

Tournament Results (4)

Woking Irish Week: 27 June - 6 July

Event A1
(Open Singles)
Block 1
5 wins: A.J. Mrozinski
4 wins: J. Rose
3 wins: R.J. Smith
2 wins: C. Lamb
1 win: J. Haigh
0 wins: D.C. Caporn

Block 2
4 wins: J.P. Dawson
3 wins: L. Wharrad, W.B. Denison, A. Lindley
2 wins: J.S.H. Battison
0 wins: B.P. Whitehouse

Play-off for Challenge Cup
J.P. Dawson bt A.J. Mrozinski +6

Event A2
(Level Singles - Swiss)
5 wins: G. Vince
4 wins: N.L. Luff
3 wins: D.C.D. Wiggins
2 wins: I. McDiarmid, P.Bishop, G. Cuttle, Dr P.A. Watson

Event A3
(Open Doubles Cup)

'X'
1st Round
C. Lamb & N. Luff bt J. Rose & J. Haigh +2; L. Wharrad & B.P. Whitehouse bt R. Smith & I. McDiarmid +15; W. Denison & G. Vince bt A. Mrozinski & G. Cuttle +12; D.C. Caporn & D.C.D. Wiggins bt J.P. Dawson & A. Lindley +4

Semi-finals
Lamb & Luff bt Wharrad & Whitehouse +8; Denison & Vince bt Caporn & Wiggins +12

Final
Denison & Vince bt Lamb & Luff +5

'Y' Final
Mrozinski & Cuttle bt Smith & McDiarmid +14

Event B1
(Open Singles)
Blue Block
6 wins: J.S.H. Battison
5 wins: Dr J.A. McMordie
4 wins: R.J. Smith
2 wins: M.G. Tompkinson
1 win: W.B. Denison, F.H. Newman, L. Wharrad

Black Block
(Level play, 3rd hoop start, no contact)
6 wins: G. Vince
4 wins: Mrs V. Tompkinson
3 wins: J.L. Wankling
2 wins: Mrs J. McDiarmid, G. Cuttle
1 win: Mrs M. Vale
0 wins: Mrs B. Mansfield

Red Block
(Level play, 3rd hoop start, no contact)
4 wins: D.C.D. Wiggins (winner), Dr P.A. Watson, D.C. Caporn
3 wins: M.J.B. Haggerston, J. Haigh
2 wins: T. Vale
1 win: Mrs M. Newman

Event B3
(Open Doubles: Coleman Pots)

'X'
1st Round
R.J. Smith & Mrs M. Newman bt D.C. Caporn & G. Cuttle +7; Major & Mrs T. Vale bt Dr J.A. McMordie & J.L. Wankling +5; L. Wharrad & D.C.D. Wiggins bt F. Newman & G. Vince +9; M.G. Tompkinson & Mrs

Tompkinson bt W.B. Denison & Dr P.A. Watson +12

Semi-finals
Major & Mrs Vale bt Smith & Mrs Newman +8; Wharrad & Wiggins bt Mr & Mrs Tompkinson +19

Final
Wharrad & Wiggins bt Major & Mrs Vale +14

'Y' Final
Denison & Watson bt McMordie & Wankling +2

Handicap Doubles
(3rd hoop start)

'X'
1st Round

Haigh & Cuttle (12) bt Major & Mrs Vale (10½) +5; Wiggins & Mrs McDiarmid (11½) bt Mr & Mrs Wharrad +16 (9); Caporn & Wankling (10) bt Mr & Mrs Tompkinson (9½) +6; Vince & Mrs M.A. Nalder (15½) bt Dr Watson & Mrs E.F. Grant (14½) +13

Semi-finals
Wiggins & Mrs McDiarmid bt Haigh & Cuttle +20; Caporn & Wankling bt Vince & Mrs Nalder +14

Final
Wiggins & Mrs McDiarmid bt Caporn & Wankling +5

'Y' Final
Mr & Mrs Tompkinson bt Major & Mrs Vale +2

Event D
(Handicap Singles)

Red Block
6 wins: A. Lindley (3)
4 wins: J.L. Wankling (7)
3 wins: Dr P.A. Watson (5½), F.H. Newman (3)

2 wins: Mrs B. Gosden (8)
1 win: J. Rose (-2)
0 wins: Mrs E.F. Grant (9)

Yellow Block
5 wins: J.P. Dawson (2½) (winner), G. Vince (5)
4 wins: M.G. Tompkinson (2)
3 wins: J.S.H. Battison (1)
2 wins: R.A. Gosden (5)
1 win: Mrs M.E. Wharrad (8), Mrs G. Vincent (10)

Blue Block
6 wins: Mrs J. McDiarmid (7)
4 wins: Mrs W.J. Browne (4½), D.C. Caporn
3 wins: Mrs M. Vale (6½)
2 wins: W.B. Denison (2)
1 win: L. Wharrad (1), P.D. Coopman (9)

Black Block
5 wins: J. Haigh (4)
4 wins: B.P. Whitehouse (3)
3 wins: Major T. Vale (4), Mrs V. Tompkinson (7½), R.E. Vincent (7), M. Young (9)
1 win: Mrs M. Newman (3½)

Continued from page 27

heavier category, whilst offering incredible value. For many people, the use of traditional materials will add to its appeal.

By ordering a narrower, lighter version, you can have a low-cost alternative to the

Golf Croquet

Phyllis Court: 21-22 June Peter Howell wins Golf Croquet title

Report by Smokey Eades



Peter Howell

In the tranquil surroundings of Phyllis Court Club the hordes (well, 12 of them) gathered for the Premier event of 1986. Saturday was characterised by rush peels (of opponent of course) and in-offs. In singles, the pikes proved themselves to be minnows - two of them losing at the first or second hurdle (or both). Only the holder Geoff Roy appeared to be on song and his form deserted him once he had managed to reach the semi-finals together with Kay Yeoman, James Wankling and Peter Howell. The 'favourites' for the doubles - Geoff Roy & Ian Maugham - were hammered 7-1 by June & James Wankling, who went on to win the title although only by one point from Geoff & Ian who recovered their form on Sunday.

In the semi-finals of the singles, Kay Yeoman continued her giant killing feats by despatching the champion 7-5, 7-3, whilst in the other half Peter Howell beat James Wankling 3-7, 7-3, 7-3.

The final between Peter and Kay, two previously unfancied players, was a fascinating and high-quality duel, with Peter eventually winning 7-4, 7-6.

RESULTS
Singles Championship
Block 1
3 wins: J.L. Wankling

2 wins: Mrs K. Yeoman (Runner-up), R.S. Eades, D.J. Croker
1 win: Miss D. Cornelius

Block 2:
3 wins: G.C. Roy
2 wins: P. Howell (Runner-up), F.I. Maugham, D.S. Cornelius
1 win: Mrs J.L. Wankling

Play-Offs
Semi-finals:
Mrs K. Yeoman bt G.C. Roy 7-5, 7-3
P. Howell bt J.L. Wankling 3-7, 7-3, 7-3

Final:
P. Howell bt Mrs K. Yeoman 7-4, 7-6

Doubles Championship
3 wins: Mr & Mrs J.L. Wankling (Winners), F.I. Maugham & G.C. Roy (Runners-up)

2 wins: Mrs K. Yeoman & P. Howell, D.S. Cornelius & Miss D. Cornelius
0 wins: Mrs P. Dirsztay & N. Pope

Puzzle Corner - by Ian Plummer

At Oxford University they need to put out the hoops and peg each day. An elderly academic, concerned that they should not be away from their studies for longer than necessary, posed the following questions - what are their answers?

1. In how many different sequences could the hoops and peg be planted in the ground?
2. Where on the boundary must one start and which sequence should be taken, so as to finish at the starting point whilst walking

the minimum distance?
3. What is the minimum distance?

Answers to Deborah Latham's Puzzle (Issue No 186, Page 11)

The 24 names were (in order of appearance in the text):

West; Southern; Latham; Roy; Irwin; Caporn; Walters; Girling; Keen; Hope; Hilditch; Avery; Aspinall; Rose; Aiton; Wood; Guest; Toye; Read; Wright; Hyne; Noble; Death; Bell.

largely traditional materials and construction. One wonders how other, apparently similar, mallets can cost over three times as much!

Note: The views expressed above are those of the author and do not in any way reflect an "official" CA view.



Inside:
The Westwood Internationals
Tournament Results
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Equipment Review
PLUS: Your Letters

WELL PLAYED NEW ZEALAND!



The photograph above showing the New Zealand team in front of the Club pavilion at Southport says it all.

Here was a team that looked like a team; a team that has now most deservedly won the Westwood International Series and with it the MacRobertson Shield.

Congratulations to such worthy and popular winners, and our thanks to all three teams for the pleasure that watching their play has given us. We look forward to the next Series with keen anticipation.

Some indication of the standard of play can be deduced from a comment made by Joe Hogan whilst playing at Hurlingham on his way to winning the British Open. 'I am only playing well', he said, 'when I go round every

17 July 1986

Telemessager
A.B. Hope, Esq.,
The Croquet Association,
Hurlingham Club,
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London, SW6 3PR.

I warmly thank you and all the members of the Croquet Association for your kind message of loyal greetings, sent on the occasion of the Farewell Dinner marking the conclusion of the MacRobertson Shield contest.

As Patron of the Association, I greatly appreciate this message and send my good wishes for a successful and enjoyable evening.

Elizabeth R.

time I hit in'. A comment for many of us to ponder in awe!

This year's British Open was literally a World Championship, containing the strongest field of croquet players ever assembled, and it will be fully reported in our next issue. The larger than usual entry was fortunately accommodated by the use of extra lawns, but many other tournaments this year have been over-subscribed and this brings me to my second point.

With more players coming into the game and keen to play in tournaments, there are excellent opportunities for clubs to organise events open to all-comers.

Open tournaments provide more competition for the club's own members, raise playing standards and help the club's finances, as well as providing opportunities for developing social contacts within the game.

If any club would like to include a new tournament in the Official Fixture Book for 1987, they should contact Barry Keen through the CA Office, preferably before the end of September.

CHRIS HUDSON

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The MacRobertson Shield 1986: An Overview

By David Openshaw: G.B. Captain

The Westwood International matches for the 1986 MacRobertson Shield were keenly fought by all three teams. Each team entered the competition with some expectations of winning the trophy. New Zealand emerged as winners by winning their first four test matches.

In the opening test at Bowdon, they established a clear dominance over the Australians, winning that test 7-1. At Cheltenham, New Zealand and ourselves contested a very keenly fought match. On the first day, New Zealand established a 2-1 lead in the doubles, with Hogan and Murfitt winning a very close third game against Aspinall and Irwin. Great Britain hit back on the second day to level the score at 3-3. Wins by Avery for GB and Jackson for NZ took the score to 4-4. In the remaining match, Paul Skinley had won his first game against William Prichard easily and was well ahead in the second. But William fought back and was favourite to win, with clips on rover and peg against Skinley's one ball for rover. Skinley however pulled off a marvellous hit in on a half-wired ball from 14 yards to win the test for New Zealand.

At Budleigh, Great Britain encountered tougher opposition than expected from Australia. But good wins on the final day by Colin Irwin +26, +26 against Spencer Buck and by Nigel

Aspinall against Neil Spooner established a winning lead.

At Hurlingham, Australia battled hard against New Zealand and can consider themselves somewhat unlucky to lose by a margin of 7-2. Most of the matches were closely fought, but perhaps the Australian's inexperience let them down at critical stages.

And so to Parkstone for the GB v. New Zealand match. New Zealand again established a 2-1 lead after the doubles matches - such an important start to the test match for them. Hogan and Murfitt won a crucial third game, this time against Openshaw and Avery. On the second day, John Prince set the tone by going to 4-back on the fourth turn, and won his match +26, +13 against Colin Irwin. Joseph Hogan won a close and exciting game against David Openshaw (reversing the result from the first test). In the third game, Joe hit a 20-yard 'last shot' with Openshaw on 6th and peg, pegged out his opponent and soon set up a 3-ball break to win. Prichard pulled a match back for GB, but New Zealand were leading 4-2. So we went into the final day needing to win all three matches. We fought hard, with Mulliner beating Skinley, and it wasn't until late afternoon that Murfitt finally put the issue beyond doubt with a good win over Avery, thus securing the MacRobertson Shield for New

Zealand.

The games between GB and New Zealand had been very close, with little to choose between the teams. In my view, the two factors which differentiated the teams were the New Zealanders' better shooting and their exceptional team spirit and togetherness. They fully deserved their victory and fulfilled their 'dream' to win the Shield on British soil.

In the final test matches, there was some consolation for both GB and Australia. At Hunstanton, Great Britain defeated New Zealand 6-3. This time, GB won the doubles 2-1. Openshaw and Avery (the British Open Champions) defeating Hogan and Jackson (the NZ Open Champions). Openshaw also had a fine victory over Jackson (his only loss in the test matches), Aspinall won in three against Hogan, and Colin Irwin beat Graham Beale +4, +4 in a close encounter.

At Colchester in the last test, GB established a 4-2 lead after two days play, but the Australians won all three singles on the final day to take the test match 5-4.

The Shield was presented to John Prince and his team at the Farewell Dinner held at Hurlingham. This unique occasion had a really international flavour with representatives from the USA, Japan, South Africa, and Ireland together with the three 'MacRobertson' countries - all here to consider the possibility of setting up a World Croquet Federation.



David Openshaw

The MacRobertson Shield 1986 The Final Scoreline

Great Britain v. New Zealand			
Cheltenham			
GB	4	New Zealand	5
Parkstone			
GB	3	New Zealand	6
Hunstanton			
GB	6	New Zealand	3
New Zealand won 2-1			
Great Britain v. Australia			
Budleigh			
GB	5	Australia	4
Compton			
GB	7	Australia	2
Colchester			
GB	4	Australia	5
Great Britain won 2-1			
New Zealand v. Australia			
Bowdon			
NZ	7	Australia	1
Hurlingham			
NZ	7	Australia	2
Southwick			
NZ	7	Australia	1
New Zealand won 3-0			
Final Result			
New Zealand won 2 series to win the MacRobertson Shield. Great Britain won 1 series.			

A Message from the New Zealand Captain

First and foremost I would like to thank most sincerely, on behalf of the New Zealand Croquet Council and the New Zealand team, Bernard Neal, the Croquet Association, and all the Clubs and their officials for staging the 1986 MacRobertson Shield Test Series. The hospitality extended to us has been marvellous, and a special thanks to the Crawley Club.

The Tests were played in a good spirit and keenly contested. Before we left New Zealand, I felt that the team who most wanted to win would take the Shield, and I also believed that team was New Zealand. We had five players from our 1979 side that won at home, and the best one from a group of new emerging players. The 1982 Tests had been a disappointing series for New

Zealand where we lacked the determination of 1979, and we were not going to have that happen again.

The Doubles were a key factor in Plan A, with its minimum 2-1-2 pattern, but overall I think the winning factor can be summed up in one word - 'dedication'. Our small group trained together, played together, and won together. We had marvellous support from our Manager and Mary Murfitt. They were always there with Kiwi and Herbie willing us on.

It has been a marvellous victory for New Zealand croquet and we look forward with keen anticipation for the challenge from Great Britain and Australia in 1990. Long may the MacRobertson Shield Series flourish.

The New Zealand team mascot

John Prince



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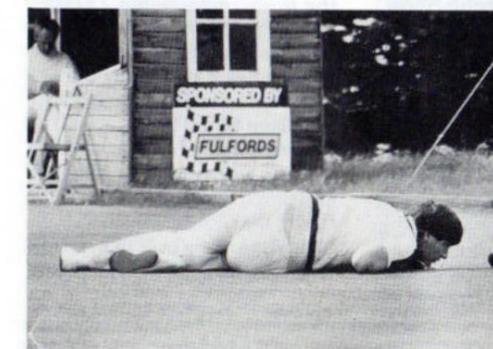
The Home Internationals

Budleigh Salterton 25-26 May England retain Championship

Report by Phil Cordingley

For the third year running, the Home International Championship was held at the players' choice venue, Budleigh Salterton, this time over the Spring Bank Holiday. For the first time since the knockout format was introduced, England did not meet Ireland in the semi-final but drew Scotland, leaving Ireland and Wales to battle out the other place in the final. Even more so than in recent years, England looked the strongest nation on paper, including four of the six MacRobertson Shield representatives in their five-man team.

Possibly out to prove a point after being placed at number three in the England order, Steve Mulliner hared off with a quadruple peel, completed with the aid of a straight triple against Stephen Wright. This was followed by an even more clinical triple in the second, Wright missing both his shots and failing to trouble the scorer.



William Pritchard checks position in front of local sponsor's board.

Aspinall wrapped up his first game against Andrew Hope with a straight triple after Andrew approached 1st following a well executed cannon. Nigel looked a bit more vulnerable in the second game when he stuck in 3rd with the first break laid; Andrew hit the 20-yarder from 4th and went to 4-back. Nigel missed the lift and Andrew went to the peg, but laid a poor leave having had full control at the end. Nigel hit the double target from B baulk and went to the peg, peeling partner resourcefully from 4 to 2-back. From the contact leave, Andrew attempted to roll up to 4-back but failed. Nigel joined and Andrew missed the shot. Nigel made 2-back and, failing to approach 3-back from the East boundary, retired. Andrew took position at 4-back and ran it next turn. Now a speculative attempt to run penult bounced off the wire up to rover. Nigel spurned this

opportunity to go out on a 3-ball break but went out a few turns later, Andrew having hit in once more but failed to approach penult.

Openshaw appeared to have the first game against Murray when a failed approach to 3-back offered Martin a 6-yard shot which he missed. Again looking to consolidate a winning position, David let Martin in by missing a 3-yard roquet after penult, having completed one peel. This time Martin capitalised by going to 4-back, then to the peg with two peels after the lift was missed. David missed a 10yd lift shot and Martin finished. David then took control of the match and won the next two games comfortably, including a routine triple in the second.

To complete the 5-0 rout, Eric Solomon won easily in straight games against Rod Williams, and Mark Avery somewhat nervously beat Ian Bond by 5 in the

third after Ian had fought back well to take the second.

In the other semi-final, Ireland completed a relatively easy 4-1 victory over Wales, David Peterson being Wales' only victor, winning in three against Carl von Schmieder. The pick of these matches was the battle of the Test team players, Colin Irwin and William Pritchard. With a typically resolute and gutsy performance, Colin won with a triple in the third, having replied in kind in the second after William had 26'd him in the first.

During the drinks party on Sunday evening, the players and club members got their chance to contribute to Sports Aid, the grand sum of some £130 being raised in a collection.

If England thought they had done all the hard work by beating Scotland 5-0 on the Sunday, they were in for a rude awakening when Ireland won the top two



Ray Stevens (Manager) and Peter Danks (Publicity Officer) with the team captains: (L to R) William Pritchard (Wales), John Rose (Ireland), Stephen Wright (Scotland), and David Openshaw (England).

boards with Irwin beating Aspinall and McCullough beating Mulliner (obviously the point was taken) in straight games.

In a match perhaps predictably marked by its high standard of shooting, Irwin won the first fairly comfortably by 17 and got off to a good start in the second by going round on the fourth turn. Nigel then equalised and went to the peg with one peel after Colin missed the lift. Hitting the second lift, Colin also went to the peg with one peel and pegged out Nigel's forward ball. Nigel then failed to get position at penult directly from the lift and Colin hit his 30 yard joining shot, but failed to finish after missing a subsequent 3 yarder. Colin then ran into partner after running rover and could only peg one ball out, but he finished the match after Nigel missed his last shot.

John McCullough got off to a flying start against Mulliner, completing a 26 with a triple after Steve missed the lift. In the second, Steve was reprieved from an error at 1-back when John missed a six foot return roquet after running 4. John missed the lift and Steve again had a reprieve after mis-approaching 1-back with a triple laid (one peel complete, peelee in jaws of penult), John missing the shot from 1st hoop to 2nd. Steve then took the forward ball to the peg and looked like finishing after John had cornered when his 4-back pioneer hit hoop 5 and he took off the lawn digging a ball out of Corner I. From this, John went to the peg and pegged out Steve's forward ball. A few turns later, John played a good 2 ball break to hoop 6, then dug Steve's ball out to finish the match on a three ball break.

On the bottom two boards, Mark Avery and Eric Solomon both won in straight games against John Rose and Carl von Schmieder respectively, and once again it was down to Captain Openshaw to see England home against Ian Vincent. After winning the first comfortably and looking well set in the second, David suffered a Vincent fight back which sadly came to grief when a 2 foot rush was missed. The crowd responded to Ian's attempt to throw himself off the cliff edge by taking photos of it!

Scotland salvaged some pride by beating Wales 3-1 in the 3rd place play-off, their victors being Messrs Murray, Bond, and Wright, with William Pritchard triumphant over Andrew Hope for their solitary win.

So England retained the Championship for the 5th year in succession, but not without a considerable scare from Ireland, to whom heartiest congratulations for putting up such a good fight.



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Parkstone: 19-24 May**Mike Wilkins has a successful run***Report by Smokey Eades*

Parkstone is one of our friendlier clubs and, unlike some prestigious places, it has a commodious and comfortable clubhouse. With beer at 72p a pint; with courts mowed meticulously every day; with excellent food and admirable management only the most churlish of competitors could find cause for complaint. Indeed when, on the first morning, Robert Wiggins' trousers most inexplicably and unexpectedly fell to the ground I guessed that the tournament would be full of surprises and good fun.

To be sure the weather contributed to the interest! It is well known that, in order to ensure perfect croquet weather, the Manager is required to complete a sextuple during the hours of darkness: this William Ormerod patently failed to do!

After a wondrous Monday the barrage of thunder and the strike of lightning which took place at 10.39 on Tuesday morning was cataclysmic. Play was temporarily suspended and soon three of the six courts became unplayable and so remained for 36 hours. Double-banking became the norm, causing problems of personality and procedure, especially in the double-banked doubles. What is supposed to happen when a player is misled because a fifth party has moved one of the balls?

The star of the Tournament was undoubtedly Mike Wilkins (4) from Bowdon. John Watson, David Wiggins and Peter West also shone and good performances were seen from two relative newcomers - John Weyndling (12) from New Littleton and Eunice Wilton (15) who won the Handicap Singles (9 bisques and above).

Colin Southern was seen to do an exceptional triple against John Watson in the Open, collecting the balls initially from most unpromising positions. Whilst in the 'X' David Wiggins and Mike Wilkins gave us an exciting few minutes. David pegged out both himself and Mike when he was for penult and Mike for 3-back. After some cat-and-mousing, the position was that Mike was in poor position to run Rover and David the same for penult. David achieved his difficult penult (a ball in the jaws would have been preferable) and he then missed a long roquet. Mike improved his position and, being missed again, ran Rover

and won.

With continued poor weather, the Manager's task became even more difficult but he coped remarkably well, fortified by the unflappable Margaret McMordie and the occasional tippie of port and brandy.

Poor weather not only blurs one's observation but also dulls one's attention, as Kay Yeoman discovered when playing David Wiggins. David's clips were on peg and Rover, but when he next got the turn he proceeded to re-run penult, continued on to make Rover and then the peg. Only when both players had cleared the court were they told of the condoned error. It pays to sit outside, even in the coldest wind!



David Wiggins, one of the finalists

From Thursday on, the weather tempered a little. The wind sea-bent to demolish us moderated somewhat and at times a weakish sun intruded. On Saturday happily the Finals were played in cool sunshine!

Susan Wiggins put up a fine show to win the Open - a superb example of steady concentration and immaculate care whilst the other Wiggins (father and son) against Wilkins and James Mays won an exciting doubles, coming up from far behind. I doubt if Mike Wilkins will run Rover again when his high-bisqued partner is for 4-back with no chance of being laid-up!

Perhaps the choicest remark of a happy Tournament was made by a young man to a maturer woman after he had beaten her decisively: 'I feel as if I had just mugged my grandmother, I'm so sorry'.

So a pleasant week ended with Mike Wilkins winning the 'X' and the 'B' levels. Undoubtedly a successful Tournament.

Compton: 9-14 June**Susan Wiggins keeps the Challenge Cup***Report by Tommy Vale*

As always one feels so welcome at Compton that it is a pleasure to take part in their tournaments in such pleasant surroundings and a marvellous friendly atmosphere. Only two things appeared to mar an otherwise thoroughly enjoyable week; one was the flash flooding of the lawns on the Wednesday, and the other was the habit of the general public (using Saffrons for other sports) who would persist in taking short cuts around and sometimes across the lawns whilst play was in progress.

In Event 1 - the open singles - Susan Wiggins had no problem in retaining the Challenge Cup. In Event 2 - the 'B' class level singles (3½ to 7) - Giles Borrett who throughout the tournament had played really well was beaten by Bobby Crane in the Draw. Bobby, who had not been playing well all the season to date, came to the tournament with his morale at its lowest ebb, but soon found his old form, much to his wife Anita's relief. Dennis Shaw, firing on all cylinders, won the Process, but lost to Bobby Crane in the final.

