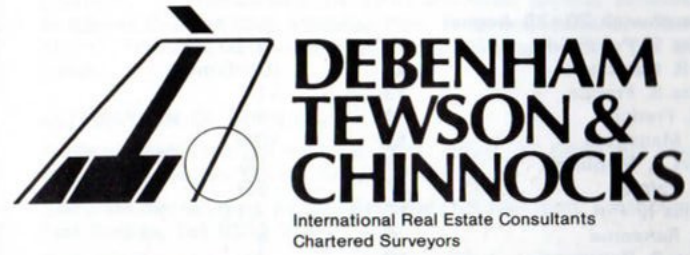




ORGANISED BY THE CROQUET ASSOCIATION



**DEBENHAM  
TEWSON &  
CHINNOCKS**

International Real Estate Consultants  
Chartered Surveyors

# THE BRITISH OPEN CROQUET CHAMPIONSHIPS 1985

## The Hurlingham Club London SW6

Saturday 13th-20th July 1985

### DEBENHAM TEWSON & CHINNOCKS

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Bancroft House, Paternoster Square, London EC4P 4ET 01-236 1520  
44 Brook Street, London W1Y 1YB 01-408 1161  
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**Modern attitudes - traditional values**

# THE CROQUET GAZETTE

ISSUE No. 178

WINTER 1984



*Croquet Association v. Ireland McWeeney Trophy  
- Report on page 5*



*Woodlands Manor Croquet Tournament  
- Report on Page 5*

**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.

COPY FOR THE SPRING GAZETTE TO BE SENT TO THE EDITOR BY MARCH 9th 1985.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**

Please note Subscriptions must be paid by 31st January 1985 to obtain Discount. Why not take advantage and write a cheque now or fill in your Bankers Order. We regret that we will not be sending out the Fixture List until subscriptions are paid.

**NATIONAL COACHING SCHEME**

In 1985, we shall be launching a National Coaching Scheme for croquet, and the intention is to appoint some 30 Club Coaches by the end of March.

To prepare for this programme, we are drawing up a list of people who would like to become official Association coaches. Those interested will be invited to attend 1-day Regional coaching conferences (held locally) to discuss coaching material provided by the Croquet Association and by the National Coaching Foundation.

These conferences will be of particular interest to those already involved in coaching at Club level, and afterwards those attending will be provided with relevant material for use in their coaching work.

Over the next three years, the scheme will be extended to appoint coaches at Area, Regional and National levels.

Further details of the Scheme can be obtained from Chris Hudson, at The Oaklands, Englesea Brook, Near Crewe, Cheshire CW2 5QW. (Tel. 0270-820296).

If you are interested, please contact Chris as soon as possible.

**DEVELOPMENT OFFICER**

The CA has applied to the Sports Council for increased Grant Aid in 1985 and succeeding years to enable our development plans to be put into effect.

If we are successful in obtaining this increased Grant, the intention is to appoint a Development Officer to implement our Forward Plan. The appointment will be for a period of three years, subject to annual renewal during that time, and the salary will be at the appropriate level on the Sports Council scales.

Anyone who would like to be considered for this post should write in the first instance to the Chairman of Council, Lionel Wharrad, at Old Stable Cottage, St Johns Hill Road, Woking, Surrey GU21 1RF, marking the envelope "Confidential".

Applications should be sent as soon as possible, as we hope that the Development Officer will be able to start work in the new year to maintain the momentum of our development effort.

**Inter University Championships**

It is planned to hold an Inter-University team event in 1985 between teams of four, drawn from undergraduates, post graduate students, or one member of University staff. Anyone who would like to enter a University team should contact Chris Hudson (Tel. 0270-820296).

**CLUB CONFERENCE 24th NOVEMBER 1984**

This Bi-Annual event held at The Hurlingham Club was attended by 86 members representing 35 clubs. It was opened by our President, Mr. J.W. Solomon, who chaired the entire proceedings.

Mr. C. Hudson briefly explained the detailed 3 year 'Forward Plan' which had been submitted to the National Sports Council. He hoped it would be approved next month and if so we will get a substantial grant so that we can appoint a Development Officer without whom the Plan would be impossible.

Then followed five aspects of the Plan:

1. **Increase of individual and club membership of the C.A.** by Mr. D.C. Caporn, who paid tribute to Chris Hudson without whose dedicated enthusiasm and hard work the Plan would never have been produced. Although others had helped him, he had put it all together. The object of the Plan was to try to make the C.A. self financing and to do this we need to increase our individual membership from 907 in 1984 to 1163 by 1986 and over 1500 by 1989. The C.A. depends on its membership or existing and new clubs. As any club can take 25 members per lawn plus additional members who play mid-week only, few, if any, clubs are full. He drew attention to the Recruiting Handbook which is being reprinted, and said that if its procedure was followed clubs can recruit as many members as they want. The difficulty is in keeping them and to do that they need looking after, events organised for them, encouraged to join in club afternoons when no lawns can be booked by anyone etc., but above all croquet must be fun.

