggins (0) bt Mrs M. Grout (6½) +22; Mrs E.C. Tyrwhitt Drake (5) bt M.D. Bennett (12) +18; Lt Col D.F.T. Brown (5) bt G. Borrett (2) +2.

Semi-Final: Mrs Wiggins bt Harris +21; Mrs Tyrwhitt Drake bt Brown +11.

Final: Mrs Wiggins bt Mrs Tyrwhitt Drake +23.

Event 6. Handicap Doubles

Final: Harrison & Short bt Andrew and Whillock +10.

Woking Easter W/E 22-23 April

Following an unofficial "small lawns" tournament on Good Friday and Easter Saturday, won by Nigel Aspinall without losing a game against some formidable opposition including Professor Neal, Eric Solomon and David Oppenshaw, we held a very successful Swiss Tournament in 2 blocks of 12 and 14 over the Sunday and Monday. The weather was superb, as warm as mid June. This tournament was a new one in the Calendar. Those who won shields were:

BLOCK A: M. French (5) 4 wins beat A.J. Mrozinski (3½) +3, Mrs P. Macdonald (6½) +10, G.C. Pountney (4½) +10, D.C. Caporn (3) +4.

D. C. Caporn (3) 3 wins beat A.J. Palmer (1½) +1, Dr W.R.D. Wiggins (1) +4, W.B. Denison (2) +5.

A.J. Mrozinski (3½) 3 wins beat Mrs M. Wharrad (9) +2, D. Goulding (2½) +3, W.B. Denison (2) +18.

BLOCK B: R.J. Smith (4) 4 wins beat Mrs W.J. Brown (6) +3 o/t, J.E. Guest (1) +11, Mrs S. Wiggins (0) +18, I.P.M. Macdonald (3½) +1.

I.P.M. Macdonald (3½) 3 wins beat Mrs G. Vincent (11) +11, K.J. Carter (7) +8, C. Lamb (4½) +17.

Mrs S Wiggins (0) 3 wins beat L. Wharrad (2) +13, J.S. Maude (2½) +19, C. Lamb (4½) +1.

D.C.C.

Roehampton 26-29 April

Swiss Handicap Singles (8 rounds)

Table with 6 rows: 7 wins (D.J. Coker), 6 wins (Mrs. W.J. Browne, R.A. Welch), 5 wins (D.J.V. Hamilton-Miller, Miss J. Macleod, F.H. Newman, A.A. Reed), 4 wins (R.A. Godby, Mr and Mrs I.P.M. Macdonald, Mrs F.H. Newman), 3 wins (Miss J.E. Assheton, Mrs D.J. Croker, J.E. Guest, M.J.B. Haggerston, Mrs B. Mansfield, S.S. Townsend), 2 wins (Mr and Mrs K.F.W. Townsend), 1 win (Mrs P. Healy)

(There were two unfinished games)

Southport 28-29 April

Main Event (Knock Out)

First Round: A.J. Collin bt B.A. Keen +13; A. Palmer bt E. Bell +6; J.R. Hilditch bt N.G. Hyne +10; J. Walters bt Mrs P. Hague +18.

Second Round: A.F. Sutcliffe bt E.E. Scott +7; C.J. Irwin bt D. Peterson +3; Mrs M.P. Collin bt J.D. Meads +20; A. Palmer bt A.J. Collin +2; J.R. Hilditch bt J. Walters +9(T); A. Bennett bt R.C. Jones +7; M.J. Wilkins bt M. Sandler +7; K. Aiton bt Mrs B. Sutcliffe +13.

Third Round: C.J. Irwin bt A.F. Sutcliffe +25; A. Palmer bt Mrs M.P. Collin +5(T); J.R. Hilditch bt A. Bennett +22; K Aiton bt M.J. Wilkins +17(TP).

Semi-Final Round: A. Palmer bt C.J. Irwin +3; K Aiton bt J.R. Hilditch +10.

Final: K. Aiton bt A Palmer +21.

3rd Place Play-Off: J.R. Hilditch bt C.J. Irwin +4.

Progressive Swiss (Advanced)

Table with 5 rows: 5 wins (J.O. Walters), 4 wins (A. Bennett), 3 wins (J.D. Meads; A.J. Collin; E. Bell), 2 wins (R.C. Jones; M. Sandler; D. Peterson; Mrs A.J. Collin; B.A. Keen; E.E. Scott; N.G. Hyne), 1 win (A.F. Sutcliffe; M.J. Wilkins; Mrs P. Hague), 0 wins (Mrs A.F. Sutcliffe)

Southwick County Weekend Tournament 4-7 May

The Weekend Swiss Tournament at Southwick amid the sunshine, the song of the linnets and the birds flying overhead feeding their young, interspersed at times with a wintry wind, at least savoured the friendliness, sportsmanship and as usual was an enjoyable event appreciated by all.

It was a pity there was such a poor support for the Jellicoise Cup - due one feels to the fact of the C.A. fixture list, as both weekend tournaments followed closely upon each other, e.g. Steve Milliner's Bank Holiday Open Weekend Tournament. We hope that Pat Shine's Weekend Tournament (14-16 September) will not suffer a similar fate.

It may be of interest that Major Jellicoise's grand-daughter (Mrs. Gadsey) opened the Worthing Croquet Club, in conjunction with the Mayor of Worthing.

D.V.H.

