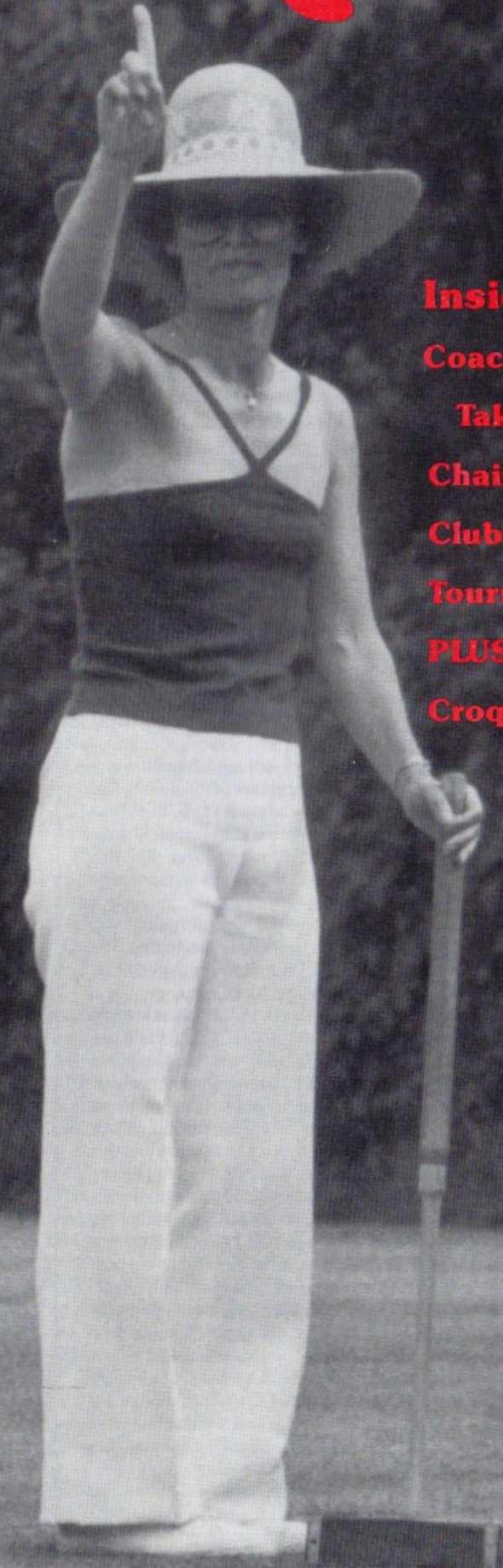


CROQUET



Inside:

Coaches' Corner:

Taking Bisques

Chairman's Report

Club News

Tournament Results

PLUS Special feature:

Croquet in North America

£1.50



**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**

International Real Estate Consultants
Chartered Surveyors

Bancroft House, Paternoster Square, London EC4P 4ET 01-236 1520
44 Brook Street, London W1Y 1YB 01-408 1161
3 Castle Street, Cardiff CF1 2RJ 0222 398182

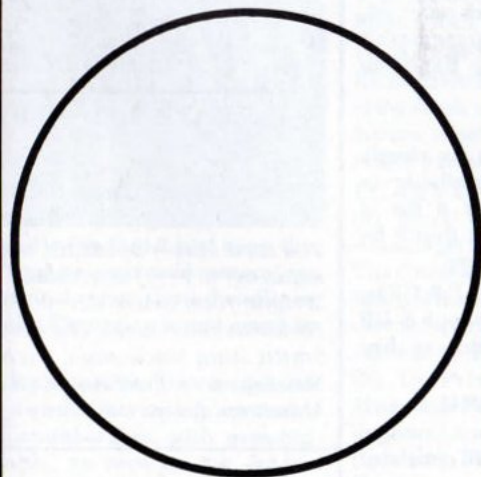
United Kingdom - USA - Australia - Bahrain
Belgium - Germany - Hong Kong - Malaysia - Singapore

Modern attitudes - traditional values

ORGANISED BY THE CROQUET ASSOCIATION

For the first time this year,
by kind permission of the
Hurlingham Club, tickets
are available to non members
of the Croquet Association.

Apply to:
The Secretary,
The Croquet Association,
The Hurlingham Club,
Ranelagh Gardens,
London SW6 3PR
Price £3.00 per day.



Editorial

New Format for the Gazette

Over the past two months, the future of the Association's publications has been under active discussion by various committees.

During the course of these discussions, Phil Johnson has indicated that he would like to relinquish the post of Editor. He has done a wonderful job over the past 2 years, bringing out every issue of the Gazette on time despite some very sad personal difficulties, and we are most grateful to him. It is only when an Editor retires that one realises just how much work is involved in producing the Gazette.

To try to reduce the load on any one individual, we are aiming to build up an editorial team, with Chris Hudson acting as coordinating Editor, and the members of the editorial team acting as sub-Editors for various aspects of the game that interest them.

For example, we envisage sub-editors dealing with the history of the game, with tactics, coaching, and social activities, with tournaments, club news, and international news, and so on. Occasional correspondents could produce Special Feature articles, like the one by John McCullough in this issue.

Similar opportunities exist for all the budding photographers amongst us. The more people working in the team, the less onerous it is for all concerned.

The format of the Club Circular met with general approval and as a result of our discussions, we have decided to use the same format for the Gazette, rather than have two separate magazines. The combined magazine will be called "Croquet".

The new format will enable us to include plenty of photographs and to use an enhanced layout with colour on 12 of the 20 pages of each issue. Published once every two months, "Croquet" should prove attractive to our existing members and be an added attraction for joining the Association.

If you would like to help, please let Chris Hudson know.

Profile

Alan Oldham: Treasurer since 1967

Alan first saw croquet being played when he visited Buxton in 1945 with his old Headmaster during the University vacation. His interest aroused, he took a fellow undergraduate over to the Bedford Croquet Club on one or two occasions whilst still at Cambridge to play croquet there. In those days, youngsters were tolerated but not exactly welcomed by the older generation, and Alan recalls that he and his friend were banished to an outer court out of the way of the rest of the club.

He moved to London to begin a career as an actuary with Equity & Law after coming down from University, and had little opportunity to play croquet again until 1954, when he joined the Heathfield Club on Wandsworth Common. This was really a bowls club, but they had a small croquet lawn, and the club must have had something about it because Derek Caporn also learnt to play the game there. In 1955, Alan joined Roehampton to take advantage of their better facilities. Amongst the club's members in those days were Daisy Lintern, Col. Adams, and J.B. Gilbert.

In 1958, Maurice Reckitt recorded in the Gazette that "one of the younger men showing promise was Mr A.J. Oldham" and sure enough, in 1965 Alan was the runner-up in the All-England handicap, losing in the final to Roger Bray. The Gazette of the time recorded that "even with a handicap of 3½, he could still be a danger to anyone else".

In 1971, Alan moved home to Woking and joined the Woking Club until his work took him to High Wycombe in 1974. Since then, unfortunately, he has been able to find little time for competitive croquet, but he was a member of the club at Maidenhead until it closed in

1981, when he helped to start a new club at High Wycombe that now boasts 12 members.

Looking back to when he joined the CA as an Associate in 1955, Alan can remember the Headquarters being at 4 Southampton Row, just off The Strand in Central London, with Mrs Apps in charge there as the CA secretary. In those days, Council used to meet in the afternoons in mid-week, thus effectively excluding anyone who had to work for a living!

In 1967, when Sir Geoffrey Style decided to stand down as Treasurer, there were two obvious choices to succeed him; Jim Townsend and Alan, both strangely enough actuaries by profession. (There must be very few governing bodies who can boast of having two actuaries on their Council!). Jim was the Council's Chairman-elect, so Alan took on the role that he has filled with distinction for the past 18 years. We owe him a great deal.



"Croquet", incorporating the Croquet Gazette, is published by The Croquet Association, The Hurlingham Club, Ranelagh Gardens, London SW6 3PR. Tel: 01-736 3148

INDEX

	page
Chairman's Report on 1984/5	9
Development	
Launch of Short Croquet	11
East Midlands Campaign	10
The WI looks at the game	3
Coaches Corner	
How to take bisques	13
Tournament Results & Club News	
8, 12, 16, 17	
Profile: Alan Oldham	2
Your letters	15
Official Business	12, 18, 19
New Associates & Handicap Alterations	14

PLUS

Special Feature

Croquet in North America
by John McCullough

6, 7

PLUS

Odds and Ends	5
Equipment Survey: Clips	7
Contacts	4
Supplies from Headquarters	
Coaching Aids	3

Publication Details

The CA Secretary is Mr B.C. Macmillan, The Croquet Association, The Hurlingham Club, Ranelagh Gardens, London SW6 3PR. Tel: 01-736 3148

The Editor (Coordinating) is Mr C. Hudson, The Oaklands, Englesea Brook, near Crewe, Cheshire SW2 5QW. Tel: 0270 820296

"Croquet" is published on the first day of every second month. To be certain of inclusion, copy should reach the Editor on the 20th of the month, two months before the month of issue (i.e. on 20th May for the issue being published on 1st July).

Tournament results and reports to be sent direct, within 7 days of completion of the tournament, to the Secretary of the CA.

Other contributions other than tournament results and reports should be sent to the Editor. They will be much welcomed and acknowledged. Photographs (preferably black and white) should also be sent to the Editor.

All correspondence about non-delivery of "Croquet", changes of address, telephone numbers, handicaps or officials should be sent to the CA Secretary and **not** to the Editor.

Photographs in this Issue by:

Peter Alvey; Chris Hudson; Reading Chronicle; Ian McDiarmid; Mrs H J Wankling and others.

Annual Subscription Rate	£6.50
(incl P&p). Individual copies	£1.50

Development

The WI Looks at Croquet

"Come and Try It" session at Denman College.

WI Regional Sports Organisers try out croquet on the lawn at Denman College.



The Milk Marketing Board sponsors the WI's National Tennis Tournament, and they have recently provided additional funds to help the WI expand their sports activities over the next 3 years.

At the beginning of May, the WI held a meeting of their Regional Sports Organisers at Denman College, and 48 delegates attended from all over the country. Chris Hudson gave them a talk on croquet backed up by the coaching video, and then the delegates took to the lawn and tried it for themselves.

Unfortunately, time was very limited, but there was a great deal of enthusiasm and

Who are the WI?

The National Federation of Women's Institutes is the largest women's voluntary organisation in Britain. It is a registered charity with over 362,000 members. The WI's Headquarters is in London and it owns Denman College, at Marcham, near Oxford, where it provides residential adult education courses for its members.

Any woman may join the WI, whatever her background, her age, her political or religious beliefs and wherever she lives in England, Wales, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man.

Its early history

The first British WI opened in Anglesey, Wales in 1915 but the WI Movement began in Canada in 1897 when Adelaide Hoodless, a farmer's wife from Stoney Creek in Ontario, lost her first baby. She believed this was the result of her own ignorance of hygiene and child care and started classes for local women on domestic science and homemaking.

The WI has links worldwide, not only with other WI organisations but, through affiliation to the Associated Countrywomen of the World, with 8 million members from over 300 societies in 70 countries.

Its membership

Originally based exclusively in country areas, the WI now welcomes any country-minded woman as a member whether she lives in town or country. It provides a wide range of leisure time activities, learning opportunities and skill training for its members.

The WI operates at three levels. Members join an Institute - where it all happens. These, varying in size from under 20 members to over 150, are grouped in County Federations and these units - 9300 WIs and the 70 County Federations - together make up the National Federation. Each part of the WI is

run by a committee of elected members. There is also a network of Nationally-trained Voluntary County Organisers (VCOs) who are responsible for opening and closing WIs and for advising them on how to run efficiently. The policy of the organisation is decided by representatives of the Institutes at Annual Meetings of the National and County Federations by debating resolutions of national, local, or domestic concern.

The WI arranges courses, conferences, social events, and fun activities for enthusiasts in music, art, drama, current affairs, rural issues, sport, homemaking, and practical leisure activities, such as crafts, gardening and cooking.

The programmes are planned and carried out by specialist sub-committees of WI members at National, County and Institute level. All the possibilities may not be available through a monthly WI meeting but any member is free to join in activities offered or planned by the County or National Federation.

Denman College
The WI is unique in having its own adult education college where every year 4,000 WI members stay for three, five, or seven days to follow up their own particular interest, or to discuss WI affairs and policy. The main rooms at Denman are located in an elegant country house, built in the early 19th century and set in landscaped gardens.

The WI produces its own monthly magazine "Home & Country", and has a press and publicity department at its London Headquarters which plans and directs the WI publicity campaigns and trains WI members on how to put the WI message across through the media. The WI's own publishing company, WI Books, produces a series of training manuals and books of general interest to women.

West Sussex Federation Registers with CA

The West Sussex Federation of Women's Institutes has played croquet for some 9 years on two lawns at West Chiltington cricket ground. Membership is open to all members of the West Sussex WI and currently there are 23 active players.

Many of the other Women's Institutes in West Sussex are keen to play the game but they have difficulty in finding suitable lawns, according to Edythe Plowright, the West Sussex Croquet Secretary.

Members are all allocated handicaps and play Association Croquet - the "proper game" according to Edythe - and two of their members, Mrs Peatfield and Mrs Johnson, are also members of Southwick. Last season, the Federation played a match against the Worthing Croquet Club at Goring.

The Club holds Singles and Doubles tournaments each year, and puts on a County Day in July when visitors can take part in a number of fun events.

Coaching Aids available from Headquarters

CA Coaching Handbook

As well as giving suggested coaching programmes for players at all levels, this 50-page booklet covers recruitment, practice routines, tips for improving play, and the rules of alternative croquet games. A mine of information, gleaned from many players and clubs over the years and a "must" for club coaches. Price: £5.00 (£7.50) P&p 75p.

Coaching Film Strips

Seven coaching film strips and commentary available together on one Video film (VHS or Beta), complete with book containing details of each slide and commentary. Total running time approx. 105 minutes. Price: £20.00 (includes film, book, and P&p). Please indicate type of film required when ordering.

NCF Coaching Booklets

Booklet 1 "The Coach in Action"
Booklet 2 "The Body in Action"
Booklet 3 "Safety & Injury"
Booklet 4 "Improving Techniques"
Booklet 5 "Mind Over Matter"
Booklet 6 "Planning & Practice"
Price £1.00 (£1.50) P&p 35p per booklet.

Video Films

Various video films on croquet are available on loan. Details on request.

