

Debenham Tewson & Chinnocks are delighted to be sponsoring the British Open Croquet Championship for the third year running and wish all the players participating every success.

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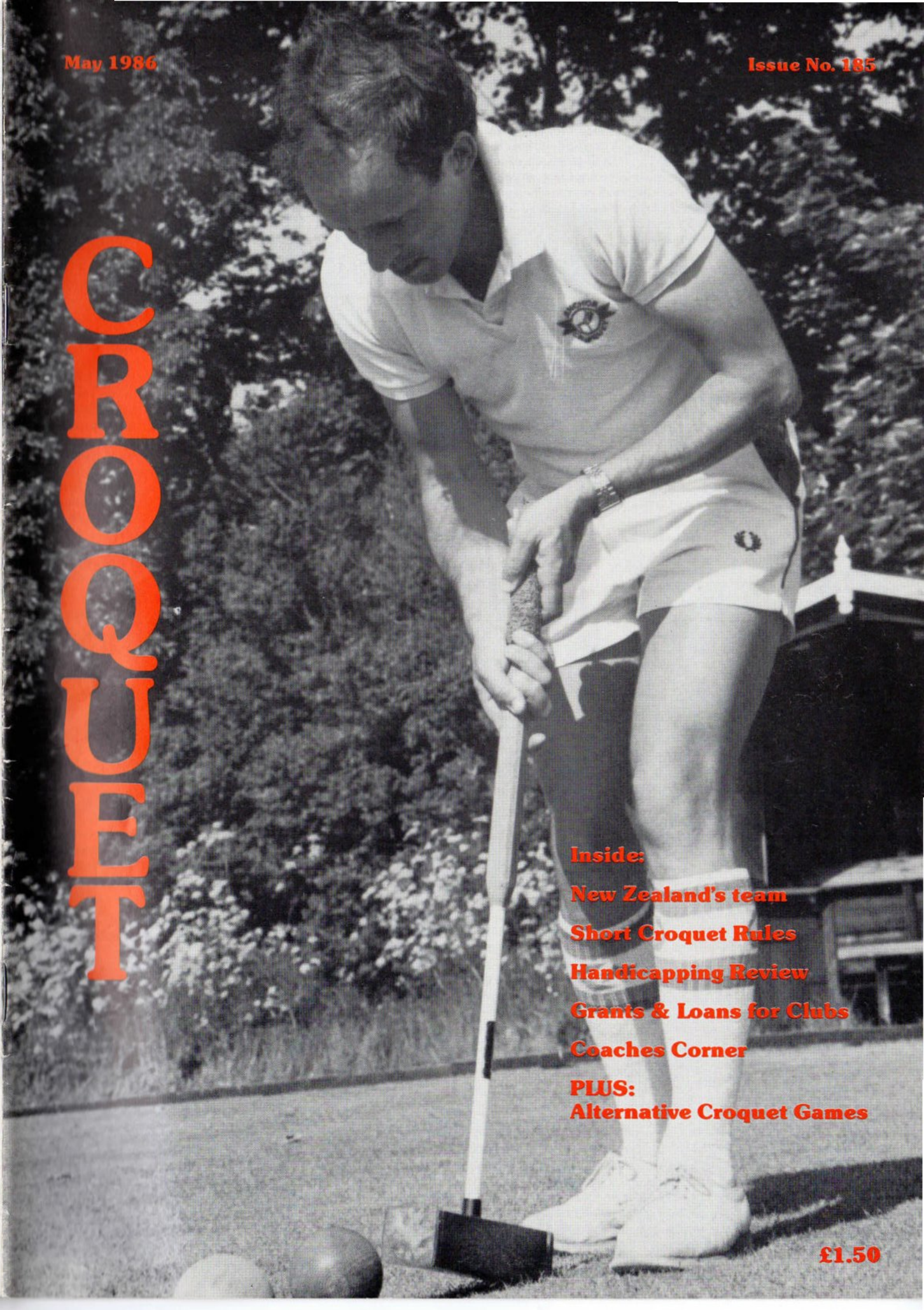
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May 1986

Issue No. 185

CROQUET



Inside:
New Zealand's team
Short Croquet Rules
Handicapping Review
Grants & Loans for Clubs
Coaches Corner
PLUS:
Alternative Croquet Games

£1.50

Let Battle Commence!

It is with the greatest pleasure that we welcome once more our friends from Australia and New Zealand for the competition for the MacRobertson Trophy. It does not seem to be 12 years since we had the pleasure of acting as hosts for this most important competition.

For any who believe in history repeating itself, we must beware, for although Great Britain has won 7 of the 12 encounters to date, and is the only country never to have lost at home, we know that there are a number of new faces who have not visited us before, and of whom our own players, who have more recently visited the Antipodes, have scant knowledge.

One thing is certain - that we know we can expect the matches to be played in the friendliest spirit, even though each match will be fought to the death. Croquet is growing dramatically and the MacRobertson Trophy 1986 will be a wonderful opportunity for all those interested in this marvellous sport to see croquet at its best.

We cannot wish success to every team, but we do hope that they all have a happy and enjoyable tour.

JOHN SOLOMON
President: Croquet Association

A MESSAGE FROM NEW ZEALAND

It is now 51 years since the first triangular contest for the MacRobertson Shield between England, Australia and New Zealand was held, appropriately in Melbourne. When Sir MacPherson Robertson originally presented the Shield in 1925, he would not have envisaged that by 1986 many other countries would be seeking active participation in Association Croquet at International level.

The 1986 series is therefore of special significance to the three countries taking part. Players will not only renew old acquaintances but will have the opportunity of exhibiting to spectators and the sporting world at large, the highest standards of ability, achievement and

GRANADA TV SHORT CROQUET SERIES

Since our last issue, the format of the competition for the 'Nations' Trophy' has been changed. There will now be three players from each country, and each group of three will play an all-play-all to decide who will go forward to the semi-finals and final of the main competition.

This will provide 15 games altogether, and a total of more than 8 hours TV transmission over the three days. There will be 'live' coverage straight from the lawn three times each day, with edited highlights broadcast late each evening.

Spectators are welcome, but as entry to the lawn will be by ticket, anyone who would

STOP PRESS: We are very pleased to report that the Royal Bank of Scotland is to sponsor the Granada TV Croquet competition. The event will now be entitled "The Royal Bank Nations Trophy."

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John Solomon

attainment the game has reached Internationally.

At a time when some sports are tending to embody the most undesirable elements of professionalism, rivalry and personal exhibitionism, the continuing feature of Croquet is the fine sense of sportsmanship exhibited by the international players on all sides. This distinguished and appealing quality will be much needed if the drawing together of Nations into a World Federation is going to enjoy a real measure of success.

New Zealand extends its best wishes to all players for an outstanding 1986 Test series and wishes all success to the project of forming a World Federation of Croquet Associations.

ASHLEY HEENAN
President: New Zealand Croquet Council

A MESSAGE FROM AUSTRALIA

On behalf of the members of the Australian Croquet Council - greetings, to our fellow players of the United Kingdom.

We realise that it is 50 years since the Aussies have brought the Shield home, and feel that we should warn you that our team will be trying very hard to make amends. But whatever the outcome, we look forward to some great matches, and some great sportsmanship. Good luck!!

VALERIE PAYNE
President: Australian Croquet Council

like to come should let me know in advance.
CHRIS HUDSON

The teams are:

England: Nigel Aspinall, Eric Solomon, John Walters

Scotland: Andrew Hope, Martin Murray, Stephen Wright

Wales: David Croker, Richard Hilditch, David Peterson

Ireland: John McCullough, Terence Read, Fred Rogerson

Referees: Barry Keen, Eddie Bell
Manager: Chris Hudson

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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.

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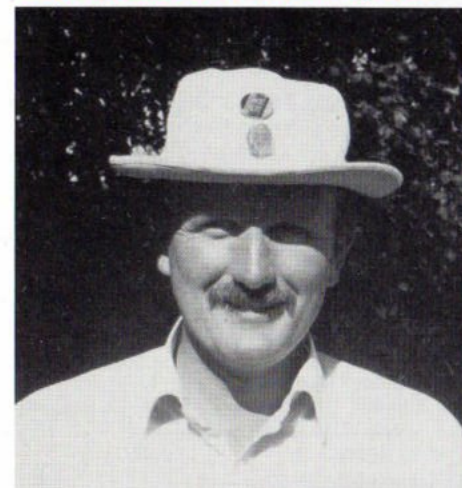
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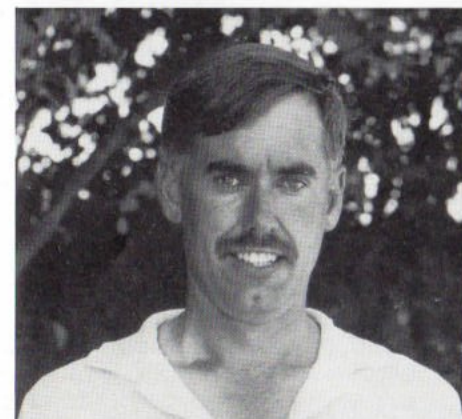
Steve Mulliner playing at Southwick in last year's Inter-County Championships, which are sponsored by Anchor Foods Ltd. Photo by The Monitor Group.

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The New Zealand Players



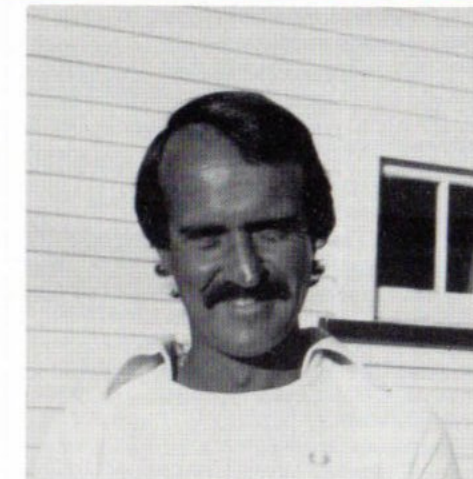
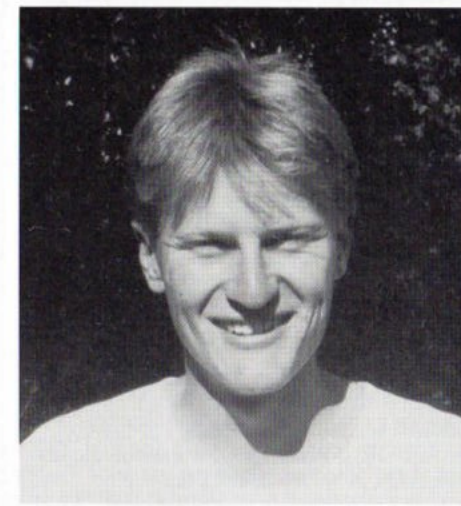
Above: **JOSEPH HOGAN** (26) won the 1986 NZ Open Singles title in devastating style. He is a forceful player, extremely accurate with his powerful long shooting, and has enjoyed considerable success in both the North and the South Island Tournaments. He played previously for New Zealand in '79 and '82. A qualified carpenter, he is at present studying for the Priesthood.



Above: **ROGER MURFIT** (32). A BSc graduate of Canterbury University, Roger is a teacher at Hornby High School. He previously represented New Zealand in '74, '79, and '82, and he is one of the three team members to have played Test matches in England. He was runner-up in the 1981 British Open, and has also won several NZ National Titles. He has the unique distinction of completing a championship match in the fourth turn with a quadruple peel, and is currently President of the Canterbury Croquet Association.



Below: **GRAHAM BEALE** (20) is a trainee teacher at Christchurch Teachers' Training College. He has been playing for only five years, but in that time has achieved considerable success at National level, being runner-up in the NZ Open Singles ('85) and likewise in the Men's Singles ('86). He is the 'new cap' in the side.



Above: **JOHN PRINCE** (40), team captain, represents New Zealand for a record sixth time (four as Captain). He has won the NZ Open Singles (6 times), Men's Singles (10 times), and Doubles (7 times). A recognized authority on the game, he is a stylish stroke player and attracts many spectators wherever he competes. He is also an accomplished artist, and some of his witty drawings have appeared in the NZ Croquet Gazette. One of New Zealand's top six players of all time, his business career is in Banking.

MACROBERTSON SHIELD DINNER

Friday, 18th July,
at Hurlingham

All three teams will be present and the Shield will be presented to the winners.

We expect that the Australian and New Zealand supporters will be present in force. Great Britain, as the hosts and current holders, must not be out-numbered, so do come and bring your friends.

The MacRobertson Shield Test Matches are only held in this country once every 12 years, and we are sure that everyone will want to make this function a fitting climax to the Tour.

Dress: Lounge suits.

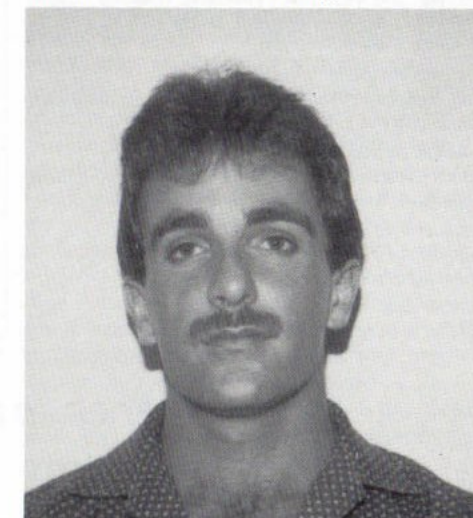
Time: 7.30 for 8pm.

Tickets: £15, inclusive of wine, from the CA Office.

Please book early.

Bottom right: **ASHLEY HEENAN** (60), is the NZ team manager. With Arthur Ross, his then father-in-law, he was predominant as a player up to the 1960s when he had to withdraw from Croquet for some 17 years to pursue his musical profession. He is one of the two surviving members of the team that first won the MacRobertson Shield for New Zealand in 1950. He has won the NZ Open Singles (5 times), Men's (4 times) and NZ Doubles (3 times). He is currently President of the New Zealand Croquet Council.

Left: **ROBERT JACKSON** (54) was acclaimed in National and International Table Tennis circles long before he took up Croquet in 1971, since when he has represented New Zealand ('74, '79), won the NZ Open Singles (6 times), and the NZ Doubles (6 times). A perfectionist by nature, he is a formidable opponent, and hours of practice have made him a highly consistent player. His occupation is the manufacture of croquet mallets which are in world wide demand.



Above: **PAUL SKINLEY** (26). A restaurateur by occupation, he is regarded as a particularly brilliant and at times spectacular player. Since 1978, it has been a rare National Tournament that has not seen him as a finalist. He has won the NZ Open Singles (3 times), and Men's title (3 times). He represented New Zealand in '78 and '82, and uses the 'Solomon' grip.



The Croquet Association:

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

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

Regional Development Officers

Northern Region
John Meads, 10 Dipwood Way, Rowlands Gill, Tyne & Wear NE39 1DH. Tel: 0207 542021

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

London & S.E. Region
Lionel Wharrad, Astor Cottage, Ivy Lane, Ashington, Sussex. Tel: 0903 892897

(London & Surrey)
Ron Welch, 67 Rowan Crescent, London SW16. Tel: 01 679 0552

(Kent & East Sussex)
Dennis Shaw, 9 Collingwood Court, Belmont Road,

Ramsgate, Kent CT11 7QQ. Tel: 0843 591789

Regional Coaching Officers:

Northern Region
John Davis, 33 Levendale, Hutton Rudby, Yarm, Cleveland TS15 0DW. Tel: 0642 701290

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

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

West Midlands Region
Ken Jones, 96 New Road, Rubery, West Midlands, BHS 9HQ. Tel: 021-453 2088

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

South West Region
Peter Danks, 6 Upper Stoneborough Lane, Budleigh Salterton, Devon EX9 6SX. Tel: 039-54 2711

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

London & South East Region
Nigel Aspinall, 6 Rivermount, Walton-on-Thames, Surrey, KT12 2PW. Tel: 09322 22697

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

Federation Secretaries

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

West Midlands
Terry Greenwood, 21 The Fold, Penn, Wolverhampton. Tel: 0902 336832

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

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

The Sports Council

Jo Patton, The Sports Council, 16 Upper Woburn Place, London WC1H 0QP. Tel: 01 388 1277

Sports Council Croquet Liaison Officers

Northern Region
Dacre Dunlop, The Sports Council, County Court Building, Hallgarth Street, Durham, DH1 3PB. Tel: 0385 49595

North West Region
Graham Suthren, The Sports Council, Astley House, Quay Street, Manchester M3 4AE. Tel: 061-834 0338

Yorkshire & Humberside Region
David Heddon, The Sports Council, Coronet House, Queen Street, Leeds LS1 4PW. Tel: 0532 436443

East Midland Region
Anne Rippon, The Sports Council, 26 Musters Road, West Bridgford, Nottingham NG2 7PL. Tel: 0602 821887

West Midlands Region
Celia Hodges, The Sports Council, Metropolitan House, 1 Hagley Road, Five Ways, Birmingham B16 8TT. Tel: 021 454 3808

Eastern Region
Tony Ploszajski, The Sports Council, 26-28 Bromham Road, Bedford MK40 2QD. Tel: 0234 44281

Greater London & SE Region
Jim Atkinson, The Sports Council, Jubilee Stand, Crystal Palace National Sports Centre, Ledrington 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

Keith Wylie's 'Expert Croquet Tactics'

Reviews by John Solomon and Tim Harrison

We give below the views of two players on Keith Wylie's recent book 'Expert Croquet Tactics'.