Swiss Handicap Singles (8 rounds)

Table with 7 rows: 7 wins (T. Vale (4½)), 6 wins (W.E. Moore (1)), 5 wins (Mrs P. Asa Thomas (3); Mrs E.E. Bresse (5); D.M. Bull (4); E.P. Davey (12); F.A. Rowland (6); °E.C. Tyrwhitt Drake (2)), 4 wins (Mrs L.A. Coombs (5); P. Emery (7); °Miss D.V. Harding (14)), 3 wins (Mrs T. Vale (10)), 2 wins (Mrs E.C. Tyrwhitt Drake (5)), 1 win (Miss D.E. Dennant (6½)), 0 win (F.J. Fowke (10); Mrs A.E. Maplecroft (7))

° = Substituted for one day's play

Hunstanton 5-7 May

American Singles in blocks

Table with 3 sections: Block A (Advanced) with 4 wins (J.O. Walters), 3 wins (J.D. Gosden), 2 wins (R.D.C. Pritchard; Mrs H.B.H. Carlisle), 0 wins (J. Haigh); Block B (Advanced) with 4 wins (M.G. Tompkinson; G.K. Collin), 3 wins (H.C. Green), 2 wins (D.L. Gaunt), 1 win (Mrs J. Neville-Rolfe), 0 wins (Mrs R.F. Wheeler); Block C (Advanced) with 4 wins (Miss S.G. Hampson)

3 wins R.J. Smith; Professor K. Campbell
2 wins M. French; Dr R.F. Wheeler
1 win R.A. Gosden

Block D (Level play)

5 wins Mrs M.G. Tompkinson
3 wins Mrs R.A. Gosden; Miss P. Hampson
2 wins H.F. Barnett
1 win D.E. Wood; J.F.S. Thomas

Hurlingham 5-7 May*Swiss Handicap Singles (6 rounds)*

5 wins **I.R. Plummer** (+82); A.J. Mrozinski (+49); Mrs I.P.M. Macdonald (+38); J.E. Guest (+11)
4 wins T.G. Russell; P.G. Torrington; C.T.J. Lindsay; F.H. Newman; Mrs F.H. Newman; I.P.M. Macdonald; R.M.D. Ponsonby
3 wins R.J. Clayton; G.E.J.A. Doughty; W.T. Coles; Miss J. Macleod; M. Strachan; D.R.T. Ruscombe-King; B. Whitehouse
2 wins Mrs P.V. Healy; C.B. Sanford; *Mrs W.R.D. Wiggins; *P. Laney; *W.B. Denison; *Dr W.R.D. Wiggins; *R.A. Godby.
1 win *C.G. Pountney; *Mrs B. Mansfield; *Mrs L. Chey; *S.S. Townsend; *Mrs.W.J. Browne
0 win Miss J. Wraith

* = Played only 5 games

'Coles' Cheltenham Open Championship

Cheltenham 5 to 7 May

Results:

First Round: J. McCullough bt J. S. Toye +9; T. Griffith bt D. Peterson +14; J. Rose bt P. M. Johnson +20; C. J. Irwin bt C. Southern +5; E. Bell bt J. Hilditch +8; B. G. Neal bt B. G. Weitz +5; M. Avery bt P. W. Smith +14; D. K. Openshaw bt E. J. Davis +15; S. N. Mulliner bt D. H. Moorcroft +26(TP); D. J. Crokes bt W. P. Ormerod +25; L.S. Butler bt G.K. Taylor +4; D.R. Foulser bt L.V. Latham +26; G. E. P. Jackson bt K. M. H. Aiton +10; P. Cordingley bt G. Nitle +5; M. Murray bt K. Jones +19; A. B. Hope bt I. G. Vincent +24.

Second Round: McCullough bt Griffith +14; Irwin bt Rose +7; Neal bt Bell +8; Openshaw bt Avery +25; Mulliner bt Crokes +11; Foulser bt Butler +9; Cordingley bt Jackson +3; Hope bt Murray +5.

Third Round: McCullough bt Irwin +13 -17 +8; Openshaw bt Neal +23; Mulliner bt Foulser -15 +23 +11; Hope bt Cordingley -3 +13 +26(TP).

Semi-final: McCullough bt Openshaw +14 -3 +6; Hope bt Mulliner -11 +8 +3.

Final: Hope bt McCullough +17 +15.

Swiss after Knock-out

K.M.H. Aiton 5 wins bt. Noble +13, Jones +7, Toye 16(TP), Dayal +21, Rose +23, lost to Latham -7
M.N. Avery 4 wins bt. Bell +2, Rose +7, Murray +21, Davis +25
+ 1 Coles win lost to Foulser -18
E. Bell 3 wins bt. Jackson +1, Ormerod +1, Jones +9
+ 1 Coles win lost to Avery -2, Griffiths -5
L.S. Butler 1 w/o + Coles win lost to Murray -21, Rose -23, Vincent -15, Noble -7
P. Cordingley 3 wins* bt. Irwin +14, Murray +21
+ 2 Coles wins lost to Foulser -12
D. Croker Retired To Butler
1 Coles win