Contacts

The Croquet Association:

Administration Secretary:
Brian Macmillan, The Croquet Association, The Hurlingham Club, Ranelagh Gardens, London SW6 3PR. Tel: 01-736 3148

National Development Officer:

Chris Hudson, The Oaklands, Englesea Brook, near Crewe, Cheshire, CW2 5QW. Tel: 0270 820296

Regional Development Officers

Northern Region

John Meads, 10 Dipwood Way, Rowland Gill, Tyne & Wear NE39 1DH. Tel: 02074 542021

Yorks & Humberside Region

Bill Lamb, 5 Potterdale Drive, Little Weighton, Cottingham, Humberside HU20 3UU. Tel: 0482 848649

North Western Region

Andrew Collin, 65 Hillfield Road, Little Sutton South Wirral, Cheshire. Tel: 051 339 3614

West Midlands Region

Terry Greenwood, 21 The Fold, Penn, Wolverhampton WV4 5QY. Tel: 0902 336832

East Midlands Region

Ian Vincent, 43 West Crescent, Beeston Rylands, Nottingham NG9 1QF. Tel: 0602 253664

South Western Region

Martin Murray, 4 Queens Mansions, 7 Arlington Villas, Bristol, Avon BS8 2EF. Tel: 0272 741250

Southern Region

Smokey Eades, Tall Timbers, Horton Close, Boulton Lock, Maidenhead, Berks SL6 8TP. Tel: 0628 21811

Eastern Region

Judy Anderson, 16 Wellpond Close, Sharnbrook, Bedford MK44 1PL. Tel: 0234 781783

London & S.E. Region

Lionel Wharrad, Astor Cottage, Ivy Lane, Ashington, Sussex. Tel: 0903 892897

(London & Surrey)

Ron Welch, 67 Rowan Crescent, London SW16. Tel: 01 679 0552

Regional Coaching Contacts

Northern Region

John Davis, 33 Levendale, Hutton Rudby, Yarm, Cleveland TS15 0DW. Tel: 0642 780009

North West Region

Paul Stoker, 50 Beach Priory Gardens, Southport, Merseyside, PR8 1RT. Tel: 0704 31806

West Midlands Region

Ken Jones, 2 Abbots Walk, Kings Heath, Birmingham B14 7QE. Tel: 021 443 3664

Eastern Region

Tom Anderson, 16 Wellpond Close, Sharnbrook, Bedford MK44 1PL. Tel: 0234 781783

South West Region

John McCullough, 100 Queensdown Gardens, Brislington, Bristol, Avon BS4 6JG. Tel: 0272 779943

Southern Region

Jock McElwain, Orkney Cottage, River Road, Taplow, SL6 0BG. Tel: 0628 24170

London & South East Region

Nigel Aspinall, 6 Rivermount, Walton-on-Thames, Surrey, KT12 2PW. Tel: 09322 22697

Tommy Vale, 26 Glebe Close, Southwick, Sussex BN4 4TF. Tel: 0273 595920

Federated

Northern

Andrew South

West Midlands

Terry Hampton

Southern

John Brislington

The South

Jo Paterson

Place,

Please return this form with your remittance to:
Brian Macmillan, Administration Secretary,
The Croquet Association, Hurlingham Club, Ranelagh
Gardens, London SW6 3PR. Tel: 01-736 3148

If away at College please give home address as well:

If under 21 on 1st December last year, please give date of birth:

Signed _____ Date _____

Name _____ Initials _____

(Capital letters please)

Address _____

Telephone No. _____

Club _____

(If any) _____

Post Code _____

STD Code _____

Handicap _____

(If any) _____

To: THE CROQUET ASSOCIATION

I would like to subscribe to "CROQUET" and enclose herewith £6.50 to cover my annual subscription.

Odds and Ends

That Photo! William Prichard gets it right!

Several people got close to the right answer, but William Prichard provided a 4-page letter in which he identified the individual lawn, the event, many of the spectators, and the final score. Brian Macmillan is packing up a copy of the "History of Croquet" to send to him. Talk about taking coals to Newcastle!

Did anyone else recognise Bryan Lloyd-Pratt, Ian Baillieu and Nigel Aspinall?

An extract from Col. Prichard's "History of Croquet"

In 1867 Walter Jones Whitmore had organised his Evesham tournament, which although of dubious status had gone down in the records as the first Open Championship. In 1967 special centenary celebrations were arranged, culminating at Hurlingham in July. The Centenary All England handicap attracted the huge entry of more than 800, and the eleven area winners contested the play-off for two trophies which had been presented for the winner and runner-up - a silver rose bowl by the CA and a salver by W. Longman shortly before his death. Secondly, a new annual event known as the Champion of Champions was inaugurated for a cup presented by Mrs H.G. Stoker in memory of her late husband. On 17 July our Patron, Her Majesty the Queen, attended to witness some of the play and present the prizes to the winner and runner-up of the All-England Handicap - Commander R.D. Sinclair RN (Edinburgh) and H.B.H. Carlisle (Hurlingham).

For the initial Champion of Champions event all available past winners of the Open Championship and the President's Cup were invited. By a fortunate chance the convenient number of eight accepted and were drawn in a knock-out competition as follows (the first named of each pair being the winner): HO Hicks and DJV Hamilton-Miller; ECP Cotter and Dr WP Ormerod; JPR Bolton and Mrs E Rotherham; JW Solomon and Dr WRD Wiggins. John Solomon beat Humphrey Hicks in the final, becoming the first and, as it turned out, the only Champion of Champions.

In defeating Dudley Hamilton-Miller, Humphrey Hicks gave a spectacular display. With his blue ball still for the first hoop, his black was pegged out by Hamilton-Miller who conceded a contact, leaving his red ball in the 2nd corner and his yellow in the 4th. Contacting yellow, Hicks split to the 1st hoop, got good position but stuck in it, whereupon Hamilton-Miller returned yellow to corner 4. Hicks wriggled through the 1st hoop and hit red in the 2nd corner splitting it to the 3rd hoop, roqueting it again after running hoop 2. Getting a forward rush after running the 3rd hoop, he had only to extract yellow from the 4th corner and all was plain sailing - but all in all a remarkable performance.

For the next three years the plan was for the winners of the Open Championship and the President's Cup to play a match for the right to challenge the holder. In 1968 there was no contest, John Solomon the holder having won both the Championship and the President's Cup, but in 1969 it was a close run thing. Solomon, one game down, had pegged out Nigel Aspinall and himself with a 10-point lead, but Aspinall made such a mammoth pick-up that he appeared to have the game and the match in his grasp when, after running the penultimate with Solomon's ball waiting for him at the rover, he unfortunately wired himself. Even so, he would probably have won had not Solomon jumped the rover hoop to hit the peg.

The Champion of Champions event had begun on the crest of a wave but by 1970 it reached a trough. Aspinall, winner of the President's Cup, declined to take part and John Solomon defended his title with some ease against Keith Wylie, the Open Champion. Disenchantment had set in. Some of the best players expressed a reluctance to compete. It was argued that the Championship and the President's Cup were two quite different types of test which were not comparable; the respective winners were downgraded if there was a play-off between them. Secondly, the event, following so closely after the gruelling President's Cup, was too much of a strain. Whatever the merits of these arguments, in face of the opposition by the principal contestants, the Council had no option but to abandon the event.

Col. Prichard's "History of Croquet" is available from the CA Office. Well illustrated, interesting, and highly readable, it costs only £6.00 (£8.50 to non-members). Pp 200. £1.20.

"Peel through life with Aunt Emm"

Aunt Emm's Agony Column

Dear Aunt Emm,

I have been playing with the same doubles partner for several years with moderate success. Recently a new member has joined our club. She is attractive, has a high handicap and is improving rapidly. I would like to change partners, but am not sure how to go about it. What do you advise?

Dear Stewart,

There is nothing unusual about your situation. Most croquet players go through this "difficult" period at some stage in their careers. The main thing is not to let it affect your concentration. When her handicap is lower than yours, the problem will probably resolve itself.

Yours affectionately,
Aunt Emm.

Dear Aunt,

I am not usually a worrying type (my friends think I'm rather extrovert), but every time I get in front of Rover, I find I freeze and miss the shot. Is there anything I can do about this?

Dear Tom,

Colonel Tujin Slings, who played for Flint between the wars, was one of many top class players to be afflicted with this problem, so you are not alone! He solved it by frequent application of a hip-flask during breaks and after a few years found that he had completely cured his tendency to run hoops, so Rover never presented any further problems.

Medical science has advanced considerably recently, and there are now several remedies available through alternative medicine. I recommend a course of acupuncture, although transcendental meditation can be quite effective, but first please take professional advice to make sure the symptoms are correctly diagnosed. If you plump for acupuncture and want to continue playing during treatment, remember to avoid sitting down.

Yours affectionately,
Aunt Emm.

Dear Aunt,

Why do people never speak to me when playing croquet? I take great care about "personal freshness", but even so very rarely find my opponents prepared to talk whilst they are in play. What am I doing wrong?

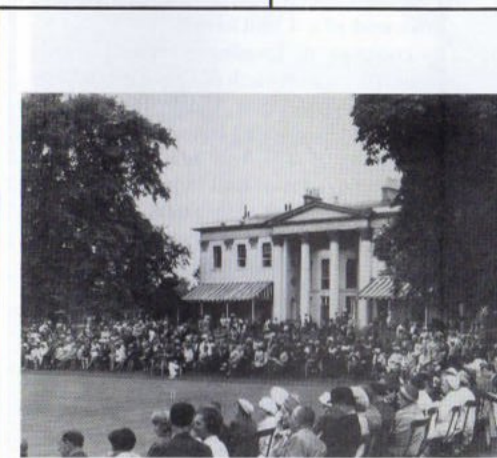
Dear Jane,

Croquet customs take some time to understand, and it may be a year or two before you can begin to appreciate the finer points of the game.

I was in a similar situation when I first started playing croquet, and tried to adopt a style of play that provoked comment. Even so, I found the distances involved made conversation difficult, and was rarely able to hear the comments my opponents were making, although they managed to convey the gist of their remarks by facial expression. You might find it better to play breaks and keep quiet rather than pursue my style of play.

Aunty.

Aunt Emm regrets that she cannot answer personally the large number of letters she receives from croquet players all over the world. However she tries to publish those that are of general interest. No letters or enclosed material will be returned to senders.



Humphrey Hicks beating Pat Cotter in the semi-final of the Champion of Champions tournament at Hurlingham on Friday, 28th July 1967 in the presence of HM The Queen.

British and
Jaques
Equipment

Championship Ball

Mallets

made to your own
specification
by Jaques craftsmen

Known and used all over the world

Jaques
& Son Ltd.,

Complete sets or single items,
accessories, from all good sports
shops and stores.

361 Whitehorse Road,
Thornton Heath, Surrey, CR4 8XP. Tel: 01-684 4242

Croquet in North America

by John McCullough

Introduction

The recent International Challenge Cup Series between Ireland the the USA, held at the Palm Beach Polo and Country Club in Florida, not only gave me the opportunity to play some exciting Croquet and have the holiday of a lifetime but it also enabled me to gain an insight into the World of Croquet, American style.

We played solely at the Polo Club and were only able to visit two other Clubs, both situated in Palm Beach on the Ocean Front, the Beach Club and the Breakers. Fortunately, however, we not only met the top administrators and Stars of American Croquet – Jack Osborn, Ted Prentis, Ian Gillespie, Anne Bates, Jean Arrington, Kiley Jones, John Osborn etc. – but, because our Series was being played on alternate days with their equivalent of the Open Doubles Championship, we had the chance to meet players from Clubs throughout the USA and also from Canada and Bermuda.

American Croquet (and here I use the word in its widest sense, not just referring to the Laws of the Game) is and will remain different to "the International Game", as they call ours. The differences are a reflection of the American way of life and the different background of Croquet in America. Nevertheless, we share many things in common, including trying to cope with problems like rapid growth, the provision of adequate coaching, Televising of Croquet, Sponsorship, Professionalism etc.

The Americans are wisely taking every opportunity to study our Game and how it is administered and promoted – hence the annual International Series in Palm Beach and this year's US Tour of the British Isles. We would be foolish not to study American Croquet and attempt to learn from it.

History

Immigrants or Travellers brought Croquet to America in the 1860's. For over a century it remained a backyard game. An attempt in the 1880's to form a National Association soon foundered as Croquet was persecuted and driven underground by the Church, who thought it encouraged the evils of sex, alcohol and gambling. It was not until the second half of this century that a few Clubs were formed. In 1977, five East Coast clubs formed the United States Croquet Association (USCA) and Jack Osborn became its first President.

The Game

The isolation of Croquet in America meant that the Game did not evolve and much more than ours it resembles the original Croquet of the 1860's. One of the major tasks for the USCA, at its inception, was to produce a standardised Rulebook for the American game. Whilst retaining the 9 "wicket" version as commonly played in American backyards, the new Rulebook laid the emphasis on 6 wicket Croquet with a Lawn layout identical to ours.

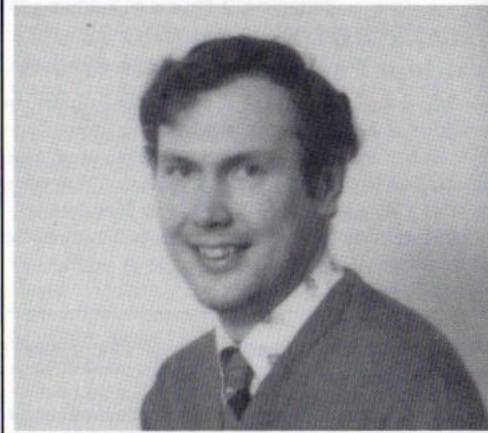
It was not and is not, however, their intention to gradually amend American rules until they conform with the international game. They believe their game is more suited to America. Its main features are:

- (a) 1-1½ hour time limits with 45 second shot limits. It is a faster game than ours.
- (b) Play is in sequence – Blue plays, then Red, Black, Yellow, Blue etc. This means that US Doubles play is much more interactive than ours, in which a player might sit for over ½ an hour without playing a shot. It also means you can lay up with the "spent" opponent ball, e.g. Blue plays a break and then leaves Black with a rush on Yellow to his next wicket, Blue places himself as a pioneer at that next wicket and Red is knocked as far away as possible. A good player can thus always leave a certain 3 ball break for his partner ball at the end of a 4 ball break.

- (c) The concept of "Deadness". You are only allowed to roquet each of the other 3 balls once between wickets. Thus, if you miss a wicket after roqueting the other 3 balls in the course of a 4 ball break, the only course open to that ball in its next turn is to run the wicket. Because, as in our game, it is dangerous to leave a ball in the middle of the Lawn, this leads to many attempts to run long wickets, e.g. Hoop 5 from middle of the South boundary by players who are "3 ball dead". Because the penalty for breaking down is so severe and because there is **no Handicap play** in American Tournaments, this actively discourages all but the brave from trying to play and master 3 and 4 ball breaks. 70 pairs took part in the US Doubles Championships. They were split into 4 classes – A, B1, B2 and C. Apart from the 15 A-flight players, nearly all the rest played 16 handicap Aunt Emma Croquet, the only distinction between the Classes being, as far as I could see, their ability and control over single ball shots.



Black tie with sneakers. Traditional wear at the Croquet Ball at the Breakers.



- (d) A 9-inch "Yard line", which also makes breaks very hard to pick up as you are also not allowed to rush balls off the Lawn. 3 ball breaks are played more often than 4 ball breaks.

Promotion

Croquet in America receives no Government or Local Authority funding or subsidy. Most Lawns are in private homes or at Country Clubs (like Palm Beach Polo) or Hotels (like the Breakers). Seattle have 4 lawns at the Seattle Seahawks practice ground, as the owner of that American Football club is a Croquet fan. Simply to construct new Lawns requires large amounts of money. It should thus be no surprise that the USCA operates much more like a business than our own CA and also that it has targeted the wealthy as the group from within which most new recruits are sought.

Ian Gillespie, President of the South Africa CA, who acts as advisor to the USCA, has recently produced a report on the state of Croquet in N. America and he kindly presented me with a copy. Very similar in scope to the C.A.'s Forward Plan, its section on promotion gives a valuable insight into thinking within the USCA. I quote:

"There has been a consciousness of the necessity to create and maintain as clearly defined an image as possible" . . . "personalities are news and a personality who plays Croquet is doubly newsworthy . . ." "if the Croquet playing population is to form a market attractive enough to warrant commercial interest and therefore sponsorship, it has to be demonstrated that even if the total number of Croquet players is not large, their combined purchasing power is nonetheless significant."

The USCA has already held a Celebrity Event, at an exclusive Florida Country Club in Spring 1984. Besides collecting 1,500 dollars per person for playing with the celebrities or 150 dollars per person for just watching, the USCA gained more publicity for Croquet from that one event than ever before or since.