Anita Crane won both the Draw and the Process in Event 3 (7½ and over), with Eric Salmon being the semi-finalist in the Draw. In the marriage, Eric beat James, and in the final, Anita Crane, whose previous good form seemed to

desert her, lost to Eric Salmon.

The Big Handicap - Event 4 - caused a few surprises. Lionel Wharrad went out early to Bobby Crane, and Giles Borrett, maintaining his form, was nevertheless beaten by Susan Wiggins in the 3rd round. Marjorie Vale - a much improved player - surprised us all by using her bisques successfully to beat Susan Wiggins and so reach the final against Bobby Wiggins. Bobby's experience, and extremely accurate and tactical play in the final, saw him run out a worthy retainer of the Challenge Cup.

In the Handicap doubles - Event 5 - Giles Borrett took Anna Millns round to the final, but there they were beaten by the holders Susan Wiggins and Dennis Shaw. Finally one must congratulate Dennis Shaw on his superb managership because despite the nightmare situation he faced on Wednesday morning with the serious flooding he kept the programme going - heaven knows how - so that we finished on time on the Saturday without anyone being much put out. As usual our special thanks must go to Eileen Shaw (such a help to Dennis), and all the ladies who kept us well supplied with food and drink, and to Bob Everest the Club's Vice-President who kindly invited everyone over to his place for drinks after the presentations.



Cartoon by Gillian Nix

Budleigh Salterton:**12-17 May****Largest entry for many years***Report by Peter Danks*

Why did AEOLUS, King of the Winds, take it out on innocent croquet players? Why did he send his normally gentle sons Zephyr and Notus to bring gales and rain? Other than scattered sun and one day stolen from summer, the weather was vile.

There was the largest entry for many years split into 2 blocks of 7 and 6 blocks of 6. Pat Turner managed with accustomed skill for the 12th year. All games finished as planned but 2 had to be pegged down.

The Senior final was won by Nigel Gale (3) of Horsham who beat Frank Newman (3) by 25. Nigel played meticulously throughout the week, and on two occasions finished with straight rover peels.

RESULTS**Parkstone: 19-24 May****Open Singles**
(Advanced Play)**Block 1:**

3 wins: Mrs S. Wiggins
2 wins: C. Southern
1 win: J.P.G. Watson
0 wins: R.S. Eades

Block 2:

2 wins: Dr W.P. Ormerod
1 win: F.L. Shergold
0 wins: Mrs E. Asa-Thomas

Block 3:

3 wins: L.S. Butler
2 wins: P.D.B. Best
1 win: Dr C.A. Parker
0 wins: R.H.C. Carder

Play-Off:

Dr W.P. Ormerod bt L.S. Butler +14
Mrs Wiggins bt Dr Ormerod +4(T)

Open Singles

(Advanced Play: 4-8 Bisques)

Block 1:

3 wins: D.C.D. Wiggins
2 wins: Mrs K.G. Yeoman
1 win: Mrs B.R. Saunders
0 wins: Miss A.M. Ryan

Block 2:

3 wins: M.J. Wilkins
2 wins: G.C.H. Weldon
1 win: Mrs P.E. Parker
0 wins: Air Cdre J.H. Greswell

Play-Off:

M.J. Wilkins bt D.C.D. Wiggins +3

Handicap Singles

(9 Bisques & over)

Block 1:

3 wins: Mrs C.W. Marshall (10)
2 wins: F.J. Pope (9)
1 win: Miss J. Wraith (15)
0 wins: J.O. Mays (9)

Block 2:

3 wins: Mrs E. Wilton
2 wins: C.F. Moon, J. Weyndling, Mrs C.A. Parker
1 win: Dr C.W. Marshall

Cripps Memorial Cup: Handicap Singles**1st Round:**

J.P.G. Watson (3*) bt Miss A.M. Ryan (8) +19; Miss P.E. Parker (4) bt J. Weyndling (12) +6(T); F.L. Shergold (½) bt F.J. Pope (9) +3; G.C.H. Weldon (7) bt Mrs C.W. Marshall (10) +21; C.F. Moon (12) bt R.H.C.

Carder (3½) +16; Mrs E. Wilton (15) bt R.S. Eades (2) +11; P.D.B. West (1½) bt Mrs B.R. Saunders (7) +11; M.J. Wilkins (4) bt Dr W.R.D. Wiggins (0) +25; Mrs C.A. Parker (11) bt A.H.M. Adam (3) (wo); D.C.D. Wiggins (5) bt Mrs E. Asa-Thomas (3) +23; C. Southern (½) bt L.S. Butler (1) +22

2nd Round:

Air Cdre J.H. Greswell (4) bt Mrs K.G. Yeoman +4; Watson bt Miss Parker +22; Shergold bt Weldon +15; Moon bt Mrs Wilton +15; Wilkins bt West +17; D.C.D. Wiggins bt Mrs Parker +16; Southern bt Dr C.A. Parker (2½) +22; Mrs S. Wiggins (-½) bt Miss J. Wraith (15) +15

3rd Round:

Watson bt Greswell +4; Shergold bt Moon +8; Wilkins bt D.C.D. Wiggins; Mrs Wiggins bt Southern

Semi-Finals:

Shergold bt Watson +6; Wilkins bt Mrs Wiggins +20

Final:

Wilkins bt Shergold +24

'Y' Final

Dr Parker bt Carder +10

Summer Doubles Cups
(Handicap Doubles)**1st Round:**

R.S. Eades & Mrs C.W. Marshall (11) bt Mrs K.G. Yeoman & F.J. Pope (14½) +13; Dr & Mrs C.A. Parker (13½) bt Miss P.E. Parker & Mrs E. Wilton (17) +11; M.J. Wilkins & J.O. Mays (13) bt R.H.C. Carder & Miss A.M. Ryan (11½) +9; Mrs B.R. Saunders & G.C.H. Weldon (14) bt Air Cdre J.H. Greswell & Miss J. Wraith (17) +2(T); Dr W.R.D. & D.C.D. Wiggins bt P.D.B. West & J.P.G. Watson +1; L.S. Butler & C.F. Moon (13) bt C. Southern & Dr C.W. Marshall (11½) +14

2nd Round:

Eades & Mrs Marshall bt Mrs E. Asa-Thomas & J. Weyndling (14) +6(T); Wilkins & Mays bt Dr & Mrs Parker +9; Dr & D.C.D. Wiggins bt Mrs Saunders & Weldon +14; Butler & Moon bt F.L. Shergold & Miss A.R. Robertson (9½) +14

Semi-Finals:

Wilkins & Mays bt Eades & Mrs Marshall +8; Dr & D.C.D. Wiggins bt

The intermediate event was a cliff-hanger to the end. John Hatherley (6) pegged out Pat Macdonald's (5½) Black, leaving Red on 2 and Blue on 4-back. About an hour later both were for rover. John retired and set up a rush for the peg. Pat made rover. John missed the peg with one ball and pegged out the other. Pat hit in. Curtains!

The other final was between Angus Peterson (12) of Bowdon and the local John Wasdell (14). In the last few minutes Angus, who had been behind for most of the game, managed to pull ahead and win by 3 on time.

Angus is the block from which young David is a chip. He came with a starred handicap of 15. By Tuesday he was down to 12, and he went home 9. It might be a good bet that he will reach -1 before David!

The doubles ran very smoothly. Twenty games were played and only 2 went to time. Many were finished comparatively quickly. The shortest was about 1½ hours and the final

was only 2¾ hours. Angus Peterson and Peter Danks (5½) were in an enviable position. Peter told Angus to do this or that, and Angus did it! The use of the bisques was left to Peter, who was playing his incompetent best! They beat Don Laney (2) and Audrey Croker (5½) by 6 in the final. Incidentally Peter's third win in four years.

Charles Smith, the Lawns Manager and Chris Root, the groundsman, had a tough problem, but the courts were in remarkably good condition considering the harsh winter and heavy rain. It bodes well for the courts in months to come.

The visitors were much impressed with the five star catering. It almost seemed that some competitors had only come to sample the lush grazing!

Book your accommodation early for next year, preferably now.

(The results of this tournament appeared in the last issue (No 186) on Page 2)

DON'T YOU WISH YOU WERE HERE?

Anneka Rice arrived at the Budleigh Salterton Club on July 16 (without her helicopter) to feature croquet in the Thames TV holiday series 'Wish You Were Here'.

With some 'expert' tuition by Peter Danks (right), she ran a hoop several times until the Director was satisfied, and finally pegged out.

Views of the Club and members playing were also taken, and those who do not know the club may get a good idea of the courts and amenities by watching the programme, which will be shown in January (read the TV Times!).

Butler & Moon +16

Final:
Dr & D.C.D. Wiggins bt Wilkins & Mays +2

Compton: 9-14 June**Open Singles: Advanced Play**
(Played as an American block)

3 wins: Mrs S. Wiggins
2 wins: L. Wharrad
1 win: Dr R. Wiggins
0 wins: H.G. Drake

Level Singles: (3½ to 7 bisques)**DRAW:**

1st Round:
R.F. Crane bt T. Vale +4; D.A. Harris bt D.W. Shaw +5; Mrs M. Vale bt Mrs M. Grouit

Semi-Finals:
Crane bt Harris +4(T); G. Borrett bt Mrs Vale +15

Final:
Crane bt Borrett +3

PROCESS:

1st Round:
Vale bt Mrs Grouit +21; Shaw bt Borrett +11; Crane bt Mrs Vale +2

Semi-Finals:

Shaw bt Vale +17; Harris bt Crane +10

Final:
Shaw bt Harris +16

Final:
Crane bt Shaw +9

Handicap Singles, 7½ bisques & over**DRAW:**

1st Round:
J. Kellaway bt Miss D. Harding +9; Mrs B. Salmon bt Mrs A. Millns +1(T); Mrs R.F. Crane bt Mrs M. Wharrad +4

Semi-Finals:

Kellaway bt Mrs Salmon +8; Mrs Crane bt E. Salmon +8

PROCESS:

1st Round:
Mrs Wharrad bt Kellaway +10; Salmon bt Mrs Millns +7; Mrs Crane bt Miss Harding +10

Semi-Finals:

Salmon bt Mrs Wharrad +5; Mrs Crane bt Mrs Salmon (wo)

(Lives married):

Semi-final: Kellaway bt Salmon +13
Final: Salmon bt Mrs Crane +8

Continued on page 9

Tournament Reports & Results (1)

Southport: 24-27 May Sandblasting in progress!

Report by Andrew Bennett

I haven't managed many tournaments, but I'm getting a very bad reputation as the Bringer of Bad Weather. I don't know why they keep coming back: this year they were cold, wet, sunburnt and sandblasted. As well as the usual jolly crowd, three intrepid explorers from Scotland came for the first time and made some most flattering remarks about, amongst other things, the tactics of the Southport lady players.

I started muttering things when some of the people who were supposed to win blocks started losing, more things when two blocks were wide open on Monday morning, and lots of things about so many games going to time. Then I produced a score of 17-16 myself and stopped muttering.

They seemed to be enjoying themselves. Pat Hague held up a specimen bottle and demanded that Ian Maugham be doped. More guffaws were heard when Brian Storey did a neat half-jump rover peel, a neat cannon to clear the peelee from behind the hoop, and a neat rush... onto the peg. John Meads demonstrated how to pick up a triple peel with perfect control only to clang hoop 3. He made up for this later with a straight double. Paul Stoker went through the manoeuvres of a textbook standard triple but failed at rover.

Colin Wild ploughed a methodical furrow through his block and Chris Clarke sliced easily through his. Mary Collin came a close second in hers, the result of which depended on a very tense game between Chris Irwin and Alan Sutcliffe on Monday morning. Chris made good use of her bisques and Alan went round in fast and accurate fashion. Chris missed her pegout and Alan won by one. Mike Sandler had only faint hopes of winning his block, so he had asked to complete it on Sunday and have Monday off. Barbara Sutcliffe then sprang an upset by beating Carol Lewis and Mike was sent for! Another fast and accurate player, he soon found himself in the final, where Chris Clarke used those bisques to devastating effect. (Don't worry, we've taken some more away from him).

Those staying for the finish of the Binks Plate on Tuesday were subjected to a full gale, which meant ears and hair full of sand, salt-caked spectacles and a

horizontal battering from fast-moving twigs, rubbish and little old ladies. Two players retired from games but the rest battled on in conditions which made normal stance and grip impossible for most people, leading to many edged shots and an injured ankle. Brian Storey and Alan Sutcliffe were able to play breaks, and Joyce Taylor, the senior and most lightweight competitor, deserves special mention for her win against Corla van Griethuysen.



Ian Maugham: Dope test requested!

The deciding game was, predictably, between Carol Lewis and Chris Clarke. Chris has a full range of strokes which he played with apparent insouciance, even when Carol and Colin put him under pressure. It will be interesting to follow his progress this season and see what will join the Jubilee Tankard and the Binks Plate on his mantelpiece.

The improvements in the clubhouse include better catering facilities, and many thanks go to Carol Lewis and her team. We appreciate also the early-morning work on the hoops by Don Williamson and Paul Stoker.

If any of the above inspires you to come to Southport, please note that we have a new handicap weekend in August!

RESULTS

Southport: 24-27 May

Jubilee Tankard
(Handicap singles: American Blocks with play-off)

Block A:
5 wins: C. Clarke (8)
4 wins: P. Stoker (2½)
3 wins: F.I. Maugham (1)
2 wins: Miss A.E. Dawson (11)
1 win: J. Haslam (16*)
0 wins: A. Ramsay (6)

Block B:
4 wins: C. Wild (9)
3 wins: Mrs P. Hague (4), B. Storey (2), J.D. Meads (1)

2 wins: Dr C. van Griethuysen (6½)
0 wins: Miss P. Lewis (12)

Block C:
4 wins: M.H. Sandler (2½)

Harrow: 14-15 June

Report by Danny Palmer

This was a very strong handicap weekend (average handicap 3!), consisting mostly of players who usually do well in such events. As a result it was a very competitive two days, with a close finish.

The lawns speeded up considerably as the sun beat down, but with the hoops set fairly generously the games were quick. The ease of hoop running was demonstrated by Tony Mrozinski who had a 20 yard hoop 4 with control to continue his break. Although this was a little excessive, if tight hoops had been used the games would have taken ages. I doubt if having wide hoops was a deliberate policy, but in this event at least (dare I say it) it was a good thing.

After the first day, several players had emerged as contenders for first place and several, including your correspondent, had sunk without trace.

Perhaps it was the tournament meal on Saturday night or possibly some secret Muesli recipe - who knows? - but first thing on Sunday morning Brian Storey wasn't going to mess around. His opponent, Martin Coward, didn't get a look in as Brian finished off in 40 minutes with a 6th turn +26(TP). The only drawback was that, being so early in the morning, nobody was there to watch!

Danny Palmer twice failed to peg out a TP in consecutive games, once from three yards, but he finally got his act together to finish off a quadruple in his final game.

There was nobody with a 100% record at the end of play, but the two with 6 games out of 7 had played each other. Lewis Palmer had been the victor in the earlier encounter with Gordon Vince, so he took the title - but no trophy(!). Throughout the weekend both had played consistently well, and it's fair to say that at least half the field played throughout at a standard not reflected by their handicaps. This was a tournament where the 'bandits' came up against each other!



Brian Storey: an early start on Sunday morning.

THOSE KNEES!

(See Issue No 185, Page 21)

No entries to this horrendously difficult competition have yet been received. The answers are given below to enable our readers to check them out during the remainder of the season!

A. Andrew Hope	F. David Foulser	K. Eddie Bell
B. Michael Heap	G. Ian Bond	L. Paul Johnson
C. Martin Murray	H. John Rose	M. John McCullough
D. Robin Hobbs	I. Adam Berry	N. David Openshaw
E. Ian Vincent	J. George Noble	O. Phil Cordingley
		P. John Haigh

3 wins: Mrs C. Lewis (10), G. Anderson (5)

2 wins: Mrs B. Sutcliffe (7), A. Bennet (1)

1 win: Mrs A. Rimmer (16)

Block D:
4 wins: A.F. Sutcliffe (2½), Mrs M.P. Collin (1)

3 wins: Mrs C.E. Irwin (7½)

2 wins: J.D. Williamson (5½)

1 win: Mrs L.J. Taylor (11), Mrs D.C. Dennett (15)

Semi-finals:
Clarke bt Wild +14

Sandler bt Sutcliffe +14

Final:
Clarke bt Sandler +25

Binks Plate
(Handicap: Swiss)
4 wins: C. Clarke

3 wins: Mrs C. Lewis, P. Stoker, J.D. Williamson, C. Wild

2 wins: B. Storey, J.D. Meads, Mrs A. Rimmer, A.F. Sutcliffe, Mrs L.J. Taylor

1 win: A. Ramsay, Dr C. van Griethuysen, A. Bennet, G. Anderson, Miss P. Lewis

Harrow: 14-15 June

6 wins: L. Palmer (7) (winner), G. Vince (8)

4 wins: D. Beatty (4), K. Carter (6), A. Mrozinski (1), D. Ruscombe-King (6½), M. Kolbuszewski (1½), J. Dawson (3)

3 wins: B. Storey (2), J.D. Meads (1), M. Coward (-1½), D. Palmer (2)

1 win: J. Short (4)

0 wins: Miss J. MacLeod

Colchester: 24-26 May

Report by Bill Lamb

Beautiful weather blessed the efforts of the 28 croquet players and a ginger kitten at Colchester. The male Ipswich players were particularly noticeable, resplendent in pullovers with the multi-coloured Ipswich motif and with two-tone legs (bright red at the front and white at the back) such was the ferocity of the sun. After all the recent rain, it was a welcome change to play on Colchester's fast and true lawns.

The low bisquers had a hard time, in general, against a bunch of rapidly improving middle bisquers. Outstanding amongst these was the undefeated winner of this seven-round Swiss event, Debbie Cornelius, whose growing tactical awareness allied to her excellent technique make her a formidable, but charming, opponent. Lewis Palmer quietly gathered 6 wins to become runner-up, and others to catch the eye were Paul Elliott of the home club, who put in sterling work each day with hoop setting, and Johnny Haigh's protégé, Gordon Vince.

It was nice to see high bisquers using their bisques intelligently but middle bisquers tended to play conservatively

when well ahead and with several bisques standing. Apart from being bad tactics, it prolonged some games unnecessarily and this, combined with some instances of slow play, made it harder for manager Pat Hetherington to run a tightly packed event. (Colchester always provides plenty of games for everyone.) Club coaches please note. Nevertheless, with the use of Dr Dean's private lawn, which more than half the players experienced and enjoyed, the event was brought to a successful conclusion and the ginger kitten regained undisputed possession of corner four on court two.

RESULTS

Handicap Swiss

7 wins: Miss D. Cornelius

6 wins: L. Palmer

5 wins: S. Cornelius, N. Harris, P. Elliott, D. Gaunt

4 wins: Dr R. Jones, W.E. Lamb, J. Short, Miss S. Hampson, G. Vince, Dr P. Watson, Dr R. Sutherland, C. Steward

3 wins: M. French, G. Hallett, Miss J. Assheton, M. Kolbuszewski, R. Gosden, A. Schonbeck, A. Girling

2 wins: R. Welch, Mrs B. Gosden, C. Pearce, D. Cornelius, J. Williams

1 win: J. Haigh

0 wins: Mrs J. Neville-Rolfe

Hunstanton: 23-27 June

Report by Jane Neville-Rolfe

The Challenge & Gilbey Trophies tournament held at Hunstanton, though small in numbers, was most enjoyable. Unfortunately there was only one entrant for the First Division, so there was no contest, and there were no entries at all in the Fourth Division.

The Gilbey Goblet was played as a Swiss with 6 rounds and there were some close finishes. Debbie Cornelius was a delight to watch with her quick and easy style. Nelson Leech, from South Africa, was not at all well when he arrived, but a visit to our local doctor soon put him right and he was high in praise of our NHS. Bill Lamb won the Council Challenge Cup in Division 2.

John Wood (2) won all his singles matches and retained the Gilbey Goblet. Beryl Gosden did well to win a hard fought 3-game match against Don Cornelius for the Reckitt Cup.

The weather was hot and sunny, a wonderful change to summer. The courts were excellent, in preparation for the coming Test match against New Zealand, when we hope the weather will be equally good. This tournament clashed

with events at Sandringham which prevented some of our Club members competing, but altogether it was a very pleasant tournament, skilfully managed by Sarah Hampson.

RESULTS

Council Challenge Cup
(Level Play: 2½ to 6 bisques)

1st Round:
R. Gosden bt N. Leech +7(T); Mrs J. Neville-Rolfe bt Mrs P. Asa-Thomas +7(T)

Semi-Finals:
R. Gosden bt Miss D. Cornelius +16;



Beryl Gosden, seen here playing on Woking's tennis court lawn. She won the Reckitt Bowl at Hunstanton

Ipswich: 7-8 June

Report by Danny Palmer

For a change this was a tournament played with just about all of the hoops set to the minimum allowed width. However, since all of the balls were undersized, the clearance was standard, if a little large. (Well done, Jaques!)

The quality of the entry to this, Ipswich's first Open weekend, was not as high as expected due to clashes with the Men's and Women's and some exams, but despite this, the competition was tough with some determined play resulting in several close matches.

One or two upsets were caused by Debbie Cornelius and Lewis Palmer, both playing in their first Open tournament. This just goes to show that the Handicap Coordination Committee is right in its judgment that performance in handicap has nothing to do with performance in open play. Perhaps in a few year's time, we might see a 16 handicap win the Open Championship!

Danny Palmer, noted for his calmness and serenity during play, did well to keep his mallet out of the bushes at one point. With four peels completed and the peelee lurking near rover, he 'wristed off the cutlet' to 4-back, throwing away the quintuple. However he did have the consolation of taking the only game off the eventual winner, Don Gaunt.

Don played consistently well throughout the weekend, having the only triple, and from the start was 'odds on' favourite.

Translator's Note: 'Wristed off the cutlet' = missed!

Nan Zinn Tankard
(Swiss: Advanced Play)

6 wins: D. Gaunt, A. Sutcliffe

5 wins: D. Palmer

4 wins: M. French

3 wins: L. Palmer, W.E. Lamb, N. Gale, R. Sutherland

2 wins: Miss D. Cornelius

W.E. Lamb bt Mrs J. Neville-Rolfe +16

Final:
Lamb bt Gosden +25

Reckitt Cup
(Level Play: 6½ to 9 bisques)

Mrs B. Gosden bt D.S. Cornelius -8, +18, +11

Gilbey Goblet
(Handicap Singles: Swiss)

6 wins: J. Wood

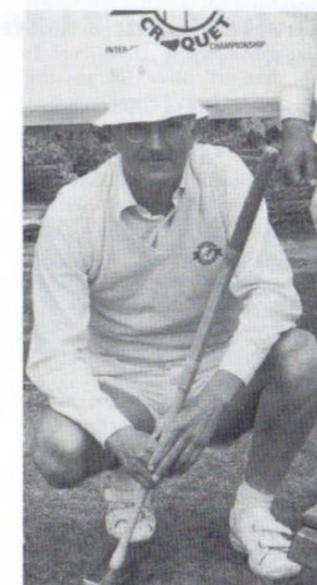
4 wins: W.E. Lamb, Miss S. Hampson

3 wins: Mrs B. Gosden, Miss D. Cornelius, D.S. Cornelius, Mrs J. Neville-Rolfe

2 wins: Mrs P. Asa-Thomas, R. Gosden

0 wins: N. Leech

Tales from the East



Bill Lamb (East Riding), who somehow managed to play in all three tournaments reported on this page!

Continued from page 7

Handicap Singles

1st Round:

Mrs M. Grout (7) bt Miss D. Harding (14) +9; G. Borrett (3½) bt Mrs A. Millns (9) +8; T. Vale (4) bt D. Brown (6) +2(T); R.F. Crane (4) bt L. Wharrad (1) +25

2nd Round:

J. Kellaway (8) bt Miss B. Dennant (8) +12(T); Mrs M. Vale (6½) bt D.A. Harris (3½) +19; Mrs S. Wiggins (-½) bt Mrs R.F. Crane (13) +15; Borrett bt Mrs Grout +13; Vale bt Crane +20; Dr R. Wiggins (0) bt Mrs B. Salmon (12) +19; H.G. Drake (2½) bt Mrs M. Wharrad (8) +7; D.W. Shaw (4½) bt E. Salmon (10) +9

3rd Round:

Mrs Vale bt Kellaway +7; Mrs Wiggins bt Borrett +6; Dr Wiggins bt Vale +9; Shaw bt Drake +7

Semi-Finals:

Mrs Vale bt Mrs Wiggins +26; Dr Wiggins bt Shaw +7

Final:

Dr Wiggins bt Mrs Vale +15

Kirk-Greene Bowls: Handicap Doubles

1st Round:
Borrett & Mrs Millns (12½) bt Major & Mrs Vale (10½) +15; Harris & Mrs Grout (10½) bt Dr Wiggins & Mrs Shaw (14) +5; Mr & Mrs Crane (15) bt Mr & Mrs Wharrad (9) +17; Mrs Wiggins & Shaw (4) bt Miss Dennant & Miss Harding (20) +21

Semi-Finals:

Borrett & Mrs Millns bt Harris & Mrs Grout +16; Mrs Wiggins & Shaw bt Mr & Mrs Crane +13

Final:

Mrs Wiggins & Shaw bt Borrett & Mrs Millns +16

Compton Plate: Handicap Singles
(Played as a progressive Swiss)

5 wins: H.G. Drake

4 wins: Miss B. Dennant

3 wins: T. Vale; Mrs M. Grout

Tournament Reports & Results (2)

Cheltenham: 24-26 May

Report by Bill Bawden

Visiting players to Cheltenham, beware. Handicappers lurk in the undergrowth! That seems to be the message from the last two tournaments, in which something like 16 handicap reductions have been made. This augurs well for the future of croquet, for all games need improving players and it is excellence that excites the imagination and wins new recruits.

