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In 1984 and 1985, Debenham Tewson & Chinnocks were delighted to sponsor the British Open Croquet Championship and look forward to continuing their sponsorship in 1986.

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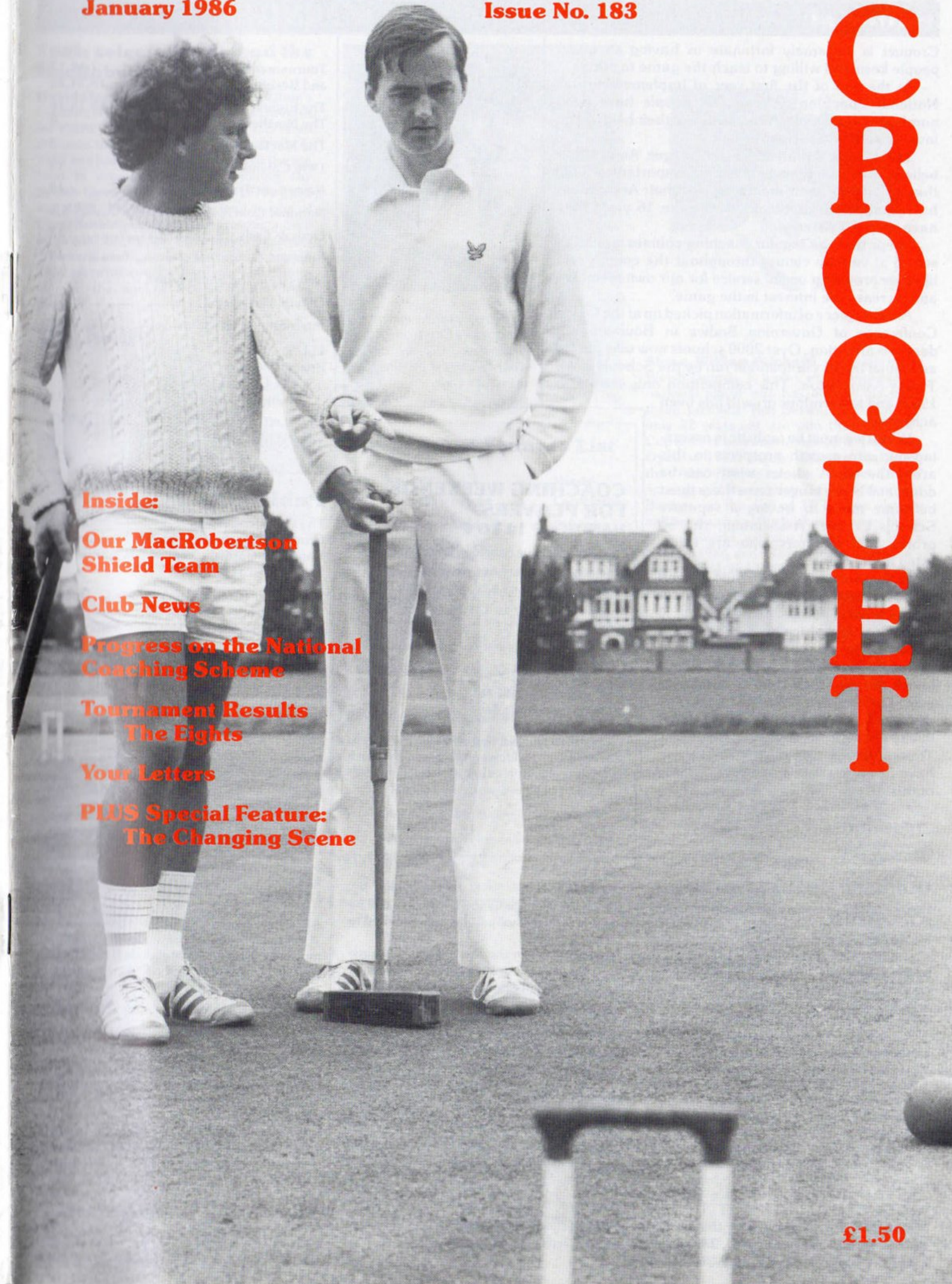
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Modern attitudes - traditional values

January 1986

Issue No. 183



Inside:

**Our MacRobertson
Shield Team**

Club News

**Progress on the National
Coaching Scheme**

**Tournament Results
The Eights**

Your Letters

**PLUS Special Feature:
The Changing Scene**

CROQUET

£1.50

Editorial

Croquet is extremely fortunate in having so many people keen and willing to teach the game to others.

At the end of the first year of implementing our National Coaching Scheme, 68 people have been nominated as official CA coaches, and their help will be invaluable in expanding the game.

The British Amateur Rugby League Association believe that coaching is the most important service they provide for their members, and their Association has expanded dramatically during the 16 years they have been in existence.

I hope that the regular coaching courses we aim to set up at various venues throughout the country will likewise provide a useful service for our own members and increase the interest in the game.

Another piece of information picked up at the CCPR Conference of Governing Bodies in Bournemouth deserves attention. Over 2000 schools now take part in an annual tennis competition run by the Schools Lawn Tennis Association. This competition only started in 1977, and tremendous growth has been achieved.

Whilst we must be realistic in assessing our own growth prospects in this area, the SLTA shows what can be done, and in the longer term there must be some merit in having a separate Schools Croquet Association, run by professional teachers who are interested in the game.

In the shorter term, we could expand schools croquet by organising local school competitions between say 4 schools, geographically close together. These could be one-day events promoted by the local club, or a league or knock-out competition taking place over a period of a few weeks, with the winner of each competition being eligible to compete in our National Schools Tournament. I would be interested to have people's views on the practicality of this.

CHRIS HUDSON

Obituary: GEORGE DIGBY

George passed away on 12th October 1985 after a long illness, patiently borne. He will be sadly missed by all his friends in the Croquet world. Our deepest sympathies are extended to his wife Ettie and son Peter.

George played football for Colchester Town as an amateur in the then Spartan League before the advent of professional football in the town. Later, partnered by his equally enthusiastic wife Ettie, they became one of the strongest partnerships in Lawn Tennis Doubles in the Colchester area. Their club was the Lexden Hill Tennis Club which, at that time, occupied as tenants part of the Colchester Croquet Club.

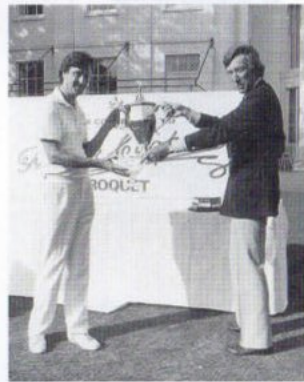
George attained much eminence as a Bridge player, captaining the Essex County team and achieving some success in major competitions. On taking up croquet, he soon became an A Class player and accompanied by Ettie, he took part for a number of years in Open Tournaments at all of the leading clubs throughout the county.

His services to the Colchester Croquet Club were many. He served throughout his membership as Honorary Auditor and later, as a Committee member; his wise opinions were invaluable.

For the past several years George was Tournament Secretary for all Open Tournaments promoted by the Club. His precision in all that he undertook was absolute.

E.P.D.

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



Nigel Aspinall receiving the President's Cup from Simon Anderson, MD of Frank Cooper who sponsored the event this year.

COACHING WEEKENDS FOR PLAYERS HANDICAP 14 TO 6

Receive intensive coaching for one weekend!
One coach to every two players!
Only 12 places on each course.
Course Fee: £10 to CA members. £15 to non-members.

Venues:

Southport: 12/13 April
Cheltenham: 10/11 May
10am to 6pm each day.

Please WRITE now (but send no money) to Chris Hudson (address on Page 4) if you wish to book a place on either of these courses.

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Publication Details

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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, Barry Keen, Andrew Collin, Deborah Latham, Yorkshire Post, John McCullough, Leicester Mercury, Mike Coley, and the Eastbourne Herald.

Front Cover:

Phil Cordingley and Keith Aiton in earnest discussion during the Chairman's Salver at Compton.

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1986 International Test Series

Team selected to defend the MacRobertson Shield

David Openshaw (right) is Great Britain's Captain. Aged 38, he is Operations Director for Volvo Cars. He captained the GB team that won the last Test Series in Australia in 1982 and has had many successes at the top level in croquet, including winning the British Open Championship in 1979, 1981 and 1985. Mark Avery (below) is one of Great Britain's most exciting prospects. Still aged only 20, he has been playing croquet for several years, coming into prominence in 1982 when he won the Northern Championship at the age of 16. He comes from Ipswich.

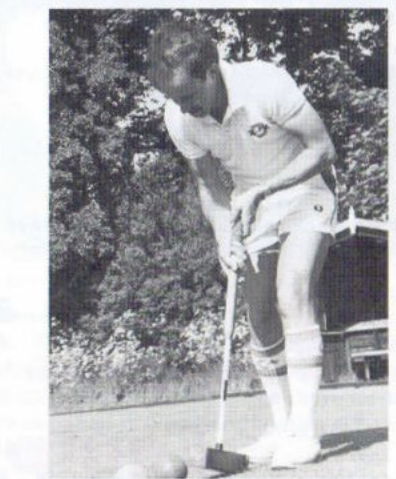


Above, Nigel Aspinall, without doubt the most consistent player in the world since he first won the British Open in 1969. Still only 39, he has already won the British Open 8 times, the National Men's title twice, and the President's Cup 11 times. He is a computer programmer and lives in Walton-on-Thames.

Right Colin Irwin, an Irish International who reached the top flight after playing croquet for 6 years. Aged 31, a technical representative with a chemical company, he lives in Sale, Cheshire, and is a most consistent player under pressure.



Above, William Prichard, a Captain in the Welsh Guards, is a very experienced International player who has already played in three previous Test Series, although still only 32 years old. He won the President's Cup in 1972 and was runner-up in the British Open in 1985. Below, Steven Mulliner, the 'Alex Higgins of the Croquet Lawns' according to the Sunday Times. A Merchant Banker, at the age of 31 he has already achieved some of the highest honours in the croquet world, winning the National Men's Title in 1984 and 1985 and the President's Cup in 1981 and 1983.



Reserves: Above (left) Andrew Hope, 39, a farmer from Little Witcombe in Gloucestershire. The seasonal nature of his work restricts the time he can devote to croquet, but he is an experienced International player. In his first appearance in the President's Cup in 1975, he was runner-up, and he has appeared regularly ever since. (Right) John McCullough, a 35-year-old teacher from Bristol. He is an Irish International player and has played in the President's Cup every year since 1982. He was Northern Champion in 1984 and won the British Open Doubles Title with Phil Cordingley in 1983.

International Fixtures List

June	Fixture	Venue
2-3	Australia v Ireland	Carrickmines
5-6	Australia v Scotland	Glasgow
7-8	New Zealand v England	Southport
8	Welcoming Function	Bowdon
10-12	Australia v New Zealand	Bowdon
14	Australia v W. Midlands	Edgbaston
14-16	Great Britain v New Zealand	Cheltenham
18	New Zealand v London Clubs	Roehampton
18-20	Great Britain v Australia	Budleigh
23-25	New Zealand v Australia	Hurlingham
27-29	Great Britain v New Zealand	Parkstone
July		
1-3	Great Britain v Australia	Compton
5-7	Australia v New Zealand	Southwick
10-12	Great Britain v New Zealand	Hunstanton
14-16	Britain v Australia	Colchester
18	MacRobertson Shield Dinner	Hurlingham



Contacts

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Eastern Region

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Greater London & SE Region

Jim Atkinson, The Sports Council, Jubilee Stand, Crystal Palace National Sports Centre, Ledington Road, London SE17. Tel: 01-778 8600

Southern Region

Mike Halpin, The Sports Council, Watlington House, Watlington Street, Reading RG1 4RJ. Tel: 0734 595 616

South Western Region

George Reynolds, The Sports Council, Ashlands House, Ashlands, Crewkerne, Somerset TA18 7LQ. Tel: 0460 73491

The National Coaching Federation

Sue Campbell, Director, The National Coaching Foundation, 4 College Close, Becketts Park, Leeds LS6 3QH. Tel: 0532 744802

Review of Progress in 1985

Some of your Club Coaches will be sporting brand new blue badges in 1986. To be exact, 68 people have been appointed as Official CA Coaches, having successfully completed the Grade I (Coaching Beginners) Programme, and they are listed on page 6. This Scheme forms part of the CA Forward Plan for developing our sport and has received the full backing of both the Sports Council and the National Coaching Foundation.

Last January, Chris Hudson, CA Development Officer, called a meeting of people who had volunteered to become Regional Coaching Officers (RCOs) for their Region. This meeting agreed that Seminars on Coaching, each lasting 2 to 2½ hours, should be arranged in each Region so that existing Coaches and those wanting to start coaching beginners could share their ideas and experience and be introduced to new coaching material.



Croquet at Wells Priory. On the left, Frances Ransom, Bristol's Tournament Secretary and CA Coach. Front Row (1st left) Edward Duckworth (aged 13) of Bristol and (2nd left) Myrtle Johnson, Wells Priory's Chairman

Those wishing to be appointed as official coaches were asked to keep a log of their coaching sessions and, in most cases, they were visited during coaching and their logs were discussed.

It is realised that not every one wishes to be part of an 'official scheme' and it is certainly not the intention of the National Coaching Committee to stop anyone who tries to help other players because they have not been 'appointed'. Rather it is an attempt to encourage the cross-fertilisation of ideas about how to coach, to offer pointers to those who wish to start coaching and to give some recognition to those who actively and beneficially teach others the laws, skills, and tactics of Croquet.

At a further meeting in November, the National Coaching Committee approved the formal syllabus for the Grade I Programme and agreed a syllabus for the Grade II Programme that will be inaugurated in 1986.

Do you wish to become a Grade I or Grade II Coach?

If you do, then read the relevant syllabus below to check the requirements for qualification under the Scheme and write to Chris Hudson (address on Page 4) before 1st February giving your name, address, telephone number, club and handicap, indicating which of the two Programmes you

would like to participate in this year.

Note that you do not need to be a Grade I coach in order to take part in the Grade II Programme and that you can participate in either Programme even if you do not yet have the relevant qualifications - for example, if your handicap is just above the limit or you are not yet a Referee - but of course you will not be appointed until you have completed the Programme and you have received the necessary qualifications. In the Grade II Programme, priority will be given to those who already have all the qualifications needed.

Anyone who attended a 1985 Seminar as part of the Grade I Programme and now wishes to be appointed as a Grade I Coach need not attend another Seminar, but should write, during the Spring, to their RCO, giving details of locations, dates and times where they will be coaching, so that arrangements for a visit can be made. They will, of course, have to keep a log of their beginners' coaching this year.

Grade I Syllabus

A. Scope of Grade I Coaching - to teach absolute beginners and high handicappers (down to about handicap 14) the basic laws of the game, the basic strokes and the 'star' 4-ball break (pivot ball remaining by the peg).

B. Content of Grade I Coaching - the list of things the Grade I Coach should be able and prepared to teach ranges from Grip, Stance, Swing, through Concept of Ratio and various straight croquet strokes to the Standard Opening, Rules of Handicap Play, and the 'star' 4-ball break.

C. Qualifications required to become a Grade I Coach - Aspiring Coaches should be:

1. Of Handicap 14 or below.
2. A member of the Croquet Association.
3. Prepared to coach at least one group of beginners a year.

Grade I coaches will not be required to coach outside their own clubs but it is hoped that many will be prepared to travel to new clubs in their locality to help the national development of the game.

D. Procedure for appointing Grade I Coaches

Each aspirant must attend one of the Grade I Coaching Seminars arranged by RCOs in the Spring.

A standard charge of £3 (1986) will be made to each person who attends the Seminar to cover the cost of Seminar materials, badges and expenses incurred by the RCOs. It is hoped that many clubs, who will reap the benefit of having more Coaches, will consider reimbursing their members for attending.

For their first beginners course following the Seminar, aspiring Coaches will be expected to keep a log of their lessons. The RCO or another qualified Coach acting on their behalf will visit the potential Coach during one lesson. At the end of the course the log is shown or sent to the RCO, who will discuss it with the potential Coach.

At the end of the season, or when they have completed their coaching for the season, all Grade I Coaches (whether previously appointed or awaiting appointment) will complete a brief Grade I

National Coaching Scheme

Coaching pro-forma.

Grade I Coaching badges will be awarded following completion of the above, except where:

1. The coach is seen to be unable to adequately demonstrate basic techniques (for example, a 4-ball break or a roll-stroke)
2. The manner and personality of the Coach obviously deters some beginners from continuing to play the game.

E. Procedure for Review of Annual Re-appointments

The keeping of a log is not mandatory in ensuing years, although it is hoped that new Coaches will recognise the usefulness of this exercise and that many will want to keep a personal record of their coaching experiences, achievements, and ideas.

A list of Coaches appointed under the Scheme will be kept and published in 'Croquet' (on appointment) and in the CA Directory. A Coach may be removed from the list in future if:

1. The coach ceases to coach beginners regularly.
2. No annual coaching reports are received.
3. Information from the Coaching Reports or visits to the coaching sessions etc suggest that the coach is no longer having the effect of helping and encouraging beginners to take up or continue with the game.



Chris Hudson coaching at Leicester

Grade II Syllabus

A. Scope of Grade II Coaching - to help players between handicaps of approximately 14 and 6 to improve their mastery of strokes and the laws and tactics of handicap play.

B. Content of Grade II Coaching - the list of things that the Grade II Coach should be able and prepared to teach ranges from refining the 4-ball break (mobile pivot and alternative placing of pioneers) through 2 and 3 ball breaks and tactics of 3 ball endings to single peels, jump shots and basic cannons.

C. Qualifications required to become a Grade II Coach - Aspiring Coaches should be:

1. Referees
2. Of Handicap 6 or below
3. Members of the Croquet Association
4. Prepared to coach outside their own Clubs

D. Procedure for appointing Grade II Coaches - Each aspirant must attend one of the Grade II Weekend Courses arranged each year by the National Coaching Committee.

A standard charge of £3 (1986) will be made to each aspirant Coach who attends -

(Continued on page 6)

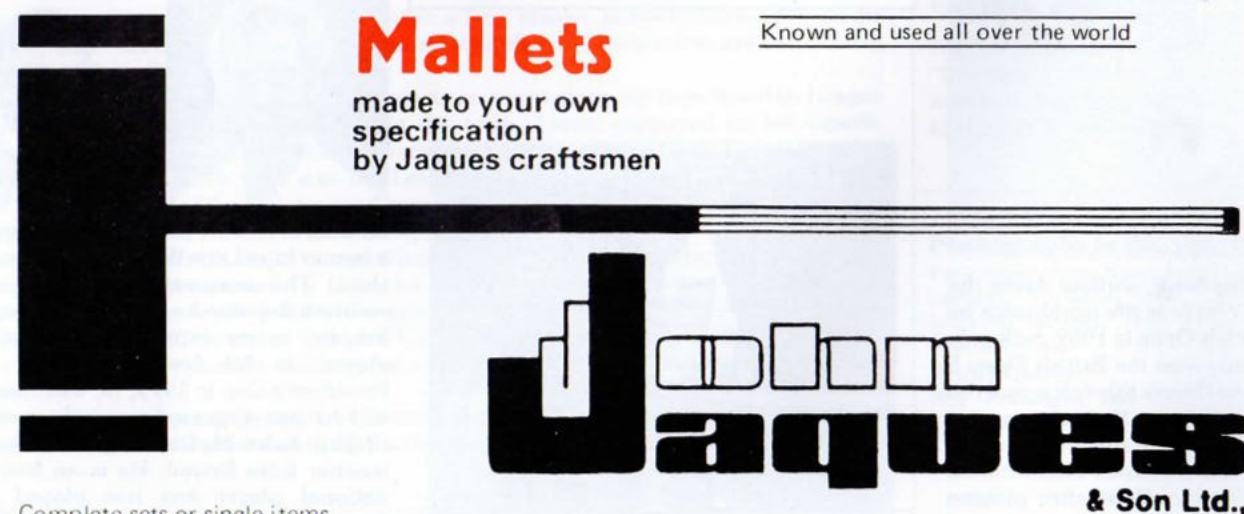
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National Coaching Scheme

LIST OF CA COACHES

The following have qualified as Grade I CA Coaches during 1985:

Major T. Vale	- Southwick
Dr D. Higgs	- Reigate Priory
T.W. Anderson	- Colworth
Mrs J. Anderson	- Colworth
G.K. Collin	- West Park
H. Green	- West Park
D. Gaunt	- Ipswich
M. French	- Ipswich
R. Sutherland	- Ipswich
A. Kirby	- Thomas Cook
Mrs J. Neville-Rolfe	- Hunstanton
P. Hetherington	- Colchester
D. Purdon	- Colchester
J. Hobbs	- Newport (Essex)
E. Bell	- Bowdon
C. Hudson	- Bowdon
B.A. Keen	- Bowdon
W.E. Lamb	- East Riding
A. Collin	- Chester
A.C. Mason	- Chester
Mrs P. Hague	- Ellesmere
A. Sutcliffe	- Ellesmere
Mrs B. Sutcliffe	- Ellesmere
A. Bennet	- Southport
Dr T.J. Haste	- Southport
P. Stoker	- Southport
D. Williamson	- Southport
K.E. Jones	- Edgbaston
P.J. Dorke	- Ludlow
Mrs M. Langley	- Bath
R. Race	- Bath
N. Gooch	- Bear of Rodborough
Dr D. Guban	- Bristol
Mrs R. Guban	- Bristol
J.R. McCullough	- Bristol
Mrs F. Ransom	- Bristol
R. Ransom	- Bristol
H.J. Crozier	- Budleigh Salterton
P. Danks	- Budleigh Salterton
Mrs E. Pursey	- Budleigh Salterton
P. Tunmer	- Budleigh Salterton
Mrs G.D. Harris	- Cheltenham
A.B. Hope	- Cheltenham
F.I. Maughan	- Cheltenham
Miss I. Roe	- Cheltenham
Dr G. Taylor	- Cheltenham
Mrs B.G.F. Weitz	- Cheltenham
P. Dyke	- Nailsea
J. Jeffrey	- Nailsea
K. Cotterell	- Harwell
Mrs M. Cotterell	- Harwell
M.J. Moreton-Smith	- Harwell
R.F.A. Crane	- Phyllis Court
D.J. Croker	- Phyllis Court
W Cdr J.D.S. McElwain	- Phyllis Court
R.F. Rothwell	- Reading
Mrs I. Dwerryhouse	- Sidmouth
P. Dwerryhouse	- Sidmouth
Miss M. Hardman	- Sidmouth
J. Hatherley	- Sidmouth
J.P. Dawson	- Woking
I.G. McDiarmid	- Woking
Mrs I.G. McDiarmid	- Woking
A.J. Mrozinski	- Woking
Mrs L.A. Showan	- Parsons Green
M.J. Coward	- Parsons Green
Mrs B. Mansfield	- Roehampton
Mrs E.E. Bressey	- Roehampton

The National Coaching Scheme

(Continued from page 5)

See Section D in the Grade I Syllabus.