Entrants for the Doubles Championships paid 100 dollars each, in many cases flew 3000 miles to compete, and were only guaranteed two 1½ hour games!

The USCA controls the sale of Croquet equipment and markets a wide range of USCA merchandise from lapel badges and bumper stickers to shirts, sweaters and rain-tops.

The USCA has a turnover of approx. 100,000 dollars a year and to fund continued development, Ian Gillespie's report suggests

raising a Trust Fund of 1 Million dollars **within the next 3 years** to provide development income thereafter of 100,000 dollars per year on top of normal income.

Development

From 5 clubs in 1977, the USCA has grown to well over 200 Clubs today. This is not quite so startling as it seems because a number are literally "family Clubs" but nevertheless, there is no doubt that in terms of the number of players the USA will be the dominant World Croquet nation well before the end of the century (unless overtaken by Japan). In terms of finance invested in the game this will likewise be the case. Unless, however, they evolve a suitable Handicap system that overcomes the Aunt Emma fear of playing breaks, which is induced by the Deadness system, it will be many years before they can boast the "strength in depth" of the MacRobertson Shield nations.

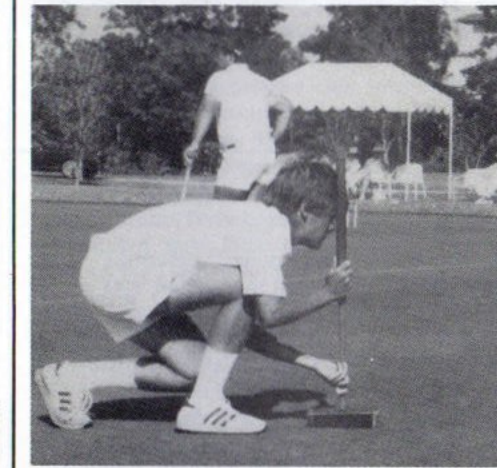
Because of the sheer size of N. America, the greatest problem faced is how to provide the instruction necessary to help start new Clubs and improve the standard of Croquet being played in them. The British system of sending over players from a nearby Club to give a demonstration game and run a series of Coaching lessons is generally inapplicable. So far the emphasis has been on the production of high quality "self teaching" aids in the form of books and videos backed up by a Summer "Coaching Safari" across the continent by the Croquet Professional from Palm Beach, Ted Prentis. Perhaps the best solution would be to concentrate on the development of high-quality Croquet in some of America's Universities and Colleges, in the hope that those bitten by the bug will "spread the gospel" as they naturally diffuse throughout the Continent.



Jack Osborn, President of the US Croquet Association. America's "Mr Croquet".

Growth not only in USCA Membership but also in the number and quality of Lawns available is being pursued. The Polo Club, where we played the International Series, has just 2 lawns, which share a common boundary and whose side boundaries suffer from vicious off-Lawn slopes. They hope to get 2 more Lawns at the Club soon and to correct their boundaries. The Beach Club's Lawns suffer because the management won't allow the grass to be cut short enough (fear of brown patches) and the 2 Lawns at the Breakers are both well undersize and one of them boasts a manhole cover in front of the 3rd wicket! Remember, these are Lawns being used for one of the USCA's premier Tournaments.

The largest Clubs I heard about were in Beverley Hills, Los Angeles (4 lawns) and Seattle (4 lawns) but California will soon have another 4 lawn site as Croquet buff Brice Jones is laying down 4 new full size lawns at his winery in Windsor, N. California. Brice is very keen to host International Tournaments and it is at Windsor or a similar development that Croquet's first Professional Tournament could be seen in a few years time.



Kiley Jones, America's youngest star.

Conclusion

The rapid emergence of the USA who, together with Bermuda and the 3 Canadian Clubs, play the US Rules game and the likely explosion of ½ Lawn Croquet in Japan make it imperative that 1986 (MacRobertson Shield series year) sees the formation of a World Croquet Federation, which should address itself to three main issues:

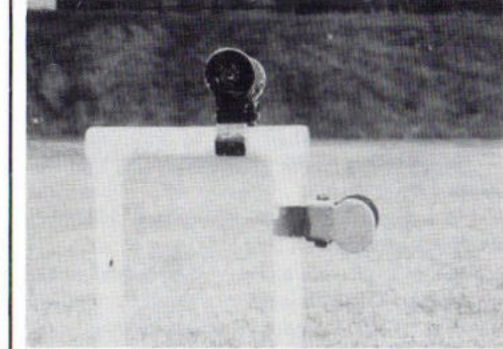
1. The setting up of World Team and Individual Championships and consideration of the possibility of incorporating Croquet into events like the World or Olympic Games.
2. Agreement on the nature of the Game to be played at World level in both Team and Individual events.
3. Professionalism within Croquet.

The Croquet Revolution has dawned. Is British Croquet young at heart and prepared to meet the challenge of this new era or are we so old and set in our ways that we will let it pass us by?

User Survey: Volunteers needed

Council has decided to enlarge the Equipment Committee to enable it to monitor the quality of croquet equipment more effectively. With the increasing popularity of the game, more manufacturers are coming on to the market, and there appears to be some need for guidance of players and clubs on the best type of equipment to buy.

Bernard Neal continues as Chairman of the Committee and he is joined by two new members, Barry Keen and Smokey Eades. The Committee has the power to co-opt additional members, and Eddie Bell has already accepted an invitation to act in this capacity.



Clips will be the first item to be tested.

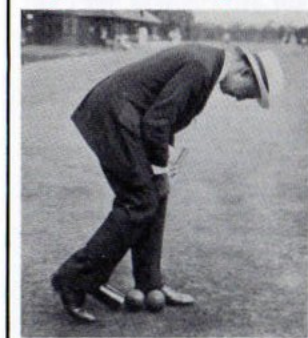
As part of a general survey of equipment, the Committee is looking for people who would be willing to answer a brief questionnaire about equipment with which they are familiar, and in some cases to carry out field trials on particular equipment.

The enquiry will not be confined to existing equipment. It will also cover the assessment of ideas for new items. For example, someone may have made a useful tool or gauge for their own club that could be of benefit to people elsewhere.

Clips form the subject of the first investigation, and anyone who would like to help with this enquiry should contact Barry Kenn, (0565-2420).

Next Issue

All-time Greats Lord Tollemache: A giant of the past



ENROL A FRIEND

We are hoping to recruit 200 more members this year. Do you know someone who would like to join the CA?

Annual Subscription: £14.00

Juniors £7.50

Club News and Tournament Results (1)

Woking

Spring Weekend 19th-21st April Chilly and Wet, but plenty of fun!

Nearly 40 people entered but only 28 could be accepted. They came from near and far, including the Midlands, Bournemouth, Sussex and Harrow! Friday was a glorious sunny day, but Saturday was awful with cold north wind and rain, whilst Sunday was sunny but with a chilly wind. A mixed bag, like the standard of play!

There were 4 blocks of 7. The lawns were heavy with rain and indeed the event almost had to be cancelled as the lawns were too wet to mow until the Tuesday before the tournament. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves as they soaked up the Woking spirit of fun aided by the bar. Our visitors come again and again to enjoy themselves and this was no exception.

The winners and runners-up in each block were:

1. J. Guest (1) 5 wins (+50) & D.C. Wiggins (9) 5 wins (+44)
2. R.J. Smith (4) 6 wins (+63) & Mrs P.V. Healey (7½) 4 wins (+7)
3. D.C. Caporn (3) 4 wins (+32) & Mrs M.G. Tompkinson (6½) 4 wins (+31)
4. B.P. Whitehouse (4) 6 wins (+69) & A.J. Mrozinski (2) 5 wins (+75)

Southport

Open Weekend: 27th-28th April

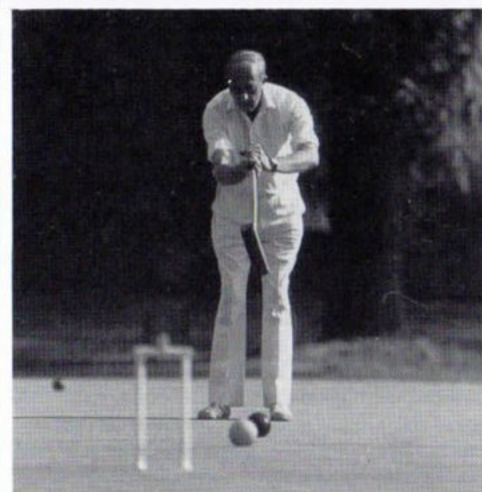
Eddie Bell wins a rain-swept tournament.

The usual collection of hacks and has-beens assembled in kaleidoscopic attire for Richard Hilditch's managerial debut. Unfortunately, as the CA AGM had inexplicably clashed, that traditional feature of Northern tournaments - "The Travelling Launderette" - was not present. As events proved, such a service was hardly necessary, since conditions were ideal preparation for the Col(d)es.

Southport had excelled themselves in the presentation. For the first time lunches were available at exceptionally reasonable prices (soup, salad and coffee for under one pound). Moreover, alongside us in the park had been organised sumptuous entertainments. These included dog-training, cycle-racing, and on Sunday the aptly named "Southport Sizzler", a half-marathon whose announcer was responsible for many crumbly breaks meeting their makers.



Too wet for some at Southport?



Derek Caporn - managed everything except the weather!

In addition to Mrs Healey and Mrs Tompkinson, our visitors were B. Hallam, Mrs. W.J. Browne, Mr & Mrs L Wharrad (they left the club last year on their move to Sussex), Mr M.G. Tompkinson, C.B. Sanford, Dr W.R.D. Wiggins, whose wife Susan had to withdraw because she caught 'flu, D. Goulding, D. Ruscombe-King and Mrs W. Jones.

D.C.C.

Another absolutely essential and "warmly" appreciated innovation was a tent erected near the more distant lawns. All the local ladies who provided the food, Andrew Bennet (the ROT), who was responsible for "refreshing" us (some more than others) and especially Paul Stoker, who looked after the lawns and entertained us to a pizza party at his nearby home, earned the players' gratitude.

In terms of croquet, the newcomers made a big impression. Don Williamson and Bill Lamb both impressed in their first open tournaments, and the latter's cutlets were particularly tasty. More impressive still was baby "bonker" Collin's appearance, aged only 4 weeks (- surely a record, EAMP?) as a spectator with Mary.

The eventual winner of the competition was "steady" Eddie Bell. He won a best-of-three final with Richard Hilditch who had managed well until then but cracked under the Crucible-like pressure suffering from "kick" as well as the traditional hill.

Colin Irwin (the winner of the Swiss) and Keith Aiton both had triples, Aiton's result being +2. To the gallery's disgust he refused the gratuitous Riggall on one of the oppo's balls which would have resulted in the difficult to better scoreline of +1 (TP).

Andrew Bennet continued the good early season form he showed at Southwick aided, no doubt, by his thermal underwear. Finally John Walters waited all weekend for a sodden bottom-of-the-Swiss hack against John Meads on Sunday evening only to abandon the game because everyone else had gone home. D.P.

Results

Southwick: 5th-8th April

Open Singles

Block A: 4 wins: P. Cordingley (+81); 3 wins: D. Palmer (+4); 2 wins: C. Southern (-5), P.M. Johnson (-6); 1 win: J.E. Guest (-16); 0 wins: T. Vale (-58)

Block B: 4 wins: M.N. Avery (+92), J.R. McCullough (+66); 2 wins: K.E. Jones (0), A.J. Mrozinski (-20); 0 wins: J. Haigh (-67), R.M. Hobbs (-71)

Block C: 4 wins: A. Bennet (+73); 3 wins: J.R. Hilditch (+29), N.G. Hyne (+12); 2 wins: J.O. Walters (+4); 0 wins: Miss J. McLeod (-42), D.M. Bull (-76)

Block D: 4 wins: I.D. Bond (+72); 3 wins: M. French (+17), P.L. Smith (+5); 1 win: D. Peterson (-12), J.H. Bowman (-38); 0 wins: D.C. Caporn (-44)

Southwick Salver

(Advanced Singles, played-off between the top two in each of the above blocks)

Round 1: Bennet bt French +20 +22;

McCullough bt Palmer +22 (STP) +26;

Cordingley bt Bond +25 +13; Hilditch bt Avery -10 +9 +9

Semi-finals: Bennet bt McCullough -22 +16 +4; Cordingley bt Avery +25 +10

Final: Cordingley bt Bennet +16 +25

Ryde: 12th-14th April

Handicap Singles

Block A: 6 wins: C.G. Pountney (4½); 5 wins: Mrs S.B. Hudson (7½); 3 wins: H.B. Brownsdon (8), F.H. Newman (3), W.F. Casey (15); 1 win: Mrs D. Erith (14); 0 wins: P.H. Mann (10)

Block B: 5 wins: Mrs F.H. Newman (4); 4 wins: F.A. Rowlands (5); 3 wins: R.W. Newnham (5); 2 wins: Mrs M. Robinson (14); 1 win: E. Carleton (16); 0 wins: J.F.S. Thomas (8)

Roehampton: 25th-28th April

Handicap Singles (Swiss)

6 wins: H.B. Brownsdon; 5 wins: Mrs W.J. Browne, D.J. Goacher, J. Haigh, Mrs P. Macdonald; 4 wins: J. Greenwood, Mrs W. Jones, F.H. Newman, A.A. Reed, J.C. Straw, Mrs K. Townsend; 3 wins: Mrs P. Healey, I.P.M. Macdonald, P.J. Mansfield, Mrs F.H. Newman, K.F.W. Townsend; 2 wins: Mrs B. Mansfield, S.S. Townsend; 1 win: C.G. Pountney; 0 wins: R.A. Godby

Results

Open Singles (Advanced)

Round 1: E. Bell bt Miss J.E. Assheton +16; C.J. Irwin bt K.M.H. Aiton +14; A. Bennet bt N.G. Hyne +12; B.J. Storey bt J.D. Meads +25

Round 2: S.E. Lewis bt A.F. Sutcliffe +8; A.G. Gordon bt A.J. Collin +6; E.E. Scott bt W.E. Lamb +18; Bell bt Irwin +14; Bennet bt Storey +15; P.J. Death bt D. Peterson +16; J.D. Williamson bt P. Stoker +1(T); J.R. Hilditch bt R.A. Welch +16

Round 3: Lewis bt Gordon +21; Bell bt Scott +6; Bennet bt Death +11; Hilditch bt Williamson +16

Semi-finals: Bell bt Lewis +3; Hilditch bt Bennett +12

Final: Bell bt Hilditch +7 +17

Progressive Swiss

5 wins: C.J. Irwin;

4 wins: S.E. Lewis, D. Peterson, A. Bennet,

P.J. Death

3 wins: K.M.H. Aiton, R.A. Welch, B.J. Storey,

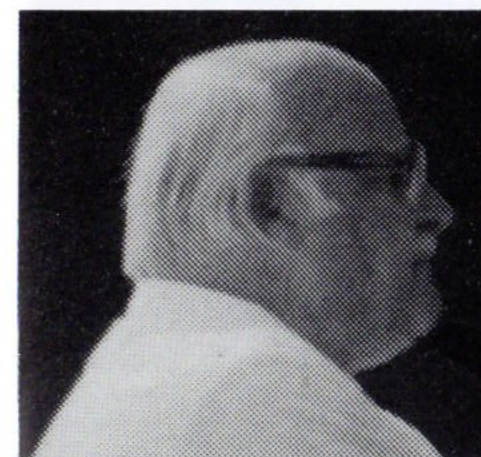
W.E. Lamb, N.G. Hyne, A.J. Collin;

2 wins: J.D. Williamson, A.F. Sutcliffe, A.G. Gordon;

1 win: P. Stoker, Miss J.E. Assheton, J.D. Meads,

E.E. Scott.