Dayal Substitute bt. Jackson +16, Griffith +20, lost to Aiton -20, Johnson -10
E.J. Davis 5 wins bt. Smith +15, Weitz +15, Toye +13, Latham +8, Neal +4, lost to Avery -25
D.R. Foulser 4 wins* bt. Cordingley +12(TP), Neal +7, Avery +18
WINNER +2 Coles = 6 wins
T Griffith 3 wins bt. Bell +15, Toye +15, Johnson +19
+1 Coles win lost to Rose -19, Dayal -20
R. Hilditch 3 wins bt. Smith +8, Peterson +7, Latham +6, lost to Weitz -1, Southern -2, Moorcroft -7
D. Peterson 1 win bt. Johnson +15, lost to Toye -5, Southern -17, Smith -10, Taylor -6, Hilditch -7
C. J. Irwin 2 wins* bt. Vincent +3, lost to Neal -23, Cordingley -14
K. Jones 3 wins bt. Vincent +7, Ormerod +3, Southern +4, lost to Aiton -7, Gunasekera -8, Bell -9
G.E.P. Jackson 0 wins +1 Coles win lost to Murray -2, Dayal -16, Bell -1, Weitz -18, Ormerod -13, Weitz +14, Jones +8 beaten by Gunasekera
Gunasekera 3 wins bt. Southern +11
substitute for Johnson lost to Toye -19, Griffith -19, Peterson -15, Dayal +10
L.V. Latham 3 wins bt. Taylor +20, Ormerod +16, Aiton +7, lost to Davis -8, Murray -2, Hilditch -6
D.H. Moorcroft 3 wins bt. Taylor +2, Hilditch +7, Toye +4, lost to Ormerod -7, Vincent -11, Noble -15
M. Murray 3 wins bt. Jackson +2, Butler +21, Latham +2, lost to Avery -21, Cordingley -21
G. Noble 4 wins bt. Taylor +24(TP), Smith +3, Moorcroft +15, Butler +7, lost to Aiton -13, Vincent -25
B.G. Neal 2 wins* bt. Irwin +23, lost to Foulser -7, Davis -4
W.P. Ormerod 3 wins bt. Moorcroft +7, Weitz +11, Jackson +13, lost to Latham -6, Jones -3, Bell -1
J. Rose 2 wins bt. Griffith +19, Butler +23, lost to Avery -17, Aiton -23 retired at last game
C. Southern 2 wins bt. Peterson +17, Hilditch +2, lost to Johnson -11, Vincent -23, Jones -4, Taylor -21
G. K. Taylor 3 wins bt. Peterson +6, Smith +3, Southern +21, lost to Latham -20, Moorcroft -2, Noble -24
J. S. Toye 2 wins bt. Peterson +15, Johnson +19, lost to Davis -13, Aiton -16, Griffith -15, Moorcroft -4
I.G. Vincent 4 wins bt. Noble +25, Moorcroft +11, Southern +23, Butler +15, lost to Jones -7, Irwin -3
P.L. Smith 2 wins bt. Peterson +10, Weitz +14, lost to Davis -15, Hilditch -8, Noble -3, Taylor -3
B.G. Weitz 2 wins bt. Hilditch +1, Jackson +18

lost to Davis -15, Gunasekera -14, Ormerod -11, Smith -14

*¼ Finals losers are credited with a bonus win. See p.4 Gazette 170

Retired Players:

Croker
Johnson
Rose

Substitutes:

D.L. Gunasekera as
Dayal +
Gunasekera
+ P.M. Johnson (re-entered)

'Coles' Open Championship

Traditional Coles weather did not overshadow this enjoyable annual trial of thermal underwear. It was most efficiently managed by the new team of Bernard and Liz Neal (he took all the decisions, she did all the work . . . according to Liz anyway!). The first round produced only one surprise, namely Jackson's Revenge (over the seeded Keith Aiton), while the manager achieved a good win over Eddie Bell, another seed, in the second. Only David Openshaw reached the semis without losing a game and Dave Foulser and Phil Cordingley each took the first against Steve Mulliner and Andrew Hope respectively. Poor Dave no doubt regretted his selfless advocacy of best-of-three in the quarters when the management was inclined to play single games. In the remaining match, John McCullough overcame his personal jinx against Colin Irwin in another closely-fought three-gamer. The senior seeds having done their duty in reaching the semi-finals, a Mulliner-Openshaw final was anticipated. Events turned out differently.

The McCullough-Openshaw match was a rather dour struggle (to use modern argot), with McCullough playing steadily to win the first game and Openshaw recovering well in the second with a neat double peel. Openshaw went to the peg in the third with partner only on 6 and this gave McCullough the chance to peg him out. Despite McCullough's extremely cautious tactics, Openshaw obtained the innings twice but was unable to make significant progress on either occasion and so allowed his opponent to achieve another notable victory.

Mulliner and Hope had a much livelier encounter in which the first two games were shared and followed much the same pattern, namely one good break by each player followed by a series of mishaps with the other ball. In the third, Mulliner should have finished when for peg and penult with the lift missed. However, Hope was given one more chance which he took with a splendidly unorthodox break to the peg featuring several enormous hoop approaches. The last two shots were missed and Hope emerged a narrow but worthy winner.

The final was rather less eventful than the matches just described. McCullough could not prevent the occasional error and Hope maintained his good form and good shooting to win in straight games and so record his first major singles title. In the Swiz, Foulser, Avery and Davis all showed prominently but in the end it was Foulser who gained some consolation for his exit from the main event by defeating Avery +18 in the final round. Once more our thanks are due to our sponsor whose only complaint is that no one has yet won the sextupling prize. Step forward, Keith Wylie!

S.N.M.

Compton 10-13 May*American Handicap*

BLOCK A: **Dr B.G.F. Weitz** (½) beat Mrs W.R.D. Wiggins (0), Mrs E.C. Tynwhitt Drake (2), D.A. Harris (1½); lost to D.H. Moorcroft (½).

BLOCK B: **Dr W.R.D. Wiggins** (1) beat L. Wharrad (2), Lt Col R.P. Chappel (4), R.W. Newnham (5).

BLOCK C: **Lt Col D.F.T. Brown** (5) beat Mrs H.G. Wills (5), Mrs E.C. Tynwhitt Drake (5), W. Nicholson (4½), Miss E Taylor (15).

BLOCK D: **D.W. Shaw** (6½) beat Miss B.E. Dennant (6½), Mrs M. Grout (6½), Mrs G.H. Davies (8).

BLOCK E: **W.E. Philp** (9) beat Mrs D.H. Moorcroft (10), Mrs L. Wharrad (9), Miss D.V. Harding (14).

Play-off:

Dr W.R.D. Wiggins beat Dr B.G.F. Weitz +2

D.W. Shaw beat W.E. Philp +20

Dr W.R.D. Wiggins beat Lt Col D.F.T. Brown +15.

