

Cheltenham 26-28 May

R. Burnell	5	4½
P. Leach	8	7½
Miss J. Macleod	6	5
F.I. Maughan	4	3
J. Mann	7	5
D.J. Dibley	4½	6

Wrest Park 18-20 May

A. Kirby	8	5
T.W. Anderson	3	2
Mrs T.W. Anderson	5½	4½
J. Woolfe	5	4

Cheltenham Peels 20-25 May

R. Berkeley	6½	5½
P.A. Dwerryhouse	7½	6½

Cheltenham Club 25th May

Mrs J. Cima	16 (D14)	15 (D13)
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Parkstone 28 May-2nd June

Mrs R.F.A. Crane	12 (D11)	11
Dr C.W. Marshall	10	11
Mrs C.W. Marshall	10	10 (D9)
B. Whitehouse	3½	4

Wolverhampton Club 2nd June

R. Weaver	10	9
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Carrickmines 4-9 June

R.J. Leonard	5	6
Mrs R.J. Leonard	5½	6
J. McAuley	12	11
J. O'Driscoll	15	13
F. Rogerson	3	2½
N. McInerney	4½	4
T. Browne	11	9
M. Lyons	16	15

Hunstanton 11-16 June

Mrs R.A. Gosden	7½	7
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Roehampton 11-17 June

M.J.B. Haggerston	14 (D13)	12 (D10)
J.R.N. Lisle	9 (D8)	

Ipswich Club 10 June

D. Palmer	11	9
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Southwick Club 17 June

P.J. Mansfield	15	13
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Woking Club 21 May

R.J. Smith	4	3½
M. Young	14	13

Ryde 18-23 June

Mrs M.G. Tompkinson	7	6½
H.B. Brownsdon	10	9

Cheltenham Caskets 18-23 June

A. Berry	1½	1
R. Tribe	1½	1
Mrs M. Collins	3½	2½
Miss J. Macleod	5	4
T. Mrozinski	3½	3

NEW ASSOCIATES

J	E.J.R.C. Boot
	S. Clay, Edgbaston
	A. Crawford
	P.J. Crawford, Roehampton
J	J.J. Death
	J. Dando
	Dr M. Elder, Chester
	G.J. Grist, Roehampton
	D.J. Goacher, Bristol
	Miss E.C. Illidge, Roehampton
	K. Jackson, Bowden
	R.G.S. Lucas
	The Very Revd. I.D. Neil
	J.B. Portwood, Tyneside
	N.P. Tomlinson
	R. Weaver, Wolverhampton
J	D.M. Wood
	Miss E.J. Hugall, Bowdon
O	S. Smith, New Zealand

All 'S' unless stated.

DEATHS

D.P. Horsley
R.H. James, OBE, South Africa
Mellen Chase Jr, U.S.A.
J.L. Sanders
Col. G. T. Wheeler, DSO

NEW CLUBS REGISTERED

Bournemouth, Seaford Gardens, Bournemouth. *Secretary:* Mrs C. Rose, 27 Jewell Road, Bournemouth. Tel: 0202-34318.

Worth School, Paddock Hurst Road, Turners Hill, Crawley, Sussex. RH10 4SO. Tel: Cophorne (0342) 715207. *Secretary:* Rev. P.C. Jameson.

Bishop Vesey's School, Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands B74 2NH. *Secretary:* D.C. Isgrove.

ALTERATIONS IN CLUB OFFICIALS

Durham University—*Secretary:* P.J. Hetherington, St. Aidan's College, Durham DH1 3LJ.

Hellidon Croquet Club—*Secretary:* P.D.A. Jones, The Red Lion, Hellidon, Nr Daventry, Northants.

Cheltenham Croquet Club—*Secretary:* Mrs G.D. Harris, 109 Cirencester Road, Cheltenham, Glos. GL53 8DB. Tel: 0242-22488.

Tunbridge Wells Croquet Club (formerly Kent & Sussex Croquet Club)—*Secretary:* Mrs J. Reeves, 3 The Pantyles, Goathurst Common, Seven Oaks, Kent TN14 6BX.

Nottingham University—*Secretary:* J.J. Death, Cripps Hall, Nottingham University Park, Nottingham.

Nottingham Croquet Club—*Secretary:* Dr I.G. Vincent. Telephone number at office now 0602-506101 ext. 3327.

Laws

"Commentary on the Laws" by Col. D.M.C. Prichard are now available from the C.A. office, cost £1.00 plus 50p post and packing.

Know the Game

Know the Game is now available from the Secretary, the cost has been increased to 99p. (Clubs 89p) plus 17p postage. Also available is the Coaching Manual, cost £3.00 plus 50p postage.

THE CROQUET GAZETTE

ISSUE No. 176

AUGUST 1984

THE OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS 1984



Above: John Solomon, President of the C.A. receiving a cheque for £2,000 from Anthony Turnvull of Debenham, Tewson and Chinnocks, the sponsors of the Opens for the next three years.

Below: Nigel Aspinall and Steve Mulliner shake hands after the final of the Opens won by Nigel -14, +20, +20. They also paired up in the doubles beating Eddie Bell and John Rose +24, -21, +24 in the final.



The Secretary and the Editor

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

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

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

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

All correspondence about non-delivery of Gazettes, changes of address, telephone numbers, handicaps or officials should be sent to the Secretary C.A., and not to the Editor.

DEADLINE FOR NEXT GAZETTE IS SEPTEMBER 8th

Colchester Open Weekend 12-13 May*Swiss Advanced Play*

First Round: G.P.N. Healy bt J. Haigh +23, M.N. Avery bt R. Allim +25(TP), D. Peterson bt M. French +20, D.L. Gaunt bt G. Hallett +8, D.L. Gunasekera bt Mrs J. Neville-Rolfe +7, N.G. Hyne bt I.D. Bond +18(TP), C. Southern bt R.A. Girling +16, J.R. Hilditch bt J.O. Walters +26(TP).

Second Round: Avery bt Healy +25, Peterson bt Gaunt +4, Hyne bt Gunasekera +12, Hilditch bt Southern +13, Allim bt Haigh +17, French bt Hallett +3(OT), Bond bt Neville-Rolfe +11, Walters bt Girling +21(TP).

Third Round: Avery bt Peterson +21, Hilditch bt Hyne +12, Healy bt Gaunt +18, Gunasekera bt Southern +14, French bt Allim +5, Bond bt Walters +18, Hallett bt Haigh +7, Girling bt Neville-Rolfe +12.

Fourth Round: Avery bt Hilditch +14, Peterson bt Hyne +9, Healy bt Gunasekera +12, Bond bt French +20, Southern bt Gaunt +10, Walters bt Allim +23, Girling bt Hallett +12, Neville-Rolfe bt Haigh +20.

Fifth Round: Bond bt Avery +12, Hilditch bt Peterson +5, Healy bt Hyne +21, Gunasekera bt French +26(TP), Southern bt Walters +2, Gaunt bt Haigh +24, Girling bt Allim +19, Neville-Rolfe bt Hallett +9.

Sixth Round: Avery bt Gunasekera +20, Hilditch bt Bond +17, Healy bt Peterson +18, Hyne bt Southern +10, French bt Girling +4, Allim bt Hallett +23, Gaunt bt Neville-Rolfe +16, Walters bt Haigh +21.

Final Positions:

5 wins	M.N. Avery; G.P.N. Healy, J.R. Hilditch
4 wins	I.D. Bond
3 wins	Gunasekera; Peterson; Southern; Hyne; Girling; French, Gaunt, Walters
2 wins	Neville-Rolfe; Allim
1 win	Hallett
0 wins	Haigh

Budleigh Salterton 14-19 May

The policy of moving this fixture from its old place a week earlier again paid off; though chilly to begin with the week finished with two lovely sunny days.

The three events were as usual 'American', played in two blocks of seven each, in handicap order. A Block was again won by Susan Wiggins, back from New Zealand, whose accurate stroke play was much admired. She scored 91 points in her six wins, and then retired in favour of the runner-up, Paul MacDonald, whom she beat in last year's final by one point but who found himself promoted to A Block this time.

In the final he had a well deserved win against Don Laney, last year's unsuccessful finalist in Event 2 and this year finding himself in B Block, a very creditable effort for a player in his third season. Bobbie Wiggins, also in A Block, gave much pleasure by his impeccable play, particularly in his demonstrations of how a rush shot down the court should be played.

The final of Event 2 was won by Audrey Croker, After Arthur Rowlands had pegged her out he looked like winning at the rate he was catching up. Unfortunately for him he broke down at Rover, trying to make it off Audrey's ball, and that was that.

Event 3 was won by Michael Davies of Sidmouth, not long returned to the game after a considerable gap. The runner-up, Margaret Langley of Bath had won her block handsomely and both received the attention of the handicapper.

The Doubles, in which no fewer than five married couples took part, were keenly contested, 13 of the 16 games showing single figure wins, seven of them being on time. Bill and Diana Perry had a notable win against the holders, Bobbie Wiggins and Peter Danks in the semi-final and went on to win the final.

Enid Pursey and W/Cdr Trevor Silk, receiving 3½ bisques did very well in the final to hold the Perrys, who only beat them plus five on time. They had some good wins to get there, especially creditable since it was the junior partner's first tournament.

The lawns were playing well and one had the impression that there were more long 'hits-in' than on previous occasions. Cases in point were two wins by 'Bunny' Vulliamy; twice when pegged out and with his opponent laid up to continue he made a spectacular long hit-in and was able to go out himself. C.W.M.

Event 1: The Daldry Cups Handicap Doubles

First Round: Dr. Marshall & Mrs Browne (16) bt P.J. Shepard & J. Exell (10½) +7.

Second Round: F.A. Rowlands & Mrs C. Bagnall (11) bt Mr & Mrs P.A.D. Werryhouse +1(T); Mr & Mrs B.G. Perry (12) bt Mr & Mrs I.P. MacDonald (9½) +13; Mr & Mrs F.H. Newman (7) bt Mrs Grant & Mrs Langley (18) +9; Dr W.R.D. Wiggins & P.K.L. Danks (7) bt Dr Marshall & Mrs Browne (7) +10; J.C. Hatherley & Miss M. Hardman (21) bt Mr & Mrs R.E. Vincent (18) +5(T); W/Cdr T. Silk & Mrs Pursey (20) bt D.M. Bull & Mrs E. Bressey (9) +6; F. Moores & Miss K. Holroyde (19½) bt Dr W.R. Bucknall & R. Forth (15½) +25; R.S. Stevens & Mrs D.J. Croker (9) bt Dr D.R. Laney & Mrs K. Mapstone (8½) +4(T).

Third Round: Mr & Mrs Perry bt Rowlands & Mrs. Bagnall +6; Wiggins & Danks bt Mr & Mrs Newman +20; Silk & Mrs Pursey bt Hatherley & Miss Hardman +7; Moores & Miss Holroyde Stevens & Mrs Croker +6(T).

Semi-final: Mr & Mrs Perry bt Wiggins & Danks +8; Silk & Mrs Pursey bt Moores & Miss Holroyde +2(T).

Final: Mr & Mrs Perry bt Silk & Mrs Pursey +5(T).

Budleigh Salterton 14-19 May*American Handicap Singles**The Godfrey Turner Challenge Cup*

BLOCK A: Mrs W.R.D. Wiggins (0) 6 wins; I.P.M. MacDonald (3½) 5 wins; Dr W.R.D. Wiggins (1) 4 wins; Col E.L.L. Vulliamy (3) 3 wins; B.G. Perry (1) 1 win -9 pts; F.H. Newman (3) 1 win -41 pts; R.S. Stevens (2) 1 win -68 pts.

BLOCK B: Dr D.R. Laney (3½) 5 wins; P.J. Shepard (3½) 4 wins; Dr W.R. Bucknall (5½) 3 wins +12 pts; Mrs E.E. Bressey (5) 3 wins -11 pts; D.M. Bull (4) 3 wins -38 pts; Mrs F.H. Newman (4) 2 wins; Mrs C. Bagnall (5) 1 win.

PLAY OFF between BLOCKS A & B. Mrs Wiggins not available. I.P.M. MacDonald bt Dr D.R. Laney +16.

The J.K. Brown Memorial Challenge Cup

BLOCK C: F.A. Rowlands (6) 5 wins; Mrs I.P.M. MacDonald (6) 4 wins +30 pts; D.K.L. Danks (6) 4 wins -14 pts; Mrs W.J. Browne (6) 3 wins +28 pts; Mrs P.A. Dwerryhouse (6½) 3 wins -22 pts; Mrs P.A. Tunner (6½) 1 win -22 pts; F.T. Moores (7½) 1 win -46 pts.

BLOCK D: Mrs D.J. Croker (7) 5 wins; H.J. Crozier (9) 3 wins +3 pts; J.C. Hatherley (0) 3 wins -5 pts; P.A. Dwerryhouse (7½) 3 wins -19 pts; R. Vincent (8) 3 wins -7 pts; R. Forth (10) 2 wins +5 pts; J. Exell (7) 2 wins -21 pts.

PLAY OFF between BLOCKS C & D.

Mrs D.J. Croker bt F.A. Rowlands +8

The L.G. Walters Long Handicap Challenge Trophy

BLOCK E: Mrs M.E. Langley (10) 5 wins; Mrs B.G. Perry (11) 4 wins; A.W. Harding (13) 3 wins -16 pts; Mrs E. Grant (10) 3 wins ±0 pts; Mrs C.W. Marshall (10) 3 wins -28 pts; Mrs H.J. Crozier (12) 2 wins; Miss M. Hardman (13) 1 win.

BLOCK F: M.McF. Davis (14) 6 wins; E.G. Kitchener (13) 4 wins +14 pts; Miss K. Holroyd (3) 4 wins +13 pts; T. Brand (16) 2 wins -21 pts; W/Cdr T.N. Silk (12) 2 wins -10 pts; Mrs R. Vincent (11) 2 wins -24 pts; Mrs C. Hawthorn (14) 1 win.

PLAY OFF between BLOCKS E & F.

M.McF. Davis beat Mrs. M.E. Langley +15 in time and won.

Wrest Park Handicap 18-20 May

The tournament was dominated numerically by Wrest Parkers, whose subsequent performance varied as widely as the weather; typically wet and sunny. The handicapper's gaze frequently fell on a newcomer to Croquet, Adrian Kirby of Peterborough, who began with an allotted handicap of 8, which was reduced to 5 by the Saturday morning! Although he looked set to win Block A from the start, defeats by Judy Anderson and, finally, Andrew Collin paved the way for Jonathan Wolfe to win the block with only one defeat, three people in block A, Judy Anderson, Adrian Kirby and Jonathan Wolfe played particularly well, having handicaps reduced for their pains.

The tournament manager (Eric Audsley) muttered darkly about his performance during the weekend, but had at least one good game, against Raouf Allim. Eric made one hoop, then took a ball round to penultimate. After some shilly-shallying, Raouf took a long shot to make hoop 1, then, following a long roquet, pegged out Eric's ball after a double peel. Eric ran hoop 2 from the 1st corner. Raouf moved his balls behind the 4th hoop, so Eric replied by running hoop 3 from the boundary, to arrive at the otherwise-wired balls of Raouf's behind hoop 4. He then finished with a 3 ball break (and stopped scowling for a bit).

The Wrest Park Groundsman and Secretary (John Wheeler and Adrian Williams) did not star generally. Adrian managed to use 5 consecutive bisques against Mary Collin without scoring, doing slightly better against Tom Anderson by scoring 1 hoop for 6 consecutive bisques. He treble insulted John Wheeler, by sleeping through John's break round to peg, replying by pegging John out and finally winning his only game of the weekend.

In the Block B play-off for first place, Tom Anderson and Mary Collin played with unbroken records, reflecting their good play during the weekend. Mary started well and seemed set to sweep Tom off the lawns without using her bisques. Tom rallied, however, and the play swapped hands several times before Mary recovered her control of the game and went on to victory.

Following various comments about slow lawns, we were treated late on Friday afternoon to the sight of Tom Anderson statuesquely mowing lawns 5 and 6 on the newly-refurbished Dennis. This treatment was not apparently enough for Sarah Hampson, who sadly had to withdraw on Sunday with a game wrist.

A caucus of the stouthearted enjoyed an excellent mixture of curries and ancillaries on the Friday night. The others missed a good night, but were perhaps glad on Saturday that Croquet is an open-air game.

BLOCK A: J. Wolfe (5) 7 wins (+35); A. Kirby (8) 6 wins (+109); Mrs J. Anderson (5½) 4 wins (+49); D.V.H. Rees (0) 4 wins (-2); A. Collin (2) 4 wins (-3); H.C. Green (2½) 3 wins (-47); R.M. Allim (1½) 2 wins (-8); E. Audsley (1½) 2 wins (-5); Miss S.G. Hampson (4) 1 win (-77).

BLOCK B: Mrs M. Collin (4) 8 wins (+24); T.W. Anderson (3) 7 wins (+82); C. McKenzie (12) 5 wins (+67); G.K. Collin (3½) 5 wins (+52); J.D. Meads (1) 5 wins (+11); G.E. Guest (1) 4 wins (+6); Mrs P. Hetherington (7) 2 wins (-67); J.A. Wheeler (½) 1 win (-73); J. Haigh (2½) 1 win (-84); A.G. Williams (9) 1 win (-100).

Dr Adrian Williams

Bristol Open 19-20 May

Bristol Croquet Club are busy fund-raising this year in order to build a new pavilion. Their first Weekend Open Tournament attracted the *creme a la creme* of the croquet world. A Block sported 6 Presidents and 2 Chairmans players (with more Presidents on the waiting list) and amongst the many spectators were Humphrey Hicks, John and Barbara Solomon and David and Betty Pritchard.

The difficult management was in the very capable hands of John McCulloch, who also managed to accost everyone who turned up on Saturday morning and obtain ever increasing amounts of money—he was heard to say "it's a bad day when a trip to the club doesn't bring in £50.00!" John was joined by a very willing band of helpers who produced excellent fare throughout the tournament.

BLOCK A: Seven games promised—tall order! All first games slow but good weather permitted play to continue until 9.10 pm. The best game between Murray and Bell, was pegged down overnight Sat./Sun. 2½ hour time limit. Shortly before the end Murray pegged out Bell, giving contact, leaving the position Peg and 1 back v 5. Bell made 1 hoop from the contact, immediately hit in and made two further hoops, when Murray joined up. With 30 seconds to go Murray (joined up in middle of lawn and no useful rush) needed two hoops to draw level. Bell shot and missed, Murray raced onto the lawn, rolled up to 1 back, leaving a dolly rush, the last stroke being made two seconds before time was called. Bell missed and Murray made 3 hoops after time to win +1—thus eventually breaking the famous jinx.

Wylie didn't let himself be upset by the imperfections of the lawns, adapted his play accordingly on the sub-standard lawn 3 (re-christened by one of the lady players as "The Ladies' Graveyard") and cruised to easy victory with 7/7. Bell squeezed second place on points and both he and Hilditch had good wins over Mulliner.

Foulser, not having enjoyed three successive games on lawn 2 was heard to comment "That's an entire game without blobbing a hoop". The listener replied "I dreamed about doing that once and was just about to run Rover when Penny woke me up!"