One, John Solomon, has spent many years playing Croquet at the top International level. The other, Tim Harrison, currently at Cambridge University, is an up-and-coming 'A' class player whose current handicap is 2½.

Both seem to agree that Keith Wylie's book is a 'must' - both for those already at the top and for those who want to reach the highest level . . .

John Solomon's view:

Keith Wylie's 'Expert Croquet Tactics' is a book that probably needed to be written and almost certainly he is the best player to have written it. When he consulted me (amongst others) some months ago with a few draft examples, I must say I was sceptical whether there would be an audience wide enough to justify its publication. He is to be congratulated on persevering with such a specialized project, and for having the courage to finance it.

It is well planned and thought through and the sections follow in a logical way each step in the progression of the sequence or objective under analysis. The diagrams, which are clear and very well presented, are all adjacent to the text. Inevitably, almost all of it is pretty heavy going despite occasional flashes of wit, unless one merely wants to dip into it to examine a particular situation, but then, how often are the balls actually in that position?

To his credit Keith does produce very many situations which are regularly found. I made some 60 notes during my reading, of which 14 were in agreement with his views, by which I mean that they were particular points which are not generally known and should be. Those of us who know him and his way of thinking will not be surprised that we may find it difficult to agree with everything he says. An example is 2.10 describing a manoeuvre which Keith wanted me to ask the British team to do in the 1974 Internationals 'as you cannot fail to win in this situation'. Of course I refused to give such instruction and a few years later Keith admitted that he had never actually pulled it off. To be fair, he repeats his doubts about it in the book.

I would be writing another book if I listed all the other 40-odd points with which I had some disagreement. Many, indeed, were merely ones which made me raise an eyebrow, but there are some paradoxes and contradictions which emerge. For instance, it appears that he is anxious to avoid rushes wherever possible, for he is often at pains to suggest that what I would regard as more difficult manoeuvres are easier. As an example, in 3.31 he suggests that Fig 3.C1 can only progress to 3.D1 after making 3, whereas it is almost child's play to have a perfect 3-ball break before making 2, and a perfect 4-ball break before making 3.

Again, in 1.25, he is content with 'any old roquet' rather than play for the rush, and on a number of occasions warns of the danger of playing for a forward rush, but prefers to do

so in 1.112 in the straight triple when a reasonable alternative is available.

I found it strange that he is often unhappy about the accurate positioning of a pioneer from 20 yards (1.40), whereas he has strong hopes of stop-shooting to a peeling position from 13 yards (1.58) and advocates a stop-shot approach which is not really necessary and in fact inadvisable if one is playing so indifferently as to have placed the pioneer so badly, (1.62).

I found Articles 2 (The First Break) and 3 (Establishing a Break) the most interesting sections and generally very sensible in approach. I was glad that he castigates most of the hoop leaves as leaving little or nothing for the leaver (2.6) though perhaps puzzled that he finds a shot 'of only 22 yards' dangerous (2.8). Incidentally, in my variation of the sextuple leave (Fig 2.F) black should be a foot in front of 2-back, which means that yellow does not have to be wired from it. It is natural that I should read this book from the point of view of my own approach to the game, and it is likely that others will do so too. It is perhaps therefore not surprising that I question whether approaching the 4th hoop from the 4th corner with a semi stop-shot is relatively easy (3.32), or that a 13yd shot is compulsory (2.2). However, there is mostly sensible advice throughout both these sections.

The final article (The Opening) is a very detailed analysis of almost every possibility during the first 4 or 5 turns. With the (understandable) virtual absence of diagrams it is fairly heavy going on the concentration of the reader. My only comment would be that it tends to overlook the concept that having the innings (even without the prospect of a break) is more important than striving to get the first break.

It is clear that not everyone will agree with all that Keith advocates, and he, I am sure, would be the first to acknowledge this. Even if you have every stroke in your armoury you will benefit from this book if only because it will often make you think of alternatives that may not have occurred to you. It is a scholarly work and one which deserves to be on the bookshelf of every aspiring minus player.

Tim Harrison's view:

It seems as though major croquet books appear at the rate of one a decade, especially if we bracket 1960 with the fifties, when Cotter's excellent little book 'Tackle Croquet This Way' was published. Since then we have seen Solomon's 'Croquet' and Prichard's 'History of Croquet', so halfway through the eighties as we are, the arrival of another work is due, but I think the wait is over.

Keith Wylie's treatise 'Expert Croquet Tactics' is a welcome and much needed addition to Croquet's literature, concerned as it is with the tactics necessary for top class championship play. It must be emphasised that this book is not for the beginner - indeed the author half-heartedly suggested that he would only sell it to players who had completed a triple peel.

Keith Wylie has been a top player for many years and during that time he has built up a reputation for doing the unusual; notably he is the only player to have done a sextuple (delayed, moreover) in the final of the Open Championships. However this book does not describe the intricacies of sextuples and other such rarities. Indeed the sextuple peel is hardly mentioned, but instead he concentrates on those situations which turn up in real games, and in particular he devotes half the book to the delayed triple peel. As he so rightly says, the mark of the expert is the ability to complete triple peels even when things go wrong.

The chapter on the triple peel must surely be the definitive statement on the delayed triple peel, covering all the possible ways of obtaining the peels, where precisely to place getaway balls, when to attempt peels, when the 'percentages' do not advocate an early peel attempt, and so on. The nature of the presentation is more in the mould of 'One hundred tips from an international master' which makes it hard-going but there are many excellent points and it would be surprising if many players are aware of them all. I must say that the delayed triple seems considerably less fearsome now, dare I say trivial on a good lawn.

The tone of the remaining three chapters (or articles as the author calls them) on the first break, establishing a break, and the opening, is more discursive as the author writes about 'whole-game tactics' (by contrast a successful triple is usually the final turn of a game) where the choices are often less clear. There is a fascinating discourse on the merits of aggressive, precision and canny croquet, particularly where he discusses the reasoning behind leaves which try to discourage the shot. The convoluted logic of canny croquet is well illustrated in some of the arguments but it is significant that the author says he has found canny croquet 'entirely sound' - maybe because it is this style which gives the better tactician the largest advantage over the better shot player.

'Expert Croquet Tactics' is a formidable book with a lot of solid advice in it. However, there are a few quizzes to enliven proceedings and some problems with clever solutions. Try this one: with yellow on the corner spot, you rush red off the court one foot short of the corner and you require a long rush on yellow along that same boundary. I am waiting eagerly for the Spring to try this ingenious trick.

In conclusion, I hope that Keith Wylie's book is well read, as it is obvious that much thought and many years experience have gone into this study of Croquet tactics and it can only benefit the sport to see better and more enterprising tactics at the top level.



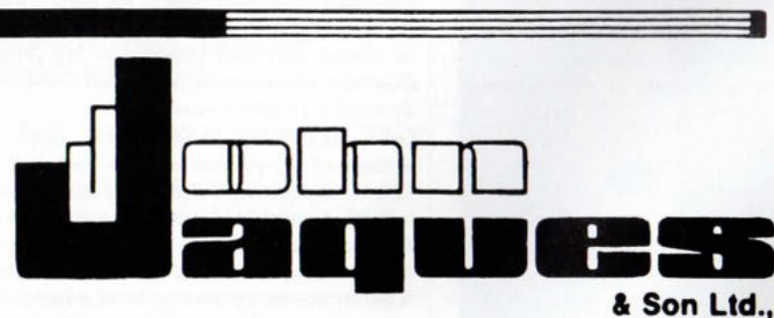
A Backward Ball *Cartoon by Mrs Sheila Legg*

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Club Profile (1)

Himley Croquet Club

By Howard Stanley

1985 has been a noteworthy year for the Himley Club.

In April it did not exist, yet we have now completed a very successful season.

Whilst planning how to write about this first year, I could see many ways of doing it; the chronological one I avoided as much as possible, so first the highlights.

Himley is in the Midlands and for that area 1985 and especially August were proving to be very rainy. We had planned our first Sponsored Croquet Match to start at 6.00pm on Friday, the 16th. You will hardly be surprised that both when I collected the floodlights at 5.15pm on the Friday and when I returned them early on the Sunday, the rain poured down. Amazingly, for the event itself, we had superb weather, with the temperature at midnight higher than at the previous mid-day. We changed the saying 'the darkest hour is before the dawn' because of the whole 25 hours, 'the coldest hour was at dawn'.

The whole event was totally worthwhile in many ways. It was a social success in which we all enjoyed ourselves and we were able to entertain many of the friends who had helped us in so many ways. It was a Croquet success in that it saw games in which the age range was from 18 to 80. It was excellent as a means of getting us radio and newspaper coverage. Finally, and for us the most important, we were successful in raising over £400 for the BSAD (the British Sports Association for the Disabled). The result involved a win by Wolverhampton, with guests from Ludlow School, by 12 games to 8.



The Croquet Marathon goes on through the night.

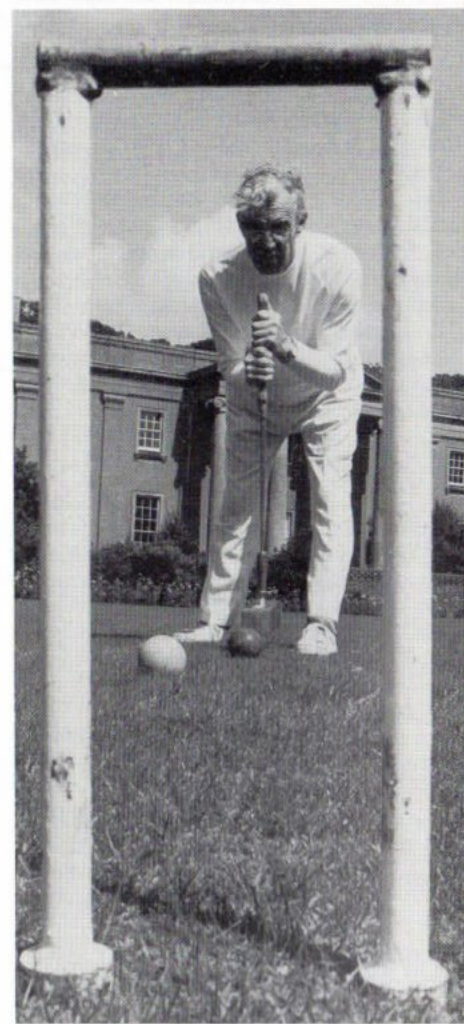


A Saturday morning game in progress. On the right, Peter Dorke and Merrill Rowan of the Ludlow Club who turned out for Wolverhampton.

We believed it to be the first 24 hour match between two Croquet Association teams, but we were unable to convince the Guinness Book of Records that it justified starting a new record of this type. It seems likely that future events of this kind must tackle the record held at present by Birmingham University or alter the rules to involve making a record number of hoops in the 24 hours.

Another day of good weather greeted us when our Stourbridge members invited Cheltenham to play their friendly on our lawns, to find how the Himley facilities would be judged by others who were used to well established lawns. Not only did we enjoy the usual marvellous company of the Cheltenham players but we were delighted to find both how our setting pleased them and that our lawns were acceptable to them. With the expected future improvement that we have mentioned elsewhere we felt that this boded well for 1986.

Late in October, one rather special occasion arose as a mutual aid exercise between ourselves and a local social club. Good weather came to our assistance again, and the event certainly achieved its aim. We entertained thirty of them to an afternoon's golf croquet and had one of our members to every four or five visitors. Then, after providing our visitors with tea and biscuits, we demonstrated the full game and let them try that. The enjoyment which we appeared to give them was equalled by the pleasure of our members in having their happy company. The probability that some of them might join us as members in 1986, coupled with their



Howard Stanley framed by the '10ft hoop' with Himley Hall in the background.

generous donation to our funds, made good news for our Treasurer. It is intended that this meeting will occur again this year and we shall try to find other organisations whom we might invite in the same way.

The one time when the weather was really unkind was on October 6 when Ken Townsend ran the Annual Golf Croquet Tournament of the West Midlands Croquet Federation; unfortunately, there had been no arrangements for tents as protection and the rain chose that week-end to pour down for most of the time. I need hardly stress that, until we have a large and convenient pavilion, we shall be sure to have tents for all major events.

Now a little of the history. The Club had been a hope for many of us for several years so that we were delighted when the chance to actually start it came early in 1985.

The new initiative came from Chris Hudson and led to cooperation between the CA, the Sports Council, Stourbridge CC, Wolverhampton CC, and the Leisure & Recreation Committee of Dudley MBC, who acted on behalf of the Joint Committee for Himley Hall. After the pilot meeting, in May, to agree the principles and elect a steering committee, things raced ahead.

The two clubs formed a Himley Committee and decided to cover the cost of the first year's rent and CA registration, so that their members could use the lawns and explore the possibilities. A suitable agreement was drafted in time for a June 1 start, allowing for the use of three lawns for 1985, with the new

club doing the actual lawn maintenance.

Now that the club had actually started we came to the real work.

We contacted the press, TV and radio stations, learning much in the process and gaining many columns of print and several radio mentions over several weeks with a ten minute broadcast on the day of the Sponsored Marathon. A piece of advice from one of our local Editors came in a form which was chilling but acted as a good spur. It was 'Getting coverage for a sport which has not got full national appeal is rather like getting on to a non-stop roundabout; it is easy to see where you wish to be, but very difficult to get on. However, once you are on, the worst is over'. The spur worked and those many hundreds of words in the press resulted.



A general view across the lawns, the invisible 'Ha-Ha' and the Park beyond, with a carrying trolley in the foreground.

One press photograph brought an amusing sequel; about the all-too-common view of a croquet player framed in a hoop, came the enquiry, 'Where did you obtain the ten foot hoop?'. At least it gave us even more publicity.

We realised that we dare not fail because there was too much at stake for us, the Sports Council and the Croquet Association, so the latter were approached and, after we submitted very careful reasoning, they helped us with two projects.

The first was the purchase of a generator and three heavy duty domestic lawnmowers to remove the 'thatch' and the weeds which were



A bappy band at the end of the Marathon.

making the lawns so 'heavy'. This project is one which could be of great interest to other clubs and will be the subject of a report in 'Croquet' as soon as possible in 1986. At the moment, it is sufficient to say that minimal use on the one lawn has seen a marked improvement and that we are expecting a great improvement on all of them when the full system is in use in 1986. The sponsorship by 'RM Tools and Hire Ltd' and their various loans during the year did much to make this project successful.

The second project was one of publicity and coaching. The Club, the Sponsored Marathon and the coaching courses were advertised in several local newspapers so that the news reached well over a quarter of a million homes. The response was less than we might have hoped for but that, I suppose, will always be true. The full effect of the campaign will be better judged in 1986 when the coaching is completed and the full quota of new members from the possible one to four dozen can be seen.

THANKS

No report on our first year would be complete without extending our thanks to all the many people and organisations that have helped us and made it all possible. Too numerous to name as a full list, they include the Croquet Association (especially Chris), the Sports Council (especially Mrs Celia Hodges), Wolverhampton MBC, Dudley MBC (especially Dave Jarrett & Dave Price), the Joint Committee for Himley (especially Councillors Hancox, Hyde, Law, and Simpson), the West Midlands Croquet Federation, our members and our other two sponsors, ETF Transport Ltd (especially Robert Pegg) and All Seasons Hire Ltd (especially Mr Oliver).

EXPERIMENTS

Rather pleasantly, with so many problems for the Club in its first year, it is delightful to have to report that we have undertaken several experiments which may well help other clubs when they are complete. One is the trolleys, the prototype for which is shown in one of the photographs; second is the lawnmower equipment mentioned elsewhere; third is a system to replace chalk lines or the alternative nylon cord by white tape of the type used round packing cases; lastly, there is a design, using the same tape, to give easy marking of new lawns.

If you are interested in any of these ideas, please let Chris Hudson know. It may be possible to give more details in future issues.

New Sponsor

Westwood Engineering to sponsor Test Series

Europe's leading garden tractor manufacturer is to sponsor the MacRobertson Shield Test Series.



Westwood

Westwood's logo

Based in Plymouth, Westwood employs a team of 200 people working on day and night shifts to meet ever increasing demand for their products. During the past two years, they have introduced robot welding and assembly aids into their factory, together with computer controlled presses and machining centres.

Westwood garden tractors and accessories outsell the competition in Britain, and they are making considerable inroads into European markets, particularly in France, Germany and Belgium. Their machines are sold through a network of distributors and dealers throughout the country, and the venues for the MacRobertson Shield Test Matches are closely matched to their major dealers. The Series will thus provide Westwood with an excellent opportunity to invite their staff, customers and guests to events that combine business with pleasure.

Some of their products will be on view at each Test venue. As they say in their advertisements: "Think of a Westwood tractor as a lawnmower, that cuts grass well... Think of it as a complete turf maintenance system... But above all, think of the Westwood Garden tractor as fun, and rediscover the enjoyment of gardening!"

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And the weeds get what they deserve.

 Care for your garden.

LAWNSMAN

Keeps your lawn greener longer.

Wrest Park Tournaments

Dear Sir,
We wish to state that we shall use only Jaques balls in all our tournaments this year. This detail was omitted from the Fixture Book.