This was a tournament in which the under-dog really made his/her presence felt, for in only one of the seven blocks did the low handicap player take top place - all credit, then, to Dennis Moorcraft, who achieved that distinction with his 5 wins out of 6. Of the higher handicap players J.F.S. Thomas (9, Nottingham) and Cheltenham players Jean Paddon (9) and Christopher Ross (12) excelled themselves, the first two with 5 wins each and the latter with 4. Christopher's was a worthy performance for a schoolboy player who has quickly learned his way around the lawn and plays constructively. Young David

Maugham, son of Cheltenham's Ian Maugham, had five convincing wins in his block, and it must have been disappointing for him to lose a first place on the accepted 'who beats whom' principle, when he was well ahead on points. Well done, nevertheless.

The 1986 season at Cheltenham still awaits the onset of croquet weather. Although there was little rain, with the final day giving almost unbroken sunshine, those irritating gusting winds persisted, introducing an unwanted element of uncertainty into many games. This is perhaps a small price to pay for such a lovely open situation, and thankfully it never seems to deter those stalwarts who travel long distances to play with us. I raise my glass to them.

RESULTS

Block A

5 wins: J.E. Ross (2½) +44, I. Brand (8) +29
4 wins: Prof B.G. Neal (-1½)
3 wins: Mrs R. Guban (8)
2 wins: F. Collins (6)
1 win: Mrs H.G. Handley, Mrs E.E.

Turtle

Block B

5 wins: D.H. Moorcraft (0)
4 wins: C.J.B. Pace (8), Mrs K. Whittall (9)
3 wins: Mrs A. Warren (6½), Mrs R.F. Wheeler (4)
2 wins: Dr C.B. Snowdon (2½)
0 wins: A Brand

Block C

4 wins: J.F.S. Thomas (9) +36, Dr G.K. Taylor (0) +26, Mrs C.A. Smith (2½) +15; P.F. Leach (5½) +3
3 wins: C.M. Gerrard (7½)
1 win: Mrs M. Collins (13), R.F.A. Crane (4)

Block D

4 wins: C. Ross (12) +26, G. Johnson (4) +47
3 wins: Dr B.G.F. Weitz (0), Mrs M. Langley (8), R.E. Adlard (3), Mrs D. Clay (17)
1 win: Gp Cpt R.S. Ryan (6½)

Block E

5 wins: R.E. Burnell (3½)
4 wins: R. Brand (8), M.J. Finn (4½)
3 wins: Mrs Moorcraft (11)
2 wins: G.E.P. Jackson (0), Mrs Johnson (13)
1 win: Mrs Crane (13)

Block F

5 wins: Mrs M.T. Paddon (9)
4 wins: Dr D. Guban (11), L. Wharrad (1)
3 wins: Lady Bazley (4), Mrs P.F. Leach (16)
2 wins: F.J. Exell (5½)
0 wins: D. Clay (6)

Block G

5 wins: B. Sanford (4½) +59, D. Maugham (10) +81
4 wins: Dr R.F. Wheeler (5)
3 wins: Mrs L. Wharrad (8)
2 wins: M.T. Paddon (2), Mrs B.G. Neal (6)
0 wins: Miss E. Cheverton (16)

RESULTS

Nottingham: 30 May-1 June

Handicap Swiss

6 wins: D. Gillett (12)
5 wins: S.G. Cornelius (5), E.E. Scott (3½)
4 wins: C.B. Sanford (4), R. Davis (10), Dr L. Whittaker (6), Dr R.F. Wheeler (4), Miss D. Cornelius (6), Miss A. Dawson (11), Mrs S.B. Hudson (6), K. Cotterell (2)
3 wins: J. Straw (3½), M. Cowan (7), C. Waterfield (9), Mrs D. Lenfestey (7½), S. Thomas (9), Dr I.G. Vincent (-1½), Mrs G. Nix (8), P. Dorke (5), Mrs E. Chamberlain (13), L. Robinson (10)
2 wins: D.de Q. Lenfestey, Mrs R.F. Wheeler, D.S. Cornelius, Mrs M. Cotterell, Miss P. Lewis (12), C.G. Hopewell (2), Mrs K.F.W. Townsend (10), Mrs A.J. Bucknell (14)
1 win: K.F.W. Townsend (10), F.F. Ross (8)
0 wins: Mrs J.M. Haworth

RESULTS

Roehampton: 23-28 June

Ranelagh Gold Cup

(Advanced Play, 3-series American Block)
9 wins: D.G. Palmer
5 wins: J.E. Guest
3 wins: C. Southern
0 wins: I.P.M. Macdonald (3rd game between Macdonald and Guest not played)

Brooke Cup

(Level Singles, 4 bisques & over)
5 wins: M.J.B. Haggerston
3 wins: Mrs I.P.M. Macdonald +37, Mrs W.J. Browne -10
2 wins: Mrs B. Mansfield
1 win: Mrs E.E. Bressey -27, Mrs P.V. Healy -31

Thorpe Cup

(Handicap Singles, 9 bisques & over) Played as a 2-series American block
3 wins: Mrs W.G. Jones (9)
1 win: Mrs E. Grant (9)
0 wins: Mrs E. Lloyd-Jones (18) withdrew after the 1st series.

Tevelyan Cup

(Handicap Singles)
1st Round:
Mrs B. Mansfield (6½) bt Mrs W.G. Jones (9) +8; D.G. Palmer (2) bt I.P.M. Macdonald (3) +17(TP); Mrs W.J. Browne (4½) bt Mrs C. Osmond (15) +8; Mrs E.E. Bressey (5) bt M.J.B. Haggerston (6) +7; C. Southern (½) bt Mrs I.P.M. Macdonald (5) +10; Mrs E.F. Grant (9) bt Mrs P.V. Healy (7½) +2; J.E. Guest (0) bt Mrs L. Showan (7) +20

2nd Round:

Palmer bt Mrs Mansfield +15(TP); Mrs Bressey bt Mrs Browne +25; Mrs Grant bt Southern +24; Guest bt Mrs E. Lloyd-Jones +11

Semi-Finals:

Palmer bt Mrs Bressey +11; Guest bt Mrs Grant +23

Final:

Palmer bt Guest +26

Final 'Y'

Haggerston bt Mrs Macdonald +17

Creyke Cups

Handicap Doubles (Total 4 bisques & over)

Semi-Finals:

Palmer & Mrs Grant (11) bt Southern & P. Hardyment (12½) +5; Mr & Mrs Macdonald (8) bt Mrs W.G. Jones & Mrs P.V. Healy (16½) +14

Final:

Palmer & Mrs Grant bt Mr & Mrs Macdonald +16

Ryde: 16-21 June

Easy Ryde for Brownsdon

Report by Laurence & Deborah Latham

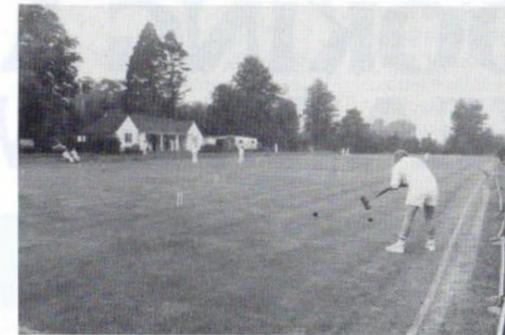
Ryde Club are quite rightly proud of their claim that they give visitors one of the warmest welcomes anywhere, and this year they could claim it with undisputed veracity - on the first day the humidity and sun were such that everyone was nearly broiled! Indeed, though it never reached such high temperatures again, and waterproofs might have been deemed mere figments of the imagination, the fine sunny weather prevailed throughout the week save for one thick sea mist that seemed to drop from above the tree tops and do its best to temporarily obscure everything.

The Dibley Cup, for the X handicap event, produced no particular surprises; it was soon fairly predictable that the final would be between local player Harry Brownsdon and visitor Angus Peterson, whose progress was watched with interest not least because his handicap was recently reduced at Budleigh Salterton from 15 to 9. Keen though his club handicapper had been to put him back up to 11, suspicions were harboured that this state of affairs would not last long. The same could be said of Harry, who seems to make a habit of beating everyone by double figures, such as twenty-sixing Roy Newnham in their semi-final. Angus might be said to have done well to keep him down to +16!

The Y handicap, for the Benest Cup, produced one notable result when Grace Vincent beat the redoubtable Arthur Rowlands, but it was Mick Tompkinson and Nelson Leech who made it to the final. Unfortunately things got a little crowded by Saturday and other commitments meant Nelson had to bow out in Mick's favour.

In the Z event the most noteworthy win was by Edward Carleton over Val Tompkinson. Frank Newman found himself in the interesting position of putting Deborah Latham out of the handicap at both ends, +11 on each occasion. Having also beaten her in the Y final on their last meeting, Frank has the distinction(?) of beating Deborah in the X, the Y AND the Z in the space of their last three games!

It was an interesting statistic in the Birch Cups that of the five husband and wives doubles teams in the second round, only one survived. Roy Newnham, as manager, decided upon an



(Left): Ryde Lawn Tennis & Croquet Club.

(Right): Vincent Camroux, Champion of the Isle of Wight.

unheard of innovation - both the X and Y doubles finals were played as FULL UNTIMED games! In the Y final Vincent and Betty Camroux led the Newmans for a long time, but Frank and Margaret battled tenaciously to snatch the game back by 4 points. In the X the Lathams were unsurprised when Roy and Harry forged well ahead, but maintained a steady pursuit, eventually overhauling the local pair in the vicinity of 4-back to win +7. One wonders whether, retrospectively, Roy wishes he had stuck to the 3½ hour time limit; in both cases the results would have been reversed, and one, of course would have gone in his favour...!

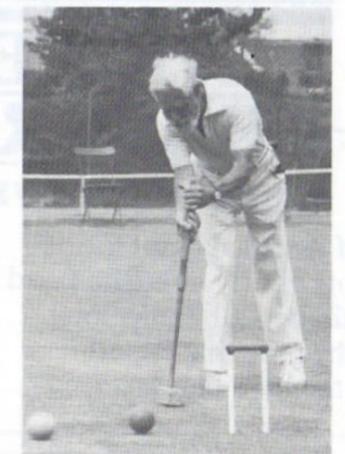
Of the class events perhaps the outcome of the Challenge Trophy was least predictable, and it should be said that Roy was unlucky to lose the matches he did; the number of his losses certainly do not reflect the quality of his play. On the last day any one of three players could have won it, and the crucial matches were played simultaneously so that - as in the World Cup! - no-one knew how much they had to do. However, Vincent's win over Mick meant that Laurence could only come second. It should perhaps be mentioned that Margaret Newman could not have been helped on the last day by having had a scalding hot pot of coffee tipped in her lap at breakfast! Vincent was particularly pleased at his success since, to the best of his recollection of his long croquet career, he has never before won an open event.

In the Chapman Cup, as on the occasion of her last visit, Deborah Latham finished second to Harry Brownsdon. Appropriately, the result of the block hinged on the game between the two, and, having come from well behind, Deborah reached the point of having one ball pegged out and the other six inches from the peg, but by one of those immutable laws of nature Harry

hit in and went on to win. That must be the closest anyone's got to him in a long time - his other four wins were by an average of over twenty-one points per game! Steve Thomas achieved the 'difficult' feat of not winning one game throughout the tournament, but it has to be said that he was unfortunate that circumstances necessitated his playing in the B class at all. At least there's nowhere to go but up, Steve!

No-one was surprised to see the Hutton Cup securely in Angus Peterson's hands, so the real battle was for second place. Mary Robinson achieved that by running the crucial hoop with her last shot after time against Grace Vincent. The highlight for Betty Camroux, though, was surely her first singles win, over Edward Carleton.

After the traditional strawberries-and-cream tea at the end of the tournament Joe Orchard thanked Roy for his management and Arthur Rowlands and Diana Erith for their help in the clubhouse (cheers and clapping), and Mick for being the handicapper (boos and hisses, and a big grin from Mick!). One of the best aspects of the Ryde tournament is their excellent practice of



Steve Thomas (Nottingham) competing in the 'B' Class event.

awarding not only the impressive array of cups but supplementing these with commemorative shields for both winners and runners-up. Considering the number of events, it is an unlucky player indeed who comes away without something to remind him of Ryde Croquet Club!



Photographs by Deborah Latham

RESULTS

Isle of Wight Championship:

(Advanced Play: American Block)
5 wins: A.V. Camroux
4 wins: L.V. Latham
3 wins: M.G. Tompkinson
2 wins: F.H. Newman
1 win: Mrs F.H. Newman
0 wins: R.W. Newnham

Level Singles

(Advanced Play: 4½ to 8 bisques)
5 wins: H.B. Brownsdon
4 wins: Mrs L.V. Latham
3 wins: R.E. Vincent
2 wins: Mrs M.G. Tompkinson
1 win: G.N. Leech
0 wins: J.S.F. Thomas

Handicap Singles:

(9 bisques and over)
4 wins: Dr A.C. Peterson (11)
3 wins: Mrs M. Robinson (12)
2 wins: Mrs R.E. Vincent (10)
1 win: Mrs A.V. Camroux (18)
0 wins: E. Carleton (18)

The Dibley Cup

(Handicap Singles)

1st Round:

A.V. Camroux (1) bt E. Carleton (18) +13; L.V. Latham (0) bt G.N. Leech (5) +7

2nd Round:

F.H. Newman (3) bt Mrs L.V. Latham (5½) +11; H.B. Brownsdon (6½) bt M.G. Tompkinson (2) +19; R.W. Newnham (4½) bt Mrs R.E. Vincent (10) +15; Camroux bt F.A. Rowlands (4) +18; Latham bt Mrs M. Robinson (12) +10; R.E. Vincent (8) bt J.S.F. Thomas (9) +17; Dr A.C. Peterson (11) bt Mrs F.H. Newman (3½) +4; Mrs M.G. Tompkinson (7½) bt Mrs A.V. Camroux (18) +15

3rd Round

Brownsdon bt Newman +9; Newnham bt Camroux +22; Vincent bt Latham +8; Peterson bt Mrs Tompkinson +23

Continued on page 33

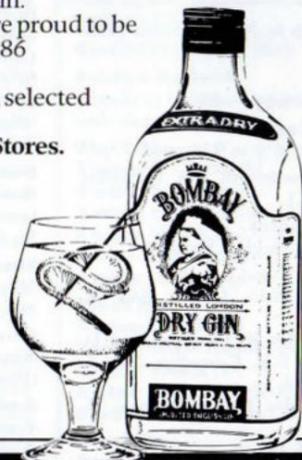
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Cheltenham: 2-7 June

David Foulser and Susan Wiggins emerge triumphant

Report by Jan MacLeod

When players gathered on Monday they were very sorry to learn of the death, the previous day, of David Prichard. He was remembered fondly both as a player and spectator at the competition in previous years.

Player of the week was undoubtedly Pattie Hague who surprised herself by beating Susan Wiggins in the first round of the process. She then stormed through to the final of both the draw and the process. On one day she beat Veronica Carlisle twice by 1 on time (4 hours each game). Five minutes before time in one of these games, Pattie was for rover and peg and Veronica for six and penult. Veronica had the innings and was taking the backward ball round when time was called. She executed the penult peel perfectly but missed the roquet after rover, leaving herself unluckily near Pattie's peg ball. Pattie went on to beat last year's winner Mary Collin in the final of one half but lost to Susan Wiggins in the final of the other half. Susan's steady accurate play in the best-of-three final earned her the championship.

The Mens was dominated by

David Foulser, the giant killer who beat both Andrew Hope and Martin Murray to reach the final against Tom Griffith. I must mention Ian Maugham who took the first game off Andrew Hope, and Bernard Neal who executed a textbook TPO against Jerry Guest in their second game, being one game down, and then went on to win the third. The Mens final was exciting. The first game, played on Friday evening (surely the manager was doubting a man could manage perhaps three singles and a doubles on Saturday) was won by Tom Griffith. In the second, on Saturday, Tom was quickly to 4-back. After lengthy fiddling around by both players who both



Pattie Hague - 'Player of the Week'

RESULTS

THE MEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP

(Advanced Play: Best of 3 games)

1st Round:

D. Foulser bt D.H. Moorcraft +2, +11; A. Hope bt I. Maugham -13, +21, +10

2nd Round:

R.D.C. Prichard bt C. Duckworth +26, +23; A. Collin bt Dr B.G.F. Weitz +16, -15, +11; Dr M. Murray bt D. Peterson +16, +3; D. Foulser bt A. Hope -16, +21, +20; J. Wurmlt bt R. Ransom +12, +3; Dr D. Cairns bt P. Smith +9, +17; Prof B.G. Neal bt J.E. Guest -5, +12(TPO), +9; T. Griffith bt S.K. Fellows +12, -4, +13

3rd Round:

Collin bt Prichard +14, +7; Foulser bt Murray +9, +3; Wurmlt bt Cairns +4, +25; Griffith bt Neal +13, +6

Semi-Finals:

Foulser bt Collin +18, +9; Griffith bt Wurmlt +17, +19

Final:

Foulser bt Griffith -7, +2, +26

THE WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP

(Advanced Play: Draw & Process)

DRAW

1st Round:

Mrs V. Carlisle bt Mrs R. Wheeler +7; Mrs E. Weitz bt Mrs B. Neal +11; Mrs S.K. Fellows bt Mrs D.J. Croker +4; Mrs P. Hague bt Mrs G.D. Harris +21; Miss J. MacLeod bt Lady C. Bazley +9; Mrs F. Ransom bt Mrs K.M.O. Wheeler +7(T); Mrs Asa-Thomas bt

Mrs C.A. Smith +3(T); Mrs S. Wiggins bt Mrs A. Collin +4

2nd Round:

Mrs Carlisle bt Mrs Weitz +8; Mrs Hague bt Mrs Fellows +3; Miss MacLeod bt Mrs Ransom +16; Mrs Wiggins bt Mrs Asa-Thomas +11

Semi-Finals:

Mrs Hague bt Mrs Carlisle +1(T); Mrs Wiggins bt Miss MacLeod +19

Final:

Mrs Wiggins bt Mrs Hague +8

PROCESS

1st Round:

Mrs Carlisle bt Miss MacLeod +8; Mrs Fellows bt Mrs Smith +1(T); Mrs Ransom bt Mrs Neal +4(T); Mrs Hague bt Mrs Wiggins +13; Mrs R. Wheeler bt Lady Bazley +3; Mrs Asa-Thomas bt Mrs Croker; Mrs Weitz bt Mrs K.M.O. Wheeler; Mrs Collin bt Mrs Harris

2nd Round:

Mrs Carlisle bt Mrs Fellows +11; Mrs Hague bt Mrs Ransom; Mrs R. Wheeler bt Mrs Asa-Thomas +18; Mrs Collin bt Mrs Weitz +15

Semi-Finals:

Mrs Hague bt Mrs Carlisle +10(T); Mrs Collin bt Mrs R. Wheeler +22

Final:

Mrs Hague bt Mrs Collin +11

Play-Off:

Mrs Wiggins bt Mrs Hague +22, +21

THE MIXED DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIP

(Advanced Play)

reached the third hoop, David double-tapped a hampered stroke, leaving Tom a perfectly laid-out triple. Tom did two peels but missed the pioneer at 2-back into baulk. David got to 4-back and peg before Tom hit again. Tom went to the peg peeling the rover ball but missed the rush to the peg. David hit a shortish shot and won. The third game was all David's.

The mixed doubles final was between Veronica Carlisle - Martin Murray and Jan MacLeod - Tom Griffith, both new partnerships. Jan got the first break but stuck in 2-back. Neither Veronica nor Martin could get going more than a couple of hoops each when Tom hit and went to the peg, threatening his partner with a quin but sensibly doing only the 2-back peel. Jan twice had a chance to finish but only made 3-back. Martin hit a long shot and went to the peg and rigalled Tom with Veronica for 3. Jan got position for 4-back off the contact and ran it in the next turn. Jan hit the second long shot but blobbed an easy penult. Veronica got to 6, when Jan hit a suicide shot, ran the two hoops, and pegged out.

In the Du Pre, Frances Ransom beat a despondent David Peterson whose old sparkling form must surely soon return. Carol Smith played well to beat David Cairns, Pam and Kevin Fellows who had come

1st Round:

J.R. McCullough & Mrs Ransom bt A. Hope & Mrs P. Hague +7; J. Guest & Mrs Wiggins bt R. Ransom & Mrs E. Asa-Thomas +25; T. Griffith & Miss J. MacLeod bt Mr & Mrs S.K. Fellows +22; D.H. Moorcraft & Mrs H. Handley bt Dr & Mrs B.G.F. Weitz +1(T); Dr M. Murray & Mrs V. Carlisle bt I. Maugham & Mrs D.J. Croker +5; P. Smith & Lady Bazley bt Mr & Mrs A. Collin +16; Prof & Mrs B.G. Neal bt Dr D. Cairns & Mrs G.D. Harris +5

2nd Round:

Guest & Mrs Wiggins bt McCullough & Mrs Ransom +21; Griffith & Miss MacLeod bt Moorcraft & Mrs Handley +7; Murray & Mrs Carlisle bt Smith & Lady Bazley +6(T); Foulser & Mrs Smith bt Prof & Mrs Neal +25

Semi-Finals:

Griffith & Miss MacLeod bt Guest & Mrs Wiggins +10; Murray & Mrs Carlisle bt Foulser & Mrs Smith +25

Final:

Griffith & Miss MacLeod bt Murray & Mrs Carlisle +9

'Y' Doubles Final

Dr Cairns & Mrs Harris bt Dr & Mrs Weitz +10

The Du Pre Cup

(Advanced Play)

DRAW

1st Round: R. Ransom bt D.H. Moorcraft +12; S.K. Fellows bt C. Duckworth +8; Dr



David Foulser - Men's Champion

from New Zealand. In the final, a consistent Jerry Guest beat David Cairns. The Ladies Plate was won by a steady Betty Weitz who beat Carmen Bazley whose normal phenomenal hitting disappeared for the final. The reporter lost track of the 'Y' doubles except for Ian Maugham, who seemed to swap wives? The final was won by David Cairns and Bo Harris, who defeated Betty and Bernard Weitz.

The new format of draw and process proved unpopular with the ladies who are now in fear that next year they will have a fifth hoop start! The lunches and teas were delicious, the weather was tediously cold, and the manager obviously patient. Many thanks to the Cheltenham club who in addition to normal duties had tested the bounce on all the balls used in the Championship. Last word to Pattie 'Today my dreams have come true'. Three days later she qualified for a Silver Medal.

B.G.F. Weitz bt D. Peterson +6; J.E. Guest bt P. Smith +6; I. Maugham bt R. Prichard (wo); Mrs C.A. Smith bt Mrs S.K. Fellows; Dr M. Murray bt Mrs F. Ransom

2nd Round: Fellows bt Ransom +2; Guest bt Weitz +3; Maugham bt Mrs Smith +10; Dr D. Cairns bt Murray +4

Semi-Finals:

Fellows bt Guest +21; Cairns bt Maugham +17

Final:

Cairns bt Fellows +7(T)

PROCESS

1st Round:

Ransom bt Maugham +10; Murray bt Weitz +20; Mrs Smith bt Fellows +15; Cairns bt Smith +2(T); Prichard bt Moorcraft +26; Mrs Ransom bt Peterson +13; Duckworth bt Mrs Fellows +4

2nd Round:

Murray bt Ransom +7; Mrs Smith bt Cairns +19; Prichard bt Mrs Ransom +24(TP); Guest bt Duckworth +10

Semi-Finals:

Murray bt Mrs Smith +26; Guest bt Prichard +25

Final:

Guest bt Murray +12

Play-Off:

Guest bt Cairns

Ladies Plate

(Advanced Play: Draw & Process)

Winner: Mrs B.G.F. Weitz
Play-off for second place: Lady Bazley bt Mrs Asa-Thomas

The Westwood Internationals

PRELIMINARY MATCHES

Glasgow: 5-6 June

Scotland give Australia a hard workout

Report by Ian Wright

The last time the MacRobertson Shield was held in Britain was in 1974, a few months after the Scottish Croquet Association was formed, and that year Scotland played a match against the New Zealand team before their first test match in the main event. This year we were pleased to welcome the Australian team and play a match against them before they set off south for their first test match of the 1986 MacRobertson Shield series.