Humphrey's Birthday

The highlight of the tournament was a dinner held at a local Bistro to celebrate the 80th birthday of Humphrey Hicks. Humphrey was in great form and enthralled everyone with croquet tales of the past. We all joined John Solomon in his toast to the greatest croquet player there has ever been. The Bistro management produced a superb ice cream confection, complete with lighted candle, and we all sincerely meant every word when we sang "Happy Birthday, dear Humphrey"—may you enjoy many more. Pat Hague

Bristol Croquet Club 19-20 May*American Blocks**Handicaps (-5 to +½)*

BLOCK A: K.F. Wylie 7 wins bt E. Bell +4(OT), P.W. Hands +12, J.R. Hilditch +11, S.N. Mulliner +16 (opponent conceded game), M. Murray +6, J. Rose +21, D.R. Foulser +16; E. Bell 4 wins (+34) bt P.W. Hands +8, J.R. Hilditch +17, S.N. Mulliner +5, J. Rose +14; M. Murray 4 wins (+4) bt E. Bell +1(OT), P.W. Hands +15, J. Rose +8, D.R. Fowler +4; S.N. Mulliner 4 wins (+3) bt P.W. Hands +8, M. Murray +12, J. Rose +11, D.R. Foulser +3; J.R. Hilditch 4 wins (+1) bt P.W. Hands +6, S.N. Mulliner +10, M. Murray +6, D.R. Foulser +15; J. Rose 2 wins (out of 6) bt J.R. Hilditch +8, D.R. Foulser +17; P.W. Hands 1 win (out of 6) bt D.R. Foulser +9 -40; D. R. Foulser 1 win (-50) bt E. Bell +5.

Handicaps 1 to 4½

BLOCK B: R.D.C. Prichard 4 wins bt Mrs W. Hague +7, A.J. Palmer +6, D. Peterson +4, R. Tribe +3; **D Peterson** 3 wins bt Mrs W. Hague +17, A.J. Palmer +15, R. Tribe +12; **R. Tribe** 2 wins bt Mrs W. Hague +14, A.J. Palmer +10; **R. Tribe** 2 wins bt Mrs W. Hague +14, A.J. Palmer +10; **A. J. Palmer** 1 win bt Mrs W. Hague +13; **Mrs. W. Hague** 0 wins.

Handicaps 5 to 8

BLOCK C: D. Goacher 3 wins (+32) bt R. Race +6, Miss J. MacLoed +15, H. Watson +13; **R. Ransom** 3 wins (+10) bt D. Goacher +2(OT), R. Race +5, Miss J. MacLoed +6; **R. Race** 2 wins (+11) bt Miss J. MacLoed +11, H. Watson +11; **H. Watson** 2 wins (+2) bt R. Ransom +3, Miss J. MacLoed +23; **Miss J. MacLoed** 0 wins.

The Peel Memorials at Cheltenham

20–25 May

After 66 years at Roehampton entries for the Peels had dwindled, so in 1969 they were moved to Cheltenham where numbers soon built up. Now after a four year gap it was good to have them back again—but the fact that May 20 was a Sunday was not highlighted as it should have been in the Fixture List, which resulted in a few absentees on the first day.

There were five previous winners in the Womens' event: Mrs Davidson 1962 (when Miss Roe was runner-up as she was again in 1979); Mrs G.T. Wheeler 1975 (after being runner-up the two previous years); Miss Arkell 1976 (when Mrs Neal was the other finalist); Mrs Prichard 1969, 1972 and 3 times runner-up, and Mrs Stanley Smith the Holder. But only one of these featured in the final stages and that was Miss Roe who showed flashes of her best form. Cheltenham has nurtured speed in the play of its members and this was really noticeable among the women: Mrs Warren, Miss Arkell, Mrs Moorcraft, Mrs Harris, Mrs Handley, Miss Roe all spring to mind, not forgetting Mrs. Yeoman undeterred by her double hip replacement and the gazelle-like Mrs Scarr. They have followed the example of Mrs Wheeler: walk quickly, think as you walk, concentrate, dont talk and above all only send for a referee when absolutely necessary and trust your opponent to do the same. Mrs Warren had looked a likely winner but she paid the price of being unbeaten in both lives and had a 'mandatory loss' in one, only to see victory snatched from her in the dying minutes of the other by Lady Bazley. The latter again fought back to beat Mrs Scarr on time in the gathering dusk of Thursday evening. The play-off between Lady Bazley and Mrs Yeoman could not start until after the prize-giving and for both it was their third match of the day. They are fine hitters of the ball but were finding breaks difficult and Lady Bazley was the more consistent and kept her opponent out and cold: she is always a strong contender and the few spectators gave her a warming cheer as she was presented with the Cup. Even the modern generation of cameras would not work!

The Men's Event fielded two previous winners: Jackson 1972 and Prichard 1960, 1974; and two runners-up Blumer 1972 and McLaren 1975. The first of a strong entry of middle-bisquers to catch the eye was Bawden—perhaps because of his height and elegant style. With phenomenal hitting-in he beat both former holders. Dwerryhouse played consistently well and will benefit from playing at a lower handicap; Sturdy beaming after a win over Jackson which he had had to wait twenty years to achieve; Scarr, alert and active and most of the time accurate; Ryan, another hard hitter who enjoys the game. But it was Berkeley who made such excellent use of his bisques that he quietly demolished all the 'unbeatables' in one half and made the play-off almost a walk-over by giving Moorcraft, the best of the low bisquers, no chances at all. It was a treat to watch Berkeley's cool, intelligent and accurate play.

In the Doubles by far the best games were in the semi-finals. It ended with all four balls on the peg and six destroying long hits-in by Mrs Yeoman (playing with McLaren) and Scarr (playing with his wife), and after time was called it was the former couple who won. But although a model partnership (seldom on the lawn together) they were not allowed to recapture this form in the final against Mrs Weitz and Warren. Mrs Weitz has never played better and did not fuss her less experienced partner who made long accurate take-offs and has a good hooping stroke—what more could you ask? Mrs Warren had sufficient concentration on a neighbouring court to steer partner Exell to victory in the Y Doubles. While Weitz, who had played outstandingly well on the first day and looked certain to win something, recovered his shooting form and duly did so by taking the Trevor Williams Cup. And take it he had to because Dwerryhouse gave little away in the Final. No wonder they called it a Weitz-Warren Benefit Week.

Real gratitude is due to Cheltenham for staging this historic event; for the warmth of huts on every court (and how we needed them on Doubles day Tuesday); for the Bar (the cheapest anywhere); the teas, the smell of lilac and above all their Manager Moorcraft, definitely one to follow. All of us will want to come back. The only sadness was thinking about and missing Colonel Wheeler—he added spice to the game, both when playing and watching.

E.A.M.P.

Event 1. Peel Memorial Bowl. Handicap Singles (Men)

DRAW

First Round: P.A. Dwerryhouse (7½) bt G.F. Blumer (5½) +11; **G/C R.S. Ryan** (8) bt W.A. Scarr (6) +14; **W.R. Bawden** (5) bt G.E.P. Jackson (0) +10; **D.H. Moorcraft** (½) bt Lt Col D.M.C. Prichard (2½) +22; **P.J. Shepard** (3½) bt J. McLaren (3) +1(OT); **M. Finn** (9) bt Dr B.G. Weitz (½) +13; **R. Berkeley** (6½) bt J. Exell (7) +8.

Second Round: Dwerryhouse bt Ryan +16; **Bawden** bt Moorcraft +8(OT); **Shepard** bt Finn +13; **Berkeley** bt W.J. Sturdy (4) +21.

Semi-final: Bawden bt Dwerryhouse +13; **Berkeley** bt Shepard +19.

Final: Berkeley bt Bawden +15.

PROCESS

First Round: J. McLaren (3½) bt G.F. Blumer (5½) +7; **G.E.P. Jackson** (0) bt R. Berkeley (6½) +4; **G/C R.S. Ryan** (8) bt M. Finn (9) +14; **W.J. Sturdy** (4) bt Lt Col Prichard (2½) +16; **P.A. Dwerryhouse** (7½) bt P.J. Shepard (3½) +2(OT); **J. Exell** (7) bt W.R. Bawden (5) +1(OT); **W.A. Scarr** (6) bt Dr B.G. Weitz (½) +24.

Second Round: Jackson bt McLaren +11; **Sturdy** bt Ryan +15; **Exell** bt Dwerryhouse +20; **D.H. Moorcraft** (½) bt Scarr +15.

Semi-final: Sturdy bt Jackson +4; **Moorcraft** bt Exell +13.

Final: Moorcraft bt Sturdy +11.

PLAY-OFF: Berkeley bt Moorcraft +26.

Event 2. Peel Memorial Bowl. Handicap Singles (Women)

DRAW

First Round: Mrs Warren (7½) bt Mrs Prichard (5) +22; **Mrs Neal** (5) bt Miss Wraith (11) +25; **Mrs Dwerryhouse** (6½) bt Mrs Scarr (5) +5(OT); **Lady Bazley** (4) bt Mrs Bawden (9) w/o.

Second Round: Miss Roe (7) bt Mrs Handley (4) +4; **Mrs Harris** (6½) bt Mrs Stanley Smith (6) +18; **Miss Duthie** (8) bt Mrs Weitz (3½) +2; **Warren** bt Neal +1(OT); **Dwerryhouse** bt Lady Bazley +5(OT); **Miss Arkell** (5) bt Mrs Moorcraft (10) +2; **Mrs Yeoman** (4) bt Miss Barber (12) +13; **Mrs Davidson** (6½) bt Mrs G.T. Wheeler (3) +19.

Third Round: Roe bt Harris +13; **Warren** bt Duthie +3(OT); **Dwerryhouse** bt Arkell +10; **Yeoman** bt Davidson +21.

Semi-final: Roe bt Warren +5(OT); **Yeoman** bt Dwerryhouse +16.

Final: Yeoman bt Roe +11.

PROCESS

First Round: Mrs Yeoman (4) bt Mrs Handley (4) +3(OT); **Mrs Harris** (6½) bt Mrs Davidson (6½) +9; **Miss Roe** (7) bt Miss Barber (12) +9; **Mrs Stanley Smith** (6) bt Mrs Wheeler (3) +15(OT).

Second Round: Yeoman bt Mrs Neal (5) +11; **Lady Bazley** (4) bt Mrs Weitz (3½) +7; **Mrs Scarr** (5) bt Harris +3; **Mrs Prichard** (5) bt Miss Arkell (5) +10; **Roe** bt Miss Wraith (11) +11; **Mrs Bawden** (9) bt Miss Duthie (8) +19; **Mrs Dwerryhouse** (6½) bt Stanley Smith +2(OT); **Mrs Warren** (7½) bt Mrs Moorcraft (10) +2(OT).

Third Round: Bazley bt Yeoman +7; **Scarr** bt Prichard opp. ret'd.; **Bawden** bt Roe +1(OT); **Warren** bt Dwerryhouse +5(OT).

Semi-final: Bazley bt Scarr +2(OT); **Warren** bt Bawden +13.

Final: Bazley bt Warren +5.

PLAY-OFF: Bazeley bt Yeoman +10

Event 3. Handicap Doubles 'X'

First Round: Mrs Moorcraft & B.G. Weitz (8½) bt Mrs Neal & M. Finn (13) +4; **Mrs Yeoman & J. McLaren** (7) bt Mrs Warren & J. Exell (14½) +7; **Mr & Mrs Scarr** (11) bt Miss Duthie & Mrs G.T. Wheeler +5; **Mr Handley & Mrs Barber** (14) bt G/C Ryan & P. Shepard (11½) +13; **G. Blumer & R. Berkeley** (12) bt Mrs Davidson & W.J. Sturdy (10½) +2(OT); **E. Jackson & Mrs Stanley Smith** (6) bt D.H. Moorcraft & Mrs Harris (7) +6; **Mr & Mrs Dwerryhouse** (14) bt Lady Bazley & Miss Wraith (13) +15; **Mrs Weitz & A. Warren** (11½) bt Col & Mrs Prichard (7½) +9.

Second Round: McLaren & Miss Yeoman bt Weitz & Moorcraft +9; **Mr & Mrs Scarr** bt Mrs Handley & Barber +9; **Jackson & Stanley Smith** bt Blumer & Berkeley +6; **Mrs Weitz & Warren** bt Mr & Mrs Dwerryhouse +3(OT).

Semi-final: McLaren & Yeoman bt Mr & Mrs Scarr +1(OT); **Weitz & Warren** bt Jackson & Stanley Smith +6.

Final: Weitz & Warren bt McLaren & Yeoman +11.

Event 3. Handicap Doubles 'Y'

Final: Exell & Mrs Warren bt Lady Bazley & Miss Wraith +11.

Event 4. Unrestricted Handicap Singles

First Round: Mrs Neal (5) bt R. Berkeley (6½) +5(OT); **J. McLaren** (3) bt P.J. Shepard (3½) +11; **Mrs Weitz** (3½) bt Mrs Prichard (5) +16; **Miss Wraith** (11) bt Miss Roe (7) +9; **Mrs Moorcraft** (10) bt G/C R.S. Ryan (8) +21; **G.E.P. Jackson** (0) bt Mrs Stanley Smith (6) +4; **B.G. Weitz** (½) bt Mrs Dwerryhouse (6½) +20; **Mrs Scarr** (5) bt Lady Bazley (4) +5; **Miss Arkell** (5) bt Mrs G.T. Wheeler (3) +11; **P. Dwerryhouse** (7½) bt J. Exell (7) +6(OT); **D.H. Moorcraft** (½) bt Miss Duthie (8) w/o; **Lt Col Prichard** (2½) bt Mrs Davidson (6½) w/o; **W.R. Bawden** (5) bt W.S. Sturdy (4) +5; **W.A. Scarr** (6) bt G.F. Blumer (5½) +19; **Mrs Yeoman** (4) bt M. Finn (10) +2(OT).

Second Round: Neal bt Mrs Harris (6½) +19; **Mrs Weitz** bt McLaren +25; **Mrs Moorcraft** bt Miss Wraith +12; **B.G. Weitz** bt Jackson +14; **Mrs Scarr** bt Miss Arkell +10; **Dwerryhouse** bt Moorcraft +12; **Bawden** bt Prichard +7; **Scarr** bt Yeoman +14.

Third Round: Neal bt Mrs Weitz +9; **B.G. Weitz** bt Mrs Moorcraft +15; **Dwerryhouse** bt Mrs Scarr +9(OT); **Scarr** bt Bawden +8.

Semi-final: Weitz bt Neal +3(OT); **Dwerryhouse** bt Scarr +7(OT).

Final: Weitz bt Dwerryhouse +10.

Colchester Spring Weekend Tournament 26–28 May

Braving three days of nearly continuous rain, sixteen players took part in the wettest ever Colchester Spring Weekend handicap tournament, which was played in two American blocks. Fortunately the lawns remained playable and some interesting struggles took place. One was the only game in the tournament that went to time and involved local player Reg Girling and Dan Kelly of Bowden. When time was called three clips were on the peg and Kelly, in play, succeeded in getting his other clip on the peg, leaving his balls semi-wired from Girling, whose balls were on the North boundary by hoop 3 and on the west boundary near hoop 4. Girling shot for the peg and missed by inches, leaving Kelly to peg out a ball and win.

Another interesting game also involved Reg Girling, playing against eventual block winner Paul Watson of Oxford. Watson played to peg out, missing with red but hitting with yellow. Girling, with clips on 1 back and 2, took the innings and succeeded in getting to rover and penultimate before Watson finally completed the peg out.

Unfortunately on Friday evening Ray Jones' knee gave way and after a hospital visit he was forced to spend the remainder of the

tournament sitting on the sidelines. However, by Sunday evening three players were in contention to win each block and the eventual final on Monday afternoon saw block B winner Dr R. R. (Bob) Sutherlands of Ipswich defeat Dr P. A. (Paul) Watson of Oxford, winner of block A, by 14.

BLOCK A: Dr P.A. Watson 5 wins (+63); Miss S. Hampson 5 wins (+62); D. Kelly 5 wins (+38); R. Girling 3 wins (+43); Prof. K. Campbell 2 wins (-7); M. Avery 1 win (-99); G. Hallett 0 wins (-120); R.C. Jones 2 wins (-1), retired injured.

BLOCK B: Dr R.R. Sutherland 6 wins (+106); Mrs J. Neville Rolfe 6 wins (+62); A.A. Reed 5 wins (+47); J. Haigh 3 wins (+9); C. Sanford 3 wins (-12); A.J. Girling 3 wins (-35); R. Alford 1 win (-62); Miss M. Keeping 1 win (-97).

PLAY OFF for Forbes Memorial Cup: Dr R.R. Sutherland bt Dr R.A. Watson +14.

Southwick Salver Championship 26–28 May

In weather conditions best suited to Arctic Seals this "best of three" weekend saw the inaugural use of Walker Balls in a major A-Class Championship. The experiment was a success. The 16 players were asked at the end of the tournament "Do you prefer to play with Walker balls or Eclipse balls or don't you mind?" and the result was: *Dont Mind—6; Walker—6; Eclipse—4*. Answers were given on the understanding that further testing on dry fast lawns is necessary but this "consumer response", coupled with the attractive play (1 quadruple and 10 triples in the main event) must be heartening to those who, despairing of the quality and cost of the Jacques product in recent years, welcomed Trevor Walker's initiative.

The main 1st round shock was the defeat of Aiton by Roger Tribe from Bristol, who proved it was no fluke by the quality of his subsequent play. The other "big names" won easily, the Murray revival continuing with an early triple against Southern whilst McCullough, with a triple and QPO against Gunasekera, clearly baffled his opponent with an unusual show of aggressiveness. Only the Palmer/Prichard duel went to 3 games, Robert's knack of winning 3 ball endings gaining him the necessary 2 wins.

The gallery's vote as "game of the tournament" went to the decisive 2nd game in the 2nd round clash between Cordingley and Walters. With Cordingley on 2-back and 4-back Walters embarked on what at first looked like a confident, but later became a more and more shaky TPO, succeeding only at the last gasp, to the crowd's delight. With his last shot however, following the peg out, he apparently became transfixed with confusion as he tried to scatter his opponents ball from the middle of the lawn. Cordingley gleefully accepted the resulting unorganised leave, only to miss a hampered shot after 3-back. A nerve tingling pegged out duel ensued, but Walters brought off a famous straight games triumph by taking his backward ball round, in stages, from 1 without Cordingley taking Croquet again. In this round Roy took the 1st game off Mulliner with a triple but then had to endure watching two more himself, Murray beat Prichard and McCullough beat Tribe, the latter very honestly admitting to a double tap in front of rover when about to win the 2nd game.

In the semi's Murray, gaining momentum, crushed Walters but Mulliner committed the error of making 2 mistakes in each of the 1st and 3rd games against McCullough, including running the wrong hoop off of McCulloughs ball at a decisive stage at the end of the 1st game, and was duly punished.

McCullough promised to make up to the disappointed gallery for his earlier aggressiveness by superdour tactics against Murray and received hearty cheers for 2 'deens'. A spectacular hit in from 2nd to 1st corner rescued Murray when pegged out and going under in the 2nd game (Riggall vindicated!) but 2 vital roquets of 'wired' balls in the 3rd helped McCullough to beat the Southwick Jinx and retain the salver for the first time ever.

Whilst the Elephant Seals clashed, 'Wild Dick' Hilditch just failed to make a big enough splash in the final of the Swiss against Mulliner and this soggy but jovial tournament came to an end with a heartily endorsed vote of thanks to our generous Southwick hosts.

J.R.M.

Results:

Best of Three

Semi-final: M. Murray bt J.O. Walters +19(TP) +19; J.R. McCullough bt S.N. Mulliner +17 -26(TP) +26.

Final: J.R. McCullough bt M. Murray +21 -7 +14.

Cheltenham 2nd Weekend Tournament 26-28 May

This was the kind of cold wet weekend where a triple peel is where you start with five sweaters and take three of them off. Despite the conditions, however, a conventional triple was performed by Phil Johnson, and a surprising number of double peels seem to have been attempted, although I only heard of one being completed, by John Wurmli, who must produce croquet's only genuine Swiss rolls.