The Course will start with a Friday evening Seminar from approximately 8-10pm, with a discussion of coaching materials, techniques and the programme for the weekend. It is hoped that 6 aspiring Coaches will attend to coach 12 paying players from 10am to 6pm on the Saturday and Sunday, there being 2 coaches and 4 players per lawn. Before and after each morning and afternoon session there will be a coaches meeting to review work done and their plans for the next session. Grade II Coaching Badges (Green) will be awarded at the end of the course on a similar basis to D above (Grade I syllabus).

E. Review Procedure - not yet formalised but likely to be along the same lines as that for the Grade I Programme. Annual Grade II pro-formas must be completed by the end of each season.

Details of Seminars (Grade I) and Weekend Courses (Grade II) will be published in full in the March issue of 'Croquet'. Grade I Seminars will be arranged, probably during April, at locations which match the geographical nature of applications.

Two Grade II Weekends have been arranged, both with room for 6 aspiring coaches.

11/12/13 April: Southport. To be run by Paul Stoker

9/10/11 May: Cheltenham. To be run by John McCullough

Further courses may be arranged, if necessary, to satisfy demand.

JOHN McCULLOUGH



David Croker - one of 68 CA Coaches appointed during 1985.

AMPNEY PARK CROQUET WEEKENDS

Avid readers may have noticed that the advertisement for Croquet at Ampney Park differs from the advertisement in the previous issue.

The fact is that something like a dozen people asked for more details following the first advertisement, which unfortunately did not make it clear that the accommodation at Ampney Park is all double-roomed.

As those who enquired were mostly single, this raised a difficulty, but we hope that no-one has been inconvenienced, and that those who may have been disappointed will join one of the other coaching weekends that we are aiming to organise during 1986.

Request for Information

Montague Spencer Ell

To the Editor:

Dear Sir,
I am in the process of tracing my family tree and during my research I came across references to a Montague Spencer Ell, who was born about 1892. He was badly injured during the first World War, losing both arms. A relative sent me the enclosed newspaper cutting (see below), which unfortunately is undated, but apart from knowing he was a chartered accountant I have learnt very little about him.

He must have been quite a remarkable man to win a competition handicapped in such a way. I would be most grateful if any of your readers could let me have any information about him.

Mrs Lynn Wilman
17 Oak Avenue, Bare, Morecambe, Lancs LA4 6HS.

ARMLESS MAN TRIUMPHS

Faultless win in croquet match

An armless player, Mr M Spencer Ell, performed one of the most wonderful feats ever seen on a croquet lawn yesterday when he won the Luard Challenge Cup at Roehampton.

He did not lose one point in the final against Mr H. T. P. Simpson. Mr Ell lost both arms in the war.

Nothing remains of the left arm, but there is a stump to the right and to this the mallet is screwed. Mr Spencer Ell plays a sound all-round game and is particularly clever in getting his ball through the hoop. His handicap is 3 1/2 bisques.

He played so cleverly yesterday that his opponent was allowed only four difficult shots and failed to 'take croquet'. He was, indeed, a spectator for practically the whole of the game.

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SL5 9JH
Telephone
Ascot (0990) 23311
Telex
847707 BERYST G

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.



Trusthouse Forte Hotels

For further details please contact us at the above address.

Hurlingham: 3-10 August

The Hurlingham lawns were beautifully manicured as always, mown every morning, they were a joy to play on. The continuous rain ensured the lawns were green and luscious, quite unlike the parched dry conditions normally expected during August. Though the rain hardly ever stopped the tournament was still good fun and ran smoothly under Jan MacLeod's and Keith Aiton's efficient management.

Entries for the tournament were again full, it was splendid to see the growing numbers of new and young faces competing. Dear Kitty Godfrey graced us with her presence this year and partnered with Veronica Carlisle in the Ladies candlesticks.

A smattering of triple peels and attempted sextuples provided excitement for the spectators. There were several memorable games, one being Peterson's half pint handicapped doubles.

The final of the Open Mixed Doubles between Aiton, MacLeod and V & J Carlisle was also a tremendous game. A ten yard peg out by Aiton playing yellow failed, leaving both red and yellow balls side by side and only a few inches from the peg. The opponents' balls were wired from each other by hoops one and four and also from the red ball by the peg.



David Peterson - half pint doubles specialist!

After much deliberation Aiton pegged out his own ball - there was I believe an ulterior motive - so giving the opponents a wired lift. Rule 15(d) do I hear ... yes, perhaps it might have made a difference, (yellow pegs out but in doing so ricochets off the peg into red thus exposing it, to avoid giving a lift). Anyway, J Carlisle took the lift and hit the short shot. The cat and mouse game that ensued was nail biting. MacLeod had about half a dozen more shots but did not hit in, and only missed by a hair's breadth on several occasions. History relates the rest.

Another excellent match was played between Aiton and P. Torrington. Aiton's fifth turn sextuple was proceeding beautifully when with two peels done a third hoop blob let Torrington in who went round to 4-back. Aiton shot, hit, started a now quadruple peel, again completed two peels but ran penult badly making any further roquet impossible. Torrington then with his backward ball went round to the peg in so

doing peeling and pegging out Aiton's forward ball, then laid a wide join in the middle of the West boundary. Aiton with his ball for penult hit the lift and went out, being only the tenth turn of the game. Exhibition stuff I'd say. In all, a very memorable tournament.

TOM COLES

Unfortunately, no results for the Hurlingham Tournament have yet been received

Roehampton: 17-18 August

Well seeded lawns and draw produced a boring final by noon on Sunday, despite the manager/victor's laudable success in arranging firm and tight hoops. Mulliner and Solomon had conceded 24 and 9 hoops respectively in the four games taking them to the final, each doing one triple. Mulliner won the first game in the final with a 7th turn triple (rejecting a perfect opportunity for a three ball TP by digging the fourth ball out after the fourth hoop). Solomon laid for a sextuple in the second game, which became delayed and then defunct. Mulliner soon won with another triple, winning the Rowlock for the first time and depriving Solomon of his fourth win in six years.

The Swiss was much more fun: seven rounds in two days for everyone, finishing with two mega-bodge games (Prichard beat Lamb +1, MacLeod beat Hilditch +3) at seven o'clock. Of the four selectees for the imminent Chairman's/S. Ell, three lost in the first round (Cordingley, Hilditch, Prichard); while Guest kept losing to members of Hurlingham (Pearson, Coles) to end up in the bottom half. The Swiss was won by Smith - exactly how is difficult to describe because the many rounds meant a) that the writer was playing most of the time and b) that the Swiss became a Byzantine. As the tournament clashed with both Nottingham and Bowdon, while the South Coast clubs are now sadly lacking in travellers, it was effectively a Championship of London, and a capital couple of days.

R.D.C. PRICHARD

RESULTS:

The Rowlock Challenge Trophy
(Advanced Play)

1st Round:

S.N. Mulliner bt M. Ormerod +17(TP); J.E. Guest bt Miss J. MacLeod +23; J.D. Greenwood bt R.D.C. Prichard +7; C.S. Lamb bt P. Cordingley +3; P.L. Smith bt J.R. Hilditch +15; A.J. Mrozinski bt J.C. Straw +10; M.G. Pearson bt I.P.M. Macdonald +1(T); E.W. Solomon bt W.T. Coles +19

2nd Round:

Mulliner bt Guest +12; Greenwood bt Lamb +9; Smith bt Mrozinski +4; Solomon bt Pearson +26(TP)

Semi-Finals:

Mulliner bt Greenwood +26, +25; Solomon bt Smith +24, +24

Final:

Mulliner bt Solomon +26(TP), +7(TP)

Swiss: (Advanced Play)

6 wins: Smith

5 wins: Cordingley

4 wins: Hilditch, Coles, Prichard, Mrozinski, Miss MacLeod

3 wins: Greenwood, Lamb, Guest, Ormerod

2 wins: Pearson

1 win: Straw, Macdonald

Croquet in London

Hints for Beginners

No. 5. The Leave.

A long chapter might suitably be written on 'How to leave the Balls' at the close of a successful turn, but a short hint or two may be well worth remembering.

(1) It is better to leave your own two balls together near a boundary than at your next hoop, so that the opponent's ball, if he shoots at you and misses, may be used to advantage with the first roquet of your next turn.

(2) It is better to leave your opponent's balls separated within or nearly within the hoop area than to dismiss them to remote boundaries; their positions, of course, should be determined with a view to your next break.

(3) If you are Blue and Black avoid leaving Red near Yellow's hoop or Yellow near Red's hoop. If your opponent's balls are for different hoops it is generally wiser to send each ball to its own hoop - a simple tip, and one often worth remembering. Avoid leaving your opponent a 'sitting' break in the event of his hitting in.

From: 'Twelve Hints for Beginners' by R.L.J. (See list of publications on page 17)

Hurlingham: 24-26 August

RESULTS

(Swiss Handicap Singles)

5 wins: N. Gale (5 1/2)

4 wins: C.B. Sanford (4 1/2), J. Straw (4), J. Guest (1 1/2)

3 wins: T. Coles (2 1/2), A. Palmer (1), Rev N. Browne (5 1/2), G. Doughty (3 1/2), J. Greenwood (1 1/2), D. Cross (4 1/2), M. Haggerston (6)

2 wins: J. de M. Jeffrey (7), W. Denison (2), Mrs E. Bressey (5), R. Hall (9), Dr R. Clayton (7), Mrs P. MacDonald (5 1/2), B. Whitehouse (3), M. Stevens (1/2)

1 win: Mrs P. Healy (7 1/2), T. Browne (6), Mrs S. Davies (8), P. MacDonald (3)



A relaxed Bevis Sanford

Tournament Reports and Results

Cheltenham: 5-8 September

Cheltenham B Level - the ideal tournament? It would seem so, especially for non-playing wives. One game in the morning, one after lunch, and then, except for the occasional laggard, hubby home in good time for dinner!

Not merely that: the Swiss format is admirably suited to a level play tournament in which the handicap spread, as at Cheltenham, ranged from 2 to 7. Every player found his own level as the tournament progressed and nobody went home without the satisfaction of at least one win.

A bookmaker might perhaps have made

Northern Championships

Bowdon: 17-26 August

Croquet is the work of the Cursing Classes?

Arriving at Bowdon for the longest event in the Calendar, regular visitors noticed innovations this year. Lawn 3 had grass on it, the clubhouse was even more improved inside and Barry Keen was back at the manager's table but without his computer. Eddie Bell was unable to compete because of recent illness, but he did appear from time to time to nod with approval at the work of his hoop-setting disciple, Bill Aldridge. Ian Maugham had to bow out halfway through when he fell off lawn 3 and cracked a bone in his knee. After this, Pat Hague had less cause to complain about the standard of language on the lawns, although we did find out what a vicar says when he clangs a hoop.

The standard of entry was higher than ever, and it is worthy of note that even the rapidly improving high- and middle-bisquers, who would have sliced their way easily through a normal handicap event, had their work cut out against established players who play to, or better than, their handicaps. Locals David Watkins, Roy Edwards and David Maugham all looked menacing with their bisques, of which they now have fewer, while 14-year old Chris Clarke ('Bennet's Bandit') from Queen Elizabeth's, Blackburn, earned handicap reductions before, during and after play.

This led to some interesting pairings in the handicap doubles. Gunasekera and Clarke might have proved a powerful combination if Chris had not started advising Dayal on tactics. Another really strong pair was Hyne and Watkins, the eventual winners, who fortunately did not take long over their games: both were in constant demand by the manager and most events had no time limit.

There was, however, a time limit of five hours (!) on the open doubles, which was necessary in one game. I won't name the culprits, but one was wearing red gloves.

The manager had a knack of putting the best entertainment on lawn 1. On Tuesday Paul Stoker was in a close finish against Nick Hyne. Paul ran rover in order accidentally on a croquet stroke, hit Nick's yellow in the fourth corner, pegged it out from there on a split shot and laid up. Nick ran rover from the North boundary cleanly to land up next to black and blue!

the 2's odds-on favourites. In the event it was an Oxford University player, with seemingly only an outside chance, who romped home clear of the field, winning every one of his eight games. M.R. Wormald was indeed a most deserving winner, not least because of his modest, self-effacing manner. He had started the season at handicap 8, was cut 3 points after the Varsity match, and has now been dealt instant justice with a further cut to 4. Well done indeed.

Three competitors came joint second with 6 wins each: A.F. Sutcliffe (2½, Ellesmere), R.A. Welch (4, Edgbaston) and Cheltenham's promising lady player Mrs C. Smith (3).

Roy Edwards and Mike Sandler, both of whom played well throughout, had a good finish. Mike was for peg and peg but failed to peg out when Roy had 2½ bisques left, being for 2 and 6. Roy had a break to the peg but had an unfortunate accident with the other ball when he got to 1-back.

The gallery was delighted by the Reed Cup game between Keen and Walters. John failed a triple peel and twice managed the four-balls-round-rover leave. Later on he pegged out two balls when for rover versus five. After some cat-and-mouse play, Barry got round to penult despite some fierce opposition from the double-bankers who wandered repeatedly across his line of aim whenever he was about to take a long shot.

Wednesday was triple-peel day. David Peterson had already done one in a handicap game and there were more to come, but within a short space of time John Walters did a losing TPO and Keith Aiton and Dayal Gunasekera both did straight triples. Keith had in fact done a special sort of triple the previous day, recorded as ' + 26TPD' (D for Denzell).

Denzell Gardens was the site of the fifth lawn to which most players were banished at some stage. One day Bill Aldridge had spent seven hours there by 5.40 pm only to be sent back there, clocking up ten hours, and to find himself back there the following day. To be fair, though, the lawn is neither as bumpy as last year nor as appallingly slow as it was when we first used it a few years ago. Bill's record was challenged by Colin Wild and Angus Peterson, who one day returned at 3.20 pm having been sent out at 9.30 for a game whose time limit had to be re-imposed by an intrepid exploratory sub-manager when everybody began to wonder if the natives had got them.

There was much hilarity on lawn 1 when the triple-banked golf croquet was started on the Tuesday evening, preceded by a ceremonious reading of the Laws. Last year's winner was knocked out in the first round by the real Mrs Hague, who reached the final, but the best game was the first-round meeting between Gunasekera and Clarke, who contested the first hoop for more than twenty minutes until Dayal caused Chris's ball to run it with a cut-rush-cannon-jump-peel.

Still on the theme of spectacle, there were Mark Suter's red 'Ripper' gloves, the familiar Kolboid hats, and some shots in otherwise unremarkable games. Mark Suter, aiming to make a mess of a straight

Two other of the 12 ladies in the tournament did well with 5 wins: Mrs J. Neville-Rolle (3½, Hunstanton) and Mrs F.A. Newman (3, Woking).

Of the men, it was good to see veteran J. McLaren (3, a Cheltenham country member from Kettering!) coming back into form with 5 wins, a total also achieved by M.J. Finn (6, Cheltenham) J. Coutts (2, Cheltenham) R.J. Smith (3½, Woking) C.L. Greenbury (5½, Phyllis Court), and, not to be outdone by his wife, F.H. Newman (3, Woking).

BILL BAWDEN.



David Openshaw: North of England Champion for the third time.

triple peel, managed it earlier than intended by stuffing his pilot ball into the hoop at 3-back and then jumping over the hoop rather than through it. John Meads managed a neat half-jump pegout at Denzell and also a splendid shot which went three feet in the air over a hoop, bounced once and made the intended roquet.

And so to the results of the week: Chris Hudson played well and won the B-class, adopting his invariable tactic of going to the peg at the first opportunity and waiting for the opponent to make a mistake. Would this work in the top-class event at the weekend? We would shortly find out. Two local danger men, Roy Edwards and David Watkins, won the C and D-class respectively and should be a class better next season. But it was the handicap events and the A-class which showed the best croquet.

The A-class provided excellent games on lawn 1. We wondered why Keith Aiton clangd 3-back against Tim Harrison, and we found out a few turns later when he did a quadruple peel, including a superb split to peel 4-back on the way to 6 and a rover peel which never touched the sides. In the other half, Bill Aldridge earned a silver medal by beating John Walters despite disturbance from a red-gloved double-banker while the pegout was being lined up.

So Bill played Keith in the final. Bill went to 4-back in the fifth turn, Keith missed the lift and Bill skilfully picked up and completed a triple peel under nice control.

In the semi-finals of the X Roy Edwards easily beat the disabled Ian Maugham, and

Chris Clarke played Nick Hyne. Losses to David Maugham in the D-class and to Don Gaunt, who had punished his kamikaze tactics in the Reed Cup, had taught Chris to treat opponents with respect. Nick hit and went to penultimate in the third turn. The Bandid was unflustered and used most of his bisques sensibly, finishing with one left. In the final he beat Roy comfortably, a real credit to his teacher, who has NOTHING WHATSOEVER to do with his liking for dangerous shots.

Barry, assisted at the manager's table by Audrey Croker, had finished despite the blockers, and was prepared for the invasion of the big guns for Event 1. There were surprises: Keen beat Irwin, Martin Granger-Brown beat Hilditch, Mike Sandler beat Tim Harrison, and Jan MacLeod beat Steve Lewis. Steve was in such a state that he forgot his last lift which would have easily given him the innings. In the other half, Steve beat Keith Aiton who had tripled him out. Both TPOs in the Northern lost the game, just after the publication of Keith's letter on the subject. The best win in the first round was by David Foulser, who had been for the first hoop with both balls when Bill Aldridge pegged out one.

Chris Hudson's tactics worked against Andrew Bennet, who made mistakes, but not against David Openshaw, who didn't. Later David showed his winning temperament by beating Mark Avery by 1 from behind, his shots becoming typically more accurate as the pressure increased.

John McCullough, having been knocked out of the Draw by Steve Lewis after trying his famous wrong-ball ploy, won the Process final against Openshaw, so the two had to play again for the gallery. David hit the tice and went to 4-back. John missed the lift, and it looked as if the result would be 26TP until David found an unusual method for the four-balls-round-rover leave, wiring himself from the unused ball in the peeling stroke, not having made rover himself. He tried to roquet through the hoop, but caught too much wire. John went to 4-back at his usual speed. Some very cagey play followed, with David gaining the innings after John missed a roquet and pegging out six turns later.