New clubs come about in all sorts of ways, the successful ones from the grass roots and rarely survive if they only have one lawn. The Plan envisages 10 new clubs a year. Clubs who hold C.A. Fixture Book tournaments usually had over 50% of their members as Associates and he therefore urged more of these, including "small lawn" tournaments for those with only two lawns. This game had been recognised by the Council and a pamphlet thereon would be published shortly. Tournaments provide finance for clubs and for the C.A. through the levy. He asked Associates to go back to their clubs and try to increase their club membership and also the number of their Associates. In addition to club members who pay 25p each (which will rise to 30p in 1985) for the club's fee to register with the C.A., we should try to widen our net to bring into membership Schools, Universities, Polytechnics, Hotels with croquet lawns and other categories, all paying registration fees. The C.A. is investigating improving its services to members, including possible financial inducements to membership additional to the excellent mallet which can be bought by Associates at a discount, e.g. bulk purchases of balls. But, he concluded, more support for the C.A. depends, not on the other person, but on you.

2. **Help recruitment by organising publicity and increasing Media coverage** was the theme presented by the "Forward Plan" author, Mr. C. Hudson who said we had had a lot of coverage this year but needed more. The C.A. was producing a pack for the press containing basic type of news items etc. which publicity officers in clubs can adapt, and audio tapes and videos for local radio and television. We must supply the media with the news in the form they want, names of local players, their ages and personal items of interest as only if we do this will we get reported. He then showed part of the video produced by the U.S. Croquet Association to illustrate what is possible. In the discussion that followed many points were made including if you get a good report in the paper, find out who did it and send your news to him (or her) rather than the Editor, get journalists etc. to try the game, which often results in a more serious approach instead of it being treated in a trivial fashion, and that no opportunity to get coverage should be missed.

3. **Improving services to members** was the subject by Mr. A.J. Oldham who said the main means of communication was "The Gazette" which absorbs 60% of the C.A.'s subscription income, the cost of printing and postage being very heavy. He asked if we like "The Gazette" as it now appears and do we want tournament results and reports? The C.A. is continually extending its range of pamphlets and publications, many of which were on sale at the table in the room. The C.A. was also trying to produce good equipment and he particularly mentioned that we wanted a good design of tool to use for making holes for hoops and a hoop gauge. In the ensuing discussion suggestions were made as to whether postage could not be saved by sending "The Gazette" in bulk to a local club member for distribution. Mr. Oldham replied that it was an idea that had already been considered but not pursued as we were never sure about prompt delivery to individuals. He said postage accounted for 20% of the cost of the magazine. In reply to another question, he said he welcomed advertising and that this should be sent to the C.A. office who could supply details of rates. Several people supported the idea of tournament results being printed in a separate publication available on payment to those who wanted them, or sent separately to every club.

Others favoured the present system. A further questioner asked if a "glossy" publication was necessary and whether it could be produced without a cover, a hard bound loose leaf file being sold separately in which to put the sheets, but Mr. Oldham said that the magazine was part of our "image" and we ought not to produce a cheap looking publication. Another person asked for more detail to be published of Council Meetings, whilst someone else disagreed! There was also a suggestion of "Club Profiles", which used to be a feature of the Gazette, which received a great deal of support from the floor. On the subject of equipment, there were suggestions that new manufacturers with new types of equipment and tools should be encouraged and that maybe a manufacturer could produce hoops, tools for setting them in the ground and gauges etc. Why not abandon the "carrot" and find another system for fixing the hoops? It was pointed out that it was essential to make the holes first and not try to hammer in the hoop which had a disastrous effect on the latter! A contribution to the Gazette was promised on how to make a tool for fixing hoops from a broken hoop and a plastic paint which lasted for more than one season. We all look forward to reading this article.

4. **A National Coaching Scheme** was the next part of the 'Forward Plan' presented by Mr. P. Stoker who said that we were indebted to the National Coaching Foundation for all their help and they had offered us their facilities and expertise. They tackled all aspects of coaching including mind over matter! The C.A. had already made a start by appointing "Tutor Coaches" who would run courses so that club members could qualify as Coaches to teach beginners and high bisquers. By the end of 1985 there should be Area Coaches for middle bisquers and by 1987 Regional Coaches to assist top players. Ultimately the C.A. wanted to appoint a National Coach. The Coaching Manual and "Know the Game" were both being updated. A video on coaching by the U.S.C.A. was then shown.

Mr. Stoker concluded his talk by saying that the C.A. hoped to be able to use this video with the permission of the U.S.C.A. by inserting a commentary to cover our terminology.

In reply to questions that followed, Mr. Stoker said that he hoped the C.A. would soon be able to pay expenses to coaches covering their travel and that part of the cost could be recovered from those who wanted to be coached. Some of the audience would like a professional coach appointed!

5. **The Regional Organisation** was the last item of the Plan and details of this were put forward by Mr. J. McCullough. There were several of the 9 Regions in existence. These Regions coincided with Sports Council Regions and were more than trying to arrange Inter-Club events. There were there to establish new clubs and to help clubs get finance from their Region. It was vital for them to get involved with the local Sports Council and the Local Government publications and officials.