Chairman's Report 1984/85



Lionel Wharrad. Chairman of Council.

It seems possible that the last year will in retrospect be seen to have been an important year in croquet history. This will not be so much because we experienced any dramatic increase in our membership or in registered clubs but because exploratory and preparatory work of the past several years all seemed to mature into action at the same time.

This is not to say that we did not experience a useful expansion in the size of the croquet world, we added another twelve clubs and lost only one. If we are allowed to count two new clubs which we know intend to register, although they have not as yet actually done so, then we can say that we now have 100 registered clubs. In addition, foundations have been laid for further new clubs to be started in 1985. At least two of these will now have three or more lawns and thus will be large enough in due course to be able to run tournaments. We are increasingly aware that single-lawn clubs, unless they are attached to an institution or a company sports club, are somewhat vulnerable. Only four such clubs now exist which pre-date 1982. We hope to concentrate more attention and resources on the creation of clubs with a potential for two or more lawns.

It is surprisingly difficult to know exactly how many croquet players there are in the registered clubs . . . institutions such as University clubs and schools and sports clubs where croquet is a minor activity all have difficulties in providing accurate information. Our best estimate is that there are around 2600 players.

We can be more accurate about the membership of the Association, although here too we always have a number of names on the books who have neither paid their subscription nor resigned and thus may or may not be members. We have successfully removed a number of names from our records over the past year or so of people who have been counted as members although they have shown little or no signs of activity . . . our present members list is therefore as accurate as we can make it - I am pleased to be able to report that at the end of 1984 our membership was almost at the 1000 level.

Publicity & Development

The Publicity and Development Committee under Chris Hudson's chairmanship had a

fruitful and constructive year. Its sponsorship sub-committee, largely the responsibility of Steve Mulliner, was able to negotiate four sponsorship agreements, the full benefits of which we will experience both in terms of finance and additional publicity for the game in 1985.

Publicity in the 1984 season was more extensive than ever - some idea of the widespread interest there is in croquet was demonstrated by the Daily Telegraph article on their women's page in August; this produced 1600 letters to the CA office from all parts of the country. Apart from producing a valuable list of potential croquet players this experience is a reminder of the value of trying to include a contact address in any newspaper or magazine article.

A conference was held in conjunction with the National Coaching Foundation as a result of which a significant start was made towards establishing a national coaching structure by the appointment of a number of regional Tutor Coaches. This will be developed further in 1985 and 1986 by the appointment of Area Coaches for middle bisquers and later by Regional Coaches based on regional Centres of Excellence to provide high-level coaching for improving new players of promise.

There were a number of other interesting developments from the P&D Committee; a number of video tapes now exist for use by clubs for recruitment and coaching purposes, arrangements have been made for croquet to be included in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme for 1985, a Junior Championship and a Schools Championship were held for the first time. Arrangements were made for the Students Federation to organise an inter-University Championship.

Three Year Plan

As my predecessor reported last year, the Sports Council brought into effect their new concept of assessing the need and value of its grants by asking the National governing Bodies of Sport in England to produce Three Year Development Plans. They made it clear that grants would be made for development rather than for administration or membership services. It seemed very likely that this would provide the more dynamic governing bodies with a larger share of the cake; because we had been very actively trying to develop the sport of croquet over the past several years we felt we were in a good position to build upon these efforts and to convince the Sports Council that with their increased financial help we could interest many more people in the game.

A steering committee consisting of Chris Hudson, Alan Oldham, Derek Caporn and myself, with Chris Hudson doing most of the work, was able to produce a plan which was accepted by Council and which was outlined to members at the successful Club Conference in November. In January the plan received the approval and support of the Sports Council. We were awarded a greatly increased grant for each of the three years 1985/6 and 7, which enabled the Council to seek a full-time Development Officer. This intention was advertised in the Gazette and three excellent candidates were interviewed by a panel of five Council members, including myself as Chair

man. In the event, Chris Hudson was selected. He was able to take up the post almost at once and we are already beginning to see the first results of his appointment. One of these is the Club Circular which members received with their last Gazette and which will now become a regular supplement to the Gazette.

There are two other bi-products from our close examination of the future in the Three Year Plan. The first is an acceleration in the movement towards a regional structure and the second is the projected move towards establishing regional Centres of Excellence.

Organisation

Hardly any part of the work of the Council and its Committees did not come under rigid scrutiny during the year and a number of changes and improvements were made. The Rules of the Association were also carefully examined. This resulted in a more logical arrangement of the Rules being produced which the members are being asked to approve at this meeting, but no fundamental changes are involved.

The re-written Laws were published and came into effect - not at all surprisingly with such a radical re-write, a small number of changes needed to be made to clarify the new wording or to remove anomalies; these have all been listed in the Spring Gazette.

The Tournament Committee not only has undertaken a review of tournament conditions for the Fixture List for 1986 but also made various changes for 1985, e.g. the seeding of eight unranked players in the Open Championship, and the introduction of a new event for developing players called the Selectors' Week-end. Also in 1985 for CA Calendar tournaments (other than the Caskets and the Opens) a ballot for places will take effect on 1st March for over-subscribed events instead of the first come-first served principle, which has applied in the past. It is hoped that clubs will follow this example for their own tournaments, where they do not do so already.

1984 also saw the introduction of a new grade of referee called Championship Referees.

International Scene

The MacRobertson Shield Committee became in effect the Association's International Committee in the last year. Not only did it undertake the extensive preparatory work for the 1986 season when the New Zealand and Australian teams come here to compete for the MacRobertson Shield, but much work was involved in preparing for a visit by a USA team and its band of supporters in 1985.

It also has in hand the creation of a World Federation of Croquet, this being an essential pre-requisite to our application for croquet to be included in the next World Games.

Small Lawn Croquet now called SHORT Croquet

Many members will recall from the speech I made at the 1982 Members Conference that I have long felt that an official short game would be a valuable aid in the development of croquet. A Small Lawns Committee consisting of a group of distinguished players, but

Continued on page 12

Development

East Midlands Region Sports Council Programme "Learn to Play Croquet"

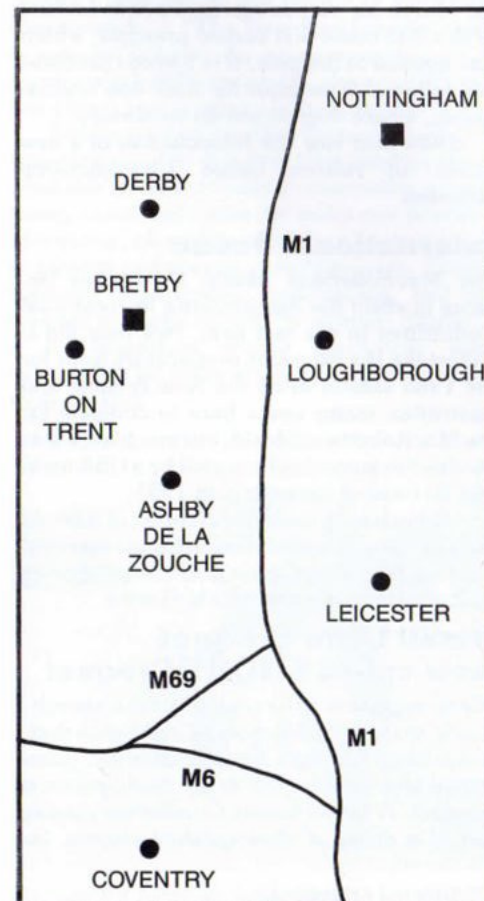
A comprehensive programme backed by the East Midlands Sports Council to teach people how to play croquet is to be launched at the end of June.

Sites for potential new clubs have been found in Leicester and Ashby-de-la-Zouche, and an evening coaching session will be held at both locations on four consecutive weeks. Sites for similar sessions are also being sought in Derby and Loughborough, and if found quickly, a similar coaching programme will be held there.

All these sites are within 25 miles of each other, and some four weeks after the initial coaching period, a central coaching session will be held for the keener players. The aim is to bring them to a point where they can return to their own groups and help others with the game.

At the end of the season, a tournament will be held at the Nottingham Croquet Club. This will be open to all beginners, including those who have just joined Nottingham itself, and will provide another tournament for high-bisquers, an idea that has proved very popular elsewhere.

Alison Leigh, the Sports Council's Liaison Officer for Croquet in the East Midlands, has run "Learn to Play Bowls" courses for some four years in the Region. These have been very successful in attracting new players to Bowls. It is hoped that a similar scheme for Croquet will be equally productive and become an annual event that could well be copied by other Regions.



New Sponsor Anchor Foods backs Croquet

Anchor Foods has signed a three year agreement with the Croquet Association for sponsorship of the Inter County Championship.

Anchor Foods, based in Swindon, have recently launched a range of clear fruit syrup which it is advertising with a TV commercial featuring a croquet party. Sponsorship of the Inter County Championship is part of the promotional campaign supporting this product.

Anchor is butter brand leader in this country, and also markets a range of other dairy products including cheese, savoury butters, cream and aerosol cream.

Anchor Business Development Manager, Keith Collins, says he is delighted to be actively involved with promoting the growth of croquet.

We for our part are delighted to be working with them, and are grateful to Anchor and our other sponsors for their help in developing the game.

Croquet at Millfield New holiday course for families

"Never played the game? You have no conception of what you've missed. Put out of your mind any thoughts of long lazy Edwardian afternoons, with elegantly costumed ladies, bemedalled and moustachioed warriors and bashful curates gently knocking brightly coloured spheres through white hoops. That's not Croquet. It never was. Association Croquet is a more demanding mistress, taking all you can give - and more. It has been so aptly described as "The most intelligent of all outdoor sports". The only game allowing men, women, boys and girls, of all ages, to compete in exactly equal terms. (Provided, that is, that the players have the necessary qualities of low cunning and utter ruthlessness...)

This course, for all those 13 years and over, explains and demonstrates the rules and methods of the magnificent game - and then sets you to work with mallets, balls and hoops on the lawns to put into practice what you're learning. No physical strain whatsoever - but the tactical planning and mental energy required may well leave you utterly exhausted. But - we promise - so pleasantly relaxed!"

G. Marsh, MA.
Member of Staff, Millfield.

The above is an extract from this year's brochure for Millfield's "Village of Education".

Millfield School, with over 1150 pupils, is situated between Street and Glastonbury in Somerset. Courses on sport and leisure activities have been held there since 1971, allowing the general public to use Millfield's splendid facilities for 4 weeks during the summer holidays.

This year, for the first time, croquet figures in the prospectus. There are two courses lasting for a week, (19th - 23rd August), one during the mornings and the other during the afternoons. Tuition fees are £37, and accommodation for the week costs approximately £70 to £100 per person.



Chris Hudson: National Development Officer

Loughborough Summer School Plans for 1986

Each year, Loughborough University of Technology holds its internationally renowned Summer School to provide training in a variety of sports.

The courses take place on the spacious and attractively landscaped campus of the University, and make use of its well equipped sports facilities and lecture rooms.

Croquet Course and Tournament

Croquet has not been included for many years, but plans are in hand to include Croquet as part of the 1986 Loughborough Summer School.

The course is currently being designed, but it could include a number of coaching sessions at different levels each morning, perhaps using Loughborough's video equipment to analyse technique, with various tournaments taking place in the afternoons and evenings. These sessions could be interleaved with formal teaching sessions to update and train CA officials, such as Referees or Coaches.

Throughout its 55 years of existence, the Summer School has provided courses of a high standard for sports people, teachers, students and members of the general public.

Students are normally accommodated in single study bedrooms in a hall of residence close to the main activities of the Summer School.

Courses run for 4 or 6 days, and full board and accommodation are provided by the University. Evening entertainment is available, for those who want it, in the form of discos, country dancing, live bands and so on.

This year, there are 48 different courses, providing an opportunity for plenty of social interaction between the different groups in the evenings. The standard of food is reported to be quite exceptional, and the cost per day for tuition, board and accommodation is of the order of £20.

This year's courses run from 17th July to 9th August, and include Advanced Rugby Coaching, Principles of Hatha Yoga, The Teaching of Weight Training, Women's Water Polo, and the Elementary Tennis Teacher's Certificate amongst a wide variety of topics.

A 6-day "working" holiday, including all the above and plenty of food and drink, could well prove to be an attractive addition to the tournament calendar!

Development

Paul Stoker New Chairman of P&D Committee

Paul Stoker, the newly-elected Chairman of the Publicity & Development Committee, is the Chairman of a multiple furnishing company. His work takes him to many parts of the country.

He joined Southport & Birkdale Croquet Club in 1972, and shortly afterwards went on a CA Coaching Course at Phyllis Court taken by Nigel Aspinall. Nigel introduced him to the tactics and fired him with enthusiasm to take the game seriously.



He was elected President of the Southport Club in 1984 after many years of service on the club committee. He is an official CA Handicapper, and instigated the first-ever winter indoor Croquet League in the North West. He was a founder member of the Northern Federation.

He has been involved for many years with the recruitment and training of "new blood" to the croquet scene. With other members of the Southport Club, he has been progressing the development of a new design of croquet ball.

Elected to Council in 1984, he has played a major role in the launch of the National Coaching Scheme. His aim is to develop croquet as a social activity, as well as a competitive sport.

Short Croquet A quick guide to the Laws of the game

- The Laws of normal handicap play will apply except as modified below.
- The Court will be 24 yards by 16 yards for tournament play. The width of 16 yards is intended to bring the width within that of a doubles tennis court with its surrounds (50 ft). It also enables two small lawns to be laid out within a full sized croquet lawn with a 3 yard space between the 2 small lawns to give room for a ball stop. (There is no reason why clubs who wish to experiment should not simply divide a lawn into two to produce two lawns each 28 yards by 17½ yards).
- The four outer hoops will be set 4 yards from the boundaries. The fifth and sixth hoops will be set 6 yards north and south of the peg.
- All games will be 14 points. The normal sixth hoop will be the rover hoop.
- All games will be full bisque games.
- Players of a handicap of 2 or below will be required to make a number of peels. The table below indicates the number of mandatory peels and bisques for each level of normal handicap.

Launch of Short Croquet A New Alternative Version of Association Croquet

PRESS RELEASE

"A new game burst on to the World of Sport this week. It will revolutionise croquet in the same way as one-day cricket and 5-a-side football revolutionised both those sports.

Now the new Short Croquet brings the fun of croquet to every home that has a modest garden lawn. Championship games can be played on areas of level turf no larger than a single tennis court. At a stroke, the number of croquet lawns in the country has been doubled. Games on average will last an hour, giving more opportunity for social activities after the match is over.

Tennis clubs can add the game to their repertoire. Hotels will be able to offer it to their guests as an additional attraction. Families with lawn space available will find they can play Association Croquet and so add a new dimension to the game their grandparents taught them.

Croquet has now lost its image of being only played by gentry who can afford the upkeep of large country mansions. The new game provides opportunities for enjoyment for all age groups. Men and women can play on level terms; experienced players and beginners are evenly matched by a system of bandicaps, providing a challenging and exciting game for both players.

The Sports Council and the Croquet Association expect that today's imaginative leap into the future will make this enjoyable, challenging game available to many more people."

The Royal Bank of Scotland, one of our sponsors, helped to promote the new game of Short Croquet with a National Press Launch over the weekend 8th/9th June.

Short Croquet Tournaments were held during that weekend at Buxton Croquet Club, in the Pavilion Gardens at Buxton, and at the Southwick Croquet & Lawn Tennis Club, near Brighton.

It was the first time since 1956 that a tournament had been held at Buxton; a fact that will bring back many happy memories for many of our senior players.