Thanks are due to Bill Aldridge for his early-morning work on the hoops and lawns, to Margaret Aldridge and her mother for the catering, to the various club members who put in the work behind the scenes and, of course, to Barry Keen for managing the longest - and the toughest - tournament of the year.

ANDREW BENNET

RESULTS

Championship of the North of England

DRAW

1st Round:

D.K. Openshaw bt C.J. Irwin +5; D. Foulser bt D. Gaunt +17; M. Granger-Brown bt A.J. Collin +17; Miss J. MacLeod bt S.E. Lewis +16; A. Bennet bt S. Kos +16; M. Avery bt P. Cordingley +4; B.A. Keen bt J.D. Meads +22; D. Croker bt N.G. Hyne +20; D. Peterson bt Mrs P. Hague +23(TP); W.O. Aldridge bt M. Ormerod +8; J.R. Hilditch bt P. Stoker +24; J.R. McCullough bt C. Southern +24; M. Kolbuszewski bt C. Hudson +17; J. Walters bt K.M.H. Aiton +25; M.H. Sandler bt C. Lamb +8; T. Harrison bt M.J. Wilkins +12

2nd Round:

Openshaw bt Foulser +22; Granger-Brown bt Miss MacLeod +13; Avery bt Bennet +24; Croker bt Keen +16; Aldridge bt Peterson +22; McCullough bt Hilditch +13; Walters bt Kolbuszewski +20; Sandler bt Harrison +2

3rd Round:

Openshaw bt Granger-Brown +12; Avery bt Croker +26; McCullough bt Aldridge +13; Walters bt Sandler +13

Semi-Finals:

Openshaw bt Avery +1; McCullough bt Walters +18

Final:

McCullough bt Openshaw +12

PROCESS

1st Round:

Irwin bt Mrs Hague +17; Kolbuszewski bt Kos +24; Granger-Brown bt Hilditch +16; Keen bt Lamb +13; Ormerod bt Gaunt +5; Aiton bt Avery +15; Lewis bt McCullough +5; Harrison bt Hyne +3; Openshaw bt Peterson +14; Hudson bt Bennet +18; Stoker bt Collin +12; Sandler bt Meads +1; Foulser bt Aldridge +1; Walters bt Cordingley +7; Miss MacLeod bt Southern +18; Croker bt Wilkins +13

2nd Round:

Irwin bt Kolbuszewski +24(TP); Keen bt Granger-Brown +9; Aiton bt Ormerod +17; Lewis bt Harrison +19; Openshaw bt Hudson +10; Stoker bt Sandler +10; Walters bt Foulser +17; Croker bt Miss MacLeod +16

3rd Round:

Keen bt Irwin +13; Lewis bt Aiton +10(TP); Openshaw bt Stoker +11; Walters bt Croker +14

Semi-Finals:

Lewis bt Keen +18; Openshaw bt Walters +17

Final:

Openshaw bt Lewis +22

Play-Off:

Openshaw bt McCullough +11

Doubles Championship of the North of England

Semi-Finals:

Aldridge & Lewis bt Gaunt & Haste +6; Keen & Irwin bt Harrison & Granger-Brown +14

Final:

Aldridge & Lewis bt Keen & Irwin +21

Golf Croquet Championship of the North of England

Winner: T. Harris

Runner-Up: Mrs P. Hague

Open Singles (Advanced Play)

DRAW

1st Round:

T. Harrison bt J.R. Mann +3; C. Southern bt M. Granger-Brown +21; D. Gunasekera bt D. Croker +4; D. Peterson bt D. Gaunt +3

2nd Round:

N.G. Hyne bt K. Aiton +17; P. Stoker bt M. Kolbuszewski +2; J. Walters bt A. Bennet +4; Harrison bt Southern +9; Gunasekera bt F.I. Maugham +1; Peterson bt J.D. Meads +13; Mrs M.P. Collin bt P. Hallett +22; W.O. Aldridge bt B.A. Keen +24

3rd Round:

Hyne bt Stoker +9; Walters bt Harrison +4; Peterson bt Gunasekera +13; Aldridge bt Mrs Collin +10

Semi-Finals:

Walters bt Hyne +26(TP); Aldridge bt Peterson +2

Final:

Aldridge bt Walters +17

PROCESS

1st Round:

Aiton bt Meads +26(TP); Kolbuszewski bt Hallett +12; Hyne bt Mrs Collin +2; Stoker bt Aldridge +4

The Northern Championships

2nd Round:

Aiton bt Southern +16(STP); Bennet bt Keen +10; Gunasekera bt Kolbuszewski +15(STP); Harrison bt Peterson +7; Hyne bt Granger-Brown +22; Walters bt Maugham +22; Croker bt Stoker +2; Gaunt bt Mann +11

3rd Round:

Aiton bt Bennet +21; Harrison bt Gunasekera +3; Hyne bt Walters +9(TPO); Croker bt Gaunt +12

Semi-Finals:

Aiton bt Harrison +26(QP); Croker bt Hyne +15

Final:

Aiton bt Croker +19

Play-Off:

Aldridge bt Aiton +26(TP) (and wins a CA Silver Medal)

* TP = Triple Peel

TPO = Triple Peel on Opponent

STP = Straight Triple Peel

QP = Quadruple Peel



Mary Collin making Rover in front of the TV cameras at Bowdon

'B' Class Singles Championship

(Advanced Play)

DRAW

1st Round:

M.H. Sandler bt Mrs P. Hague +13; M.J. Wilkins bt S. Kos +18; C. Hudson bt M. Suter +3

Semi-Finals:

Sandler bt Wilkins +16; Hudson bt Mrs A. Croker +13

PROCESS

1st Round:

Mrs Hague bt Mrs Croker +12; Hudson bt Wilkins +12; Suter bt Sandler +3

Semi-Finals:

Hudson bt Mrs Hague +19; Suter bt Kos +13

Marriage

Semi-Final:

Suter bt Sandler +25

Final:

Hudson bt Suter +17

'C' Class Singles Championship

(All-play-all Level Play)

3 wins: R.R. Edwards

2 wins: Mrs C.E. Irwin

1 win: C. Wild

0 wins: P. Dyke

'D' Class Singles Championship

(Level Play)

DRAW

1st Round:

D. Maugham bt K. McCombe +12; C. Clarke bt Mrs D. Dennett +5; D. Watkins bt Mrs J. Walker +15

Semi-Finals:

Maugham bt Clarke +10; Watkins bt A. Peterson +10

Final: Watkins bt Maugham +6

Club News and Tournament Results

The Northern Championship (Cont'd from Page 9)

PROCESS

1st Round:

Watkins bt McCombe +8; Mrs Dennett bt A. Peterson +5; Maugham bt Mrs J. Walker +6

Semi-Finals:

Watkins bt Mrs Dennett +7; Clarke bt Maugham +12

Final: Watkins bt Clarke +3

Winner: D. Watkins

Play-Off for 2nd Place:

Clarke bt Maugham +11

The Bowdon Handicap

DRAW

1st Round:

B.A. Keen (1/2) bt P.D. Hallett (1) +26; Mrs A. Croker (5/2) bt C. Southern (1/2) +15; S. Kos (4) bt Mrs P. Hague (4) +2; D. Maugham (14) bt M. Kolbuszewski (1 1/2) +5; F.I. Maugham (2) bt Mrs M.P. Collin (1 1/2) +25; T.D. Harrison (1 1/2) bt W.O. Aldridge (1/2) +26

2nd Round:

Mrs C.E. Irwin (6 1/2) bt K. McCombe (14) +12; M.H. Sandler (3 1/2) bt P. Stoker (2 1/2) +23; C. Clarke (13) bt P. Dyke (9) +24; D. Peterson (1/2) bt M.J. Wilkins (4) +3; N.G. Hyne (1) bt J.R. Mann (2) +7; K. Aiton (-1) bt J.D. Meads (1) +22; Keen bt Mrs J. Walker (13) +14; Mrs Croker bt Kos +11; D. Maugham (12) bt F.I. Maugham +4; A. Bennet (1) bt Harrison +5; D. Gaunt (1 1/2) bt M. Granger-Brown (2 1/2) +23; D. Croker (-1/2) bt J. Walters (1/2) +15; D. Watkins (13) bt C. Wild (9) +15; M. Suter (5) bt C. Hudson (3) +26; R.R. Edwards (9) bt D. Gunasekera (-1/2) +24

3rd Round:

Sandler bt Mrs Irwin +14; Clarke bt Peterson +21; Hyne bt Aiton +26; Keen bt Mrs Croker +20; F.I. Maugham bt Bennet +16; Gaunt bt Croker +26; Suter bt Watkins +6; Edwards bt A. Peterson (16) +11

4th Round:

Clarke bt Sandler +5; Hyne bt Keen +16; F.I. Maugham bt Gaunt +24; Edwards bt Suter +18

Semi-Finals:

Clarke bt Hyne +16; Edwards bt F.I. Maugham +6

Final: Clarke bt Edwards +20

Bowdon Handicap 'Y'

Semi-Finals:

Wilkins bt Meads +21; Wild bt Granger-Brown +9

Final: Wild bt Wilkins +10

The Bowdon Doubles

(Minimum Handicap: 5 bisques total)

Semi-Finals:

Hyne & Watkins bt Aldridge & Mrs Taylor-Webb +25; Harrison & Sandler bt Mann & Dyke +6

Final:

Hyne & Watkins bt Harrison & Sandler +4

The Reed Cup

(Handicap Singles)

1st Round:

T. Harrison (1 1/2) bt M. Kolbuszewski (1 1/2) +10; A. Peterson (16) bt C. Wild (9) +2; C. Southern (1/2) bt D. Gunasekera (-1/2) +20; D. Gaunt (1 1/2) bt D. Croker (-1/2) +10; C. Clarke (13) bt M. Suter (5) +21; C.J. Irwin (-1) bt J.D. Meads (1) +10; S. Kos (4) bt F.I. Maugham (2) +24

2nd Round:

Mrs M.P. Collin (1 1/2) bt W.O. Aldridge (1/2) +3; D. Watkins (13) bt A. Bennet (1) +16; K. McCombe (14) bt J.R. Mann (2) +23; M. Granger-Brown (2 1/2) bt P. Hallett (1) +14; D. Peterson (1/2) bt P. Stoker (2 1/2) +20; N.G. Hyne (1) bt M.J. Wilkins (4) +4; D. Maugham (14) bt Harrison +10; Southern bt A. Peterson +11;

COMPTON: 27-28 July RESULTS

Cowhorn Trophy (Advanced Rules)

1st Round

Mrs W.R.D. Wiggins bt A.J. Palmer +14; A.J. Mrozinski bt J.R. Hilditch +2; P. Cordingley bt N.G. Hyne +16(TP); D. Peterson bt K.M.H. Aiton +6; G.W. Noble bt Dr W.R.D. Wiggins +9(TPO); J.O. Walters bt S.J.H. Wright +9; J.E. Guest bt Dr R. Wood +4; R.D.C. Prichard bt M.J. Stevens +18

2nd Round

Mrs Wiggins bt Mrozinski +6; Cordingley bt Peterson +9; Walters bt Noble +13; Guest bt Prichard +11

Semi-Finals

Cordingley bt Mrs Wiggins -13, +14, +14; Guest bt Walters -14, +14, +26(TP)

Final

Cordingley bt Guest +1, +26(TP)

Cowbell Trophy

(Progressive Swiss: Open Singles)

5 wins: J.O. Walters

4 wins: K.M.H. Aiton, R.D.C. Prichard, D. Peterson

3 wins: S.J.H. Wright, G.W. Noble, N.G. Hyne, Mrs W.R.D. Wiggins

2 wins: Dr R. Wood, A.J. Palmer, M.J. Stevens

1 win: J.R. Hilditch, A.J. Mrozinski

0 wins: Dr W.R.D. Wiggins

Colchester: 9-11 August RESULTS

(Swiss Handicap Singles)

7 wins: N. Gale

6 wins: R. Sutherland

5 wins: L. Palmer, P. Williams, D. Palmer, M. French, P. Elliott

4 wins: R.D.C. Prichard, M. Kolbuszewski, J. Williams, H. Green, J. Walters, T. Anderson, T. Harrison

3 wins: R. Hobbs, Mrs J. Anderson, J. Wheeler, P. Bishop, G. Hallett, R. Girling, G. Cuttle

2 wins: Miss C. Pearce, P. Hetherington, Mrs B. Carter, Mrs R. Stanley-Smith, T. Ballard

1 win: V. Carter

0 wins: Mrs D. Hiscott

Tracy Park Croquet Club

The second annual Edwardian Day was held on Sunday 15th September.

Members were joined by visitors from the Bath, Lansdown, and Bear of Rodborough Clubs, all beautifully dressed in Edwardian clothes. Some 39 adults and 3 children assembled in front of Tracy Park House for the start of a Golf Croquet Doubles Competition. Play commenced at 1.00 pm and although the skies were cloudy, it remained



dry.

The ladies, very elegant in their long dresses, encountered the difficulties that ladies of the Edwardian era had experienced, so they adopted the traditional side style. This produced an amusing spectacle and sometimes, amazing results.

Whilst play was in progress the children were enjoying themselves in the grounds, especially with the squirrels.



(Above) The lawns at Tracy Park in front of the Club House.

(Left) Jane Evans, of Bath, on the left in her prize winning outfit. Margaret Anstey of Tracy Park is on the right.

Gaunt bt Clarke +3; Irwin bt Kos +11; B.A. Keen (1/2) bt Mrs D. Dennett (16) +6; J. Walters (1/2) bt Mrs A. Croker (5 1/2) +20; R.R. Edwards (9) bt C. Hudson (3) +9; Mrs P. Hague (4) bt Mrs J. Walker (13) +10; M.H. Sandler (3 1/2) bt P. Dyke (9) +14; K. Aiton (-1) bt Mrs C.E. Irwin (6 1/2) +22

3rd Round:

Watkins bt Mrs Collin +23; McCombe bt Granger-Brown +6; Hyne bt D. Peterson +16; Southern bt D. Maugham +11; Gaunt bt Irwin +26; Walters bt Keen +3; Edwards bt Mrs Hague +8; Sandler bt Aiton +19

4th Round:

Watkins bt McCombe +8; Hyne bt Southern +26; Walters bt Gaunt +13; Sandler bt Edwards +8

Semi-Finals:

Hyne bt Watkins +2; Walters bt Sandler +4

Final: Hyne bt Walters +22

An excellent buffet tea was taken in the restaurant at 4.00 pm and was very welcome because the weather had become quite chilly. However, people turned out to watch the finals being played, the eventual winners being Pete Garrard (Bath and Tracy Park) and Jim Butler (Tracy Park).

The presentations were made in the comfort of the lounge.

Jane Evans (Bath) won the prize for the best dressed person and chocolates were awarded to the children, who by their efforts, had made this a family occasion.

The day ended with a prize draw and 20 happy winners.

JOHN EASTMAN

The Changing Scene – by Jim Townsend

In two previous articles I described post-war changes in customs of the game, changes mainly of a peripheral nature such as shaking hands after a game. In this, my third and last contribution, I have moved away from changing customs, but deal with a much more radical feature, the post-war revolution in the structure of the Calendar Fixtures List.

When I started playing croquet nearly forty years ago week-end tournaments were unheard of, other possibly than unofficial tournaments partaking more of weekend parties than serious games; and yet today we find that the CA Fixtures Book includes some 40 week-end tournaments. How has this come about? It is interesting and indeed important to try and account for this. If I were asked for the reason in one word, I would say sociological.

In the years following the end of the 1939-1945 War the majority of players whom one met at Tournaments were the survivors of the pre-war era and consisted mainly of the leisured class, many of course being what are now described as senior citizens. Recruits to croquet were sparse and the average age of players must have been nearer sixty than fifty. It was indeed comparatively rare to find any players younger than 40, a notable and only starry exception for a number of years being John Solomon who played in his first Tournament in 1948 at the age of 16.

A large proportion of the post-war survivors had both the time and the means available to 'do the circuit' and play in full week Tournaments regularly. I recall Hope Rotherham telling me during one August Hurlingham Tournament that she hadn't seen her garden for over a month. Indeed, in the 1954 Prize List published in the Gazette, her name is recorded at no less than nine tournaments, in addition to which she had no doubt played at others where she had failed to reach the final stages. Mention of Hope reminds me that there was a much larger proportion of top-class lady players in those days, many of whom were wives (or widows) of male enthusiasts, many having presumably finished with the raising of families, and found croquet a fulfilling way of spending their leisure hours.

Around 1960 the Council began to be seriously exercised about the gradual disappearance of the pre-war generation of players, with only a small intake of new players, leading to a serious risk of the competitive game inevitably petering out. A few of the younger generation who had at that time been attracted to croquet were encouraged to write recruiting articles in the Gazette, including Lloyd Pratt, Meachem, Camroux and Jesson Dibley, the latter incidentally appearing at the last Roehampton Spring Tournament after a virtual absence from the courts for many years.

I recall an editorial which I wrote in 1960 which opened with the words of Thomas

Grey, 'Regardless of their doom the little victims play', adding that although the author had a different age group in mind than that exemplified by the general run of croquet players, the words could have a real significance for a once thriving croquet club which could be seen to be rapidly folding up because of dwindling membership. There followed a slow but steady response, and a healthy feature was the gradual emergence of players from the Universities. In this connection the name of Mrs Heley must always be remembered as having been the fount of a rich vein of talent from Cambridge.

The growing number of young players however introduced one major problem. In contrast to the earlier generation of players who were able to devote a large proportion of the summer months to croquet, many of the new blood were breadwinners who could ill spare more than a full week or two, if only in fairness to family commitments. Herein lay the germ of week-end tournaments.

The Cheltenham club was among the first, if not the first, to recognise the necessity of meeting the needs of week-end players and by 1966 had already introduced what has now become to be regarded as their traditional pattern of 5 week-end Tournaments each year. I suspect that the fertile mind of Edgar Jackson provided the impetus for their introduction, which proved a success from the start, over-subscription of entries being a regular feature during the score or so years of their running. An interesting recent development is that a number of smaller or newly established clubs with limited lawn capacity who would find a full week Tournament a strain on their facilities have seized the opportunity of introducing week-end Tournaments into the CA Calendar.

A notable attraction of a week-end Tournament is of course that players are guaranteed six (or more) games, whereas the unfortunate player who loses all his first round matches in a full week Tournament may find himself kicking his heels on Wednesday afternoon, having incidentally committed himself to a whole week's hotel expense.

There was however something still lacking. For a number of years after their introduction, all week-end Tournaments were run as Handicap Events. Although this gave plenty of opportunity for play for the breadwinner class, handicap games did not provide the means for the rapidly improving player to accustom himself to the rigour of first class open play. A growing surge of feeling led, albeit slowly, to the introduction of Open week-ends, and in the last five years or so they have so spread as to vie in numbers with handicap week-ends. A random glance through the Fixtures Book shows that a number of attractive trophies have been donated for Open week-ends, thus the Coles at Cheltenham, the Cowhorn and Swiss Cowbell at Compton, the Rowlock at Roehampton, the Stoker



Jim Townsend - Editor of the Gazette from 1957 to 1964 and Chairman of Council from 1970 to 1972.

Decanter at Southport, and the Southwick Salver.

What, it may be asked, is the situation of full week Club Tournaments now compared with a generation ago? A few have gone to the wall with the disbandment of clubs such as Bedford and Exmouth which help tournaments up to the 1950s, but Bowdon and a resuscitated Woking for example have helped to bridge the gap. The remaining traditional club full week Tournaments seem in my experience to continue in the main to be fully patronised, but with one significant difference - the lower quality of the A Open entry, in some clubs at any rate. Although Hurlingham for example still attracts a full entry for the August Tournament the time has now passed when the Hurlingham Cup entry included most of the current President's Cup players. This merely underlines the fact that many of our top class players have to ration their time for croquet.

Another feature is the lower proportion of visitors. It is not so long ago that the Hurlingham Tournament could count on at least half a dozen Budleigh members, together with regular contingents from Cheltenham, Colchester, Nottingham, Parkstone and Southwick, to name but a few clubs. If one omits the entries at Hurlingham in 1985 from neighbouring clubs such as Parsons Green and Roehampton, and the sizeable number of Woking stalwarts who travelled up every day, there was no more than a handful of other visitors. One is led to the conclusion that the high cost of London hotel accommodation acts as a deterrent.