John Mann finished with a three-figure winning margin. So did Ian Maughan, in between managing with his usual skill (it's the first time he's done it, so that must be true) and playing host to about half the players. At the other extreme one of the blocks was decided by Carmen Bazley, who lost to Mark Strachan by +1 on time and beat Jan MacLeod by the same margin, causing Mark to win the block and Jan to come second. John Exell, as cheerful as ever in spite of the deluge, seemed to be beating everybody in sight, but at the last minute was pushed into second place in his block by David Cairns. Peter Leach and Robin Burnell won their blocks by convincing margins. An interesting innovation was the aesthetically spotted red ball which enabled a colour-blind player to double-bank.

I didn't see any of this, preferring to spend as much time as possible in the nice warm clubhouse listening to the gossip of the players, once their teeth stopped chattering. I'm told there's a tennis reporter who uses the same technique at Wimbledon. Lots of interesting things happened in the clubhouse, though, such as a long, convoluted discussion between Liz Neal and Carmen Bazley on wiring and hampered shots, involving the manager's chair, a pair of shoes, and a lively crowd of hecklers. I'm not sure the demonstration was authentic, as the shoes weren't flat-soled. M.K.

Cheltenham Weekend II 26-28 May

Handicap Singles

BLOCK A:

5 wins M. Strachan (3½) (+25)
4 wins Miss J. McLeod (6) (+52), Lady Bazley (4) (+9)
3 wins J. Wurmli (2) (+3)
2 wins M. Suter (8) (-21), B.G. Neal (-½) (-52)
1 win Mrs U. Finn (15) (-16)

BLOCK B:

5 wins P. Leach (8) (+69)
4 wins S. Hoole (2) (+14)
3 wins C. Duckworth (3) (-3), W.A. Shaw (4½) (-13), P.M. Johnson (0) (-24)
2 wins P. Dyke (14) (-18)
1 win Mrs K. Yeoman (4) (-39)

BLOCK C:

6 wins R.E. Burnell (5) (+85)
5 wins D. Goulding (2½) (+46)
4 wins Dr. B.G. Weitz (½) (-33)
3 wins Mrs L.V. Latham (10) (+9)
1 win Mrs M. Langley (9) (-17), Mrs Warren (7½) (-41), A.M. Adam (3½) (-49)

BLOCK D:

6 wins J. Mann (7) (+109)
4 wins L.V. Latham (½) (+36), M.T. Paddon (2½) (+24)
3 wins M. Finn (9) (+6), Mrs Weitz (3½) (-23)
1 win Miss Wraith (11) (-56)
0 wins D. Jesson-Dibley (4½) (-110)

BLOCK E:

5 wins Dr D. Cairns (1½) (+51), J. Exell (7) (+40)
3 wins D. Rushcombe-King (8) (+8)
2 wins C.B. Snowdon (2½) (-7), Mrs. A.E. Coetzee (4½) (-23), P.J. Shepard (3½) (-37), Mrs E. Dyson (9) (-32)

BLOCK F:

6 wins F.I. Maughan (4) (+105)
4 wins Mrs C. Smith (3) (-4)
3 wins G.W.R. Goodwin (6½) (-3), Dr M. Kolbuszewski (1½) (-6)
2 wins R. Mattison (10) (-28), G/C R.S. Ryan (8) (-5)
1 win Mrs Neal/W.R. Bawden (5) (-59)

Nottingham 26-28th May

Handicap Singles (Knockout and Swiss)

5 wins E.J. Davis (1)
4 wins A.G. Gordon (4½)
Mrs W. Hague (4)
B.G. Hallam (4½)
Miss G.F. Hallam (9)
Mrs D. de Q. Lenfestey (7½)
K.F.W. Townsend (10)
Dr I.G. Vincent (-½)
Dr R.F. Wheeler (4)
Mr L. Cowan (11)
3 wins J.J. Death (12)
C.G. Hopewell (2½)
J.C. Straw (4)
J.F.S. Thomas (8)
Mrs K.F.W. Townsend (12)
Mrs R.F. Wheeler (2½)
J.A. Wheeler (½)
Mrs A.J. Bucknell (10)
Mrs K. Cotterell (4½)
P.J. Death (½)
Mrs J. Haworth (14)
G.E.P. Jackson (0)
D. de Q. Lenfestey (9)
Miss M.E. Watson-Walker (11)
1 win G. Henshaw (4)
F.F. Ross (8)
Mrs N. Tyldesley (10)
0 wins Mrs C. Chamberlain (10)

Southport and Birkdale 26-28 May

We were pleased to welcome four visitors from Stourbridge as well as the usual contingent from Ellesmere, Chester and Bowdon. Among the high bisquers, it was encouraging to see Dee Dennett and Ann Rimmer coming back for more after their first ever tournament a year ago, both much improved now and achieving substantial wins in the losers' event on Monday.

An alarmist London-biased weather forecast had provoked more than one competitor to look out the thermal underwear, only to find that some of the regulars were wearing shorts. Both schools of thought were right, because the sunshine was warm and the north wind cold at the same time, and Saturday ended with the traditional simultaneous heavy rain and bright sunshine. The rest of the tournament was played in dismal conditions, Sunday being particu-

larly cold and wet. One must make allowances for the fact that Andrew Bennet was managing his first tournament, but he really must get the meteorology right if they ask him again. He had his own answer to the conditions, which was to play on the lawn nearest the clubhouse, lose quickly if it was raining and win quickly if it was not. Pauline Lewis was unfortunate to play him before Sunday's rain. She did all the right things with her bisques, only to see her ball peeled and pegged out, leaving two balls on the lawn ("makes it easier for the double bankers") and Andrew with an eight-hoop lead. Those who booed this ungentlemanly conduct were sent to play on distant lawns until late.

Tim Haste was the only player to win all the games in his block. This included a game in which he embarked on a triple peel against Ann Rimmer, but the turn ended with the popular four-balls-round-rover leave when the peels had been done. The other player who seemed likely to win his block from an early stage was Brian Storey. His straight hitting and rhythmical break play lost him four bisques last season and he looks all set to continue his performance. Andrew Collin emerged as a strong winner of his block, and Paul Stoker, winning by mostly narrow margins, was the other semi-finalist.

Those not involved in play-offs on the Monday were grouped into little knockouts according to the number of wins so far. This event saw a number of triple peels attempted, of which the most successful was Mary Collin's score of "+26(TP)(B)" (B for bisque) against David Peterson. This event was won by Alan Sutcliffe with the only other +26, against Colin Irwin.

Tim Haste won his semi-final against Paul Stoker, whose roquets were starting to let him down, and the other was won by Andrew Collin's long hitting and accurate play.

Those watching the final from the warmth of the clubhouse started to make predictions when Andrew used both bisques to start the break with his first ball against the unbeaten Tim. Tim in turn was very careful to leave nothing lying around that Andrew could take advantage of. A particular feature of his play is the shot which rolls the partner ball to a place of safety while trying for position on another ball, which can then be dismissed if the rush is not obtained. This time these tactics resulted in his not making many hoops, while Andrew's more attacking line of play made him the holder of the Jubilee Tankard.

Many thanks are due to the ladies who made the teas and to Paul Stoker and Don Williamson who were up early every morning setting the hoops to a standard which helped the Bowdon players at least to feel at home.

Last year this chronicler ended a report with a quotation from a player in the South: "Where is Southport, anyway?" The same question was put subsequently by another southern player, who has now been to one of our tournaments and discovered the standard of lawns and croquet which we offer. We hope to see more new visitors next season, but it will be necessary to apply early. A. Bennet

Results:

BLOCK A:

4 wins P. Stoker (3) +46; C.J. Irwin (-½) +26; A.F. Sutcliffe (3½) +18.
2 wins Miss A.E. Dawson (13) -21.
1 win Mrs L.J. Taylor (12) -13.
0 wins Mrs J. Potter (8) -56.

BLOCK B:

5 wins Dr T.J. Haste (0) +76
3 wins Mrs A.J. Collin (3) +12; M.G. Tompkinson (2½) +11
2 wins J.D. Meads (1) +2; Mrs C.J. Irwin (8) -23
0 wins Mrs A. Rimmer (16) -78

BLOCK C:

4 wins B.J. Storey (4) +65; J. Potter (2½) +20
3 wins J.D. Williamson (8) +25; D. Peterson (1) -7
1 win Mrs D.C. Dennett (16) -25
0 wins Mrs C. Lewis (15) -78

BLOCK D:

4 wins A.J. Collin (2) +48; W.O. Aldridge (1) +8
3 wins Mrs M.G. Tompkinson (7) +16
2 wins A. Bennett (1½) -2
1 win Mrs A.F. Sutcliffe (7½) -28; Miss P. Lewis (11) -42

Semi-final: Haste bt Stoker +14; Collin bt Storey +11

Final: Collin bt Haste +15

Final of Second Event: Sutcliffe bt Irwin +26

PARKSTONE I 28 May-2 June

Those of us who assembled at the Parkstone Club house on the Sunday afternoon of the late spring bank holiday hoping for some pre-tournament practice, couldn't help feeling a bit depressed at the sorry sight of the sodden lawns. However, much to everyone's surprise, and to manager Les Butler's great relief, Monday dawned overcast but dry and play for some 30 members and visitors was able to start on all 6 lawns on time.

A Draw and Process was arranged for the 14 'A' class entries while the 'B' and 'C' classes had their double-banked Americans giving them each an appreciable number of games. There was an intense cat and mouse opening game between Pat Asa-Thomas and Dr William Ormerod in the 'A' class and the 'B's' produced a number of nail biting finishes. Tuesday saw the start of the doubles with Terry Wood partnered by Derek, his 11 year old son, and being able to muster a formidable array of bisques stood as good a chance as any pair of winning the doubles. However this was not to be as in the heat of the moment in an all on the peg finish either Dad or Son (we never discovered which) forgot about their half bisque which lost them the game. The doubles were finally won by Bob Bailey and Marjorie Marshall with the latter performing her usual party piece of "walking her way" through all her hoops.

The greatly improved weather on Wednesday and Thursday brought out much enjoyable play though by this time most of us were doing our best to avoid drawing lawn 3—otherwise known as the cage—because being a tennis court pressed into service for the Croquet tournament was for all but the locals becoming a bit of a problem. Disaster almost struck on Friday with torrential early morning rain, but with some excellent hard work by the groundsman and with the help of Les Butler and some club members only one lawn was put out of action and the timing of the events wasn't greatly affected. Those of us who were still around the club late that Friday evening were treated to the rare sight of the Manager hastening over to Marjorie Marshall (who is young in mind and spirit if not in age) just as she was about to peg out in her last game that day saying—"Mrs Marshall, if you win this game you'll have to play three times tomorrow—do you wish to concede before you peg out?" "Not on your Nelly!" came the swift reply, and just as well because on the morrow she won all three of those games.

Finals day saw Mrs Bobby Crane narrowly beating Marjorie Vale to win the 'C' class finals, and in the 'B' class finals Mike Wilkins, a fast improving player, beating Bob Crane who unfortunately was not able to maintain his earlier high standards. As expected Terry Wood who had played some immaculate croquet with superb hitting in and approach work all through the week won both the 'A' class Draw and Process. In the big handicap he also beat Mrs. Pat MacDonald who up to then had played to a very high standard as had also her club mate Winnifred Brown.

The thanks of all of us who entered the Parkstone tournament must go to Les Butler the manager and his very capable assistant Margaret McMordie for keeping the events running so smoothly against all the odds. To Bob Carder the tournament referee and all his many referees on call who it is believed only had to fault one stroke throughout the week. Finally to the Ladies of the club for their really excellent

lunches and teas which sustained us during the week and greatly contributed to an enjoyable tournament. T.V.

Results:

Event 1. Dorset Salver

DRAW

First Round: J.E. Guest bt R.H.C. Carder +16; A.F. Coleman bt F.L. Shergold +23; Dr W.P. Ormerod bt Mrs E. Asa-Thomas +6(T); Dr W.R.D. Wiggins bt L.S. Butler +18; T.I. Wood bt B. Whitehouse +17; Mrs W.R.D. Wiggins bt Dr C.A. Parker +8.

Second Round: Guest bt R.F. Bailey +7; Ormerod bt Coleman +8; Wood bt Dr Wiggins +17; Mrs Wiggins bt I.P.M. MacDonald +18.

Semi-final: Guest bt Ormerod +16; Wood bt Mrs Wiggins +15.

Final: Wood bt Guest +16.

PROCESS

First Round: L.S. Butler bt R.F. Bailey +8; Dr C.A. Parker bt F.L. Shergold +11; T.I. Wood bt R.H.C. Carder +21; J.E. Guest bt B. Whitehouse +17; I.P.M. MacDonald bt Mrs E. Asa-Thomas +20; Mrs W.R.D. Wiggins bt A.F. Coleman +1(T).

Second Round: Parker bt Butler +2(T); Wood bt Dr W.P. Ormerod w.o. opp. scr.; MacDonald bt Guest +13; Mrs. Wiggins bt Dr W.R.D. Wiggins w.o. opp. scr.

Semi-final: Wood bt Parker +15; Mrs Wiggins bt MacDonald +17.

Final: Wood bt Mrs. Wiggins +18.

PLAY-OFF (for 2nd place)

Mrs W.R.D. Wiggins bt J.E. Guest +15.

Event 2. B Level Singles

BLOCK A:

4 wins R.F.A. Crane (+47)
3 wins Major T. Vale (+17)
2 wins D.J. Goacher (+17)
1 win G.F. Blumer (-26)
0 wins Miss A. R. Robertson (-54)

BLOCK B:

4 wins M.J. Wilkins (+54)
3 wins Mrs I.P.M. MacDonald (+29)
2 wins Air Cdr J.H. Greswell (-18)
1 win Mrs W.J. Browne (-18)
0 wins Miss P.E. Parker (-47)

PLAY-OFF: M.J. Wilkins bt R.F.A. Crane +15.

Event 3. Handicap Singles

BLOCK A:

2 wins Mrs R.F.A. Crane (12) (+12)
2 wins Mrs B.R. Saunders (9) (+7)
2 wins J.O. Mays (9) (+6)
0 wins Dr C.W. Marshall (10) (-25)

BLOCK B:

2 wins Mrs T. Vale (10) (+14)
2 wins Mrs D. Mitchell (10) (+13)
2 wins Mrs C.A. Parker (10) (+6)
0 wins Mrs C.W. Marshall (10) (-33)

PLAY-OFF: Mrs R.F.A. Crane bt Mrs T. Vale +2(T)

Event 4X. Cripps Memorial Trophy (unrestricted)

First Round: Dr C.A. Parker (1½) bt D.J. Goacher (6½) +1(T); B. Whitehouse (3½) bt R.H.C. Carder (3½) +19; Mrs W.J. Browne (6) bt Mrs D. Mitchell (10) +17; J.E. Guest (1) bt Miss A.R. Robertson (8)

+21; Major T. Vale (4½) bt Miss P.E. Parker (5) +7(T); Mrs B.R. MacDonald (6) bt Mrs B.R. Saunders (9) +3; Mrs T. Vale (10) bt Air Cdr J.H. Greswell (4) +1(T); M.J. Wilkins (5) bt Dr W.R.D. Wiggins (1) opp. ret.; Mrs W.R.D. Wiggins (0) bt L.S. Butler (½) +14; Mrs E. Asa-Thomas (3) bt J.O. Mays (9) +6; Mrs C.A. Parker (10) bt Mrs R.F.A. Crane (12) +4(T); T.I. Wood (0) bt Mrs C.W. Marshall (10) +8; R.F. Bailey (3) bt A.F. Coleman (1) +24; F.L. Shergold (1½) bt R.F.A. Crane (4) +1(T).

Second Round: I.P.M. MacDonald (3) bt Dr Parker +4(T); Brown bt Whitehouse +12; Vale bt Guest +6; Mrs MacDonald bt Mrs Vale +10; Wilkins (5) bt Mrs Wiggins +1(T); Asa-Thomas bt Mrs Parker +12; Wood bt Bailey +7; Shergold bt G.F. Blumer (5½) +16.

Third Round: Browne bt MacDonald +6(T); MacDonald bt Vale +23; Wilkins bt Asa-Thomas +7(T); Wood bt Shergold +4.

Semi-final: MacDonald bt Browne +2(T); Wood bt Wilkins +14.

Final: Wood bt MacDonald +22.

Event 4Y. Halse Cup

Semi-final: Miss P.E. Parker bt Mrs D. Mitchell +1(T); Mrs C.W. Marshall bt G.F. Blumer +6(T).

Final: Parker bt Marshall +15(T).

Event 5. Summer Doubles Cup

Final: R.F. Bailey & Mrs C.W. Marshall (13) bt F.L. Shergold & Mrs B.R. Saunders (10½) +6(T).

70th INTER COUNTIES CHAMPIONSHIP

6-9 June

The 70th Inter Counties was held at Southwick for the third year sponsored for the third successive year by Hedges and Butler, United Kingdom distributors of Mateus Wines (unhappily for the last time). Nine Counties took part, the largest number since the War (12 entered in 1939). It would have been ten if Eastern Counties had not withdrawn after the closing date.

To enable every County to play each of the others during the four days three matches were played on Thursday (with time limits of 3 hours). With 108 games played it is impossible to comment on individual games in the permitted space, but the standard of play was typical of "Counties"—some good but some rather indifferent. Devon & Dorset entered for the first time calling on players from the Budleigh and Parkstone clubs, and Gloucester for the first time since 1939. Double banking was necessary on three of the nine lawns available, but this did not seem unpopular.

The outcome of the Championship was in doubt right up to the end. After eight rounds Northern, Berks & Oxon and Surrey all had six wins to their credit and the four leading Counties were playing each other in the last round. Northern were playing Berks & Oxon, and Surrey playing Gloucester. If Berks & Oxon won they would be the champions even if Surrey beat Gloucester (as they had beaten Surrey 2-1 in the 5th round). If Northern and Surrey both won Surrey would be the winners having beaten Northern 2-1 in the 4th round. Surrey won their first two games hence the match so all depended on the outcome of the Northern/Berks & Oxon tie. Each won one of the first two games to be concluded. Time had been called on the remaining first pair game. Nigel Aspinall, who had steered Berks & Oxon's first pair to victory in all the preceding seven rounds, had to make 4-back, penultimate and rover and peel his partner ball through rover in the last turn to give Berks & Oxon the championship. He made 4-back and penultimate after an incredible cannon at the beginning of the turn and had only to peel his partner ball through rover two feet dead in front and make rover himself to win the match. Incredibly yellow stuck in rover and red failed in the half-jump to make the hoop and so Northern won the match to the delight of the Surrey supporters.

Surrey thus recorded their 19th win. Since the championship was first played in 1897 only Middlesex have won it more times (28).

Thanks are due to the Southwick club for hosting the event so well, particularly to the large gang of ladies who provided such excellent lunches (washed down by free Mateus wine) and teas. Members of the winning team each received Mateus Dartington decanters, and all those taking part a pair of Dartington goblets. The Association is indebted to Hedges and Butler for their generous sponsorship over the past three years which has gained us a lot of media publicity as well as a boost to our financial resources.

Results:

SURREY 7 wins: beat Bedford 3-0, Sussex 3-0, Middlesex 2-1, Northern 2-1, Midlands 3-0, Devon & Dorset 2-1, Gloucester 3-0, and lost to Berks & Oxon 2-1. Team: B.G. Neal (Captain), P.L. Alvey, A.V. Camroux, J.E. Guest, A.J. Mrozinski, S.N. Mulliner and A. Palmer.