The official Laws, covering all aspects of the game in detail, will be published towards the end of the season.



Short Croquet - designed with tennis courts in mind! Margaret Newman in play at Woking.

CA HANDICAP	SHORT HANDICAP
-2 to -1	3 mandatory peels
-½ to ½	2 mandatory peels
1 to 2	1 mandatory peel
2½ to 3½	Scratch
4 to 4½	1 Bisque
5 to 5½	1½ Bisques
6 to 6½	2 Bisques
7 to 7½	3 Bisques
8 to 9	4 Bisques
10	5 Bisques
11 to 12	6 Bisques
13 to 14	7 Bisques
15 to 16	8 Bisques

7. Mandatory Peels
Either ball of a side may be peeled by its partner ball to count as a mandatory peel.

An opponent's ball may be peeled without penalty until the opponent is in the position of having to peel all remaining hoops to complete his quota of mandatory peels. Any peel made of an opponent's ball after this point will cancel one of his opponent's mandatory peels.

If a player pegs out the ball of his opponent who still has mandatory peels to make, these mandatory peels are cancelled.

If a player pegs himself out whilst still having mandatory peels to make, he loses the game.

If a player is in a position where the number of mandatory peels outstanding is the same as the number of hoops still remaining to be made by his two balls, he clearly is required to peel all the remaining hoops and cannot run them. If in such circumstances he does run a hoop and proceeds as though it were a hoop in sequence then an error has been committed. This error cannot be condoned and there is no limit of claim except where an opponent has conceded the game. The error when discovered renders all play subsequent to the stroke in which the hoop was run nullified and the balls and the bisques will be restored to the position they were in immediately after the hoop-running stroke.

8. Wiring
A wiring lift will be allowed when a player's ball is found to be wired from his partner ball at the beginning of his turn provided that his opponent is responsible for the position of the ball to be lifted.

Note: The Laws Committee is drafting a formal set of Laws for Short Croquet.

Official Business

Changes in Officials

Club Officials

Compton

Secretary: A.J. Kellaway, 79 Saffrons Court, Compton Place Road, Eastbourne, East Sussex BN21 1BZ

East Riding

Secretary: W.E. Lamb, 5 Potterdale Drive, Little Weighton, Cottingham, Humberside HU20 3UU. Tel: 0482-848649

N.E. Regional Tennis Centre Ltd

Secretary: Dr J Bamford, 31 Fleetham Grove, Hartburn, Stockton-on-Tees, Cleveland TS18 5LH. Tel: 0642-586964

Norwich

Secretary: E.J. Read, 108 Trafford Road, Norwich NR1 2QR. Tel: 0603-610979

Shrewsbury

Secretary: J.W. Haywood, 21 Drawell Street, Belle Vue, Shrewsbury, Shropshire. Tel: 0743-246326

Tyneside

Secretary: J.E. Meads, 10 Dipwood Way, Rowlands Gill, Tyne & Wear NE39 1EN. Tel: 0207-542021 (H); 091-447-2427 (O)

Wolverhampton

Secretary: D.E. Spear, 3 Ash Hill, Compton, Wolverhampton. Tel: 0902-772968 (H); 0902-25257 (O)

Nottingham University

Secretary: S.A. Bobak, 10 Arnesby Road, Lenton, Nottingham NG7 3EA. Tel: 0602-708277

Results

Cheltenham: 6th-8th April Handicap Singles

Block A: 6 wins: D.J. Croker (-1/2) +75; 4 wins: S.J.W. Hoole (2) +22; 3 wins: Mrs E Dyson (9) -1, Mrs D.C. Willetts (7) -6, Lady Bazley (4) -26; 2 wins: Dr C.B. Snowdon (2 1/2) -18; 0 wins: F.J. Exell (6) -46

Block B: 5 wins: R.D.C. Prichard (1) +54, C.J. Irwin (-1/2) +22; 3 wins: W.R. Bawden (6) +19, Mrs J.A. Hetherington (6) -20; 2 wins: G.V. Johnson (4) -28, Mrs A. Warren -49; 1 win: Dr C.J. Davey -49

Block C: 5 wins: D.C. Willetts (5) +51; 4 wins: D.L. Gaunt (2) +37; 3 wins: R.S. Jenkins (9) +30, Mrs B.G.F. Weitz (3 1/2) -3; 2 wins: Mrs T.W. Anderson (4 1/2) -8, Mrs C. Irwin (5) -33, G.E.P. Jackson (0) -60

Block D: 5 wins: D.H. Moorcraft (1/2) +25; 4 wins: P.J.C. Hetherington (3) +50, T.W. Anderson (2) +38; 3 wins: P.A. Darby (7) +6, Mrs D.J. Croker (5 1/2) -10; 1 win: Mrs D.M.C. Prichard (5) -59, Mrs. Whittell (15) -40

Block E: 5 wins: Dr R.F. Wheeler (4) +45, Dr B.G.F. Weitz (1/2) +36; 4 wins: Mrs G.D. Harris (6) +32, Dr R.C. Jones (3) +6; 2 wins: J.W. Potter (2 1/2) -9, 1 win: Mrs M Langley (8) -68; 0 wins: Mrs M.J. Finn (13) -42

Block F: 6 wins: R.E. Burnell (3 1/2) +62; 4 wins: Dr G.K. Taylor (-1/2) +35, Mrs R Wheeler (3) 0; 3 wins: M.J. Finn (6) +21, M.G. Tompkinson +15; 1 win: Mrs Ransom (7) -42; 0 wins: Miss J. Wraith (11) -91

Block G: 5 wins: R.W. Ransom (6) +80, R. Race (3 1/2) +48; 3 wins: J. Coutts (2) +9, L.V. Latham (1/2) +1, G/Capt Ryan (7) -6; 1 win: Mrs H. Handley (4) -62, Mrs J.W. Potter (10) -70

Block H: 5 wins: F.I. Maugham (2) +56, A.J. Girling (1) +48; 3 wins: W.J. Sturdy (4) +20, P. Dyke (10) +19, Mrs Tompkinson (6 1/2) -6; 2 wins: Mrs L.V. Latham -36; 0 wins: Mrs K.M.O. Wheeler (3) -103

New Championship Referees

D.J. Croker A.B. Hope
J.R. McCullough G.W. Noble
J.W. Solomon M.G. Pearson
R.D.C. Prichard



Andrew Hope (Cheltenham): New Championship Referee

New Referees

A. Brand P.K.L. Danks
Mrs I Dwerryhouse H.J. Crozier
J. Hatherley R.A. Peirce

Hunstanton: 4th-6th May Handicap Singles

Block A: (Advanced Play)
5 wins: I.D. Bond; **4 wins:** G. Noble;
3 wins: D.L. Gaunt; **2 wins:** M. Stevens;
1 win: H.B.H. Carlisle; **0 wins:** A.V. Camroux

Block B: (Advanced Play)
5 wins: M. French; **4 wins:** J.W. Wood;
2 wins: J. Gosden, J. Haigh; **1 win:** Mrs J.N. Rolfe, Mrs R.F. Wheeler

Block C: (Advanced Play)
4 wins: D. Palmer; **3 wins:** R.A. Gosden, Miss S.G. Hampson, H.B.H. Carlisle;
2 wins: Prof. K. Campbell; **0 wins:** Dr R.F. Wheeler

Block D: (Level Play)
4 wins: H.F. Barnett (+23), Mrs I.D. McDiarmid (+18); **3 wins:** Mrs R.A. Gosden; **2 wins:** I.D. McDiarmid; **1 win:** Miss P. Hampson, J.F.S. Thomas;
Play-off for Butlin Cup:
I.D. Bond beat M. French +11



Ian Bond - winner of the Butlin Cup at Hunstanton

Chairman's Report

continued from page 9

with myself as Chairman, finally produced the rules for the Short game (as it is now officially called) which have been accepted by Council. The Woking Club co-operated in running several tournaments to try out the game. A video tape of the game has been produced and it is expected that several clubs will want to try out the game in week-end tournaments during the year.

Equipment

The republished Laws introduced for the first time a resilience factor for croquet balls. This has meant that various croquet balls have been submitted to the Equipment Committee for test; This in turn has meant that several makes of balls have been approved for croquet. However, the Council has decided that the Jaques Eclipse ball will be used for CA events in 1986 and of course for the MacRobertson Shield matches.

It is intended to work towards the position in which every item of equipment which has been approved by the Equipment Committee for tournament play from various manufacturers will be displayed in the CA office.

Might I conclude by saying how fortunate we are to have so many highly talented and energetic members who are prepared to give their skills and time to the game. The Council is especially fortunate in having very able chairmen of its committees - Chris Hudson - Publicity & Development; Steve Mulliner - Finance & General Purposes; Barry Keen - Tournament; Bernard Neal - Laws, Equipment, and MacRobertson Shield; Robin Godby - Handicap Coordination; David Openshaw - Selection; and Andrew Hope - Editorial, and of course, two such anchor-men as Alan Oldham, the Hon. Treasurer and Derek Caporn, the Hon. Secretary. Brian Macmillan, our hard-working Administration Secretary, took on additional responsibilities during the year following Richard Rothwell's retirement and he has contributed much robust common-sense to our notions of income-raising.

I would like to conclude by mentioning all those who are working so hard in the regions, particularly perhaps the regional development officers, and to thank especially the Editor of the Gazette, Phil Johnson, who despite his very sad personal worries, ensured that every edition of the Gazette was published and distributed on time. L.W.

Is your Club a REGISTERED CLUB?

The annual fee for registration is 30p per playing member, with a minimum of £5.00.

Coaches Corner

Get Better - Quicker

TAKING BISQUES:

General Principles

1. If you have a large number of bisques (say 6 or more), take them at the beginning of the game - don't hang on to them. Use 2 (or even 3) to set up your 4-ball break, and then use additional bisques as required to keep your break going.
2. If you have a half-bisque, use this to start setting up your break, and then follow it with a full bisque, so that you can run a hoop having set your break up.
3. During your break, do not attempt a shot you believe is unlikely to come off. If faced with this situation, think how you can best use another bisque to tidy up all the balls, and then continue with your break.
4. As a general principle, do not take a bisque unless you can see that it will enable you to make at least your current hoop and the next one.



Jean Ashton (Ellesmere) - "I'll take another one!"

General strategy against an "A" Class Player

1. If you are a long bisquer, or a receiver of bisques, and you win the toss, you **must** put your opponent in.
2. Set up a 4-ball break as quickly as possible with your bisques (i.e. on the 4th turn of the game if your opponent misses his hit-in when playing the 3rd turn), and take your ball round to the peg, using bisques as necessary.
3. Leave a long hit-in for your opponent after taking your first ball round, and then, if he misses, use your remaining bisques to get your second ball round to the peg.
4. If you lose the toss, and your opponent puts you in, then follow the above procedure as soon as he breaks down.

General Strategy against a "B" Class Player

1. Wait until a favourable situation arises to make effective use of your bisques, and then use your bisques to keep your break going.

General Strategy against a "C" Class Player

1. Here you will have even fewer bisques (or you may even have bisques against you). Keep them for use in dire emergency, or to help you on the last few hoops and your peg-out.

THE LAW:

Law 38 (abridged): BISQUES

(a) DEFINITION. A bisque is an extra turn given in handicap play and can only be played by the striker with the striker's ball of the preceding turn. A half-bisque is a restricted turn in which no point can be scored for any ball.

(b) NUMBER TO BE GIVEN. The number of bisques to be given by the lower-handicapped player to the higher is the difference between their handicaps. A bisque may not be split into two half-bisques.

(c) WHEN A BISQUE MAY BE PLAYED. The player receiving a half-bisque or one or more bisques may play it or them at any time of the game whatsoever, subject to any restrictions in the Regulations for Tournaments (See Regulation 13(d) below).

(d) INDICATION OF INTENTION TO PLAY A HALF-BISQUE OR A BISQUE.

- (i) At the conclusion of a turn the striker must give a clear indication of his intention before playing a half-bisque or a bisque.
- (ii) If the striker is entitled to play either a half-bisque or a bisque and indicates an intention of playing one or the other, he may change his mind at any time before playing the stroke provided that he indicates his revised intention accordingly. If he indicates an intention of playing one or the other without specifying which, he is deemed to have indicated an intention of playing a bisque.



11 1/2 bisques - a comforting sight for a long bisquer! The fat bisque is used here to count as 5 bisques but it could represent any other convenient number.

(iii) If the striker has played all the strokes to which he is entitled and indicates that he is not going to play a half-bisque or bisque, either by words or by quitting the court, he may not change his mind. The adversary must not start his turn until the striker has so indicated.

(e) THE ADVERSARY'S DUTY. The adversary must forestall play if he observes that the striker is about to play a half-bisque or a bisque before he has played all the strokes he is entitled to play. If the adversary fails to do so the striker is deemed to have played the half-bisque or bisque validly.



Cartoon by Bill Tidy

Tournament Regulation 13 (abridged): TIME LIMITS

(c) (i) When a time limit has been imposed on a game, the players should arrange for an independent person or, failing that, one of themselves to be responsible for announcing audibly that the time limit has been reached.

(ii) Play then continues for an extension period in which the striker completes his turn and his adversary plays one subsequent turn. For the sole purpose of determining whether the striker's turn ends before or after time is called, it is deemed that his turn ends and the adversary's turn begins as soon as he strikes the striker's ball or is deemed to have played it in the last stroke of his turn.

(iii) The side which has scored the greater number of points at the end of the extension period is the winner. If each side has scored the same number of points, play continues and the side for which the next point is scored is the winner.

(d) No half-bisque or bisque may be played during the extension period or immediately thereafter by the player in play when the extension period ends. If play continues after the end of the extension period under (c) (iii) above, any half-bisques or bisques may then be played.

The National Coaching Scheme:

Progress Report

Since March this year, meetings have been held at 7 venues in five Regions to discuss the National Coaching Scheme. The meetings have been very well attended, and have enabled club representatives to see the coaching video film and other material now available for club coaches to use.

A number of people have indicated that they would like to become official CA club coaches, and by the end of the season, the signs are that we shall have achieved our target of appointing 30 official club coaches.

Meetings for potential coaches have still to be arranged for clubs in the Southern and Greater London & SE Regions.

Coaching Courses scheduled

Bath - 14th & 15th September
Marlow (Bishop Abbey) - 28th & 29th September
Details from Chris Hudson.
More information in next issue of "Croquet".

Official Business

Handicap Alterations

Corrections to list in Winter Gazette

C. Lamb 3½ to 3 (not 2½)
R.J. Smith 3½ (not 3)

Compton Club

D. Daintree 9 to 7
Miss P. Embleton 10 to 8
J. Kellaway 10 to 9
J. Moody 8 to 6
Mrs D. Moody 16 to 14
Mrs B. Salmon 16 to 14
Miss D. Harding 14 to 12
D.W. Shaw 6 to 4½
Mrs G. Kellaway 16 to 14

Edgbaston Club

P.E. Jones (New) 12
A.K. Gregory 7 to 6½

Southwick 5th to 8th April

D. Palmer 4½ to 4

Cheltenham Club

Miss D. Barber 12(D10) to 11(D9)
Mrs J. Cima 14(D13) to 12(D10)

Cheltenham 6th to 8th April

R.W. Ransom 6 to 5½

Ryde LT & CC 12th-14th April

W.E. Casey 15 to 13
E. Carleton N/A 16

Wolverhampton Club

P.J. Dourke 12

Woking 19th-21st April

D.C. Wiggins 10 to 9
B.P. Whitehouse 4 to 3½

Thomas Cook (Peterborough)

R. Green 12 to 10(D9)
I. Strain 12 to 10(D9)
N. Richardson 14 to 12(D10)

Handicap Coordination Committee

G. Noble -½ to 0
R. Hobbs 1 to 1½
M. French 3 to 2½
A. Mrozinski 2 to 1½
R. Prichard 1 to ½

B.A. Keen 1 to ½
W.O. Aldridge 1 to ½
Paul Smith 1 to ½

Tyneside Croquet Club

D. Trotman 16 to 14
J. Portwood 11 to 10

Southwick 3rd-6th May

Mrs C Irwin 8 to 6½
J.J. Laurence 8 to 7

Durham University Club

D. Reeve (New) 12 to 11
S. Cawdell 16 to 15

Miss J.A. Skinner 16
I.R. Sims 16

A. Mitcheson-Smith 16
C. Tooker 16

Bowdon All-England Final 1984

P. Torrington 3 to 2½
J. Mann 4 to 3½

F. Mann 10 to 9
A. Bobak 9 to 8

Bentley Club

W.L. Pulley 10

Southport 27th-28th April

W. Lamb 7 to 5½
D. Williamson 6 to 5½



Bill Aldridge (Bowdon): Down from 1 to ½.