Perhaps a suitable footnote to this article would be to remark that in the first year after the war when the President's Cup was resumed no player was under 40 years of age. In 1985, if my surmise is correct, only one player in the President's Cup was over 40.

JIM TOWNSEND

International News

The Croquet Association of Ireland

On the 5th November, a new body came into existence. At its first AGM, the Constitution of the new Croquet Association of Ireland was adopted. The Association will administer and develop Croquet in Ireland, and will be able to avail of Irish Government Grants, thus filling a space similar to that occupied by the Scottish Croquet Association in Scotland.

Since the first meeting of Irish players to discuss the subject in April 1985, a standing committee has seen to the establishment of the Association's structure, which is closely modelled on that of the CA, and one of the first steps taken was to become affiliated to the elder organisation.

The idea of an Irish Association had occurred to some people hitherto, but the impetus to take practical action came from the visit last March of an Irish team to Florida as guests of the USCA. They returned fired with enthusiasm inspired not only by their victory over the Americans, but also by the example of the US Association in building up the game from its former dormant state into a flourishing institution.

Ireland, formerly a stronghold of Croquet and probably its country of origin, had become a backwater due to its literal isolation from the main stream of British Tournament and Club activity. The sole remaining Club where the Association game was played was Carrickmines, which has given the CAI its first home. But we found other clubs where Croquet was still alive in some form and there are now seven clubs affiliated, and the prospect of generous support in terms of providing lawns from Local Authorities in Dublin.

The new committee's first responsibility was a return match against the American touring team, and for this the Sponsorship of Jury's Hotels and Avis Car Rentals was obtained. Jury's Hotels has since offered generous sponsorship for Tournaments and International Matches during the next three years, thus giving the CAI a solid financial foundation. Speaking for all of us, the duly elected President of the Association, Terence Read, thanked everybody who had helped to get the venture under way, not least the CA, which has been a source of encouragement and kindly advice from the start, nor Fred Rogerson, the Chairman of the Standing Committee, who together with the President himself, accomplished a great deal of the hard work involved.

All tournaments and events of possible interest to British players will continue to be listed in the CA Fixture Book. We would also be delighted to hear from any Irish expatriates who may be interested in the CAI. Correspondence should be addressed to the Secretary, Carl von Schmieder, at The Croquet Association of Ireland, Carrickmines Croquet & LTC, Carrickmines, Co. Dublin, Ireland, or to our 'Liaison Officer', John Rose, at 20 Willow Side, Wooley, Reading, Berks, RH5 4HJ.



Paul Hands (Cbeltenbam), making a welcome return to croquet after a year's absence.

The Japanese Open Championship

Martyn Selman, writing in the Australian Croquet Gazette, describes how he wrote off to the Croquet Association of Japan just to establish contact. Within two weeks, he had been invited, had accepted, and then been billed as the star attraction for the first Japan Open.

The Open was held on the 24th and 25th November 1984 at Odawara, a small town some 100km from Tokyo by sea.

The lawns were three-quarter size, set on artificial turf tennis courts. To accommodate the number of entries, each game was limited to one hour. Both the singles and the doubles championships were decided over the weekend.

The games did not begin with the toss of a coin, but by playing Jonken (the children's game where the contestants each select a stone, scissors, or paper) - the normal procedure in Japan for starting any sort of game.

The doubles title was won by two teachers of the game, two of the few people in Japan who as yet play the game with any competence. The final of the singles was held late on Sunday evening under lights, and again lasted for only an hour. The winner was Takano Toru, who has done an immense amount of work in getting the game started in Japan.

Tournament Report

IPSWICH: 2-4 August

The major characteristic of this tournament was the rain, as has been the case with so many tournaments this year.

This year we had a slightly higher entry (18) which was split into an open block of 10 and a handicap block of 8. To cope with the extra play we hired the one remaining lawn at Felixstowe (I understand there used to be 14). I don't know how long it has been since an official tournament was held at Felixstowe - can anyone remember? Certainly we had to reset the hoops as they were up to 2 yards out of position.

In the Open block, John Walters was the clear winner, only losing to the runner-up, Mark Avery. The appalling weather and tighter hoops kept the number of triples (5) well down on last year. The best attempt was from Mark Avery who managed two peels of a quintuple plus an STPO against David Peterson. This scribe was pleased to finish third. Bob Sutherland (8) and Bill Lamb (4) were a little out of their class but had some creditable games and were never '26-ed'.

In the handicap block, we had four first-timers, Jill Waters, Celia Steward, Lewis Palmer and the eventual winner, Nick Harris. Nick's play was dogged rather than inspired, and 5 out of his 7 games went to time. However he learnt a lot about break making and should do better in future. A special mention for devotion to duty must go to Celia Pearce and Jill Waters who played until 7 o'clock in the pouring rain on Sunday for bottom place (Celia got it!). John Williams was second, showing a great improvement over last year. Lewis Palmer, brother of Danny, is a newcomer who is likely to come down rapidly, while Celia Steward has an elegant style and good break construction that promises well for the future.

In cramped, wet conditions, Yvonne Ruscoe and a host of helpers produced superb meals. A special mention must be made of Celia Steward's Battenburg cakes, produced in primary or secondary colours as required, and of course, our thanks again to Pat Hetherington for managing the tournament with her usual flair.

DON GAUNT

RESULTS

Nan Zinn Tankard
(American: Advanced Play)

8 wins: J.O. Walters
7 wins: M. Avery
6 wins: D.L. Gaunt; N.G. Hyne
5 wins: D. Peterson
4 wins: M. French; A. Bennet
3 wins: D. Palmer
2 wins: W. Lamb
0 wins: R.R. Sutherland

Suffolk Bowl
(American: Handicap Play)

7 wins: N.R. Harris (8)
5 wins: S.G. Williams (10); J. Palmer (15)
4 wins: Mrs Steward (15)
2 wins: B. Raymond; Miss J. Waters (14); H. Cawdell (14)
1 win: Miss C. Pearce (14)

'Peel through life with Aunt Emm'

Dear Aunt Emm,
My husband is an 'A' class croquet player and we often have other players staying with us during our club's annual tournament. I frequently have to listen to accounts of the day's play in great detail, none of which I understand, and I would be grateful if you could advise me how I could avoid this without causing offence.
Yours,
Emily, Northants.

Dear Emily,
This is a common difficulty faced by many croquet wives. The first essential is to get the player under a cold shower as soon as possible. But first, be warned! Any attempt to temporise by suggesting that he tells you later will not be successful, because as sure as eggs, you are going to have to sit through a blow by blow account at some stage.
Initially you need to deter-

mine whether you are talking to someone who has completed a sextuple or just a mere triple. They are difficult to distinguish, but generally someone who has done a sextuple looks exhausted, has twitching hands, and a wild look in his eyes. A triple peeler looks flushed and somewhat excited, but otherwise still under control.

Having established the size of your problem, then take the following action. In the case of the sextupler, you can safely leave the room whilst the account is going on without causing offence, as he will never notice your departure. Keep an ear open for the saga to finish and then return as he makes the final peg out. 'Ah', you say, 'so that's what its called. I did one yesterday at the club, but it was all so easy, I didn't think much about it'. Whilst he ponders the nuances of this remark, rush him off to his shower.

With the triple peeler, as soon as he mentions 'peel', launch into your own story of how you made your last batch

of marmalade, making sure to arrive at the point when you put the lid on the jar just when he reaches his peg out. Your account will make him feel that his own account of the triple peel is full of interest for you, and the fact that you yourself are talking will avoid the glazed look in your eyes as the triple reaches its climax.

Should your guest make another peel next day, and start regaling you with further details, simply counter with '... But you told me all about that yesterday' and lead him quietly upstairs to the shower, making sure that no hot water is available at all.

Desperate situations demand desperate remedies!

Yours affectionately,
Aunt Emm

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.

Odds and Ends



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1985 NATIONAL RANKINGS

Pos	Name	Grade	Pos	Name	Grade
= 1	Aspinall G.N.	175	51	West P.D.B.	104
= 1	Openshaw D.K.	175	=52	Berry A.	103
3	Mulliner S.N.	165	=52	Collin M.P.	103
4	Prichard W.d B.	159	=55	Gaunt D.L.	102
5	Hope A.B.	158	=55	Keen B.A.	102
6	Solomon E.W.	154	=57	Bennet A.	101
7	Irwin C.J.	153	=57	Collin A.J.	101
8	Avery M.	151	=57	Greenwood J.D.	101
9	McCullough J.R.	146	=60	Palmer D.G.	99
10	Walters J.O.	145	=60	Taylor G.K.	99
11	Wylie K.F.	144	=62	Bottomley H.J.	98
12	Heap M.E.W.	143	=62	Peterson D.	98
13	Griffith T.	141	=62	Rogerson F.	98
14	Lewis S.E.	137	=65	Johnson P.M.	97
15	Gunasekera D.	135	=65	MacLeod J.	97
16	Murray M.	134	=65	Shergold F.L.	97
=17	Bell E.	133	=65	Spalding W.	97
=17	Harrison T.D.	133	69	Wheeler J.A.	96
=19	Bond I.D.	132	70	Smith R.J.	95
=19	Cordingley P.	132	=71	Cairns D.	93
=21	Healy G.P.N.	127	=71	Roy G.C.	93
=21	Noble G.W.	127	=71	Storey B.J.	93
=23	Foulser D.R.	126	=71	Torrington P.	93
=23	Hyne N.G.	126	=75	Denison W.B.	92
=25	Prichard C.H.L.	125	=75	Hofford M.A.	92
=25	Read T.O.	125	=75	Maugham F.I.	92
=25	Rose J.	125	=75	Meads J.D.	92
=28	Aiton K.M.H.	123	=75	Tompkinson M.	92
=28	Aldridge W.O.	123	80	Collin G.K.	91
=30	Guest J.E.	122	81	Wood J.W.	90
=30	Vincent I.G.	122	=82	Aldridge W.O.	89
32	Croker D.J.	121	=82	Battison J.S.H.	89
=33	Neal B.G.	120	=82	Carlisle V.	89
=33	Wright S.J.H.	120	=82	Wharrad L.	89
35	Wiggins S.	119	=86	Camroux A.V.	88
36	Jones K.E.	117	=86	Coutts J.	88
37	Schmieder C.M.	116	=86	Kolbuszewski M.	88
38	Smith P.L.	115	=86	Moorcraft D.	88
=39	Latham L.V.	114	=86	Parker C.A.	88
=39	Ormerod M.	114	=86	Williams S.	88
=41	Hilditch J.R.	113	=92	Coles W.T.	87
=41	Prichard R.D.C.	113	=92	Sandler M.H.	87
43	Palmer A.J.	110	=92	Stoker P.	87
44	Mrozinski A.J.	108	=92	Weitz B.G.F.	87
=45	Jackson G.E.P.	107	=96	Green H.C.	85
=45	Toye J.S.	107	=96	Hallam B.G.	85
=47	Death P.J.	106	98	Girling A.J.	84
=47	French M.	106	=99	Caporn D.C.	83
=49	Southern C.	105	=99	Jones R.C.	83
=49	Stevens M.J.	105			

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The Eights

PRESIDENT'S CUP

Hurlingham: 3-7 September

Nigel Aspinall wins again

This year's President's Cup for the best eight available players was sponsored for the first time by Frank Cooper Ltd.

On the first day we saw a dramatic variation in the form of the two favourites, Aspinall and Mulliner. Aspinall was in tremendous form beating Avery +23(STP), Murray +24(TP) and Irwin +25(TP) whereas, surprisingly, Mulliner lost all his first three games. Nigel Aspinall continued with a fourth successive triple against McCullough. Then, against Openshaw in the fifth round, he encountered stiffer opposition. Both players gave nothing away. In the early play Nigel kept the innings and progressed to 4-back and 2-back before Openshaw hit in and went to 4-back. Openshaw had some trouble with the second ball and eventually stuck in 4-back. This let in Nigel who retained the innings and went on to win +8.

In round 6 Aspinall played Mulliner and this provided the incentive for Mulliner to return to form. By beating Aspinall +14 Mulliner stopped the possibility of a 'runaway' victory and gave heart to all the other competitors.

In round 7 Aspinall again played beautifully to beat Hope +26(TP) to end the first series with 6/7. At this stage of the competition four players were in joint second place. Openshaw and Hope had both been playing well and were joined on 4/7 by the two newcomers to the Presidents, Mark Avery (Ipswich) and Colin Irwin (Bowdon). Steve Mulliner had recovered from his poor start to reach 3/7, but McCullough and Murray were not playing with confidence, although both had shown what they could be capable of - Murray in beating McCullough +26 and McCullough in beating Openshaw +26.

However, towards the end of round 9 it looked as though Aspinall would open up a 3-point lead. Avery and Irwin had lost in round 8 and Hope and Openshaw had lost in round 9. Nigel was in play against Colin Irwin and was attempting another triple - this time delayed. He had completed the penultimate peel before 4-back but had a poor pioneer at penult and his peelee was difficult to send to rover.



The Presidents' Cup players: Back (L to R) Mark Avery, Colin Irwin, Andrew Hope, Simon Anderson (Frank Cooper's MD) and Martin Murray. Front (L to R) Steven Mulliner, David Openshaw, Nigel Aspinall and John McCullough.

PRESIDENT'S CUP 1985	GNA	DKO	CJI	MNA	SNM	ABH	JRMCC	MM	GAMES WON			Final Order
									1st Series	2nd Series	Total	
G.N. Aspinall		+8 -3	+25* -3	+23 +14	-14 -25	+26* +26*	+22* +25*	+24 +25*	6	4	10	1
D.K. Openshaw	-8 +3		-17 -18	+9 +4*	+10 +4	+24 +6	-26 +23	+10 -17	4	5	9	2
C.J. Irwin	-25 +3	+17 +18		-26 -16	-16 +17	-17 +26	+4 -6	+13 -14	4	4	8	3
M.N. Avery	-23 -14	-9 -4	-26 +16		+24 -17	+14 +22	+12 +13	+3 -14	4	3	7	4=
S.N. Mulliner	+14 +25*	-10 -4	+16 -17	-24 +17		-18 -4	-17 +26*	+3 +17	3	4	7	4=
A.B. Hope	-26 -26	-24 -6	+17 -26	-14 -17	+18 +4		+25* -13	+23 +26	4	2	6	6
J.R. McCullough	-22 -25	+26 -23	-4 +6	-12 -13	+17 -25	-25 +13		-26 +26	2	3	5	7
Dr. M. Murray	-24 -25	-10 +17	-13 +14	-3 +14	-3 -17	-23 -26	+26* -26		1	3	4	8

* = Triple Peel

In the end, this split shot sending the peelee towards rover left him an uncomfortable 3-yard out on his pioneer to penult, which he missed. This left Aspinall for penult and rover, with Irwin for 1 and 4-back. Irwin then progressed to the peg and completed one peel. Aspinall hit the lift with his ball for rover and pegged out Irwin. However, two further uncharacteristic mistakes from Aspinall and some good steady play from Irwin when under pressure gave the game to Irwin +3.

In round 10 Openshaw won an exciting pegged out game +3 against Aspinall to close the gap between them to one point.

By the end of round 11 they were level. Aspinall again brought the best out of Mulliner who won their game +25 with a fine triple and Openshaw had a 3-turn win +26 against Hope.

In round 12 Aspinall had a good win +25(TP) against McCullough while Openshaw escaped against Avery when the latter failed at penult with his second ball. Openshaw then missed the lift but joined up

and an aggressive shot (missed) by Avery was then punished with a fine triple for Openshaw to win +4.

The scores going into the final day (with two rounds to go) were Aspinall and Openshaw 8 - Avery, Hope, Irwin, Mulliner 6 - McCullough 5 and Murray 3.

On the final day it was Aspinall whose more convincing play won the day. In the morning he completed a fine victory, Murray +25(TP) whilst Openshaw lost his chance against Irwin. Irwin had taken his first ball to the peg in two turns with the other three clips on Hoops 1 or 2. Openshaw got in and seemed likely to peg out Irwin until disaster struck at 2-back when he missed a straight-forward hoop. Irwin played his resulting four ball break in confident style to take the game. In the final round Aspinall clinched the title with a +26 win against Hope. Openshaw retained second place and Colin Irwin, finishing strongly, took third place with 8 wins.

Mark Avery was joint 4th (with Steve Mulliner) scoring 7/14. Both the newcomers had shown admirable qualities in their first President's Cup although it is interesting to note that many players score their best results at the first attempt! W. Prichard, E. Solomon, A. Hope being amongst them.

Andrew Hope began strongly and was only one point behind the leaders after eleven rounds but he finished with three convincing defeats. John McCullough and Martin Murray struggled to find a rhythm - so often the case for players who make a poor start in the Eights.

Nigel Aspinall took the title for the eleventh time and won eight out of his ten victories by large margins. His play is still of a consistently higher standard than any of our other players and his victory very well deserved.

DAVID OPENSHAW

The Eights

1986 Fixtures

THE CHAIRMAN'S SALVER

Compton: 2-6 September

John Walters shows his class

The Chairman's Salver was unfortunate to be deprived of Eddie Bell's company this year. Quite apart from his bonhomie, which was sorely missed, he would have been able to prevent four of the players from attacking the lawns with a carving knife in a frenzied attempt to tighten up the hoops. This occurred on Sunday evening, but we arrived on Monday morning to find that the groundsman's eyelids had remained unbatted, despite the lack of technical merit (or artistic impression) displayed by the four Psychos. The groundsman is to be thanked, and maybe eventually paid, for arriving at 8 o'clock each morning to ensure that we had excellent lawns on which to perform.

Seven of the players were booked into the same holiday flat by Ian Vincent. This might have proved to be a recipe for disaster, but in fact there was never any opportunity for tension to mount because the winner emerged at about coffee time on Monday (if not earlier). The rest of us were therefore able to relax into

the struggle for bottom place which Dave eventually won though he was pushed all the way by Richard. Ian was never far off the bottom, but just couldn't produce the vital loss when it was needed most. Phil was never seriously in contention, indeed at one point he seemed to be trying to win games, but finished a very creditable fourth (from bottom). Keith and Jerry could only manage six losses each. Jerry was playing in the Salver for the first time and was probably under the misapprehension that he could impress the selectors by doing well. Keith, however, had no such excuse - he simply had a bad week. Steve Wright was something of an enigma. At times, he appeared to be playing badly enough to achieve more than his meagre total of five losses. However, he had a bad trot in the middle rounds when he simply could not lose and by Friday morning he had a mathematical chance of winning the event. He recovered his form just in time to lose to John who thus deservedly won the Salver in his first appearance - not a bad achievement considering that he has yet to be selected for this Eight.

It must not be forgotten that a croquet player plays on his stomach (Steve Mulliner clearly hasn't) and this week we were indebted to the Compton ladies for their excellent teas and to Ed Strickland who organised two tables at the Saffrons Club for lunch each day. The community spirit tended to disappear in the evenings when people chose their own eating places, depending on their cultural backgrounds and expense accounts. Ian found several high spots in Eastbourne at which he could 'make music', whereas the rest of us slumped in front of the box or in front of a pint, or simply went to sleep (perchance to dream . . .). Phil was our manager for the whole week and performed his duties with great diligence, so much so that no games at all were pegged down. Come back soon, Eddie, we all miss you.

WT.



John Walters - a most successful season

CHAIRMAN'S SALVER 1985	J.W.	S.W.	K.A.	J.G.	P.C.	R.H.	I.V.	D.F.	GAMES WON			Final Order
									1st Series	2nd Series	Total	
J.O. Walters		+25 +17	+22 +10§	+3 -15	+17 +3	-17 -15	+25* +13	+5 +6	6	5	11	1
S.J.H. Wright	-25 -17		-5 +21	+3* +5	-12 +17	+18 +5	+13 +11	-1 +26	3	6	9	2
K.M.H. Aiton	-22 -10	+5 -21		-14 -19	+3* +26*	+5 +4	-16 +11	+18 +26*	4	4	8	3=
J.E. Guest	-3 +15	-3 -5	+14 +19		-17 +24	-9 +23	+7 +5	+8 -11	3	5	8	3=
P. Cordingley	-17 -3	+12 -17	-3 -26	+17* -24		-14 +26	+10 -14	+17 +3	4	2	6	5
J.R. Hilditch	+17 +15	-18 -5	-5 -4	+9 -23	+14 -26		-15 -15	-23 +22	3	2	5	6=
I.G. Vincent	-25 -13	-13 -11	+16 -11	-7 -5	-10 +14*	+15 +15		-3 +17*	2	3	5	6=
D.R. Foulser	-5 -6	+1 -26	-18 -26	-8 +11	-17 -3	+23 -22	+3 -17		3	1	4	8

* = Triple Peel

§ = Triple Peel on Opponent

Full details of each tournament will be published in the CA Fixture Book in February.