Last year, players were given a choice of different makes of ball, but this practice is being discontinued, as it was not popular.

Eric Audsley
Wrest Park Tournament Secretary

Another name?

Dear Sir,
I agree with Smokey Eades' contention that the name 'Golf Croquet' is simply stupid. It is neither golf nor croquet.

In my view there is only one logical name, which has the important merit of being simple, HOOPBALL or HOOP BALL.

It describes the game, which is putting balls through hoops, and the game could never be confused with any other game which does not involve hoops.

There are excellent precedents for this type of name in Basketball, Baseball and Football.

Leslie Riggall
Kloof, South Africa

Data Protection Act 1984



Dear Sir,
Following Ian Vincent's letter on this subject, I have obtained some more information from the Office of the Data Protection Registrar.

Ian was correct in quoting Section 33 of the Act as the basis for some clubs being exempt from the provision for registration but this does not apply to tournament managers. The details are:

1. Clubs

A club which is an 'unincorporated members club' may hold data on its members without registration but subject to the condition that the club must ask each member if he or she objects to the data being held and must advise members of what data is to be held. If a member objects, then their data should not be included.

This exemption applies only to 'unincorporated members clubs'. Each club should verify its own status to confirm that this exemption applies to them. If not, they will have to conform with the full provisions of the

Act.

2. Tournament Entries & Results

As a tournament manager, I have been advised by the Office of the Data Protection Registrar that I am required to register data on tournament entries and results.



Chris Irwin

Although entrants to our tournaments are temporary members of the club, they are only members for the duration of the tournament. They are not members at the time of entry or after the tournament when data may still be held.

As a consequence, the full provisions of the Act apply and all managers intending to hold this data on computer must make themselves aware of the provisions of the Act.

I hope this helps to clarify the position. I would be pleased to give further information on this to anyone involved with croquet.

Chris Irwin
Bowdon

Reporting Tournament Results

Dear Sir,
It was good to see a number of substantial well-written articles in the March issue of 'Croquet' that were not too obscure, and the tournament reports are definitely becoming more interesting. I hope you can continue the high standard of articles as I am sure there must be plenty of people prepared to write them.

Some time ago you asked for comment on how detailed results should be. It seems to me that a suitable criterion is how interesting they are to the reader who wasn't at that tournament and is not a member of that club or a local club. Also, I think that if we are to take our sport seriously, the results of all open events should be recorded officially in the magazine of the CA so that in future there is an easily accessible record of who the top 100 or so players were. It is also important to know who the up and coming players are. Anyway, here are my comments about results for various events.

Handicap weekends: Since these seem to be proliferating and are generally not particularly noteworthy, although usually great fun, it would seem sensible to just record block winners or finalists as the case may be. As far as reports go, I find short 100-200 word reports all very similar with the odd in-joke. It might be better to have just a few representative reports which are slightly

Your Letters (1)

longer and give more of a flavour to the weekend, rather than cover all weekends.

Open weekends: If played as a knock-out, full results of the main event should be recorded, with little mention of Swiss consolation events, which in my experience are not taken particularly seriously. If played as blocks, it is interesting to see full results of top blocks (consisting of players handicapped at 4 and better, say). For other blocks, just record the top places.

Week tournaments: For the handicap events just record block winners or for knockouts, semi-finals and final for X, and winner of Y. For open events (ie A-class normally) record all results. For B,C,D events just record semi-finals and finals for knockouts, or for blocks the top 2 or 3. For good B classes there might be some merit in recording full results.

Major tournaments: All results should be recorded of course.

I hope these comments are helpful and not too biased towards the top players, but as you pointed out, results of minor tournaments do seem to take up a lot of space.

As a final comment I enjoyed the match reports for some of the national competitions.

Tim Harrison
Cambridge

We should have more space for reports and articles in 'Croquet' this summer, even allowing for an increase in advertisements, as future issues will all be 28 pages. This will give us a total of 168 pages in 1986, compared to 128 pages last year. The possible advent of a 'Year Book' containing detailed results will also help to alleviate the space problem.

As Tim says, there must be plenty of potential authors amongst us who are capable of writing interesting articles – either about the game itself, or on related topics. I would like to invite them to put pen to paper.

I also like Tim's suggestion of slightly longer articles, giving the flavour of a tournament or occasion, rather than restricting reports to a standard length.

Any comments readers may have on this would be welcome, particularly reaction to the last two issues in which we have been able to include rather more articles than usual.

Chris Hudson
Editor

Dear Sir,

Edgar Jackson's letter and accompanying figures and an earlier letter from Andrew Hope (Issue No 174) discuss the varying chances of low and high-bisqued players in handicap competition. Andrew Hope also suggests the trial of a "self-scoring" method of assessing each player's form. I think this idea would be more effective if, as well as recording results, players were to record their actual technical performance.

I hope this season to experiment using scoring cards like those used in Golf. On them, players will record the score for each turn of the game, and then hand the cards to the handicapper who uses them to calculate the mean number of points scored in a turn. From this he can work out the mean number

Continued on page 25.

Early Days

The Rise of a Lady Champion

By Allen Parker

The Budleigh July Tournament of 1898 attracted more attention than usual, for a player of unrivalled skill was to take part. A certain Mr C.E. Willis had the previous year won the Open Championship at Wimbledon and it was put about that he was everywhere recognised as being the best player existing.

The earlier rounds of the All-Comers' Challenge Singles were watched with great interest, especially the match between Mr Willis and Miss Elphinstone Stone, a very fine player and the leading local lady. It was soon seen that this lady, as well as all his other opponents, were quite outclassed by Mr Willis. Interest languished and it was felt that nothing in any way approaching a match was likely to be seen. Finally, a novice, a young lady of twenty-one, who had never played in public before, was left to play the final round, best of three games, against Mr Willis. This young lady had hitherto had easy victories. 'That is the luck of the draw', said the cognoscenti. 'This young lady reaches the finals and gets the second prize without opposition. It means that all interest in the tournament is over.'



Mr C.E. Willis, winner of the Open Championship in 1897

This judgment was soon to be proved over-hasty however. A strange rumour was carried to players still involved in matches on distant lawns. The novice was playing very well, and was running rapidly ahead of her formidable opponent. Soon, so it was reported, a ringing cheer startled the quiet town of Budleigh Salterton. Miss Gower, the novice, had won the first game. As can be imagined, the interest was now enormous. All the spectators, and every contestant not actually playing a game, gathered round the lawn. Every stroke of the game was watched with

breathless interest. Mr Willis produced some of his finest play and won easily. Again the habitual commentators were in evidence with such remarks as 'She was lucky in the first game but experience tells in the end'. They were, however, completely confounded because in the third game Mr Willis had only five shots. Lily Gower went round in two breaks of 11 points and 12 points, and won by 26 points in thirty-five minutes.

In the autumn of the same year the Maidstone Club had requested the All-England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club to allow their two challenge cups to be played for at Wimbledon because of a typhoid scare at Maidstone. Lily Gower entered this tournament, and the following excerpts from a contemporary account of the tournament will give an indication of her performance on this occasion.

'... A novel feature of the meeting was the competition for the Maidstone Challenge Cups... One of these was the Open Challenge Cup, kindly presented by Mr Ayres. This was in the hands of Mr C.E. Willis. The other was the Ladies' Challenge Cup, won at Maidstone last year by Miss Elphinstone Stone. The meeting was further remarkable, inasmuch as it introduced to the Wimbledon grounds the brilliant young lady player who beat Mr Willis two games out of three at the Budleigh Salterton Open Finals. Miss Gower put her name down for both competitions.



Miss Lily Gower, very young and delicate-looking, who won by playing breaks. She was the 1905 Open Champion

'... On Wednesday morning an important struggle took place, when Miss Gower found herself confronted by Miss Elphinstone Stone, the holder of the cup. The game fluctuated at first, but Miss Gower was not very long in getting one ball round to the last hoop, assisted by one very forward and difficult break. Then, with the other ball for the fourth hoop, she laid a trap for her opponent. Miss Stone fired, and her doom was sealed. Miss Gower went off after the shooting ball, and with a fine break of thirteen points, ran out. The grounds were difficult owing to the long drought, and the players were a little puzzled with Ayre's spade hoop, which below the surface is a flat and sharp iron wedge, which gives an exact 4-inch, and is far more rigid than a hoop in an iron socket.

'... On Thursday Miss Gower continued her victories. In the afternoon, as winner of the Maidstone All-Comers, she was called upon to play one of three games with Mr C. Willis, the holder of the challenge cup. Miss Gower soon obtained a lead, but, breaking down at No 4 hoop, let Mr Willis in; but in a short time he went over the boundary, and it was soon evident that this delicate young lady, although exhausted from having played several games in a hot sun, was a very formidable opponent. She pushed on ball after ball with difficult breaks; she lost the innings three or four times, and at once recovered it by amazing long shots. In the gloaming she pegged out, having defeated the champion of the United All-England Association by 21 points.

'... The splendid success of Miss Gower on this occasion gave rise to difficult questions. Were these victories due to simple good fortune? This was the theory of some of her detractors when the subject of her previous victory at Budleigh Salterton was discussed. But as folks watched her calmness, her judgment, her confident and easy skill, a second question arose. Had any player ever played like this on the Wimbledon ground before? Miss Gower is very young, very delicate-looking. She stands quite upright to her stroke, and takes aim by putting the mallet in the first instance over the ball. She then strikes with confidence, careless apparently, whether the object ball is six feet or six yards away. Her tactics are simple - to scheme for the four-ball break at all seasons. At this she is very deadly.

'... Few will forget the excitement caused by her final game with Mr Willis. She got in first, and kept the advantage until one ball was a rover, and the other two to go out. Then Mr Willis got in with a long shot, and on the stroke, working the most difficult and brilliant break that he perhaps has ever played, became a rover with the intention of pegging her out. But he missed the peg, and the young lady got in once more, and became a rover with both balls. Again Mr Willis got his chance, and this time he pegged out one of Miss Gower's balls. The excitement became very great. Mr Willis was working round his second ball with masterly boldness, and the young lady sending shot after shot within an inch of the winning peg. Then came the climax. Mr Willis reached the last hoop, and the next break would have finished the game, when suddenly a shot more deadly than the others traversed the ground and hit the peg plumb-centre.'

Early Days

The 'Ladies' Field' magazine considered this victory epoch-making. '... It proved that a woman, if armed with up-to-date implements, can compete with success in the severe and prolonged conflict of nerve, endurance, and hard work which a week of match croquet involves...'

Lily Gower was the daughter of Captain Gower, late of the 12th Lancers, a Welsh squire, the owner of the Castle Malgwyn estate, near Boncath. Mrs Gower, her mother, had been an enthusiastic croquet player for many years and had passed on her zeal to her daughter. Mother and daughter used to play at the Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club at Newcastle Emllyn. Lily learnt her tactics from a book by Arthur Lillie ('Croquet, its History, Rules and Secrets', published by Longmans in 1897). She played with a long-handled mallet weighing three pounds. In aiming, she placed the mallet head over the ball and covered a black spot on the mallet with the handle, which she held very tightly with the right hand and very loosely with the left. She played her stroke entirely from the right wrist.

As Col. Prichard describes in his 'History of Croquet', Lily Gower went on to win the Ladies' Championship for three years running. She became Open Champion in 1905, Women's Gold Medallist, Open Gold Medallist three times, and Men's Gold Medallist. In 1905 she married R.C.J. Beaton. As a mixed doubles partnership they proved to be unbeatable for two successive years (1906-1907). They also won the mixed doubles again in 1920. Her husband died in 1925, but Lily continued to play effectively for many years (she won the women's championship again in 1929, and the Peel Memorials in 1948) until her death in 1959 at the age of eighty-two.

Note: Most of the information for this account was obtained from the book edited by Arthur Lillie and entitled 'Croquet Up To Date', published in 1900 by Longmans, Green, and Co.

COACHING WEEKEND FOR PLAYERS HANDICAP 14 TO 6

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The course will also provide an opportunity to qualify as a Grade II coach, and anyone who would like to take advantage of this opportunity should contact John as soon as possible.

The Secretary's Shield

The Secretary's Shield: Cheltenham, 15 September

Good win by Wolverhampton

Report by Bob Smith

Cheltenham was chosen as a new venue for the 1985 Secretary's Shield Final at Woking's request, being equidistant from the two competing clubs. Our thanks go to the Cheltenham Club and to Ian Maugham, who carried out the duties of referee and 'mother', for their kind help. Richard Rothwell, who instigated this competition in 1979, was unable to witness this year's Final due to illness.

Wolverhampton beat Chester by 5 games to 2 in the semi-final between the winners of the West Midland Federation and the Northern Federation Leagues, and were in the Final for the second time, having lost to Aldermarston in 1983. Woking, in the Final for the first time, had beaten Bentley 6-1 in the other semi-final between the winners of the Home Counties and the Essex-Suffolk Leagues. This was the first time that the latter League had been represented in the Secretary's Shield.

Both Woking and Wolverhampton arrived in the Final carrying a 'weight' on their shoulders. Woking had two players who had played comparatively little competitive croquet this season, and Roy Weaver had his left arm wrapped up complaining of tennis elbow (or was it really 'croquet' elbow?), and these three players won one game between them!

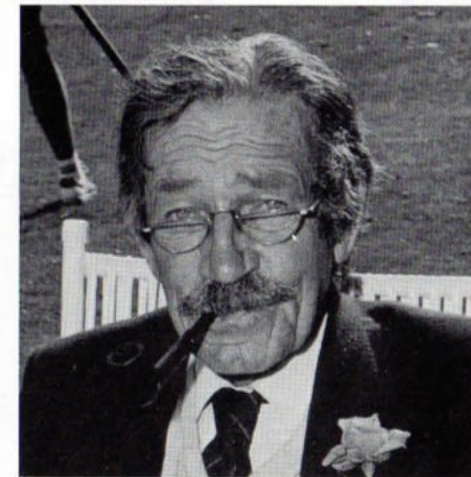
In the first session, the two singles were finished in just over one and a half hours with one win each, but the all-important doubles (as it later turned out), was only concluded over two hours later with a win to Wolverhampton.

In the second session, Charles Lamb gave Woking early hope with a big win over the injured Roy Weaver. However Terry Greenwood had a solid win over Tony Mrozinski, followed shortly by an equally solid win by David Spear over John Maude to clinch the match for Wolverhampton. Mike Wilson eventually ran out the winner over Nancy Lenfestey, but by then it was too late!

Wolverhampton, having been the 'bridesmaid' in their previous Final (and also in the Longman Cup Finals in 1983 and 1984), were worthy winners of the Secretary's Shield and broke a 3-year hold on the Shield by the Home Counties League. (Aldermarston won it in 1983 and 1984; Harwell in 1985). Other winners have been Oxford University (1979), Chester (1980), and Walsall (1981).

The Secretary's Shield competition is expanding rapidly. Previously it was between the winners of the West Midlands Federation and the Northern Federation Leagues, and the winners of a play-off within the Home Counties League. This year saw the inclusion of the Essex-Suffolk League, and next year the new South West Federation League will be included. This will be followed in 1987 by the South East League which is being launched this year.

Unfortunately the Essex-Suffolk League will not be represented in the 1986 Secretary's Shield, but with more Leagues being planned by the new East Anglian Federation, the numbers competing will continue to increase.



Richard Rothwell, the 'Secretary' who started it all!

Results:

(Wolverhampton names first)

T.P. Greenwood (5½) & Mrs N. Lenfestey (7½) bt J.S. Maude (2½) & J.M. Wilson (4) +8
R. Weaver (6) lost to A.J. Mrozinski (1) -20
D.E. Spear (6) bt C.S. Lamb (3) +7
T.P. Greenwood bt A.J. Mrozinski +13
D.E. Spear bt J.S. Maude +15
R. Weaver lost to C.S. Lamb -21
Mrs N. Lenfestey lost to J.M. Wilson -13

Match Result

Wolverhampton 4, Woking 3

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Club Profile (2)

Croquet in Ashby-de-la-Zouche

By Ken Hillier



Ashby Grammar School - site of the new club

Croquet, after a long convalescence, is alive and well in Ashby. Just over a year ago a small group of Grammar School staff were playing occasionally on a redundant grass tennis court with a 'garden set' of equipment. Now there is an Ashby Croquet Club, with its own sponsor and the possibility of two purpose-laid lawns next to the new Sports Centre in the middle of town.

Before the Great War, the Bath Grounds - where there were County Cricket matches and important Lawn Tennis Championships - had its own croquet lawn; and a Ladies' Club existed well into the 1920s. One lady,

now in her eighties, remembers 'the pretty rustic clubhouse. This game was very popular with the ladies of the town. My mother was a member and I still have a photograph of all the members in long, voluminous skirts and enormous flower-laden hats. The croquet ground had a high chicken-wire fence on the outside of which we could hang by our fingers and gleefully watch the stately lady miss her hoop'. Although not an 'official' sport at the Girls' Grammar School, croquet was certainly part of the extra-curricular activities and the lawn still exists where the girls used to play in the 1920s and 1930s.