NORTHERN COUNTIES 7 wins: beat Midland 3-0, Gloucester 3-0, Devon & Dorset 3-0, Bedford 3-0, Middlesex 2-1, Sussex 3-0, Berks & Oxon 2-1, and lost to Surrey 2-1. Team: J. Rose (Captain), E. Bell, T.J. Haste, C.J. Irwin, D.K. Openshaw, D. Peterson and C. Southern.

BERKS & OXON 6 wins: beat Middlesex 3-0, Sussex 3-0, Devon & Dorset 3-0, Surrey 2-1, Gloucester 2-1, Midland 3-0, and lost to Bedford 2-1, and Northern 2-1. Team: G.N. Aspinall (Captain), I.D. Bond, D.J. Croker, M. Ormerod, G. Roy, B.C. Sykes and B.G.F. Weitz.

GLOUCESTER 5 wins: beat Devon & Dorset 3-0, Bedford 2-1, Sussex 2-1, Midland 2-1, Middlesex 2-1, and lost to Northern 3-0, Berks & Oxon 2-1, Surrey 3-0. Team: D.H. Moorcraft (Captain), A. Berry, G.E.P. Jackson, I. Maugham, R. Tribe, Mrs B.G.F. Weitz.

BEDFORD 4 wins: beat Berks & Oxon 2-1, Midland 3-0, Devon & Dorset 2-1, Sussex 3-0, and lost to Surrey 3-0, Gloucester 2-1, Middlesex 2-1, Northern 3-0. Team: D.V.H. Rees (Captain), T.W. Anderson, Mrs T.W. Anderson, H. Bottomley, A.G. Dumont, J.A. Wheeler, J.M. Wilson.

MIDDLESEX 3 wins: beat Midland 2-1, Bedford 2-1, Sussex 3-0, and lost to Berks & Oxon 3-0, Surrey 2-1, Devon & Dorset 2-1, Northern 2-1, Gloucester 2-1. Team: R.A. Godby (Captain), P. Cordingley, G.E.J.A. Doughty, M.G. Pearson, C.H.L. Prichard, E.W. Solomon, P. Torrington, S.S. Townsend.

SUSSEX 2 wins: beat Devon & Dorset 2-1, Midland 3-0, and lost to Surrey 3-0, Berks & Oxon 3-0, Gloucester 2-1, Middlesex 3-0, Northern 3-0, Bedford 3-0. Team: R. Wood (Captain), A.F. Coleman, D.A. Harris, S.R.C. Malin, M.F. Phelps, E.E. Rees, E.C. Tyrwhitt Drake, G.O.H. Whillock, B.D. Yallop.

MIDLAND 1 win: beat Devon & Dorset 2-1, and lost to Northern 3-0, Middlesex 2-1, Bedford 3-0, Sussex 3-0, Gloucester 2-1, Surrey 3-0, Berks & Oxon 3-0. Team: D.C. Caporn (Captain), Mrs H.B.H. Carlisle, Mrs L.A. Coombs, G. Noble, G.G. Strutt, M.G. Tompkinson, Mrs M.G. Tompkinson, L. Wharrad.

DEVON & DORSET 1 win: beat Middlesex 2-1, and lost to Sussex 2-1, Gloucester 3-0, Northern 3-0, Berks & Oxon 3-0, Bedford 2-1, Surrey 2-1, Midland 2-1. Team: B.G. Perry (Captain), R.F. Bailey, L.S. Butler, N.G. Hynes, D. Laney, F.L. Shergold, R.S. Stevens.

R.F.R.

1984 HOME INTERNATIONALS

The 1984 Home Internationals at Budleigh were very successful with all the teams involved at all times and with absolutely definitive conditions—very hot and no wind at all. 10 lawns were in use thus there was no double banking.

After much contention on the possibility of seeding or repeating last year's fixtures the draw this year was unseeded and made before play on the first day.

By an adjustment of the rules the teams were playing with

predetermined colours, to help the spectators sort out the players from their uniform English accents! The format this year was 5 singles each best of 3 per match thus allowing for a clear result in each match.

The match between Scotland and Ireland was held up with some confusion on the arrival of their player from Glasgow, but all was OK eventually. The game between Murray and Rose was the first to finish with a good win for Scotland. The top lawn between Hope and McCullough provided a good finish in the 2nd game (1st to Hope). JR Riggall off Andrew and got to rover and peg against 3-back, he was joined 10 yards wide on the east boundary at 2nd when Andrew hit a lift and got three hoops but stuck in rover. JR shot at it but missed going 8 yards wide, Andrew trickled to the peg and after JR had played with the forward ball Andrew just hit in.

In the Aiton Vincent match Ian had a TP after Keith had failed the customary attempt at the TPO. In the second game there was the chance to try out some of the new rules. Ian was pegging out Keith from about 18 inches, in the stroke the forward ball hit the peg dead on and bounced back to hit his mallet (in the follow through). Under the new rules (15(d)) there is no doubt that the decision given of a fault was correct, an adjustment may be forthcoming, some would apply Law 51 (ex 53) in this instance to not declare a fault. Would the same decision apply if the player were finishing the game and the second ball had contrived to hit the peg before the fault had occurred? In the game Keith did the peg out and went on to win and had a routine TP in the 3rd. But for this incident there is no reason why Ireland could not have won through.

In the other match the top lawn was interesting as Openshaw took the first with a good STP yet Croker still managed to win the match not taking croquet until 9-0 down in the second. Eric was the first to finish with Phil soon after so England were looking for just one more. The Bell vs Peterson game had meanwhile been forced to move lawns following an incident with a neighbouring nudist colony and a lost ball or two. Robert Prichard did particularly well in taking the first against Dave Foulser and only just sticking in rover when in sight of victory in the third.

Thus the favourites had won through and everyone could relax and enjoy the drinks party kindly laid on by the local members (everyone except the slow finishers of course!) The meal at the restaurant provoked some gratuitous behaviour from certain ex varsity players that need not be detailed here.

So the the final, the weather if anything was even hotter with still no hint of attack on the stripey flag near the main hut.

At lunch England led in 4 of the matches with the Bell vs Spalding game starting to assume epic lengths, so things appeared to be sown up. The sun went in for a bit improving things significantly so that the last few hours were very nice.

At about half past three England recorded two straight victories with Eric and Phil winning again. In the top match with David 1-0 up, Andrew pegged two balls out leaving 6th vs 4-back. David picked up a bit of a break and caught up by hitting an 8 yarder when Andrew was in front of penult. Hope was on the boundary behind 2nd as Openshaw made 4-back, he stayed on the boundary behind 4-back. Hope then took position at penult which Openshaw refused to shoot at and subsequently when Hope was for peg and about 10 yards from the peg towards 1st hoop he refused a not too hard penult allowing Hope to just hit the peg!

Back on the lower lawns Aiton triumphed eventually 2-1 and Bill Spalding finished off grinding down Eddie Bell 2-0 (at about 6 o'clock); thus the spectators were able to watch the last game between the senior players as the decider. Openshaw was quickly round to 4-back and peg but Andrew hit and got going, and after a let-off at 6th he was able to put the clip on 4-back. David hit with the forward ball and laid up on the east boundary near 4th corner, Hope regained the innings by going into 3rd corner and allowing Openshaw to stick in rover. Unfortunately Andrew failed to approach 1st and the match was soon over, the issue not decided until about 7 pm. The final score was thus Harrow Oak 3 Scotland 2.

The third play off was equally close although it did finish earlier. The

Welsh hero was again Dave Croker who beat John Rose in the 3rd game when the match stood at 2-2, the team was helped by a mysterious substitute one Dai Jones 'the Juice' who slipped into the team. This was thus the first Welsh match victory in this event boding for closer ties in the future. J.R.H.

HUNSTANTON WEEKEND II June 29-July 1

Butlin Cup Handicap Singles (American)

Block A

4 wins	J.W. Wood (2) (+41)
2 wins	Mrs C. Irwin (8) (+7)
	R.A. Gosden (5) (+1)
	Mrs E. Asa-Thomas (3) (-11)
0 wins	Mrs H.A. Zinn (10) (-38)

Block B

4 wins	C. Irwin (½) (+51)
3 wins	Mrs J. Neville-Rolfe (2½) (+11)
2 wins	D. Palmer (9) (+3)
1 win	Prof K. Campbell (5) (-15)
0 wins	Mrs R.A. Gosden (7) (-50)

PLAY-OFF: C. Irwin bt J.W. Wood +8

BRISTOL 30 June-1 July

Latham Cup Knock Out

Winner: R. Bamford (-½) bt (1) Jenkins +4; (2) Ransom +16; (SF) McCullough +8; (Final) B. Storey +13.

Runner-Up: B. Storey (4) bt (1) Coetzee +13; (2) Garret +24; (SF) Hallam +11.

Progressive Swiss (wins carried forward from Main Event)

3 wins	M. Suter (8) (+22); F. Ransom (13, 12) (+21); J.R. McCullough (-1) +12.
2 wins	R. Jenkins (12, 11) (+32); D. Goacher (6½) (+25); J. Jeffrey (11) (+7); R. Race (4½) (+1); B. Hallam (4½) (-2); N. Coetzee (4½) (-9).
1 win	I. Maugham (3) (-13); M. Clotworthy (10, 12) (-24); M. Langley (9) (-47); S. Garrett (3½) (-60)
0 wins	G.D.C. Moore (16) (-41)

REPORT ON THE CARRICKMINES TOURNAMENT

4-9 June 1984

With the exception of two mornings the Carrickmines June Tournament was played in superb weather resulting in very fast lawns as the week progressed. The doubles competition featured previous winners but with different partners. The other three competitions were won by players whose names will be appearing on the trophies for the first time. This is a very welcome and desirable trend.

The major competition—The Championship of South County Dublin—was won by Gerrard Healy, an official referee and a scratch player from the Colchester Club who on his way to the final achieved 2 triple peels and narrowly missed a third (having peeled 4 back and penult. and peeled the pilot ball through rover his partner ball then failing to run the rover hoop). His membership of Carrickmines Croquet and Lawn Tennis Club will add significantly to the promotion and development of the game in Carrickmines.

The success of the Novice Tournament which was inaugurated some

years ago is reflected in the fact that a number of promising new players have now progressed to the longer club tournaments and have come down substantially in handicap. Two of the competition winners were novices of three years ago.

The tournament was well organised with a minimum of double banking. The entry level was normal and comprised mainly Carrickmines players. Overall eight hoops, fast lawns and warm sunny weather made the tournament the success it has come to be.

Event 1. Championship of Co. Dublin

DRAW

First Round: R.J. Leonard bt S. Williams +10; G. Healy bt H. Webb +26; Mrs R.J. Leonard bt T.O. Read (retd. on peg); N. McInerney bt P. Thornton +2.

Second Round: F. Rogerson bt M. McWeeney +5; R.J. Leonard bt Healy +26(TP); McInerney bt Mrs R.J. Leonard +7; C.V. Schmeider bt C. Gamble +5.

Semi-final: Rogerson bt Healy +5; McInerney bt Schmeider +3.

Final: Rogerson bt McInerney +10

PROCESS

First Round: N. McInerney bt M. McWeeney (retd.); C. Gamble bt S. Williams +21; F. Rogerson bt P. Thornton +18; C.V. Schmeider bt R.J. Leonard +13.

Second Round: McInerney bt H. Webb +11; Gamble bt Mrs R.J. Leonard +26; G. Healy bt Rogerson +25; Schmeider bt T.O. Read +7.

Semi-final: Gamble bt McInerney +7; Healy bt Schmeider +17(TP).

Final: Healy bt Gamble +4

PLAY-OFF: Healy bt Rogerson +25

Event 2. Duff Mathews Cup

First Round: P. Thornton (8) bt T. Browne (11) +10; H. Webb (8½) bt M. Lyons (16) +5(T); J. McAuley (12) bt S. Williams (10) +7; J. O'Driscoll (15) bt E. McWeeney (13) +2.

Semi-final: Thornton bt Webb +9; McAuley bt O'Driscoll +9.

Final: McAuley bt Thornton +10.

Event 3. Boxwell Cup Open Handicap Singles

First Round: S. Williams (10) bt P. Thornton (8) +10; F. Rogerson (3) bt M. Lyons (16) +17; C. Gamble (2) bt R.J. Leonard (5) +5; N. McInerney (4½) bt Mrs R.J. Leonard (5½) +6; H. Webb (8½) bt E. McWeeney +11.

Second Round: Williams bt J. O'Driscoll (15) +9; Rogerson bt Gamble +18; Webb bt McInerney +14; Browne bt Schmeider +18.

Semi-final: Rogerson bt Williams (retd.); Browne bt Webb +15.

Final: Browne bt Rogerson +10.

Event 4. Doubles Coronation Cups

Final: D. Beatty & Mrs R.J. Leonard (15½) bt C. Gamble & Miss M. McGoldrick (16) +7.

Oxford University

v.

Cambridge University

Played at Hurlingham on Monday 11 June

Oxford were generally expected to reverse the recent run of Cambridge victories and as the morning's play in the Singles progressed it became evident that they were well on the way to achieving this result. Berry, the Oxford captain, was by far the best and most experienced player on either side and soon took control of his match against Whillock. Whillock had one good opportunity when his opponent broke down in trying to initiate a triple peel but inadvisedly attempted to run a very long sixth hoop, presenting Berry with a break for his backward ball. A spirited encounter between John Black, the Oxford number 4, and Bishop of Cambridge ended in a win by 14 points for Oxford. Bishop, an athletic figure with talent but little tactical knowledge, had his good moments but was finally outplayed by Black, a useful all-rounder. The Oxford numbers 5 and 6 were considerably stronger than their opponents, and although Lucas of Cambridge offered a sudden belated challenge to Wormald, the latter had no difficulty in winning by a margin of 15 points. Meanwhile on the adjoining lawn the fifth-string match resulted in an easy victory for Brereton of Oxford against Wright of Cambridge, +26. Oxford were now leading by 4 matches to nil. The remaining two singles, however, were being closely contested. Plummer and Andrew, now of Cambridge, were well-matched in a level but slow game until Andrew, finding his touch, drew ahead in a few good turns to win, +14. It was now essential for Harrison, the Cambridge captain, to defeat Russell of Oxford to keep the match alive. This encounter proved a long drawn-out affair with some good shooting by both players but not much progress being made. Harrison looked the more accomplished while Russell was the steadier and less prone to errors. When lunch was taken Russell held the innings and they were level on points with ten more to be made. But on resuming, Russell's first two turns were decisive. In these he ran three long hoops faultlessly and then kept his advantage to win, soon afterwards, a close game by 7 points and thus bring overall victory to the Oxford team.

So to the afternoon and the three matches of Doubles.

At this stage one might easily have assumed that the clear superiority of Oxford in the Singles would once more be repeated. And indeed this looked to be the case when Black, partnering Wormald, was soon round to 4-back and Brereton, partnering Russell, made an excellent break to the same hoop. Meanwhile on Lawn 4 Plummer, aided by Berry's skilful tactics, also reached 4-back in easy stages, although the Cambridge pair, Whillock and Bishop, were having a fair share of the play by virtue of accurate shooting and Bishop had reached 1-back. With Oxford now in a seemingly comfortable position on all three lawns, the sudden vigorous counter-offensive by Cambridge came as a quite unexpected surprise. Whillock provided the star turn of the day by making a perfect all-round break in the course of which he triple-peeled Plummer's ball, having to aim it for the final peg-out from the side of the rover hoop. He then pegged out his own ball, leaving his partner for 1-back and Berry at hoop 4. An exciting chase now followed until the final stage saw Berry in position for penultimate and Bishop lying some four yards in front of his rover hoop. Bishop played and ran the hoop with a fine shot. He then laid up ten yards from the peg in the centre of the court. Berry made his hoop and then took good position at rover. Bishop aimed for the peg with a gentle shot, and hit it fair and square. Meantime on Lawn 2 the Cambridge partnership of Andrew and Wright were drawing level with Russell and Brereton and keeping the innings under the tactical play of Andrew, whose clip was on 4-back. A bad mistake by Wright at 2-back enabled Russell to advance from 3-back to the peg, whereupon Andrew promptly hit and making his last three hoops pegged out Russell's ball. A tense cat-and-mouse game now ensued with Brereton left in at penultimate and Wright at 2-back. Wright now played very accurately and progressed hoop by hoop with guidance from his partner, until with the two clips now on penultimate Brereton hit in and had every chance to finish but failed to make his hoop. And although his final long shot was almost on target, Wright rushed accurately to rover, made it and pegged out to give Cambridge their second Doubles success.

In the remaining match the Oxford pair, John Black and Wormald, were coating along smoothly while Harrison and Fenton, the Cambridge reserve, were trailing well in arrears. Then suddenly Wormald stuck in 4-back and Harrison with a fine break from 1-back

double-peeled John Black through penultimate and rover but in attempting to obtain a rush on his opponent's ball to the peg he went off the boundary. Later in his third attempt he succeeded, leaving his partner to progress from hoop 4 and Wormald at 4-back. And now Fenton played very well, obeying Harrison's instructions with an excellent display of accuracy and keeping Wormald at bay, until when both clips were on penultimate Wormald hit a long shot. This enabled him to make his hoop and rover in two turns and lay up in the centre of the side boundary. Fenton replied in similar fashion, ending his turn by giving his partner a rush to the peg from the opposite boundary. Wormald shot across at the peg but missed narrowly, and Harrison, making no mistake, gave Cambridge their third and very unexpected victory in the Doubles.

So ended the 1984 University Match. Oxford were the better team and thoroughly deserved their win by 5-4 games, in which every member played his part. For Cambridge, Harrison is to be congratulated on the skilful pairing of his team in the Doubles and the successful tactics which each pair employed in pegging out an opponent's ball. And Whillock's triple-peel break would have been worth a visit to Hurlingham by itself.

D.J.V.H.-M.

Results (Oxford names first)

Singles: A. Berry bt G. Whillock +21; I Plummer lost to R. Andrew -14; T Russell bt T. Harrison +7; J. Black bt K. Bishop +14; E. Brereton bt C.Wright +26; M. Wormald bt R. Lucas +15.

Oxford 5; Cambridge 1

Doubles: A. Berry & I. Plummer lost to G. Whillock & K. Bishop -2; T. Russell & E. Brereton lost to R. Andrew & C. Wright -3; J. Black & M. Wormald lost to T. Harrison & E. Fenton -1.

Oxford 0; Cambridge 3

CHALLENGE & GILBEY 11-16 June

The Challenge & Gilbey, staged on Hunstanton's well manicured lawns, began in cold and occasionally damp weather, which improved steadily throughout the week to end with two days of brilliant sunshine. This was matched by the participants, who gradually discarded their thermal underwear and waterproofs in favour of shorts, skirts and short sleeves.

Sadly the field only totalled fourteen, nine of whom were members of the Hunstanton club, and it was not possible to stage event 4, the Stevenson Cup, as there were no entrants with handicaps 10 and over. However, the restricted field meant that it was possible to play the class events as American blocks and run the doubles as an X and Y event, thus almost everybody managed to get two games every day.

Local knowledge of the courts proved to be a deciding factor in many of the games, but it was interesting that in no less than eleven of the 75 games played the victory margin was two or less.

The Roehampton Challenge Cup (level advanced, open) saw Jane Neville Rolfe beat John Wood in the fourth round to win the event, whilst the Council Challenge Cup (level advanced, handicaps 2½ to 6) was carried off by Sarah Hampson, who won two of her three games, ending up with a plus score of 23. The Reckitt Challenge Trophy went to a third Hunstanton Lady, Beryl Gosden, who beat Pat Hetherington in the deciding match.

John Wood struck a blow for the men with a convincing five games victory in the Gilbey Goblet, which was played as a five round Swiss. The Professor—Kenneth Campbell—took second place, leaving three ladies, Beryl Gosden, Pat Hetherington and Rita Stanley Smith, to share third place with Peter Shepard.