March

- 29-31 Southwick W/end*
- 29-31 Cheltenham W/end 1

April

- 11-13 Ryde W/end
- 17-20 Cheltenham 1
- 25-27 Woking W/end
- 24-27 Roehampton W/end 1
- 26-27 Southport W/end 1*

May

- 2-5 Southwick W/end 2
- 3-5 Hurlingham W/end 1*
- 3-5 Cheltenham W/end 2
- 3-5 Hunstanton W/end 1*
- 8-11 Compton W/end 1
- 9-11 Bowdon W/end
- 10-11 Colchester W/end 1*
- 10-11 Himley W/end 1 (Short Croquet)
- 10-11 Golf Croquet Championships
- 12-17 Budleigh Salterton 1
- 12-17 Peel Memorials
- 16-18 West Park W/end 1
- 17-18 Southwick W/end 3 (Short Croquet)

June

- 17-18 Bristol W/end 1*
- 17-18 Harrow W/end 1*
- 19-24 Parkstone 1
- 24-26 Cheltenham W/end 3
- 24-26 Colchester W/end 2
- 25-26 Home Internationals
- 24-27 Southport W/end 2
- 29-1 Inter-Counties Championship
- 30-1 Nottingham W/end 1

July

- 2-7 Mens & Womens Championships
- 2-9 Carrickmines
- 7-8 Ipswich W/end*
- 9-14 Compton
- 14-15 Harrow W/end 2
- 16-21 Ryde
- 16-21 Veterans Championships
- 20-22 Edgbaston W/end 1*
- 21-22 Harrow W/end 3*
- 21-27 Durham University
- 23-26 University Championships
- 23-28 Challenge & Gilbey
- 23-28 Roehampton
- 27-29 Nottingham W/end 2*
- 28-29 Bristol W/end 2
- 27-6 Woking
- 30-5 Budleigh Salterton 2

August

- 4-6 West Park W/end 2*
- 4-6 Oxford University*
- 5-6 Himley W/end 2
- 7-12 Colchester
- 8-12 Southwick 1
- 12-13 E. Riding W/end
- 12-13 Harrow W/end 4*
- 18-20 Edgbaston W/end 2
- 19-26 British Open Championships
- 21-27 Cheltenham 1

August

- 1-3 Ipswich W/end
- 2-3 Harrow W/end 5*
- 2-3 Junior Championships
- 2-9 Hurlingham
- 4-9 Carrickmines 2
- 8-10 Colchester W/end 3
- 8-10 Southport W/end 3

* Contain events other than Handicap blocks

Continued on page 19.

The Eights

SPENCER-ELL CUP 1985	TDH	NGH	PLS	RDGP	ABY	MJS	ABE	DNSP	GAMES WON			Final Order
									1st Series	2nd Series	Total	
T.D. Harrison		+23 -23	-12 +8	+14 +19	+12 -3	+12 +20	+9 +26	-25 +14	5	5	10	1=
N.G. Hyne	-23 +23		-3 +25	+10 -13	+3 +3	+6 -10	+14 +24	+16 +16	5	5	10	1=
P.L. Smith	+12 -8	+3 -25		+8 +18	-15 +23	+4 +15	-13 +7	-23 +15	4	5	9	3
R.D.C. Prichard	-14 -19	-10 +13	-8 -18		+23 +5	-5 +24	+3 +3	+7 +24	3	5	8	4
A. Berry	-12 +3	-3 -3	+15 -23	-23 -5		+8 -9	-10 +4	+12 +7	3	3	6	5
M.J. Stevens	-12 -20	-6 +10	-4 -15	+5 -24	-8 +9		-13 +12	-14 +25*	1	4	5	6
A. Bennett	-9 -26	-14 -24	+13 -7	-3 -3	+10 -4	+13 -12		+7* -12	4	0	4	7=
D.N.S. Peterson	+25 -14	-16 -16	+23 -15	-7 -24	-12 -7	+14 -25	-7 +12*		3	1	4	7=

* = Triple Peel Play-off: Harrison bt Hyne +14

SPENCER-ELL CUP Hunstanton: 2-6 September Harrison and Hyne in play-off

The West coast of Norfolk (yes there is one) in September can be a cruel place to stand outdoors for a long time. There's a colony of seals up the coast at Cley that manages quite well, several colonies of bird spotters huddle into hides and, for a week in September, a small colony of croquet players descended on Hunstanton to battle out this year's Spencer Ell Cup.

One big advantage that seals have over most croquet players in surviving the cold winds is a large amount of fur. One big advantage that croquet players have is that they can go to pubs. The successful formula that evolved for the week was to play a day's croquet and then to recoup and prepare in one of several local pubs.

The early part of the week saw one or two predictable trends. Nick Hyne, in as last reserve, screamed into a convincing lead winning all of his first five games. For David Peterson, however, the pressure of being favourite caused an early crumble. After three quick wins from four games there followed a long series of defeats that left him struggling to avoid last place. The rest of us started rather capably with plenty of 'one hoop at a time' stealth. Each day saw a lunchtime bottleneck game which provided gentle entertainment for the diners who were generally also taking refuge from the rain.

On day one it was Prichard and Stevens whose game moved between brilliant hitting and brilliant break losing. On day two, it was Stevens again, this time losing to Smith.

Moving into the middle of the week, fortunes started to change. After losing his first four games, Berry - inspired by a

successful attempt to peel an orange - moved into a winning streak. Harrison and Smith were emerging as threats to Hyne's lead and Prichard was making an aggressive challenge with comments like 'let's hope he stings his hand on those nettles'. The first triples happened on day three as Stevens and Bennet in turn sank Peterson into the depths of despair.

Riggall's views on pegging out opponents' balls received a sound testing from Prichard. Against Berry he conceded the first contact of the week after a 25 yard take-off through 4-back(!). He was then doubled out but won with a 30 yard hit-in. Hyne then left Robert with only one ball (for hoop 5). However Nick then went on to miss a swash-buckling 7 foot hoop and Robert swooped in to finish. Against Bennet, Prichard, clearly inspired, pegged his own ball out when Bennet was for 6 and rover. Andrew got to



3 of the Spencer-Ell players at the Northern Championships. From the right, Robert Prichard, David Peterson and Nick Hyne.

peg and rover before the inevitable 30 yard hit-in and finish. Who needs two balls?

In the evening of day 3, the pressure was beginning to show; Hyne was smiling too much, Peterson was becoming delirious and Stevens was claiming to have sired all the other players. Only 'icy' Harrison and 'Krypton' Smith seemed unperturbed.

A private battle reached a climax on day 4. Peterson just pipped Hyne in the race to 10,000 competition points. He was duly presented with a bottle and an Anchor Foods sache which were surely some solace for a broken man.



Nick Hyne. Beaten in the play-off by Tim Harrison.

The last day started with the possibility of a 4-way tie between Hyne, Harrison, Smith and Prichard. It was a tough day and in the end Hyne and Harrison tied for first place. Their play-off was a game of high standard played in bright sunshine. Harrison emerged victorious at the end of, what for him, had been a highly successful season.

The small and strange colony then prepared to leave Norfolk bidding fond thanks to Sarah Hampson et al for their splendid catering and dragging possessions out of a variety of hostels that included a coast-guard's cottage and a Budgen supermarket. It had been a good week played in fine spirit but now the group, satiated for the time being, flew off leaving the seals and the bird spotters to survive the cold in peace.

ADAM BERRY

The Editor regrets any offence that may have been caused by the report on the Southwick Tournament (Issue No 182, Page 14), and apologises to **Group Captain R.S. Ryan**, who was joint runner-up in his Block, with three wins, not bottom with one win, as reported on Page 16, Issue No 182.

For the record, (See Issue No 181 Page 7) **Mark Avery** won his game against Ray Bell, so the final score was England Select 5, USCA 4. Also **Martin French** won the Butlin Cup at Hunstanton (Issue No 180, Page 12), not Ian Bond as reported.

Tournament Reports and Results

Cheltenham: 24-26 August

A Most August Weekend at Cheltenham Spa

On August Bank Holiday this year, fully twenty-eight ladies and gentlemen did assemble at the Cheltenham Club to compete at croquet. Play did commence at ten o'clock in the forenoon each day, and in every game, even those matching players of long handicap, a full twenty-six points were contested. The weather was for the most part clement, there being no hot sun such that would make the ladies fear for their complexions; yet on the Sunday afternoon frequent yet brief showers of unpleasant intensity did cause the players to don oilskins with much haste.

All was most ably managed by Mr Finn, a local gentleman who had not previously undertaken the task. Despite this, his methodical organization and firmness with those dilatory over the delightful luncheon left us in no doubt regarding his suitability, although some among the contestants were perhaps unready for his modern methods.

Why, in two games, he declared a time limit was to be imposed, but such was the dispatch of the players thereafter that we were not treated to the spectacle of a game being stopped whilst yet unfinished.

Of yet greater novelty was a solitary occasion on a far court when balls of different colours were produced and a second game did commence without the first having been completed.

Despite such innovation the players were of one accord in pronouncing the tournament a most enjoyable occasion, such that the Cheltenham Club is hopeful that more entries may be attracted in the forthcoming season.

LAURENCE & DEBORAH LATHAM

RESULTS

American Handicap Singles

Block A

5 wins: B.G. Neal (-1/2)

4 wins: T. Vale (4)

3 wins: C.B. Snowdon (2 1/2) +7; Mrs M.L. Warren (7) +2

2 wins: Lady Bazley (4) 0; Mrs Collings (15) -4; P.F. Leach (6) -30

Block B

5 wins: J.W. King (3 1/2) +67; Mrs L.V. Latham (6) +33

4 wins: G.K. Taylor (1/2)

3 wins: R.S. Ryan (6 1/2) +20; G.E.P. Jackson (0) +5

1 win: Mrs M.J. Finn (11)

0 wins: Mrs T. Vale (7)

Block C

5 wins: M.J. Finn (6) +70; K.E. Jones (0) +48

4 wins: R. Race (4)

3 wins: L.A. Hopkins (11)

2 wins: R.E. Burnell (3 1/2)

1 win: Miss I.M. Roe (6 1/2) -51; Mrs K. Turtle (15) -52

Block D

5 wins: L.V. Latham (1/2)

4 wins: J.H.J. Soutter (3) +40; G.V. Johnson (4) +35

3 wins: P. Darby (7) +11; Mrs C.A. Smith (2 1/2) +2

2 wins: R. Noel-Smith (15)

0 wins: Mrs E. Paish (10)

RESULTS

Carrickmines: 3-10 August

Championship of Ireland

(Advanced Play: Best of 3 games)

1st Round:

C. Smith bt R.J. Leonard +23, +19; S. Williams bt R.A. Welch +12, +25; N. McInerney bt D. Beatty +9, +1; T. Read bt Lady Bazley +5, +15

2nd Round:

S. Williams bt C. Smith -3, +9, +15; G. Healy bt C. Gamble +25, +16; P. Alvey bt Mrs R.J. Leonard +25, +14; C. Schmieder bt K. Jones +10, -7, +1; J. Assheton bt P. Hetherington +8, -14, +6; P. Stoker bt F. Rogerson -10, +24, +8; H.L. Webb bt R. Hannon -9(T), +14, +18; Read bt McInerney +23(TP), +20

3rd Round:

Williams bt Healy +21, +5; Schmieder bt Alvey +15, +5(T); Stoker bt Assheton +7(T), -3(T), +23; Read bt Webb +20, +23

Semi-Finals:

Schmieder bt Williams -3, +11, +7; Read bt Stoker +18, +15

Final:

Read bt Schmieder +17, -2, +2

Green Cup

(Level Play: 6 bisques & over)

1st Round:

P. Thornton bt E. McWeeney +9; Mrs R.J. Leonard bt Mrs A. Healy +9

2nd Round:

Capt Tucker bt M. Lyons +12; T. Easterling bt I.R. Sims +16(T); R.J. Leonard bt S. Cawdell +4(T); Thornton bt J. McAuley; H.L. Webb bt Charles Schmieder +16; D. Reeve bt J. Skinner (wo); D. Beatty bt A. Brown +18; P. Robson bt Mrs Leonard +15

3rd Round:

Tucker bt Easterling +9; Leonard bt Thornton +13; Reeve bt Webb; Beatty bt Robson (wo)

Semi-Finals:

Leonard bt Tucker (wo); Beatty bt Reeve +8

Final: Beatty bt Leonard +21

Steel Cup

(Plate Event: Handicap Play)

4th Round:

P. Lawless bt A. Brown +24; F. Rogerson bt



Terence Read, Champion of Ireland, and (behind) Carl von Schmieder whom he beat in the final.

J. Skinner +22; G. Healy bt C. Schmieder +10; S. Cawdell bt A. Healy +9(T)

Semi-Finals:

Rogerson bt Lawless +2; Cawdell bt Healy +25

Final: Cawdell bt Rogerson +26

Founders Cup

(Handicap Play)

1st Round:

Mrs E McWeeney (11) bt R. Hannon (5 1/2) +2(T)

2nd Round:

Lady Bazley (4) bt Capt Tucker (8) +13; P. Alvey (1) bt J. McAuley (8) +10; J. Assheton (4) bt R.J. Leonard (6) +14; C. Gamble (2) bt P. Stoker (2 1/2) +2; S. Cawdell (14) bt S. Williams (4 1/2) +26; P. Robson (15) bt H.L. Webb (8) +18; D. Reeve (8) bt I. Sims (16) +21; D. Beatty (7) bt T. Read (-1/2) +19; C. Schmieder (1 1/2) bt F. Rogerson (1 1/2) +5; K. Jones (1/2) bt A. Brown (9) +17; P. Thornton (7 1/2) bt Mrs R.J. Leonard (6) +18; R.A. Welch (4) bt J. Skinner (16) +14; P. Hetherington (3) bt P. Lawless (15) +11; C. Smith (2 1/2) bt M. Lyons (14) +10; N. McInerney (4) bt T. Easterling (14) +15; G. Healy (0) bt Mrs E. McWeeney +11

3rd Round:

Lady Bazley bt Alvey; Gamble bt Assheton +4; Robson bt Cawdell +4; Beatty bt Reeve +4; Schmieder bt Jones; Welch bt Thornton +18; Hetherington bt Smith +19; McInerney bt Healy +25

4th Round:

Lady Bazley bt Gamble (who retired on the peg); Beatty bt Robson +4; Schmieder bt Welch +1; McInerney bt Hetherington +25

Semi-Finals:

Beatty bt Lady Bazley +5; McInerney bt Schmieder +15

Final: Beatty bt McInerney +12

Stonebrook Cups

(Handicap Doubles: Total bisques 6 or over)

Semi-Finals:

D. & D. Beatty bt Thornton & McInerney +2(T); Robson & Hetherington bt Lady Bazley & Williams +1

Final:

D. & D. Beatty bt Robson & Hetherington +11

Publications from Headquarters

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

Commentary on Laws by Col. Prichard. 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. Prichard. 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 Directory (1985) Complete list of names and addresses of Associates and Registered Clubs. Free to all Registered Clubs. Extra copies supplied on request. Price: £3.00 (£25.00) P&p 40p

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

CA Handbook with amendments to date. Gives Officers, Rules, Trophies and Winners, etc. Price: 25p (-) P&p 20p

Tournament Reports and Results

HUNSTANTON: 26-31 August

Players at Hunstanton, mostly regulars but with a sprinkling of newcomers, enjoyed probably the best weather of the year for the 86th Hunstanton Tournament. By all accounts, the party on the Sunday evening before the week started in earnest, including a Golf Croquet event won by Johnnie Haig and Steve Thomas, was highly enjoyable.

Monday dawned with two of the five lawns uncut, owing to groundsman difficulties, and the transition from a cut lawn to an uncut one, or vice versa, caught one or two people out, but by Tuesday all the lawns were restored to their normal immaculate state.

Of the newcomers, three who caught the eye were Debbie Cornelius, whose slender frame belies her ability to hit hard and accurately, Duncan Reeve and Lewis Palmer, likewise accurate hitters of the ball. All three figured prominently in the finals.

The early rounds were distinguished by a TP from Tim Harrison, a TPO by Keith Aiton, and an OQP by David Peterson playing against Nick Hyne. Later in this same game, to add injury to the insult, David's ball, driven fiercely through a hoop, ricocheted upwards off a yard-line ball and was brilliantly fielded at Hyne leg, to the amusement of the onlookers but Nick's considerable, but fortunately temporary, discomfort. John Wood was narrowly defeated by Keith Aiton in another interesting game that finished with only two balls on the court and both for the peg!

Perhaps the unaccustomed warm weather had a soporific effect on some players, as there were several marathon games in the largely untimed events. However, everything ran smoothly to schedule thanks to the calm efficiency of Managers Dab and Roger Wheeler.

John Walters (who else!) won the A event for the Norfolk Challenge Cup for the third successive year, beating Nick Hyne in a rather one-sided final. Nick twice failed to run hoop one, allowing John first to get to 4-back and then to set about the triple. However, John uncharacteristically broke down at hoop 6, but Nick was unable to take much advantage.

The B final for the Hunstanton Challenge Bowl was much more closely fought between Jane Neville-Rolfe and Sarah Hampson. Sarah established a lead, reaching peg and peg, only to see it whittled away slowly by Jane, aided by several successive take-offs from across the length of the court finishing inside the yard line. Eventually, however, with all four balls for the peg, Jane left an attempted split peg-out some ten yards short of Sarah's joined up balls and missed the roquet, allowing Sarah in to win.

Lewis Palmer won the C Final beating Duncan Reeve. Duncan gained his revenge in the X Handicap Final, albeit only with the skin of his teeth, by making a fine hit-in from some twenty yards at his own corner ball when Lewis, for peg and rover, had laid up by rover.

Stephen Cornelius won the Y Handicap Final, out-bisqueing Ron Gosden, and Debbie Cornelius beat Margaret Newman in the Z Final.

Duncan Reeve and the more experienced Pat Hetherington beat Debbie and Cornelius père in the Handicap Doubles in a game that was characterised by long periods when no clips moved whilst your scribe was watching, interspersed with bursts of activity whilst he was engaged in the entertaining one-ball side event, which was won by Nick Hyne.

It was a pleasure to play on such beautiful lawns and to relax in the friendly atmosphere.

BILL LAMB



Duncan Reeve (Durham University): Winner of the main handicap event.