Dr W.R.D. Wiggins beat D.W. Shaw +16.

Colchester 12-13 May

Can this have been the first Tournament to be played under the new Laws? Was Mark Avery the first player to disregard the important revision to Law 15(d)? Might Richard Hilditch have been the first player to be faulted under Law 32(a)(xvii)?

Your correspondent cannot be definitive on all these vital questions, though he suspects that 'Yes' is the answer to each (with the addition of 'but wasn't' to the third). What he *can* report is that this second Spring Open weekend at Colchester, skilfully managed again by Gerard Healy - who flew over from Dublin to do so - built on the firm foundations laid last year with a strong entry and a revised format: a true Swiss (what a rarity!), 6 rounds over two days. The lawns were of the high standard we have come to expect at Colchester; the weather sunny but the wind biting; and the play bright and brisk to match. The first round started auspiciously with three triples (Mark, Richard, and Nick Hyne), to be complemented by others from John Walters and Dayal Gunasekera in later rounds, and everyone seemed to enjoy this early season workout.

Mark ran out the winner, his victories over Richard and Gerard - who also had five wins - proving decisive (Reg 16(d)(iv) - if you don't know it, buy your new Laws *now*); he had lost to your correspondent, whose cunning strategy of losing in the first round (it's a good excuse, strategy, isn't it) was only foiled by losing to Richard in the last. Worth noting: some good play by Martin French, rather out of his class but clearly a prospect; and a third turn 4-back followed by a nearly STP, the combination pegout narrowly missed, from the manager. A good weekend all round.

Obituaries**PETER BROWN**

The sudden and tragic death of Peter Brown will be mourned by all who knew him. Well liked at Carrickmines, he was one of those rare men, a croquet enthusiast with excellent missionary instincts.

He founded the Dublin University Croquet Club, thereby providing the city with its second club, and served as its first President. A patient and gentle teacher, he fostered a love of the game in all his pupils, laying a firm foundation for the Club in years to come. I shall always remember his with great fondness as a most considerate, albeit difficult doubles partner.

A man of parts, Peter was Librarian and Archivist to Trinity College, Dublin. His professionalism has left an enduring mark on what is still one of the world's great libraries. A gifted musician and ardent concert-goer, Peter played trumpet, piano and 'cello. He was a fine chess player and also an accomplished Germanist and Mediaevalist. In short, he was a true renaissance man.

College will be the poorer for his passing, and his loss will be felt in both of his clubs for some considerable time to come.

M.C.L.

LIONEL D. ADAMS 1904-1984

Lionel was an Irishman, and learned his croquet from his father at Carrickmines when a schoolboy, and his father was hard to please and Lionel became a good player. All his friends in croquet hoped that Lionel would follow his father, and continue playing the game into his nineties, but this has been denied him and us to our sorrow. He was a born games player, and became a professional soldier, serving in the Dorsetshire Regiment, and was a great enthusiast for Army life. He was a loyal member of Roehampton Club, where he liked to refer to the buttery as the "canteen" just to emphasise that he did not forget! On leaving school and home he dropped his croquet for other games at which he excelled, but kept his mallet amongst his gear for sentimental reasons as he travelled the world. He played hockey for the Army, and was also a good bridge partner.

Eventually he retired and came with his wife to live at Kensington Court, where he had to discard some of his belongings. His black tin trunk and uniform therein had to go, but he could not resist taking a last nostalgic look at his uniform, and to his surprise, under some odds and ends, he found the mallet of his boyhood. This reminded Lionel that croquet was a good game, and he began reading Competition Results in the newspaper; this led to a visit to Hurlingham during The Opens, where he found himself seated next to a keen type. Before the day was over Guy Betts had invited him to play on his lawn. This brought Lionel back into the game, and he joined Roehampton. He improved down to a handicap of 1, and until the last two seasons, when he failed to maintain his form, he hit with deadly accuracy; he did particularly well at The Veterans, where he and Guy played together. He had also played in California with his friend Forrest Tucker.

Lionel will be much missed by all his friends and especially at his Club, where with zest and in immaculate kit he played regularly three days a week. Croquet players offer their sincere sympathy to Wuz and his family.

E.E.R.

Dear Sir,

LAWS OF ADVANCED PLAY

I wrote recently in support of Keith Wylie in the debate about the laws of Advanced Play. I maintained that, given fast lawns and firm hoop settings, the present laws provided an adequate test of skill. Although this is true, it is a counsel of perfection and thus not a completely satisfactory answer. When conditions are easy, those who complain that A-class games are often one-sided have a valid point. The weakness in their position is that the modifications they would make to the laws of Advanced Play would make the game too difficult and too lengthy in testing conditions such as those experienced at Cheltenham in July 1983.

A new approach is needed. Why should it not be possible to have an alternative version of Advanced Play (referred to as Law 36A below) which would only be used if the conditions were sufficiently easy and the standard of the competitors was sufficiently high? In all other cases, namely in difficult conditions or when the standard of play was below championship level, the present laws of Advanced Play would continue to apply.

The modification that I propose is that when Law 36A applies the turn shall end if the striker's ball is sent off the lawn for any reason other than after a roquet in (i) the first stroke of a turn or (ii) a cannon.

Law 36A has two main effects. First, it makes a long take-off more testing. At present such a stroke holds few terrors for a player confident of a 4 yard roquet. Under Law 36A, it will be necessary to cause the striker's ball to come to rest within 1 to 2 yards of the target ball if the ensuing roquet is to have a good chance of success despite being hit gently enough to prevent the striker's ball going over the boundary. This has two benefits. It increases the efficacy of defensive tactics on easy lawns and should lead to the innings changing hands more often — the prime objective. It will also place a greater premium on touch than the ability to hit short roquets at speed.