Local knowledge and the ladies triumphed yet again in the doubles event, where Sarah and Pat Hampson defeated the Prof and Johnny Haigh by two on time—having earlier survived an even closer call against Pat Hetherington and Geoff Roy, who were lined up with a rush to peg for the game when Pat Hampson, firing at the peg with her

side's one remaining ball, finally executed an excellent peg out from the North boundary. The Y doubles was played as an alternate shot event and provided the only crumbs for the visitors, Pat Hetherington (Colchester) and Geoff Roy (Harrow Oak) defeating Peter Shepard (Cheltenham) and Steve Thomas (Nottingham) +15 in the final.

An enjoyable week in pleasant surroundings with excellent refreshments and a happy friendly atmosphere. Let us hope that more players will decide to compete in the event in 1985.

P.M.H.

Challenge Cups

Roehampton Cup (Open Singles: 5 entries)

4 wins	Mrs J. Neville Rolfe +40
3 wins	J.W. Wood +55
2 wins	G. Roy +4
1 win	P.J. Shepard -38
0 wins	J. Haigh -61

Council Cup (Level Singles Advanced Play: 4 entries)

2 wins	Miss S.G. Hampson +23
	Professor K. Campbell +4
	Mrs R. Stanley-Smith +3
1 win	R.A. Gosden -30

Reckitt Cup (Level Single 4 to 6 bisques: 5 entries)

3 wins	Mrs R.A. Gosden +32
2 wins	Mrs J.A. Hetherington +6
1 win	J.F.S. Thomas -26
0 wins	Miss P. Hampson -30
	H.F. Barnett (withdrew after 2 games)

Stevenson Cup

No entries

Gilbey Goblet

5 wins	J.W. Wood (2)
4 wins	Professor K. Campbell (5)
3 wins	Mrs R.A. Gosden (7½)
	Miss S. Hampson (4)
	Mrs P. Hetherington (7)
	P.J. Shepard (3½)
	Mrs R. Stanley-Smith (6)
2 wins	J. Haigh (2½)
	Miss P. Hampson (8)
	G. Roy (1½)
	J.F.S. Thomas (8)
1 win	H.F. Barnett (7)
	R.A. Gosden (5)
	Mrs J. Neville Rolfe (2½)

Event X

Final: Miss S. Hampson & Miss P. Hampson (12) bt J. Haigh & Prof K. Campbell +2(T)

Bowdon Weekend Tournament 15-17 June

There were a lot of new faces at the Bowdon Weekend tournament this year, notably a contingent from Glasgow and other parts of Scotland, and a bevy of ladies from Southport. They brought with them some excellent weather and we were very fortunate to have three wonderfully sunny days for play.

However, some of the regular home players were absent as the Home Internationals were being played on the same weekend, and Bowdon were providing one member of the national team for Wales and Ireland, as well as England.

With Brian Storey managing his first tournament and Bill Aldridge officiating as Tournament Referee and chief hoop-setter, the tournament got off to a good start and progressed relatively uneventfully to its final stages. Steve Lewis, who stood in for one of the absentees, won his block in grand style by plus 81, with Dan Kelly lan Maugham, and Bill Aldridge being the other Block winners. There were some promising displays by Roy Edwards and 17-year old Paul Goldberg, who were both playing in their first tournament.

The traditional evening out at Baker's Restaurant was very well attended, and amongst those present were Sir Richard and Tony Miller who had just finished something like 20 games of tennis earlier in the day, a month before their eightieth birthday. Their mother was Chairman of Bowdon before the war and their uncle Charles Colman won the President's Cup in 1938, so perhaps it is time they were thinking of taking up croquet themselves!

As the tournament reached its closing stages, Manchester Grammar School and Chethams School of Music took to the lawns to play their match in the quarter finals of the Schools Tournament. These school teams have been coached by members at Bowdon and Ellesmere respectively, and their match provided a pleasant finale to a good weekend's croquet.

Handicap Singles

BLOCK A:

6 wins	D.J. Kelly (3½) +70
4 wins	Alan G. Gordon (4) +38; Robert Race (4½) +32;
	M.H. Sandler (3½) +18.
2 wins	H. Wang (10) -27
1 win	P. Simpson (6½) -64
0 wins	Mrs A. Rimmer (16) -67

BLOCK B:

6 wins	W.O. Aldridge (1) +55
4 wins	Mrs W. Hague (4) +22; Malcolm P.W. Smith (6½)
	+14
2 wins	Mrs L.J. Taylor (12) -13; P. Goldberg (14) -21; C.
	Hudson (3) -28; G.W.R. Goodwin (6½) -29.

BLOCK C:

5 wins	F.I. Maugham (3) +57
4 wins	R. Williams (1½) +50; K. Jackson (6½) +35
2 wins	K.M. McCombe (14) -12; Mrs C.J. Irwin (8) -21;
	Miss Pauline M.H. Lewis (11) -4; Paul Stoker (3)
	-65

BLOCK D:

6 wins	S.E. Lewis (½) +81
5 wins	B.J. Storey (4) +43
4 wins	Roy R. Edwards (10) +20
3 wins	M.J. Wilkins (5) +19
2 wins	M. Granger-Brown (2½) -23
1 win	C.B. Sanford (5½) -61
0 wins	Cora Van Griethuysen (8) -79

THE CASKETS

Men's and Women's Championships 18-24 June

The tournament returned to Cheltenham after last year's Caskets/Opens swap. Dennis Moorcraft, who had discovered himself to be Manager when reading the Fixture List, reluctantly allowed an entry of 34 men and 16 women, up from 27 and 19 at Hurlingham, and even higher than 1981's 28 and 19, which had been a 49 year record. Only his meticulous worrying (which caused him to lay up in baulk after 4-back) enabled all games except the Women's Final to be over by 6.15 on Saturday. He was not helped by fast conditions which, while mild compared with last July's Opens ice rink, took far too many

games to time. The writer may have asked to compile this report as a punishment for losing in both sides of the Du Pre by 1 on time. Compared with, say, Hunstanton or Budleigh, the hoops seemed easy, and Bill Aldridge ran 1 and 2 in the same stroke. Generally, play was not precise enough, and though nine triples were better than last year's three, five of them were by Steve Mulliner. Phil Cordingley managed a straight triple: the peelee was gliding past penultimate when it hit the pioneer there, leaving it in perfect peeling position.

Mulliner always looked a class above everyone else, losing not a single game. A clue may be that though his early wins and absence from the doubles meant he was not playing on Wednesday or Thursday he still turned up late on Wednesday evening to practice. He speedily eliminated Bernard Weitz and Paul Hands, who had started with an explosive win over Dayal Gunasekera. In the quarter final he beat Martin Murray twice by 26 (TP), despite the audience of his not always silent twins ('Peg' and 'Rover'). In the first game Murray did not take croquet, and the second he blobbed an easy first hoop. Mulliner's semi-final victim was David Openshaw, who has played below his best in this event since winning it in 1981. In the previous round Openshaw was a game and first break in the second game down to Roger Tribe, before steadying himself. Tribe, who was handicap 3 only a month earlier, has improved and impressed this season, but is likely to be lost to croquet as he is moving from the West of England to the West of Canada.

Richard Hilditch had a rougher ride to the final, losing the second game in three consecutive rounds. This may be part of a ruse to top the activity table again: last year his 109 open games made him the clear leader. His hard hitting and not always silent manner belie a shrewd tactical mind. He can be rattled by straightforward croquet, as the narrow victory over Jerry Guest showed. Andrew Hope's defeat in the semi-final was partly due to too many missed 8-10 yard shots. The final took only three hours but it never seemed one sided until after it had finished. Mulliner over-approached hoops slightly more often and was perhaps fortunate not to be punished for a midcourt join towards the end of the first game. In the second game he also felt able to take a number of "dangerous" shots. Hilditch seems to have a blind spot at 3 to 4 yards but long shots do not worry him. He asserts that hitting in at 25 yards is easier than a corner to corner take off.

In the Women's, Susan Wiggins had a little difficulty in reaching the final for the third year running. Veronica Carlisle found life less easy: she lost her first game to Jan Macleod, and was pegged out by Jan in the third. She hit in three times to win from 4-back versus peg and 5. Her semi-final against Sarah Hampson went to nine hours, as last year, but this time Veronica was ahead at the end. The final started well, with Veronica quickly to 4-back and doing one peel before breaking down at 4. The second game saw Susan on 4-back and 4 before Veronica started. In the next two hours the tempo slumped, with only ten hoops scored. In the last hour Susan played very defensively to win by 3 on time, although Veronica hit three 'last shots'. In the last game Susan was 10-4 up after 1½ hours, but Veronica just edged in front in the final half hour.

For several years the doubles pairing of Ian Bond and Veronica Carlisle must have been the favourite, but not until this year were they successful. They glided to the final without any timed wins (though, against the Wheelers, only because Veronica went out from 2-back after time had been called). The new team of Gunasekera and Hampson had two narrow squeaks. In an attempt to lift their match against the holders, Murray and Kay Yeoman, out of the handicap doubles category in which it started, Murray tried a quadruple and a straight triple peel. Neither worked and though he struck his ball a millisecond before time was called, he missed his final shot, so Gunasekera's intervening break (to peg out) gave him victory by 1 on time; the same margin as against the Wiggins next round. In the final, Bond went quickly to 4-back and his partner to 5. It was 1 hour 20 minutes before Gunasekera scored his side's first hoop. Error predominated over elegance in the rest of the game with accidental cross-wiring a speciality, and the underdogs failed to catch up.

The Du Pre Cup proved a consolation to Phil Cordingley, who won

both Draw and Process. He started with the tournament's only untimed +1 win over the youngest competitor, John Walters. Did the latter risk expulsion under Law 2(a), that the peg should be white to a height of 6 inches above the ground when he wore one orange and one yellow sock? Later rounds produced nothing so close, but he nearly committed the new fault under Law 32(x) by almost kicking a wire with which a ball was in contact. (Previously only hitting such a wire with the mallet was a fault). Last year's experiment of a Ladies Plate for those who chose not to enter the Du Pre was repeated. The winner was Jan Macleod, whose determination to play aggressive croquet sometimes lands her in trouble, but will eventually pay off. Her sartorial contribution to the tournament concerned the top six inches of her clothing, or rather its absence.

Finally, thanks to Cheltenham Croquet Club their hard work and hospitality. The evil of hoops on mounds has been laboriously mitigated by moving all one yard east with the necessary surgery on the old sites. In one Openshaw/Tribe game this gave rise to a query as to where baulk ends under the new Law 1(g). The writer is forsworn from mentioning the weather but notes that the members who helped at the bar were kept very busy with the demand for iced drinks.

R.D.C. Prichard

Event 1. Men's Championship

First Round: R. Tribe bt Dr R. Wheeler +24 +16; J.E. Guest bt M.A. Holforth +12 +19.

S.N. Mulliner bt Dr. B.G.F. Weitz +20 +26(TP); P.W. Hands bt D. Gunasekera +9 +26(TP); P. Cordingley bt P.M. Johnson +25 +14(STP); Dr M. Murray bt J. Haigh +13+17; Dr B. Sykes bt Dr R.W.D. Wiggins -14 +17 +26(TP); D.K. Openshaw bt R.M. Allim +1 +18; A. Berry bt L.S. Butler +26 +17; Tribe opp scratched; Guest bt D.H. Moorcraft +19 +2; A.J. Collin bt P.L. Smith -7 +6 +11; J.R. Hilditch bt I.D. Bond +15 +7; W.O. Aldridge bt C. Southern +22 +13; T. Ruant bt M.D.A. Strachan +22 +15; A.B. Hope bt G.E.P. Jackson +3 +12; D.R. Foulser bt A.J. Mrozinski +22 +26; J.O. Walters bt R.D.C. Prichard +13 +23.

Second Round: Mulliner bt Hands +13 +24(TP); Murray bt Cordingley +8 +16; Openshaw bt Sykes +21 +22; Tribe bt Berry -12 +3 +2; Guest bt Collin +8 +7; Hilditch bt Aldridge +16 -3 +12; Hope bt Ruant +5 +24; Foulser bt Walters +24 +23.

Third Round: Mulliner bt Murray +26(TP) +26(TP); Openshaw bt Tribe -17 +17 +15; Hilditch bt Guest +3 -4 +11; Hope bt Foulser +5 +24.

Semi-final: Mulliner bt Openshaw +7 +5(TP); Hilditch bt Hope +8 -21 +5.

Final: Mulliner bt Hilditch +17 +16.

Event 2. Women's Championship

First Round: Mrs H.B.H. Carlisle bt Miss J. Macleod -11 +11 +7; Mrs J. Neville Rolfe bt Miss E. Arkell +14 +21; Miss S. Hampson bt Mrs K.M.O. Wheeler +16 +17; Mrs D.M.C. Prichard bt Mrs H. Handley +3(T) +2(T); Mrs M. Collin bt Mrs E. Neal +21 -1(T) +10(T); Mrs R.W.D. Wiggins bt Mrs B.G. Weitz +8 +25; Lady Bazley bt Mrs K. Yeoman +2(T) +4(T); Mrs A.E. Coetzee bt Mrs D. Harris +3 -14 +16.

Second Round: Mrs Carlisle bt Mrs Neville-Rolfe +3 +2(OT); Miss Hampson bt Mrs Prichard +13 +11; Mrs Wiggins bt Collin +19 +16; Coetzee bt Lady Bazley +6 +8

Semi-final: Carlisle bt Hampson +2 -10 +9(T); Wiggins bt Coetzee +16 +16.

Final: Carlisle bt Wiggins +16 -3(T) +2(T).

Event 3. Mixed Doubles Championship

First Round: D.H. Moorcraft & Mrs K.W.O. Wheeler bt J. Haigh & Mrs J. Macleod +10; Dr M. Murray & Mrs K. Yeoman bt Dr & Mrs B.G. Weitz +10; Mr & Mrs A.J. Collin bt D.R. Foulser and Miss D. Harris +3(T).

Second Round: Dr & Mrs W.R.D. Wiggins bt L.S. Butler & Miss E.H. Arkell +5(T); C. Southern & Mrs J. Neville-Rolfe bt G.E.P. Jackson &

Mrs H. Handley +10; **D. Gunasekera & Miss S.G. Hampson** bt J.E. Guest & Mrs E.E. Bressey +17; **Murray & Mrs Yeoman** bt D.H. Moorcraft & Mrs Wheeler +7; **Mr & Mrs Collin** bt Mr & Mrs A.B. Hope +18; **D. Smith & Mrs M. Warren** bt P.M. Johnson & Lady C. Bazley +9; **Dr & Mrs R.F. Wheeler** bt R. Hilditch & Mrs E.A. Neal +17; **I. Bond & Mrs V. Carlisle** bt R. Tribe & Mrs N. Coetzee +11.

Third Round: **Dr & Mrs Wiggins** bt Southern & Neville-Rolfe +10; **Gunasekera & Hampson** bt Murray & Yeoman +1(T); **Smith & Warren** bt Mr & Mrs Collin +2(T); **Bond & Mrs Carlisle** bt Dr & Mrs Wheeler +10.

Semi-final: **Gunasekera & Hampson** bt Dr & Mrs Wiggins +1(T); **Bond & Carlisle** bt Smith & Warren +11.

Final: **Bond & Carlisle** bt Gunasekera & Hampson +14.

Event 4. Du Pre Cup

DRAW

First Round: **Mrs Collin** bt P.M. Johnson +9; **B. Sykes** bt A.J. Collin +22; **D. Gunasekera** bt Dr B. Weitz +5; **P.L. Smith** bt C. Southern +4; **R. Allim** bt Dr R.W.D. Wiggins +9; **P. Cordingley** bt J.O. Walters +1; **A. Berry** bt A. Mrozinski +6.

Second Round: **G.E.P. Jackson** bt I.D. Bond +15; **Mrs Neville Rolfe** bt R.D.C. Prichard +1(T); **Sykes** bt Mrs Collin +7; **Smith** bt Gunasekera +14; **Cordingley** bt Allim +12; **Berry** bt M. Holford +19; **D.H. Moorcraft** bt L.S. Butler +16; **J. Haigh** bt Dr R. Wheeler +1(T).

Semi-final: **Jackson** bt Smith +4; **Cordingley** bt Haigh +21.

Final: **Cordingley** bt Jackson +16.

PROCESS

First Round: **A. Berry** bt I.D. Bond +7; **P.M. Johnson** bt J. Haigh +9(T); **R.D.C. Prichard** bt L.S. Butler +16; **G.E.P. Jackson** bt M. Holford +1(T); **Dr B. Sykes** bt Dr R. Wheeler +14; **D.H. Moorcraft** bt Mrs Neville-Rolfe +3(T); **Mrs Collin** bt A. Mrozinski opp. ret'd.

Second Round: **Berry** bt Dr B.G. Weitz +14; **Johnson** bt Dr R.W.D. Wiggins +9(T); **P.L. Smith** bt Prichard +1(T); **P. Cordingley** bt A.J. Collin +23; **C. Southern** bt Jackson opp. ret'd.; **J.O. Walters** bt Sykes +10; **R. Allim** bt D.H. Moorcraft +23; **D. Gunasekera** bt Mrs Collin +14(TP).

Third Round: **Johnson** bt Berry +17; **Cordingley** bt Smith +13; **Walters** bt Southern +20; **Gunasekera** bt Allim +16.

Semi-final: **Cordingley** bt Johnson +7; **Gunasekera** bt Walters opp. scratched.

Final: **Cordingley** bt Gunasekera +16.

Event 5. Women's Plate

DRAW

First Round: **Mrs. Weitz** bt Mrs Prichard +18.

Second Round: **Lady Bazley** bt Mrs E. Neal +6(T); **Miss E.H. Arkell** bt Mrs Weitz +5; **Mrs K. Yeoman** bt Miss J. Macleod +8(T); **Mrs. D. Harris** bt Mrs K.M.O. Wheeler +10.

Semi-final: **Lady Bazley** bt Miss Arkell +11; **Mrs Yeoman** bt Mrs Harris +1(T).

Final: **Mrs Yeoman** bt Lady Bazley +7(T).

PROCESS

First Round: **Lady Bazley** bt Mrs D. Harris +16.

Second Round: **Mrs Weitz** bt Lady Bazley +5(T); **Miss J. Macleod** bt Miss E.H. Arkell +8; **Mrs K. Yeoman** bt Mrs E. Neal +3(T); **Mrs Prichard** bt Mrs K.M.O. Wheeler +11.

Semi-final: **Miss Macleod** bt Mrs Weitz +3(T); **Mrs Prichard** bt Mrs Yeoman +3(T).

Final: **Miss Macleod** bt Mrs Prichard +18.

1984 OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS 14-21 July

This year's Opens were notable for the quality of entry which was attracted with hardly any of the top players not making an appearance, it was especially good to welcome overseas players from South Africa (Reggie Bamford and the Barlows) and the USA (Kiley Jones) (for the first time?). On a more serious note the week also marked the sudden death of Dudley Hamilton-Miller, more about whom will be written in another article. This accounts for the reason that you are having to put up with an ordinary hack's report of this event rather than a literary masterpiece.

Without going into too much detail about the weather it suffices to say that there was minimal rain and that it was pretty hot most of the time. The front lawns although cut very well were thought by many to be pretty slow and it was interesting to see players asking the manager to play their games on the cricket pitch. The easy conditions perhaps could have been alleviated by sticking in the President's cup hoops, but it certainly provided a severe contrast to last year's conditions at Cheltenham.