Now the town has a chance to become part of the exciting resurgence of the game nationally. After a valuable link up with Chris Hudson, the National Development Officer of the Croquet Association, the Grammar School hosted evening croquet coaching sessions on four consecutive weeks in June and July 1985. As a result Ashby Croquet Club was established and members practised weekly at the Grammar School until well into the Autumn. Two friendly matches - at Loughborough and Nottingham - helped to sharpen skills and introduce the group to match play. Meanwhile the Town Council were approached for help both with equipment and with finding a permanent site for the Club. The Council has from the first given positive encouragement and now wants to construct croquet lawns near to the recently opened Hood Park Leisure Centre. It has approached the Sports Council and between them it is hoped that a scheme costing around £14,000 will be carried out during 1986-7, which will provide Ashby with two first-class lawns.

The Club has also managed to attract sponsorship: J.B. Microsystems Ltd of South Street, Ashby, has guaranteed financial support to enable the Club to purchase a complete set of equipment and its logo will be prominently displayed on all club notices and press releases. The local newspaper, the 'Ashby Times' has followed with interest the development of the Club's fortunes, and has produced three feature articles on it in the past year.

As Chris Hudson remarked to us, 'It is a tremendous sport; it is challenging as it requires both mental and physical skill. I hope it will really take off in Ashby'. It seems as if his wish is being fulfilled.



Ashby Ladies' Croquet Club, Bath Grounds c. 1911



A Croquet Lawn at Ashby Girls' Grammar School - in the 1920s

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Short Croquet

So what's different about Short Croquet?

By Chris Hudson

Short Croquet uses all the rules of Association Croquet with a few relatively minor modifications and additions.

The game is played on what is effectively a half-size lawn, making it easier for beginners as the shots are shorter, and more convenient for many players who cannot afford the time to play the full game.

Experience so far suggests that most games of Short Croquet finish in an hour to an hour and a quarter, and it was noticeable at the Short Croquet Tournament in Buxton last year that there was far more 'social' activity between games.

With Short Croquet, the balls only go round the hoops once, giving a 14-point game. Players with a handicap of 2 or less have to complete mandatory peels - a factor that has been introduced to make Short Croquet as much of a challenge to an International player as to the beginner. For handicaps above 2, both players have bisques.

Another difference is that a lift is conceded if a player wires one of his opponent's balls from its partner ball (even though the player leaves his own balls 'open'). Other Laws are introduced to deal with situations where a ball gets too far in front to make the outstanding mandatory peels.

The full amendments to the existing Laws of Association Croquet are given on this page.

So what is the effect of Short Croquet likely to be?

After one season and a number of club tournaments, Short Croquet is proving to be a popular variation of the full game. There is room on any public bowling green for two Short lawns, and with some local authorities now allowing dual use of their greens for bowls and croquet, this means that a 2-lawn Short Croquet club can be established with the ability to play matches.

Even on a Short lawn, double banking can take place with surprisingly little interference. One of my happiest memories of last season was a Short Croquet Tournament at Nottingham for beginners. Twenty-four players took part, and they were in continuous action for some 4 hours. The sight of 12 people in play on the space occupied by 3 full-size lawns was quite something to behold.

A lot of coaching of beginners last season was carried out on half-size lawns, and experience showed that the beginners were much quicker in picking up the idea of 4-ball breaks than with full-lawn coaching. Indeed by the end of the season, many of the beginners were making large breaks in competitive play on small lawns.

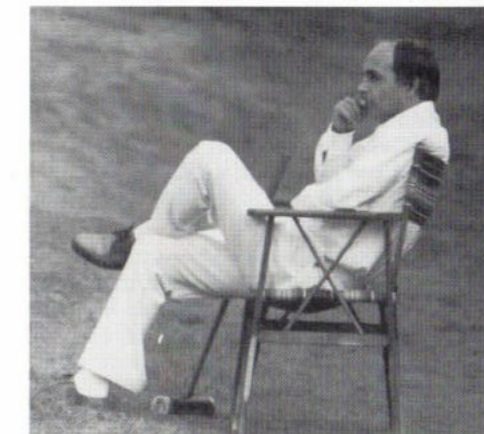
So what of the future for Short Croquet? The Granada televised croquet will be played on a small lawn, using the Laws of Short Croquet. The smaller area makes filming easier and, perhaps more importantly, reduces the length of a game to the point where live broadcasts become feasible. If the broadcasts are successful, we shall receive many enquiries about the game and the existing clubs may have to use small lawns to provide sufficient facilities if they want to meet the expected demand.

In the longer term, we may well have a

2-tier system of clubs in the CA. Those who play only Short Croquet because of lack of space or because that is what their members want, and those who play the full Association game. In fact, one club, Chester, has already decided to convert their 2 full lawns to 4 small lawns, to provide more appropriate facilities for their members who are currently mainly beginners with limited time to spare for the game.

This year sees the first National Short Croquet Championship, and there are about another 6 Short Croquet Tournaments planned by individual clubs. In a year or two, there may well be a full tournament

Continued on page 25.



Chris Hudson

The Rules of Short Croquet

(To be published shortly as Appendix 5 of 'The Laws of Association Croquet and Golf Croquet')

Short Croquet is a shortened version of the game, primarily intended for play on smaller lawns. The Laws of Handicap Singles Play apply, subject to the following modifications.

1. THE COURT

The standard court is a rectangle measuring 24 by 16 yards. The four outer hoops are 4 yards from the adjacent boundaries, the two inner hoops are 6 yards north and south of the peg.

2. THE COURSE

The game is 14 points; six hoops and the peg (See Law 52(c)).

3. THE HANDICAPPING SYSTEM

Each player has to make the number of mandatory peels corresponding to his normal handicap in the table below, or he becomes entitled to the number of bisques given in a

Normal CA Handicap	Short Croquet Handicap	
	Bisques	Mandatory Peels
-5 to -1		3
- 1/2 to 1/2		2
1 to 2		1
2 1/2 to 3 1/2	0	
4 to 4 1/2	1	
5 to 5 1/2	1 1/2	
6 to 6 1/2	2	
7 to 7 1/2	3	
8 to 9	4	
10	5	
11 to 12	6	
13 to 14	7	
15 to 16	8	
Over 16	9	

Note: Handicaps over 16 are temporary variations for 1986 only.

table published by the Council from time to time. If both players are entitled to bisques, each player receives the appropriate number of bisques as in Full Bisque Handicap Play.

4. MANDATORY PEELS

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

When the striker is in a position where the number of mandatory peels outstanding is equal to the number of hoop points remaining to be scored by his two balls, he cannot score a point by running a hoop. If after running a hoop in this situation the striker continues to play as if the hoop point had been scored, Law 27 applies.

5. PEELING AN ADVERSARY'S BALL

An adversary's ball may be peeled without penalty, except that if the adversary has a number of mandatory peels outstanding equal to the number of hoop points remaining to be scored by his two balls, his number of mandatory peels outstanding is reduced by one for each peel made on one of his balls.

6. PEGGING OUT

Law 39 applies. If the striker pegs out an adversary's ball when the adversary still has mandatory peels outstanding, all those mandatory peels are cancelled.

If one of the striker's balls is a rover, and he still has mandatory peels to make, he cannot secure the peg point for his rover ball. If his rover ball strikes the peg and is removed from the court, Law 30(d) applies.

7. WIRING LIFT

Law 13 applies, but is amended so that part (a)(i) reads: 'it is wired from its partner ball, or if that has been pegged out, from all other balls: and'.



The magazine 'CROQUET' is published 6 times a year by the Croquet Association, the game's governing body. Lavishly illustrated and packed with useful information for expert and novice alike, it will keep you in touch with all aspects of the game. News of clubs and local competitions, coaching courses, hints on how to improve your game, advice on equipment and contact with other players will heighten the enjoyment that croquet gives you. Make sure of your regular copy by subscribing today. Send £6.50 to The Croquet Association, The Hurlingham Club, Ranelagh Gardens, London, SW6 3PR to cover your annual subscription for the next 6 issues.

The Intelligent Player's Guide to Alternative Croquet Games

By Simon Garrett

A. Serious Alternatives

PROGRESSIVE DOUBLES:

New Status for Junior partners

Conventional handicap doubles can degenerate into trench warfare, with the junior partner allowed to take few of the risks and none of the bisques.

But Progressive Doubles encourages long-bisquers to play a prominent role in a series of fast-action 40-minute contests with a variety of senior partners. This blend of social mixing with useful playing experience has made it a popular attraction at gymkhanas.

Rules

1. Initial pairings are decided by lot.
2. 18-point, 5th hoop start games are played.
3. Each round of games starts on the ringing of a bell and finishes the instant the bell is rung for the second time. If the scores are level, the side in play is the winner.
4. At the end of each round, the winning low-bisquer of each doubles team goes to the next court 'up', whilst the winning high-bisquer goes to the next court 'down'. The losing team plays again on the same court, but they draw again for partners with the new arrivals. If a player is not ready to play at the first bell, his/her partner may play the ball into court or, failing a partner, an opponent may play it. In neither case may a roquet be claimed.
5. Apart from the peg, only one point may be scored by peeling.
6. Bisques are individually owned and may be used by their owner alone. At the start of the event, each player is given his/her allocation of bisques, all of which are restored for each new game.
 - Players of handicap 0 or less receive 0 bisques.
 - Players of handicap 1/2 to 5 receive 1 bisque.
 - Players of handicap 5 1/2 to 10 receive 2 bisques.
 - Players of handicap 11 to 16 receive 3 bisques.
 - Players of handicap 17 to 20 receive 4 bisques.
 - Players of handicap 21 to 24 receive 5 bisques.
8. At the end of each game, the winning low-bisquer is responsible for reporting the score to the Marker/Timekeeper. Each player is credited with the number of points his/her side scored in total, eg if A and B beat C and D 18-14, A and B each score 18 points, whilst C and D each score 14 points.
9. Although the event has a doubles format, the players accumulate points for themselves. The overall winner is the player with the highest total score.
10. 40 minutes per game plus, say, 5 to 10 minutes for reporting scores and moving to the next court is the recommended schedule. This allows 5 or 6 rounds to be played.

Note: All the laws of croquet apply except where modified above.

KING-BALL CROQUET: Aunt Emma's Delight?

Well, she can forget about going back to mother - you get no extra strokes for roqueting your partner in King-ball. On the other hand it is a sequence game, so she can go back to her opponent's dead ball. Unless its live partner is nearby.

Will Aunt Emma find a way? Will King-ball rule the world? Try it out and find out, but take absolutely nothing for granted.

Rules:

1. As in Association Croquet, Black and Blue play against Red and Yellow, singles or doubles, and the winner is the first to score 26 points over the normal course.
2. Play starts from the centre-court end of 'A' baulk.
3. No ball is considered in play until it has run the first hoop. It must therefore be lifted if it interferes with a stroke or the movement of another ball (as in the double-banking conventions).
4. No croquet strokes are allowed (except under rule 9a below).
5. There are no extra strokes for roqueting a partner ball.
6. Any ball roqueted through its hoop in order scores the points (except under rule 9d below).
7. Extra strokes are earned as follows:
 - (a) After running a hoop in order - 1 extra stroke.
 - (b) After roqueting an opponent's ball - 1 extra stroke.
 - (c) After running a hoop in order and then roqueting an opponent's ball in the same stroke - 2 extra strokes.
 - (d) After roqueting an opponent's ball and then running a hoop in order in the same stroke (the 'in-off') - 2 extra strokes.
 - (e) After running 2 hoops in order in the same stroke - 2 extra strokes.
8. Opponents' balls may be roqueted alternately, indefinitely, regardless of whether the player runs a hoop in order.
9. When a ball runs Rover, it becomes a King-ball, with the following additional privileges:
 - (a) After roqueting an opponent's ball, a King-ball may elect to play a croquet stroke instead of the normal extra stroke as in 7b. The croquet stroke ends the turn.
 - (b) No ordinary opposition ball can score from a King-ball. Any hoop or roquet it makes in the same stroke **after** contacting the King-ball is not valid. However, any hoop scored or extra stroke gained **before** contacting the King-ball is valid.
 - (c) A King-ball may roquet its partner through any hoop in order and the point is scored, but no point is scored when a King-ball roquets or croquets



Simon Garrett with pet Corrie

an enemy King-ball through its hoop in order.

(d) A King-ball may claim a roquet off an enemy King-ball or peg it out.

AMERICAN CROQUET:

Is It Really U/S?

Many CA members tend to be patronizing about the code favoured by our colonial cousins. This writer was no exception. In fact, the American game encourages exciting, high-risk strategy and provides an interesting challenge to anyone's skill.

Could this be the end of croquet as we know it?

Hardly. The Americans have sportingly accepted Association Croquet as the International game, so the least we can do is learn **their** rules.

But first, memorize the following:

Glossary

Wicket = Hoop
Stake = Peg

Rules:

(where differing from Association Croquet)

1. Dimension and layout of the main USCA tournament game (see Fig 1). The only important difference is their 'yard-line', which measures only 9". Try getting behind **that** on a fast lawn.
2. Balls are played in strict sequence: Blue, Red, Black, Yellow. Tactics are revolutionized when you **know** which ball your opponent must play, and good leaves are fairly easy to contrive.
3. Each ball starts the game from one yard in front of the first wicket.
4. Until a ball has run the first wicket, it may not take croquet, nor may any other ball take croquet from it.
5. Once you have roqueted another ball, you are said to be 'dead' on that ball and may not roquet it again until you have run your next wicket. To be 'dead' on all three balls is clearly a crisis situation, leading to desperate attempts to run long wickets and regain the right to roquet. Forget scatter shots: if you hit a ball on which you are 'dead', your turn ends and the balls are replaced. However, a Rover ball can clear its deadness by running any wicket in either direction. Some form of display board is advisable to remind players who is dead on which ball.

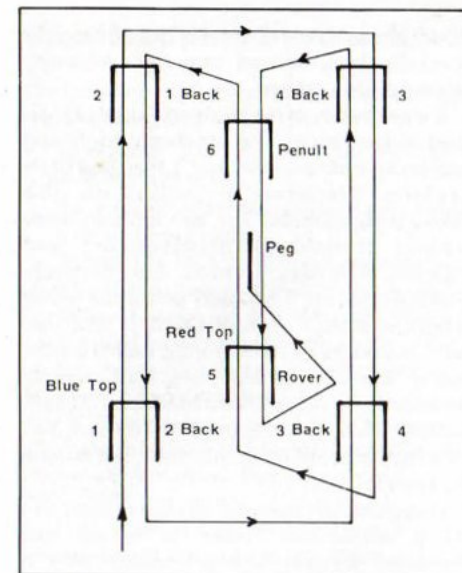


Fig 1:
USCA
6-wicket
layout

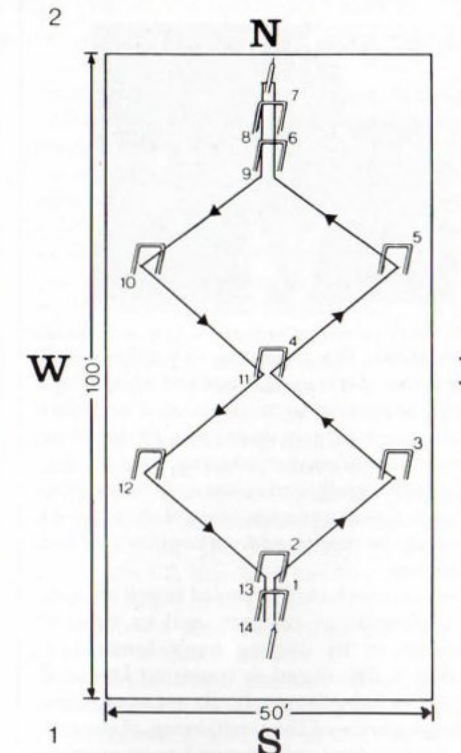


Fig 2:
USCA
9-wicket
layout

6. A Rover ball may peg itself out at any time.
7. The USCA also recognises the 9-wicket layout (see Fig 2), the American garden game, which clubs may like to try as a novelty.

There are only two special rules:

1. The North Stake is equivalent to the next wicket in order after No. 7. When you hit it, you get an extra stroke and the right to roquet the other balls again, just as if you had run a wicket. A Rover ball can hit the North Stake to clear its deadness.
2. The South Stake is the peg-out stake.

PIRATES:

The Spiteful Option

'Isn't croquet an awfully spiteful game?' We've all heard this from the lay public, but this time they'd be right.

However, 'Pirates' is a hilarious way to keep up to eight people gainfully employed in a gymkhana and can be learned in a few minutes.

Rules

1. 'Pirates' can be played by up to eight people, each using one of the primary or secondary colour balls.
2. Players shoot at the peg from either baulk and the nearest to the peg plays first - also from a baulk. Play then proceeds in sequence, either in an order agreed by the players, or according to the distance from the peg.
3. The winner is the first player to score 19 points.
4. When you run any hoop, in any order, you gain one extra stroke and score one point. Exception: no point or extra stroke is gained for immediately re-running the same hoop backwards.
5. When you hit another ball, you gain one extra stroke and also collect (or 'pirate') the **units** of the points owned by the other ball. Eg: If you hit another ball that

2-BALL CROQUET:

The Mini-Challenge

This is an enjoyable diversion for a few spare minutes, but also simulates the double peg-out end-game of Association Croquet.

All normal rules apply except that the two players have only one ball each.

The writer's club ran a successful 25-player block throughout the 1985 season, using the following handicap adjustments: 3-8 = scratch, 9-16 = 1, 17-20 = 2, 21-24 = 3.