New Associates

E.J.S. Burbidge - Bath
Dr C.J.C. Davey - Bath
Dr G.J. Davey - Bath
Mrs E St John - Bath
D.G.P. Shepherd - Bath
K. Whittall - Bath
C.M. Gerrard - Bristol
Mrs R Guban - Bristol
J.J. Laurence - Bristol
C.J.B. Pace - Bristol
Mrs D.M.E. Smith - Budleigh
J.S. Kos - Cambridge
Miss A.U. Rainsford - Compton
D. Doswell - Crawley
L.J. Nash - Crawley
D.S. Pond - Crawley
D.M. Williams - Crawley
S.H. Cawdell - Durham
A. Mitcheson-Smith - Durham
I.R. Sims - Durham
Miss J.M. Skinner - Durham
A.F.T. Tatham - Durham
C.P. Took - Durham
Dr J.R. Gillespie - East Riding
P.E. Jones - Edgbaston
Mrs D.M. Bond - Ellesmere
Miss C. Pearce - Ipswich
D.S. Cornelius - Newport
R. Blackburn - Nottingham
Miss A. Searle - Parkstone
G.C.H. Weldon - Parkstone
Dr P.F. Iverson - Ramsgate
J.C. Ruddock - Ramsgate
W.H. Jeffrey - Reigate
Major E.H. Carlton - Ryde
A.W. Harding - Sidmouth
J.C. Hatherley - Sidmouth
Miss K. Holroyd - Sidmouth
Miss A.F. Adams - Southport
J. Beech - Southport
Miss H. Shakeshaft - Southport

Handicaps continued on page 15

Your Letters

Dear Sir,

Are croquet handicaps absolute or relative?

In golf, they are clearly absolute. A scratch golfer goes round a typical course in typical conditions in par, and a 7 handicapper in 7 strokes over par.

In croquet, there are of course many complicating factors which invalidate direct comparison. But is there, or is there not, an absolute reference point in croquet also? In other words, is it correct to assume that, at the heart of the croquet handicapping system, there must lie the assumption that a 5-bisquer will, **on average**, make five mistakes in taking both balls round to the peg: that a scratch player will make none from a relatively straightforward opening leave: and that a minus player is consistently able to pick up two all-round breaks (helped by triple peels) from extremely difficult positions, in addition to being an outstanding and nerveless tactician in a competitive situation?

In a recent club discussion, the view was expressed that such an approach took no account of tactics or strategy, that it was impossible to define a "mistake", and that handicaps were rather an expression of relative all-round ability and awareness.

My own experience as a middle-of-the-road B class player is that players do not in fact, on average, play to their handicaps as defined in an absolute sense. That is to say, most 5-handicap players tend on average to make more than five "mistakes" in a typical game - where a "mistake" may be adequately defined as missing a 5-foot roquet, or a miss-hit rush, or a bad approach, or sticking in a hoop, or in fact any shot which prevents them running the next hoop: and indeed that many scratch players frequently make at least one such error in a typical game.

If that is correct (?), there are some interesting consequences. In B and C class croquet certainly, and I suspect sometimes in the lower reaches of the A class game, a player may win a block or a tournament simply by playing to his handicap - as defined in absolute terms - merely because his opponents have made more than their "handicap ration" of mistakes. And yet if, as is not uncommon, that winner has his handicap

Our Sponsor for the Opens

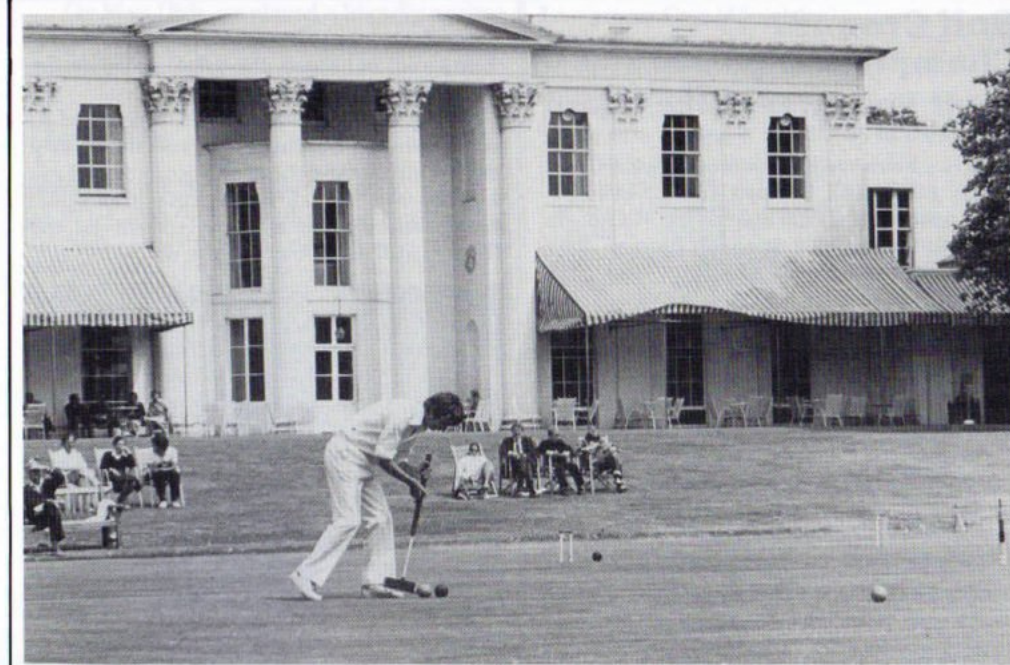
Debenham Tewson & Chinnocks

Debenham Tewson & Chinnocks were established in the City of London in 1853, since when they have earned the highest reputation as independent property advisers.

Today the firm has 26 partners and some 300 employees in the City and West End of London, in Cardiff and 14 other offices in the USA, Australia, Bahrain, Germany, Malaysia, Hong Kong, and Singapore.

Debenham Tewson & Chinnocks is a broadly-based practice that advises on the use, management and development of land. Their major clients cover a broad spectrum including leading pension funds, banks and other financial institutions, manufacturing companies, development companies and individuals.

The firm provides a totally professional property service, covering matters such as the development, acquisition and disposal of all



David Openshaw, Great Britain's Test team captain, playing in the President's Cup at Hurlingham.

reduced as a result of his win, he will in his next tournament automatically come into the same category as his recent opponents.

Are we all playing off too low handicaps?

Yours faithfully,
Brian Whitehouse (Guildford).

Dear Sir,

CHAMPIONSHIP REFEREES

Andrew Bennet, in a letter published in Issue No. 179, asks for information concerning the new category of Championship Referee.

May I draw his attention to the notice "Improving the standard of refereeing" which appeared in Issue No 175, page 10. This explains the measures approved by Council to improve refereeing standards, and thereby answers the questions posed by Mr Bennet.

Yours faithfully,
Bernard Neal,
Chairman, Laws Committee.

kinds of real estate, investment and funding, the management of property, the exercise of valuation and appraisal techniques, Landlord and Tenant matters, receivership work and advice to liquidators, project management, town and country planning, building surveying, and national and local property taxation. They can thus provide clients with the essential continuity of advice on a long-term basis.

We are very grateful to them for their generosity in sponsoring the Open Championships and for their support in developing the game of croquet.

NOTE: Watching the Open Championships at Hurlingham.

CA members will have free access to Hurlingham to watch the Open Championships on showing their Green Card at the gate.

Non-members can gain admittance to watch the Championships on payment of the normal daily entry fee of £3.00.

Handicap Alterations continued from page 14

N. Clapperton - Southwick
Miss M.J. Loveys - Southwick
W. Gardner - Thameside
B.S. Horowitz - Thameside
S.O. Jones - Tyneside
D.W. Trotman - Tyneside
J.M. Gray - Woking
P.D. Whitehead - Woking
C.P.R. Baxter - Worthing
Sub-Lt S.P.E. Hatherley -
J.H. Strachan -
Miss M. Pybus - Australia
H.J. Reid - Australia
J.C. Semmens - Australia
F.P. Touzel - Australia
J. Bensky - New Zealand
J.J. Roberts - USA
Total 58

Perystede Hotel



Trusthouse Forte Hotels

Our croquet lawn offers an idyllic setting for a relaxed game of croquet. Our Leisure Break Weekends afford each guest overnight accommodation full English breakfast, and dinner in our Hyperion Restaurant for the fully inclusive price of

£32.50 per person, per night. One night of your stay must include a Saturday when we are sure you will enjoy our Dinner Dance.

For further details please contact us at the above address.

WALKER CROQUET EQUIPMENT

TOURNAMENT MALLETS

Made to your choice of weight and length

CLUB MALLETS

The Mallet with a 5-year Guarantee on the Head

TOURNAMENT BALLS

Croquet Association Approved for Tournament use.
2-year Guarantee

also

COMPLETE SETS - FULL RANGE OF EQUIPMENT

Send for Brochure to:

WALKER CROQUET EQUIPMENT
82 Queens Crescent, Chippenham, Wilts. SN14 0NP
Telephone Chippenham 654319

Club News and Tournament Results (2)

Golf Croquet Championships

Geoff Roy sweeps the board at Phyllis Court

Geoff Roy achieved the double at Phyllis Court in this year's Golf Croquet Championships. He won the singles final against Ian Maugham and took the doubles title with partner John Rose against David Croker and Ian Maugham.

Seventeen people entered – a threefold increase on last year. Amongst them were well-known croquet names, such as John Rose, Stephen Wright, David Croker, and Geoff himself, as well as some less well-known – Richard and Diana Evans (Littleton), Miss Catling (Bath) and others. All who entered the singles played a minimum of 5 games and the doubles too (Draw and Process).

David Croker, as hard working manager, discovered that one of his more bizarre tasks was to ensure that the players knew the basic rules! All knew that if a ball partially runs a hoop it has to come back and start again, but many were unaware that if it is peeled by either the partner ball or the opponent it still does not score the hoop.

Will the weather be better next year? (It was as cold as charity this time, with a cutting wind). Will Smokey Eades stop drinking beer? Will Roger Wheeler enter? Nothing is certain, only that Phyllis Court looks forward to a bigger and yet better tournament in 1986.



Geoff Roy (L) and Ian Maugham. Golf Croquet Singles Finalists.

The Phyllis Court Club

The Phyllis Court Club, situated as it is on the Thames overlooking the winning stretch of Henley Regatta, must be one of croquet's most beautiful venues.

First mentioned in 1347 when John de Molyns was granted the Manor by Edward III, the Manor of Fillets Court has had a colourful history. A Parliament stronghold in an unfriendly territory in the Civil War (the King was just up the road in Oxford), it was moated and successfully defended. William of Orange on his way from the coast to Windsor stayed overnight and received there the City of London's loyal address as well as appointing his first Privy Council.

The present house was built in 1837 and became a Country Club for the titled and the wealthy in 1906. Before the 1914-18 war it

boasted six croquet courts, a dozen tennis courts and, of course, the social delights of a ringside seat at Henley Regatta.

Today the croquet courts are reduced to two in number, but the croquet section is over seventy strong and the lovely grounds still run down to the Henley Reach; the green/gold dining rooms still cater for members and the Thames still adds lustre to the whole.



Phyllis Court – a lovely site on the banks of the Tho

Results

Semi-Final: F.I. Maugham (Winner) G. Roy up Block
Final: G. Roy

Doubles

Draw: Catling
Round: Foulkes
Round: Gouldin
Semi-Final: 7-5; M Wright
Final: I

Proce

Round: Evans 7-3

Round 2: Roy & Rose beat Matthews & Goulding 7-2; Mr & Mrs Wankling beat Eades & Wright 7-6; Maugham & Croker beat Mr & Mrs Foulkes 7-0; Miss Searle & Mrs Grant beat Miss Hunt & Miss Catling 7-5

Semi-Finals: Roy & Rose beat Mr & Mrs Wankling 7-1; Maugham & Croker beat Miss Searle & Mrs Grant 7-4

Final: Roy & Rose beat Maugham & Croker 7-4

Results

Southwick: 3rd-6th May

Handicap Singles (Swiss)

7 wins: Mrs C.J. Irwin (8);
6 wins: J. Lawrence (8) +83, D.M. Bull (4) +55, F.A. Rowlands (5) +32;
5 wins: Mrs E. Asa-Thomas (3), J.S.H. Battison (1), Major T. Vale (4), W.E. Moore (2);
4 wins: Mrs E. Mapletoft (5½), Mrs L.A. Coombs (5), P. Emery (7), R.F. Hall (9), Mrs T. Vale (8);
3 wins: Mrs E.E. Bresse (5), Miss P. Shine (7), Miss J. Lovey (13);
2 wins: Dr E.P. Davey (10);
1 win: Mrs S. French (11), Mrs N. Chapperton (11)
0 wins: Mrs E. St. John (14)

Obituary

Dr Brian Ratcliffe Sandiford 1901-1985

Brian was educated at Manchester Grammar School, Manchester University, and the School of Tropical Medicine. Having qualified, he went abroad as Director of Public Health in Cairo where he learnt to play croquet at the Gizera Sporting Club (1930-1946).

He returned to England to be Director of Public Health in Birmingham, where he played for and was Secretary of the Edgbaston Club. In 1965, he again went abroad, this time to Malaysia where he held the Chair of Bacteriology at Kuala Lumpur, establishing croquet at the Lake Club.

When he retired, he joined the Southport Club and was President for many years. His abilities will be sorely missed.

Paul Stoker.