The tournament began with doubles only for the first weekend and manager Ian Bond pursued a strong policy of knocking out the blockers throughout. With the cricket pitches for only just over 4 days the tournament was completed comfortably before the Hurlingham family picnic evening on the final day with only one instance of double banking (in the plate).

The first day saw probably the best incident of the week when Bernard Neal was demonstrating a particular type of jump shot to fellow referee Ian Vincent. With his mallet not to hand Bernard asked to use Ian's of which he promptly snapped the shaft! The enormous psychological advantage which this incident instilled for their first round match in the singles was heightened by the news that Ian had never used another shaft before. Needless to say Bernard enhanced his claim for the manufacturers prize by replacing the shaft without delay. On the lawns the first day saw the hot favourites Nigel Aspinall and Steve Mulliner drop a game to a TP of Noble's.

The really interesting matches on paper in the first and second rounds of the doubles were on Sunday. The 1982 champions Hope and Murray were taking on the holders McCullough and Cordingley. This match turned out to be just an easy win for the Cheltenham pair with JR in particular never really getting going. The welcome return of John Solomon to the event caused a good close match with plenty of good and not so good play from the other three players (the expert playing well throughout). The match was eventually won by the Cambridge pair after Dayal had spent many successive turns doing absolutely nothing. Another player returning to the championships was Keith Wylie playing with Humphrey Hicks, great things were expected of him but alas he was "not in match form" and they were defeated easily.

Also played on Sunday was the match between the favourites and Michael Heap and Steve Wright. This game was improved for the crowd by some pretty duff play from the two Stephens with some very uncharacteristic mistakes towards the end of the match. The end result was N.I.D. as they say.

The overcast conditions on Monday accompanied the news of Dudley's death, the croquet had to go on however with the start of the singles. The first to finish was Phil Cordingley who beat Gerrard Healy in only 2 hours and 10 minutes, this was only for Gerrard to take the tactical initiative to win his inter-club match for Colchester against Harrow 6 days later. Following the antics of Bernard and Ian described above one might have thought that the former would have been honour bound to lose, but there is no need for such gallantry at such a high standard and so Vincent was dispatched in straight games.

Martin Murray took advantage of the conditions (unlike many of the rest of us) to get two triples against Steve Wright, but he was unable to follow this up with further peeling finishes in the main event so the Solomon trophy went to 'JR' McCullough who had a TP and a losing TPO (to Mulliner in the semis).

The match between Kiley Jones and Colin Southern on the cricket pitch went to three and had a bit of a close ending. Kiley had the Riggall when for rover against 3-back but he decided not to peg both balls off (perhaps the influence of the sequence game?). Eventually after Colin had had a couple of shots he hit the oppo ball which was stuck in rover (giving the peel) and despite having to roll off 3-back got a break together. Unfortunately he missed a longish return roquet after making rover going to the north boundary. Kiley shot with the ball near penult at the ball just beyond rover and missed leaving about a 10 yard join. Colin shot at the peg and missed, Kiley shot at the ball at rover and missed?! Colin trickled to the peg at last and the stage was set for the obvious hit in of Kiley with the ball from the north boundary, the only slight delicacy for everyone's heartbeats being the fact that the rush (for that is what it became) missed the peg by less than a centimetre.

The match between Mulliner and Bell also went to 3 balls in the third as Steve pegged off when rover versus 4-back. Eddie was unable to hit the required roquet and a very close match ended the way the pre-match pundits would have foreseen.

Over on the terraced lawns a great dour struggle was in action (as it were) between Heap and Rose. Proceedings were enlivened when John, in running an angular hoop with a jump shot, caused a large piece of turf to fly into the air (the mallet not having made contact with the ground). Clearly with the conditions as soft as they were the R.O.I. could not give a fault even had he been satisfied on both clauses of the rule 32(a)(xvii). The game went to Michael two straight with careful use of the time (5 minutes to go in each game). The first game between Mark Ormerod and Adrian Palmer did not manage to miss this and became the first timed game.

On Tuesday there was a chance for the newcomers to upset the established pair in the doubles as Hilditch and Gunasekera played Hope and Murray. In the first game Andrew had a double peel on Dayal's ball (Richard having got the jammy peel from about 20 yards away) and pegged two balls out leaving Martin on 4-back against 2nd. Richard soon had 4 hoops on a sort of a break and hit a few more times to make a pretty close thing of it losing by 3. In the second Martin just put together a more routine TP.

Another youth versus experience match occurred in the singles when John Walters took on Bobby Wiggins. After a fairly close result in the first to John the second game produced a much tighter ending. Bobby pegged out two balls when for 2-back against 1st and eventually won by that definitive score of 1. In the third there was a three ball ending with Bobby on 4-back alone against penult and peg. He hit a 40 yarder dead centre but stuck at 4-back. After a series of not sufficient aggression being shown by the two balls John elected to take a sweaty 6 yarder to the single ball on the boundary with the other ball in the middle of the lawn. This was hit but yet another shot was conceded before John emerged the close victor +2.

At one game up Nigel Aspinall pegged out Dayal Gunasekera's ball when for penult with Dayal's ball for rover?! Dayal hit but failed to make his hoop and Nigel selected a wired return to partner instead of an 11 yarder at the ball at rover (which would have left a 15 yard join). Dayal was able to miss twice, for another +1 result.

Wednesday saw the demise of a whole host of fancied players and an absolute destruction of Harrow Oak team members in particular. The most impressive victory went to Susan Wiggins who was playing Andrew Hope on lawn 1. After a good win in the first Susan gave up the innings only when for 4-back and peg. Unfortunately Andrew was unable to take full advantage of his chances and some very steady play got Susan to the peg. At this point she decided to peg out one ball leaving a 12 yarder for the other ball for no apparent reason, still a few hacks later it was all over.

Another test player to be defeated was David Openshaw who lost to Colin Prichard in a long struggle on the cricket pitch. The match

between Tom Griffith and Martin Murray on lawn 6 (or was it 5, the numbers varied) also went to three games. Tom won the first after hitting with the single ball for 4-back, Martin struck back in 26 style in the 2nd very comfortably. In the third there was also the classic three ball ending at 4-back with the single ball of Murray's unable to win despite hitting twice.

The plate was started after lunch and Hope was able to get another defeat in and the Harrow players also lost some more games. Your intrepid reporter was lucky enough to be called in to referee a potential damage to lawn situation as Dave Peterson was going for an easy peg jump shot at a single ball target. Not only was there no damage done but Dave managed to hit and go round to the peg! Thursday came with mixed success for some as John Walters was scratched from his match with John McCullough after arriving some 3 minutes late (after being warned of course). He was rewarded with the traditional half off at the end of the week needless to say.

In the doubles semi-final between Nigel and Steve and Eric and Bernard the second game allowed Steve to TPO Eric's ball when 1st against 1st. Some uncharacteristic slips from Nigel and Steve allowed Bernard to hit in at a useful moment but he was unable to capitalise. The other semi-final produced nothing much unusual and was won by the north.

Further to my report on the Home Internationals it has now been decided absolutely to waive any fault which might be implied by law 15(d) and an instance occurred on the Thursday as a ball hit someone's foot during the stroke. It thus may be taken that the following applies "No fault may be caused either directly or indirectly by a ball after it has been pegged out".

Of the singles quarter finals the two likely finalists Nigel and Steve managed to press on without much problem, the other two matches were a bit closer. The run of Susan Wiggins was stopped by Steve Lewis who only took croquet for the first time at -9 in the 2nd game. This victory enabled him to win his silver medal (much better than getting it at a dour weekend event, eh!).

The other match went to a Riggall in the third with the single ball of Tom Griffith for 4-back playing JR on penult and peg. Tom hit JR when he was at 1st corner from 2nd corner and managed to roll off 4-back. He made penult from a long take off approach from a ball just north of 1st hoop, unfortunately the ball just trickled up onto the peg all glued up. Tom chose to return to the boundary beside third menacing the other ball. Eventually JR was laid up wired behind 4th with Tom on the north boundary behind 2nd, Tom's only option was to attempt to run rover which he very nearly managed to do. JR put forward a good solution to Tom's problems at the peg after the match, he suggested that Tom need just adjust his ball by a few millimetres so that he could see at least. JR would not have risked shooting with the peg ball 8 yards away and would have joined behind 4-back allowing Tom a go at rover.

In the plate Dave Peterson continued his success with a close victory over Andrew Hope.

On Friday the cricket pitch was returned to its rightful owners and it became easier to keep track of all the action. In the first of the semi-finals Nigel showed how the expert takes the luck along with the rest of us when he ran 2-back instead of hitting a softish 4-yarder. Armed with this and some much better play he was able to take his place in the final.

In the first game between JR and Steve, JR had a TPO on Steve's ball with a somewhat substandard contact leave which included a rush to 1st! In the three ball game JR never looked to be in control and despite having the innings several times made no hoops with the two balls! The second game proceeded in more conventional style.

The arrival of Martin Coward from Greece allowed some of us to renew our acquaintance with the fish shop next to "lively motors". The small beefburger at 65 pence proved to be excellent value and was even obtainable with fresh onions. It has to be admitted that we always seemed to be queueing for chips but the presence of an excellent JPS calendar on the wall helped the time pass (the month of August looks pretty good).

The game between Eric Solomon and Gerrard Healy was interesting as Eric 'the red' missed a 4 yard single ball peg out. Later in the game Gerrard refused to attempt the peg out from about 5-6 yards (simply wiring when he would have left a 25 yarder at worst) allowing Eric to have the peg from 1st corner 'centre ball'. The semis of the plate saw the last of young Bamford who had played very menacingly throughout the week when he was defeated by 'Jim' Rose.

With the semis of the singles dealt with and a bit of blocking the manager opted to master off the doubles final on Friday. The third game started at just past 6 pm, Nigel failed to get beyond 5th, but Rose was unable to take a fairly easy opportunity for a break. After more hitting from both sides Eddie also failed to go round and Nigel and Steve were forced into making a few hoops at a time (largest break only 4 hoops) to win the match.

The final day saw a greater activity from our welcome sponsors, a band of international estate agents with the definitively long title of Debenham Tewson and Chinnocks, and they put on a lunch for some of the players and the CA council which was pretty liquid by all accounts. In order that things did not get dealt with too quickly the singles final was not started until just before high noon. Meanwhile we were treated to a very nippy overwhelming victory of Dave Peterson (10th turn no croquet) over John Rose in the final of one half of the plate. This completed a very successful 1st opens for the young northern player, soon to travel to Oxford. The other half provided a closer match with Big Red getting in when Dave Croker stuck at penult. A Riggall was obtained and after Croker missed his last shot (!!) Eric just finished from 4-back 2-ball.

In the first game of the final Nigel got the first ball round after Steve failed at third, after Steve missed the lift Nigel failed at first, which was becoming increasingly faster, and Steve got in again. Despite failing after 2nd Steve went round but left a careless ball in front of 5th which Nigel missed. After Steve got to penult and peg Nigel asked to have his ball changed, this followed a bit of trouble that several players had had with the balls during the week. Unfortunately this did not stop a failure at third with all the balls for a TP which allowed Steve in.

The punters were getting some very generous odds of 3-1 (statistically 50% wins) at lunchtime on Nigel pulling through for a victory. The second game started with Steve taking off the lawn allowing Nigel round. Steve failed at 3rd allowing Nigel to hit and start on TP, things were very much in control except for a slight shudder at 4-back and the straight rover peel was executed as expected. The rush back to the peg bent a long way and hit the peg so the TP went uncompleted. The interesting thing was that Nigel had narrowly missed that grievous in the doubles final the previous day on the same hill. Steve was unable to make the recovery and we were soon into the third game.

Nigel had the first ball round in the third and after Nigel was impaired after 1st Steve picked up the 6 yarder to the boundary and goes round. Unfortunately a careless 24 yard double target was left which Nigel had with the 1 fingered lift with the backward ball. He started on the TP but failed to get a ball anywhere near 5 and had to retreat. Steve hit from about 14 yards and started on a delayed TP, the first peel was obtained before 6th but the break looked a bit shaky around 3-back. However he was able to keep going and all went according to plan until the peel ball stuck at rover. After quickly doing the half jump he was unlucky to end up only about an inch from the boundary, how one well knows the feeling. With the tension absolutely at a fever pitch he missed the 6 yard return roquet and Nigel was able to finish the game with a dour double peel. What can Steve do to beat the dominance of Nigel in the best of three competition?

While all that was going on on lawn 4 a few of the connoisseurs were keeping an eye on the plate final between Eric and Dave Peterson. The game went as many earlier in the week with a three ball ending which Eric produced when for 4th against 3-back. We were not treated to one of those tight endings as Eric simply dealt with the game in one break!

As an extra titbit the final of the open event from the Colchester week

tournament was played between Michael Heap and John Walters, this proved to be just an exhibition TP for Heap.

At the prize giving John Solomon was able to present Tom Barlow with his silver medal which he won in 1975 as an Opens finalist (don't things move quickly in the croquet world?), besides that for Steve Lewis. The Sponsors presented some very fine permanent trophies besides the usual silverware that was on hand, and were able to assure us that they intend to continue their excellent sponsorship for next year.

Next year with seeding perhaps the seeds won't be victorious as they were this year, we can only wait to find out.

J.R.H.

Open Championships 14-21 July

Open Singles (Sheet 1)

First Round: Dr M. Murray bt S. J.H. Wright +25(TP) +20(TP); M.A. Holford bt A. Berry +4 -19 +8; T. Griffith bt R.M. Hobbs +23 +25; D.J. Croker bt R. Bamford +16 -26 +26; J.O. Walters bt Dr W.R.D. Wiggins +5 -1 +2; D. Peterson bt J.D. Meads +25 +4; P. Cordingley bt G.P.N. Healy +23 +26; J.R. McCullough bt T. Barlow +18 +4.

Second Round: D.K. Openshaw bt Mrs H.B.H. Carlisle +14 +10; C.H.L. Prichard bt G. Roy +14 +13; S.N. Mulliner bt E. Bell +17 -26 +3; J.R. Hilditch bt D.R. Foulser +23 +10; Murray bt Holford +20 +17; Griffith bt Croker +5 +19(TP); Walters bt Peterson -8 +14 +3; McCullough bt Cordingley +176 -23 +17(TP).

Third Round: Prichard bt Openshaw +9 -8 +16; Mulliner bt Hilditch +18 +24; Griffith bt Murray +9 -26 +4; McCullough bt Walters +18 -13 opp. scr.

Semi-final: Mulliner bt Prichard +22 +12; McCullough bt Griffith +12 -26 +2.

Final: Mulliner bt McCullough +13(TPO) +17.

Open Singles (Sheet 2)

First Round: K. Jones (USA) bt C. Southern -16 +18 +1; M. Avery bt J.E. Guest +12 +17; G.N. Aspinall bt Dr E.W. Solomon -15 +17 +21; D.L. Gunasekera bt H.O. Hicks -13 +23 +24; M. Ormerod bt A.J. Palmer -1(OT) +8 +25; I.D. Bond bt M.J. Stevens +10 +9; B.G. Neal bt Dr I.G. Vincent +11 +17; M.E.W. Heap bt J. Rose +4 +11.

Second Round: Avery bt K. Jones +20 +24; Aspinall bt Gunasekera +17 +1; Bond bt Ormerod +14 -5 +4; Heap bt Neal +19 +11; A.B. Hope bt C. Barlow +21 +22; Mrs W.R.D. Wiggins bt K.E. Jones +2(OT) +4; S.E. Lewis bt R. Tribe -4 +5 +7; G. Noble bt P.L. Smith -3 +5 +15.

Third Round: Aspinall bt Avery +26 +5; Heap bt Bond -12 +11 +15; Mrs Wiggins bt Hope +8 +7; Lewis bt Noble +2 +25.

Semi-final: Aspinall bt Heap +14(TP) +14; Lewis bt Mrs Wiggins -26 +13 +17.

Final: Aspinall bt Lewis +19 +20.

PLAY-OFF: Aspinall bt Mulliner -14 +20 +2.

Open Doubles

First Round: R.M. Hobbs & G.P.N. Healy bt A.J. Palmer & J.E. Guest w.o.; M.A. Avery & D.K. Openshaw bt D.R. Foulser & T. Griffith +2 +4; S.J.H. Wright & M.E.W. Heap bt P.L. Smith & A. Berry -2 +14 +16(TP); G.N. Aspinall & S.N. Mulliner bt G. Noble & Dr I.G. Vincent -13(TP) +24 +26; G. Barlow & R. Bamford bt J.C. Walters & K.E. Jones +16 +15; M.J. Stevens & I.D. Bond bt G. Roy & D.J. Croker -24 +3 +11; J. Rose & E. Bell bt Dr and Mrs W.R.D. Wiggins +26 +21; T. Barlow & S.E. Lewis bt R. Tribe & M.A. Holford +21 -21 +3.

Second Round: Dr E.W. Solomon & B.G. Neal bt A.J. Mrozinski & C. Southern +25 +26; K. Jones (USA) & M Ormerod bt H.O. Hicks &

K.F. Wylie +11 +23; Avery & Openshaw bt Hobbs & Healy +11(TP) +8(TPO); Aspinall & Mulliner bt Wright & Heap -2 +3 +4; Bond & Stevens bt Barlow & Bamford +11 +6; Rose & Bell bt Barlow & Lewis +24 +15; Dr M. Murray & A.B. Hope bt P. Cordingley & J.R. McCullough +14 +16; J.R. Hilditch & D.L. Gunasekera bt J.W. Solomon & Mrs H.B.H. Carlisle -4 +5 +9.

Third Round: Neal & Solomon bt Jones & Ormerod -24 +13 +20; Aspinall & Mulliner bt Avery & Openshaw +26(TP) +17; Rose & Bell bt Bond & Stevens +24 -26 +17; Murray & Hope bt Hilditch & Gunasekera -4 +5 +9.

Semi-final: Aspinall & Mulliner bt Neal & Solomon +26 +12(TPO); Rose & Bell bt Murray & Hope +3 +16(TP).

Final: Aspinall & Mulliner bt Rose & Bell +24 -21 +24.

Association Plate (Advanced Singles)

DRAW

First Round: G.P.N. Healy bt A.J. Palmer +14; E. Bell bt C. Barlow +11; G. Noble bt J.D. Meads +7; K.E. Jones bt A. Berry +3; D. Peterson bt R.M. Hobbs +10; K. Jones (USA) bt Mrs H.B.H. Carlisle +18; T. Barlow bt C. Southern +26; J. Rose bt J.E. Guest +2; D.L. Gunasekera bt G. Roy +14; M. Ormerod bt E.W. Solomon +8; D.J. Croker bt J.R. Hilditch +3; R. Bamford bt B.G. Neal +24; S.J.H. Wright bt A.B. Hope +5; M.J. Stevens bt P. Cordingley +5; P.L. Smith bt R. Tribe +4.

Second Round: Healy bt Bell +9; Noble bt Holford +15; Peterson bt Jones +10; Barlow bt Jones (USA) +12; Rose bt Gunasekera +14; Croker bt Ormerod +4; Bamford bt Wright +15; Stevens bt Smith +10.

Third Round: Noble bt Healy +16(TP); Peterson bt Barlow +14; Rose bt Croker +26; Bamford bt Stevens w.o.

Semi-final: Peterson bt Noble +3; Rose bt Bamford +14.

Final: Peterson bt Rose +26.

PROCESS

First Round: A.J. Palmer bt J. Rose w.o.; K.E. Jones bt R. Bamford +14; J.D. Ormerod bt J.D. Meads +8; P. Cordingley bt Mrs H.B.H. Carlisle +26; D.L. Gunasekera bt E. Bell w.o.; D. Peterson bt A.B. Hope +4; D.J. Croker bt M.A. Holford +20; T. Barlow bt R. Tribe w.o.; G.P.N. Healy bt J.E. Guest +20; A. Berry bt B.G. Neal +6; E.W. Solomon bt G. Noble +9; M.J. Stevens bt K. Jones (USA) +6; G. Roy bt C. Barlow +26; S.J.H. Wright bt R.N. Hobbs +23; P.L. Smith bt C. Southern +21.