RESULTS

Norfolk Challenge Cup (Advanced Play)

Block A

3 wins: K. Aiton
2 wins: M. French
1 win: J. Wood
0 wins: F. Newman

Block B

3 wins: J. Walters
2 wins: T. Harrison
1 win: M. Tompkinson
0 wins: J. Haigh

Block C

3 wins: N. Hyne
1 win: A.V. Camroux +1; Mrs D. Wheeler -13; D. Peterson -20

Play-Off:

1st Round: Harrison bt French +9
Semi-Finals: Walters bt Harrison +17; Hyne bt Aiton +10
Final: Walters bt Hyne +24

Hunstanton Bowl (Level Play: 3½ to 7 bisques)

Block A

3 wins: Miss S. Hampson
2 wins: K. Campbell
1 win: P. Hetherington
0 wins: N. Leech

Block B

2 wins: H.F. Barnett; Mrs B. Gosden
1 win: Mrs V. Tompkinson; Dr R. Wheeler

Block C

3 wins: Mrs J. Neville-Rolfe
1 win: W.E. Lamb +4; R. Gosden -9; Mrs M. Newman -18

Play-Off:

1st Round:
Barnett bt Campbell +5

Semi-Finals:

Miss Hampson bt Barnett +11; Mrs Neville-Rolfe bt Mrs Gosden +14

Final:

Miss Hampson bt Mrs Neville-Rolfe +2

Silver Rose Bowl

(Handicap Play: 7½ bisques and over)

Block A

2 wins: D.S. Cornelius (9) +19; Mrs G. Vincent (11) +17; S. Thomas (9) +7
0 wins: Mrs E. Camroux (16)

Block B

2 wins: Miss P. Hampson (8) +11; J. Reeve (16) +8

1 win: R. Vincent (8) +2; S.G. Cornelius (*9) -21

Block C

3 wins: D. Reeve (8)
2 wins: L. Palmer (12)

1 win: Miss D.A. Cornelius (*9)

0 wins: J. Bevington (8)

Play-Off:

1st Round:
Miss P. Hampson bt Mrs G. Vincent +9; L. Palmer bt S. Thomas +7; D.S. Cornelius bt J. Reeve +4

Semi-Finals:

Palmer bt Miss Hampson +14; Reeve bt Cornelius

Final: Palmer bt Reeve +15

Ingleby Challenge Cup

(Handicap Play)

1st Round:

Mrs J. Neville-Rolfe (3½) bt Dr R. Wheeler (4) +17; J. Walters (½) bt V. Camroux (1) +17; L. Palmer (12) bt Mrs V. Tompkinson (7½) +10; Mrs M. Newman (4) bt M. French (2) +14; J. Haigh (3) bt Mrs P. Hetherington (6) +13; Mrs D. Wheeler (4) bt T. Harrison (1?) +20; D. Peterson (½) bt Mrs B. Gosden (7) +1; N. Hyne (1) bt S. Cornelius (*9) +4; K. Aiton (-1) bt K. Campbell (4) +17; D. Reeve (8) bt R. Gosden (5) +17; Miss D. Cornelius (*9) bt Mrs E. Camroux (16) +17; W.E. Lamb (4) bt Miss S. Hampson (3½) +24; J. Wood (2) bt D. Cornelius (*9) +18; Miss P. Hampson (8) bt M. Tompkinson (2½) +22; S. Thomas (9) bt F. Newman (3) +22; H.F. Barnett (7) bt N. Leech (5) +8

2nd Round:

Walters bt Mrs Neville-Rolfe +18; Palmer bt Mrs Newman +16; Haigh bt Mrs Wheeler +7(T); Hyne bt Peterson +5(OQP); Reeve bt Aiton +16; Lamb bt Miss Cornelius +14; Wood bt Miss Hampson +10; Thomas bt Barnett +15

3rd Round:

Palmer bt Walters +22; Hyne bt Haigh +16; Reeve bt Lamb +22; Wood bt Thomas +2

Semi-Finals:

Palmer bt Hyne +21; Reeve bt Wood +16

Final: Reeve bt Palmer +3

Rothwell Trophy- (Handicap 'Y')

Semi-Finals:

S. Cornelius bt Mrs V. Tompkinson +20; R. Gosden bt M. Tompkinson +11

Final: Cornelius bt Gosden +15

The Hope Cups

(Handicap Doubles: Total of 6 bisques or over)

Semi-Finals:

Mrs Hetherington & Reeve bt French & Palmer +2; D.S. & Miss Cornelius bt Miss Hampson & Leech +2(T)

Final: Mrs Hetherington & Reeve bt D.S. & Miss Cornelius +12

SNIPPETS

A meeting of club representatives was held recently at Cambridge to discuss the formation of an **Eastern Federation**. A constitution for the new Federation is now being drawn up.

Edward Duffield, our President from 1975 to 1982, is also an eminent bell ringer. He was Chief Guest of Honour at the College Youths 348th Anniversary Dinner recently, where he received a standing ovation from those present.

He was Master of the Society 50 years ago, and has a legendary reputation as a magnificent heavy bell ringer. In 1937 he rang the tenor single handed at St Paul's Cathedral, a feat that is still regarded as exceptional.

Southwick turned their hands to Golf Croquet when they received their second annual visit from the **Worthing Club**. Partners were drawn out of a hat, and everyone enjoyed themselves, with tea afterwards.

The **Worthing Club's** lawn is set within the three sides of the original courtyard of Field Place, built in about 1678. Shelley was born there and it looked like a Victorian setting when 80 or more players and friends picniced on the lawn during Worthing's

News of People, Clubs, and Other Things

summer 'croquet afternoon', organised by **Pat Shine** and her colleagues.

After lunch there was a choice of croquet or various other events - a treasure hunt, or a Bring and Buy stall that resulted in funds for the club, newish and go-ahead, with over 60 members. Visitors included **Barbara and Mrs Solomon** senior, who thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

Peter Danks has taken over responsibility for coaching and publicity at **Budleigh Salterton**.

The **Worcester Club** has levelled the ground and sown seed for two new full size lawns at their new site. Both lawns should come into use next season.

'Happy' Christmas and his colleagues at **Shrewsbury** are negotiating to use a new site with potential for 6 full size lawns at the National Trust's Attingham Hall. The site is totally enclosed by a 12 foot high brick wall.

The CA has given a Grant of £500 and a Loan of £250 to the **Worcester Club** and a Grant of £500 to the **South West Federation**.

(Continued from page 15)

9-10 Compton W/end 2*
11-16 Nottingham
16-17 Roehampton W/end 2*
16-25 Northern Championships
18-23 Edinburgh
18-23 Southwick 2
23-25 Cheltenham W/end 4
23-25 Hurlingham W/end 2
25-30 Hunstanton
25-30 Parkstone 2

September

1-5 Chairman's Salver
1-5 Spencer Ell Cup
2-6 President's Cup
3-7 Cheltenham 3
5-7 Selector's Weekend
6-7 All-England Area Finals
12-14 Southwick W/end 4
12-14 Nottingham W/end 3
12-14 Ryde W/end 2
13-14 Southport W/end 3*
15-19 Ladies Field Cup
15-19 Longman Bowl
19-21 Cheltenham W/end 5*
19-21 Budleigh Salterton W/end
19-21 Wrest Park W/end 3
20-28 South of England Championships
27-28 All-England Final

October

3-5 Cheltenham W/end 6
4 Mary Rose Final
5 Inter-Club Final
5 Longman Cup Final

*Contains events other than Handicap blocks

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Ampney Park Croquet Weekends

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On the weekends of 17th/18th May and 28th/29th June next year (other dates by arrangement) my wife and I invite a party of 8 couples to stay in the house and be well fed and watered. Coaching will be provided by a resident Croquet Association coach. The rules and tactics of the game will be taught in the small theatre within the house.

During the weekend there will be opportunities to put theory into practice on the two croquet lawns in the most beautiful setting. Nostalgia at its best! Boaters and blazers, why not do the job properly and drink Earle Grey tea with cucumber sandwiches on the terrace overlooking the lawns and garden? Toasting the winners with Pink Champagne.

Guests will be welcomed on Friday evening for an initial introduction to the weekend, and for two days full board accommodation (not including drinks) and coaching, the inclusive charge will be £190 per couple. Further details will be gladly supplied on request by letter to: Tim or Shirley Eaton, Ampney Park, Nr Cirencester, Glos. or phone 0625-582522.

Your letters

Waterproof Clothing

(In response to Peter Bishop's query in Issue No 182)

Dear Sir

My husband and I have found that the North Face Stowaway Jacket, made in GoreTex fabric, solves the wet weather gear problem. It is waterproof but no condensation develops inside, so it is therefore very comfortable to wear. This particular make is short and lightweight, and ideal for croquet (or walking, etc). The only snag is the price (about £70) - but we think it worth every penny. It is available in blue and yellow from mountaineering shops like Pindisports. I expect a list of stockists could be obtained from the manufacturer: The North Face, PO Box 16, Industrial Estate, Port Glasgow, PA14 5XL, Scotland.

Rosemary Gugan
Bristol

Dear Sir,

I find Greenspot waterproof clothing does not cause condensation. It is manufactured by Bircham Dudley (Tel: 0274-873015).

Andrew Hope
Cheltenham

That Cover Photo

Dear Sir,

Thank you for the absolutely stunning cover photo in your last issue. May it be the first of many similar.

You gave the provenance of the skirts and blouses worn by these two beautiful ladies, but do not state their names and finally ask to which club these girls belong. The answer is, they don't.

I can tell you a little more about the matter. You have only published half the photograph. The lady in the white hat who is convulsed with laughter was in fact laughing at my partner who was so bemused by the exceptional display of pulchritudinousness at Hurlingham that he hit his ankle trying to do an oblique jump shot. I should add that we were not strictly in a winning position. I had not yet gone through one hoop and was stuck in the far corner adjacent to No 3 hoop. My partner was at the fourth hoop, our opponents had a fence of bisques still standing and both were round to the peg, but we've been brought up on the principle that no game is lost until it's won.

Anyhow, these Gor-Ray clad ladies were, so they thought, about to peg out. They were playing red and yellow and although your photograph is in black and white, I assure you that these were the two balls adjacent to the peg. (The reason you do not see their clips on the peg is that they both belong to that irritating group of players who remove their clips before pegging out just in case you do not hear the 'clunks' clearly.) I saved the day, for at that very moment, I realised with horror that the lady in the white hat, the laughing lady, although seemingly exquisitely dressed had one sartorial defect. She was wearing shoes with heels (Please do look at the photograph if you think I've made this up).

I drew myself up to my full 5ft 6½ins and saying that we do not allow that sort of thing

at Hurlingham, I there and then disqualified them for breaking our club rules. So, we won.

It is not for nothing that our club motto is *nisi nisi carborundum*.

Philip Joseph
Rutland Gate, London.



Is she wearing beels?

Queries on the Laws

Dear Sir,

In the report of the Ryde Tournament (No 182, p5) reference is made to the WRONG BALL being played in the first four turns - 3rd ball in this case. The amendment to this law (28) (which is only temporary as yet) seems to be causing a certain amount of confusion in my mind. Camroux's interpretation compounds it even further. Surely it is the 3rd turn player's own ball, not the one actually played, that is placed anywhere along either baulk line and then the opponent plays his own ball (incorrectly used by the 3rd turn player) in the fourth turn as normal.

Had the game in question been a handicap game and the same 3rd turn player had some bisques, then having placed her own ball on the baulk line she could then have taken bisque(s) (38c) but any extra turn(s) made would all be regarded as the 3rd turn so that the opponent still plays his last ball on in the 4th turn. At least that is how I interpret the last sentence of Law 38c.

Peter Bishop
Colchester

Dear Sir,

During play at Bath yesterday two interesting situations arose. Having no referee present we would be pleased to know if our interpretation of the laws was correct.

(a) A player attempted to peel his partner ball through hoop 4. In doing so the croquetted ball ran the hoop but went off the lawn. We decided that his turn must end but the hoop point could be scored.

(b) In a crucial situation in a doubles game when both the opponents balls were lined up for rover a player shot at them using

the wrong ball. The balls were replaced and she then requested her remaining half-bisque to shoot with the other ball. This was allowed on the grounds that although it was a different ball, it was the same player.

Margaret Langley
Bath

Mr Bishop is quite right, and I am grateful to him for pointing out the apparent error in the Ryde tournament report. Law 28(b) (previously 28(c)) clearly states that the balls are replaced in their lawful positions before the first stroke in error. In the case described, the lawful position for the ball which was actually played is -- off the lawn. The lawful position for the ball that should have been played is any point on either baulk line, as specifically stated in the last sentence of Law 28(b)(i). This then has the advantage for the player playing fourth that the ball from the third turn is now in baulk, giving him an immediate chance to take croquet.

Turning to Point (a) of Margaret Langley's letter, this course of action was quite correct. Law 20(c) states that the turn ends if the croqueted ball is sent off the lawn, and there is no exclusion if it scores a hoop point, as there is for the striker's ball in Law 20(c)(ii). Notice that no fault has been committed; it is a common misconception that sending a ball off in a croquet shot is a fault. It is not.

The action taken with regard to Point (b) is also correct, though the players were apparently not aware that the partner could have taken the half-bisque instead. Law 43(b) makes this quite clear.

Martin Murray
Chairman: Laws Committee

Golf Croquet

Dear Sir,

The more Golf Croquet I play (and I play quite a lot of that friendly and convivial game) the more stupid I think it is that it is so named.

It has not got the croquet stroke within it - so why have Croquet in its title - and the confusion between Association Croquet and Golf Croquet is limitless.

Why cannot we give it a new name? Ping Pong has turned into Table Tennis so why shouldn't Golf Croquet turn into . . . wait for it . . . Mallets?

Can anyone think of a better name? I would be most interested to have suggestions before I start the task of persuading Council to consider the matter and make the change.

Smokey Eades
Maidenhead

Dear Sir,

Golf Croquet: Billiards on the Lawn. A game of skill and interest which should have the full encouragement of the Croquet Association.

Doris Locks Latham
Budleigh Salterton

Riggall's Hypothesis

Dear Sir,

Like Keith Aiton, I also hope that there will not be a Riggall's Second Law, as I never proposed the first one. This 'Law' was created by others, when they observed how frequently the pegged out player, considered to be in an almost hopeless position, actually won the game, as is explained in my article in The Croquet Gazette, Issue No 170.

Many years ago when I was playing with bisques in England, I used to go straight to the peg at the first opportunity if I had 2 or more bisques left. This revolutionary tactic by a B class player was heavily criticised by the pundits, who were unanimous in their condemnation. But I never lost any game by this tactic when pegged out, and my opponents were always baffled by what seemed to them to be an unnatural result. It seems that long experience has changed this attitude, as I noticed that in Coaches Corner recently, the bisque receiver is given an unqualified recommendation to go round to the peg.

As explained in the article mentioned above, this hypothesis concerning pegged-out games was tested by a sceptical Maurice Reckitt and found to be correct. And even in the issue of 'Croquet' which contained Keith's letter I find further evidence. On page 3 it is reported that 'Keith Aiton was quickly beaten through TWICE (my emphasis) failing to TPO.' And on page 18 Keith was reported to have been pegged out when his weaker lady partner was only for 2-back, yet she won.

Psychology plays a part in these single ball victories. The pegged out player plays a more aggressive game and concentrates harder. He also attempts shots he would never attempt in normal circumstances, such as long hoops. Those who have watched American croquet must be impressed by the long hoops which are attempted and run. Here the spur is the fact that the ball is 'dead', but the psychological effect is the same. There is greater concentration.

I feel sure that the value of the TPO is greatly over-estimated because there is no record of results. There never will be, because a TPO is a bold and spectacular play which attracts much applause and attention and is always recorded. Whereas failed TPOs are rarely recorded, and thousands must be unrecorded. And in nearly all those cases the opponent was left with the advantage of requiring a smaller number of peels, or none, to finish off the game.

There are fashions in croquet as in everything, and after another twenty years I believe that opinion will change as it did concerning going round to the peg, and the triple or sextuple peel will be preferred to the TPO.

Leslie Riggall
Kloof, South Africa

Thanks from Overseas

Dear Sir,

It is never too late to say THANKS. As an American from far off California I wish to send our warmest thanks and best wishes to the many Croquet players who were so very kind and hospitable to Monica and myself.

We had a delightful 'warm-up' with our friends, the Cranes, playing at the Phyllis Court Club at Henley, before we tackled the tournament at Cheltenham. There I was teamed with my good friend Liz Neal, and for the first time in my life played the double-banked game. Quite confusing and distracting to start with, but I am sure one soon gets used to it. That tournament was well organised by Mr Jackson, and special thanks to him for taking us around his 'hide and seek' garden, an experience well worth the time.

From Cheltenham we visited an old croquet friend at his home in Bury, Major George Horridge, who was often in the tournaments at Budleigh Salterton. After that pleasant visit we journeyed by plane to Dublin where I was entered in the Carrickmines tournament. Unfortunately illness meant I had to drop out and spend a few days in bed, but I must thank the club members there who were so gracious to us and did all they could to make our stay pleasant.



The Birnam Wood clubhouse

In closing I would like to invite any players of Association Croquet to visit the Birnam Wood Club here in Santa Barbara, where we only play according to the 'British' rules.

F. Tucker
Santa Barbara, USA

Schools Croquet: A correction!

Dear Sir,

To put the record straight (cf Nov issue p3-1985 Schools Championship) there are TWO schools currently involved in the West Midlands Federation, Division 2. Ludlow College and Bishop Vesey's Grammar School.

This year was Bishop Vesey's first season in the League and, playing against established clubs such as Edgbaston, Wolverhampton, Stourbridge and Shrewsbury, they did surprisingly well, coming a close 2nd to the Ludlow 'A' team. This bodes well for the future despite the problem we face, in the schools, of the rapid turnover of players compared to the conventional club.

David Isgrove
Sutton Coldfield

Your letters

Hoop Setting

Dear Sir,

I fully endorse Eddie Bell's call for a tighter specification for hoop setting in tournaments in his stimulating article in the November issue of Croquet. However, even Eddie's suggestion that the hoop specification should be changed to a width of three and three quarter inches, plus zero, minus one thirty second is not in itself sufficient.

At the East Riding Weekend Tournament this year I set the hoops to the regulation width as accurately as possible using vernier calipers, and was somewhat taken aback when the tournament referee suggested that the hoops were rather generous. Indeed he was right, as most of the balls were at the lower tolerance limit of diameter, resulting in a gap between hoop and ball 25% greater than the standard one-eighth of an inch.



Bill Lamb checking another hoop! Peter Thompson looks on.

Whereas both hoop and ball, as separate items of equipment, must have a separate specification, in tournaments it is the gap which needs to be specified. I would suggest that this should be one-eighth of an inch, plus zero, minus one thirty-second. This could easily be checked with a set of feeler gauges made out of metal strip of the appropriate width.

However, in fairness, the balls on each court would have to be more uniform in size than is usually the case and this would require a more accurate ball gauge than the usual GO:NO Go type. Such a gauge can easily be constructed on the same principle as the wedge hoop gauge in the form of a U-shaped channel, with a depth slightly greater than the radius of a ball, and with the width of the channel tapered from slightly greater than the upper tolerance limit of diameter at one end to slightly less than the lower tolerance limit at the other. The width of the channel can be marked at intervals along its length and the ball to be tested is rolled along the channel until it sticks.

Bill Lamb
Cottingham

News from the South Coast

SOUTHWICK: 19-24 August

In this damp apology for a summer it is pleasant to report that only once over the six days of play was there sufficient rain to require the full panoply of waterproofs. We were saved from the risk of drought by plentiful downpours overnight on several occasions! Not surprisingly the lawns were slow and only the most energetic could send long take offs beyond the intended destination. In the circumstances the groundstaff did very well to give us so many lawns in playable condition.

Efficient and unobtrusive management by Betty Weitz saw a full programme of games completed by 6pm on the Saturday evening. The use of American blocks for class events and a Y event for the mixed doubles gave even the least successful of us a good ration of play and it was quite hard to find time to sit and watch over the efforts of others. An unscheduled addition to the packed programme was a one-ball competition for anyone who found time to spare.

Michael Phelps once again won the appropriately ample Abbey Cup for the A level singles with six wins out of six; his nearest challenger (with four) was Peter Death. The latter obtained some measure of revenge by beating Michael in the final of the Men's Handicap. It is interesting that the two lowest handicapped players came through to the final. In the B level blocks Bob Rogers played consistently through the week and collected the Scott Cup and a full bisque reduction in handicap. He won his group with four out of four and then put paid to Betty Weitz, the other block winner, in the play off. At the C level two local players came through decisively to head their blocks and the play off saw Connie Cox pip Pat Shine for the Daldy Cup. At the D and E levels Kismet Whittall and Richard Sowerby achieved maximum wins and were fittingly dealt with by the handicapper.

The Ladies' Handicap produced a long and hard-fought final between Hyacinth Coombs and Enid Ross which outlasted by a few minutes the Doubles final and in the end gave Hyacinth the task of cleaning the Sussex Vase for the next year. The Doubles Final was between the redoubtable Wharrad partnership and a local team of Michael Phelps and Kathy Pitt. The game produced the usual hoop-by-hoop, divide and lay up opening phase which was spiced somewhat by the sight of Michael being peeled twice by his partner. When the Wharrads reached rover Michael went round from 2-back, peeled Lionel and pegged him out. Tension at once gripped participants and spectators as Kathy caught up to and made 4-back while Moira had managed to get through Rover and lurk near the peg. A take-off to remove her was a bit too long and Moira kept her head down and firmly pegged out. All present retired thankfully to the bar's welcome shelter for suitable restoratives and the presentation of cups, prizes, etc.

As ever, the club made visitors most welcome and there were excellent lunches and delicious teas to help us keep up our strength for the serious business of croquet. The bar opened at all suitable opportunities to purvey the means of celebrating victory,

consoling defeat or simply slaking thirsts. All in all a most enjoyable and entertaining week; thank you Southwick for looking after us so well.