The visitors arrived in Glasgow very early in the morning, fresh from a victory over Ireland, having very sportingly changed their flight when they heard that the Lord Provost of Glasgow could give them a civic reception. Their early arrival also gave them time to visit the Burrell Collection.

The match format was doubles on the first day and singles on the second, the latter being double-banked. Each was the best of three games. Ian Bond & Michael Heap managed two wins, +13 and +24, against Neil Spooner & George Latham, the Australian No 1 pair, to win their doubles match before lunch, but the other two Scottish pairs were both one game down at the interval.

Continuing play, Stephen Wright and Geoff Strutt lost their second game -23 and with it, their match against Barrie Chambers and Damon Bidencope, but Bill Spalding and Rod Williams put up a stern fight in

the third doubles, the innings changing hands frequently as the score rose. In the end, Spencer Buck & Allan Cleland prevailed against them, leaving Australia one match up at the end of the day.

In the evening the tensions of the court were forgotten as everyone gathered at the Nortons for a reception in the true Glasgow Club style and a memorable meal such as only Mrs Norton can provide.

Friday was singles day, and Scotland needed to win four of the six matches to be played. The sun still shone, and the courts were surrounded by spectators. This most unusual, not to say, almost unique, occasion in Scottish croquet was because of the presence of a coachload of Australian supporters, who spent the morning watching the match before resuming their sight-seeing.

In a long first game, Michael Heap started a triple peel against Neil Spooner which did not go entirely according to plan and he was left trying to peel rover from ten yards. This he managed to do, but the peeled ball did not go very far through, and the ball he was playing touched it after running Rover. So he was unable to finish the game, but pegged out the one ball. With two balls, Neil Spooner soon had the innings back and started scoring, always leaving Michael's solitary ball as far from the peg as possible. Michael had several

fruitless tries at hitting the peg, missing fairly closely every time. Finally, when Neil was for Rover and Peg, and all set to go out the next turn, Michael hit the peg fair and square. Michael then won the second game to take the match fairly comfortably, +10.

Elsewhere, more triple peels were being attempted. Allan Cleland completed one successfully in beating Bill Spalding in two games, but both Damon Bidencope and Spencer Buck failed with their attempts, largely due to holding each other up whilst double-banking on the same lawn. Nevertheless Damon put paid to Rod Williams in two games and Spencer did the same with Geoff Strutt.



Michael Heap, who beat Neil Spooner

The two other singles matches both went to three games, Ian Bond eventually beating Barrie Chambers, and George Latham turning the tables by beating Stephen Wright. So Australia won the overall match by 6 matches to 3, which was a very creditable result for Scotland.

With the match over, Saturday was left for enjoyment of a different kind. Bill Spalding arranged for the visiting players to be taken round a distillery to the south of Edinburgh, followed by sight-seeing in the capital. In the evening it was arranged that there would be a barbecue supper by the shores of Loch Lomond. The appointed time came and went, but no food arrived, and an hour later it still had not arrived. Eventually it transpired that the caterer's van had been involved in an accident.

But the Glasgow Club were able to take such disasters in their stride, and everyone set off for Campbell Smith's home in Pollock where they rustled up a grand barbecue for 40 people in no time at all, with soup brought round by Mrs Norton - something that not every croquet club could do at no notice at all! Rumour has it that Campbell's car was doing a 'ton' on the motorway, but then desperate situations need desperate measures. The Australian visitors showed true friendship when they called in at a hotel they were passing and bought cans of beer and bottles of wine to help the party go with a swing, the hotel manager agreeing that such a situation surely entitled him to bend the licensing laws just a wee bit!

And so the visit by the Australian team which was so enjoyable throughout ended in a truly memorable and happy way. The Glasgow Croquet Club, and particularly their committee, bore the brunt of the work of arranging the match, meals, accommodation and entertainment, and the Scottish Croquet Association are very grateful for all that they did.

Tournament Results (3)

Durham University: 21-27 June

Ian Graham Memorial Cup

(Handicap: Swiss)

6 wins: D. Reeve (5) (winner), J.D. Meads (1)

5 wins: P.W. Thompson (4½)

4 wins: J.B. Portwood (8), D.W. Trotman (9), R. Adams (11), P.J. Robson (7), M. Hutchisson (10), D.V. Beatty (4)

3 wins: P.J.C. Hetherington (3)

2 wins: D.R. Appleton

1 win: J. Shotton (15), S.H. Cawdell (10), D.M. Gillett (12)

The Bede Shield

(Handicap: Swiss)

2 wins: D. Reeve (4)

1 win: J.B. Portwood (7)

0 wins: D.V. Beatty (4)

County Durham Handicap

5 wins: J.B. Portwood (7) (winner), R. Adams (11)

4 wins: D.V. Beatty (4), C. Hudson (3)

3 wins: Mrs A. Jones (14)

2 wins: J. Goldsmith (14), S.O. Jones (12), S.H. Cawdell (10)

1 win: F.F. Ross (8)

Castle & Cathedral Tankards

(Handicap Doubles)

1st Round

R. Adams & M. Hutchisson (20) bt D.R. Appleton & S.H. Cawdell (16) +13

Semi-finals

D.V. Beatty & P.J. Robson (10) bt Adams & Hutchisson +1(T); P.J.C. Hetherington & D. Reeve (7) bt Mr & Mrs S.O. Jones (26) +12

Final

Hetherington & Reeve bt Beatty & Robson +14

St Aidan & St Cuthbert Cups

(Advanced play doubles)

Final

P.J.C. Hetherington & D. Reeve bt

D.V. Beatty & J.B. Portwood +9

County Durham Golfe Croquet

(1-ball Golfe Croquet, ½ game)

Men

4 wins: P. Wrightson

1 win: N. Curtis, G. Jack, R. Weston

0 wins: J. Harrison

Women

3 wins: V. Brydan

2 wins: B. Rae

1 win: L. Wilkinson

0 wins: M. Birtley

Bristol 28-29 June

Latham Cup

(Handicap singles)

1st Round

R.S. Jenkins (6) bt P.J. Dorke (5) +3; Lady E. Porter (18) bt Miss J.A. Skinner (15) +7(T); D. Guban (10) bt F.I. Maugham (1) +18; M. Elder (5½) bt D.M. Gillett (10) +2; K.J. Carter (6) bt D.J. Goacher (3½) +14; P.J.C. Hetherington (3) bt K. Bright (16)

+5; S. Packer (11) bt J.W. de M Jeffrey +21; Mrs R. Guban (8) bt R.E. Burnell (3½) +17

2nd Round

Jenkins bt Lady Porter +13; Guban bt Elder +4; Carter bt Hetherington +3; Packer bt Mrs Guban +5

Semi-finals

Jenkins bt Guban +11; Packer bt Carter +12

Final

Packer bt Jenkins +9

Progressive Swiss

(Handicap)

3 wins: K. Carter (6) (winner), M. Elder (5½), D. Gillett (10)

2 wins: D. Guban (10), P. Hetherington (3), J. Jeffrey (4½), E. Porter (18), P. Dorke (5), D. Goacher (3½)

1 win: Mrs Guban (8), K. Bright (16), F.I. Maugham (1), R. Burnell (3½)

0 wins: Miss J. Skinner (15)

PRELIMINARY MATCHES

Southport: 7-8 June

Impressive Start by New Zealand

Report by Andrew Bennet

Listeners to Radio Merseyside were mystified by the sounds with which the presenter of the sports programme introduced this special event.

Presenter: . . . but what sport does *this* put you in mind of?

Mallet: Clonk

Blue: Clonk

Black: Clonk

Chicken: SQUWAAWK!

Yes, the unmistakable sound of Southport, where we were delighted to receive the New Zealanders in our refurbished clubhouse. The club catering and hoop-setting teams had been hard at work and now the croquet was in progress.

Paul Skinley attracted the most attention from the spectators, with his extreme concentration and unusual but very effective style which enables

him to play so precisely. He has a very long mallet shaft, swung from the top for every shot except full- and pass-rolls. His first meeting with hoop 1 must have been a novel experience: he clanged it. His features betrayed no change in mental state, and he soon regained the innings and won his singles with two immaculate triple peels. A local long-bisquer was later seen practising the Skinley swing but retired hurt.

Keith Wylie, meanwhile, said of his opponent, Bob Jackson, 'If he picks up a break out of this I take my hat off to him'. There was a ball in corner 2 and one in corner 4. The hat was taken off shortly afterwards. Bob then won the second game with a triple peel.

The only England win was

Edgbaston: 14 June

Australia cruise home against West Midlands

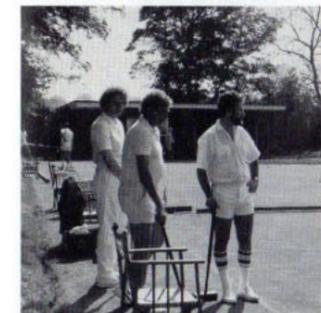
Report by Ray Jones

For the West Midlands, the opening of the Test Match season was marked by a visit of the Australian Test Team to play a representative team from the West Midlands at Edgbaston Croquet Club - matching a visit to Himley Hall by the New Zealand team twelve years previously.

The event opened auspiciously for the visitors when during a visit to 'The Green Man' the previous evening, Neil Spooner - the Australian Captain - became the first-ever croquet player to win £14 on The Green Man's bowling club sweepstake.

whilst Ken Jones and Alan Girling lost a closely-fought game against Allan Cleland and Damon Bidencope by 6 points.

The singles games, double-banked and played best of three, which took place after lunch proved not to be without interest. David Foulser played well to beat Neil Spooner (by two games to one) and Damon Bidencope playing Peter West achieved the only triple peel of the day in his first game. In the second game, West staged a recovery and looked like winning at one point, but during an attempted pegout of his opponent ran his own ball



(Left) George Latham and Spencer Buck consider their position whilst Brian Hallam looks on. (Right) Celebrating their victory afterwards!

The day of the match dawned bright and warm, the Edgbaston lawns were fast, but the three morning doubles games were not. David Foulser and John Walters (recovering from Finals at Birmingham University) beat Neil Spooner and Barrie Chambers by a close 3 points,

on to the peg and then lost by 6 points.

Allan Cleland, playing very accurately, won his games against Alan Girling, and if Barrie Chambers occasionally looked bemused by the double-banking, he still beat John Walters. There was more to come

The Westwood Internationals

achieved by Eddie Bell and Steve Lewis in the doubles. Despite losing the first game, they overcame John Prince and Graham Beale. In the singles, Steve had his chances against Roger Murfitt, Eddie took the first game off John Prince, and Phil Cordingley won his first against Joseph Hogan. Otherwise it all went New Zealand's way, with Joseph Hogan completing their fourth triple peel, doing the last two peels straight.

We were impressed throughout by the New Zealanders' immaculate turnout in their matching tracksuits, consistent long hitting, and quiet, concentrated presence on court, in contrast with their good humour at the social event at Paul Stoker's on the Saturday evening.

We would very much like to see them again on their next tour, which will give us quite a few years to find a way of silencing the park-keeper's chickens!

RESULTS

(England names first)



Eddie Bell, who took one game off John Prince.

Doubles

P. Cordingley & T.J. Haste lost to J. Hogan & R. Murfitt -10, -16

E. Bell & S.E. Lewis beat J. Prince & G. Beale -17, +4, +17

K. Wylie & M. Heap lost to R. Jackson & P. Skinley -15, -19

Singles

P. Cordingley lost to J. Hogan +2, -21, -13(TP)

K. Wylie lost to R. Jackson -22, -26(TP)

M. Heap lost to P. Skinley -19(TP), -26(TP)

E. Bell lost to J. Prince +17, -17, -9

S.E. Lewis lost to R. Murfitt -15, -4

D. Foulser lost to G. Beale -16, -13

Match Result:

New Zealand bt England 8-1

though: Brian Hallam demonstrating remarkable accuracy in his shooting succeeded in taking a game off Spencer Buck (who then beat Hallam in a second game). Ken Jones (the West Midlands Captain) had an exciting encounter in his first game against George Latham when, with victory almost in the bag, Jones failed to peg out his forward ball. Latham hit from the second to the first corner and then played a beautifully controlled three-ball break which unexpectedly ended with a breakdown at penult. There then followed some exciting cat and mouse tactics before Jones hit the peg to win by 3. Latham had his revenge in the second game when he beat Jones by 8.

travelled quite a distance to view the spectacle. The Birmingham Post's senior sports reporter interviewed Neil Spooner and others, and produced a lengthy and thought provoking article on the future of the game.

The Australian visitors were, later that night, guests of the West Midlands Federation at a dinner attended by the visiting team, the President of the Australian Croquet Council, and nearly forty local players and friends. The visitors were presented with some locally produced Stourbridge glassware as keepsakes and if tiredness was starting to show on everybody's faces, the re-opening of the bar after the meal seemed to bring the two teams back to life.

It was a pleasure to host this fixture at Edgbaston, and one hopes that a similar event can take place during the next Test Match series.

RESULTS

(Australian names first)

Doubles

Cleland & Bidencope bt Jones & Girling +6(T)

Buck & Latham bt West & Hall +24

Spooner & Chambers lost to Foulser & Walters -3

Singles

Spooner lost to Foulser +9,11,15

Chambers bt Walters +3, +18

Cleland bt Girling +23, +25

Bidencope bt West +26(TP), +6

Buck v. Hallam +11,11 (match unfinished)

Latham v. K. Jones +8,3 (match unfinished)

The Westwood Internationals

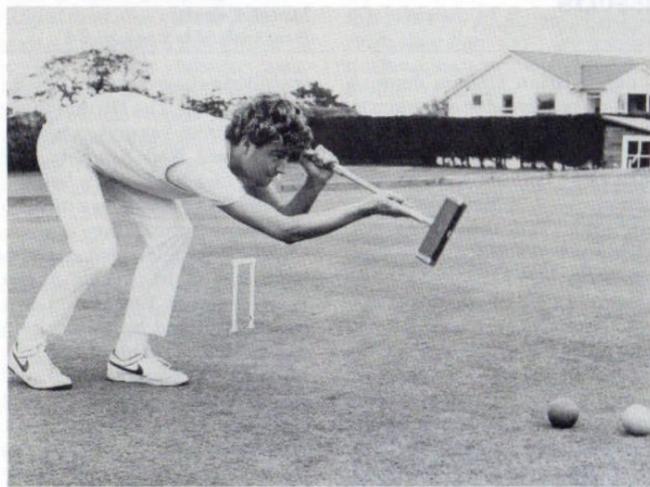
Cheltenham: 14-16 June New Zealand just pip Great Britain

Report by Andrew Hope

The Cheltenham members did everything possible to ensure that this Test Match went smoothly and Ian McGasgill supplied the good weather.

On the first day the doubles were played and, as predicted, these gave an indication as to the result of the match and, in fact, the series. All players appeared nervous and this was exemplified by some uncharacteristic mistakes. David Openshaw & Mark Avery beat John Prince & Graham Beale in two games in spite of some brilliant hooping by Graham.

William Prichard & Steve Mulliner were beaten in three games by Bob Jackson & Paul Skinley; Paul looked very impressive in both his break play and his shooting.



Mark Avery, who defeated Roger Murfitt in two straight games

The Nigel Aspinall, Colin Irwin versus Joe Hogan and Roger Murfitt match was quite a marathon - game three was very exciting. After Colin was pegged out, the remaining three gave an exhibition in shooting. Unfortunately Nigel was unable to capitalise on his three 'hit ins' and Joe pegged out to win +3 at about 8.15pm.

On day two, Graham beat Colin in two games. Both players had opportunities but Graham's shooting and long hoops finally paid off.

Steven had quite a battle against John and should have won in two but played with the wrong ball at rover at the end of a triple. However, he was able to redeem himself in the third game.

David Openshaw against Joe Hogan was probably the best match of the Test. Joe won the

first which was fatal as David is at his most dangerous when behind - the greater the pressure the better he plays. He completed a delayed triple in the second and won the third convincingly.

So it was three matches all at the beginning of the third day. One of our newcomers, Mark Avery, beat the veteran Roger Murfitt in two. Nigel however, struggled against Bob Jackson and lost in two, so it was all up to William Prichard and Paul Skinley. Paul won the first convincingly and was rover and peg in the second when William hit a rather poor leave. William went round twice and pegged Paul out at the end of his second break. After a lot of wiring, Paul hit a partially wired ball 18 yards away and was able to finish.

Budleigh Salterton: 18-20 June Great Britain's First Win

Report by Peter Danks

Budleigh Salterton looked its best basking in the warm Devon sunshine. The courts had been brought into readiness by several years of hard work by Lawns Manager Charles Smith and Groundsman Chris Root.

The evening before the Test Match started, the organisers and teams had a buffet supper party in the Orangery of nearby Bicton Park so that everyone involved could get to know each other.

The great day arrived. The Union Jack flew proudly at the top of the mast, in the company of the Australian and the boxing Kangaroo mascot flags. Whoever led after the first day would fly at the top on the second day. Who would it be?

As the doubles got underway the lawns looked good. The hoops were accurate and firm. It all boded well for good matches. Doubles always take a long time - decisions - decisions!

Neil Spooner & David Openshaw, the two Captains, pose for photographers in front of the MacRobertson Shield.



Steven Mulliner and William Prichard won the first game by +11 and lost the second by -14. There were one or two lucky shots. William missed a short roquet and hit his partner's ball in the far distance! In the third game Neil Spooner and George Latham were going nicely. George peeled Neil through 4-back and penultimate and then rushed Neil's ball just past and to the side of rover. What he said was politer than what he thought! He made rover for himself and laid up. Steve hit in and was going well until he came to 2-back. Approaching it from about 6 feet he got his forward ball near the boundary, but put the back ball about 2 inches from the hoop and to one side of it. No way. Neil gratefully accepted his lift with a ball on the baulk line and went out, winning by +10.

David Openshaw and Mark Avery efficiently despatched Barrie Chambers and Damon Bidecove by +21, +26. Nigel

Aspinall and Colin Irwin played a dogged first game against Spencer Buck and Allan Cleland losing it by -3. They then got their act together much better and ran out +17, +25.

At the end of the first day, Great Britain 2, Australia 1.

On the second day, Mark Avery had a tight first game against Allan Cleland which he lost -3. In the second game, Allan took control and won by +26(TP).

Steve Mulliner had the first game in his pocket with both his balls on the peg. Damon Bidecove was on 4-back and the first. Steve was in play. He roqueted Damon's two touching boundary balls. Then inexplicably set up a cannon in which he knocked the croqueted ball hard out of court. Damon carefully took advantage of the position and won by +2.

In the second game, Damon's blue pegged out Steve's red, leaving yellow on the third hoop

and black on the fourth. Steve lay in front of three, with blue and black joined up in the corner. Disdaining the easy hoop he shot at black and hit it. Rushed blue back to three, made it, made the fourth and approached the fifth. He put blue on a good line for black but his yellow was angled to the hoop. It was the sort of hoop that golf croquet players take in their stride. He was obviously keen to get on the rush line and took his mind off the hoop. He stuck in it. Black started making hoops and then Damon pegged out his blue ball. There followed a single ball cat and mouse game which Damon eventually won by +5.

Steve had a disappointing Test Match and went home early, doubtless to make up for lost time with a spot of double (merchant) banking.

David Openshaw was his usual calm unruffled self. He had a dour match against Barrie Chambers. To the delight of

The Westwood Internationals

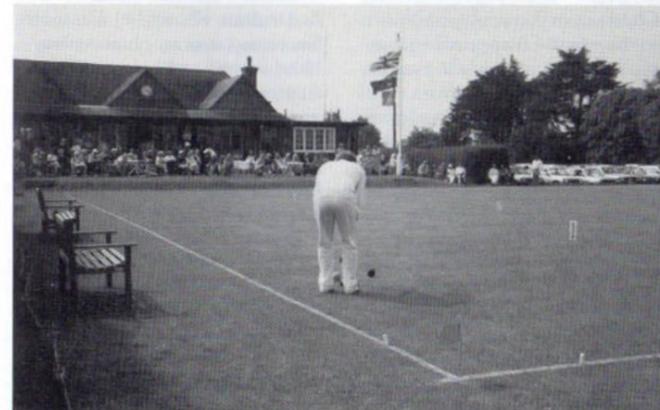
nigh-bisqued spectators, Barrie missed a short rush by trying to hit too hard - but head up and guess what? David got himself into an unaccustomed mess, which also endeared him to high-bisquers. He took off from about 15 inches from the side of 1-back and hit too hard. He pondered for about five minutes what to do. From the non-playing side half or three-quarters of his ball was visible. Suddenly he walked up to his ball and smartly jumped it through the hoop, leaving blue blobs of paint on both wires about 8 inches up. He finished the game and won by +4. He won the second game by +6.

At the end of the second day, Great Britain 3, Australia 3.

The third day started grumpily. A team photograph had been arranged for 9.45am. The Australians courteously turned up in time but all the British were absent. They were eventually all there a quarter of an hour late, by which time some of the Australians were on their way to the courts to be on them at the appointed hour.

Great Britain struck oil first. Colin Irwin beat Spencer Buck comprehensively by +26, +26. Colin played methodically and hardly put a ball wrong. There was a slight quail at the end when he had a long peg out. He hit firmly and the front ball missed the peg and went off. Happily the other ball did hit the peg, instead of landing inches from an opponent ball. Spencer took the lift and hit in. He rolled up to the first hoop and overran it, just like middle and high bisquers do. Colin hit in. Curtains.

Nigel Aspinall and Neil Spooner played an in-and-out sort of game. Neil missed an easy roquet. He walked over to a group of spectators and ostentatiously moved the official 'do not disturb' notice board so that spectators could read it. He had a point. Hard of hearing spectators are prone to raise their voices when



George Latham in play in front of a large crowd at Budleigh.

they speak. On the other hand, experts must learn to concentrate more deeply so that crowd noises do not worry them. Nigel won the first game by +8. The second game was not unlike the first, until Nigel took it by the scruff of its neck. Playing immaculately he triple peeled himself to victory by +13.

Great Britain had won the Test Match.

Happily for the management the last game between William Prichard and George Latham was being played on the court in front of the main club house. A four-deep crowd stretched the full length of the 30 yard terrace and were entertained by what they saw.

George won the first game by +16. William came back and won the second by +16. The last game started at tea time. Although the Test Match had been won, both were determined to win. The odds swung George's way. When he was on peg and rover, he made rover and had a rush back to the peg of 8 or 9 yards. All was hushed. He hit and only just roqueted his partner ball. He played a slow pass roll. The croqueted ball rolled oh! so slowly towards the peg and - hit it. George let out a whoop of joy. He pegged out his other ball. He had won by +16.

Final score, Great Britain 5, Australia 4.

RESULTS

(Great Britain names first)

Doubles

Mulliner & Prichard lost to Spooner & Latham +11,14,10
Openshaw & Avery bt Chambers & Bidecove +21, +26
Aspinall & Irwin bt Buck & Cleland -3, +17(TP), +25

Singles

Avery lost to Cleland -3,26(TP)
Mulliner lost to Bidecove -2,5
Openshaw bt Chambers +4, +6
Irwin bt Buck +26, +26
Aspinall bt Spooner +8, +13(TP)
Prichard lost to Latham -16, +16,16

Match Result

Great Britain bt Australia 5-4

The Inter-Counties

Southwick: 29 May - 1 June Eastern Counties retain Anchor Championship in one-ball play-off

Report by Chris Hudson

The Anchor Inter-County Championship this year produced 10 entries, including one new side, Yorkshire, led by Bill Lamb of the East Riding club.

Played in a very friendly spirit, this Championship consists entirely of doubles matches and is one of the most popular events for top players.

Eastern Counties, last year's Champions, fielded a young team backed by the experience of Sarah Hampson, their captain, and John Haigh. They played well throughout the tournament, losing only one match to Glos & Avon.

There was a nail-biting finish to the Championship, with the final result depending on the last matches to be played. In the end, Middlesex finally drew level with the Eastern Counties, finishing with an identical score, having suffered only one loss which, like

the Eastern Counties, was also sustained at the hands of Glos & Avon.

Time only allowed each team to play eight matches, so there was always one team that each team had not played. As luck would have it, Eastern Counties and Glos & Avon had not played each other, and a decision therefore had to be made on how to determine the tie. Should it be a 'shoot out' at the peg, a one-ball match between the Captains, or something else? In the end, the two teams fielded 5 players each to play 5 one-ball matches to determine the winner, and the Eastern Counties took the title.

At the prize giving ceremony, David Openshaw thanked Anchor Foods for their continued sponsorship of this event, and the prizes were presented by Keith Collins, Anchor's Marketing Manager.