MODIFIED HANDICAP PLAY:

Reclaim a lost opponent

Occasionally, some people have to give up playing each other. 'A' wins too easily with bisques but 'B' wins too easily in level play. The handicaps are accurate for general purposes but not for this one.

The answer is simple. 'A' receives all his/her bisques but may not use one to make the first roquet in a turn. There is more emphasis on good leaves and good shooting and, most importantly, it's a more even game.

B. Less Serious Alternatives

Bad Shooter continues the trend begun with Advanced Rules. We've all known the embarrassment of missing those 40-yard roquets, so let's cut them down. Increase the number of lifts and contacts to any desired level - right up to a lift after every turn and a contact after every hoop.

Back Peeler allows you to send an opponent's clip back one hoop by back-peeling the relevant ball. The winner is likely to be the player less tempted by this unproductive play (well, we said it was a less serious alternative).

Squaddy, or Progressive Singles, brings glorious uncertainty back to croquet. Each side consists of a squad of any agreed number and each turn is played by a different member of the squad, chosen by lot.

C. Even Less Serious Alternatives

This list does not claim to be exhaustive and your own imagination is the only limit. We've heard of **Champagne-cork Croquet** (really needs narrower hoops), **Pint-in-hand Croquet** (a fault if you spill any after taking your stance), **Candle-light Croquet** (you stick them on the hoops) and **Tea-trolley Croquet** (complete with hampered shots). Such variants are often thought of as harmless diversions for minus players, but there is no reason why serious people should not try them.

NOW YOU THINK OF SOMETHING

Any new or overlooked ideas for Alternative Croquet will be gratefully received and, if published in any future edition, will be acknowledged there. Send them to The Croquet Association, The Hurlingham Club, Ranelagh Gardens, London SW6 3PR.

The Croquet Association publishes leaflets about two other alternative games - Golf Croquet and Short Croquet. These may be obtained on application.

W

100'

S

50'

N

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Golf Croquet

GOLF CROQUET: SOME TACTICAL SUGGESTIONS

By Keith Wylie
(Reprinted from *The Gazette*, Spring 1971)

Croquet is commonly held by those who play it to require intelligence and skill. Yet although croquet is full of little tricks which only an intelligent person would be able to find out for himself, most players acquire them by watching others play. Croquet is a game that requires much learning; it is a great mistake to observe experience and take it to indicate intelligence. Golf croquet takes much less time to learn, and is erroneously thought to require less intelligence. In fact, to play it one needs just the same ability to assess one's opponent's and one's own skill, and it is this elusive art that is involved in most of the important decisions in the two games.

The tactics of golf croquet are hardly worthy of lengthy discussion, but surprisingly many association croquet players are not aware of what few there are. One outstanding example of this occurs when the first ball has been played to near a new and distant hoop, but has failed to get in front of it. The temptation to go one better with the second ball and take position for the hoop is too much for most players, whereas as a rule the correct thing to do with the second ball is to attempt to find a spot wired from the first ball by the hoop, so that if the third ball succeeds in taking position the second one can clear it out of the way next time; at any rate one wants it to be as far as possible from the first ball but still within shooting range of the hoop. This particular case illustrates a general principle of golf croquet that one should not take position with a ball if it can be cannoned by an opponent to his own advantage – an obvious enough principle, but one which is often ignored. Another situation with which the average association croquet player has difficulty occurs when one ball is sitting half way through the hoop. This situation highlights the great strategic value of having a ball level with the hoop and two or three yards to one side, a position not generally



Keith Wylie

appreciated. The main use of having a ball there is that if it is used to cannon away a ball which is in position to run the hoop, it will often end up in a position to do so itself. At the same time if it is itself cannoned away, the cannoning ball will usually end up some distance from the hoop. These and a few other tactical points can easily be mastered by a beginner within a weekend.

Just as much skill is needed in golf croquet as in association croquet, and to suggest otherwise is to display one's ignorance. Snooker is dismissed as requiring less skill than billiards by those who do not appreciate the importance of the positioning of the cue ball. It is true that golf croquet has no croquet stroke (just as snooker has no losing hazard or cannon), but whereas in association croquet the rush shot is usually played with the position of only one ball in mind, in golf croquet the cannon is a shot requiring a much greater amount of skill. The final position of the striker's ball depends critically both on the aim and on how much top spin is imparted to it, and the spin has to be given without making the ball perceptibly leave the ground. (The laws of golf croquet are not very satisfactory on this and other points). Those who wish to improve their skill at the single-ball shots of croquet will find no better or more enjoyable way of doing so than playing golf croquet.

Although the variety of shots in golf croquet is smaller than in association croquet, the rate at which interesting incidents occur is much higher. This makes it arguably the more exciting spectator sport when played well. The game deserves a more prominent place in the calendar.



Pbyllis Court – venue for this year's Golf Croquet Cup Event

Tournament Report

It has been said that readers of match reports, especially those abroad, may have difficulty understanding jargon . . .

It was the day of the Rutland County Final, a best of three event. The sun shone bright and clear on an immaculate lawn 1 that had been carefully prepared according to the Molesworth formula. The two finalists were Captain Donald Hardy-Roqueted and Reginald Oxbridge. Donald, affectionately known as "Beau" Don, was using his trusty hickory-shafted Cornwallis which had won him many a tournament. Reggy, called qaz for reasons known only to typists, had recently purchased one of the Quark brothers "charm" models. This was reputed to impart the legendary forward back spin shot, but no-one had seen it yet.

Beau won the toss and elected to start. He laid a convenient N-tice to which qaz responded equally conventionally with a Geneva. Beau's second ball roqueted qaz and with a brilliant Yarwood take-off he got a foot in front of hoop 1. A shot with vigour gave him a simple Gallows which he executed perfectly. This of course gave him an effervescent three ball (Perrier variant) and he should have gone to four back.

Unfortunately due to dew, or possibly dew to due, he did a wombat after one back leaving qaz a dolly mixture. Qaz made no mistake here and finished at four back with a French leave. Beau missed, qaz did a lemon peel with yellow and the first game was over.

Game two started very poorly. Mistakes were made on both sides. Qaz wombatted twice, and found the beetle drive, normally one of his best shots, not working for him. Beau did a banana split on the north boundary and found that many of his vector shots were graddiv-curling. After a while things settled down and both players were for 4-back and peg with qaz in control. Things looked all over but then, when he was in a commanding down-rover situation, qaz strawberried, giving the game to Beau.

The deciding game looked all over from the beginning when Beau got a 4-ball canon and executed a magnificent Grand. Qaz missed the Autumn leave and Beau moved to peg and rover. However qaz does not give up that easily and hit the Otis shot, taking himself to peg with his first ball. Beau missed and qaz was on to a simple break – until at three back a bump in the grass left him brindled. There was no way out. Or was there? Carefully calculating angles qaz took stance, and the crowd suddenly realised that they were about to witness an historic event, the very first forward backspin shot in a tournament. Qaz leant forward, gave it a twist, a flick of the wrist and that's exactly how it was done.

DON GAUNT

Handicapping System Review – By Barry Keen

The Handicap Cordination Committee (HCC) has the following major roles:

- To ensure that the handicap system is working correctly.
- To ensure that handicaps are evenly matched nationally.

To help the HCC fulfil these roles a record of all handicap games in Fixture Book events, as reported to the CA in 1984 and 1985, has been stored on a computer. Analysis of these results shows that there is a definite trend for the lower handicap players to win more than half of their games, and for long bisquers to win fewer than half. It is therefore obvious that the handicaps of low bisquers who win more than their fair share of games should be reduced, while the handicaps of long bisquers who mainly lose more than their share should be increased.

The simple way to make the required alterations would be to change the handicaps of all players at each handicap level by the relevant amount. This method would ignore the fact that at any given handicap there is a wide spread in the success rate and would result in players who win only 35% of their games receiving the same treatment as players who win 65% of their games.

The HCC therefore decided that it would be preferable to use the records of each individual player to show whether the player was more or less successful than would be expected if the player's handicap was correct. In adopting this approach the HCC recognised that a player's record could only be statistically significant if a sufficient number of games had been played during the season.

It was decided that only players who had played a minimum of 11 games in 1985 would be assessed. It was also decided that for players who received a handicap alteration during the season a minimum 11 games would have had to be played at the new handicap before an assessment would be made. The HCC agreed to reduce by one handicap unit (ie ½ up to 8 or 1 above 8) the handicap of players who won between about two-thirds and three-quarters of their games and for success rates greater than about three-quarters by two handicap units (ie 1 up to 8 or 2 above 8). Similarly, handicap increases were made to those players who lost more than about two-thirds and three-quarters of their games.

One further problem facing the HCC was to decide how to deal with players who have not played at least 11 games. These fall into two categories:

1. Minus players

Very few minus players play in handicap events, but nevertheless play in club events and enter the All-England. It is therefore important that the changes to other players are also passed on to minus players. It was agreed that all minus players, other than those who have played 11 games in 1985, would be reduced by 1, with the minimum handicap remaining at -2.

All other players who have played less than 11 games

The remaining players will be assessed by club

handicappers using those players considered by the HCC as reference points, and using the playing records from last season of each player. To help keep handicaps evenly matched nationally, club handicappers will be asked to give more weight to games played against players from other clubs, than to games played between club members.

It is essential that players recognise that these changes are being made to extend the handicap spread and to provide a more equitable handicapping system. Therefore long bisquers who have had their handicap increased have not been demoted but are part of a general spread of handicaps. Any long bisquer who is unaltered has in fact undergone a reduction. To accommodate this general stretching of the handicap range, the maximum CA handicap has been increased from 16 (D14) to 18 (D14).

It should also be recognised that the changes initiated by the HCC this year constitute a major attempt to redress the imbalance in the handicapping system and do not represent a takeover of the role of club handicappers. The HCC will continue to require that club handicappers carry out their traditional role of assessing handicaps in the clubs and tournaments. The HCC expect that it could take several seasons to achieve the required balancing of the handicap system, although it is hoped that the large number of changes made this year will gradually decline in future years.

When we have balanced the handicap system, players of all abilities will face their games with an equal chance of winning, and perhaps in a year or two we may see the All-England Handicap being won by a 16 handicap player.



Barry Keen

Handicap Coordination

Handicapping Procedures

The following Handicapping Procedures are required under the Regulations to appear in the Gazette.

New Handicaps

A handicap is obtained either from:

- A Club Handicapper, or a committee of members, appointed by the Club to allocate handicaps. A Club Handicap will not necessarily be accepted for play in a CA Calendar Fixture tournament.

or

- the Tournament Handicapper of a CA Calendar Fixture (including weekend tournaments) who will be on the list of Authorised CA Handicappers, appointed by the Handicap Coordination Committee of the CA.

A player entering a Calendar Fixture Tournament who has not obtained a CA handicap may request the Tournament Handicapper to apply his Club handicap, or, in the absence of any such handicap, will be given a provisional handicap.

This provisional handicap can be varied at any time during the tournament. At the end of the tournament, the Tournament Handicapper will allocate a handicap and advise the player and the CA Secretary (See Regulation 11).

Alterations in Handicaps

Handicappers may recommend increases or reductions in handicaps. An alteration during play shall be effective for all events in which a competitor is still competing.

Handicap alterations recommended by Tournament Handicappers resulting from play in Calendar Fixtures (including weekend tournaments) take effect immediately for all handicap levels.

The player concerned is notified of his altered handicap before he leaves the tournament and is handed an official card showing the alteration. This he must show to the manager of any tournament which he may enter. He should also inform the Handicappers of his own Club or Clubs.

It is the duty of a player to ascertain before leaving a tournament whether his handicap has been altered.

COMPETITORS ARE REMINDED OF THEIR RESPONSIBILITY FOR PLAYING AT THEIR CORRECT HANDICAP UNDER REGULATION 10.

Handicap alterations recommended by Club Handicappers will also take effect immediately.

Increases in Handicaps

As well as an increase in handicap being made by handicappers as set out above, an increase may be obtained by a player applying to his Club Handicapper or to a Tournament Handicapper.

A Handicapper is not permitted to alter his own handicap.

Notification to the Croquet Association

Both Club and Tournament Handicappers should inform the Secretary of the CA of new and altered handicaps as soon as possible on the Handicap listing form supplied by the Secretary.

Continued on page 18.

Handicap Coordination (Cont'd)

Continued from page 17

Approval of Handicaps

New handicaps and alterations as advised to the CA are submitted to the Handicap Coordination Committee for approval.

The Handicap Coordination Committee in the exercise of their powers may request the Handicapper concerned for further evidence supporting an alteration.

The Handicap Coordination Committee has power to vary any alterations in handicaps which in their opinion call for a modification and is empowered to make a review of handicaps at the end of

each season.

Appeal

A player who disagrees with a Handicapper's decision has the right of appeal to the Handicap Coordination Committee.

Appeals against decisions of the Handicap Coordination Committee may be made by individuals through the Secretary of the CA to the Handicap Appeals Committee, whose decision will be final.

R.A. Godby,
Chairman, Handicap
Coordination Committee

ACCESS TO WREST PARK

Wrest Park is owned by English Heritage which pays for the maintenance of the Park and relies on ticket sales for a large part of its income.

English Heritage has requested that all Croquet players and supporters now enter the Park through the Mansion entrance, when it is open (i.e. 9.30-18.00, Saturdays and Sundays). If you come in earlier or have burdensome equipment to take to the lawns, then, of course, use the old entrance.

To make use of the Club's facilities, you must have a current Croquet Club identity card. If you do not, then English Heritage will expect the entry fee from you. Players in tournaments etc. receive a card for the relevant days; tournament fees include an element for entry to the Park.

The identity card covers the signatory only. Anyone else (including immediate family) is expected to pay the entry fee for each day - adults 75p, children 35p and OAPs 55p.

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Cheltenham GL53 0NR
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Membership Services

Loans to Clubs from CA funds

Details of the Criteria for awarding Grants and Loans from the P&D budget were given on Page 12 of Issue 181.

A total budget of £10,000 is available for awarding P&D Grants and Loans in 1986. Applications for such Grants and Loans should be sent to the CA Office as soon as possible, marked for the attention of the Chairman of the Publicity & Development Committee. (Please check that you meet the criteria before applying!).

A second source of club loans is available in 1986 from CA funds. Allocation of these loans is the responsibility of the Finance and General Purposes Com-

mittee, and the Criteria for awarding such loans are set out on this page.

Clubs carrying out development schemes that meet the criteria should apply for loans to the CA Office as soon as possible, marking their application for the attention of the Chairman of the F&GP Committee.

In considering such applications, particularly where there are competing claims for funds, F&GP will obviously take into account a club's support for the Association's activities. For example, CA membership, the running of open tournaments, coaching activities, and qualified CA officials.

Criteria for Awarding Development Loans from CA Funds

1. Nature of Qualifying Projects

(a) A loan may be made to a registered club for a capital project resulting in the upgrading of existing facilities or the provision of new off-lawn facilities.

(b) The project must have a total cost in excess of £2,500

(c) Different phases of the same long-term project may be eligible for separate loans, providing that each phase satisfies (b) above and that the loan in respect of the previous phase has been repaid.

2. Conditions

(a) A loan will not be made to a club with less than two full-sized lawns.

(b) A loan will not be made to a club in respect of an application previously submitted to the Publicity and Development Committee unless that Committee has specifically referred the application to the Finance and General Purposes Committee ('F&GP') for its consideration.

(c) A loan will only be made to a club that has been successful in raising finance, a significant proportion of which must have been contributed by the members themselves.

(d) A copy of the club's most recent accounts must be submitted to the Croquet Association at the time of the application

for the loan and club accounts must be available to the Croquet Association while the loan is outstanding.

(e) Repayment of a loan of more than £500 and any interest thereon must be personally guaranteed by individual members of the club; no member may guarantee more than 20% of the loan or £200, whichever is the smaller.

3. Repayment of Loans

(a) A loan of more than £500 must be repaid within 4 years of drawdown.

(b) A loan of £500 or less must be repaid within 2 years of drawdown.

(c) Loans will be subject to such conditions relating to interest or other details as may be decided by F&GP.

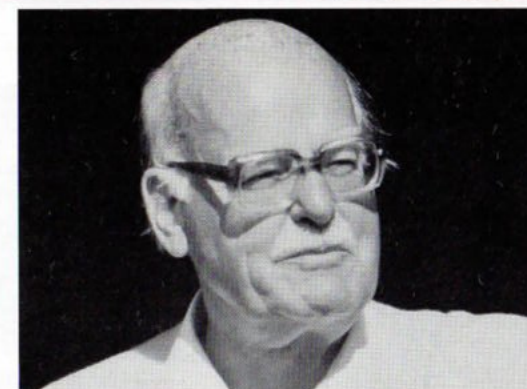
4. Administration

(a) Guidelines for the making of loans from Croquet Association funds will be laid down from time to time by F&GP.

(b) F&GP or a sub-committee thereof will be responsible for considering applications for loans and making loans.

5. Publicity

F&GP shall be responsible for publicising this loan scheme in order to make as many of the relevant clubs as possible aware of its existence.



By Lionel Wharrad
Chairman of Council
1984-1986

Another remarkable year

1985 was another remarkable year for the Association. It was primarily notable for the increased activity of the Publicity & Development Committee, made possible by the substantial grant received from the Sports Council which enabled us to appoint a full time Development Officer. I would remind you that we were given this grant to help us expand our activities so that we become self-sufficient. In my view there was perhaps a subsidiary reason, in that the Sports Council sees our sport as appealing to one of their 'target groups', the over-50s, where croquet could help to encourage more people in this group, especially perhaps women, to take part in organised sport. In all of our efforts in 1985 therefore we have had in our minds the need to become self-sufficient during the period of the three year plan.