The second effect is that hard cut-rushes become more dangerous. The striker will have to have greater regard to where the striker's ball will finish after a rush and thus, working backwards, he will have to play the preceding croquet stroke with greater care. This will make the creation of breaks and the rescuing of untidy breaks more difficult and thus again increase the frequency with which the innings changes hands.

The exceptions are necessary. If the restriction applied to the first stroke of a turn, it would be virtually impossible to hit a long roquet and yet cause the striker's ball to remain on the court. It is also not undesirable that the first rush of a turn should be capable of being cut. This is of special importance for balls left on a yard-line, the second exception preserves the cannon, an attractive feature of the game.

I intend to experiment with this idea this season and I hope that others will feel sufficiently interested to do the same and/or discuss it with me. If sufficient interest is aroused, it would be possible to introduce it as an "authorised variation" under the new laws and try it in a high standard open weekend in 1985.

Yours, etc.
S.N. Mulliner

Dear Sir,

The news in the last issue of *The Croquet Gazette* (174) that council had overwhelmingly to get Golf Croquet and not Association Croquet on television has shocked me. Council seems to be selling its birthright for a mess of pottage for its birthright surely is to foster and promote Association Croquet, the only form of the game which most of us want to play and enjoy. For years I have endeavoured to get new clubs started in the North, and always I have to begin by pointing out that the pleasure in Association Croquet lies in making breaks of as many hoops as possible in a turn, and this requires positive thinking so different from the frustrating tactics and negative thinking which Golf Croquet breeds when only one hoop can be made in a turn.

Council makes two assumptions, both of which are highly dubious. The first is that Golf Croquet will catch the imagination and interest of the public when given full television coverage. This is unlikely because the negative thinking in Golf Croquet soon becomes boring. The second assumption is that if such interest could be generated it would lead the public to take up Association Croquet. There is no

evidence that this is likely and indeed I would suggest that television coverage would establish Golf Croquet as the true game of croquet, a view conferred by the authority which television is seen to carry. To the general public Association Croquet would be regarded as an aberration and the difficulties of starting new clubs for our game would be greatly increased. I support Roger Wheeler in his campaign and I hope he will succeed in defeating Council's wrong-headed ideas on sponsorship.

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

Yours faithfully,
A.C. Mason

Dear Sir,

HANDLING OF TELEVISION GOLF CROQUET

The result of the A.G.M. member's vote was a very narrow majority (2 votes out of some 70 voters) for Dr Wheeler's motion against the Council's recommendation that golf croquet should be put forward to be televised.

I think that the above happening, first the issue itself, and secondly the manner in which it was handled, are an unfortunate development for the Association, which is likely to cause damage or dissension to it, as a consequence of which both golf croquet and, more importantly, association croquet might suffer permanent setback.

Regarding the issue itself, the advantages and disadvantages of the question might well be summarized as follows:—

Advantages

1. Greater awareness by uninformed public about croquet.
2. Practicality of televising golf croquet could eventually lead to the televising of association croquet (by some technological or expedient device not yet identified).
3. Televising might lead to increased revenues.

Disadvantages

1. The wrong type of croquet was to receive publicity, as hardly anyone in the Association plays golf croquet.
2. Such televising might lead to the bastardization of croquet, to the detriment of association croquet.
3. The hoped-for revenues might not compensate in monetary terms for the result and injury to the game.

However I believe that more important than these advantages and disadvantages is the realisation that there is no obvious balance of advantage or disadvantage that can be quantified, and accordingly the decision should be based on more empirical grounds. The deciding factor should be that the potential overall disadvantage can be but very slight or remote, whereas the potential overall advantage can be substantial and much more immediate, and that the experiment can after implementation be turned to good account. I accordingly hope that the result of the last vote would be reversed should the matter ever be put to the vote again.

Regarding the manner in which the issue was handled, I am critical of Dr Wheeler for deciding that, after defeat by the majority of the council a complex issue of this nature which involved an apparently contradictory process of reasoning, should be remitted to the A.G.M. members who like myself would instinctively abhor the motion that the first presentation of croquet on television should be of an inferior variety of the game. In matters of this nature it is sometimes more prudent to realise that it is the views of an elected and informed minority that should be followed, and not that of a wider membership who have had less opportunity to acquaint themselves with the practicalities of the situation.

Dr Wheeler's unwelcome strategem was in turn compounded by undemocratic rulings by the Council, firstly that no Council member should put a contrary motion before the members (which apparently resulted in Dr Wheeler having to resign his Council membership in order to do just that), and that the Council's block vote should be decided by its majority (thereby denying the seven dissenting Council members from voting as ordinary members): these procedural blunders must have alienated some support for the council although Mr Keith Wylie successfully objected to the second ruling being put into effect. I hope the Council will right these wrongs done to Dr. Wheeler by co-opting him as a supernumary member of Council until the next round of rotations and re-elections as it is necessary for the convinced opponents of televising golf croquet to be won over by persuasion if the longer term benefits of the idea are to be achieved.

One thing is certain; croquet cannot expand without attracting a new range of adherents of all ages and both sexes, and the only plan which Council has been able to put before us in recent years has been this extremely sensitive one of televising golf croquet, and it should be afforded another opportunity of being put before the members in a more persuasive way.

21 Howmick Court,
Arlington Road,
Twickenham,
Middlesex

Jan Macleod

A QUESTION OF TACTICS No. 7

By an oversight on my part, the problem in the Winter *Gazette* which should have borne this title (in conformity with those published in issues 147 to 152) was entitled "What would you do?". I now correct that error and reply to Colin Southern, who put forward an alternative solution in the Spring issue.

The point he makes arises from the fact that in the experience of most players it is difficult to play both balls accurately in a split shot. He points out that my solution involves just such a shot.