The Eastern Counties team: (L to R) Danny Palmer, Martin French, Mark Avery, Keith Collins (Anchor Foods), Sarah Hampson, Don Gaunt, Tim Harrison, John Haigh, and John Walters.



A large crowd of players and spectators watching the exciting one-ball finish

SCOREBOARD

	Matches		Games		Position
	W	L	W	L	
Eastern	7	1	19	5	1
Middlesex	7	1	19	5	2
Berks & Oxon	6	2	17	7	3
Glos & Avon	6	2	17	7	4
Bedford	4	4	11	13	5
Surrey	3	5	11	13	6
Dorset & Devon	3	5	10	14	7
Sussex	3	5	6	18	8
Yorkshire	1	7	7	17	9
Midlands	0	8	3	21	10



The three Presidents. (Left to right) John Solomon, Val Payne, and Ashley Heenan.

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Croquet Players Dine Out at Hurlingham

I've just returned from Hurlingham, the hub of the Croquet world, where last night the world's top players and administrators met to celebrate the end of a most successful Test Match series.

The series has been sponsored by Westwood Engineering Ltd, whose M.D. John Derham hopes that Westwood's world famous garden tractors, like croquet, will soon become automatically associated with country house lawns.

Hurlingham, looking resplendent as always, with its immaculate lawns and its peacocks strutting on the terraces, has played host to a series of croquet events just recently. Last week, it was the National Schools Championship. Next week, they are hosting the British Open Croquet Championships - probably the only national sporting event where play is held over for a club members' Family Party.

Arrangements for the Party were going on hand in hand yesterday with preparations for the Championships, notices for stilt-walking competitions mingling with hoardings advertising Real Estate Agents Debenham Tewson & Chinnocks, who are sponsoring the Opens for the third successive year.

The previous day, croquet's top brass had met to discuss the formation of a World Croquet Federation to promote the game internationally. They were all there for the dinner. Jack Osborne, President of the US Croquet Association, was over meeting old friends, telling them how the game was expanding in America. Brice Jones, preparing for an international competition next year on the West Coast, was also over - a day late, because he had taken the wrong passport with him to the Airport. He grows grapes and produces wine on his own farm 14 miles from the Western seaboard, and was over to meet competitors going to the States for this year's event. He's hoping to sign up more international players for next year and still wants a sponsor - an airline or two to fly in 32 international stars free-of-charge. He reckons the event will be good for croquet, good for the sponsor, and good for his favourite charity - one that supports those afflicted by Downs Syndrome.

Representing croquet in

Switzerland was Mike Quin, one of 12 members of the Cern Croquet Club in Geneva, whilst Ian Gillespie, a long-time croquet administrator who for many years has been hoping a World Federation would be formed, is over here to represent South Africa. Not able yet to play a full role in the deliberations because of the ramifications of apartheid, the South African Croquet Association has signed a declaration supporting the dismantlement of the apartheid system. Ian is full of support for international cooperation and, like Mike Quin, is here to keep in touch with developments.

To my surprise, I found a group of guests from Japan. Croquet started in Japan 3 years ago, and Maseru Ikeda has brought over a delegation from



The Australian team at the Dinner. (L to R): George Latbam, Damon Bidencope, Allan Cleland, Neil Spooner, Spencer Buck, and Barrie Chambers.

the Japanese Croquet Association. They came to watch the last Test of the series and to take part in the World Federation talks. Cameras at the ready, friendly and charming as always, I've got the feeling that the Japanese will soon be playing a major role in World croquet.

Jose Sanz-Tonneller, the Australian Croquet Council's Secretary, was much in evidence. How many players did the Australians have in 1977? Quick as a flash, he had the answer. How many in 1985? Again a lightning response. How did he know? He knew, he said, because he keeps the statistics. He has a full-time job as an airline steward, but like Val Payne, Australia's diminutive and very likeable President, he also runs a sheep farm in Australia - it reduces taxes.

Ireland were represented by Fred Rogerson, a quantity surveyor in private practice in

Dublin, and Terence Read, a Dublin schoolmaster. The Irish Croquet Association has only been in existence for 1 year, but already the number of clubs has increased to 8 and, as Fred points out, without the Irish who started it all, no-one else would be playing croquet today!

Master of Ceremonies was Andrew Hope. He's competing on the West Coast of America next week, and obviously looking forward to the trip with his wife and young daughter of 11 months. He had sent a message of greeting to the CA's Patron at Buckingham Palace, and just before dinner, had received a telegram from Her Majesty wishing everyone well. He doesn't reckon he'll reach a 100, so he says it may be his only telegram from that particular quarter, but

have had their fair share of troubles with professionalism in tennis - Bernard's hoping croquet can handle the situation better.

Val Payne confessed that the Australians had come over with high hopes, complete with their dark horses - 'fair cows' they call them over there. However, the horses had only just started running when the series was nearly over and had left their effort too late. She remained combative - in their last match, the Aussies had beaten Great Britain, who in their last match had beaten New Zealand. Val reckoned Australia could have taken the Shield if only they had played as well throughout the tour as they had finished.

Ashley Heenan, on the other hand, put New Zealand's win down to one word - 'motivation'. They had had a plan, which they had carried through. The team had a magnificent captain in John Prince, and were totally dedicated to winning the Shield. Not only were the team highly motivated, but they knew they had behind them every single club in New Zealand. As an example of this support, one club had sponsored the entire set of team clothing worn by the New Zealand players. Ashley reckons that John Prince is one of the top three players ever, but as John's coach, he told us he'd never been able to say that before last night.

Then came the presentations - from the CA, international CA ties and badges for the players from New Zealand and Australia. A wonderfully bound book about Australia's rain forests from the Australians to their hosts, and from New Zealand a painting by John Prince of the old pavilion at Roehampton before it was rebuilt as it is today.

Finally a presentation to John Prince by David Openshaw, Great Britain's captain. John first played for New Zealand when he was sixteen. Since then, he has played in 6 MacRobertson Shield series - the first player ever to do a 'sextuple'. In recognition of this feat, he was given 2 books - 'Now you are 6' by A.A. Milne, and a book containing messages and congratulations from those who had played against him in those 6 test series, during which John has led New Zealand to 2 of their 3 MacRobertson victories.

Amongst the 180 guests, I noticed Ian Wright, Secretary of the Scottish Croquet Association, and Chris Jaques and his wife, who arrived in a vintage Rolls. Chris, who generously provided the balls for all the matches in the series, collects vintage cars as a hobby, his



John Prince presenting the CA with his own water-colour of the old clubhouse at Roehampton.

home being conveniently situated on the Brighton run. Also at the dinner, some 40 Australians and 8 New Zealanders who had come over to support their teams and visit friends and relatives in the UK. Described by Val Payne as 'little old ladies, plus a few husbands to keep them in order', they all seemed to have had a fantastic time, full of praise for their coach driver who had given them a running commentary as they sped from one historic site to another.

A girl two tables away, carried away no doubt by the excitement of the moment, tackled what looked like a 10 inch cigar to the amazement of some of the Australian party. Some time later, she transferred

to a cigarette, and probably felt better for it. Did she achieve her initial ambition and finish the cigar, or did Mike Pearson, debonair as ever, help her out? We shall never know.

The official photographer, complete with mandatory girl assistant to hold the flash and take the orders, found it hard going. Most people did not want a centre-fold size print, and photos that size cost a lot of money anyhow. The guests did the next best thing and snapped themselves.

As for me, I'm off to get my mallet out of the kitchen cupboard. There's no doubt in my mind that croquet's moving into the big time . . .



John Prince receiving the MacRobertson Shield on behalf of the New Zealand team.

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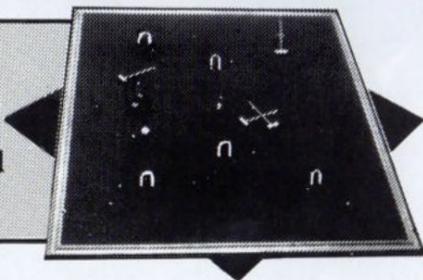
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Obituary

Humphrey Hicks

Humphrey Hicks died on June 9th 1986, aged 82; a funeral service was held at St Andrew's Church, Colyton, on June 16th.

He was born in 1904 at Esher and was educated at Osborne and Dartmouth. From 1943 until his death, he lived at Colyford in Devon.

A keen golfer, he was at one time secretary of the Axe Cliff Golf Club. He had been at various times a member of the Hurlingham Club, Budleigh Salterton Lawn Tennis & Croquet Club, and Sidmouth Cricket & Tennis Club.

He was elected to the Croquet Association as Cadet H.O. Hicks in 1919 and rapidly became a first class player. In 1930 he won the Champion Cup (now the President's Cup) and two years later the Open Championship, whereupon he disappeared from croquet until 1939 when he won the Open Championship again.

He reappeared after the war, winning the Open Championship five times in the next six years from 1947 to 1952. His record of wins in the various Championships from 1930 to 1973 was as follows: -

Opens, 7 times. President's Cup, 5 times. Men's Doubles, 8 times. Men's, 9 times. Mixed Doubles, 4 times. Total, 33.

He was a member of the Test Match teams which travelled to New Zealand to play for the MacRobertson Trophy in 1950 and 1963, and in the 1956 series in England.

Humphrey with his very acute croquet brain devised tactics which made life very difficult for his opponents - he was regarded by some of his contemporaries as the master tactician and their most feared opponent.

Every game has its great characters and Humphrey was undoubtedly one of the greatest characters in the world of croquet. His eccentricities were many, not least his habit of knitting while his opponent was in play; though not a stitch was dropped, he was always completely in touch with the state not only of his own match but also those on surrounding courts.

He was outspoken in his condemnation of the slightest breach of etiquette; he was at the same time a valued friend. His kindnesses were many and his memory will not soon be forgotten.

Bill Perry

Robin A. Godby

Robin Godby died on Sunday, 29th June 1986, from the after effects of a second heart attack.

He was a distinguished and much loved member of the C.A. who 'discovered' croquet in 1960. By 1964 he was selected for the Surrey Cup and played in that and latterly the Chairman's Salver almost every year until 1982. He was an excellent doubles partner with all from the novice to the A class player alike. 'Bad luck, partner' was probably his severest admonition if things went wrong (he was somewhat sterner with himself), but he had a will to win behind his pleasant and easy-going approach which more often than not came to the rescue in a forlorn apparently hopeless situation.

He captained Wales on three occasions in the home internationals, as well as, amongst other things, leading an English team against Ireland at Carrickmines on a most memorable and pleasant occasion. How he managed to do both is beyond the remit of this short obituary, but at

least in some measure it was due to his ability to help in making all such affairs highly enjoyable.

He was very active in the management of croquet and was Chairman of the C.A. from 1980 to 1982. He served on a number of committees, including the Selection Committee, which he chaired from 1980-1983, and the Handicap Coordination Committee from 1976 to 1980 (Chairman from 1978 to 1980), and again from 1982 until his death. He was very concerned about the haphazard nature of croquet handicapping and took steps, with others, to try to rationalise it. This was one of his major contributions to croquet, and there is no doubt that he brought a great deal of experience and hard work to bear on this difficult and sensitive topic.

Robin will be greatly missed by his many friends. Our deepest condolences go to his widow, Elizabeth, and his daughter, Judith.

Mike Pearson

Obituary

Lt.Col. David Matthew Caradoc Prichard (Died 1 June 1986)

The scene - Cheltenham Club at the beginning of the September tournament 1958. A large estate car drives up and is parked diplomatically away in a corner by the bonfires. It disgorges father, mother, 3 brats (5, 9 & 11) and a dog.

This, the first public croquet appearance of the Prichard family, was enough to raise some eyebrows among the Cheltenham old stagers, not used to seeing the younger generation on the lawns. At that tournament David won the D class and in the succeeding 3 years the C, B and then the A class. The Prichards had arrived, and Croquet was never quite the same again.

David was born in 1912. Educated at Wellington College, he got into the Cricket eleven as a bowler of leg breaks and googlies. He was a keen sportsman all his life and later played both polo and golf. He went to Sandhurst and was commissioned in the Royal Welch Fusiliers. He was the first officer to pass both Staff College and Military College of Science.

A training injury brought on severe arthritis which caused him to be invalided from the Army in 1955. It was then he decided to take up croquet, a game his father had played before the first World War. He was a great believer in self-help; he built his own lawn and taught himself the game from books and observation. Improvement was rapid; in 1960 he won his Silver Medal and was the first winner of the Apps Bowl for the most improved player.

From 1961-1974 he played in the eights no less than 12 times - 3 in the Chairman's and 9 in the Surrey Cup (forerunner of the Spencer Ell). He won the latter a record 3 times and was only once more than 2 games behind the winner - a record which gives a clue to his greatest strength as a player, consistency and a resistance to pressure, so that he seemed to have fewer bad patches than other players.

He soon began to put back as much, and more, into the game than he got out of it. Elected to Council in 1964 he was Chairman 1968-1970 and Vice President 1982. His services included Chairman of Selection Committee and Special Appeals Committee and twice Chairman of the Laws Committee. He was responsible for the 1972 redraft of

the laws and wrote his 'Commentary on the Laws' which went to 4 editions and had an enormous influence on aspiring referees.

In the early 1970's the game was extremely short of referees and he helped Betty Prichard to run training courses, from which a good crop of new referees (the writer included) emerged to cope with the rapidly expanding number of tournaments and new clubs. He spent several years doing research into the history of the game and published his 'History of Croquet' in 1981.

This was the first really original book about the game for many years. The Croquet bibliography before Prichard is long and contains some famous names but the books are depressingly similar, indeed derivative. The 'History' shows David at his best - witty and informative - and the only real criticism of it is that we could have wished for a book twice as long.

When David Prichard came into the game, Croquet was stagnating except in a handful of rather exclusive clubs. The last 30 years have seen more changes than in any comparable period of Croquet history. Many of these were inspired by David's work on Council and in retrospect he will be seen as one of the great figures of the game. But not all of the changes pleased him, and he was once heard to paraphrase Churchill 'I have seen a lot of change in my time, not all of it for the good'. But he and Betty Prichard will always be remembered by many of the younger, and not so young, players for the help and sympathy they gave to novices so long as they showed a real interest in the game, and for the enormous knowledge they had about the game and its history.

David's illness brought him great physical discomfort which he bore with admirable fortitude. He went on playing in the teeth of adversity, and without complaint. His last victory was at Budleigh two years ago, but I'm glad that we were able to talk to him as recently as the Coles this year, which he came to watch. Cheltenham Club, and Croquet in general, will be the poorer for David's death. We express our sympathy to Betty and to Robert, Colin and William.

Dennis Moorcraft.

National Tournament Results

INTER-CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

Round 1
Roehampton bt Worcester 4-3
Cheltenham bt Surbiton (wo)
Himley Hall bt Aldermarston 4-3
Ipswich bt Bowdon 4-3
Phyllis Court bt Hurlingham (wo)
Harrow Oak bt Colworth 4-2

Round 2
Nottingham bt Himley Hall 6-1
Ipswich bt Phyllis Court 5-2
Harrow Oak bt West Park 4-3

MARY ROSE TROPHY

Round 1
Harwell bt Colworth 4-3
West Park bt Edinburgh 6-1
Parkstone bt Compton (wo)
Budleigh bt Cheltenham I 6-1
Woking bt Ramsgate 6-1
Roehampton bt Hurlingham 4-3
Parsons Green bt Southwick 4-3
Worcester bt Stourbridge 5-2
Harrow Oak bt Ryde 4-3
Wolverhampton bt Glasgow 4-3
Bristol bt Hunstanton 7-0
Cheltenham II bt Ipswich (wo)

Round 2
Bowdon bt Harwell 5-2
Parkstone bt West Park 6-1
Woking bt Budleigh 5-2
Roehampton bt Parsons Green 7-0
Edgbaston bt Southport
Worcester bt Harrow Oak 5-2
Bristol bt Wolverhampton 7-0
Cheltenham II bt Durham 5-2

Round 3
Bowdon bt Parkstone 4-1
Roehampton bt Woking 6-1
Edgbaston bt Worcester 4-3
Bristol bt Cheltenham II 5-2

LONGMAN CUP

Round 1
Ellesmere bt Southport 5-0

Bowdon bt Chester 3-2
Durham U. bt Tyneside 3-2
Norton Hall bt East Riding 3-2
Ludlow bt Worcester 4-1
Stourbridge bt Edgbaston 4-1
Wolverhampton bt Walsall 3-2
Bretby bt Loughborough 3-2
Thos Cook bt Hunstanton 5-0
Colchester bt Ipswich 3-2
Southwick bt Compton 4-1
Reigate bt Crawley 5-0
Woking bt Surbiton (wo)
Parsons Green bt Roehampton 4-1
Oxford U. bt Harwell 5-0
High Wycombe v. Reading *
Nailsea bt Sidmouth 4-1
Bristol bt Tracey Park 4-1
* not played by deadline - both teams scratched.

Round 2
Ellesmere bt Bowdon 3-2
Edgbaston bt Aldermarston
Durham U. bt Norton Hall 4-1
Nottingham U. bt Nottingham 3-2
Stourbridge bt Ludlow 3-2
Wolverhampton bt Himley Hall 3-0
Thos Cook bt Bretby 3-2
Colchester bt Ramsgate 5-0
Reigate bt Southwick 3-2
Parkstone bt Ryde 4-1
Woking bt Parsons Green 4-1
Hurlingham bt Harrow Oak
West Park bt Colworth 3-2
Bristol bt Nailsea 4-1
Bath bt Cheltenham 4-1

Round 3
Glasgow bt Ellesmere 5-0
Durham U. bt Nottingham U. 5-0
Wolverhampton bt Stourbridge 3-2
Thos Cook bt Colchester 3-2
Reigate bt Parkstone 3-2
Woking bt Hurlingham 4-1
Oxford U. bt West Park 5-0
Bristol bt Bath 3-2

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The Veterans' Championship

Southwick: 16-21 June

Report by Robert Balkwill

The Veterans - and what a nice lot they are! Nor has their skill vanished with the passing years: 'I cannot sing the old songs now! It is not that I deem them low; 'Tis that I can't remember how They go.'

Many remembered very well.

The prizes for the successful finalists were presented by Mr G. Paxton, the Chairman & President of the Sussex County Croquet & Lawn Tennis Club. In the course of his speech he thanked Miss Pat Shine and Mrs Edith Tucker and the many others who had worked hard, and to good purpose, to produce the tournament we enjoyed so much. These thanks are repeated here, with warm affection.

Veterans are not afraid, as they may have been in their salad days, of giving expression to their affections: as witness not only the pleasant habit that has developed of shaking hands at the end of a game but even, in some cases, of kissing one's opponent. Indeed one competitor was reprimanded by his opponent for not kissing her. Thankfully, the kissing has been restricted to those occasions when the opponents are of different sexes;

it does not seem likely that the less attractive mannerisms of soccer teams will be copied on croquet lawns.

A week's tournament consists of something much more than the playing of the finals. Most of us did not reach them. But all of us enjoyed several sunny days of croquet. All of us - some perhaps more than others. The player who, from somewhere near A-baulk, missed a 30-yard roquet but ran hoop 2, without touching the wires, has a memory he will no doubt treasure. Others may hope that their memories will be shorter lived. We may find comfort in G.K. Chesterton's dictum that if a thing is worth doing, it is worth doing badly.

Throughout the week, a noticeable characteristic seemed to be that, although there was much accurate hitting and precise manoeuvring, rather fewer breaks were put together than one would have expected. Is this an oddity of the Southwick courts - as was suggested by one who knew them well - or is it just one of those things?

And so we came to the Finals. All the games were a pleasure to watch, although they seemed all to share the characteristic just mentioned. At least, whilst I was

watching them, there were not many breaks covering a number of hoops. So perhaps it really is an oddity of the courts.

In the Open Singles for the Rothwell Cup, Mr P. Macdonald beat Colonel E.L. Vulliamy in a match that was always interesting and hung in the balance for a long time. The Level Singles for the Felixstowe Cup was contested by Mr and Mrs W.T. Cox. Mrs Cox contrived to sustain a commanding position for most of the game, and this, together with more than his fair share of trouble that her husband was having with the odd hoop or two, won her the match. In the Handicap Singles for the Strickland Cup, Mr F. Beard beat Miss J. Loveys, with the help of some very accurate hitting. However he lost to Mr R. Smith in the Open Handicap Singles for the Meredith Cup. The Longman Trophies for the Handicap



Mr G.F. Rothwell, who reached the final of the Process

Doubles produced an excellent game between Mr & Mrs P.A. Dwerryhouse against Mr W.J. Sturdy and Mr J. Exell. This game started slowly (why do handicap doubles start slowly?) but built up to a closely fought game in which the former were victorious. This game contained a very good example of the fact that a spectator often sees more of the game: one side was for Hoop 1 and three balls were in contact on No 1 Corner Spot. The obvious shot to play was surely to play the cannon so that one ball was croqueted to Hoop 2 and the other roqueted to Hoop 1. Instead, a simple cannon was played, giving a rush to Hoop 1, and leaving the other ball behind. Why is the better shot obvious to the spectators but not taken by the player, who may well be more skilled than any of the spectators? Is it because the spectators have a panoramic view of the game, whilst the player suffers from a kind of tunnel vision? If so, there must be a lesson to be learnt.

A wonderful tournament. Thank you all very much. May next year be as enjoyable, with not only entries from those newly attaining the rank of Senior Citizen but also from those who were prevented from taking part this year by circumstances that will happily not prevail next year. They were missed.

Play-Off:
Beard bt Miss Loveys +16

Meredith Cup
(Open Handicap Singles)

1st Round:
F.A. Beard (9) bt Mrs P.A. Dwerryhouse (6½) +16; Mrs R.F.A. Crane (12) bt Mrs C. Cox (5½) (wo); Mrs E.A. Maplettoft (5½) bt G.F. Paxton (7) +3; Mrs E. Cox (4½) bt L.B. Barnes (5) (wo)

2nd Round:
Mrs E.G. Ross (8) bt R.G. Balkwill (7) +15; Miss J. Wraith (15) bt G.F. Rothwell (3) +8; H.C. Green (3½) bt Mrs C.W. Marshall (10) +16; D.M. Horne (5½) bt F.F. Ross (8) +6; Miss P. Shine (7) bt D.C.A. Goolden (9) +20; Mrs H. Cruden (10) bt Mrs J. Barnes (8) (wo); Miss J. Loveys (12) bt Miss B. Dennant (8) +5; Beard bt Mrs Crane +10; Mrs Cox bt Mrs Maplettoft +19; R.J. Smith (8) bt F.J. Exell (5½) +13; E.P. Davey (11) bt W.J. Sturdy (3½) +9; Mrs S. French (12) bt P.A. Dwerryhouse (6½) +8; Mrs K.B. Irwin (9) bt Mrs E.A. Staddon (7) +9; G.A. Hutchesson (4) bt Col E.L.L. Vulliamy (3) +2; Miss D. Harding (14) bt R.F.A. Crane (4) +6; L.P.M. Macdonald (3) bt Mrs E. Lewis (8) +6

3rd Round:
Mrs Ross bt Miss Wraith +2; Horne bt Green +2; Mrs Cruden bt Miss Shine +9; Beard bt Miss Loveys +7; Smith bt Mrs Cox +12; Davey bt Mrs Marshall +4

Final:
Miss Loveys bt Marshall +4

Final:
Miss Loveys bt Marshall +4

Continued on page 27

Schools Croquet

Hurlingham: 7 July The Schools Final

Report by Peter Dorke

The Royal Grammar School Colchester won this tournament - let's get that said straight away - and it was the best possible result for croquet and for the Schools Competition. They were not the favourites and they did not win by the overwhelming might of their stars. They won because they had a General, nay, a Field Marshall, in Jonathan Collis, who inspired his singles players to magnificent feats and outmanoeuvred his own opponents in the doubles. His team was also the best-dressed - by some way.

But, to begin at the beginning (now where have I heard that before?), it is certainly worth mentioning that everyone turned up in good time, eager to get on to those immaculate Hurlingham lawns. Well, nearly immaculate: it is a pity that they could not have been cut for the tournament and the lines freshly marked; a pity too, that there were not enough balls available, with the result that two games started late, after a frantic search for second colours by Brian Macmillan, without whose help this tournament would have been a dead duck.

A shaky start, then, with the manager's nerves not a whit improved by seeing his team drawn against Manchester Grammar School in the semi-final - positively the last time that he asks Chris Hudson to make the draw.

He wasn't the only one affected by nerves: Ludlow's Stuart Packer, the lowest handicapped of the students, the renowned 'Petulant' Packer of last year's final, was in bits from the start, wondering aloud, as is his wont, why he bothered playing croquet. His Manchester opponent, David Lendrum, occasionally allowed this stream of self-abuse to upset him but played steadily enough to be in a strong position when time was called. He was clearly about to put the game beyond Stuart's reach when he missed a shot with all the balls together in the centre of the lawn. At this, Stuart... but we'll come back to this game when we have taken a look at the other two games in this match.