He was not a member of the Council of the C.A. and therefore he questioned the wisdom of the Plan in trying to set up 9 Regional Councils some Regions of which had few clubs, and some none! Also whether it was right for Regions to be necessarily based on 'Centres of Excellence' as he thought these Centres would dominate the Region. He also asked to what extent the C.A. will decentralise. In reply, Mr. Hudson said some of the Regions would have to be joined together until there were enough clubs to support a separate Region but that it was very important to cover the whole area and that with regard to the 'Centres', he thought that these would be the natural base. Mr. Caporn replied to the last point by mentioning that Council could not possibly implement the plan without devolution and that this was one of the ideas behind establishing Regional Organisations. He also stressed again that the Plan could only succeed if there was enthusiasm and hard work at grass root level.

In reply to a request for copies of the Forward Plan to be distributed widely, Mr. Hudson said it consisted of over 100 pages, would be costly to reproduce, was a very detailed plan but that as soon as the Sports Council had agreed that we could implement the Plan with their financial support, a resume would be published in the Gazette.

Mr. Solomon thanked the organiser, the speakers and in particular, Messrs Hudson and MacMillan and all those who had attended what he thought was a most useful and informative day.

D.C.C.

**REPORT OF COUNCIL MEETING  
ON 27th OCTOBER 1984**

1. Mr. L. S. Butler was nominated by the Chairman until the next A.G.M. to replace Mr. C.H.L. Prichard who had resigned after the last A.G.M.. This was approved.
2. Mr Townsend was warmly thanked for his donation of books to the Library and also for editing the C.A. Fixture Book for the last 12 years. Mr Girling had agreed to edit the book for 1985.
3. **Small Lawns** - Agreed as an authorised alternative game and referred to the Laws Committee to prepare draft of rules. Mr Wharrad hoped tournaments and/or exhibitions by clubs would be arranged in 1985 and that every effort would be made by the P & D Committee to attract media coverage by a formal launch of the game. Mr Caporn claimed that Woking had staged the World Premier Small Lawns Tournament last month!
4. **Tournaments** - The action by Mr. I. Bond in scratching a player in the 1984 Opens for persistent lateness was unanimously confirmed. Various alterations to C.A. events were approved and will appear in the Calendar Fixtures Book 1985. A new C.A. Invitation event was also approved as an experiment for 1985 and the title of the Ladies second six was agreed as "The Longman Bowl". It was also agreed that for all C.A. events entries would not be accepted before 1st March 1985 and if oversubscribed there would be a ballot.
5. Laws Committee had appointed 9 Championship referees.
6. MacRobertson Shield Committee's revised itinerary for International etc. matches in 1986 was approved as was that for the U.S.C.A. tour next year.
7. P&D report was approved unanimously including the "Forward Plan" which had been submitted to the National Sports Council who were impressed and it was hoped they will approve it in January 1985 with financial support to enable Council to appoint a Development Officer. Mr Wharrad warmly thanked Mr C. Hudson for his tremendous work in producing this plan. It was stressed that if the Plan was to succeed Council members and all other Associates had to give a great deal of time to its implementation. In due course a summary of the Plan will be published in the Gazette.
8. Sponsorship report was given by Mr. S. Mulliner who announced three sponsors for 1985 and 1986, namely Debenham Tewson & Chinnocks, the Royal Bank of Scotland and Frank Coopers. These covered (inter alia) the Opens, the Fixture Book, President's Cup, Home Internationals and the Schools competition for a total of £10,000. Mr Mulliner was warmly thanked for his splendid efforts.
9. The Petition presented by a number of competitors in the Opens Championship regarding Jaques balls was discussed and Professor Neal reported on the tests which he had carried out resulting in most of the balls failing the test. The matter was being investigated with the full cooperation of Messrs. Jaques. Professor Neal was thanked for his efforts to date.
10. The deaths of Mr D.J.V. Hamilton Miller and Mrs S.F. Blackler were reported and Council expressed their deep regret.
11. 3 new clubs had been registered. The total number of Associates was reported as 982.
12. Over 1500 letters had been received following the article in the *Daily Telegraph*. All had been answered and referred where relevant to local clubs. We had received a great deal of good publicity in the media in 1984.
13. The A.G.M. will be held at Hurlingham on 27th April 1985.
14. A cup presented by Mrs R. Weir in memory of her father, the late D.J.V. Hamilton Miller, was displayed and accepted by Council with pleasure. It is to be reserved as a perpetual trophy for a University Competition when this can be organised.
15. Mr Wharrad reported the resignation of Dr R.W. Bray from Council with deep regret. He had tried unsuccessfully to dissuade him. Dr Bray had rendered great services to the game and contributed a great deal to the deliberations and the work of the Council who expressed their appreciation of all his past services and their regrets at his resignation.
16. Council was delighted to hear that the Littleton Club has obtained a grant of £1,000 from its regional sports council.

**THE EDITOR, SECRETARY AND ALL THE C.A. OFFICIALS  
WISH ALL OUR MEMBERS A HAPPY CHRISTMAS  
AND A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR**