Apart from the Sports Council Grant our income comes from two main sources - in one way or another from players of croquet, and from sponsorship. Our income from croquet players either directly or through their clubs in 1985 showed an increase over 1984 of about £5500 and our sponsorship income went up by nearly £7000. We must aim for further considerable expansion of income from both these sources during the next couple of years. This means that we will need to recruit more members of the CA, generate more tournament players, increase the number of new clubs, and secure more media coverage in order to attract more sponsors.

The number of croquet clubs registered at the end of 1985 is 33 more than at the end of 1984. This includes three additional schools and three additional universities. The remaining 27 new clubs vary considerably. Some of them are small and only able to offer poor facilities, but

several have considerable potential and could in good time become important tournament centres. We were however disappointed in the number of new CA members recruited. We had planned for a net increase of 144 but only achieved 118. We will be trying hard to provide good reasons for more club players to join the CA in 1986 when we will be looking to achieve a further net increase in CA membership of 166.

I mentioned last year that 1984 had been an excellent year for publicity for Association Croquet - in my view 1985 was even better. It was certainly our best year yet for sensible media coverage; it was most encouraging to see that at last the game is being treated as a serious sport by most reporters. We are looking for another considerable increase in publicity in 1986 to generate new enquiries from potential players and for leads to possible new clubs. We will have several splendid opportunities to publicise the game this year. Firstly we have the Test Matches against Australia and New Zealand and secondly we now know that Short Croquet is going to be the subject of a short television series in May involving competitive games between some of our top Internationals.

This additional publicity will in its turn undoubtedly generate enquiries from new potential sponsors. In fact we currently have several serious enquiries about sponsorship which have probably arisen from our good media coverage in 1985. These enquiries are being followed up as usual by Stephen Mulliner our Sponsorship Officer who has already done remarkably well in generating such a handsome increase in our revenues in 1985.

In order to appeal to a wider range of interests a number of new promotional leaflets have

The Chairman's Report for 1985/6

been prepared. These are aimed either at various groups of potential players, or at potential sources of income or publicity. We have also identified several promising areas of development which we shall be dealing with in 1986. The new national championship events for individual Juniors and for schools have convinced us that these are areas with considerable potential for development. In 1985 croquet was recognised as an official university sport by the British Universities Sports Federation and this will be helpful in staging the 1986 University Championships. Chris Hudson has also kept in contact with both the National Federation of Women's Institutes and the National Union of Townswomen's Guilds. Both of these are planning to run pilot croquet tournaments in 1986. An increasing number of hotels are offering croquet as one of their attractions and some of our new publicity material is directed towards encouraging this trend.

Our second and equally important aim in 1985 was to improve the services offered to members. Firstly I would remind you of the Coaching Scheme. At the end of the first full year of the Scheme we find we have appointed no fewer than 68 club coaches qualified to deal with the coaching of comparative beginners. We are now moving on to the next stage and coaching courses have been organised to enable members to qualify as Grade II coaches during this year. In addition a small committee is working on the requirements and syllabus for Grade III coaches to be trained and appointed in 1987. We must be grateful to John McCullough for all the enthusiasm and hard work he has brought to the creation of a National Coaching Scheme. This Scheme will of course be of benefit to a large number of members.

Next has been the attempts to improve the service given to members by the Gazette (now known rather awkwardly as 'Croquet'). I am sure that there is general agreement that this is already a livelier and more attractive publication. It is the intention of its principal architect Chris Hudson that it should continue to add to the service and information it provides for the entertainment and benefit of members. Thirdly we were able

to make substantial grants or loans to clubs in 1985 and will be in a position to do so on an increased scale in 1986 using some of the surplus funds we were not able to allocate in 1985. Fourthly we are encouraging the development of regional groupings of clubs. Some form of regional organisation can be of benefit to members in a number of ways. It can for example, from its position as a regional federation, apply authoritatively to regional sports councils and other sources for financial help for any of its federated clubs. It can organise regional coaching courses, and courses for aspiring referees. It can help to organise friendly competitions between groups of adjacent clubs at all levels of handicap, it can organise help for new clubs, and it can provide a regional press service. In addition the layout of the Calendar Fixture List has been improved and a real attempt has been made to improve the handicapping system.

These two main thrusts of our activities in 1985, to raise our income and to offer an improving service to members have only been possible because of the work of the Committees of Council and perhaps especially of their Chairmen. I never cease to be amazed at the extraordinary amount of work that these busy people find time to do on behalf of the members of the Association and I would like to thank them for all they have done in 1985.

I would also like to congratulate Chris Hudson our Development Officer on a very successful first year in office. We shall reap much benefit in 1986 from all the valuable spade-work he has necessarily had to put in in 1985. I believe that we are very lucky to have been able to find a man of his energy and skill and knowledge to take on this task.

Finally may I thank especially the Honorary Officers; the Hon Treasurer Alan Oldham for taking on a considerable extra load of work this year and for controlling our finances so well; and Derek Caporn who as Hon Secretary (and incidentally also our Hon Solicitor) succeeds in making our discussions and debates sound perfectly sensible when he writes the Minutes of Council! I would also like again to

Continued on page 25.

Chairman's Report

Recruitment

Increasing Our Membership

By Chris Hudson

Since 1st June last year, some 200 people have joined the Association, and our target to achieve a net gain of 166 more members in 1986 therefore looks very reasonable. However, we are aiming to achieve a bigger net increase than this, to make up for recruitment shortfalls in 1984 and 1985.

Last year, we met all but one of the targets that we agreed with the Sports Council for 1985 - 3 active Federations, 127 registered clubs (the target was 97), and 70 Grade I Coaches (target 30). The exception was membership recruitment, but even here, we achieved 80% of our target and more than trebled the net increase of members on the previous 2 years.

To get back on target with our recruitment, we have to be successful in two areas.

Improving Services

First, we must improve our services to potential members, so that people positively want to join the Association. The signs are that this has already begun to happen - some 20 more members joined last month - and we can point to areas where we have begun to make improvements.

For example, 'Croquet' has been extended to include more photographs and to give wider coverage of the croquet scene. Our intention is that it will continue to expand and improve as we obtain a larger readership, more correspondents, and more advertising.

Short Croquet was introduced during 1985 to widen the appeal of the game to many more people. Our efforts to set up a National Coaching Scheme are meeting with success, and a schedule of coaching courses both for players and potential coaches is beginning to emerge as part of the CA's service to its members. We are also looking at ways of providing regular courses for other officials, such as Referees.

This year, the CA has raised £5000 to give to Clubs as Grants to help them develop their facilities. Hopefully, as our organisation expands, we shall be able to increase this figure in future years.

There is still a long way to go, but the CA can certainly claim to have made a start towards providing more services for its members. In future, more benefits will be available, and members will increasingly find that they can obtain services or materials at cheaper rates than non-members, and that some events will be restricted to members only.

Recruiting Members

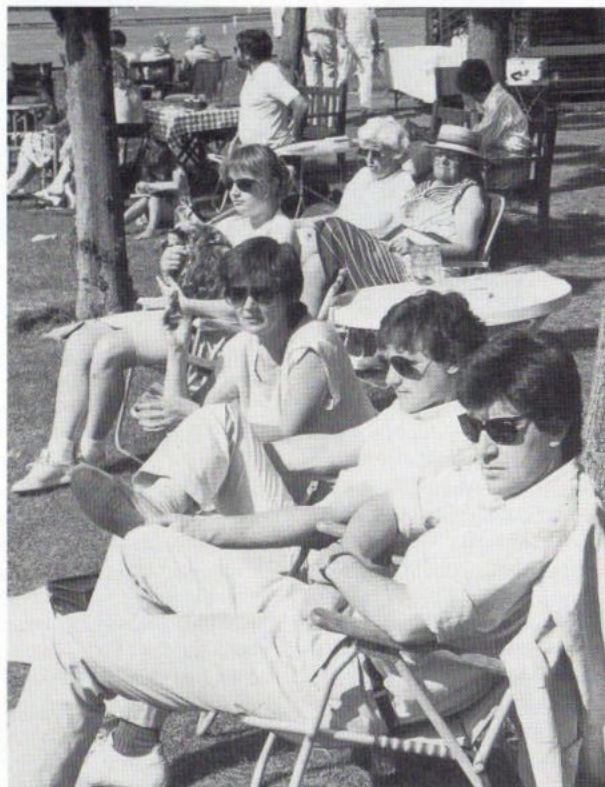
Providing better services is half the battle. The other half is an effective method of recruitment.

Without doubt, the most effective way to recruit new members is by word of mouth. If those who are already members feel that it is worth their while to join the CA and are prepared to recommend membership of the CA to new players, then our membership will increase rapidly.

We need an increased membership to improve our financial stability. The more members we have, the more attractive we are to potential sponsors, the more influence we have in the media, and the more members we can attract. It is a 'chicken and egg' situation.

We are asking clubs to give us their full support during 1986 to achieve our membership target, and in return we are offering prizes to those clubs whose recruitment is most effective.

To make the competition as fair as possible, we have divided clubs into 3 groups, according to how many of their members are currently members of the CA. The table above shows what the effect would be if each club achieved its target, but we anticipate that many clubs will do better than this.



How many are CA members?

1986 Targets

Club Size (CA Members)	Number of Clubs	Target Increase	Group Targets
0	48	2 full	96
Up to 10	47	4 full	188
10 & Over	32	6 full	192
TOTAL	127		476

** Note: Two subscriber members are equivalent to one full member

Effect on CA membership

The above targets are reasonably modest at club level, but the table shows what the overall effect is when the total is added up!

Please do all you can to help us achieve our target.

CONDITIONS OF MEMBERSHIP COMPETITION

Prizes

The club in each Group that recruits the largest number of CA members between 1st May and 31st December 1986 will receive a prize of £250 from the CA. A prize of £100 will be made to the club that recruits the second largest number in each Group.

If two or more clubs in a Group achieve the same total, then the prize(s) will be split equally between them.

A condition of the awards will be that the prize money is used to develop club facilities or to improve existing facilities for the club members.

Procedure

A promotional leaflet is being prepared, aimed specifically at members of clubs who are not yet members of the CA. Copies of this leaflet will be distributed to all Club Secretaries, together with a letter of explanation of the conditions of the competition. Each Club Secretary will be asked to confirm that the Group in which his club has been placed is correct.

Details of the scheme are given in this issue of 'Croquet' to alert all CA members to the idea, and encourage those who are influential in their clubs to do something about it. Subsequent issues will carry running totals

to date for each Group, and will announce when each club achieves its target. In addition, the top five clubs in each Group will be listed.

Administration

Clubs will be required to list their new members when they apply for the awards, and this list will be checked against subscriptions received during the 1986 season.

The running totals listed in each issue of 'Croquet' will be subject to confirmation at the end of the season. Information for the running totals will be taken from the membership application forms received at the CA Office.

In case of any query, the CA Directory will be used to establish the number of CA members at each club on 1st May 1986. The late payment of a 1986 subscription by someone listed in the 1985 Directory will not count as a new member.

Conditions

The Association may require to see the membership list of any club applying for a prize.

The decision of the Association in awarding the prizes will be final and subject to no discussion or appeal.

ESC Study Nears Completion: Sykes Report Imminent

In 1977, the European Sports Commission granted just over a quarter of a million pounds to study the physical build of top-level athletes in a wide variety of sports. Particular emphasis was placed on the study of the knee joint because of its importance on overall performance.

Much of the initial work on this project has been carried out at Wolfson College, Oxford, where Bryan Sykes has been leading a small team of experts in the examination of the breadth/width ratio of the lower knee. This particular ratio (the Kapp factor) has been established to be the key to performance in all motion-related sports.

The researchers have found that the Kapp factor approaches unity for most Division I footballers, whilst for croquet players, it is very close to '1'. Another surprising feature is that the breadth/width ratio varies only very slightly for nearly all those athletes who were examined.

This cannot be entirely explained by the sampling techniques that were used, and Phase 2 of the study, which is expected to be funded by the ESC shortly, will include the provision of scanners in individual clubs to allow examination of particular joints under flannels and under actual playing conditions.

To date, research has been concentrated on male athletes, but the CA is keen to include lady players in the survey. Any volunteers who would be prepared to undergo preliminary tests should contact the Editor, who would be very happy to carry out the initial examinations.

NOTE:

Much of the data used by Bryan Syke's team in their research was collected at the 1983 Opens at Cheltenham, when (as he rightly points out) sartorial considerations were sacrificed to the cause of thermal equilibrium. The

STOP PRESS

Council Election

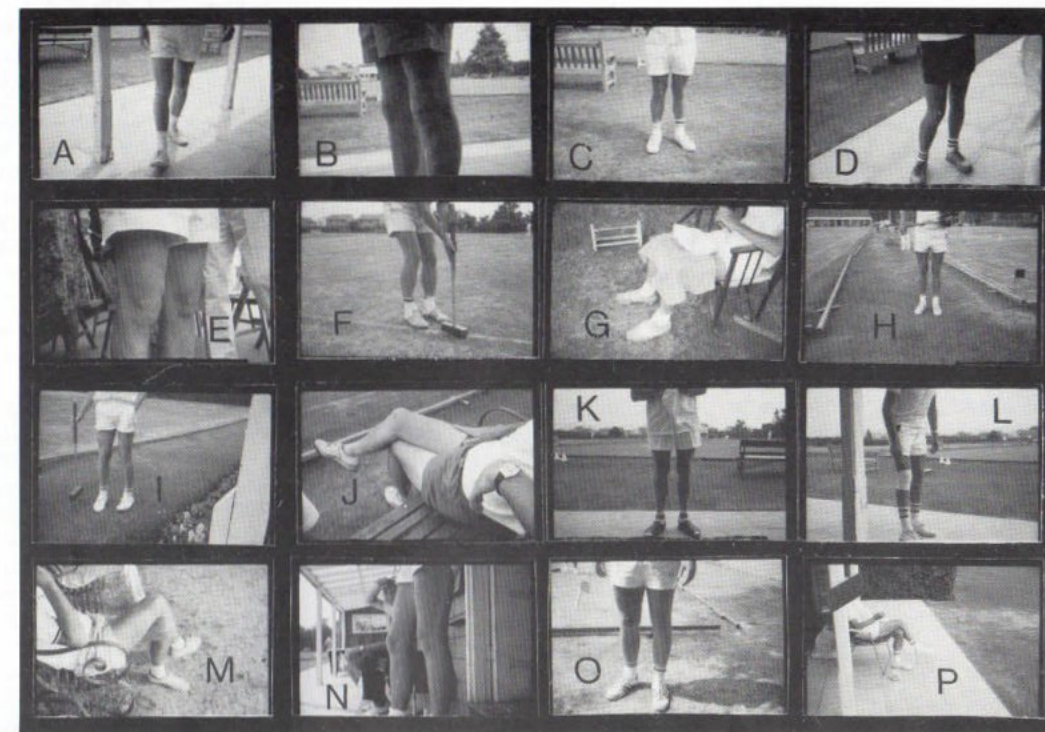
The following were elected as Council members in the recent election: Derek Caporn, Peter Danks, Smokey Eades, Robin Godby, Sarah Hampson, Stephen Mulliner, Alan Oldham, and Charles Townsend.

Correction

CA Gold Croquet Championships

The Singles and Doubles will be played on BOTH days, not as announced previously. Anyone wishing to enter only the Doubles and requiring leave on the Saturday should make such a request on their entry form. Sympathetic consideration will be given provided that the smooth running of the Championships is not thereby adversely affected.

DAVID CROCKER: Manager



horrifying results are shown above.


This gives us the chance to run another competition. The players in the photographs are: Bell, Berry, Bond, Cordingley, Foulser, Haigh, Heap, Hobbs, Hope, Johnson, McCullough, Murray, Noble, Openshaw, Rose, and Vincent.

Which knees belong to which player?

Answers please to the CA Office. A copy of 'The History of Croquet' will be sent to the person whose answer contains the most correct identifications. Closing date for the competition is 30th June, 1986.

N.B. Any player who fails to identify his own knees will pay the full Tribute and Levy for all future tournaments!

From Our Correspondents



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Coaches Corner (1)

ACCURACY OF THE RUSH

By Allen Parker

A miss is as good as a mile if we are trying to hit a ball, but a near miss is almost as good as a 'hit' if we are trying to rush a ball to a particular spot, eg to a hoop.

The probable accuracy of the rush will of course depend on the distance apart of the two balls involved. The further apart they are, the less accurate the rush is likely to be - as every croquet player knows. But how does the accuracy of the rush compare with that of a long roquet - or to put it another way, how close do the balls have to be to attain the same accuracy in a straight rush as in a simple long shot?