Tim Nock of Ludlow had long since beaten David Knappett +11, inspite of the fence of 8 bisques set up at the Lawnside. Merrill Rowan and Bob Beckett were about to be beaten, though only by +1 by Manchester's

Martin Gill and Dan Kelly, the only teacher playing in the tournament. Ludlow's pair had kept well ahead for three hours only to be caught and passed at the last moment by a late Kelly charge.

So Ludlow's hopes rested on Stuart and here he was leaping excitedly onto the lawn, the hero of the hour, to play... his opponent's ball. I shall not dwell upon his agony but that was the end of Ludlow and Manchester went into the final, confident, I believe, of winning it.

After all, Colchester, although they had already beaten Dulwich in the other semi-final, had not walked all over them. True, in the doubles Jonathan Collis and Nigel Varnell had won by a comfortable +22 but Robert Fulford, giving away 8½ bisques, had achieved a hard-won victory by only +5. Robert's play was a pleasure to watch and Eric Solomon, when he arrived after lunch to referee and present the prizes, immediately singled out Robert as the most stylish player of the tournament. (He had kind words, too, for Merrill Rowan). Colchester's second singles player, Carl Docherty, was having the greatest difficulty finishing his game with Claude Andrew of Dulwich and it was finally abandoned in the interests of lunch and an early start to the final.

Colchester, then, were not heavily fancied. Nice lads, a credit to their school and to their Headmaster (who was present, the first Head, incidentally, to appear at the finals of a Schools Championship) but not a match for Manchester, the first-ever



1986 Champions - Colchester Royal Grammar School. Front (L to R): Jonathan Collis and Robert Fulford. Back: Carl Docherty and Nigel Varnell



Peter Dorke marshals the teams together for the prize-giving

winner of the competition and now the victors over Ludlow. And so to lunch.

Lunch was very tasty. It was also too expensive for most of us - something else to remember for next year.

The afternoon's play, like that of the morning, was to be interrupted by occasional torrential showers. These did not deter for a moment the intrepid spectators and one lady in particular sat tight beneath her umbrella throughout. Dulwich College and Ludlow played off for third place, Dulwich giving in gracefully and quickly to leave the lawns free for the Big Match. As ever, double-banking was the bane of the tournament but as Ludlow and Dulwich faded away, Colchester and Manchester gave us the best match, not just of the tournament but of the whole Schools Championship. In the singles, identically pegged-out matches resulted in exciting finishes and it was difficult to know at which lawnside to station oneself to best advantage.

To add to the thrill Manchester's David Lendrum at last hit in to beat Robert Fulford (not taking off from blue to the peg, by the way, but calmly rushing black to the middle first), while Carl Docherty of Colchester evened things up with a +16 win over Richard Stubbs. And so everything hung upon the doubles, which, as we now realised, had developed into the Schools Match of the Year.

Jonathan and Nigel won this match +8 on time, which suggests that Manchester had a chance of winning, but by the time Manchester came to take the last turn of the match, Colchester's dominance was complete. The fact that Dan Kelly played the last shot when only his partner's ball stood the slightest chance of scoring enough points to win, is the clearest indication of how far he was rattled by Jonathan's cool indifference to his abrasive style and how far he had come to regard his partner as an unfortunate impediment.

To the end, Colchester maintained the highest standards of the game and were not just

worthy winners but popular winners in every sense of the word. It had been a good day's croquet and lessons had been learned, which is appropriate enough for a Schools Championship: we can begin by ousting the teachers and make it students only in future competitions; we must, consider eliminating 'banditry' by introducing level play. The winners this year had immaculate handicaps but other entrants were sustained by a fortunate non-acquaintance with the handicapper. Young people like to know who really is the best player. They are not interested in the handicapped game.

To finish, just a word about the referees, those unsung heroes: Eris Solomon watched play with one harsh, critical eye on the lawns and another on the sky (his umbrella having suffered severe spoke failure); Peter Dorke was touchingly grateful for every chance to adjudicate and gauche enough at the end to praise his own managerial efforts; Chris Hudson summed it all up when he said 'This is my idea of Heaven - watching Schools croquet with its freshness and enthusiasm'.

RESULTS

Semi-finals
Manchester Grammar School bt Ludlow College 2-1 (Manchester names first)
D. Lendrum (12) bt S. Packer (5) +6(T); D. Knappett (16) lost to T. Nock (8) -11; M. Gill & D.J. Kelly (14½) bt Miss M. Rowan & R. Beckett (27) +1(T)

Colchester Royal Grammar School beat Dulwich College 2-0 (1 game unfinished)
(Colchester names first)
R. Fulford (7½) bt J. Meers (16) +5; C. Docherty vs. C. Andrew (unfinished); J. Collis & N. Varnell (28) bt A. Tatman & J. Pearce (28) +22

Final
Colchester RGS bt Manchester GS 2-1
R. Fulford lost to D. Lendrum -4; C. Docherty bt R. Stubbs +16; J. Collis & N. Varnell bt D.J. Kelly & M. Gill +8(T)

Play-Off for 3rd Place
Ludlow bt Dulwich 2-1
Miss Rowan lost to J. Meers -14; R. Beckett bt C. Andrew +12; S. Packer & T. Nock bt A. Tatman & J. Pearce +11

Croquet at the Universities

Durham: 22-24 June

Durham retain University Championship

Report from Oxford University by Mark Wormald & Nick Luff

Once again Durham University played host to the University Croquet Championships this year, the competition being officially recognised by the British Universities Sports



Football or Croquet? That is the question!

Federation for the first time. Four teams had entered for the tournament. However Nottingham withdrew a week before the competition began, because of problems raising a team, and Cambridge failed to appear on the first (or any subsequent) day. Thus it was left to Oxford to challenge last year's champions, Durham, for this magnificent trophy.

The main team event consisted of two doubles and four singles matches, played under level advanced rules, a tie to be decided by a four-a-side football match (a new innovation). In the first of the doubles matches, Nick Luff and Mark Wormald, for Oxford, left the Durham pair with only one ball and still four hoops to make. Paul Hetherington then proceeded to hit the ball three-



Durham's winning team: (L to R) 'P.J.' Robson, Duncan Reeve, Paul Hetherington, and Mark Hutchisson.

quarters of the way through penult with his lift shot, and set up a good three-ball break. He wired himself from one ball on going through 4-back, so hit his pioneer ball at penult instead. He then repeated the manoeuvre after penult to win the game by +3. Durham also took the other doubles match, by concentrating on the croquet rather than the football training.

In the afternoon singles matches, both Dave Peterson and Nick Luff secured quick victories for Oxford (despite the failed triples). Mark Hutchisson restored Durham's lead by beating Dave Barker +5. With Oxford looking unbeatable in the football, this left Duncan Reeve needing to beat Mark Wormald in the last singles game to retain the trophy. This he did, winning +4 after a close 2-ball finish, giving Durham a 4-2 victory to retain the Championship Trophy, and without recourse to the football.

The Durham players also looked like monopolising the singles championship (also played level advanced) with Mark Wormald the only Oxford player to reach the semi-finals. However, he went on to win the event, beating Paul Hetherington +16 in the final.



Mark Wormald, Oxford's Secretary, who won the individual title.

The slow lawns at Durham did not encourage adventurous play and one of the early games had to be relegated to a lawn

known affectionately as 'The Cabbage Patch' due to pressure from the Durham handicap competition being run at the same time. However, everyone there enjoyed the event, and we would like to thank Durham for their hospitality and congratulate them on their success. We would also like to thank Paul Hetherington and Chris Hudson for organising the event. For the future, we hope to arrange both handicap and level competitions next year, to try to encourage as many Universities as possible to take part. We also hope that the football will remain an integral part of this important event.

Finally, the Oxford team would like to express their gratitude to their captain, David Peterson, for his relaxed approach and endless encouragement to lesser players - given by losing whenever possible.

RESULTS

Team Championship

(Durham names first)
P. Hetherington & P.J. Robson bt M. Wormald & N. Luff +3; D. Reeve & M. Hutchisson bt D. Peterson & D. Barker +7;
P. Hetherington lost to D. Peterson -19; D. Reeve bt M. Wormald +4; P.J. Robson lost to N. Luff -9; M. Hutchisson bt D. Barker +5.

Match Result

Durham 4, Oxford 2

Singles Championship

Block 'A'

3 wins: M. Wormald
1 win: P. Hetherington (-4), D. Barker (-6), M. Hutchisson (-30)

Block 'B'

2 wins: P.J. Robson (+29), D. Reeve (+23), N. Luff (-4)
0 wins: D. Peterson

Semi-finals

M. Wormald bt D. Reeve +9
P. Hetherington bt P.J. Robson +6

Final

M. Wormald bt P. Hetherington +16
Play-Off for 3rd place P.J. Robson bt D. Reeve +2

APPENDIX 1

The adventures of Nick Luff, a University Croquet player

Sunday 21st

Leave Oxford at 4.30pm, eager to win Championships. 'Brown smoke' appears from car engine on M1 (subsequently found to be rusty water from leaking radiator). Find pub with television at 6.59pm, in time for 7.00pm kick-off England vs. Argentina. After England's defeat, the now dejected team continue on their way. Arrive in Durham at 10.30pm and telephone for directions to guest house. Directions given involve driving through the same set of traffic lights four times in four different directions (odd that).

Monday 22nd

Arrive at the lawns to find no opponents. Football punctured by cricketers. Immediate setting up of fund for purchase of new football. Dinner at Pizza restaurant. Demolish two 'one will be more than enough pizzas', completely out-playing opposition.

Tuesday 23rd

Lose University Team Championship, and triple peel fails - bad day.

Wednesday 24th

Mallet breaks. Leave Durham at 5.30pm. Exhaust falls off car on A1 near Wetherby. Walk back to house to telephone for help. Attacked by five very large dogs - bitten on arm and leg. Find garage to repair car and doctor to repair arm and leg. Return to pub where two team members had been left, to find David Barker madly in love with barmaid. Drag him back to car after 5th tender farewell to find starter motor on the blink (old problem this). Eventually get car started and arrive back in Oxford at 2.30am. - worse day!

Final thought - If the triple peel had come off it would have all been worth it.



Oxford play dice whilst in the background Duncan Reeve ties up the title for Durham.

Oxford: 4-6 July Revival of a Tournament

Report by Robert Prichard

Only once since the War had a tournament been held at Oxford. In the 1957 Final, Richard Rothwell beat Barbara Chittenden (whose father, Dr Grundy, compiled the hitting-in statistics and 'was' Oxford croquet between the Wars). The effort of that revival and its dreadful weather caused the Organiser to drop dead three weeks later; so luckily this time, the weather was goodish and the effort shared.

Ian Plummer charmed the Parks authorities into creating four lawns on the cricket field and allowing us to use the cricket pavilion. Adam Berry arranged Entertainment: an ever-open bar and dinner at the Randolph. David Peterson borrowed from several other clubs enough equipment to cope with his successful marketing that had attracted 27 players (the highest since 1914 in an Open event at Oxford). They included 11 entrants in this year's Open Championship, 3 other players in recent Eights, the current holders of the Apps Bowl and the All-England Handicap, and two visitors from Ireland.

The manager, Robert Prichard, ran a hybrid between a Swiss and a Swift, where players were matched roughly according to percentage wins but faster players got more games. Everyone had the guaranteed minimum of six, except the manager who was consoled by winning the beer consumption prize. He aimed to put on more games in the 48 hours between 5.30 on Friday and 5.30 on Sunday than the 107 played in the whole six days of the 1957 tournament. However, this target was missed by 7, because of freedom from time limits; slight reluctance to play on the two regular University courts away from the cricket field; and the distractions of Wimbledon, poker dice, bell ringing, strawberries, and Emma Carlisle (who provided lunches and teas).

Only 16 of the 27 could play on the Friday evening. Jerry Guest arrived last, but won and went on winning throughout the weekend, earning the prize of a large framed photograph by Adam Berry of Dreaming Spies. His best wins were +22 over a dreaming John Walters and +15 and +14 over the two spires Andrew Sedcole and Thomas Coles, his first ever victory over

the latter. His four other wins were all close.

A spurious second was Robert Prichard with four out of five, but these included +1 over Ian Plummer and almost losing by 17(TP) in the sixth turn against Ian Bond, but eventually winning. Bond got his revenge by beating Ian Vincent +25(TP), who had just beaten Bob Smith +18(TP).

The only other two successful triples involved George Noble, who beat Adam Berry +18(TP) and Danny Palmer +14(TPO). Fortunately there was some bad play too, mostly of the entertaining rather than the exhausting variety.

Despite a little batology (study of brambles, ie. the two Observatory lawns were not as good) it will not be battology (unnecessary repetition) if the Oxford tournament again becomes a regular fixture. The Oxford players can be assured that their work was entirely successful.

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RESULTS

(per cent wins)

7/7 wins: J. Guest
4/5 wins: R.D.C. Prichard
6/8 wins: G. Noble
4/6 wins: M. Wormald
5/8 wins: I. Bond, A. Mrozinski,
N.G. Hyne
4/7 wins: A. Sedcole, B. Sykes, I.G.
Vincent
5/9 wins: S. Williams
4/8 wins: T. Coles, R. Smith, J.
Walters, N. Luff
3/6 wins: D. Cross, D. Gaunt
4/9 wins: D. Palmer
3/7 wins: A. Berry, I. Plummer,
W.E. Lamb
3/8 wins: D. Peterson
2/7 wins: J. Short, M. Finn, C.
Lamb
1/8 wins: R. Hobbs, D. Beatty

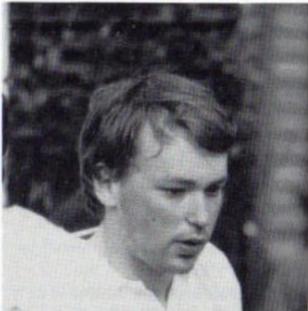
Hurlingham: 12 June

Oxford win Frank Cooper Trophy

Report by Tim Harrison

This year's Varsity match was rather overshadowed by England's dramatic World Cup win late the previous night. Indeed in the ensuing celebrations David Peterson, the Oxford captain, managed to sustain a severely sprained ankle. However following in Bryan Robson's footsteps, his presence in the team was felt to be so psychologically important that he played in the morning singles, but he was never really in his game against Tim Harrison, the Cambridge captain, who won convincingly. That was the only joy for Cambridge in the singles, as Oxford won the remaining five games with some competent if undistinguished play. So in Frank Cooper's second year of sponsorship, their home team retained the trophy that was first presented last year.

The afternoon's doubles were



Tim Harrison, Secretary of Cambridge University Croquet Club.

played in a relaxed atmosphere after an excellent lunch and then breaks for tea and champagne. Ian Plummer deputised for David Peterson as the match had been decided, and as usual, there were some interesting doubles pairings. Overall the Cambridge side were disappointing. Ian Whiteley looks to be a promising player, but short of match experience, and for Oxford, Mark Wormald played well having improved from last year.

Frank Coopers presented the players with engraved hip flasks which should prove useful for those early season tournaments, and Richard Hilditch, the referee for the day, was given some choice marmalade and mustard - to be consumed separately, I hope.

RESULTS

(Oxford names first)

David Peterson lost to Tim Harrison -25
Adam Berry bt Guy Whillock +25
Mark Wormald bt Andrew Gregory +19
Nick Luff bt Colin Wright +24
David Cohen bt Ian Whiteley +13
Andrew Sedcole bt Keith Davis +23
Berry & Sedcole lost to Harison & Whiteley -21
Wormald & Cohen bt Whillock & Wright +9
Luff & Plummer bt Gregory & Davis +10

Match Result:

Oxford bt Cambridge 7-2

Short Croquet

Edgbaston: 15 June Edgbaston win Midlands 'shoot out'

Report by Terry Greenwood

On the previous day, the West Midland Federation had played the Australians at Edgbaston, and to complete a busy weekend the Short Croquet team event was played at the same venue, with Edgbaston 'A' and 'B', Himley and Wolverhampton taking part. As many cynics of Short Croquet would say, 'After the Lord Mayor's Show . . .'

Janet Assheton of Edgbaston had graciously stepped in to organise the event in the absence of Terry Greenwood who was on Mary Rose duty at Bristol. She found herself with a small headache due to the wide range of handicaps, but even so, managed to produce four blocks with a member of each team in each block that gave every competitor a sporting chance.

It was a pleasure to see Brian Hallam leading Edgbaston 'A'. His previous day's defeat at the hands of the Australians did not affect his game and he mastered the change to record three wins out of three games in his block. Ken Townsend, one of the four veterans in the Wolverhampton team, also managed three wins, whilst his team mate, Don Lenfestey brought a wry smile to the face of his opponent, Des Willetts of Himley. Don won +13 against Des, but the insult to Des was that Don somehow managed to peel Des's ball and scored Des's only point in that match. Alas, it was Don's only victory.

All reports indicate that although excitement was muted during the match itself, when the scores were added up eyes twinkled at the thought of a John Wayne epic occurring with the shoot out. Wolverhampton and

Edgbaston 'B' had tied for third place, and some indifferent shots at the peg produced a win for Wolverhampton.

This was followed by the shoot out for first place, and into the arena stepped Jim Potter for Himley and Brian Hallam for Edgbaston. Would 'quick-fire' Potter triumph against the steady, rock-like Hallam? In the end, Potter produced more shots per minute than Hallam, but scored less hits.

Opinion differs on the merits of Short Croquet. Some of the competitors were 'enjoying' their first taste of the game, whilst others had played before. Some were not too keen on the new game whilst others thought it was super. However, all the participants agreed it was an enjoyable afternoon, with perfect croquet weather.

Thanks are due to Edgbaston for allowing the use of the lawns, especially so soon after the previous day's event, to Janet Assheton for her last-minute organisation, and especially to those who took part in the new competition to enable the event to get off the ground, even though they prefer the full game.

RESULTS

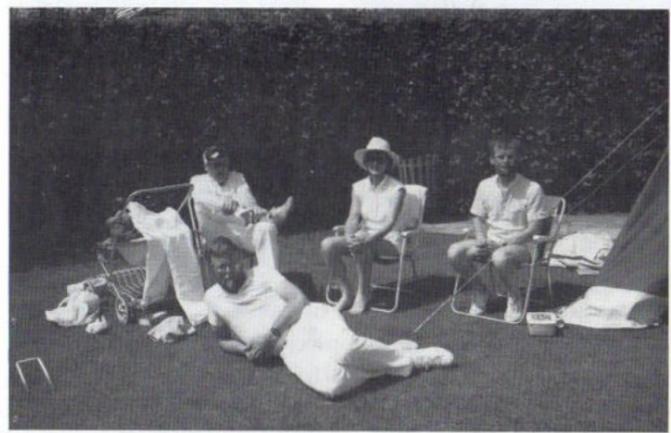
7 wins: Edgbaston 'A', Himley
5 wins: Edgbaston 'B', Wolverhampton

Shoot-Outs

1st Place
Edgbaston 'A' 2/5
Himley 2/5
(Edgbaston won 'sudden death' shoot out 1-0)

3rd Place
Wolverhampton 1/5
Edgbaston 'B' 1/5
(Wolverhampton won 'sudden death' shoot out 2-1)

BOWDON WIN NORTH WEST REGIONAL MATCH



Bowdon's team that won the North West Regional beat, taking time off for lunch. (L to R) Sitting: Colin Wild, Liz Taylor and Tim Hastie. In front, Mike Elder.

Buxton: 15 June George Potter wins Magnum Match Trophy

Report by Chris Hudson

This was the second year we had held a Short Croquet tournament in the Pavilion Gardens at Buxton, and it turned out to be a glorious sunny day, in great contrast to the solid rain we had experienced the year before.

Barry Keen was once again managing the tournament, and for the first time in his life found himself dealing with a situation where entries were accepted on the day. Anyone who turned up by 10am and wanted to play could do so!

We received strong support from the new clubs that were formed locally last year - Ashby, Leicester, and Loughborough - and Alison Ewbank was there representing Ripon, where a new club was formed this year.



Alison Ewbank (Ripon) agonises over a shot. Garry Norman of Ashby is in the background.

George Potter generously donated a Magnum of Champagne for the winner of the individual event, and the opportunity was taken to combine the individual tournament with the East Midlands Regional round of the National Short Croquet team competition.

Some good croquet was played and although many of the players had only been playing for one season, there were plenty of 4-ball breaks in evidence. The result of the team event hung more or less on the last matches to finish and at one stage it looked as though there would be a tie and a 'shoot out', but in the end that did not materialise.

As the individual event progressed, one could almost feel the tension increasing as the players began to take it much more seriously. The semi-finals were needle matches, with Barry Keen determined to demonstrate that experience could win

through. With considerable effort, he managed to beat Brian Melody, a player just as determined as himself, but the final against George Potter proved too much.

By the time the final was finished, many of the competitors had gone home, so George was left to celebrate his victory by opening the Magnum and sharing it with his family and those who were still present. A generous gesture, much appreciated by all, which gave the spectators even more to talk about!

RESULTS:

Team event

Block 1

3 wins: K. Hillier

2 wins: J. Lord

1 win: A. Szlamp

Block 2

2 wins: B. Melody, G. Norman, A. Whiting

0 wins: Ms D. Brass

Block 3

3 wins: G. Potter

2 wins: R. Fielding

1 win: B. Liddle

0 wins: J. Kirby

Block 4

3 wins: M. Falconer

2 wins: F.L. Whittaker

1 win: N. Brocklehurst

0 wins: Mrs B. Melody

Team result:

7 wins: 'High Peak' (Potter, Brocklehurst, Norman & Wildblood)

6 wins: Ashby (Hillier, Brass, Kirby & Falconer) and Loughborough (Lord, Mr & Mrs Melody, & Fielding)

5 wins: Leicester (Whittaker, Szlamp, Liddle & Whiting)

The Magnum Match

1st Round

Lord bt Wildblood +6; Hillier bt Norman +3; Fielding bt Mrs L. Taylor +2; Potter bt Kirby +1; Brocklehurst bt Mrs Melody +5; Keen bt Mrs S. Rastall +11; Melody bt Ms Brass +12; Hudson bt Ms Ewbank +4



Jeremy Lord (Loughborough) ponders his next move.

Short Croquet



George Potter (Buxton) also led his team to victory.

2nd Round

Hillier bt Lord +14; Potter bt Fielding +2; Keen bt Brocklehurst +2; Melody bt Hudson +2

Semi-finals

Potter bt Hillier +4; Keen bt Melody +2

Final

Potter bt Keen +14



Barry Liddle (Leicester) taking croquet.

Continued from page 22

French +5; Mrs Irwin bt Hutcheson +5; Macdonald bt Miss Harding +13

4th Round:

Mrs Ross bt Horne +8; Beard bt Mrs Cruden +2; Smith bt Davey +7; Macdonald bt Mrs Irwin +23

Semi-Finals

Beard bt Mrs Ross +19; Smith bt Macdonald +4(T)

Final:

Smith bt Beard +7

'Y' Semi-Finals:

Ross bt Mrs Dwerryhouse +4; Crane bt Exell +10

'Y' Final:

Ross bt Crane +16

Handicap Doubles

Semi-Finals:

Mr & Mrs Dwerryhouse (13) bt Macdonald & Mrs Browne; Sturdy & Exell (9) bt Rothwell & Miss Shine (10) +1

Final:

Mr & Mrs Dwerryhouse bt Sturdy & Exell +5(T)

Equipment Review

The Townsend "Aspinall" Mallet

Reviewed by Martin French

Like many clubs, we recently received details from Townsend Croquet of a new mallet they have to offer - the "Aspinall". At £29.95 it seemed worth investigating further, so we have had one to review for a few weeks. In that time it has been tried by players of all standards, with many differing styles and grips.

Players comments

Views varied widely, as one might expect over something so personal as the "right" mallet. Nonetheless it was generally well-liked, with the exception of its weight. The sample sent for review was at the heavier end of the range, weighing 3lb 5oz. Several players who were used to mallets under 3lb found they could not swing it comfortably.

Most liked the grip, commenting that the leather-bound octagonal grip was slightly thicker than they were used to. Some thought it whippier than other wooden shafts, but when we tried comparing its flexibility with several Jaques shafts, it actually seemed slightly less springy. This is not surprising, as the hickory shaft is very slightly thicker than those.

Many players were wary of the faces; the lignum vitae head has black polypropylene faces bonded to it. Plastic faces are the subject of some prejudice: their strongest critics are often those who have never played a full game with them! In play, the faces caused little comment. One player disliked their black colour, as he found it difficult to judge just when the face was about to strike the ball.

When delivered, the faces looked very shiny. For the first hour's play, it did seem that in the split shot, the striker's ball would go off at odd angles, but this effect soon disappeared.

The mallet was supplied without bevel edges, but with so many people trying their hand with it, it soon acquired them! However, the main area of the faces remained completely flat and true - the main advantage of plastic over wood.

Overall comments on how it played ranged from "lovely" to "a bit rustic", while one player complained that "it doesn't have very good tactics"!