C.H. TOWNSHEND



Peter Death - up amongst the winners

RESULTS

Abbey Challenge Cup

(Advanced Play)

6 wins: M.F. Phelps

4 wins: P.J. Death

3 wins: W.E. Moore + 22; L. Wharrad -16

2 wins: B.G.F. Weitz -4; J.S.H. Battison -37

Scott Cup (Advanced Play)

Block A

4 wins: R.A.G. Rogers

3 wins: D.M. Bull

2 wins: Mrs L.A. Coombs

1 win: R.F.A. Crane

0 win: Rev C.H. Townshend

Block B

3 wins: Mrs B.G.F. Weitz + 28; G.A. Hutcheson + 22

2 wins: J. Haigh

1 win: C.J. Chandler -26; Mrs E.A. Mapletoft -35

Play-Off: Rogers bt Mrs Weitz + 13

Daldy Cup (Level Play)

Block A

4 wins: Miss C. Cox

2 wins: Mrs M.E. Langley + 9; Mrs E.G. Ross -16

1 win: Mrs E. Lewis -10; Mrs M. Grout -24

Block B

4 wins: Miss P. Shine

2 wins: Mrs E.A. Staddon

1 win: Miss B. Dennant + 11; Mrs S. Soutter + 1

0 wins: G.F. Paxon

Play-Off: Miss C. Cox bt Miss P. Shine + 9

Monteith Bowl (Handicap Play)

4 wins: Mrs K Whittall

3 wins: Mrs L. Wharrad

2 wins: Ms Pitt

1 win: Mrs R.F.A. Crane

0 wins: Mrs B. Solomon

'E' Class Event (14 bisques & over)

4 wins: R.E. Sowerby

2 wins: Mrs G. Wiggins + 2; Mrs E. St John -17

1 win: H. Catten -15; Mrs D. Catten -19

Douglas Jones Cup

(Men's Handicap Singles)

1st Round:

W.E. Moore (2) bt J.S.H. Battison + 14; B.G.F. Weitz (1/2) bt G.F. Paxon (5 1/2) + 20; L. Wharrad (1) bt R.F.A. Crane (4) + 8; M.F. Phelps (0) bt G.A. Hutcheson (3 1/2) + 14; R.A.G. Rogers (5 1/2) bt F. Reynold (2) + 26; P.J. Death (1/2) bt D.M. Bull (4) + 7; J. Haigh (3) bt C.H. Townshend (3) + 3

2nd Round:

Moore bt Weitz + 2; Phelps bt Wharrad + 7; Death bt Rogers + 3; C.J. Chandler (5) bt Haigh + 3

Semi-Finals:

Phelps bt Moore + 7; Death bt Chandler + 17

Final: Death bt Phelps + 16

The Sussex Vase

(Women's Handicap Singles)

1st Round:

Mrs K. Whittall (11) bt Mrs E.A. Mapletoft (5 1/2) + 5; Miss C. Cox (5 1/2) bt Mrs L. Wharrad (9) + 10; Mrs E.G. Ross (8) bt Mrs M.E. Langley (8) + 10; Mrs N. Clapperton (11) bt Ms Pitt (13) + 8

2nd Round:

Mrs L.A. Coombs (5) bt Mrs M. Grout (6 1/2) + 3; Mrs E. St John (14) bt Mrs S. Soutter (5 1/2) + 15; Mrs R.F.A. Crane (12) bt Mrs B. Dennant (7 1/2) + 3; Mrs Whittall bt Miss Cox + 13; Mrs Ross bt Mrs Clapperton + 12; Miss D. Harding (12) bt Mrs E. Lewis (7 1/2) + 6; Mrs B.G.F. Weitz (4) bt Miss J. Loveys (12) + 8; Miss P. Shine (7) bt Mrs B. Solomon (16) + 14

3rd Round:

Mrs Coombs bt Mrs St John + 6; Mrs Whittall bt Miss Cox + 10; Mrs Ross bt Miss Harding + 11; Miss Shine bt Mrs Weitz + 9

Semi-Finals:

Mrs Coombs bt Mrs Whittall + 1; Mrs Ross bt Miss Shine + 8

Final: Mrs Coombs bt Mrs Ross + 7

The Howard Austin Cups

(Mixed Handicap Doubles)

Semi-Finals:

Mr & Mrs Wharrad bt Death & Miss Harding + 14; Phelps & Ms Pitt bt Weitz & Miss Shine + 12

Final: Mr & Mrs Wharrad bt Phelps & Ms Pitt + 4

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.

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Price £1.00 (£1.50) P&P 35p per booklet.

Video Films

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

PARKSTONE: 2-7 September

This tournament saw a change to the normal class events by introducing a system of American blocks with play-offs for the winners. This guaranteed the entrants more play than usual and was consequently well received by them, but this method did require that more double-banking was necessary.

As it turned out, the weather had more to do with double-banking than did the tournament organisation. Nonetheless, the capable management of Dennis Moorcraft with the ever-present assistance of Margaret McMordie brought the tournament to a successful conclusion, on schedule and including a 'Z' event in the big handicap.

Monday saw the start of the Big Handicap which brought few surprises but it was very noticeable that no low bisquers seemed to be in any danger of being eliminated.

The Class events began on Tuesday with two American blocks in both the 'A' and the 'C' events with three blocks in the 'B' class. Terry Wood began to show the form which led him to win his block by completing a triple peel, the only one of the tournament. Les Butler and Dennis Moorcraft had a very close game where Les had only to hit the peg with his single ball to win. He fluffed his first chance and then hit in again. His subsequent take-off to obtain a rush to the peg ended dead in the middle of 3-back. Dennis proceeded to make all his remaining hoops and left a rush to the peg, unfortunately not accurately wired. Les hit in from the far side of the court and made no further mistakes.

The doubles began on Wednesday with Terry and Derek Wood doing particularly well, and Ewan McKenzie-Bowie taking his partner, Jean Wraith, on to win by his accurate hitting in. In the Big Handicap, Les Butler was again involved in a pegged out game, this time against Ewan McKenzie-Bowie. Les pegged out his opponent with himself on Penult and Ewan for 1-back, but it did not occur to Les to peg himself out. Ewan then proceeded to catch up starting with a spectacular 1-back from near the boundary which barely touched the wire. Les almost lost by leaving a good target when lined up for the peg but Ewan missed with a rather loose shot for him. (In fact, it is surprising that he hits anything considering the speed with which he takes his shots.) Les pegged out, a classic game where the spectators knew every shot which should have been played.

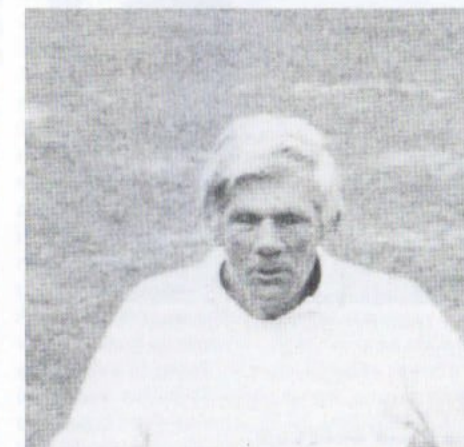
Joan Parker had an easy game against Dennis Moorcraft in the 'Z' beating him by 26. Joan took two bisques to take the first ball round, then 7 1/2 for the second. Dennis was not amused! Joan succeeded in reaching the final of the 'Z' where she met Kay Yeoman.

The finals brought a good selection of close games, the first being between Susan Wiggins and Terry Wood, both of whom had won their blocks in the 'A' class without losing a game. Susan was the first to get a ball to 4-back by picking up a break by remarkably accurate split shot approaches. Terry shortly got his first ball round but then the game became much tougher. Susan was

in the lead for most of the time with Terry failing some relatively easy hoops. In return Susan missed some short roquets allowing Terry slowly to catch up. After 3 hours of play Terry had overtaken Susan and had missed a long roll-up to the peg but still pegged out one ball. Time was called during Susan's next turn but she missed the last shot leaving Terry the winner by only 3 points.

The 'B' class saw Kay Yeoman, Major Vale, and Cdre Greswell winning their blocks with Tommy Vale beating Kay in the final.

The Big Handicap was won by John Soutter beating Frank Shergold rather more comfortably than expected after a game where both parties made numerous errors. Still, John had his handicap reduced by 1/2 for the privilege of winning.



Dennis Moorcraft who managed the Parkstone tournament

The final of the 'Y' was between Beryl Saunders and Cecil Weldon which promised to be a good game. At any rate, both players showed obvious signs of improvement throughout the tournament and were both duly reduced by 1 in handicap.

The doubles between Jean Wraith with Ewan McKenzie-Bowie against Terry and Derek Wood was won comfortably by the Woods mainly because of the significant improvement in ability which Derek had showed throughout the week. His doubles handicap was reduced from 14 to 10 as a result of this, not bad for a 12-year-old.

All in all, this was a very enjoyable tournament which was improved, at least in the writer's view, by the introduction of blocks in the Class Events. It is to be hoped that this style of tournament ensuring many games for all competitors will grow even if additional double-banking is necessary.

TERRY WOOD

RESULTS

Bournemouth Bowl & Ashton Trophy

Block 1

5 wins: T.I. Wood

3 wins: Dr C.A. Parker + 18; E. McKenzie-Bowie -1

1 win: Mrs E. Asa-Thomas

0 wins: Dr W.R.D. Wiggins

Block 2

4 wins: Mrs W.R.D. Wiggins

3 wins: D.H. Moorcraft

2 wins: L.S. Butler

1 win: J.H.J. Soutter

0 wins: R.H.C. Carder

Play-Off: Wood bt Mrs Wiggins + 3

Deshon Cup (Level Play: 4-8 bisques)

Block 1

3 wins: Major T. Vale

2 wins: G.C.H. Weldon

1 win: Mrs S.S. Cruden

0 wins: Miss A.R. Robertson

Block 2

3 wins: Mrs K.G. Yeoman

2 wins: Mrs W.A. Scarr

1 win: Mrs B.R. Saunders

0 wins: Mrs A.E. Millns

Block 3

3 wins: Air Cdre J.H. Greswell

1 win: F.J. Exell -3; Mrs T. Vale -5; W.A. Scarr -17

Play-Off:

Semi-Final:

Mrs Yeoman bt Air Cdre Greswell + 11

Final: Major Vale bt Mrs Yeoman + 15

Halse Salver

(Handicap Singles: 9 bisques or over)

Block 1

3 wins: Miss A.M. Ryan (9)

2 wins: Mrs A. Searle (16)

1 win: D.M. Wood (15)

Block 2

3 wins: W.E. Philp (9)

2 wins: Mrs E. Wilton (16)

1 win: Miss J. Wraith (13)

0 wins: Mrs C.A. Parker (10)

Play-Off: Miss Ryan bt Philp + 2(T)

Bishop Cup

(Handicap Singles 'X')

1st Round:

Mrs W.R.D. Wiggins (0) bt Mrs E. Asa-Thomas (3)

+ 17; R.H.C. Carder (3 1/2) bt F.J. Exell (5 1/2) + 8;

F.L. Shergold (1 1/2) bt W.E. Philp (9) + 14; Mrs

K.G. Yeoman (5) bt Miss A.M. Ryan (9) + 7(T);

E. McKenzie-Bowie (1 1/2) bt Air Cdre J.H.

Greswell (4) + 13; L.S. Butler (1) bt Mrs S. Cruden

(8) + 13; D.H. Moorcraft (1/2) bt G.C.H. Weldon

(8) + 6; Miss M. Hardman (11) bt Mrs B.R.

Saunders (8) + 8; W.A. Scarr (6) bt Miss J. Wraith

(13) + 9; Mrs W.A. Scarr (5) bt Mrp E. Wilton (16)

+ 5; T.I. Wood (0) bt Miss A.R. Robertson (8)

+ 24; D.M. Wood (15) bt Mrs C.A. Parker (10)

+ 5(T); Dr C.A. Parker (2 1/2) bt Major T. Vale

(4) + 10

2nd Round:

Mrs Wiggins bt Dr W.R.D. Wiggins (1/2) + 7;

Shergold bt Carder (wo); McKenzie-Bowie bt Mrs

Yeoman + 12; Butler bt Moorcraft + 3; Miss

Hardman bt Scarr + 14; T. Wood bt Mrs Scarr

+ 17; Parker bt D. Wood + 17; J.H.J. Soutter (3)

bt Mrs T. Vale (7) + 8

3rd Round:

Shergold bt Mrs Wiggins + 10; Butler bt

McKenzie-Bowie + 6; T. Wood bt Miss Hardman

+ 25; Soutter bt Parker + 11

Semi-Finals:

Shergold bt Butler + 12; Soutter bt T. Wood + 19

Final: Soutter bt Shergold + 7

Handicap 'Y'

Semi-Finals:

Dr Wiggins bt Weldon + 10; Mrs Saunders bt Mrs

Vale + 2(T)

Final: Mrs Saunders bt Weldon + 17

Handicap Doubles

(Total 4 bisques & over)

Semi-Finals:

McKenzie-Bowie & Miss Wraith bt Moorcraft &

Exell + 6; T & D. Wood bt Butler & Weldon + 15

Final: T & D Wood bt McKenzie-Bowie & Miss

Wraith + 22.

News from the South Coast

Tournament Reports and Results

NOTTINGHAM: 12-17 August

The clouds gathered ominously as the participants mustered in celebration of the annual Nottingham week. Sure enough it was not long before the traditional Lincoln-green was in evidence as the covers came out. The out-players huddled in the sentry-boxes, for once hoping that their opponents would not break down. But the inclement conditions did add to the proceedings by producing some light-hearted moments.

In between downpours the croquet too provided the sporadic bystander with some entertainment. The Week began, and ended, with the 'X' handicap singles. Curiously enough, the four semi-finalists mopped up all the booty awarded during the week, save that for the 'Y' and 'Z' for which they were not, of course, eligible. The semi-final between David Goacher and Brian Hallam produced a close and exciting game which Brian just won. David however came close to finishing on a two ball break when only two balls remained on the lawn. The final between a jaded Brian Hallam and a below par Lawrence Whittaker provided a fitting conclusion to the week with the result in doubt up until the last minute.

The handicap doubles provided the usual fun in the early rounds. John Walters was under strict instructions from his partner, Joan Howarth, to put her in front of every hoop and to peel her ball through the last four. In the first round John held to his instructions perfectly, performing the only quadruple of the week.

On the Wednesday evening a match of a different sort had been arranged with the proprietors of a local restaurant and 14 of us turned up to take part. It turned out not unlike the doubles final with very little happening during the first hour; some bread and a few drinks were consumed but no real progress was made by either side. Once the wine began to flow the players opened up and the game improved sufficiently for a conclusion to be reached just inside the 3½ hour time limit. The result was subject to much discussion on just who had won but certainly the proprietors were happy with their points tally and the players expressed that feeling of contentment which only results from an excellent meal.

The open singles was deservedly won by John Walters who played consistently well throughout the week. Otherwise the event provided two notable incidents. The first gave a demonstration of what hoop running is all about when Gordon Hopewell ran hoop 4 from the North boundary with sufficient control to get a double, of sorts, on opponent's balls along the South boundary. Such feats bring their own rewards and unfortunately that is all Gordon had from it. The second incident arose in the game between Keith Aiton and David Peterson when in the third turn a wrong ball was played on to the lawn but the error was not spotted until after the fourth turn. The croquet academics seemed to be scratching their heads for some time over this one! In order to overcome this problem in future perhaps Jaques should manufacture a higher proportion of red and yellow balls to satisfy increasing demand.

Undoubtedly the best game of the week

occurred in the 'Z' between Keith Aiton and Audrey Bucknell. Audrey was for 6 and penult when Keith began his first break and he at once started on the septuple. However all was not going quite to plan and he decided on the double as a second string to his bow. He managed 6 peels of the septuple and both peels on the forward ball but could not make the peg out. Having to deal with a slight variation on the standard 'A' class leave, Audrey with admirable calm used her remaining bisques to make rover and peg out to win +14.

The week was much enjoyed by all taking part, especially Brian Hallam who came to look on it as something of a benefit occasion. Most of the thanks must go to Ian Vincent who managed everything in masterly fashion, except perhaps the weather.

R.W. RANSOM



David Goacher (Bristol) with the 'B' Level Trophy.

RESULTS

'Robin Hood' Gold Cup Handicap Singles

1st Round:

M.R.L. Cowan (8) bt Miss P.G. Hampson (8) +13; B.G. Hallam (2½) bt Dr T.W. Smith (5) +6; G.N. Leech (4) bt Mrs A.J. Bucknell (12) +10; J.O. Walters (½) bt Mrs R.F. Wheeler (4) +17; J.F.S. Thomas (9) bt A.J. Girling (1) +12; J.R. McCullough (-1) bt Mrs T.W. Smith (11) +17; Dr R.C. Jones (3) bt Dr R.F. Wheeler (4) +7; N.G. Hyne (1) bt R.W. Ransom (5½) +12; D.J. Goacher (4½) bt Mrs M.J. Haworth (14) +13; M.J. Stevens (½) bt L. Robinson (8) +12; Dr G.K. Taylor (½) bt Dr I.G. Vincent (-½) +19; M.G. Tompkinson (2½) bt Mrs C. Chamberlain (12) +2; K.M.H. Aiton (-1) bt Mrs M.G. Tompkinson (7½) +12; E.J. Davis (½) bt C.G. Hopewell (2½) +6; Dr F.L. Whittaker (9) bt D.N.S. Peterson (½) +25; Mrs R.W. Ransom (7) bt A.J. Bucknell (7) +23

2nd Round:

Hallam bt Cowan +1; Walters bt Leech +10; McCullough bt Thomas +19; Hyne bt Jones +26; Stevens bt Goacher +14; Tompkinson bt Taylor +14; Davis bt Aiton +26; Whittaker bt Mrs Ransom +19

3rd Round:

Hallam bt Walters +25; Hyne bt McCullough +24; Stevens bt Tompkinson +4; Whittaker bt Davis +17

Semi-Finals:

Hallam bt Hyne +17; Stevens bt Whittaker +4

Final: Hallam bt Stevens +15

Open Singles: Advanced Play

DRAW

1st Round:

N.G. Hyne bt E.J. Davis +15; M.J. Stevens bt Dr

G.K. Taylor +20; A.J. Girling bt Dr R.C. Jones +8; J.O. Walters bt C.G. Hopewell +8; K.M.H. Aiton bt D.N.S. Peterson +7; Mrs R.F. Wheeler bt Dr R.F. Wheeler +19; J.R. McCullough bt Dr I.G. Vincent +14; B.G. Hallam bt M.G. Tompkinson +15

2nd Round:

Hyne bt Stevens +19; Walters bt Girling +24; Aiton bt Mrs Wheeler +3; McCullough bt Hallam +12

Semi-Finals:

Walters bt Hyne +12; Aiton bt McCullough +5

Final: Walters bt Aiton +16

PROCESS

1st Round:

Aiton bt Davis +4 (TPO); McCullough bt Girling +5; Taylor bt Mrs Wheeler +16; Hallam bt Hopewell +16; Peterson bt Hyne +16 (TP); Vincent bt Jones +13; Stevens bt Wheeler +14; Walters bt Tompkinson +17

2nd Round:

McCullough bt Aiton +17; Hallam bt Taylor +2; Vincent bt Peterson +5; Walters bt Stevens +17

Semi-Finals:

McCullough bt Hallam +24 (TP); Vincent bt Walters +14 (TP)

Final: McCullough bt Vincent +9

Play-Off: Walters bt McCullough +17

'B' Level Singles Advanced Play

DRAW:

1st Round:

D.J. Goacher bt R.W. Ransom +10; Miss P. Hampson bt Mrs S.B. Hudson (wo); A.J. Bucknell bt Dr F.L. Whittaker (wo)

2nd Round:

G.N. Leech bt Mrs R.W. Ransom +7; Goacher bt Miss Hampson +23; Dr T.W. Smith bt Bucknell +13; M.R.L. Cowan bt Mrs M.G. Tompkinson +3

Semi-Finals:

Goacher bt Leech +22; Cowan bt Smith (wo)

Final: Goacher bt Cowan +6

PROCESS:

1st Round:

Smith bt Leech +14; Goacher bt Mrs Tompkinson +14; Cowan bt Mrs Ransom +5(T)

2nd Round:

Smith bt Miss Hampson +13; Goacher bt Whittaker (wo); Cowan bt Mrs Hudson (wo); Ransom bt Bucknell +23

Semi-Finals:

Goacher bt Smith +5; Ransom bt Cowan +9

Final: Goacher bt Ransom +3(T)

Outright Winner: D.J. Goacher

Handicap Singles

9 bisques and over

5 wins: Dr F.L. Whittaker

4 wins: J.F.S. Thomas

2 wins: Mrs A.J. Bucknell, Mrs C. Chamberlain

1 win: Mrs M.J. Haworth, Mrs T.W. Smith

Handicap Singles 'X'

1st Round:

E.J. Davis bt L. Robinson +14; J.R. McCullough bt Mrs Chamberlain +17; C.G. Hopewell bt Mrs M.G. Tompkinson +16; J.O. Walters bt Mrs A.J. Bucknell +18; G.N. Leech bt Mrs M.J. Haworth +7; Dr F.L. Whittaker bt R.W. Ransom +10; Dr R.C. Jones bt A.J. BUcknell +22; M.R.L. Cowan bt Dr G.K. Taylor +26; J.F.S. Thomas bt D.N.S. Peterson +24; D.J. Goacher bt N.G. Hyne +25; Miss P.G. Hampson bt Mrs T.W. Smith +8(T); Mrs R.F. Wheeler bt A.J. Girling +9; Dr I.G. Vincent bt M.J. Stevens +13; B.G. Hallam bt Dr T.W. Smith +12; K.M.H. Aiton bt Mrs R.W. Ransom +3; M.G. Tompkinson bt Dr R.F. Wheeler +6

2nd Round:

Davis bt McCullough +26; Walters bt Hopewell +7; Whittaker bt Leech +15; Cowan bt Jones +13; Goacher bt Thomas +15; Mrs Wheeler bt Miss Hampson +12; Hallam bt Vincent +26; Aiton bt Tompkinson +3

3rd Round:

Walters bt Davis +14; Whittaker bt Cowan +10; Goacher bt Mrs Wheeler +25; Hallam bt Aiton +26

Semi-Finals:

Whittaker bt Walters +26; Hallam bt Goacher +4

Final: Hallam bt Whittaker +3

Handicap Doubles

Semi-Finals:

Hallam & Johnson bt Peterson & Miss Hampson +7; Girling & Ransom bt Hyne & Mrs Ransom +20

Final: Hallam & Johnson bt Girling & Ransom +20

OUR MAN IN THE EAST



A glimpse of life on the other side

When Bernard Neal appeared on the tennis courts of the East Gloucestershire Sports Club, during the Cheltenham Five Day Croquet Tournament in September, speculation over the Professor's possible defection was rife.