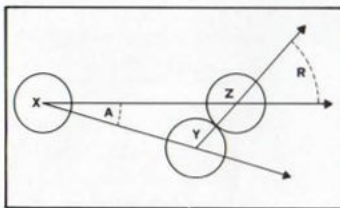


Fig 1. Cut Rush showing Error in Aim (A) & Error in Rush (R)

The answer to this kind of question can be found by reference to the diagram of a rush shown in Figure 1. Here, X is the striker's ball and he attempts a straight rush along the line XZ on the ball marked Z. In general there will be a slight error in his shot so that his ball will travel along the line XY. The error in the shot is equal to the angle marked A, and as a result of this error the roqueted ball Z will travel along a line that deviates from the required direction by the angle

marked R. The straight rush has turned out to be a cut rush, albeit only a slight cut if the balls were close together to start with. The question is - how large is the angle R compared with the angle A for a given separation of the balls X and Z?

Some values of angle R for various values of angle A and separation between balls X and Z are shown in Table 1. The first column shows the error in the shot, ie angle A, in degrees. The remaining columns give the magnitude of angle R, the error in the rush, for various separations between the balls in the rush. The separations are measured in 'ball spaces', ie a value of 1 corresponds to a space of three and five eighths inches between the balls.

It will be seen that for small errors up to at least 3 degrees, the error in the rush is almost exactly proportional to the number of ball spaces. Thus for an error in the shot of 1 degree, the error in the rush is also 1 degree for a ball space of 1, 2 degrees for a ball space of 2, and so on. This applies for all reasonable errors in a straight rush because 99% of the shots of the 'average player' (as defined by Dr Grundy - see Gazette No 144, 1977) fall within 3 degrees of the aiming point.

Thus to make our rush as accurate as our roquet, we must lay the rush with the balls separated by only 1 ball diameter. Note that we can make the rush TEN times MORE accurate than

TABLE 1:
ERROR IN RUSHES WITH BALL SEPARATIONS BETWEEN 0.5 AND 8

Error in Shot (Degrees)	Error in Rush (Degrees)				
	0.5 space	1 space	2 spaces	4 spaces	8 spaces
1.00	0.50	1.00	2.00	4.01	8.04
2.00	1.00	2.00	4.01	8.05	16.31
3.00	1.50	3.01	6.03	12.17	25.10
4.00	2.01	4.02	8.08	16.41	34.89
5.00	2.51	5.04	10.16	20.83	46.67
10.00	5.10	10.32	21.40	50.25	
15.00	7.84	16.17	35.94		
20.00	10.87	23.16			
25.00	14.34	32.70			
30.00	18.59	60.00			

our roquet by placing the balls only one tenth of a ball diameter apart, ie about one third of an inch apart. This is effectively what we do in the wafer cannon (see Gazette No 184, 1986) where we can arrange the balls by hand in the precise positions required. It is difficult to lay an ordinary rush as close as this - a slight bump in the ground may be sufficient to roll the ball aside enough to make the rush very difficult or impossible. However it is not necessary to go as close as this; 1 ball space is small enough, and this can be achieved easily with a little stop shot if the rush is to be laid near the spot where croquet is taken.

To convert the angles in Table 1 to distances on the court, an error of 1 degree corresponds to a miss by 13 inches for a 21 yard shot, eg a shot or rush from hoop 1 to hoop 2. For the 'average player', about one third of his shots are in error by 1 degree or more. Although a roquet missing by 13 inches is useless, a rush to within 13 inches of the hoop is excellent and can easily be achieved from hoop 1 to hoop 2 with a ball separation of one ball diameter, provided of course that the strength can be judged correctly. On the other hand, with the balls of the rush one yard apart (about 10 ball spaces) the corresponding error would be

Snippets

Edgar Jackson, twice Men's Champion (in 1975 and 1977) admits to being 80 this coming July and wonders whether we might have an annual report in 'Croquet' about the 'excessively old!' He suggests that Clubs could send in a list of 2 or 3 recommended hotels, boarding houses, etc, that others could use when visiting for tournaments. As he says, it is the recommendation that matters - yards of detail is unnecessary, just prices and the relevant address and telephone number. This might encourage people to venture away for tournaments.

Following on from the last batch of 'Snippets', **Penelope Keith** is another 'celebrity' believed to be a croquet nut.

Pat Shine reports that the **Worthing Club** has moved to a new location, where they have 2 lawns and may be even 2 and a half! The Club is now attached to the Town's Golf Course and will benefit from all its club facilities, superbly placed on the edge of the Downs.

Interesting that Lloyds of London and the Meteorological Office should both register clubs with

the CA at the same time. Tom Coles is the Chairman of Lloyd's Croquet Society.

The new Croquet Club at **Ashby** has received sponsorship from JB Microsystems to help them buy equipment.



Judy Anderson in play

Judy Anderson, our Development Officer in the Eastern Region, has been awarded an 'Oscar' by the Sports Council for her work in developing croquet in East Anglia. She wins the award for 'being the woman who has done most to develop sport in East Anglia in 1985'. Congratulations to her for all her efforts over the past three years.

eleven feet!

The beginner may well ask why do we not always lay the rush with one ball-space between. The reason is that another factor has to be taken into account. A rush like this presents a perfect double to an enemy ball situated in a direction at right angles to the rush, and even if the rush is pointing directly at the enemy ball the latter will be tempted to shoot because, if he misses, it may not be possible to get him out into court AND regain your rush.

The moral is, therefore, to wire at least one of the balls in such a short rush. To avoid leaving a tempting target for a long shot when they are not wired, the balls should be 2 to 3 feet apart: a foot is not enough, it still gives a considerably greater chance of a hit (see Gazette No 182, 1985).

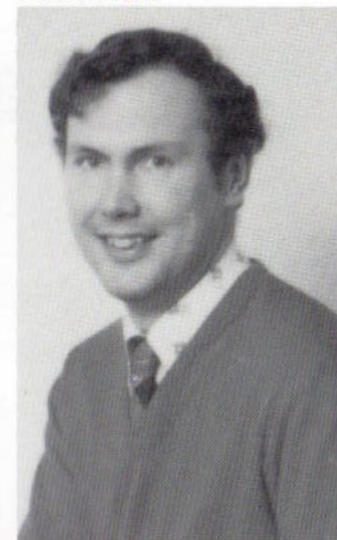
COACHING

A 3 lesson improvement course for high bisquers.

By John McCullough

Introduction

This course is designed for players in their second or subsequent season who are still on or near the maximum club handicap. It is assumed that they know the basic rules of the game, basic 'jargon' and the object of the basic strokes. Each lesson lasts 2 hours.



Requirements

- 1 lawn (Full or half-size) per 4 students
- 2 sets balls (1st and 2nd colours) per 4 students
- 1 Coach per 8 students - naturally it is better if you can get more Coaches to achieve a better Coach/student ratio.
- Not essential, but desirable, is a 'Demonstration Board' with a

green surface, marked out as a Croquet lawn on which you can use coloured pins to show ball positions.

Objectives

- To improve performance of basic strokes.
- To increase knowledge of the laws of the game.
- To encourage break play.
- To teach correct strategy for taking bisques.
- To examine tactics of 3-ball endings.

LESSON 1

- Revise and practise rolls and half rolls
- Revise and practise 4-ball breaks. Get 2 students to practise at the same time on each lawn - one starts at hoop 1 with 1st colour balls, one at hoop 3 with 2nd colour balls. Each to do 4 hoops.
- Explain strategy of bisque taking against low, middle and high bisquers.
- Explain how to set up a break, using bisques, in the 4th turn against a low bisquer. Then allow each student in turn a chance to practise this and get the other three on each lawn to watch, so that there is plenty of repetition of the principle involved.
- Explain the Crush stroke and other potential faults near hoops that students should be aware of. Discuss and practise solutions to common problems that occur around hoops eg. roqueted ball just behind the hoop or in jaws or on wire half obstructing hoop.

Time required

20 mins
40 mins
10 mins
30 mins
20 mins

Snippets

Andrew Hope, new Chairman of Council, farms at Little Witcombe near Gloucester. He has played croquet at the top level for several years and represented Great Britain in Australia in the 1982 Mac-Robertson Series. Last year at the Schools Final at Cheltenham, he presented the members of both teams with boxes of strawberries - some of his own produce that was much appreciated by all concerned.

The staircase up to the pavilion balcony at **Bowdon** has recently been installed by **Bill Aldridge**, **Colin Irwin** and others. Access to the viewing gallery is now much less complicated than the previous ascent by stepladder, although the club still has to put a fence round the gallery to stop enthusiastic spectators falling off. It should be a great spot from which to view the first Test Match.

The **CA Directory** will be available in early May, price £4.00 including P&p.

Frank Cooper's are continuing their croquet sponsorship by supporting the Oxford v. Cambridge

match at Hurlingham this year on 12th June. Manufacturers of the famous quality marmalade that was first produced in their shop in Oxford High Street, no doubt they are hoping that Oxford will win for the third year in succession, and so complete their first triple.

Croquet in Universities seems to be on the up-and-up, what with **Durham University's** week-long tournament and **Oxford's** weekend tournament. We wish both events every success in their first year.

This year sees **Southwick's** 85th anniversary. Members are celebrating with a finger buffet supper on 7th July, the final day of the Australia v. New Zealand Test Match that is being hosted by the Club.

LESSON 2

- Revise and practise rushes.
- Explain how to increase the likelihood of getting rushes after hoops.
- Practise 2-ball breaks. Get 2 students to practise at the same time on each lawn - one starts at hoop 4 with 1st colour balls, one at 4-back with second colour balls. Each do three hoops.
- Explain how to use rushes to improve 4-ball breaks.
- Discuss how to pick up breaks using bisques. Set up a series of situations for the group to discuss. You can make good use of a demonstration board if you have one. After an introduction, set up a series of situations on each lawn and get each group of 4 students to work out their ideas and take turns in playing from the situations you set.
- Explain laws relating to wiring and lifts.

20 mins
10 mins
20 mins
10 mins
40 mins
20 mins

LESSON 3

- Revise and practise take-offs.
- Discuss common game situations involving take-offs. eg. how to use 2 opposition balls together to get a rush to your hoop or how to split up opposition balls and take-off back to partner to leave a good rush at the end of your turn.
- Discuss leaves - avoiding leaving doubles, laying traps etc.
- Explain laws relating to pegging out in handicap games.
- Discuss tactics of 3 ball endings.
- Practise 3 ball endings. Play 2 games on each lawn. 1st colour balls play peg and 1 v 5 (14pt game), 2nd colour balls play peg and 1-back v penult (full game). If a game finishes quickly the students can reverse roles and play again.

20 mins
20 mins
10 mins
10 mins
15 mins
45 mins



The start of a doubles match between Allen Parker and his daughter Pat (right), and Ted and Debbie Prentis of the USCA (left) at Parkstone last year.

Coaches Corner (2)

1985 Accounts

The Treasurer's Commentary



Alan Oldham

Subscription Income has increased by 30% as a result of higher membership and higher rates of subscription; this item (and the prior year figure) now includes the subscriptions of overseas members which used to be included with club registration fees because they were comparatively small.

The increase in club registration fees reflects the increase in the number of clubs and players as well as the higher rates of charge. The increased publicity and development activity in the CA office shows up in the greatly increased income from the sales of books, laws and other literature.

Sponsorship of some events and free use of the lawns at Hurlingham for the Open Championships have enabled the CA Tournaments again to show a surplus.

Publicity and Development under the Association's Forward Plan has been the main item of expenditure this year; the breakdown of the total of £26,317 is as follows:

(a) Development Officer: remuneration and expenses (travel, subsistence, telephone, materials, etc)	£18,078
(b) The development programme: establishing Junior Competitions, increasing publicity and media coverage	£3,191
(c) Grants made to Clubs & Regional Federations	£3,568
(d) Development of National Coaching Scheme	£1,135
(e) International activities	£345
	£26,317

Expenditure designed to improve membership services has increased the production and distribution costs of the magazine, the Fixtures Book and the Directory. The general overhead expenditure has, however, been contained at about the level of last year.

Sponsorship was received during the year from Anchor Foods (Inter-Counties Championship), Debenham Tewson & Chinnocks (Open Championships), Frank Cooper (Home Internationals, President's Cup and the Schools Championship), and the Royal Bank of Scotland (assistance with the publication of the Fixtures Book and general support). The figure shown in the accounts includes an amount omitted from the 1984

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS AS AT 31st DECEMBER 1985

	1984	
FIXED ASSETS		
Office Furniture and Equipment at Written Down Value	300	385
Trophies, estimated to realise	10,000	10,000
Investments, as per attached schedule	38,300	31,366
	48,600	41,751
CURRENT ASSETS		
Stocks of Literature and Equipment	2,500	2,300
Sundry Debtors and Prepayments	3,612	1,623
Cash in Hand and at Bank	8,217	2,729
	14,329	6,652
	62,929	48,403
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Subscriptions Received in Advance	1,969	1,874
Accrued Expenses	9,395	8,883
Taxation	293	350
	11,657	11,107
NET ASSETS	£51,272	£37,296
Representing:		
Accumulated General Funds as at 1st January 1985	21,250	17,541
Add: Surplus for the Year	13,112	3,709
	34,362	21,250
Life Membership Fund	1,710	1,745
Apps-Heley Memorial Fund	216	216
Test Tour Fund	2,197	1,985
Benefactors Fund	10,518	9,570
Tournaments and Trophies Fund	2,269	2,530
	£51,272	£37,296
Signed: L. WHARRAD, Chairman of Council A.J. OLDDHAM, Hon. Treasurer.		

INVESTMENTS HELD AT 31ST DECEMBER 1985

Nominal Value £		Market Value £
400.00	QUOTED INVESTMENTS New Throgmorton Trust (1983) PLC Income Shares of 25p each	808
	Brown Shipley Sterling Bond Fund	
6.97	Participating Redeemable Preferences Shares of 1p each	7,200
		7,941
	UNQUOTED INVESTMENTS Roehampton Country Club	10
10.00	Abbey National Building Society	18,500
	Britannia Building Society	7,883
	Woolwich Building Society	3,966
		£38,300

accounts and is net of all related expenses.

The increased cash flow during the year as a result of the enlarged Sports Council Grant supporting the Forward Plan and the much higher level of sponsorship receipts has enabled the CA funds to gain the benefit of a much higher level of investment income. An average net rate of over 7% per annum has been earned on the money invested for the general funds. Using a Higher Interest Bank Account and a new Building Society Account as repositories of moneys temporarily surplus to requirements, these funds are currently earning even higher rates of interest.

Associates will no doubt appreciate that the principal feature of this year's income and expenditure account is the exceptional size of the surplus for the year, £13,112, after credit

is taken for sponsorship income. When the Forward Plan was initiated at the start of the year it was certainly not expected that a surplus would arise and the fact that it has done so can be attributed to the combination of favourable factors mentioned above and to deferral of some of the items of Forward Plan expenditure to 1986. *The existence of this surplus has been taken into account in preparing the 1986 budget and it is intended that it will be fully utilized in publicity and development expenditure this year.*

The Test Tour Fund and the benefactors Fund have again increased through interest credited to them from their respective investments; this is additional to that shown in the main income account. The Benefactors Fund also received legacies from the estates

1985 Accounts

Your Letters (2)

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 1985

	1984	
INCOME		
Subscriptions	10,657	8,181
Registration Fees	1,095	714
Levy	2,527	2,010
Tribute	63	60
Sale of Books, Laws etc. (net)	4,408	1,955
Investment Income on General Funds (net of tax)	2,090	1,106
Surplus on Tournaments	1,051	410
	21,891	14,436
EXPENSES		
Publicity and Development	26,317	-
Less: Sports Council Grant	26,000	-
	317	-
Magazine	7,752	5,260
Less: Income from Advertisements	1,120	310
	6,632	4,950
	6,949	4,950
	14,942	9,486
GENERAL OVERHEADS		
Office Rent, Lighting, Heating and Cleaning	1,125	1,125
Staff Salaries	8,137	9,041
Council and Committee Travelling Expenses	806	630
Postage and Telephone	1,564	1,196
Printing and Stationery	2,343	2,319
Insurance	338	298
Sundry Expenses	938	433
Audit and Accountancy Charges	575	375
Maintenance of Office, Furniture and Equipment	190	603
	16,016	16,020
Less: Sports Council Administration Grant	-	8,453
	16,016	7,567
Publicity and Development	-	1,782
	16,016	9,349
DEFICIT/(SURPLUS) ON ORDINARY ACTIVITIES	1,074	(137)
EXTRAORDINARY ITEMS		
Sponsorship (net)	14,186	3,330
Surplus on Sale of Investments (net of tax)	-	242
	14,186	3,572
SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR	£13,112	£3,709

We have examined the books, vouchers and other records maintained by The Croquet Association for the year ended 31st December 1985 and obtained such further information as considered necessary. To the best of our knowledge and belief the Accounts give a true and fair view of the State of Affairs of the Association at 31st December 1985 and of the Surplus for the year ended on that date.

Alhambra House, 27 Charing Cross Road, London WC2H 0AU
17th February 1986.

NICHOLASS, AMES & CO.
Chartered Accountants.

of the late D.J.V. Hamilton-Miller and the late B.R. Sandiford and other donations. The Tournaments and Trophies Fund suffered through having to make a contribution towards the cost of suitably replacing the Inter Club Trophy which was stolen from Roehampton Club in the winter of 1984/5.

A.J. Oldham
9th March 1986

Chairman's Report (cont.)

continued from page 19

mention the work of Brian Macmillan who not only looks after the administration of the office very efficiently but has managed to produce a handsome contribution to our funds from his very active sales of literature and advertising space.