Description

The mallet is of traditional materials and construction, apart from the faces. The head is of lignum vitae with an inlaid sight-line. For the "standard"

weights (3lb 2oz to 3lb 5oz), the head measures 2.35 inches square, by just over 9 inches long. The black polypropylene faces are bonded to the head. There are no brass bands, nor any needed. It is likely that Townsend will shortly experiment with an alternative plastic, Tufnal, which has been widely used to reface ageing mallets.

The shaft is hickory, with an octagonal leather-bound grip that extends further down the shaft than usual. The standard length is between 36 and 37 inches. Shorter shafts can be supplied to order. By using a narrower head, weights down to 2lb 13oz can be supplied.

Townsend seem happy to supply these mallets with the required length shaft and to a specified weight, even at so reasonable a cost.

The cost of £29.95 includes VAT, and Townsend prefer to deal through local sports shops where possible. At present, delivery for standard mallets can take less than one week.



Martin French (Ipswich)

Verdict

Many of the mallets sold to clubs and their members fall into two categories: the "Colonial" type weighing 3lb-plus, and the narrower "Solomon" variety weighing under 3lb. In the last few years several new mallets have come on to the market, most of which imitate these traditional mallets. They have used modern materials as a way of keeping down the price to a reasonable level, whilst providing more robust and reliable mallets. Some of these alternatives have proved to be successful, others less so.

The standard "Aspinall" plays much like those in the former Continued on page 36

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Club News



Sally Watson mastering the roll.

The Woking Club held its first Pro-Am croquet tournament on May Day Bank Holiday Monday. Twelve eager beginners had been

WOKING The First Woking 'Pro-Am' Tournament

Report by Paul Watson

invited along by our members or enticed by a letter sent out to the club's tennis section. They were each partnered for the day by one of our croquet members in a modified small lawn double's tournament, with the beginners being allowed two bisques per turn, once they had hit in.

This format enabled many of them to grasp the main principles of the game fairly quickly, and by the end of the day some of these novices were making breaks of 3 or 4 hoops.

The event generated quite a lot of interest, with one person deciding to join the club there and then and several others planning to come along for another game.



Edward and Geoffrey Cuttle concentrating hard on getting it right!

Photographs by Ian McDiarmid.

TYNESIDE

Tyneside's Spring Bank Holiday Tournament

Report by Syd Jones

The Spring Bank Holiday weekend broke new ground for the Tyneside Club. It was the first time that croquet had been played at Churchill Playing Fields, Whitley Bay, and it was the first tournament organised by the club for its members.

The new lawns were somewhat rough and sloping, so a Short Croquet tournament was arranged, like the Granada affair the week previously. In spite of the amended game and high winds, the fourteen people taking part had a marvellous weekend, finishing with a wine and cheese party for the trophy presentation to the eventual winner, John Portwood of Consett.

Many local people and passers-by were interested in the games. A prospective member even attended from as far away as Morpeth (15 miles) to find out about the club and croquet.

The success of the weekend can also be measured by two new members enrolling (and paying!) and by sixteen people enrolling for a free coaching lesson before, we hope, eventually joining also.

Tyneside Club members with their sponsor: (L to R) Jack & Elizabeth Sbotton (Club members), Paul Richardson (Manager, Newcastle Building Society), Syd Jones (Club Secretary), Derek Trotman (Club President) and Alice Jones (Club Treasurer).



Change at Tyneside

At the Club's AGM in April, the Club Committee regretfully accepted the resignation of the founder Club Secretary, John Meads, who is planning to leave the area.

It was entirely due to John's efforts that the Club was even thought about. He organised the lawn and a gathering of would-be players to get us started, and has led us in two years to what we all consider to be a well-established club.



John Meads - leaving a legacy behind him.

Geordie Farewell to the Longman Cup

Last year was one of triumph as we entered the croquet scene. We bristled with so many bisques and played on the grass so green. But this year its so Long-man to the Cup we liked to clean.

We played on the courts of Durham and played the best we could. But hoops - we could not run them, though most of us thought we should.

But this year its so Long-man

to the Cup we lost so soon.

That's the way I suppose it goes as long as bisque days we leave behind.

Everybody in the club well knows that now the glory is just in the mind.

But this year even though its so Long-man We'll soon get round to the 'Mary Rose'

And good luck to Durham - and may they keep the Cup in the North!

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S INSTITUTES

Wilma Mulliner, right, (Steve's Mum, and former National Treasurer of the WI), collects her prize from Chris Bird, Chairman of the WI's Sport & Leisure Committee.



It runs in the family!

For the second year running, the WI included croquet as one of the topics covered in their course for 'Sports Activists' from their County Federations.

Chris Hudson coached some 20 activists for an afternoon, and the next day members of all the courses taking place at Denman College, the WI's Training Centre, were invited to take part in a doubles Golf Croquet competition.

32 players took part in the

I can only repeat the words on the tankard presented by the Club to thank him - 'To John Meads, for bringing Association Croquet to Tyneside'.

event which was organised by Marion Fenn, the WI's National Sports Officer. Everyone had a great time and the event was won by Muriel Wardle and Wilma Mulliner. They both received a WI mug for their labours!

Strangely enough, one of the courses being run at Denman College at the time was on Meteorology, and the course tutors who took part in the competition were from the Meteorological Office, where a croquet club has recently been formed.

The photograph shows John at the Club Dinner in January passing the champagne filled Longman Cup to the reason for him leaving the North-East!

An Unusual Match

Report by Peter Dorke

Ludlow College v. Monaughty House Croquet Club (Non-affiliated)

Ludlow's motto - one of several hundred - is 'We'll play anyone, anywhere', which is how we came to accept an invitation to play at Monaughty House, near Presteigne on the Welsh border. Or the English border if you're standing over there looking this way - which you are if you're in Monaughty which is - just - in Wales. I should state, without further prevarication, that we were beaten 4-0 in a match consisting only of doubles games and played, strictly to local rules, on a lawn whose Eastern boundary is roughly eight feet lower than its Western boundary, though 80% of the lawn is quite flat. The accompanying plan reveals the ghastly secret of the Monaughty court.

The members of the club are all craftsmen engaged in the restoration of Monaughty House, a one-time monastery (Welsh: mynachdy, hence Monaughty), now privately owned. Work has been going on for some eight years and there must be another ten year's labour left in it still. The eventual intention is, I gathered, to open it to the public. The many fascinating features of the house include a kitchen which was abandoned abruptly in the Edwardian era and remains exactly as left, an intricately designed mediaeval garden, an upstairs loo consisting of a hole into a long chute falling directly to the garden, flushed by rainwater through channels from the roof (sheer hell during a dry

spell!) and a magnificent stone-covered roof, every stone secured by a hand-made peg. All this is surrounded by wooded hills from which fierce Welsh tribesmen would undoubtedly descend, were it not for the presence of the patrolling helicopters and fighter planes which are the curse of the border.

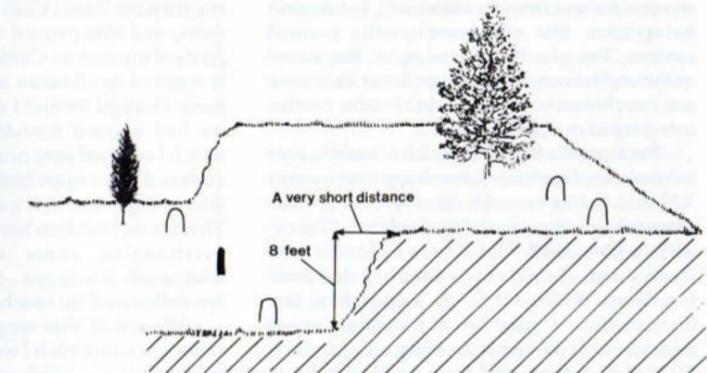
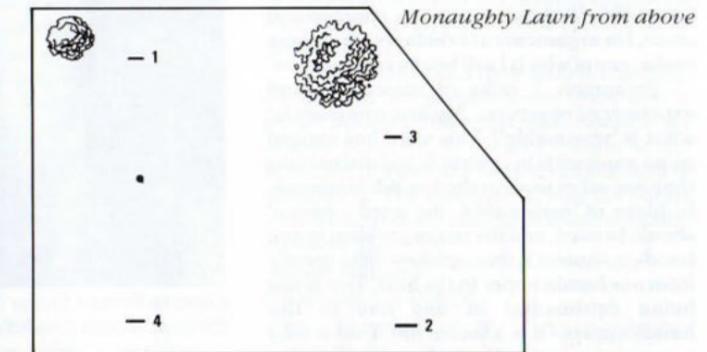
The craftsmen-croqueteers are a shy, gentle group, unused to human contact, but they are fanatical about the Great Game, subscribing to 'Croquet' and seeking out news and information wherever they may be found. Unfortunately they have until now been unable to discover the rules of the game and have therefore invented their own. Some of these bring a hardened Associate out in a cold sweat: the croqueted ball need not move (never the cry of 'Did the yellow move?'); a roqueted ball may not go out; there are boundaries around the trees which lie within the court; there are only four hoops and the designated route is diagonal rather than circular (see plan: if you think a rush from 1 to 2 looks difficult, you're absolutely right).

The Men of Monaughty (in fact there is one Woman of Monaughty but it would interfere with the alliteration) have made, not just their mallets - this after all is common practice amongst croquet players - but also their hoops, balls and peg. There are no clips because it is an unwise player who strays too far from his hoop and visitors never get far beyond the first hoop in any case. The mallets are gigantic oaken weapons, vital for the tremendous roll uphill which is the particular, winning skill of the Monaughty croqueteers. Our

puny implements were just not up to the shot (Back to the drawing-board, Mr Walker, you ain't cracked it yet!) and we lost game after game. The banquet provided in the huge upstairs hall had quite a lot to do with our failure: the latter day Monaughty Monks are keeping up the traditions of hospitality for which earlier occupants were renowned. West Midlands clubs please note: we'll be expecting a bit more of a blow-out next time we play you - chocolate fingers at Edgbaston are all very well but can hardly compare with the

groaning boards of Monaughty. The pièce de résistance was the tea, served in ancient commemorative mugs which are never washed. If you like your Tetley's to acquire a bit of flavour, this is the secret. It is, however, advisable not to drink to the bottom of the mug.

We have invited Monaughty to a return match at Ludlow, to be played according to CA Laws, and they have overcome their dislike of civilisation sufficiently to agree to come. I hope it doesn't ruin their game.



Monaughty Lawn - cross section (from the English side)

RESULTS

Carrickmines: 9-14 June Championship of County Dublin: Advanced Play

DRAW:

1st Round:

C. Gamble bt N.D. Browne +1; F. Rogerson bt Mrs B. Leonard +25; S. Williams bt G. Henshaw +14

2nd Round:

P. Lawless bt N. Leech +23; Rogerson bt Gamble +11; Williams bt T.N. Browne +17; G. Healy bt R.J. Leonard +23

Semi-Finals:

Rogerson bt Lawless +25; Williams bt Healy +11

Final:

Rogerson bt Williams +16

PROCESS:

1st Round:

Lawless bt T.N. Browne +10; N.D. Browne bt R.J. Leonard +20; G. Healy bt N. Leech +22

2nd Round:

Lawless bt Mrs Leonard +19; N.D.

Browne bt Henshaw +16; Healy bt Rogerson +20; Williams bt Gamble +23

Semi-Finals:

Lawless bt N.D. Browne +6; Healy bt Williams +15

Final:

Healy bt Lawless +3

FINAL

Healy bt Rogerson +4(TP)

Boxwell Cup: Handicap Singles

1st Round:

T.N. Browne (5½) bt G. Henshaw (5) +23; N.D. Browne (5) bt R.L. Hannon (6) +12; G. Healy (-1) bt C. Gamble (1) +16; Mrs B. Leonard (8) bt P. Thornton (7) +12; N. Leech (5) bt Mrs McWeeney (10) +4

2nd Round:

T.N. Browne bt P. Lawless (5½) +9; Healy bt N.D. Browne (wo); Leech bt Mrs Leonard +6(T); S. Williams (1½) bt R.J. Leonard (9) +20

Semi-Finals:

Healy bt T.N. Browne +8; Williams bt Leech +14

Final:

Healy bt Williams +15

Duff Matthews Cup: Level Play (6 bisques & over)

1st Round:

Mrs Leonard bt Mrs A. Healy +4; J. McAuley bt P. Thornton +2

Semi-Finals:

R.J. Leonard bt Mrs Leonard +8; McAuley bt Mrs McWeeney +10

Final:

McAuley bt Leonard +4

Coronation Cups: Handicap Doubles (Total 6 bisques & over)

Semi-Finals:

R.L. Hannon & Mrs B. Leonard (14) bt J. McAuley & Mrs McWeeney +4(T); P. Thornton & G. Henshaw (12) bt N.D. & Mrs A. Browne (19) +9

Final:

Thornton & Henshaw bt Hannon & Mrs Leonard +15

Nottingham: 27-29 June

Swiss

(Advanced Play)

7 wins: J.O. Walters

6 wins: G.E.P. Jackson

5 wins: W.T. Coles, E.J. Davis, I.G. Vincent, T.W. Anderson

4 wins: G.W. Noble, P.J. Death, N.G. Hyne, Miss J. MacLeod, B.G. Hallam, K. Cotterell

3 wins: J.D. Meads, G.K. Taylor, Mrs T. Anderson, Mrs R.F. Wheeler, J.A. Wheeler, T.W. Smith, Mrs K. Cotterell, A.J. Girling, G.H. Henshaw

2 wins: J.C. Straw, Mrs W. Hague, R.C. Jones

1 win: R.F. Wheeler

American Block

(Advanced Play)

6 wins: F.L. Whittaker

5 wins: A. Bobak

3 wins: M. Cowan, R. David

2 wins: J. Death

1 win: S. Thomas, Mrs E. Chamberlain

Handicaps

Dear Sir,

I am a relative newcomer to croquet and I often feel out of my depth when discussing the finer points of the game, particularly in regard to why a handicap is or is not reduced. However, having played several sports in which handicapping is used, I do understand the need for reviewing handicaps and also the difficulties involved. Consequently I can appreciate why the HCC have taken such a controversial step and I support them in their efforts.

In 'Croquet' (Issue no. 186) and previous editions, much has been written on handicaps, but nothing has appeared that has been so cock-eyed as John Walter's contribution in Issue 186. Without going into chapter and verse, his arguments are riddled with serious faults, one of which I will briefly comment on.

Paragraph 1 talks of reasonable and experienced observers. My first comment is; what is 'reasonable'? This word has caused more arguments in contracts and discussions than any other word in the English language. In place of 'reasonable', the word 'opinion' should be used, and the major problem in any handicap system is that opinions differ greatly from one handicapper to the next. This is not being detrimental in any way to the handicappers - it is a fact of life. That is why a committee, with all its faults, often provides a better answer than an individual, the reason being that, like any good quality control system, the greater the sample, the more accurate the result. However, what concerns me much more is the doubt thrown on the integrity of the players.

Paragraphs 9 and 10 refer to insults and fairness, and indicate what happens in some X-Y and Swiss tournaments. Namely, that players do not necessarily give of their best or, as put, give 100%. John then indicates that these events should not be used to judge their handicap. Why not? If, by a stretch of the imagination, I play in a handicap event against our star players and they only produce 70% of their form and I win and I then have my handicap reduced and I then toddle off to a more prestigious event and the players produce 100% and I get well and truly thrashed, what am I to think? What are the handicappers going to think? I will raise two points and leave it at that.

1. Were the star players being fair to me in allowing me to win? Were they insulting me?
2. Were the star players using the tournament as a warm up playing less than 100% so that their handicaps remain unaltered, thus giving them a greater chance of winning the next more prestigious event?

In both cases, the integrity of the players is being questioned.

Terry Greenwood
Wolverhampton

A Memorable Trip

Dear Sir,

Last month, just before leaving New Zealand on a visit to my son in Pasadena, Los Angeles, I asked Graeme Roberts, the President of our Kelburn Club, whether he knew of any contacts in Los Angeles or thereabouts, as I thought it might be interesting to have a look

at a game played under US rules. Graeme drew my attention to a letter in your January issue from Captain Forrest Tucker, which concluded with an invitation to any 'Association' player to visit him at the Birnam Wood Croquet Club in Santa Barbara.

As a result, I contacted Capt Tucker and he put me in touch with Maurice Marsac who kindly arranged a demonstration game for me under US Rules and then partnered me for a game against his charming wife Melanie and Jack Sisto, all members of the Beverley Hills Club.



Captain Forrest Tucker (left) and Jack Kent at Birnam Woods Country Club

In addition, Capt Tucker invited me up to the Birnam Wood Club to play under British rules, and this proved to be one of the high spots of my visit to California. Forrest Tucker is a grand gentleman and a most charming host. Though he and I were narrowly beaten we had a good friendly competitive game which I enjoyed very much. If there is a better surfaced lawn anywhere, it would indeed be interesting to see it. It was a delight to play on. There is no problem here as to whether a ball overhanging some non-coinciding old whitewash line is out - the court boundaries are delineated by marble strips.

Altogether this was a most pleasurable experience to which I would never have been led but for your publication of Capt Tucker's kind letter to you, and I must therefore include you in my expression of deep appreciation.

Jack Kent
Wellington, New Zealand

Croquet Ball Temperatures

Dear Sir,
re: Black Balls

As manager of the 1985 Open Championships I had to take eight black balls, and one red, out of commission because they had lost their spherical shape to a considerable degree. It is an educated guess that this has something to do with the fact that black balls attain a higher temperature than those of other colours under similar conditions. This is known to all who have handled croquet balls in sunny weather.

I decided that it would be useful to measure the temperature inside a croquet ball exposed to sunlight. A yellow ball was drilled to take a thermometer with its bulb at the centre of the ball. After exposure for one hour, temperatures were recorded at the ball centre, at a point halfway to the centre, outside the ball in shade, and outside the ball in sunlight. The ball was then painted black with a quick

drying paint and the measurements repeated over a period of about one hour.

The experiments were not performed to high laboratory standards and I do not propose to go into great detail here. However, it should be added that the ball was not rotated at any time, and that the top of the thermometer was shielded with silver paper.

The table displays maximal temperatures in degrees centigrade:

Ball	Yellow	Black
Ball centre	39	48
Halfway pt.	40	52
Sun temp.	34	34
Shade temp.	31	30

I would summarise the results as indicating that the interior of a black ball would generally be some 10 degrees Centigrade hotter than the interior of a yellow ball on a warm sunny day. I must say that I expected a more marked difference. Nevertheless the elastic behaviour, and the plasticity, of the core material may be very temperature dependent.

It seems a shortcoming of the Laws that the bounce test requirement is stated without reference to ball temperature. I suspect that many balls which fail the test in June would pass it out of doors in early January! It would be most instructive to perform the bounce test on a ball at a range of temperatures - the ball having been immersed in a suitable bath for a period of about two hours prior to each test.

I believe that there is a good case for replacing all black balls with white balls in first colour sets. Apart from the considerations discussed here, the white ball is far more visible to spectators. In the recent Granada Television programmes it was noticeable how badly the black showed up on the screen. Another benefit would be that we could get rid of Keith Wylie's dreadful K notation!

Eric Solomon
Harrow Oak

A last word on the TPO

Dear Sir,

Referring to Keith Aiton's attempt at a mathematical analysis of the TPO, I do not agree with his estimates of the probabilities. For example d (probability of winning after completing a break to 4-back) cannot be 0.5. A player with both the innings and a substantial lead must have a chance better than even.

I agree with Keith that estimates of probabilities prove nothing, and one can only be guided by observation of games won and lost. Here one must not forget the natural tendency of both players and spectators, to remember the triumphs and forget the failures, and also use a certain amount of logic. For example, the anxiety factor must be worse during a TPO than in a normal triple peel. If a player has deprived himself of a lift, and scored one or two points for his opponent, he must be more anxious than a player who has deprived his opponent of a lift, and scored points for himself. Also, although the risk of failure (if we ignore the anxiety factor) is the same, the risk of disaster is greater, as one is working with an opponent ball in the middle of the lawn and a breakdown will almost certainly lose the innings.

Keith estimates TPO failures at 60% and games lost after completing a TPO at 10%.

But I would put the percentage higher for the average A player on an average imperfect lawn. The record of the last President's Cup gives only 5% of completed triple peels if one excludes Nigel Aspinall, who in my view is not an A player but a P (for phenomenal) player. We do not know how many failed triple peels or TPOs there were, but these were the seven best players available, playing on near perfect lawns, and it is reasonable to assume that the unsuccessful attempts amounted to more than 7.5% (which is less than 1 in 13) of the games.

This does seem to me to indicate that for only average A players, on average imperfect lawns, the percentage of TPOs completed would be less than 40%.

I still believe that the advantage of pegging out an opponent ball has been much over-rated generally, and that the TPO will go out of fashion, because of various disadvantages such as scoring four points for the opponent, giving contact, having to play very defensively for fear of the opponent getting a three-ball break, and having deprived oneself of lifts.

Leslie Riggall
Durban, South Africa

US Rules

Dear Sir,

Simon Garrett's comments on American Croquet in the May issue require a few important additions to his list of rule differences between our game and Association croquet.

1. If you roquet a ball out of bounds your turn ends and the out of bounds ball is put in 9 inches from where it went out. You are not dead on that ball.
2. A ball which is running a hoop in order and in the same stroke hits a ball. It does *not* make a roquet. It must strike a ball on the continuation stroke to make roquet after running the hoop.
3. A ball running a hoop in order and in the same stroke goes out of bounds. The turn ends and the out of bounds ball is put in 9 inches from where it went out.
4. If a *striker's* ball makes a roquet it becomes a ball in hand at once (not at the end of the stroke) and all balls it subsequently hits in that stroke are replaced without penalty back to their original position.
5. If at the beginning of a turn the striker's ball is wired from **all** balls on which it is alive, and if the adversary is responsible for its position, then the striker may place that ball in contact with any ball on which it is alive and take croquet.
6. A ball is off the court when its vertical axis crosses the boundary (more than half way over).
7. When each ball of both sides passes through the 1-back hoop, the opposing side may clear the deadness on one of its balls before starting its next turn, or sooner, if asked to declare by the opponent.
8. A rover ball can clear its deadness by running any hoop in either direction, and receive a continuation stroke, *only* if dead on two or more balls. However, Rover always remains dead on the last ball hit (roqueted) even after clearing.
9. A ball going for the rover (red top) hoop runs that hoop in the opposite direction (towards

the peg) from Association Croquet. The layout shown in the article had the ball running rover hoop in the wrong direction.

10. Each player has 45 seconds to begin his stroke following completion of the last stroke by either side.

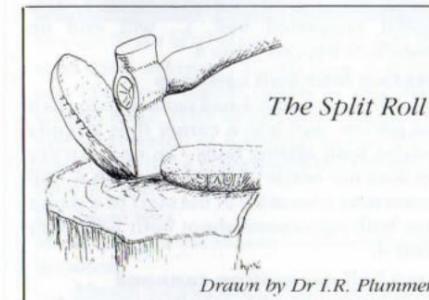
Deadness and shooting in colour sequence in the American game adds a complex dimension of possibilities, creating levels of strategy and tactics unique to our game. Lagging to or shooting at a ball 9 inches from the boundary and not being able to roquet or rush a ball out of bounds requires precise shot making skills, a delicate touch and nerves of steel.

Association Croquet seems to encourage attacks, break running and shot making skills. The consequences of trying and failing are less severe in your game without deadness.

When we teach beginning/intermediate croquet at our club, we play USCA Rules without deadness carrying over to the next turn (AC). This encourages new players to attack, play the breaks, to try challenging plays and shots without the fear of acquiring deadness on the balls roqueted when their turn ends. This helps get rid of Aunt Emmas!

I hope this adds to your understanding of the differences in our games, and I include a USCA Rule Book 1985-6 for you.

Tremaine Arkley,
Willamette Croquet Club,
Independence, Oregon, USA



Is this a record?

Dear Sir,

Congratulations and thanks for the continuing excellence of 'Croquet'.

I wonder whether any of your readers can better this one? Between the 5th and 16th February this year, Reginald Bamford played six consecutive games at Rondebosch CC (level, under match conditions and before a fair number of spectators), achieving the following: sextuple, four triples and a sextuple. In those six games he never missed a shot (ie a hoop or a roquet). The first sextuple was the more notable in that it was delayed, the forward ball being left alongside and not in 1-back, and in the end required a peel through rover from near penultimate.

Perhaps you could run a series on 'remarkable feats' - several are related in Prichard's book.

Brian Bamford
Cape Town, RSA.

A Question of Law

Dear Sir,

I have a Laws query. I recently became aware that some players make use of their mallets when placing balls for a take-off. What they do is to lay the mallet on the ground so that

the handle points in the desired direction and then to bring the head of the mallet in contact with the roqueted ball. They then place their own ball, also in contact with the head of the mallet. Is this legal?