Could it be, however, that our Association has at last got a man on the other side of the Wire Curtain? In these days of threatened invasion of our precious courts by racketeering men, is it possible that their powerful organisation is being undermined? Might the dream of being told to play on Lawn 34 after tea yet be realised? 'Agent 50.5.50'

EDINBURGH: 19-24 August

On a damp and chilly 'summer's' day at Roehampton in early June I was assured by a visitor to last year's tournament in Edinburgh that I would not regret my planned week, playing croquet in August beyond the Fringe of the Festival.

However, I came well prepared for rough weather to the six courts laid out in the corner of a vast playing-field in the grounds of Fettes College. Closely mown and revealing fewer topographical undulations than I had expected, I put my trust in a far-distant slope and the possibility of a few elastic hoops to behave sportingly in my favour. They didn't, of course, because the courts were justly kind only to those who performed with consistent application and skill. And that is merely another way of saying that bad play brooks no excuse.

Among those who played with admirable consistency and were ultimate winners of events were three of my first four opponents: the President of the Club, the Rev A.D. Lamont, whom I sent on his winning way after he had confessed that he had won scarcely a game last year; George Anderson, who shot firmly through aluminium hoops on our court in exemplary fashion, and the Manager, Alastair Hunter, the only other exponent apart from myself of side-stance play. We seem to belong to a rapidly diminishing breed. But he proved that the stance can be as effective and, to my mind, more stylish than that of the run-of-the-mill swingers between the legs. This was Alastair's fifth and final year as manager. He will be hard to replace. That he was able to guarantee as many as eight singles matches for those who lost many more games than they won was a triumph of well-timed and ingenious administration.

The Secretary of the Club, Lionel Fotheringham, took time off from behind the drinks counter and from much fetching and carrying of refreshments in his car, to partner me in a doubles match. His wife, Mary, and Ian Wright proved too good for us, as they did for all their subsequent opponents. In the top bracket, Rod Williams from Glasgow was the clear winner. Any A-class players who decide to cross the Border next year to challenge him will need to be on their mettle.

The wind blew, rain lashed horizontally across the courts in short, sharp showers and from time to time the sun shone. Spirits were never dampened. We visitors, all but three of us from Scottish clubs, were sportingly and generously welcomed and entertained, not least by the non-playing Vice-President and his wife, Jimmy and Carol Rowe, who contributed their own fringe entertainment one evening - a barbecue supper for us all at their home.

Southerners, roll up next year! For those of a certain age and more, good use can be made of rail-concessions. One is never too old to cross the Border or, indeed, to play croquet, as was proved by one tournament player and member of the club, Mr McCulloch, whose 91st birthday was celebrated joyfully at the end of a happy and companionable week.

DAVID JESSON-DIBLEY

Tournament Reports and Results

RESULTS

Cramond Cup

(American: 2 Rounds)

6 wins: R.A. Williams

3 wins: A.H.M. Adam (+12); S.J.H. Wright (+5)

0 wins: G.N. Leach

Silver Jubilee Salver

(Level Singles: 4 bisques and over)

1st Round:

G. Anderson bt Corla +1(T); D. Jesson-Dibley bt M.P.W. Smith +3; A.M. Ramsay bt D. Warhurst +23; A.G.M. Hunter bt R. Hissett +7

Semi-Finals:

Anderson bt Jesson-Dibley +19; Hunter bt Ramsay +3

Final: Hunter bt Anderson +4(T)

Walter B Laing Cup

(Handicap Singles: 8 bisques and over)

1st Round:

Mrs G.L. Clark (14) bt K.S. Hammond (16) +7; A. Nisbet (10) bt W.G. Masterton (8) +7(T); Rev A.D. Lamont (10) bt Mrs J. Morrison (15) +13

2nd Round:

Mrs M. Fotheringham (11) bt C.G. Waterfield (10) +1(T); Nisbet bt Mrs Clark +13; Lamont bt J.C. McCulloch (9) +15; R.F. Ottley (14) bt Mrs M.G. Wright (12) +6

Semi-Finals:

Mrs Fotheringham bt Nisbet +5(T); Lamont bt Ottley +6(T)

Final: Lamont bt Mrs Fotheringham +1(T)

Norton-Wright Trophies

(Handicap Doubles)

Semi-Finals:

Anderson & Ramsay bt Hissett & Simpson +20; Wright & Mrs Fotheringham bt Warhurst & Mrs Clark +1(T)

Final: Wright & Mrs Fotheringham bt Anderson & Ramsay +1(T)

Handicap Singles

Edinburgh Cup

(4 wins in qualifying rounds)

Semi-Final:

G. Anderson (5½) bt Rev A.D. Lamont (10) +3(T)

Final: A.H.M. Adam (3½) bt Anderson +6(T)

Milne Trophy

(3 wins in qualifying rounds)

Semi-Finals:

R.A. Williams (1½) bt Mrs M. Fotheringham (11) +8; C.G. Waterfield (10) bt A.M. Ramsay (6½) +15

Final: Williams bt Waterfield +18

'Z' Event

(Qualifiers with 2,1, or 0 wins)

Semi-Finals:

Corla bt Masterton +15; Hissett bt Warhurst +5(T)

Final: Corla bt Hissett +15

How can your Club benefit from the Test Tour publicity next year?

1986 will see a lot of publicity about Croquet - from the Test Tour, the introduction of a National Short Croquet competition, the formation of new Federations, and TV coverage.

If you want to publicise the activities of your own Club, start thinking NOW about how you can use all this publicity to your Club's advantage.

Official Business

Extract of Minutes of COUNCIL MEETING held at the Hurlingham Club, Saturday 19th October, 1985.

Jaques Balls: The Chairman referred to correspondence with Mr Jaques, whom he had thanked for his generous offer to provide balls for the Internationals in 1986. Mr Jaques had agreed to replace defective balls.

Mr Jaques stated that 'eclipse' balls were now made to the original Ayres specification and they were guaranteed for 3 years. He also said that it would now be possible for Jaques to produce a solid ball, following the increase in the 'bounce' tolerance.

Professor Neal said that it was mainly the black balls that rapidly split and went out of shape. Nobody knew why.

Inter Club Trophy: The trophy stolen from the Roehampton Club was being replaced and Council agreed to contribute £200 (half the replacement cost). It was also agreed that the Salver be engraved with the names of the winners from 1971 when the tournament was revived.

Magazine: Council agreed that the magazine should continue to be designated as 'Croquet' and not include 'Gazette' on the front page. Mr Hudson reported that sales in its new format had increased.

Forward Plan: Council unanimously thanked Mr Hudson for his report covering the first 6 months of the Forward Plan. Mr Hudson referred to many matters in his report and regretted Frank Cooper had decided not to continue their sponsorship in 1986. However the sponsorship committee was actively pursuing other possibilities.

The Womens Institutes and the Townswomens Guilds were planning to stage short croquet tournaments in 1986. There had been a lot of activity in many of the Regions and over 20 new clubs had been registered. He forecasted that many small lawn clubs would be formed in the future and that short croquet tournaments would figure prominently in future Calendar fixtures.

Mr Sanford asked if sponsors dropped out because they felt they had not obtained enough publicity. The Chairman pointed out that it was made clear to sponsors that publicity could not be guaranteed - sponsors had to generate their own.

Tournaments: Calendar Fixtures, including CA events and conditions for tournaments, were approved.

Mrs Hague queried why the Ladies Invitation events were not attracting some of the best lady players. Was the entry affected by the location of the venue? Mr Keen reported that the venue was determined to some extent by which clubs offered to stage particular events.

It was agreed that in 1986 the 'Open' should be entitled the 'British Open' and that the Men's and Women's Championships should be similarly entitled.

Administration: Mr Macmillan reported that we now had 1092 members, and that Dr Wiggins had arranged for Mr Baker to make a new plinth for the Ionides Cup which he had done free of charge. Mr William Prichard had done likewise for the Ayres Cup. Mr Macmillan had written to thank them.

Mr Macmillan also reported that the Mental Health Authority were arranging a charity event at Hurlingham at which they hoped International players would compete with celebrities in other fields and would like the CA to arrange a programme for the event in 1986. Agreed unanimously.

Mr Wharrad reported that the Irish CA had been formed.

Golf Croquet: After a lengthy debate a motion was passed to hold a referendum, details of which have already been circulated to members.

NOTICE TO CLUB SECRETARIES

Club Registration Fees:

Club registration Fees for 1986 have been fixed as 35p per member, with a minimum of £7.00.

Nominations for Awards

The Apps Heley Award is made each year to the 'most deserving' club; that is, the one that has done most for croquet or made the most progress during the year.

As a member of a club itself is often the only person who can report on what the club has achieved, please do not feel inhibited about putting your own club forward for the award. Nominations should be sent to Brian Macmillan by 1st February to give time to carry out further evaluation if necessary.

Nominations are also required for the most improved players (men and women) by the same date to enable the Handicap Committee to recommend the award of the Apps Trophy and the Steele Bowl for the most improved man and lady respectively.

REFEREES COURSES

Anyone who wishes to become a Referee should let Brian Macmillan know as soon as possible so that we can determine demand and arrange appropriate courses.

Changes in Officials

Dulwich Sports Club Ltd

New Secretary: Mrs Sheila Kennedy, c/o Dulwich Sports Club, Turney Road, Dulwich, London, SE21 7JA.

Peterborough Croquet Club

Correction to last Issue. 'Warrington' should read 'Werrington'.

Southwick LT&CC

New Secretary: Brenda Sandell, c/o Southwick Croquet & Lawn Tennis Club, Victoria Road, Southwick, Brighton, Sussex.

Wells Palace Croquet Club

Change of address: Secretary: W.R. Norton, 30 Greenhayes, Cheddar, Somerset, BS27 3HZ.

New Referee

T.J. Haste - Southport

New Club Handicapper

D.W. Shaw - Ramsgate

CA Silver Medals

Congratulations on winning CA Silver Medals to:

W.O. Aldridge - Bowdon

Mrs M.P. Collin - Chester

T.D. Harrison - Cambridge

A.J. Mrozinski - Godalming



Mary Collin - CA Silver Medallist

New Associates

G.T. Stone - Bentley
Miss F.E. Eden - Bristol
J.P. Kent - Carrickmines
L.W.R. James - Cheltenham
W.Cdr R. Noel Smith - Cheltenham
J.E. Swabey - Cirencester
C.T. Dorrell - Loughborough
D.H. Falkner - Phyllis Court
Ms J.M. Weir - Preston Lawns
Miss R. Smith - Reading University

Mrs J.V. Collier - Sidmouth
R.C.V. Bazen - Southwick
A. Thomas - Surbiton
J.J. Jackson - Swindon
P. McK. Knowlson - Thameside
J.T. Hughes - Worcester
Col W. Stewart -
N.W. Powell-Davis - Australia
Mrs M. Paquin - Canada
B. Woodhead - New Zealand
K.A. Ovreseth - Norway
H.M. Michael - USA
Total 22

Deaths

We regret having to report the following recent deaths:

G. Digby - Colchester
P.J. Shepard - Cheltenham

New Clubs Registered

Welcome to . . .

Alresford Croquet Club

Secretary: Mrs J. Avery, 34 Fairview, Alresford, Hants. Tel: 096-273-4933.

Bear of Rodborough Croquet Club

Bear of Rodborough Hotel, Stroud, Glos. Secretary: Mrs R. Danby, The Hollies, Brown Hill, Stroud, Glos. Tel: 0453-882483.

Cirencester Croquet Club

c/o Bingham House, Cirencester. Secretary: Meryl Atkins, 4 Mount Close, Cirencester. Tel: 0285-67669 (H), 0285-5757 (O).

Reading University Croquet Club

Secretary: Miss R.H.C. Smith, Childs Hall, The University, White Knights, Reading, Berks.

South Shropshire Croquet Club

Secretary: Martin Timms, 2 Ambulance Houses, Ludlow Road, Craven Arms, Shropshire, SY7 9QL.

Swindon Croquet Club

Secretary: J.J. Jackson, 20 Moresby Close, West Lea, Swindon, Wilts, SN5 7BX.

Overseas Clubs

Juniper Island Croquet Club

Hobe Sound, Florida, USA. Secretary: Russell H. Tandy.

Organisations newly affiliated

Ampney Park

Ampney Park, Near Cirencester, Glos. Contact: Tim Eaton. Tel: 028-585-365.

Cairn Hotel

The Cairn Hotel, Ripon Road, Harrogate, HG1 2JD. Contact: Richard Williams, General Manager. Tel: 0423-504005.

STOP PRESS

Golf Croquet Referendum Result

Papers Sent Out - 983
Papers Returned - 435 (44%)
Votes For: - 281
Against: - 138
Spoilt: - 2
Late: - 14

Handicap Alterations

Carrickmines 5-10 August

C. von Schmieder 1½ to 1

Nottingham 13-15 September

Dr F.L. Whittaker 7 to 6

Budleigh Salterton 20-22 September

Dr P.A. Watson 7½ to 5½

C.M. Gerrard 8 to 7½

M. Granger-Brown 2½ to 2

J.W. Potter 2½ to 2

Mrs J.W. Potter 10 to 9

Wrest Park 20-22 September

A.D. Dumont 6 to 7

W.E. Lamb 3 to 2½

G. Hopewell 2½ to 2

D. Goacher 4½ to 4

N. Gale 4 to 3

Ipswich Club: September

L. Palmer 10 to 9

Miss C. Pearce 14 to 12

Miss J. Waters 14 to 13

Cheltenham 18-22 September

Mrs D.M. James 16D14

M.J. Finn 5 to 4½

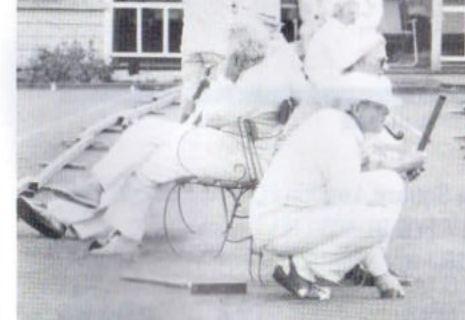
Cheltenham 27-29 September

P.F. Leach 6 to 5½

M.T. Paddon 2½ to 2

R. Race 3½ to 3

M. Strachan 3 to 2½



Outplayers at Cheltenham in September. Mike Finn, smoking pipe in foreground, now plays off 4½.

Compton 21-29 September

T.D. Harrison 1½ to 1

Bentley Club: September

Mrs B.E. Carter 13 to 12

SW Fed'n League Final

Dr D. Gugan 12 to 12D10

Woking Club: October

Mrs I.G. McDiarmid 8 to 7

Mrs R.E. Vincent 11D10 to 10D9

G. Vince 9

Selectors' Weekend

Mrs M.P. Collin 1½ to 1

Wrest Park 28-29 September

A. Sedcole 8 to 6

K. Hawkes 11 to 9

T.P. Greenwood 5½ to 4½

Bowdon 17-27 August

M.H. Sandler 3½ to 2½

Rev P. Hallett 1 to 2

R.R. Edwards 9 to 8

Mrs D. Dennett 16 to 15D14

N.G. Hyne 1 to ½

Parkstone Club: October

Mrs N.A.C. Macmillan 3 to 4½

Miss A.M. Ryan 9 to 8

Miss A. Searle 16D14 to 15D13

Sidmouth Club: October

Miss M. Hardman 11D10 to 10

Cheltenham Club: October

Miss E. Cheverton 16D14 to 15D13

Mrs J. Cima 12D10 to 11D9

Mrs G.D. Harris 5 to 4½

G.E.P. Jackson 0 to 1

F.I. Maughan 2 to 1½

Mrs B.G. Neal 5 to 6

Mrs M.J. Finn 11D9 to 10D9

W Cdr R. Noel-Smith 15D13 to 14D12

Mrs E. Turtle 15D13 to 14D12

Bristol Club: October

Mrs R. Guban 9 to 8

Major T.W.M. Jeffrey 7 to 6½

R.W. Ransom 5½ to 5

Mrs F. Ransom 7 to 6½

H.S. Watson 7 to 8

Official Business

Tyneside Club: October

J. Portwood 9 to 8
S. Jones 13 to 12
D. Appleton 14 to 12
A. Jones 16 to 15D14
B. Thompson 11 to 9
J. Taggart 13 to 12
S. Taggart 14 to 13D12

Hurlingham Club: October

Lt Cdr R.M.D. Ponsonby 5½ to 5

Compton Club: November

Miss D.V. Harding 12 to 10
A.J. Kellaway 9 to 8
Mrs L.S. Knight 16 to 15
E.J.A. Salmon 12 to 12
Mrs B.J. Salmon 14 to 12
D. Daintree 7 to 6½
Mrs E.C. Tyrwhitt-Drake 5 to 6
Mrs R.E. Tucker 6 to 7
Lt Col P. Chappell 4 to 6
Miss D.E. Dennant 7½ to 7
Mrs T. White 16 to 14
Miss M. Lamb 6D14 to 16D13

Harwell Club: November

I. Fyne-Tye 16 to 14

South of England Championships

T.D. Harrison 1½ to 1
Mrs L. Wharrad 9 to 8
Mrs M.J. Vale 7 to 6½
W.E. Philp 9 to 7

Chairman's Salver

J.E. Guest ½ to 0
J.D. Walters 0 to ½

We regret that owing to lack of space we are not able to include non-Associates' handicaps.

A Verse from Australia Please say that he DID look the part

His mallet is silky and shafted
with oak,
Around the silk shirt is flung a white
cloak,
And as for the Game, he hasn't
a stroke.

But he looks the part.

His shoes are all Gucci with exquisite
fine trim,
His hoop measure is gold emblazoned on
a pin.
And as for the game, he has yet
one to win.

But he looks the part.

He wears a Gold Hunter from shirt
pocket to vest
And he thinks of each Game as more
of a test,
Not only of Croquet but of who's
dressed the best.

For he looks the part.

He strides on to lawns and thuds
mallet on ground.
And in clear direct tones speaks to
those stood around:
'Too hard, much too hard, missed
shots will abound.'

But all is not lost for HE will astound.
For he looks the part.

He knows little of Croquet,
of Roquet or what.

And if some other player queries
bisques as a plot.
He will glance at his Hunter and then
take the lot.
For he looks the part.

He misses inch roquets in fine spraying
rain.

Then picks up his ball and dries clear
all the grain
With Yves St Laurent Wipers bought
from Fortnum & Maine.
Then back to the roquet and
misses again.

But he looks the part.

He walks to the Clubhouse for lunch
with Champagne.
But speaks not of Croquet, but of
Hume's Treatise on Paine.
Then locks mallet in locker with
24 Carat chain.

For he IS the part.

He may never win Doubles in Croquet
with tact.

For nature endowed him a High
Wire Act.

But if ever from Croquet
ignominiously Sacked.
Please say that he DID look
the part.

DENIS K. HOLLAND
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