Let me remind readers of the problem. Blue ("a fairly strong player", note) has just made the hoop and rushed Red to the position shown. My solution is to take off to Yellow and to go to Black with a split shot sending Yellow to 3. This split shot is one of the easiest in the game. It is little more than a thick take-off and required no hard hitting. A player of Blue's calibre should not be troubled by it; but even if he is, all he needs to do is to concentrate on where blue goes and Yellow will not go far astray.

Colin Southern's solution is to roll Red to 3 going to Yellow, and to send Yellow into the middle of the lawn going to Black.

This involves two moderately difficult strokes, a pass roll and a fairly long split roll. He claims the advantage over my solution that in each stroke only one ball really matters, though to me it seems that in the pass roll both balls call for attention. Be that as it may, I find pass rolls inherently risky. Blue has to send Red about 11 yards, at which range I should reckon on a margin of error of 2 yards either way. Blue itself may end up a masty 4 yards short of Yellow. His split roll on Yellow is one which I should expect to execute with considerably less accuracy than the square split shot which I recommend. Some "fairly strong" players are particularly good at pass rolls. Few are good at split rolls.

My suggestion in the original article that if Black was poorly placed at 2 blue might consider a pass roll to Yellow was motivated by the feeling that in that position I personally should probably rather go to Black with a take-off from Yellow than with a split shot from Red. However, that does not alter my view as to the correct tactics when Black is well placed.

spectators at the principal C.A. tournaments will notice how some players give themselves several difficult strokes to do and so eventually break down, whereas others do the occasional difficult stroke but somehow seem rarely to need to do so. Which players are which? Why do the latter get such an easy time? You will generally find that the more successful players avoid difficult strokes by careful organization of their breaks. This article gives an example of the way of thinking that is needed.

Keith Wylie

NEW LAWS TO NOTE

BALL IN HAND: RULING

In the new (4th) edition of the Laws and Regulations, Law 9(a)(v) states that "The striker's ball becomes a ball in hand and ceases to be a ball in play when it is moved before being placed for a croquet stroke after a roquet is deemed to have been made (see Law 16(c))."

As an example suppose that Red and Yellow are both for hoop 1. The striker, playing Red, peels Yellow a few inches through the hoop, and with his continuation stroke attempts to run the hoop. Red hits Yellow and both balls roll back into a rabbit run, finishing in contact with red in the jaws of the hoop.

The striker now takes a full bisque. Since Red is in contact with Yellow at the start of this fresh turn, a roquet is deemed to have been made (Law 16(c)) and the striker takes croquet. As soon as he moves Red before placing it for the croquet stroke, it becomes a ball in hand in accordance with Law 9(a)(v) quoted above.

Law 14(c) now operates to the detriment of the striker; it states that "A ball may complete the running of a hoop in two or more turns but, if it becomes a ball in hand, it must begin to run the hoop afresh."

Could the striker circumvent this problem by playing the croquet stroke without moving Red, and claiming that Red thereby did not become in hand? The ruling is that he cannot; the 3rd edition of the Laws stated this explicitly, and it was not the intention to alter this situation.

B.G. Neal,
Chairman, Laws Committee

PLACING BALLS FOR A CROQUET STROKE: RULING

In the 4th edition of the Laws and Regulations the first sentence of Law 19(b) should be interpreted as though it begins as follows: "If the striker is entitled to take croquet from a ball which is part of a 3-ball or 4-ball group (see Law 16(d)(ii)) or which will form part of a 3-ball or 4-ball group when the striker's ball is placed . . ."

B.G. Neil
Chairman, Laws Committee

A Reply to "An Upraised Mallet"

Mike Finn's entertaining article in Issue No. 174 raises some interesting points of law. To shorten this reply I assume that the reader will refer to the article, which begins with three separate incidents in which the striker peels his partner ball through its hoop in order and then attempts to run the same hoop in the continuing stroke. The correct decisions are as follows (the references given are to the numbers of the relevant laws in the new edition of the Laws and Regulations).

1. The Lawyer was correct (Laws 14(b)(ii) and 22). Whether or not a ball has run a hoop must be judged when the ball has finally come to rest.
2. The Lawyer was correct (Law 32(a)(ix)). A double hit is not a fault if it is due to making a roquet.
3. The Lawyer was wrong (Laws 17 and 32(a)(ix)). The roquet is deemed to have been made after the hoop point is scored.

The remainder of the article describes incidents at hoops 4 and 3-back. The Pragmatist was wrong in supposing that he had run hoop 4 with Yellow after roqueting Black (Law 18(a)(i)). when he removed the Yellow clip from hoop 4 the Lawyer should have warned him that it was misplaced. (Laws 35(c) and 45(b)). His excuse for not warning his opponent was specious; the clip was clearly misplaced as soon as the Pragmatist removed it from the hoop. However, there is no specific penalty for this neglect of his duty as a joint referee, and it would be harsh of a Referee in Charge to impose one under Regulation 5(j).

The Pragmatist's turn ended after he "ran" hoop 5, which was not his hoop in order. When the Lawyer began to play the Pragmatist claimed a replay on the grounds that the Lawyer's Black clip had not been placed on 3-back, and that he had thereby been misled (Law 35(a)(i)). However, a replay can only be claimed if the adversary (the Pragmatist) is led "into a line of play that he would not otherwise have adopted." In fact, the Pragmatist, in his replay, adopted substantially the same line of play, and so he was not entitled to the replay.

I hasten to add that although I had a friendly game with Mike Finn recently, there is no truth in the rumour that Mike's article was based on incidents in that very enjoyable contest!