ORDER FORM

Please send me the following publications:

Laure & Regulations	£2.17	(£2.17)
Basic Laws	£.63	(£1.13)
Commentary on Laws	£1.50	(£2.50)
Know the Game: Croquet	£1.24	(£1.49)
Croquet	£6.20	(£7.20)
History of Croquet	£7.20	(£9.70)
12 Hints for Beginners	£.73	(£1.13)
CA Figures Book	£1.90	(£3.40)
TOTAL		

From: _____ Name: _____ (Capital letters please) Initials: _____
Address: _____ Post Code: _____
Signed: _____ Date: _____

Please return this form with your remittance to:
Brian Macmillan, Administration Secretary, The Croquet Association,
The Hurlingham Club, Ranelagh Gardens, London SW6 3PR
Tel: 01-736 3148

Compton: 9th-12th May

Handicap Singles

(2 points for a win, 1 point for win on time, 2½ hour time limit)

Block A:
5 points: J.H. Bowman (2½); **3 points:** Mrs W.R.D. Wiggins (0), E.C. Tyrwhitt Drake (2); **2 points:** D.A. Harris (1½); **0 points:** Dr W.R.D. Wiggins (½)

Block B:
8 points: D.W. Shaw (4½); **6 points:** C.B. Sanford (4½); **2 points:** A.J. Kellaway (9), R.P. Chappell (3½); **0 points:** Mrs D.W. Sinclair (4)

Block C:
5 points: Mrs E.C. Tyrwhitt Drake (5) +33, Lt Col D.F.T. Brown (5) +12; **3 points:** Miss B.E. Dennant (7½); **0 points:** Mrs H.G. Wills (5), Miss I.B. Tucker (6)

Block D:
4 points: W.E. Philp (9) +33, J. Moody (6) +10; **3 points:** Mrs T. Vale (8), Miss D.V. Harding (12); **0 points:** Miss P.J. Embleton (8)

Play-Off

Semi-Finals: D.W. Shaw beat Mrs E.C. Tyrwhitt Drake +1 (T); J.H. Bowman beat W.E. Philp +1 (T)
Final: J.H. Bowman beat D.W. Shaw +5

Club News and Tournament Results (3)

News from Ramsgate Three Friendly Matches

Ramsgate visited Frant to play Tunbridge Wells Croquet Club in a return "friendly" on 26th April – their first match of the season. The weather was dry but with a nip in the air. The Frant Club looked a picture from the terraced lawns overlooking the Weald of Kent and with a back-cloth of thousands of daffodils in full bloom.

In the Doubles, Drake and Woods beat Mitchell and Williamson in a very closely fought game but Drake's experience told in the end.

In the Balkwell-Goolden game against Ballard and Miller, Miller peeled his partner through rover, made rover himself, did a roll from rover to the peg – missing by a hair's breadth – their opponents missed the "hit-in" and Miller pegged out. A very exciting game.

In the afternoon the weather turned a little cooler but the temperature kept up with the game between Drake and Balkwell and Ballard and Williamson. Balkwell reached the peg with Drake on rover and Williamson and Ballard on 4-back when Williamson took a bisque and went to the peg. Drake failed to hit in and Ballard went to rover. Drake then hit in but stuck in rover, Ballard missed the short roquet, Drake made rover but missed the peg out, Ballard missed a hit of about 10 yards, and Drake finished the game.

T. Cobb of Ramsgate gave a very good account of himself in his first competitive game and we all had a very enjoyable day.

On May 18th, we played a friendly against Reigate and then took on Crawley in a friendly match on the following day.

E.S.

Results

Ramsgate 2 Tunbridge Wells 3

A. Mitchell (12) & J. Williamson (12) lost to G. Drake (2½) & P. Woods (10) -1; T. Ballard (6½) & T. Miller (12) beat R. Balkwell (7) & D. Goolden (9) +9; T. Ballard & J. Williamson lost to G. Drake & R. Balkwell -2; T. Cobb (14) lost to D. Goolden +2; A. Mitchell beat P. Woods +19

The National Scene

Inter-Club (13 entries)

1st Round:
Roehampton 7 Reckitt 0
Bowdon beat Colworth (w.o.)
Harrow Oak 5 Stourbridge 2

Mary Rose (25 entries)

1st Round:
Roehampton 6 Chester 1
Bowdon beat Colchester (w.o.)
Stourbridge 4 Bristol 3
Harwell 5 Parsons Green 2
Colworth 4 Wolverhampton 3
Worcester 5 Budleigh Salterton 2
Cheltenham (1) 6 Ramsgate 1
Wrest Park 5 Woking 2
Parkstone beat Edgbaston
Hurlingham 4 Cheltenham (2) 3
2nd Round:
Bowdon 7 Stourbridge 0

Longman Cup (45 entries)

1st Round:
Tyneside 4 Norton Hall 1
Edinburgh 3 Glasgow 2
Oxford University 4 Cheltenham 1
Sidmouth 5 Bristol 0
Stourbridge 3 Walsall 2
Southwick 4 Woking 1
Harrow Oak beat Aldermarston (w.o.)
Crawley 4 Reigate 1
Hurlingham 4 Worthing 1
Colworth 4 West Park 1
Bretby 4 Nottingham 1
Thomas Cook 5 Hunstanton 0
Edgbaston 3 Nottingham University 2
2nd Round:
Ellesmere 3 East Riding 2
Chester 4 Southport 1
Nailsea 5 Worcester 0
Wolverhampton 3 Stourbridge 0
Bath 4 Harwell 1
Hurlingham 4 Crawley 1
Ryde 5 Parkstone 0

Schools Championship (22 entries)

1st Round:
Manchester 2 Arnold 0
Queen Elizabeth's 2 Chethams 1
Ludlow 3 Wrekin 0
Oundle 3 Rugby 0
Dulwich 3 Kimbolton 0
Stowe 2 Merchant Taylors 1
2nd Round:
Warwick 3 Radley 0
Ardingly 2 Worth 1
Ludlow 3 Kings Chester 0
Oundle 2 Bishop Vesey's 1
Nailsea 3 Taunton Junior 0

Cheltenham Developments

If you haven't been to Cheltenham for the past five years you will notice quite a difference when you next visit there.

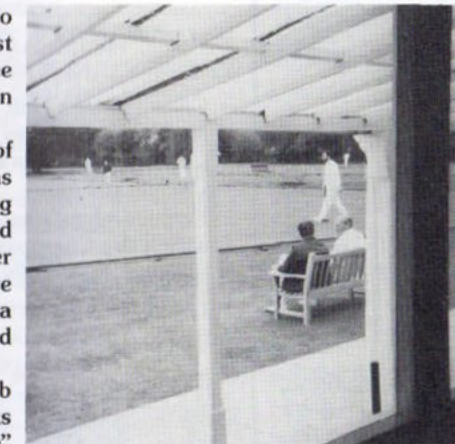
The area in front of the Club House has been paved, the parking area has been cleared and gravelled, a bunker has been built to store top-soil, and the tea room has been re-roofed with shingles.

Bo Harris, the Club Secretary, now works from her own "office" separate from the Club House, and what used to be the Secretary's office has been converted into a "viewing-room" with large windows looking on to the lawns. Better windows have also been installed in the Club House itself and in the tea room.

In addition, the Club has purchased a powered hollow tining machine and a powered scarifying machine, as well as a 24-inch mower to cut the boundary areas. Plans are in hand to re-decorate the outside of the Club House and to carry out an extensive programme of lawn improvement.

All this has been financed by members' voluntary contributions and a modest loan from the local authority, with the lawn improvement programme being paid for by an increase in subscription, all of which goes on the lawns.

The total cost has been of the order of £9000. No mean achievement by the Club and its members!



Looking out from the "viewing-room" at Cheltenham

TOWNSEND CROQUET LIMITED

For a comprehensive range of Croquet Equipment, Mallets, Balls, Hoops, Winning pegs, Clips, Corner flags, Corner pegs, etc. All at competitive prices.

Ask for Townsend Croquet equipment at your local sports shop.

Write or 'phone for a free Croquet Aimer to help practise lining up the balls when taking Croquet.

TOWNSEND CROQUET LTD.
CLAIRE ROAD
KIRBY CROSS
FRINTON-ON-SEA
ESSEX CO13 0LX
TELEPHONE: FRINTON (02556) 4404

Club News and Tournament Results (2)

Golf Croquet Championships

Geoff Roy sweeps the board at Phyllis Court

Geoff Roy achieved the double at Phyllis Court in this year's Golf Croquet Championships. He won the singles final against Ian Maugham and took the doubles title with partner John Rose against David Croker and Ian Maugham.

Seventeen people entered – a threefold increase on last year. Amongst them were well-known croquet names, such as John Rose, Stephen Wright, David Croker, and Geoff himself, as well as some less well-known – Richard and Diana Evans (Littleton), Miss Catling (Bath) and others. All who entered the singles played a minimum of 5 games and the doubles too (Draw and Process).

David Croker, as hard working manager, discovered that one of his more bizarre tasks was to ensure that the players knew the basic rules! All knew that if a ball partially runs a hoop it has to come back and start again, but many were unaware that if it is peeled by either the partner ball or the opponent it still does not score the hoop.

Will the weather be better next year? (It was as cold as charity this time, with a cutting wind). Will Smokey Eades stop drinking beer? Will Roger Wheeler enter? Nothing is certain, only that Phyllis Court looks forward to a bigger and yet better tournament in 1986.



Geoff Roy (L) and Ian Maugham. Golf Croquet Singles Finalists.

The Phyllis Court Club

The Phyllis Court Club, situated as it is on the Thames overlooking the winning stretch of Henley Regatta, must be one of croquet's most beautiful venues.

First mentioned in 1347 when John de Molyns was granted the Manor by Edward III, the Manor of Fillets Court has had a colourful history. A Parliament stronghold in an unfriendly territory in the Civil War (the King was just up the road in Oxford), it was moated and successfully defended. William of Orange on his way from the coast to Windsor stayed overnight and received there the City of London's loyal address as well as appointing his first Privy Council.

The present house was built in 1837 and became a Country Club for the titled and the wealthy in 1906. Before the 1914-18 war it

boasted six croquet courts, a dozen tennis courts and, of course, the social delights of a ringside seat at Henley Regatta.

Today the croquet courts are reduced to two in number, but the croquet section is over seventy strong and the lovely grounds still run down to the Henley Reach; the green/gold dining rooms still cater for members and the Thames still adds lustre to the whole.



Phyllis Court – a lovely site on the banks of the Thames at Henley.

Results

Singles (Knock-out Conclusion)

Semi-finals:

F.I. Maugham (Runner-up Block 2) beat J. Rose (Winner Block 1) 7-5; 7-4
G. Roy (Winner Block 2) beat S. Wright (Runner-up Block 1) 7-5; 7-5

Final:

G. Roy beat F.I. Maugham 7-3; 7-3

Doubles

Draw:

Round 1: Roy & Rose beat Miss Hunt & Miss Catling 7-1

Round 2: Mr & Mrs Evans beat Mr & Mrs Foulkes 7-6; Roy & Rose beat Matthews & Goulding 7-4; Maugham & Croker beat Mr & Mrs Wankling 7-5; Eades & Wright beat Miss Searle & Mrs Grant 7-2

Semi-Finals: Roy & Rose beat Mr & Mrs Evans 7-5; Maugham & Croker beat Eades & Wright 7-4

Final: Roy & Rose beat Maugham & Croker 7-4

Process:

Round 1: Eades & Wright beat Mr & Mrs Evans 7-3

Round 2: Roy & Rose beat Matthews & Goulding 7-2; Mr & Mrs Wankling beat Eades & Wright 7-6; Maugham & Croker beat Mr & Mrs Foulkes 7-0; Miss Searle & Mrs Grant beat Miss Hunt & Miss Catling 7-5

Semi-Finals: Roy & Rose beat Mr & Mrs Wankling 7-1; Maugham & Croker beat Miss Searle & Mrs Grant 7-4

Final: Roy & Rose beat Maugham & Croker 7-4

Results

Southwick: 3rd-6th May

Handicap Singles (Swiss)

7 wins: Mrs C.J. Irwin (8);
6 wins: J. Lawrence (8) +83, D.M. Bull (4) +55, F.A. Rowlands (5) +32;
5 wins: Mrs E. Asa-Thomas (3), J.S.H. Battison (1), Major T. Vale (4), W.E. Moore (2);
4 wins: Mrs E. Mapletoft (5½), Mrs L.A. Coombs (5), P. Emery (7), R.F. Hall (9), Mrs T. Vale (8);
3 wins: Mrs E.E. Bressley (5), Miss P. Shine (7), Miss J. Lovey (13);
2 wins: Dr E.P. Davey (10);
1 win: Mrs S. French (11), Mrs N. Chapperton (11)
0 wins: Mrs E. St. John (14)

Obituary

Dr Brian Ratcliffe Sandiford 1901-1985

Brian was educated at Manchester Grammar School, Manchester University, and the School of Tropical Medicine. Having qualified, he went abroad as Director of Public Health in Cairo where he learnt to play croquet at the Gizera Sporting Club (1930-1946).

He returned to England to be Director of Public Health in Birmingham, where he played for and was Secretary of the Edgbaston Club. In 1965, he again went abroad, this time to Malaysia where he held the Chair of Bacteriology at Kuala Lumpur, establishing croquet at the Lake Club.

When he retired, he joined the Southport Club and was President for many years. His abilities will be sorely missed.

Paul Stoker.

Hurlingham: 4th-6th May

Level Singles

Block A:

6 wins: C. Southern; **5 wins:** J. Guest;
3 wins: A. Mrozinski, W. Denison;
2 wins: L. Wharrad; **1 win:** S.S. Townsend, R.A. Godby;

Block B:

6 wins: P. Torrington; **4 wins:** W.T. Coles;
3 wins: I.P.M. Macdonald, Miss J. MacLeod, J.C. Straw; **2 wins:** B.P. Whitehorn; **0 wins:** F.H. Newman

Block C:

6 wins: C.B. Sanford; **4 wins:** Mrs F.H. Newman, D.C. Cross; **3 wins:** D. Ruscombe-King;
2 wins: Mrs B. Mansfield; **1 win:** Mrs W.J. Browne, Mrs I.P.M. Macdonald

Block D:

6 wins: Miss B. Duthie; **4 wins:** R.J. Clayton, M.J. Haggerston; **3 wins:** Mrs P.V. Healy, Mrs L.A. Cheyne; **1 win:** Mrs D.A. Torrington-Petrie;
0 wins: J.G.O. Miller

Compton: 9th-12th May

Handicap Singles

(2 points for a win, 1 point for win on time, 2½ hour time limit)

Block A:
5 points: J.H. Bowman (2½); **3 points:** Mrs W.R.D. Wiggins (0), E.C. Tyrwhitt Drake (2); **2 points:** D.A. Harris (1½);
0 points: Dr W.R.D. Wiggins (½)

Block B:

8 points: D.W. Shaw (4½); **6 points:** C.B. Sanford (4½); **2 points:** A.J. Kellaway (9), R.P. Chappell (3½); **0 points:** Mrs D.W. Sinclair (4)

Block C:

5 points: Mrs E.C. Tyrwhitt Drake (5) +33, Lt Col D.F.T. Brown (5) +12; **3 points:** Miss B.E. Dennant (7½); **0 points:** Mrs H.G. Wills (5), Miss I.B. Tucker (6)

Block D:

4 points: W.E. Philp (9) +33, J. Moody (6) +10;
3 points: Mrs T. Vale (8), Miss D.V. Harding (12);
0 points: Miss P.J. Embleton (8)

Play-Off

Semi-Finals: D.W. Shaw beat Mrs E.C. Tyrwhitt Drake +1 (T); J.H. Bowman beat W.E. Philp +1 (T)
Final: J.H. Bowman beat D.W. Shaw +5

Club News and Tournament Results (3)

News from Ramsgate

Three Friendly Matches

Ramsgate visited Frant to play Tunbridge Wells Croquet Club in a return "friendly" on 26th April – their first match of the season. The weather was dry but with a nip in the air. The Frant Club looked a picture from the terraced lawns overlooking the Weald of Kent and with a back-cloth of thousands of daffodils in full bloom.

In the Doubles, Drake and Woods beat Mitchell and Williamson in a very closely fought game but Drake's experience told in the end.

In the Balkwell-Golden game against Ballard and Miller, Miller peeled his partner through rover, made rover himself, did a roll from rover to the peg – missing by a hair's breadth – their opponents missed the "hit-in" and Miller pegged out. A very exciting game.

In the afternoon the weather turned a little cooler but the temperature kept up with the game between Drake and Balkwell and Ballard and Williamson. Balkwell reached

On May 18th, we played a friendly against Reigate and then took on Crawley in a friendly match on the following day.