I would like to conclude by saying that I have much enjoyed my two years as Chairman of Council as I did my previous four years as Chairman of Publicity and Development/development officer. I hope that my successor who will be elected by the Council at their meeting this afternoon, will enjoy his two years in office as much as I have.

Continued from page 9.

of turns taken to score 26 points. When enough data has been accumulated, I shall then find a formula to convert this figure into an appropriate handicap.

The idea is not a new one. Peter Rudge of Canberra C.C. suggested squaring the score for each turn to give a figure that would show the ability of players to make long breaks. For example, if in a game a player has five turns consisting of 9, 4, 0, 2, and 11 points, his square score would be 81 plus 16 plus 0 plus 4 plus 121, equals 222.

If he or she had scored in dribs and drabs, like Aunt Emma, the square score would have been much lower.

Here is an example of my system:

The score for each turn is counted at "face value". This includes bisque turns, and also takes into account a high-bisquer's ability to use his bisques. Missed shots count as 0, so the skill of shooting is also considered. Aunt Emma play is exposed as a preponderance of low scores, but **bona fide** tactical manoeuvres bear fruit in subsequent long breaks. If a scratch player is beaten 26-0 by a 14, the following points emerge in the figures:

(i) The fact that the Scratch player was trounced is irrelevant to his handicap. Only his two or three missed shots will appear on his card.

(ii) The 14 will have a better score if he/she used fewer bisques to finish.

The beauty of the system is that all figures are absolute. Scores can be taken indiscriminately from Advanced Play, Level Play, Handicap, Full Bisque, Timed, Friendly or Tournament games, and they should eventually yield handicaps which are based on each player's actual capacity to play, thus coming much closer to the ideal of players being handicapped so as to play on equal terms.

I should like to collect figures from as many players of all handicaps as I can. If you are interested in participating in this experiment, please write to me at 20 Aubrey Grove, Shankill, Co. Dublin, Ireland, and I shall be glad to send you cards and directions, perhaps more lucid than this hasty summary.

Simon Williams
Shankill.

Short Croquet

Cont. from page 13.

programme for Short Croquet to match the existing Tournament Calendar Fixtures for the parent game.

Another exciting development arising from the introduction of Short Croquet is the possibility of winter indoor croquet leagues, playing the Short game. Because Short Croquet requires less space, the facilities cost less to hire, and the capital cost of the indoor surface is less. The CA is currently exploring various ways in which an indoor surface could be produced and brought into service. Such a facility would not only cater for year-round competitive croquet, but it would also enable us to provide coaching during the winter at one or more centres.

Give the game a try this season at your club. I think it has got a great future, not as a replacement for the full game but as a worthwhile alternative as a 'social' game or when time is short.

Bisque Tip

If your members play a lot of short croquet, there will be a huge demand for bisques. Buy some white plastic garden plant labels (about £1.00 for 50 labels) - they are perfectly adequate!

The East Anglian Croquet Federation

By Judy Anderson

This new Federation was officially formed at a meeting in Cambridge on 2nd March 1986. It covers the Counties of Essex, Suffolk, Cambridgeshire, Norfolk, Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire. The meeting was chaired by Chris Hudson, our National Development Officer, and was attended by Representatives from 14 Clubs. It is anticipated that at least 16 Clubs will become members this year.

Because of the vast travelling distances involved, the Federation is being divided into 3 areas for competitive purposes. The East: the present Essex/Suffolk League area. The North: Cambridgeshire and Norfolk, and the West: Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire. The North and West areas are organising friendly matches this year with a view to playing 'friendly leagues' next year. If this is achieved it will then be possible to have a play-off between all three Leagues at the end of each season.



George Collin - the Federation's Treasurer

The Chairman of the Federation is Don Gaunt (Ipswich), Treasurer George Collin (Wrest Park) and Secretary Judy Anderson (Colworth). We have also other keen committee members, most of whom were the original Eastern Region Development Committee

Do please contact us if you need any help within our area. We aim to encourage contact between new and existing clubs, both playing and socially, and eventually we also hope to run an Eastern Championship.

During next winter we shall be running a Croquet Roadshow, giving presentations to groups such as Womens' Institutes, so if you know or hear of an organisation wanting a winter evening's entertainment, let us know.

NOTICE TO MEMBERS THE MACROBERTSON SHIELD FAREWELL DINNER

Hurlingham, Friday 18th July

Have you got your tickets yet?

This event happens only once every 12 years. Don't miss it!

See Page 3 for more details.

£15.00 inclusive of wine, from Brian Macmillan at the CA Office.

Extract of Minutes of COUNCIL MEETING held at the Hurlingham Club on Saturday 1st March, 1986.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

Editorial Board: Council agreed to publish a Year Book covering 1985 which, in effect, would be an additional issue of the Magazine, distributed free, subject to approval of cost by the F&GP Committee. It was agreed to write to Simon Garrett to thank him for his work on various leaflets.

International:

Professor Neal made the Report. The cost of a special International Tie would be about £500 for 20 to 40 of these. By 10 votes to 7 it was agreed to continue the past arrangement that MacRobertson Shield players be qualified to wear the President's Cup Tie and that these be issued free to the members of the two visiting teams, New Zealand and Australia in 1986. The price of a ticket for the International Farewell Dinner at Hurlingham on Friday 18th July, including wine, would be under £20.

Publicity & Development:

Mr Stoker gave the Report. There was a lengthy discussion on ways to increase CA membership. Details of a Membership Competition costing £1050 would appear in the magazine in May.

The Development Officer's Report was tabled. Professor Neal said it was very impressive and moved a vote of thanks to Mr Hudson for his hard work, which was carried unanimously.

Laws:

The Report was presented by Dr Murray. The amendments to the Laws previously agreed were passed unanimously. The Laws of Short Croquet were agreed. The amendments to Regulations 14(c)(iii) were both approved as was a Temporary Variation to Law 1(g). These would be inserted as a duplicated sheet in the Magazine about to be despatched.

F&GP:

Mr Mulliner gave the Report and Mr Oldham presented the Accounts for 1985. Both were approved. Mr Mulliner warmly thanked the Treasurer for his meticulous accounts and this was greeted with applause from the Council. He also thanked Mr Macmillan for his enthusiastic salesmanship of books etc. The Budget for 1986 was agreed, as were the terms for loans from CA funds to registered clubs, details of which would be published in 'Croquet'.

It was agreed to rescind Council's 1962 decision that residents of Eire may not be Overseas Associates and to propose an amendment to the CA Rules at the AGM to give effect thereto.

Council authorised the Trustees to sign the 42-year lease of the ground at Surbiton from the Kingston Corporation, the terms of which had been agreed by Mr Caporn as Honorary Solicitor to the CA.

It was agreed in principle that for the Granada Short Croquet Tournament only, any appearance and prize money paid to winners and competitors would not contravene Regulation 2 provided it was received on terms acceptable to the Council. Messrs Hope and Murray were empowered to settle these terms.

It was also agreed that the Chairman & Vice-Chairman of Council and the Chairmen of F&GP and P&D would form an Executive Committee to decide on allocation of any additional sponsorship or other income additional to the budgeted amount during the Summer when Committees do not normally meet.

Tournament Mr Keen recorded his thanks to Mrs Hemsted and Mr Girling for their tenacious work on the new format of the Fixture Book. Mr Wharrad, on behalf of Council, thanked Mr Keen for his part in it.

Handicap Coordination:

Mr Godby announced that Mr W.E. Lamb had been awarded the Apps Bowl, and that Mrs K. Whittall had been awarded the Steele Bowl.

He said that the Committee recommended that the CA handicap range be increased to 18 as a temporary variation for this year and adjustments, where applicable, be made to other handicaps on the basis of handicap games, about 5000 of which had been recorded and analysed by Mr Keen who was thanked for his work. This was carried unanimously. A letter would be sent to all clubs.

Administration:

A Report was given by Mr Macmillan. There were 52 resignations and he proposed 33 new Associates whose names were approved.

The Chairman had appointed Mrs W. Browne and Mr A.V. Camroux as Scrutineers for the ballot for Council members.

He had received as a gift to the Association from Lindrick Golf Club, Worksop, Notts, a picture of Miss D.D. Steel, which he was authorised to have framed.

Peter Alvey had sent a cheque for £300 for royalties from photographs of croquet players which he wanted to donate to the Test Tour Fund. He had thanked him for his magnificent donation.

MOTIONS

Mr McCullough moved the following Motion, seconded by Mr Mulliner:

Proposed Amendment to Standing Orders of Council (Re structure of P&D Committee)

(a) S.O.15: Para 3: Insert (f) before (g) in Line 3.

Insert after 1st sentence: 'Membership of the Publicity & Development Committee shall consist of 1 representative from each properly constituted Regional Federation or, where a Region has no Federation, its Regional Development Officer, plus no more than 2 members chosen by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of Council. The Regional Representatives or Development Officers need not be members of Council. A 'Region' shall be the area covered by one of the Regions of the Sports Council of England, except that the London Area may be considered a Region separate from the rest of the South East'.

(b) S.O.15: Para 7: Add new 2nd sentence: 'Only members of Council are eligible to be so elected'.

After discussion, Mr McCullough withdrew his motion on the understanding that the new Chairman of Council would appoint an ad-hoc Committee to examine whether the composition of Council and its Committees required any changes. Motion (b) above was left on the table, and a Motion by Miss MacLeod was postponed till the next meeting.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr Wharrad, on behalf of Council, thanked Mr Stevens, who was not seeking re-election to Council, for his services.

NEXT MEETING

19th April, after the AGM.



Brian Macmillan, CA Administration Secretary

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

Bentley C.C.

New Secretary: A.P. Smith, Woodmans, Mill Green, Ingatestone, Essex. Tel: 0277-352103

Crawley C.C.

New Secretary: Miss M. Reid, 18 Southlands Avenue, Horley, Surrey.

Parsons Green C.C.

New Secretary: John Greenwood, 66 Cranbrook Road, Chiswick, London, W4. Tel: 01-994-3259 (H); 01-385-1244 Ext'n 2384 (O)

Reigate Priory C.C.

New Secretary: J.J. Knight, 'Little Thorpa', Blanford Road, Reigate, Surrey, RH2 7DP.

Stourbridge C.C.

New Acting Secretary: Mrs P. Woodhams, 10 Wollescote Road, Wollescote, Stourbridge, West Midlands. Tel: 0384-396905

Surbiton C.C.

New Secretary: Peter Cripps, Hazel House, Wentworth Close, Surbiton, Surrey.

Tyneside C.C.

New Secretary: S.O. Jones, 42 Ventnor Gardens, Whitley Bay, Tyne & Wear. Tel: 091-252-2962

New Associates

R.E. Coles	- Aldermaston
M. Boardman	- Bath
R.F. Deacon	- Bowdon
B.J. Bleach	- Bristol
D.M. Gillett	- Bristol
R. Sampson	- Bristol
I.D. Brand	- Budleigh Salterton
Mrs P. Danks	- Budleigh Salterton
R.E.G. Minter	- Budleigh Salterton
A.J. Wasdell	- Budleigh Salterton
J.P. Kent	- Carrickmines
A. Blenkin	- Cheltenham
Mrs A. Blenkin	- Cheltenham

Mrs P.F. Leach	- Cheltenham
D.J. Freer	- Crawley
C.J. Ware	- Crawley
Mrs C.J. Ware	- Crawley
A.T. Smith	- East Riding
D. Watson	- East Riding
F.V.X. Norton	- Glasgow
Dr D. Warhurst	- Glasgow
Dr N.G. Stanley-Wood	- Harrogate
J.C. Reeve	- Hunstanton
A.D. Schonbeck	- Ipswich
Mrs C. Steward	- Ipswich
P. Dorke	- Ludlow
N. Harris	- Norwich
Mrs C. Osbourne	- Parsons Green
Mrs C.R. Howlett	- Phyllis Court
T.J. Cobb	- Ramsgate
J.T.A. Williamson	- Ramsgate
R.H. Tillcock	- Reading
Mrs A.V. Camroux	- Roehampton
Mrs C.L. Lewis	- Southport
F.A. Beard	- Southwick
W.D. Bowen-Rees	- Winchester
J. Weyndling	- Winchester
D.J. Brundell	-
J. Eden	-
D.J. Hopkins	-
P.G. Spencer	-
J.R. Trahair	-
Mrs M.J. Wankling	-
(Total: 43)	

New Coach (Grade I)

D. Clay - Worcester

New Clubs Registered Welcome to . . .

Beverley, East Yorkshire

Secretary: Dr J.R. Gillespie, 2 Westwood View, Beverley, East Yorks, HU17 8EL.

Caterham Croquet Club

Secretary: Dr D.G. Higgs, 35 Shirley Avenue, Old Coulsdon, Surrey, CR5 10Y.

Cromer Lawn Tennis & Squash Association

The Tennis Courts, Cromer, Norwich, Norfolk, NR27 0EX. Tel: Cromer 513741

Lloyds Croquet Society

Hurlingham Club. Secretary: A.P.T. Harker, Lloyds, London. Tel: 01-920-0242

Meteorological Office C.C.

Secretary: Mrs V.D. Pope, Met. Office 020 (Room 328), London Road, Bracknell, Berks.

Pendle Croquet Club

Nelson & Colne Technical College. Secretary: J. Beech, Woodlands, Coates, Barnoldswick, Lancs, BB8 6HH.

University of Birmingham C.C.

Secretary: W.R.J. Pugh, 70 Willows Road, Balsall Heath, Birmingham B12 9QD.

Winchester Tennis & Squash Club

Bereweke Road, Winchester, Hampshire, SO22 6AP. Secretary: B. Mussell. Tel: 0962-54028

Handicap Alterations

The following changes were made by the Handicap Coordination Committee this winter:

Miss J. Assheton	4 to 4½
M. Avery	-1 to -2
T. Barlow	-½ to -1½
E. Bell	-½ to -1½
J.W. Bevington	8 to 9
P. Bishop	5 to 5½
I.D. Bond	-½ to -1½
H. Bottomley	1½ to ½

Dr R.W. Bray	-1 to -2
Mrs W.J. Browne	5 to 4½
Mrs A.J. Bucknell	12 to 14
Mrs A.V. Camroux	16 to 18
E. Carleton	16 to 18
Mrs C. Chamberlain	12 to 13
S. Clay	3 to 2½
P. Cordingley	-1 to -2
M.J. Coward	-½ to -1½
Mrs R.F. Crane	12(D10) to 13(D11)
D.J. Croker	-½ to -1½
Mrs S.S. Cruden	8 to 10
Dr C.J. Davey	12 to 13
Dr E.P. Davey	10 to 12
E.J. Davis	½ to -½
Miss D.E. Dennant	7½ to 8
Mrs D.E. Erith	14 to 16
D.R. Foulser	-1 to -2
Mrs S. French	11 to 12
D.L. Gaunt	1½ to 1
Mrs R.A. Gosden	7 to 8
D.L. Gunasekera	-½ to -1½
Miss S. Hampson	3½ to 3
Mrs H.G. Handley	4 to 4½
P.W. Hands	-1 to -2
Miss D.V. Harding	10 to 14
M.E. Heap	-1½ to -2
S.R. Hemsted	-½ to -1½
Mrs J.A. Hetherington	6 to 7
A.B. Hope	-1½ to -2
L.A. Hopkins	9 to 11
N.G. Hyne	½ to 0
C.J. Irwin	-1 to -2
Mrs C.J. Irwin	6½ to 7½
G.E.P. Jackson	1 to 0
K.E. Jones	0 to -½
B.A. Keen	½ to 0
Dr D. Laney	2½ to 2
L.V. Latham	½ to 0
J.J. Lawrence	6½ to 6
Miss M.J. Loveys	12 to 13
J.R. McCullough	-1 to -2
Mrs A.E. Millns	7½ to 9
D.H. Moorcraft	½ to -½
R.J. Murfitt	-1½ to -2
Dr M. Murray	-1½ to -2
B.G. Neal	-½ to -1½
F.H. Newman	4 to 3½
Mrs C.A. Parker	10 to 11
Miss C. Pearce	12 to 15
M.F. Phelps	0 to -½
C.H. Prichard	-½ to -1½
R.D.C. Prichard	½ to 0
T.O. Read	-½ to -1½
Mrs A. Rimmer	15 to 16
Dr G.J. Roberts	-1 to -2
Miss I.M. Roe	6½ to 7½
J. Rose	-1 to -2
F.A. Rowlands	4½ to 4
W.A. Scarr	6 to 7
T.N. Silk	12 to 13(D11)
Dr E.W. Solomon	-1½ to -2
J.W. Solomon	-½ to -1½
Mrs R. Stanley-Smith	5½ to 6
W.J. Sturdy	4 to 3½
Dr B.C. Sykes	-½ to -1½
M.G. Tompkinson	2½ to 2
K. Turtle	15 to 16
Dr I.G. Vincent	-½ to -1½
Dr B.G. Weitz	½ to -½
Mrs L. Wharrad	8 to 9
Dr R.F. Wheeler	4 to 5
Dr W.R. Wiggins	½ to 0
Mrs W.R. Wiggins	½ to 0
D. Willetts	5 to 4½
J. Wolfe	4 to 5
W. Wortley	16 to 18
Miss J. Wraith	13 to 15
Mrs K.G. Yeoman	5 to 5½
Compton Club	
Mrs M. Grout	6½ to 7
Bentley Club	
V.R. Carter	10 to 8
F.H. Northcote	10 to 9