Bernard Neal
Chairman, Laws Committee

Dear Sir,

THE CROQUET MACHINE

David Higgs and I were surprised that you printed the rough notes of this machine's first attempts to hit a ball. Let readers be assured that as soon as we have worthwhile reports, you shall have them.

Although we recorded 500 shots while the lawn was available, there are still too many unknowns for their proper interpretation. For example, if a ball leaves the mallet with a velocity v_1 , how does it behave before it becomes full-rolling with velocity v_2 ? And how is v_2 related to v_1 ? We need the answers to these mundane questions before the more interesting two-ball shots can be analysed.

Barbrona, Yours sincerely,
Coppice Lane, F.F. Ross
Reigate, Surrey RH2 9JF.

Dear Sir,

MRS JEAN JARDEN

Having had the great pleasure of knowing Jean Jarden (one of the really "nice" croquet players) since 1963, when I met her during the MacRobertson Trophy series in New Zealand, I must write to correct the statement in the Spring edition of *The Croquet Gazette* 1984, that "in 1970 she was invited to play in the Presidents Cup and became the first woman to gain a place and finished fifth".

That she finished 5th is true, with 5 wins and finished above Pat Cotter, Roger Bray and William Ormerod. There were however 13 other ladies who had been invited to compete in the Presidents Cup, whom I list below:

Miss D.D. Steele (having won the Presidents Cup predecessor, the Beddow Cup outright for the previous three years) 1934 (winner) '35, '36, '38, '48, '55
Miss Ionides 1934
Mrs Apps 1935-38 (won it in 1936)
Mrs Wiggins 1946
Mrs Rotherham 1946, '48, '49, '52, '53, '57, '56, '57, '59, '60, '63
Mrs Elvey 1947, '48, '54, '59
Miss Hintern 1947-55, '57, '58
Mrs Reeve 1948
Miss Wainright (NZ) 1956
Mrs Kink (NZ) 1956
Mrs Watkins (NZ) 1956 (retired)
Mrs Longman 1958
Miss Warwick 1060-63
and of course, Mrs Jarden 1970

It is of course interesting to note that Jean was the only lady invited to compete since 1963, on her visit to England at that time.

It is of course not fair to assess her standard in the light of the above bare facts. She came to this country so rarely that no comparison is possible.

It is certainly undeniable that D.D. Steele was the greatest lady croquet player of all time, but I would make a strong claim that Jean Jarden stands next in line.

Despite the predominance of Daisy Hintern and Hope Rotherham in this country for the 12-15 years after the War, they did not totally dominate the Lady's Championship in which they were out-classed by two New Zealanders (Margaret Cloughton in 1950 and Ada Kink in 1956).

Jean Jarden's outstanding feature was her determination to win, not in any aggressive sense (she was such a meek and mild person off the court) but in her concentration, and utter dedication to the game she was playing. It was obvious, the moment she lined up for a shot, that her concentration was solely dedicated to that moment, and although no doubt the majority of good croquet players exhibit the same, there was something about Jean's approach to the game that distinguished her from all other ladies.

I have often felt that a test of a real croquet player is their attitude as an "out-player". Yes, you could talk to her, and she would be relaxed, or would she? Chatting nonchalantly, she would pounce the moment her opponent gave her an opportunity.

There was without doubt something special about Jean Jarden and I personally would rate her as probably the greatest lady croquet player after D.D. Steele.

The Hurlingham Club, Sincerely
Raneleigh Gardens, John Solomon
London SW6 3PR

Dear Sir,

I am sure that no one disagrees that predominantly white clothing should be worn for all Tournaments. But nothing has been said about its cleanliness.

I am appalled when players wear once-white shoes which have become predominantly black.

I suggest that at each Tournament a prize be awarded to the player wearing the distinct once-white shoes. The prize need only be a modest one - perhaps a shoe cleaning kit might be appropriate.

6 Upper Stoneborough Lane, Yours sincerely,
Budleigh Salterton, Peter Danks
Devon EX9 6SX

Dear Sir,
Seen on a recent trip to San Francisco (despite what the window reads!).

As in all sports, the Americans like to do things differently, but I thought this was going to extremes.

Croquet is, indeed, alive and thriving in such faraway places as San Francisco - both chirs Leyton and Tom Lufkin are only too pleased for an excuse to take an afternoon off. Farther up the coast at Seattle I had a marvellous day in the company of Wally Aitken, John McCallum and Howard Kellog, all of whom are very keen on the game - albeit with American rules.

If anybody is planning a visit to the States, I'd be happy to supply any contact numbers for those clubs I know - or indeed, contact the American Croquet Association when you arrive on 212-688-5495, who are in New York.

30 Wayside Mews, Yours sincerely,
Maidenhead, Geoff Roy
Berks. SL6 7EJ



IMPROVING THE STANDARD OF REFEREEING

The following measures for improving the standard of refereeing have been approved by Council.

1. Referees will be re-examined every 5 years. Referees who do not wish to offer themselves for re-examination will remain on the list until the end of the 1989 season; their names will then be removed.
2. Examining Referees will be appointed for 5 years, with the possibility of renewal. Existing Examining Referees will retain this designation until the end of the 1989 season; their names will then be removed unless they are re-appointed.
3. A new category of referees, designated Championship Referees, has been established. These will be the only referees allowed to officiate at major events (Test Matches, Home Internationals, Opens, Caskets, Eights) from 1985 onwards.
4. Championship Referees will be required to pass, at a suitably high standard, an examination conducted by two Examining Referees, which can only be taken by Referees of at least two years standing.
Championship Referees will be re-examined every 5 years.
5. Examining Referees will *not* be appointed as Championship Referees without qualifying as specified in 4 above.