E.S.

Results

Ramsgate 2 Tunbridge Wells 3

A. Mitchell (12) & J. Williamson (12) lost to G. Drake (2½) & P. Woods (10) -1;
T. Ballard (6½) & T. Miller (12) beat R. Balkwell (7) & D. Goolden (9) +9; T. Ballard & J. Williamson lost to G. Drake & R. Balkwell -2; T. Cobb (14) lost to D. Goolden +2; A. Mitchell beat P. Woods +19

The National Scene

Inter-Club (13 entries)

1st Round:
Roehampton 7 Reckitt 0
Bowdon beat Colworth (w.o.)
Harrow Oak 5 Stourbridge 2

Mary Rose (25 entries)

1st Round:

Publications available from the Croquet Association

Laws & Regulations
The full Laws of Association and Golf Croquet, and the Regulations for tournament play
Price: £2.00 (£2.00) P&P 17p

Basic Laws
Give all the Laws necessary for beginners
Price: 50p (£1.00) P&P 13p

Commentary on Laws
by Col. Pritchard. Explains and amplifies the Laws
Price: £1.00 (£2.00) P&P 50p

"Know the Game: Croquet"
Straightforward guidance on how to play the game
Price: £1.00 (£1.25) P&P 24p

"Croquet"
by John Solomon. Fully comprehensive book on all aspects of the game. Reprinted in 1983 by public demand
Price: £5.00 (£6.00) P&P £1.20

"History of Croquet"
by Col. Pritchard. A well illustrated, complete, and interesting book on the history of the game
Price: £6.00 (£8.50) P&P £1.20

Twelve Hints for Beginners
A useful booklet for beginners
Price: 60p (£1.00) P&P 13p

CA Fixtures Book (1985)
Full details of all tournaments and events for the season. Free to all full Associates and Registered Clubs. Extra copies supplied on request.
Price: £1.50 (£3.00) P&P 40p

Prices in brackets are to non-members of the Croquet Association

been paved, the parking area has been cleared and gravelled, a bunker has been built to store top-soil, and the tea room has been re-roofed with shingles.

Bo Harris, the Club Secretary, now works from her own "office" separate from the Club House, and what used to be the Secretary's office has been converted into a "viewing-room" with large windows looking on to the lawns. Better windows have also been installed in the Club House itself and in the tea room.

In addition, the Club has purchased a powered hollow tining machine and a powered scarifying machine, as well as a 24-inch mower to cut the boundary areas. Plans are in hand to re-decorate the outside of the Club House and to carry out an extensive programme of lawn improvement.

All this has been financed by members' voluntary contributions and a modest loan from the local authority, with the lawn improvement programme being paid for by an increase in subscription, all of which goes on the lawns.

The total cost has been of the order of £9000. No mean achievement by the Club and its members!



Looking out from the "viewing-room" at Cheltenham



A comprehensive range of Croquet equipment, Mallets, Balls, Hoops, Winning pegs, Clips, Corner flags, Corner pegs, etc. All at competitive prices.

Ask for Townsend Croquet equipment at your local sports shop.

Write or 'phone for a free Croquet Aimer to help practise lining up the balls when taking Croquet.

TOWNSEND CROQUET LTD.
CLAIRE ROAD
KIRBY CROSS
FRINTON-ON-SEA
ESSEX CO13 0LX

TELEPHONE: FRINTON (02556) 4404

Minutes of the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING held at the Hurlingham Club on Saturday, 27th April, 1985

Present: J.W. Solomon (President in the Chair), Lt Col. D.M.C. Prichard, R.F. Rothwell, S.S. Townsend (Vice Presidents) and Associates.

1. MINUTES

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 7th April 1984, copy in Croquet No. 175 - June 1984, page 2, were taken as read and adopted.

2. PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

The President, J.W. Solomon, opened his remarks by stating that he did not propose to say a great deal at this stage. The Chairman's Report, which is normally printed in the Gazette and which therefore left the Chairman almost nothing to say under the next item on the Agenda, was not in the current issue and he personally thought it better that the Chairman's Report should be made verbally at the AGM and then printed together with the Minutes in a future Gazette.



The Chairman's Report will cover most of the important developments during the year in reasonable detail. He felt that it had been the most active year that anyone could remember.

He then went on to give some headlines which he stated the Chairman would cover in more detail:

The 3-year Development Plan; the increased Sports Council Grant; increasing sponsorship; increasing membership, with growing emphasis on youth, as seen by the Junior Championship, the Schools Championship, and hopefully, a University Championship; opening of new clubs and strengthening of weaker areas through the development of semi-autonomous regions. Also the prospect of our own HQ club is more realistic.

These were just a few of the more obvious developments. The President continued by reiterating that these things did not just happen. They were the result of a lot of hard

work by the Council, and in particular some individual members of Council. They deserved congratulations and thanks for their efforts on our behalf and on behalf of the game.

The President referred to the sad death of Dudley Hamilton-Miller who left the Association a legacy and his name would be inscribed in the Benefactors Book. A trophy had been donated in his memory by Mrs R. Weir, an old friend of his. He will be sadly missed by all who knew him.

3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman, L. Wharrad, gave his Report which is published on Page 9 of this issue of "Croquet".

There were no questions and the Report was adopted.

4. TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer, A.J. Oldham, presented the audited accounts for 1984, a copy of which appeared in the Spring Gazette 179. There was one question from the floor, asking him to outline his investment policy.

5. ELECTION OF TREASURER

The retiring Treasurer, A.J. Oldham, was unanimously re-elected. He was warmly thanked by the President for all the devoted work he had put in during the 18 years he has been Treasurer.

6. ALTERATION TO RULES

The re-drafted Rules of the Association were approved after the Chairman had pointed out that they were to clarify the wording and be put in more logical sequence.

7. ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

The successful candidates for Council were Mrs T.W. Anderson, L.S. Butler, R.A. Godby, T.P. Greenwood, B.A. Keen, Miss J MacLeod, J.R. McCullough, Dr M. Murray, P. Stoker, and E. Strickland. The President congratulated those elected. He thanked Mrs. V. Carlisle and Mr I.P.M. Macdonald for acting as Scrutineers. There were 225 voting papers returned, plus 5 spoilt papers.

8. MOTIONS

There were no motions.

9. ELECTION OF AUDITORS

Messrs Nicholass Ames & Co were re-elected.

10. BENEFACTORS BOOK

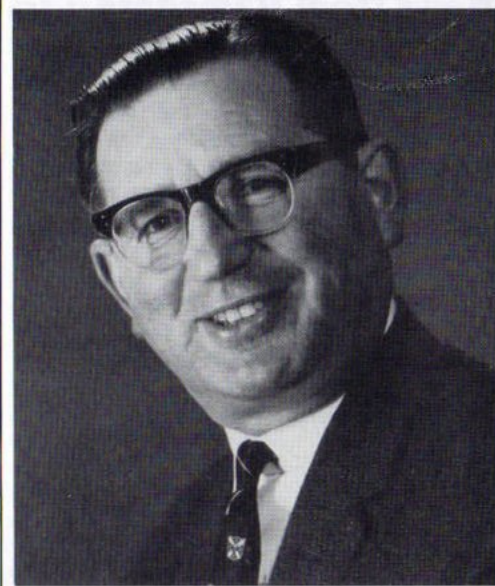
Richard Rothwell gave an outline of the history of the Book and read out the names of the Benefactors, to which the name of Dudley Hamilton-Miller had been added.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(a) Mrs V. Carlisle asked if it was desirable for Associates to have to sign their voting papers. The Chairman pointed out that this was in the Rules of the Association. After discussion it was decided that this subject would be placed on the Agenda of the next Council meeting.

(b) The President presented the Steel Bowl to Miss Jan MacLeod (Roehampton & Hurlingham) and the Apps Bowl to Danny Palmer (Ipswich). He stated that Danny was probably the youngest player to receive this award. John McCullough accepted the Apps/Heley Award on behalf of Bristol Croquet Club.

The President concluded the meeting by thanking the Hurlingham Club for not only allowing the AGM but also other Council meetings and tournaments to be held there. Mr H.B.H. Carlisle informed the President that a new meeting room was being prepared and that probably we would be allowed to use it in future.



Notices to Members

The Handicap Coordination Committee would like to thank the following members who acted as handicappers and have now resigned.

E.C. Avery	Dr R.W. Bray
H.B.C. Carlisle QC	Mrs G.F. Elvey
Rev W.E. Gladstone	G.F. Hallett
D.A. Harris	H.O. Hicks
M.T. Paddon	Mrs D.M.C. Prichard
Lt Col D.M.C. Prichard	B.G. Perry

Checking New Balls

Recently a number of new balls have been found to be very much underweight.

Clubs are advised to weigh all new balls on receipt to check that they lie within the tolerance of 16 ounces, plus or minus 1/4 ounce.

Watching the Open Championships at Hurlingham

CA members will have free access to Hurlingham to watch the Open Championships on showing their Green Card at the gate.

Non-members can gain admittance to watch the Championships on payment of the normal daily entry fee of £3.00.

New Members on Council



(L to r): Terry Greenwood (Wolverhampton); Judy Anderson (Colworth); John McCullough (Bristol); Jan MacLeod (Hurlingham); and Les Butler (Parkstone)

Extract of Minutes of COUNCIL MEETING held at the Hurlingham Club on Saturday, 27th April, 1985

1. MATTERS ARISING

Mr Jaques has offered to supply 24 sets of Eclipse balls free for the 1986 Internations in return for an acknowledgment in the programme.

Lt Col Prichard reported that the "Reeve" Trophy had been presented for competition between all Universities.

The formal cocktail party to welcome the USA team at Hurlingham has been cancelled, as the number of US supporters accompanying the tour is much smaller than had been expected.

Mr Macmillan has copies of various videos on croquet that can be hired by registered clubs for £3.00.

Professor Neal has tested four balls returned to him by Jaques after applying their finishing process, and has found them satisfactory. He stresses however, that clubs should check all balls for weight and size before use, particularly those of alternate colours.

2. ELECTIONS

The following were elected unanimously:

Chairman: Mr L. Wharrad
Vice-Chairman: Mr A.B. Hope
Hon Secretary: Mr D.C. Caporn
Hon CA Tournament Secretary: Mr B.A. Keen
Mr R.F. Rothwell will continue to manage the CA Club competitions.

3. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Vice-Presidents were invited to serve on Committees as follows:

Lt Col Prichard - Laws
R.F. Rothwell - Tournament
S.S. Townsend - Handicap Coordination

The Selection Committee members (Messrs Aspinall, Keen, Murray, Neal and Openshaw) were unanimously re-elected.

A new committee was formed to select players for the 1986 Internationals. The following were unanimously elected: Aspinall, Bond, Keen, Neal, Openshaw and Rose.

Publicity & Development

Mr Hudson had resigned as Chairman of P&D following his appointment as Development Officer. Mr Wharrad, who had taken over the Chair temporarily, reported that:

Schools had been circulated about the 1985 Schools Championships. Arrangements were being made to hold a University Championship for the first time.

Regional meetings had been set up to brief Club Coaches as part of the introduction of the National Coaching Scheme. The coaching film strips had been reissued as a video, and are now available for sale to clubs.

Guidelines are being established for allocating CA funds to the Regions and individual clubs.

A preliminary meeting is to be held at Kingston to attract potential club members.

Grants have been obtained from 3 Sports Council Regions to help local development work.

The Rules for Short Croquet are being prepared, prior to a National launch of the game on 8th/9th June.

A letter is being sent to Governing Bodies for Croquet in other countries to tell them of our intention to form a World Croquet Federation and to invite them to join us in this enterprise.

Tournament

Mr Keen reported that:

Clubs had been asked to change the dates of their 1986 Tournaments if they clashed with arrangements for the Test Tour.

The 1986 Fixture Book was to be put on a word processor and would be issued to paid-up members on 1st February 1986. The format on the Book was to be reviewed.

All Managers on the official list had been asked if they wished to remain on the list. Three new Official Managers had been appointed.

Lady players had been asked for their views on the future of the Ladies Invitation events. With the results of the poll in mind, and after much discussion, it was agreed that the Ladies Field would continue at present for 5 days. The Selectors would choose up to 8 players depending on the quality of the candidates. It was emphasised that if 8 players were chosen, then all players must be capable of playing 3 games per day. The Longman Bowl would be contested by 6 players over 5 days as at present, provided that a venue was made available for the event.

Ad Hoc Equipment Committee

This Committee was set up and approved. Members are Professor Neal, and Messrs Eades and Keen.

Administration Report

Mr Macmillan reported that there are now 944 Associates. 12 new Associates were elected.

MOTIONS

(a) "That the MacRobertson Shield Committee be renamed the International Committee and that it become a standing committee of Council to which the Council may refer all international matters except team selection" Carried nem con.

(b) "That a Manager of a CA Tournament shall have the right to play in that tournament irrespective of the number of entries received, except for Invitation and Representative Competitions, provided that any handicap restrictions are satisfied" Carried by 16 votes to 4.

(c) "That the Club Circular (to be simply named "Croquet" in future) be available on subscription to non-Associates at a fee of £5.00 per annum for one year but that it be supplied to Associates free of charge" Carried by 18 votes to 4. Referred to F & GP by 12 votes to 9 for further consideration. F & GP to meet in May and take such action as they think appropriate.

5. AMENDMENTS TO STANDING ORDERS

Addition: "The Editorial Board shall consist of at least 2 Council members with power to co-opt such additional members, who need not be members of Council, as it wishes". Unanimously approved.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

Mr Wharrad reported that the "Know the Game" text had been revised and was being reprinted in a more modern format; that the Godalming Rugby Club were interested in promoting a croquet section and were con-

sidering providing three lawns, and that the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames had offered the CA a lease of land at Tolworth for 42 years.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr Rothwell queried why the Regulations did not specify that an Official Handicapper or an Official Manager had to be an Associate, and reported the formation of a new club at Reading.

Mr Eades reported that the Southern Regional Sports Council had made a Grant of £400 to the new Reading Club.

New Clubs Registered Welcome to . . .

Reading Croquet Club
Secretary: A.G. Edwards, 11 Bearwood Road, Wokingham, Berks, RG11 4TB. Tel: 0734-780673

Sydenham Lawn Tennis & Croquet Club Ltd
Lawrie Park Road, London SE26.
Secretary: Miss E.T. Wakelam, 14 Robins Court, 77 Bromley Road, Beckenham, Kent BR3 2PB

Thameside Croquet Club
Secretary: D.J. Pooley, 23 Harvard Mansions, St Johns Hill, London SW11 1TB. Tel: 01-228 6297

Croome Court Croquet Club
Secretary: M.P. Sopey, Croome Court, Severn Stoke, Worcester WR8 9DW. Tel: 090567-411

Heathfield School
Secretary: Miss H.A. Archer, Heathfield School, Ascot, Berks. Tel: 034-47-2955

Secretary: R. Mather, Oundle School, Oundle, Near Peterborough, Cambs. Tel: 0832-74059

Ingatstone Croquet Club (Re-registration)
Secretary: J.R. Douglas, Delamas, Pryerning, Ingatstone, Essex CM4 0PW. Tel: 0277-352077



The Lord Mayor opens the new Club at Reading: (L to r) John Maude, Stephen Wright, John Crook, Terry Wood, Alan Edwards (Secretary), The Mayor, Bob Smith, Alan Macdonald, Richard Rothwell, Mrs Edwards, Peter Rothwell and Brenda Macdonald.

Join our team of writers! Contributions welcome:

Articles . . . photos . . . Club News etc.

Vacancies for specialist writers - International correspondents, gossip columnists, coaches, historians, and many more . . .