Second Round: Jones bt Palmer w.o.; Cordingley bt Ormerod +8; Gunasekera bt Peterson +21; Croker bt Barlow +9; Healy bt Berry +10; Solomon bt Stevens +14; Wright bt Roy +13; Hilditch bt Smith +13.

Third Round: Jones bt Cordingley +13; Croker bt Gunasekera +15; Solomon bt Healy +2; Hilditch bt Wright +20.

Semi-final: Croker bt Jones +2; Solomon bt Hilditch +17.

Final: Solomon bt Croker +3.

PLAY-OFF: Solomon bt Peterson +5.

NATIONAL SCHOOLS CHAMPIONSHIP 1984

This first-ever Schools Championship attracted 15 entries, and proved to be a very exciting competition.

The rules were straightforward. Matches consisted of 3 games, two singles and a doubles, played under handicap rules, between teams of four. Each team could contain one Master or Mistress who had to play as a member of the doubles pair. (Next year, we are thinking of extending this to allow an old boy or old girl to play in place of a member of staff to encourage CA members to coach at their old schools).

As the draw shows, teams were drawn from all over the country, with schools as far apart as Ipswich, Manchester and Taunton. Taunton Junior School and Warwick fielded teams that were younger than the others, and Warwick had a good win over Stowe. At Ardingly, Father Waters and his team were not only preparing themselves for the fray, but were also coaching the team from Worth School whom they met in the first round. Chethams School of Music were found to be practising assiduously at Ellesmere, whilst a number of Manchester Grammar Schoolboys were observed playing almost daily at Bowdon. The match between Chethams and Manchester was played as a kind of "croquet cocktail" after the weekend tournament at Bowdon.

As the tournament progressed, the teams became more experienced and even more enthusiastic, and the clubs where the matches were played also became gripped with the action. The Marlborough/Farlingaye match at Harwell was close, and although Farlingaye won by 3-0, it could equally well have been 3-0 the other way, with Tom Griffiths on scratch playing for Marlborough and Martin French on 5 shepherding Farlingaye along. Warwick's fine run ended when they met Manchester at Edgbaston in the semi-final.

The final was played at Wrest Park, and after a relatively short time, the pattern had been established, with Manchester just ahead in the Doubles and Farlingaye's Danny Palmer (9) overhauling Manchester's Paul Goldberg (14) in the top singles match. In the second singles, the Manchester boy kept his nose in front throughout the game by just a few hoops, although on handicap he was the weaker player, and he never allowed his opponent any chance to pick up a break. After some six hours play, with several hoops still to go, time was called and Manchester had won the first Championship by 2 games to 1.

Richard Rothwell has very generously donated a Shield for annual competition in this event, and he was present at Wrest Park to award it to the winners, having officiated as Referee for the final. He also gave medals to the members of both teams and we hope that these will serve as a memento of a very enjoyable tournament.

From a personal point of view, it has been a most rewarding event to run, both on account of the enthusiasm of the teams and the staff who performed minor miracles to get the games played by the due dates and to transport their teams to the matches. Also it has been most encouraging to find such tremendous support amongst the clubs for this event. Eight clubs acted as hosts for one or more matches, including Cheltenham, Colchester, Harwell, Bowdon, Ellesmere and Dulwich Sports Club, as well as those mentioned above.

The standard of play throughout the competition surprised those club members who saw some of the matches being played. Most of the players knew the basic rules and some of them had a good knowledge of lifts and other more advanced aspects of the game. Stroke technique generally was good, as was the ability to hit in, and several players could play a 4-ball break if one was set up for them. In general, the main weaknesses seemed to be a lack of understanding of how to set up a 4-ball break from scratch and how and when to take bisques, but both these points will soon be overcome with practice and more experience.

The signs are that next year even more schools will be entering. Queens School at Chester is threatening to join Kings School in the competition, and Arnold School (at Blackpool), Wrekin College, Brighton College, Ashby Grammar School and others are also talking about entering. In the London area, there has been a suggestion that there might be a schools league, with Merchant Taylors, Dulwich and Chigwell close enough to each other to form a nucleus for such a scheme.

C. Hudson

Results

First Round: Marlborough bye; King Edwards bt Taunton Junior 3-0; Farlingaye bt Dulwich 2-1; Ardingly bt Worth 3-0; Merchant Taylors bt Chigwell 2-0 (1 unplayed); Warwick bt Stowe 2-1; Chethams bt Kings, Chester 2-1; Manchester bt Bishop Vesey's 2-1.

Second Round: Marlborough bt King Edwards 2-1; Farlingaye bt Ardingly 2-1; Warwick bt Merchant Taylors 2-1; Manchester bt Chethams 2-1.

Semi-final: Farlingaye bt Marlborough 3-0; Manchester bt Warwick 2-1.

Final: Manchester bt Farlingaye 2-1.

NATIONAL JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP Colchester 13 & 14 July, 1984

This was the first time that a National Junior Championship had been held and the arrangements were only completed at the last minute.

The first day of the tournament was played at Boxford, where Bob Locke had very kindly offered us the use of the two splendid lawns in the grounds of his home. The four competitors played some marvellous croquet, hitting in almost every time regardless of distance, and because of their accuracy and attacking play, the average time taken for each game over the whole tournament period was just under one and a half hours.

David Peterson's experience clearly told in the Championship itself, played under advanced play rules as a Draw and Process. He completed his first three games in 2 hours and 15 minutes total playing time, conceding only one hoop in the process. In his first game against Paul Williams, he completed the first two peels of a triple and then he missed a 2-foot roquet when looking all set to go out. However, he made amends by completing a triple against John Mann in the final of the Draw. David and John were also finalists in the Process which was held over until the following day so that the finals of the Championship could be played at the Colchester Club.

After lunch, Mark Suter played off for 3rd place against Paul Williams, winning by 10, and then went on to thrash David Peterson by 26 in the handicap event. Indeed, the standard of play of the three higher bisquers made them absolutely lethal when they had their bisques against David and although David had the odd chance here and there, he found himself on the losing end of all his three handicap matches.

Play moved on to Colchester the following morning with another round of the handicap event, which again found John Mann in excellent form, this time against Mark Suter. Paul Williams came into form on the faster lawns of his own club and beat David after having taken his forward ball to the peg and been pegged out. The final of the Process was then played and David beat John by 19 to become the 1984 Junior Champion, winning the competition outright.

Mrs Charles Townsend presented David with a most impressive challenge cup, donated by her husband for annual competition at this Championship together with two replicas of the trophy for this year's winner and runner-up. There followed a series of photo calls to record the result of a most enjoyable competition and as a final offering, John Mann beat David in the handicap event to win all his three handicap games and establish himself as a formidable challenger for the Junior title next year, although Mark and Paul are both eligible to compete again and may well have other thoughts about that!

Thanks are due to the Colchester Committee for making the arrangements to enable this tournament to take place at such short notice and to Mr and Mrs Claydon for putting up some of the competitors. The age limit for a Junior is under 18 on 1st April in the year of the competition, and we hope that the Schools tournament will encourage more Juniors to take part in the next year's Championship.

DRAW

Semi-final: John Mann bt Mark Suter +11; David Peterson bt Paul Williams +26.

Final: Peterson bt Mann +25(TP)

PROCESS

Semi-final: David Peterson bt Mark Suter +26; John Mann bt Paul Williams +19.

Final: Peterson bt Mann +19.

PLAY-OFF for 3rd place: Suter bt Williams +10.

Handicap Event

	P	M	S	W	No. of wins	Net Points	Final Pos'n
D. Peterson (1)	—	-21	-24	-3	0	-48	4
J. Mann (5)	+21	—	+7	+19	3	+47	1
M. Suter (7½)	+24	-7	—	-3	1	+14	3
P. Williams (8)	+3	-19	+3	—	2	-13	2

Obituary

COLONEL G.T. WHEELER, D.S.O.

Tyrwhitt's death leaves a big gap at Cheltenham, but he will be missed by croquet players everywhere. In his day he went to tournaments all over the country, and reckoned to know all the croquet playing fraternity. Even in recent years, when he played less, he liked to keep in touch with the younger generation and one of his outstanding characteristics was an interest in what made other people tick, what their hobbies were, what they were good at.

He came to croquet after a distinguished career in the Indian Army. During the war he was appointed Commanding Officer of Skinner's Horse and led them through the Italian campaign, where he was awarded the D.S.O. He was known as an unconventional officer, intolerant of red tape and inefficiency. He returned to India after the war but the Indianisation of the Army meant a premature retirement. He was deeply affected by the problems of partition in India and became reluctant to talk about his Indian life and career.

After the Army he farmed for several years and there showed that ability to use his hands as well as his head which proved so useful later on when he took up lawn management. A visitor looking for him on the farm came away unsatisfied with the remark that Col. Wheeler was not there, only a farm labourer mucking out the stables. This turned out to be Tyrwhitt. When he gave up farming his idea of retirement was to buy a JCB and to hire out his services as earth mover and excavator. He only worked for people he liked and on jobs he approved of but nevertheless made a comfortable profit for several years. Another hobby was motorcycling.

When he took up croquet he was soon putting back more into the game than he took out. His interests covered care of the lawns, the laws and both high and low bisque tactics—it was he who donated the L cup at Cheltenham for high bisquers. He soon became an A class player but said that this was not through any natural ability—just by constant practice. He maintained that he spent 48 hours a week at the club. What he omitted to mention was that most of the time was spent not in playing but in working on the lawns and buildings. His contribution to Cheltenham was quite exceptional and was marked on his retirement as lawns manager by the Club giving him the status of honorary life member.

As a player his forte was handicap doubles, but he was not really interested in winning unless plenty of peels were involved. This could take the form of refusing to make a hoop himself until his partner had reached 4 back (if he ever did) or else of peeling and pegging out the opponent. In the *Gazette* of April 1981 there appeared an article 'Croquet Customs and all that—beginners only' by G.T.W., which included the remark "Aunt Emmering is perfectly legal, it is often profitable, but it carries the penalty that nobody wants to play with you". Tyrwhitt had clear and uncompromising views on most subjects, and he practised what he preached. A game with him was never dull. He was also the author of several of 'Wheeler's Laws' of which the best known is "Never take a bisque when it's raining". He believed that the game's the thing, not just the winning.

Another interest was crosswords. On a recent stay in hospital he was expelled from Intensive Care when they discovered how quickly he could finish the *Times* crossword. His help in completing *Times* Jumbos will be greatly missed.

His best epitaph is that people liked him. There were some people of

whom he did not approve (mostly Trade Union leaders) and he enjoyed saying what he thought of them. But he was marvellous in bringing out the best in others. He was witty, cheerful and tough. We were fortunate in having him at Cheltenham so long.

Our sincere sympathy goes to Kitty and to his family.

I.M.R.
D.H.M.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir,

THE TAKE-OFF

Sometimes when a fairly fine take-off is played the striker's ball moves a few millimetres after it has been placed in contact with the ball to be croquetted. And sometimes this is not noticed by the striker. The usual effect is that the striker's ball is sent in the wrong direction and the other ball is not croquetted. The Laws state that a fault has been committed and that the striker's ball shall be replaced. As at the time the fault was committed it was not in contact with the ball intended to be croquetted, it is evident that replacing the ball means putting it back where it was, not where it should have been. Hence if a bisque is taken a roquet must be made before the balls are set for a croquet stroke. The same applies but either of the (undisturbed) balls is to be played in a subsequent turn. Is there any contrary view?

258 Albert Street,
Waterkloof,
R.S.A. 0L81.

G. W. Leech

Dear Sir,

Croquet I suppose was a social game rather than a competitive one, but over the years an increasing number of young men have come into the game, who quite naturally made it more competitive. They find the four ball break relatively easy to master, and I suppose when considering the number of shots between making each hoop, six in all, it is not surprising. This is not so for the older person taking up the game.

Bernard Neal in his article in the 174th issue of the *Gazette* "Is 'A' Class Croquet too easy" says, I Quote (But more importantly, constructive break play becomes well nigh impossible for the vast majority of players leading to discouragement and disillusionment with the game. Lawn preparation must be made with these players in mind). I think that Bernard Neal's quote also applies to 3¾" hoops. Countless numbers of potential croquet players have been put off by the difficulty of running hoops of 3¾". It is not uncommon even in Tournament play at the Sussex County Croquet Club to see half the lawns with a ball stuck in the middle. The frustration for the older players endeavouring to make breaks is devastating and causing the games to go on far too long.

The Sussex hoops whilst Howard Austin was Secretary before he retired to Lichfield, were set at about 3¾" and players enjoyed both the friendly and tournament games much more.

May I suggest that the Council re-look at the General Conditions for Tournaments No. 3 so that clubs can adjust the width to suit the conditions, say 3¹¹/₁₆ to 3¹⁵/₁₆.

14 Milton Drive
Southwick,
Brighton.

N. W. T. Cox

IN REPLY TO WIDER HOOPS

Mr. Cox makes an extremely cogent point in proposing that the width of hoops could, with advantage, be varied according to lawn conditions. The new edition of the Laws makes it clear (Law 2(b)(i)) that any width between 3¾ inches and 4 inches is legal, provided that each hoop on a court has the same width within a tolerance of plus or minus 1/32 inch. 4 inch hoops could doubtless be provided by any one of the several manufacturers, and their use would encourage many players who find the 3¾ inch hoop a formidable obstacle. Expense would be a problem, but hoops have a long life.

For tournaments the 3¾ inch hoop is now specified in the new Law 50(d), with a tolerance of plus or minus 1/32 inch. However, if there was pressure to enable a tournament to be run with wider hoops, consideration could certainly be given to an amendment. As David Prichard put it in his preface to the previous edition of the Laws, "The law must be stable, but it must not stand still."

Prof. B. G. Neal

Dear Sir,

THE DELVES BROUGHTON CUP

In reply to Brian Bamford's letter 'Famous or Infamous' in the 1983 winter *Gazette*, the late Sir Delves Broughton, involved in the famous murder trial in Kenya, was indeed the donor of the trophies for the Golf Croquet doubles. He presented two fine silver challenge cups in 1936. One was stolen in the 1970s and was not replaced, so the winners now have to share the remaining cup for the year.

The cups were first competed for at the Challenge and Gilbey meeting at Roehampton in 1937 when Victor Evans and R. H. Park emerged as the winners from an entry of 52 pairs. Victor Evans, a great advocate of Golf Croquet, who later became a Vice President of the C.A., was one of the last good players employing the "golf style" (where the croquet ball is addressed as a golfer strikes a golf ball - at right angles to the line of aim). Some feel that with this style it is impossible to execute a long roll without shepherding. As no croquet stroke is permissible in Golf Croquet he could never have been accused of fouling laws in this form of game.

Since the War the Golf Croquet Championships have not been well supported. They have played at the Peels, Caskets and the Open Championship Meetings as well as the Challenge and Gilbey, but managers of those events have become reluctant to include them. After two years as a separate event at Ipswich, Colchester came to the rescue in 1978 by staging a one-day tournament on the first May Day Bank holiday after no other club had put in a bid. After a year at Hurlingham they went to Harrow Oak where they have ever since been played as a two-day event in May (to be played in 1984 on 12-14 May). Recently the championships have attracted an entry of four or five pairs each year, although the quality of players has been of the highest order. Golf Croquet can be a most interesting and exciting game and the championships surely deserve better support. Maybe they could become the Hoop golf Championships following the 1984 Annual General Meeting - personally I hope not. Perhaps I am too much of a traditionalist although I do appreciate Roger Wheeler's reasons for suggesting the change.

Yours sincerely
Richard Rothwell

Dear Sir

Today I arrived home after a wonderful holiday in South Africa.

Dorothy Aubrey met me at Durban Airport and drove me to Richard Curtis' lovely home where we were both staying. Richard is nearly blind, but his brain is as active as a 40 year-old. He has a splendid croquet lawn, kept in excellent condition. Dorothy and I had 2 games there, and once at the Bevea Croquet Club, where I met several old friends.

Dorothy took me for drives all round Durban and along the sea front. The Tibochina trees were beautiful; and Durban is a fine city.

On Friday, Par hooper joined us for her birthday. Richard gave a superb dinner party in her honour, which was enjoyed by all.

Next day Par drove me to Pietermaritzburg, where she lives, and I was given a welcome by Torqui, her maid and Fishy, her cat.

After a few happy days with Par, seeing the country; playing bridge with Diane Hathorn; and visiting the Maritzburg Croquet Club where I met an old friend, Shiela Dove Wilson, Dorothy, Par and I drove to the Draconsberg mountains to visit Cathedral Peak. Unfortunately it rained most of the time we were there. However, on the last morning, the sun came out and we were able to see the Bell and the Cathedral and lovely views in every direction.

Dorothy and Par shared the driving and I was spoiled once more, by having an opportunity to admire this beautiful part of South Africa.

Without Christopher, my husband, introducing me to croquet, I would have missed the joy of meeting these delightful South African friends, and would like to thank them for their generous hospitality.

Forge Cottage,
1 Church Hill,
Birstall,
Leicestershire

Yours sincerely,
Joan Haworth

Dear Sir,

FAMOUS CROQUET PLAYERS

I can add some information to that provided by Lionel Wharrad, concerning famous people who played croquet.

The British Royal Family play croquet, including the very popular new addition Princess Diana, at least when they are young.

His Imperial Highness Michael Romanoff used to play with the Hollywood set. The actress Debbie Reynolds played with Sam Goldwyn. Other famous actors who were keen players were George Sanders, Tyrone Power, Gig Young, Louis Jourdan, Cesar Romero and Gregory Ratoff who was so fat that he had to play with the mallet under his arms.

The talented film directors Jean Negulesco, Howard Hawkes, also Moss Hart and George Kaufman, who jointly produced many Broadway successes, were players.

Among many writers who played croquet were Herbert Bayard Swope (Pulitzer prize winning reporter, editor, and adviser to presidents), and Compton MacKenzie, who was president of the Croquet Association.

A world-famous diplomat was Averell Harriman, who insisted that the Russians provide him with a croquet lawn.

A really unusual sporting combination was in the person of Gentleman Jim Corbett, the legendary boxing champion, who played croquet all his life.

I have no doubt that Mr. Wharrard will have received details of the "whodunnit" he mentioned, so I will give details of a short novel by H. G. Wells. It was a horror story entitled *The Croquet Player*, published by The Viking Press, 18 East 48th Street, New York. The final message of this novel is very appropriate to the present era of possible world-wide destruction, that is, let us enjoy playing croquet while we can.

Mdomi Road, Kloof 3600, South Africa

Yours sincerely,
Leslie Riggall

Dear Sir,

In spite of the generally unsatisfactory nature of time limits, it seems inevitable that crowded tournaments will be saddled with the necessity of imposing them on games, for as long as there are so many slow players around. This is a pity, as the finish of a game gone to time—especially if the scores are level—is little short of farce, as the tactics employed in the closing minutes have little to do with the croquet played in the rest of the game.

Here is a proposal, which as far as I am aware has not been made before and which I believe would substantially reduce the number of timed games actually going to time, by the simple expedient of eliminating the time *wastage* during a game.

The normal time limit is imposed on the *game*—my proposal is that time limits should be imposed on the *players* of that game, by the use of a Chess Clock. For those not familiar with tournament chess, each player is allowed a certain amount of time to complete all his moves, his time being totted up by one of a pair of clocks. When a player has made a move he immediately stops his own clock and restarts his opponent's in one operation.