NEW ASSOCIATES

BLACK, J., Oxford
BLYTH, J.D.M.
BOTTOMLEY, Mrs E.R., Walsall
CHEYNE, Mrs L.A., Hurlingham
CORNELL, D.F.
DENT, J.J.
GEARING, D.J., Woking
JOHNSON, G.V., Stourbridge
LAMB, W.E., East Riding
McILWAIN, Wing Cdr J.D. de S., Phyllis Court
McINERNEY, Nial, Carrickmines
McKINNON, S.P., Edgbaston
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PEARSON, Miss C.M., Harrogate
POWELL, J.E.H., Southport
PRESCOTT, Mrs K.W., Hurlingham
RANSOM, Mrs R.W., Bristol
ROBINSON, Mrs M., Ryde
RUSSELL, T.G., Oxford
SINTON, R.A., Southport
SHORT, J.A., Parsons Green
SINCLAIR, Mrs D., Compton
TENNANT, J.D., Hurlingham
ORRINGTON, P.G., Hurlingham
WANG, Dr H., Chester
WHITE, M., Cambridge
WILLIAMS, J.G., Colchester

All above are 'S'

BRADSHAW, K.J., Australia

REJOINED

MORPETH, C.D., Hurlingham

ALTERATIONS IN CLUBS

Compton, New Secretary: J. Moody, 24 Summerdown Road, Eastbourne, Sussex. Telephone 0323-36877.

High Wycombe, New Secretary: John E. Jones, 10 Linden Walk, Hazelmere, High Wycombe, Bucks. Telephone: (Penn) 049-481-5490

Nailsea, Change of Address of Secretary: Brian Thatcher, 70 Greenslade Gardens, Nailsea, Bristol BS19 2BN. Telephone: 0272-858432

Havering Croquet Club, Lawns at Upminster Court, Hall Lane, Upminster, Essex.

Norwich Croquet Club, Lawns at Eaton Park, Norwich.

Oxford University Croquet Club, New Secretary: John Black, Room 205, 25 Wellington Square, Oxford OX1 2SH. Telephone: 0865-512084 (Evenings); 0865-53424 Ext. 272 (Daytime).

Preston Lawns, Change of telephone number: Secretary: Mrs H. Clements. Now 0273 501628

Federation of Northern Croquet Clubs, New Secretary: A.J. Collins, 65 Hillfield Road, Little Sutton, South Wirral L66 4PL. Telephone: 051-339 3614.

North East Regional and Norton Hall Croquet Club, Change of Address of Secretary: E.J. Davis, 33 Hutton Rudby, Yarm, Cleveland TS15 0DW. Telephone: 0642-701290

Worcester, Secretary's Telephone Number: 0905-320913

Federation of West Midland Croquet Clubs, New Secretary: T.P. Greenwood, 21 The Fold, Penn, Wolverhampton WV4 5QY. Telephone: 0902-336832

Queensland Croquet Association, New Secretary: Mrs. M. Edwards, 631 Nudgee Road, Nundun, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia.

Budleigh Salterton, Change of Address of Secretary: W.C. Broad-Thomas, 4 Park Lane, Budleigh Salterton, Devon. Telephone: 039-54-5448

Chester, Now playing at Westminster Park, Hough Green, Chester.

Cheam Sports Club, Peaches Close, cheam, Sutton, Surrey.

Carrickmines, New Secretary: Nial McInerney, 13 Avonmore, Leopardstown Road, Fox Rock, Dublin 18, Eire. Telephone: Dublin 850348 (Home), Dublin 686633 (Business)

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Please contact C.A. Secretary

HANDICAPPING PROCEDURES

Handicapping Procedures remain as published in *Gazette* No. 169 (Spring 1983) except for the restriction mentioned below.

It should be noted that the Temporary Variation to Regulation 23 introduced last year for 1983 season whereby Handicappers were authorised to alter handicaps *during* play in an event in which the player was already participating, is no longer temporary and has now been incorporated in the revised Regulations (New Regulation 11(b)) now in course of publication.

The Committee considers there must be greater co-ordination between handicaps, particularly in the lower ranges, and a closer control of these handicaps is necessary.

For the coming season at least, therefore, Handicappers may continue to adjust handicaps following the usual procedure but the committee will only accept alterations down to +1½. When it is considered a handicap of +1½ or below should be altered as a result of play, recommendations should be submitted to the C.A. by the Handicapper, and both the player and the handicapper advised of its acceptance or refusal as soon as possible. Meantime the player's handicap remains as before.

The Committee hope to make a close study of handicap results during the year with a view to a general adjustment should this appear necessary.

R.A. Godby

CROQUET ASSOCIATION LIBRARY

We have lost a considerable amount of books from the Library. If anyone has books out on loan please return them immediately so that we can catalogue them.

It would be appreciated if any members have spare books on Croquet which they would like to donate to the Croquet Association. Would they please send them to the Secretary. We are particularly looking for copies of the following:

Tackle Croquet This Way - E.P.C. Cotter
How to Win at Golf Croquet - H.F. Crowther Smith
Croquet (1949) - G.F. Elvey
Shots and Strokes in Croquet (1948) - Llyn Fanwy
Croquet (1865) - John Jaques
Croquet and its Varieties (1920) - C.D. Locock
Croquet (1901) - H. Needham
Notes on Croquet (1872) - R.C.A. Prior
Croquet Handbook (1959) - A.G.F. Ross
Modern Croquet (1929) - E. Whitaker
The Game of Croquet: Its Laws and Regulations (c. 1870) - Author unknown.

B.C. Macmillan

APOLOGIES

The Editor wishes to apologise to Lt Commander Bayliss, a new associate, for according him the title of Lt Colonel.

Editor's Note—

Junior National Championships

The Junior Championships dates have now been changed from August 3-5 to July 14-15. Would all participants please NOTE!

The draw for the Cheltenham July Tournament will take place at 10.30 am on July 16th and NOT the 10th as advertised.