In a timed croquet game of say 3 hours, each player would have 90 minutes, if it were a game where bisques were not involved. It would be a player's responsibility (and to his cost if not done) to switch the clocks at the end of his turn.

Clearly only the time limit of the player actually in play can ever expire and when that occurs no further bisques may be taken and the game finishes at the end of that turn. Unless he pegs out in that last turn and thereby wins outright, he loses—irrespective of the points scores. Points score differences would be recorded for the purpose of deciding ties in competitions played in blocks, so one could see results like: Won +2, or Lost -2, but equally Won -2 or Lost +2.

Bisques could be accommodated easily. For each full bisque, add or deduct 2 minutes to or from the player's allowed times. For a half bisque, add or deduct 1 minute. For example, a 7 plays a 2½ in a 3 hour game. The bisques are 4½, worth 9 minutes. The 7 gets 99 minutes play and the 2½ gets 81 minutes play, and the clocks are set accordingly. (The extreme case is when a -5, in a 3 hour game against a 16, would have 48 minutes playing time. It doesn't sound very much but is probably more than sufficient.)

The benefits to be derived from the proposal would include:

1. Players would get off the lawn in quick time in order to stop their own clocks.

2. Players would get on the lawn to start their turns in quick time and perhaps, due to the tardiness of the opponent, start playing using the opponent's time.
3. Prolonged discussion between partners in doubles would be greatly reduced.
4. Players would generally become more time conscious, with this benefit being carried over to games without time limit.
5. The removal of any feelings of resentment that might be harboured by a player who believes he hasn't had a fair ration of the total time allowed for the game.
6. The need for a timekeeper for the end of the game could be eliminated. A simple mechanism on the clocks—say a bell for red/yellow and a buzzer for blue/black—would signal the end of the game automatically.
7. The elimination of Regulation 8 in its present form, which seems only to be understood fully by referees.
8. By fitting an overriding stop to both clocks, no disagreement over time loss occasioned by dispute, referee intervention or other game stoppage.
9. Slow players at all handicaps would soon know themselves.

The disadvantages would clearly include the cost of the clocks and what some (dare one suggest the slow players?) would regard as an undignified procedure at the conclusion of each turn. There are probably others which your correspondents will hasten to point out. But I feel that some experiments would be worthwhile—who knows, they may lead to the eventual consignment of time limits to the history books, as players get used to the idea of getting on with the game.

Rose Cottage, Westwood, Broadclyst, Devon

Yours faithfully,
B. Redford

Dear Sir,

HOOP BALL

Dr. Wheeler is correct when he says that any game that does not include the croquet stroke should never be given a name that includes the word "croquet". And to call such a game "Golf Croquet" is even more misleading to the uninitiated, because it is neither golf nor croquet.

This very simple game cannot be compared with croquet, and to continue to allow the word "croquet" to be used in its name, will ensure that we shall never be able to correct the totally erroneous popular image of croquet.

If this comparatively puerile game must be played to obtain money; or television coverage, then the only logical name for it is Hoop Ball or Hoopball, which compares with Basketball and Baseball in that the name bears a true relation to the game.

The one factor which makes croquet completely different from all other games, and makes it so much richer than all other ball games, is the unique croquet stroke, in which two or more balls are simultaneously impelled in a choice of a very wide variety of different directions and distances, and with a very wide variety of relative speeds, in one single stroke.

We who play this magnificent game of croquet should guard the name jealously, and not allow it to be used for any inferior game which lacks its unique qualities.

Association Croquet has always been a fairly exclusive game (for obvious reasons — it is expensive in terms of money, time and land usually occupied by only two players), played by the middle and upper classes. This is equally true of America, where a standardised sequence game is rapidly becoming popular in those classes only.

It must surely be a mistake to believe that it can become a popular game for the masses like bowls or football. Croquet is too subtle and complex to achieve general popularity, and all efforts to do that must surely fail. And certainly we should never debase the "Queen of Games" just to make it suitable for television.

Mdomi Road, Kloof 3600, South Africa

Yours sincerely
Leslie Riggall

Dear Sir,

Allow me to address you on a few points. First, I thank you for publishing my enquiry as to the donor of the Delves Broughton Golf Croquet trophies (CG 173, page 6). I received several interesting replies confirming that the donor was in fact the accused in the Earl of Errol murder trial in Kenya in 1941, and showing that he was a +2 player before the Second World War.

Second, I refer to the debate on the name "Golf" Croquet (Roger Wheeler CG No. 173, page 6; Aline Davis CG No. 174, page 10; S.N. Mulliner CG No. 174, page 12). Golf proper is an anguish requiring the impelling of a ball too small over distances too great into a hole too small. It is the only outdoor game, so far as I know, which deliberately places obstacles in the way of innocent passage—bunkers, trees, waterworks (including—in Florida, as I have seen—planted crocodiles).

From this anarchy the fair game of "Golf" Croquet should dissociate itself utterly. Is there an acceptable alternative? In croquet proper, the essence is the croquet-stroke. This, in tactics and execution, sorts the men from the boys, immediately and definitely. It is therefore irresistible logic that the stroke should give the game its name. In the case of "Golf" Croquet, the essence is to move balls to and from hoops by means of the roquet-stroke. Is there any reason why the game should not be called Roquet?

Third, Lionel Wharrad has asked for the names of "famous" croquet-players. Perhaps the only real South African croquetteer has been Alan Paton, the doyen of South African letters. His best known work is *Cry the Beloved Country* (Jonathan Cape, 1948). I asked him for croquet reminiscences in 1978, and he replied:

"I first built our present court in 1969. I had had a similar, but smaller one, in Kloof which I built some five years earlier. The present court is not quite full size, its dimensions being 87' X 78'. I planted it first with Kweek (couch grass), but owing to the fact that half the lawn is in shadow for a great part of the year, many other grasses established themselves, and I was indeed surprised to see the Kweek actually disappearing. Its main enemy was a kind of small water grass, which is not a spreading kind, but grows in small tufts. The result was that mowing left small ridges. Eventually I noticed that Buffalo grass, which grows in the other lawns, was tending to increase and eventually I planted pieces of this in amongst the water grass. It now looks as though the Buffalo will eventually take over the whole lawn. This is not an ideal croquet grass, but the Archbishop's lawn at Bishops Court is Buffalo, and it plays reasonably well. I may say that the labour required to keep a croquet lawn in order is quite reasonable.

"Yes, we play strict Association rules. Amongst the people who have played with us are Dr Bernard Friedman, former MP, ENT, specialist author of *Smuts: A Reappraisal* (Hugh Keartland, 1975), and his late wife, Lulu. They were both players of very high standard, though I don't think they ever played on a public lawn. Two people who have played most regularly with us are Mr and Mrs Dennis Bughwan. He is one of Durban's outstanding photographers and she is the head of the Department of Speech and Drama at the University of Durban/Westville. Our most colourful player was the late Archbishop Edward Paget, first Archbishop of Central Africa, 1955–1957. He played with more zest than skill. His main idea was to "smash 'em up". He suffered very badly from arthritis, particularly in the knees, and had to sit down after every stroke, but he played with us almost until his death a few years ago."

Fourth, Lionel Wharrad refers to "a whodunit about murder on a croquet lawn". It is *A Rush on the Ultimate* (Victor Gollancz 1961; Penguin 1966), by H.R.F. Keating, known for his Inspector Ghope detective stories set in India.

Finally, Mr Wharrad may be interested in other allusions to croquet literature (I cannot give the full reference in each case):

The Perfect Game, a perfect short story, by G.K. Chesterton
The Shining, a novel involving the game of roque, by Stephen King (Doubleday, 1974).

A Dangerous Magic, by Frances Lynch
The Enemy, a novel by Desmond Bagley

The Sleeper, a novel by Eric Clark, (Hodder and Stoughton, 1979).

The Small House at Allington, by Anthony Trollope
Nell Gwynn, by Bryan Bevan, a reference to the Game of Pall Mall
To the Wicket, By Dudley Carew.

May I ask a question? I have been told that Patrick Campbell wrote a short story involving croquet, but have never been able to track down the right anthology. Can a reader assist?

PO Box 15
Cape Town 8000
South Africa

Yours sincerely,
Brian Bamford

Dear Sir,

I would like to comment on several points in Issues No. 174 and 175 of the *Gazette*.

1. Making a Croquet Ball

The necessity for an apology usually arises from an act of commission or omission which need not have arisen. In the case of K. Wylie's article it was, in my opinion in very poor taste and if all the hours of work spent by many members repairing balls, mallets and other equipment provokes nothing better than this puerile "joke", then I for one am inclined to withdraw my contribution.

2. Advanced Play

I was disappointed to read Steve Mulliner's revival of the debate on the laws of advanced play which I felt was desirably killed by his own previous correspondence and the two letters in Issue No. 174.

To my knowledge there is no game where the basic rules are altered merely because a small group of players reach a higher degree of proficiency than others. If a cricket test match wicket is declared easy paced we do not alter the rules; tennis is played on grass, clay and other surfaces to the same rules—the comparables are limitless. If those players who find the game too boringly easy then judging by some of my encounters, they could employ any spare mental capacity brushing up on the customs of the game and court courtesies, and give thought to the great majority of players who enjoy what is a most absorbing game under existing Laws and who for the most part are those who give so much of their time sustaining *all* the facilities which are too often taken for granted and on which the future of the game relies. We could all do well to concentrate on presenting a better image of the game and not worry over much whether we should shake hands after a game.

Jan Macleod's letter (Issue 175) hits the "peg" on the head when she says "One thing is certain, croquet cannot expand without attracting a new range of adherents of all ages and both sexes . . ."

3. Handicaps

To my mind a handicap is an assessment of the difference of ability between two players of whatever game. There is I see to be a closer control of handicaps—particularly in the lower range. I fail to see the obsession with the "lower range"—all handicaps should be correct. How can one properly assess these lower ranges, or for that matter any handicap whatever statistical basis is adopted when fewer and fewer of the "lower ranges" expose themselves to handicap tournaments?

39 Stanstead Road, Caterham, Surrey, CR3 6AD

Yours faithfully
Alec F. Coleman

Dear Sir,

The Winter '83 and Spring '84 issues have just reached me and I must congratulate you on two very fine issues.

I was particularly interested in S.S. Townsend's article on "Changing Customs". Two of the three areas covered—dress and shaking hands—are very relevant to us in Australia as it has always (as far as I can ascertain) been the custom to shake hands at the end of a game and to wear whites for all competitions.

When I was in England in 1974 I played in a few tournaments and was fortunate to be asked to play in the Chairman's Salver at Southwick.

Needless to say I enjoyed meeting many of your players and playing against them at Hurlingham, Roehampton, Cheltenham, etc. Many of those players did wear whites then but it quite obviously was not compulsory—during the Salver we experienced atrocious weather the whole five days and there was a variety of clothing displayed and under the circumstances it was not at all surprising.

Personally I am all in favour of whites and shaking hands—the former gives a uniform look to proceedings and shaking the hand of your opponent after the peg out is just a friendly and sportsmanlike gesture which in these days of tough professionalism is only to be admired.

As far as buying a drink for the loser again I'm all for it, BUT it would mean a trip to the "local" as no croquet clubs in Australia have a bar. Some which share facilities with a bowling club have the right to use the bar, etc., and this certainly improves the atmosphere among sportsmen and women. I know that not all Australian croquet players will agree with me and they are entitled to their opinion but I certainly did enjoy the friendship at the bar after a game at one of the English clubs.

Kind regards to all.

29/Lot 20 Hungerford Ave,
Mandurah 6210
West Australia

Yours sincerely,
George Maslen

ALL THIS AND HEAVEN TOO

Red and Yellow are playing with 6 bisques. Red has made hoop 1 in a previous turn. He then mistakenly lays Red up with a rush to hoop 1. He runs hoop 1 which is really the end of his turn, but without taking a bisque he continues to play, and his opponent does not notice the error. He proceeds to use all 6 bisques to make a break to the peg. The opponent then plays his next turn.

At the end of the opponent's turn the player of Red and Yellow exclaims "Oh look, I started my last turn by running hoop 1 when I was really for hoop 2. I therefore played when not entitled to do so. According to Law 27(b) the error is condoned and all points made in order are valid. My clip therefore remains on the peg. Furthermore, according to Law 38(h)(i), I claim that all my bisques should be restored".

The opponent says "Nonsense, you can't commit an error, then use your bisques to score all those hoops and expect to have your bisques restored". He calls a referee. If you were the referee, what would be your verdict?
C.A.P.

1984 Interim Grade Order

1	Aspinall, G.N.	182
2	Mulliner, S.N.	169
3=	Hope, A.B.	154
3=	McCullough, J.	154
5	Openshaw, D.K.	149
6	Solomon, E.W.	147
7	Heap, M.E.W.	142
8=	Cordingley, P.	141
8=	Murray, M.	141
10	Hilditch, J.R.	139
11	Crocker, D.J.	137
12	Avery, M.	136
13=	Griffith, T.	134
13=	Irwin, C.J.	134
15	Aiton, K.M.H.	133
16=	Foulser, D.R.	131
16=	Hands, P.W.	131
18=	Bamford, R.M.	130
18=	Vincent, I.G.	130
20=	Bond, I.D.	127
20=	Neal, B.G.	127
20=	Ormerod, W.P.	127

23	Wiggins, S	126
24=	Gunasekera, D.	125
24=	Healy, G.P.N.	125
26	Rose, J.	124
27	Prichard, C.H.L.	123
28=	Lewis, S.E.	121
28=	Wright, S.J.H.	121
30	Ball, E.	120
31	Aldridge, W.O.	119
32=	Davis, E.J.	118
32=	Noblé, G.W.	118
34	Ormerod, M.	115
35	Walters, J.O.	114
36	Latham, L.V.	113
37	Prichard, R.D.C.	112
38=	Guest, J.E.	111
38=	Stevens, M.J.	111
40=	Palmer, A.J.	108
40=	Peterson, D.	108
42	Tribe, R.	107
43	Sykes, B.C.	106
44=	Hyne, N.G.	105
44=	Jackson, G.E.P.	105
46	Smith, P.L.	103
47=	Johnson, P.M.	102
47=	Jones, K.E.	102
47=	Meads, J.D.	102
50	Berry, A.	100

LONGMAN CUP (Top Half)

1st Round

East Riding beat Norton Hall 4-1
Southport beat Ellesmere 4-1
Chester beat Bowdon 4-1
Wolverhampton beat Walsall w.o.
Worcester beat Coal Research w.o.
Cheltenham beat Nailsea 4-1
Bristol beat Bath 5-0
Aldermaston beat Harwell 3-2

2nd Round

Edinburgh beat Glasgow 3-2
East Riding beat Southport 4-1
Wolverhampton beat Chester 3-2
Stourbridge beat Edgbaston 4-1
Sidmouth beat Budleigh w.o.
Worcester beat Cheltenham 4-1
Bristol beat Aldermaston w.o.
Oxford University beat Parkstone 4-1
(3rd round matches to be played by 1st July)

LONGMAN CUP (Bottom Half)

1st Round

Wrest Part beat Nottingham University 3-2
Roehampton beat Compton 4-1
Ryde beat Woking 3-2
Reigate Priory beat Parsons Green 3-2

2nd Round

Peterborough beat Hunstanton 3-2
Bretby beat Wrest Park 4-1
Colworth beat Nottingham 5-0
Colchester beat Ipswich 3-2
Southwick beat Worthing 4-1
Roehampton beat Ryde 4-1
Hurlingham beat Reigate 3-2
Harrow Oak beat British Airways 4-1
(3rd round to be played by 1st July)

MARY ROSE TROPHY

1st Round

Southport beat Cheltenham 1 5-2
Chester beat Wrest Park 6-1
Stourbridge beat Worcester 5-2
Bowdon beat Wolverhampton 6-1
Ipswich beat Hunstanton 5-2
Roehampton beat Southwick 5-2
Woking beat Colchester 5-2
Aldermaston beat Colworth 4-2
Harwell beat Compton 5-2

2nd Round

Cheltenham 2 beat Edgbaston 4-3
(Southport v. Chester not played yet)
Bowdon beat Stourbridge 7-0
Budleigh beat Parkstone 5-2
Ipswich beat Hurlingham 5-2
Roehampton beat Woking 4-3
Harwell beat Aldermaston 5-2
Parsons Green beat Reigate 7-0
(3rd round to be played by 29th July)

INTER CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

1st Round

Harrow Oak beat Colworth 5-0
Nottingham beat Bowdon 5-2
Roehampton beat Cheltenham 4-3
Aldermaston beat Compton w.o.
(2nd round to be played by 1st July)

SECRETARY'S NOTES

Alterations to Handicaps

Cheltenham 21-23 April

M.J. Finn	10	9 (D8)
Mrs D.J. Croker	7½	7
Mrs C. Irwin	9	8
F.I. Maughan	4½	4
R. Race	5	4½
M. Strachan	5	3½
M. Suter	9	8
M.J. Wilkins	6	5
I. Plummer	6½	6
T. Russell	9	8
M. Jackson	11 (D9)	10 (D8)

Hunstanton 30 April

Prof K. Campbell	7	5 before tournament May 5/7th
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Hurlingham 5-7 May

D.R.T. Ruscombe-King	10	8
Mrs I.P. Macdonald	6½	6
I.R. Plummer	6	5½
T.G. Russell	8	7

Hunstanton 5-7 May

J. Haigh	1½	2½
Mrs M.G. Tomkinson	7½	7

Cheltenham 5-7 May

Dr M. Murray	-2	-1½
J. McCullough	-½	-1
D.R. Foulser	-1	-1½
A.B. Hope	-1½	-2

Cheltenham 12 May

J. Allison	16 (D14)	
Mrs M. Finn	16 (D14)	15 (D13)
J. Mann	8	7

Ipswich Club 14 May

Mrs M. French	5	4½
D. Palmer	12	11

Colchester Club 17 May

Mrs S.A. Bressey	12	11 (D10)
G.S. Digby	4	5
D. Purdon	6½	6

Hurlingham 3-4 September 1983

Mrs G.H. Davies	11 (D9)	8 previously omitted
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Bristol 19-20 May

D. Goacher	7	6½
R. Tribe	3	2½

Oxford Club April/May

E. Breeton	10	Non Ass.
I. Plummer	5	4½
T. Russell	7	5½
J. Black	8	6

Carrickmines 18-20 May

A. Brown	12	10
N. McInerney	6	4
Rev. N.D. Browne	10	8
P. Thornton	10	8
S. Williams	14	10
T. Browne	14	11
Mrs M.B. McWeeney	12	13
J. McAuley	13	12
T.C. Lee	16	13
C. Beatty	11	10

Southport Club May

J.E.H. Powell	14 (D13)	
R. Sinton	16 (D14)	

Nottingham 26-28 May

A.G. Gordon	4½	4
Miss G.F. Hallam	9	8
Mrs N. Tyldesley	10	12
Dr E.J. Hiller	14	13

Correction to Directory

J. Death 12
A.W.M. Fergusson 14*
C.G. Hopewell 2½
G. Henshaw 4
J.F.S. Thomas 8

Budleigh Salterton 14-19 May

Mrs D.J. Croker	7	6½
M. Mc. F. Davis	14	12
Mrs M.E. Langley	10 (D8)	9 (D8)
I.P.M. Macdonald	3½	3
F.A. Rowlands	6	5½
Wing Cdr T.N. Silk	12	12 (D10)
Miss K. Holroyd	13 (D12)	12 (D11)

Colchester 26-28 May

Dr R.R. Sutherland	10	8
Dr P.A. Watson	10	8
G.F. Hallett	3½	4½