Law 19(c) reads: 'When placing the striker's ball for a croquet stroke, the striker may touch or steady the roqueted ball or apply such pressure to it by hand or foot, but not by mallet, as is reasonably necessary to make it hold its position, provided that the original position and rotational alignment are not finally disturbed.'

This is ambiguous. Does the phrase, 'by hand or foot, but not by mallet' refer to touching or steadying the roqueted ball, or merely to applying such pressure to it, et seq.? On the other hand, perhaps a mallet so used becomes an artificial aid, a most suggestive idea! Is the sighting-line on the mallet also an artificial aid?

On a lighter note, I have an amusing story. At an Irish tournament some years ago, a player petulantly flung his mallet away in the middle of a turn. It became caught in the branches of a tree and resisted all attempts to dislodge it. The question is, was the player entitled to resume play with another mallet (see Law 2(e))?

Simon Williams
Shankhill, Co Dublin

The Chairman of the Laws Committee comments:

The use of the mallet in placing balls for a croquet shot has been the subject of correspondence between the Laws Committees of Great Britain and New Zealand. We agreed that the mallet should not be considered an artificial aid or marker, nor indeed should the partner's mallet in doubles, so long as it is removed by the partner before the stroke is played. The case of the mallet actually touching the balls may contravene Law 19(c) but note that there is no penalty specified.

Martin Murray
Hurlingham

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CANNONS FOR BEGINNERS

Part 3: Promotion Cannons

By Allen Parker (Parkstone)

Introduction

Under this heading are included 4-ball cannons, and 3-ball cannons with the fourth ball nearby. Although 4-ball cannons seem at first sight to be rather complicated, it is in fact easier to get a 4-ball break from a 4-ball cannon than from a 3-ball, and 4-ball cannons are not difficult to execute once you have grasped their principle. I shall therefore illustrate only two, and leave you to work out the others, with however the warning that attempts to get a 4-ball break from a corner situated diagonally opposite to the hoop required (eg. hoop 3 from corner 1) are possible, but are likely to result in a broken mallet.

Four ball cannons

1. Hoop 1 from Corner 1

Many 4-ball cannons may be derived from the wafer cannon dealt with in the first part of this series. The principle is illustrated by the cannon shown in Figure 1, in which the striker's ball is marked S, the croqueted ball is marked C, the ball to be rushed is marked R, and the ball to be promoted is marked P. The figure illustrates the 4-ball cannon to make hoop 1 from corner 1.

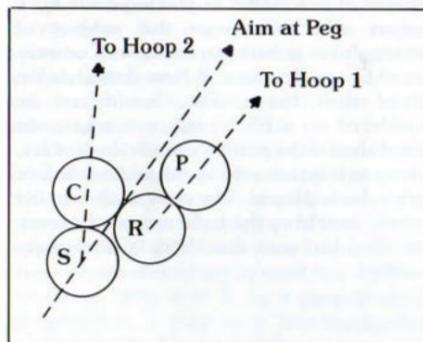


Fig.1. Hoop 1 from Corner 1, using 4-ball cannon.

First set up the wafer cannon with the croqueted ball pointed slightly to the left of hoop 2, and the rushed ball, R, in contact with the croqueted ball and almost touching the striker's ball (ie. as usual for a wafer cannon). Now place the fourth ball, P, in contact with the ball R so that the line R-P points directly at hoop 1. The point of aim differs from that in a normal wafer cannon. Instead of aiming directly at the ball to be rushed, the aim is now directed nearer to the croqueted ball since this ball has to travel the greatest distance. Aiming at the peg is about right. The shot must be more powerful than is needed for a simple croquet shot because four balls have to be moved. If the shot is hard enough to send the croqueted ball to hoop 2, it will be found that the ball P goes near hoop 1 (it has not yet been roqueted), and the rushed ball goes near to the south boundary whence it can be croqueted into court, going to the ball at hoop 1, with a perfect 4-ball break.

2. Hoop 2 from Corner 4

The 4-ball cannon from corner 4 to get a 4-ball break when your clip is on hoop 1 is illustrated in Figure 2.

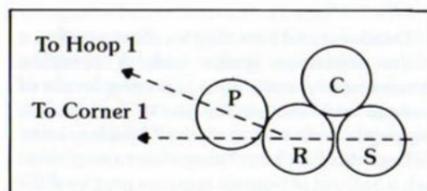


Fig.2. Hoop 1 from Corner 4, using 4-ball cannon

This differs from the book method. Thus Locock, in his book 'Modern Croquet Tactics', sends the croqueted ball to hoop 2 and the promoted ball to hoop 1. This needs a hard shot and is difficult on a heavy lawn. Instead try the following method. First set up the wafer cannon, with a rush along the south boundary. Then place the promoted ball in contact with the rushed ball, R, so that the line R-P points to hoop 1 (in 4-ball cannons of this type the line R-P always points to the hoop required). Now play the shot as though you were rushing ball R along the south boundary, but hard enough to send the promoted ball to hoop 1. The rushed ball R will be driven off the south boundary near to corner 4. This leaves a simple croquet shot to send the ball R to hoop 2, going to the ball P at hoop 1. The original croqueted ball, C, will end up somewhere beyond hoop 4.

Creating four ball cannons

One way of getting a 4-ball cannon is to rush your partner ball into a corner that already contains both enemy balls - an opportunity that does not occur very frequently. A 4-ball cannon may also arise at the start of a game when both opponents shoot both balls into corner 4.

Three ball promotion cannons

The situation with all four balls in Corner 4 is, however, more likely to give rise to, or allow you to create, a 3-ball promotion cannon. The arrangement for the latter is shown in Figure 3. Suppose that your opponent, playing second, has missed with both shots so that on the fifth turn of the game you step on to the lawn with all four balls lined up close together on the east boundary near corner 4. You then contrive to roquet one of the balls gently behind another so as to obtain a 3-ball cannon. You then arrange the balls in a line pointing at hoop 1.

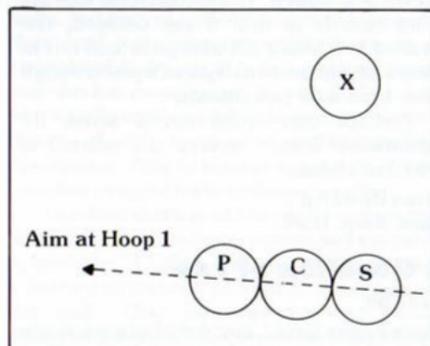


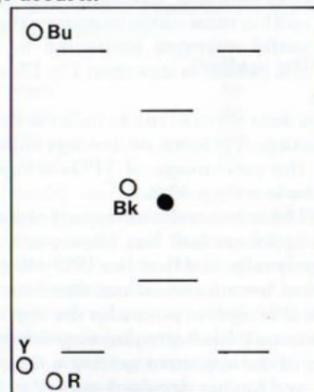
Fig.3. Hoop 1 from near Corner 4, using 3-ball promotion cannon

BREAK-BUILDER (B.B.) No 1

(See page 27, Issue No 186)

The Question

You are handicap 14 and about to play with Red (which is for hoop 3). You are prepared to set up a break using one bisque. How would you go about it?



Blue (Bu) is 2 feet from the North and West yardlines

The suggested play

Before constructing a break using bisques, you should form a mental picture in your mind of where you need the three balls (other than the striker's ball) to be. In this case, we need a pioneer at hoop 3, a pivot ball near the peg, and a pioneer at hoop 4. Of these, the most important and the one that needs to be most accurately placed, is the pioneer at hoop 3.

The proposed solution is based on 3 principles:

1. Where possible, use the ball closest to the critical hoop (hoop 3) for delivery as a pioneer. In this way, your pioneer is likely to be most accurate. Thus my solution involves sending Black to hoop 3, and having made that decision, we will therefore be using Blue and Yellow as either pivot or pioneer for hoop 4.
2. High handicappers should, wherever possible, avoid incorporating big split shots into their play if the positioning of both balls is critical. Thus, after Red roquets Yellow, do not send Yellow to hoop 4 with Red going to Black. This is a very difficult stroke and a mistake with either ball could be fatal. Obviously this would be the play adopted by

If you now play a full stop shot, the promotion ball, P, will be driven to hoop 1 *without being roqueted* and your ball, S, will stop several yards from the boundary. You now just turn round and shoot at the remaining ball X. You are then left with the split roll sending ball X to hoop 2 and going to the ball P which is waiting at hoop 1. The original croqueted ball, C, ends up somewhere near hoop 4. Certainly this manoeuvre is more difficult than the cannons I have described previously, firstly because you have to do a stop shot good enough to send ball P to hoop 1 while remaining within hitting distance of the ball X on the boundary (of course, if you have bisques there is no danger), and secondly because you have to do the rather big split roll to hoops 1 and 2. It is well worth practising, even by relatively high bisquers, because after all it is better to live dangerously (in a friendly game) and have an exciting game than play safe and have a boring one.

an 'A' or 'B' class player, who would hope to get a rush to either hoop 3 or Blue and thus get a break without using a bisque. Instead play a roll stroke, sending Yellow towards the middle and Red to Black. This stroke has the advantage that the positioning of Yellow is not critical - anywhere vaguely in the middle of the lawn will do - and you can concentrate on getting Red close enough to Black to make a roquet.

3. Balls just off the yard line, as Blue is in this case, provide an excellent opportunity for break-building using bisques. You can shoot at them knowing that, if you miss, you will get a rush back into the middle of the lawn. Thus do not send Black to hoop 3 splitting to Blue. Play a straight croquet stroke, sending Black to hoop 3 (maximising your chances of having a good pioneer). Then turn round and shoot at Blue. If you miss, rush it short of Yellow's new position and send it to hoop 4, going to Yellow. If you hit Blue, roll it short of Yellow, then take a bisque and hit Blue again, and proceed as above. Having roqueted Yellow, all that is left is to take off to Black at hoop 3.

Summary

Red roquets Yellow. Roll stroke with Yellow going to middle and Red to Black. Red roquets Black. Straight croquet stroke sending Black as accurately as possible to hoop 3. Red shoots at Blue and rushes (or rolls, if hit) it short of Yellow. Croquet stroke sending Blue to hoop 4 and Red to Yellow. Red roquets Yellow. Croquet stroke with Red taking off to Black at hoop 3. The bisque is taken on Blue.

Do you agree? Write in now with your alternative solution and arguments!

John McCullough

B.B. No 2 will appear in our next Issue.

Continued from page 11

Semi-Finals:
Brownsdon bt Newnham +26; Peterson bt Vincent +13

Final:
Brownsdon bt Peterson +16

The Benest Cup:

1st Round
Rowlands bt Carleton +13; Leech bt Mrs Robinson +12

2nd Round
Tompkinson bt Mrs Latham +11; Mrs Vincent bt Rowlands +3; Leech bt Thomas +4; Mrs Newman bt Mrs Camroux +15

Semi-Finals
Tompkinson bt Mrs Vincent +4; Leech bt Mrs Newman +13(T)

Final:
Tompkinson bt Leech (w)

'Z' Final

Newman bt Mrs Latham +11

The Birch Cups (Handicap Doubles)

1st Round:
Mr & Mrs R.E. Vincent (18) bt G.N. Leech & J.S.F. Thomas (14) +14(T)

2nd Round
R.W. Newnham & H.B. Brownsdon (11) bt Mr & Mrs A.V. Camroux (15) +15; F.A. Rowlands & E. Carleton (18) bt Mr & Mrs Vincent +7(T); Mr & Mrs L.V. Latham (5½) bt Mr & Mrs M.G. Tompkinson (9½) +11; Dr A.C. Peterson & Mrs M. Robinson (21) bt Mr & Mrs F.H. Newman (6½) +17

Semi-Finals:
Newnham & Brownsdon bt Rowlands & Carleton +11; Mr & Mrs Latham bt Peterson & Mrs Robinson +6(T)

Final:
Mr & Mrs Latham bt Newnham & Brownsdon +7

'Y' Final
Mr & Mrs F.H. Newman bt Mr & Mrs A.V. Camroux +4

TACTICS IN TIME ENDINGS

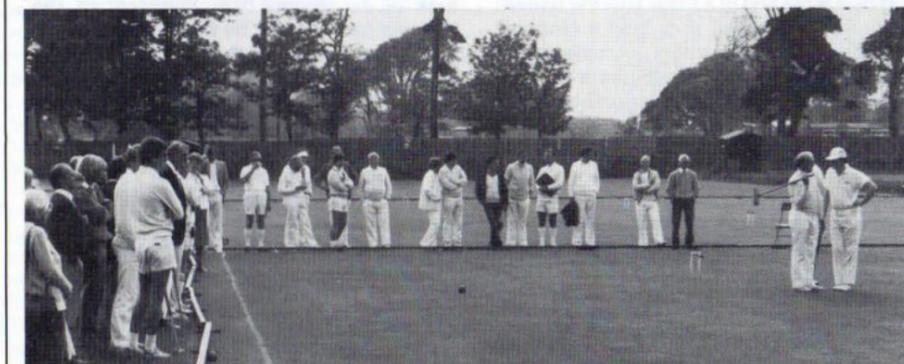
By John McCullough (Bristol)

Introduction

This article is written for the benefit of high and middle bisquers who have just started playing in club matches or at Tournaments. It aims to give some general tips on what tactics to employ towards the end of games that are obviously destined to finish on time.

My first tip is to make yourself thoroughly familiar with the law related to time endings. Borrow your club copy of the blue Laws book and read Regulation 13 (Page 51).

Remember to synchronise your watch with that of your opponent before you start your game and agree whose watch will be



Drama in an after-time ending at this year's Inter-Counties Championship at Southwick.

used if it is necessary to call time. It is best if you choose a digital watch or one with a second hand. With about 10-15 minutes left, give that watch to a referee or experienced player who is not playing and ask them to call time for you.

General tips

Make sure you use all your bisques before time is called.

Always double check how many points you or your opponent need to win or draw level. This season a top player miscounted in a major championship and didn't bother to make the last point necessary to win (thinking he had won), whilst leaving his opponent in an easy position to secure the winning point.

If you need one point to tie or win, remember that you cannot peg out in a handicap game unless both your balls are for the peg. A few years ago a game was lost in a Longman Cup final when an inexperienced player tried to peg out, after time was called with the scores level, only to bounce off the peg into a convenient place for his gleeful opponent, who lost no time in clarifying the legal position to him!

If you are the better player in a doubles partnership, don't wait until the last 30 minutes to make your break from a backward position. You may not get the chance and three hours of carefully shepherding your high-bisqued partner round will all have been wasted.

Special tactics

You should consider using special tactics in the last 30 or 40 minutes of a game, assuming you think it is unlikely you can peg out to win within the time allotted.

Let us now consider the different situations you can find yourself in. It is assumed, in each case, that you have the innings:

1. *You have a big lead (say 8 points or more)* - be aware that your opponent's only chance of catching you up is if they can play a big break, so avoid laying up in positions where a hit-in with their backward ball would give them the chance of an easy 3 or 4 ball break. Give up the innings rather than laying up with your balls together near their hoop or in the middle of the lawn. In any case, consider giving up the innings in the last 5-10 minutes. Place your balls in two different corners. This will allow your opponent to get the innings and make 3 or 4 hoops but will minimise their chances of getting the break they need, which is paradoxically easier to obtain if you have the innings and they make a long hit-in.

2. *You have a small lead (say 7 points or less)* - your priority is to retain the innings. Make extra hoops to extend your lead wherever

possible but don't put the innings at risk or give your opponent a good chance of hitting in for a break. For example, if your clips are on 6 and 2-back, try and make extra hoops with your forward ball, as you can do this without sending your balls into the middle of the lawn. As a matter of policy keep your balls near the boundaries in case your opponent hits in. With one or two minutes to go, or as time is called, split up all the balls - DO NOT REMAIN JOINED UP.

3. *You are behind* - I saw a game recently where, with about 7 minutes to go, the player ahead (Peg and penult) gave up the innings and put his two balls in opposite corners. At that stage his opponent was for 6 and 4-back. The opponent then made the mistake of playing with his backward ball, so that when time was called, with him on 2-back and 4-back, he needed a break to the peg plus a peel with his backward ball to level the score. What you must do is make enough hoops with your forward ball in the last few minutes, so that in your last turn you have a chance of winning or tying the score by making a break with your backward ball that does not require any peels.

If your opponent does split their balls up, putting them in corners or on the boundaries, remember that the quickest way to make a few hoops is by a two ball break. Make your hoop, roll over to the next and lay up. Don't waste time taking off to your opponent's balls if they are already separated - leave them until you make your attempt to win the game with your backward ball.

When you make your do-or-die attempt, take your time. Usually one or two very good strokes can give you a break, but you need to concentrate if you want to play very good strokes.

Sponsorship

Bombay Gin to sponsor the President's Cup

International Distillers and Vintners has signed a three-year agreement with the Croquet Association for Bombay Gin to sponsor the President's Cup. The sponsorship deal forms part of a £100,000 annual promotional package for Bombay Gin which was launched on to the UK market at the end of 1984.

Richard Ambler, brand manager for Bombay Gin, says that Bombay Gin's upmarket and individual style is especially appropriate for sponsorship of croquet. Bombay Gin are looking forward to developing their links with the game and the Croquet Association, and we for our part are looking forward to working with them.

Below is the text of a Press Release issued by Bombay Gin when they held a croquet competition for sports writers, journalists and other media people at Hurlingham on the announcement of their sponsorship. The competition was organised by Brian Macmillan. Steve Mulliner, Jan MacLeod and Nigel Aspinall were on hand to give demonstrations and answer queries.



Pat Cotter made a welcome return to Hurlingham for the Press Conference, where he represented 'Country Life'.

PRESS RELEASE
THE BOMBAY GIN
PRESIDENT'S CUP

Each year, the Croquet Association selects the 24 best players in the country to take part in top-flight invitation events. The most prestigious of these is the President's Cup, which is restricted to the top eight players who are able to accept the invitation.

At the beginning of July, some 32 players are warned that they are being considered for selection, and they then hold their breath until mid-August, when the final invitations are sent out.

To be selected for these events is considered an honour in the croquet playing world. The second eight take part in the Chairman's Salver, and the third eight compete for the Spencer Ell Trophy.

The first invitation event took place in 1901, when 11 players competed for the Champion Cup at Sheen House. Amongst them was one woman, Miss Lily Gower, that year's Ladies' Champion at the age of 24; she finished second, only one point behind the first champion, W.W. Bruce.

Apart from the War years, the competition

has continued ever since, changing its name occasionally to the 'Beddow Cup' after its original donor, and becoming the 'President's Cup' from 1935 onwards.

Looking through the list of players in past President's Cup competitions, one can see the great names of croquet - Lord Tollemache, the Irish players Corbally, Duff Mathews and O'Callaghan, Miss D.D. Steele who won the competition several times in the 1930s, and Humphrey Hicls who was once the holder of the lowest ever handicap.

Humphrey Hicks and Pat Cotter dominated the competition immediately after the last War, and 1955 saw the emergence of a new star, John Solomon, a youngster who took all by storm. Now President of the Croquet Association, he won the President's Cup 9 times, a record that has only recently been beaten by Nigel Aspinall, another player who has dominated the croquet scene over the past 16 years.

With more and more young players taking up the game, the standard of croquet in England is now higher than it has ever been,

and competition to be selected for this year's Bombay Gin President's Cup will be fierce. The format of the competition is that each of the eight players plays all the others twice, with a play-off if two or more players have the same number of wins.

Spectators who visit Hurlingham during the tournament (2nd to 6th September inclusive) will see croquet of a very high standard played in a superb setting. Play starts at 10am daily.



The President's Cup, flanked by the sponsor's product!

Official Business

CA OFFICE ANSWER PHONE

I have been having numerous calls on my answer phone asking me to telephone back. On doing so, I find out that many calls are simply requests for leaflets etc.

It would be appreciated if Associates when using the answer phone would state their requirements, as this would assist us in reducing our telephone bill which is getting astronomical.

Brian Macmillan
Administration Secretary

New Clubs Registered

Welcome to . . .

Fylde Croquet Club

Fairhaven Lake, Lytham St Annes, Lancashire. Secretary: Bernard Leather, 108 Mayfield Road, St Annes, Lancashire. 0253-723793

Northampton Croquet Club

Beckets Park, Northampton. Secretary: Mrs May Jack, 57 Melville Street, Northampton, NN1 4HX. 0604-31916

New Affiliated Organisations

Leeds Castle

Maidstone, Kent.

Mottram Hall Hotel

Wilmslow Road, Mottram St Andrew, Macclesfield, Cheshire, SK10 4QT. Contact: David Oldham, General Manager. 0625-828135

New Associates

S.P. Robbins	- Alresford
J.E. Whalley	- Bowdon
A. Lawrence	- Carnegie
J.M.C. Calver	- Cassiobury
M.J. Everett	- Dulwich
Mrs E. Kavanagh	- Ealing
V.L. Whatley	- Ealing
Mrs M.G. Wright	- Edinburgh
A.C.F. Sharp	- Ellesmere
Mrs S.M. Sharp	- Ellesmere
G.E.J. Chamberlain	- Harrogate
M.C. Lax	- Harrogate
D.J. Magee	- High Wycombe
M. Henderson	- Hurlingham
G.A. Womball	- Hurlingham
Mrs F.E. Gaunt	- Ipswich
K.M. Clarke	- Littleton
R.G. Stevens	- Littleton
Miss M.K. Bennet	- Oxford University
D.J. Wilson	- Preston Lawns
Mrs L. Brown	- Sidcup
G.M. Bradshaw	- Southport
Miss A.C. Laird	- Southport
A. Ellis	- Southwick
M.C. Coony	- Surbiton
J.R. Leachman	- Tyneside
E.J. Huxley	- Woking
Miss A. Russell	- Woking
M.R. Aish	- Woking
G.F. Baker	- Woking
D. Charesley-Thomas	- Woking
D.F. Hutt	- Woking

Mrs A.M. Cleland	- Australia
O. Edwards	- Australia
Mrs V. Payne	- Australia
G. Beale	- New Zealand
R. Jackson	- New Zealand
B.L. O'Connor	- New Zealand
P.J. Skingley	- New Zealand
X. Cayden	- USA
R. Kroegar	- USA
(Total 41)	

Deaths

We regret to report the following deaths:
Mrs D. Daniels R.A. Godby

Handicap Alterations

Southport: 24-27 May

C. Clarke	8 to 6
C. Wild	9 to 8
Mrs C.L. Lewis	10 to 9

Cheltenham: 24-26 May

M. Finn	4½ to 4
G. Johnson	4 to 3½
J. Ross	2½ to 2
B. Sanford	4½ to 4

Mrs D. Clay	17 to 16
D.B. Maugham	10 to 9
Dr D. Gugan	11 to 10

Nottingham: 30 May-1 June

Dr H.M. Browning	10 to 14
R.A. Fletcher	11 to 13
L. Robinson	10 to 11
R. Davis	10 to 9
D. Gillett	12 to 10

Mrs M.J.J.

Haworth	14D12 to 16D14
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Southwick: Inter-Counties

M. French	2 to 1½
L. Palmer	7½ to 7

Cheltenham: 2-7 June

Dr D. Cairns	½ to 0
T. Griffith	0 to ½
Mrs P. Hague	4 to 3
Mrs R.W. Ransom	6 to 5
R.W. Ransom	4 to 3
J. Wurmlis	1 to ½

Cheltenham Club

C.J. Ross	11D9 to 8
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Budleigh Salterton Club

Mrs D. Iredale	13D11 to 12D10
G. Iredale	12D10 to 10
J. Wasdell	12D10 to 10
G.F. Webb	12D10 to 10
Lt Cdr A. Wickham	10 to 9

Roehampton Club

P. Hardyment	15D12
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Harrow Oak: 14-15 June

L. Palmer	8 to 7½
G. Vince	7 to 6½

Phyllis Court Club

G.C. Roy	0 to -½
S. Wright	0 to -1

Durham University Club

R. Adams	13D12 to 11
D. Reeve	6 to 5
M. Hutchinson	12 to 10
D. Trotman	10 to 9

Edgbaston Club

B. Hallam	1½ to 1
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Southwick: Veterans

Miss J. Loveys	12 to 11
R. Smith	8 to 6½
F. Beard	9 to 8

Ryde: 16-21 June

Mrs M. Robinson	12 to 12D10
H.B. Brownsdon	6½ to 5½
Dr A.C. Peterson	11 to 9

Durham: 22-26 June

P.W. Thompson	4½ to 4
D. Reeve	5 to 4
J.D. Portwood	8 to 6
P.J. Robson	7 to 6
R. Adams	11 to 10
S. Cawdell	10 to 12

Hunstanton: 23-27 June

Miss D.A. Cornelius	6 to 5
Mrs R.A. Gosden	9 to 8

Nottingham: 27-29 June

W.T. Coles	2½ to 2
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Woking: 27 June-6 July

G. Vince	7½ to 4½
J.P. Dawson	3 to 2½
D.C.D. Wiggins	5 to 4½

A. Lindley	3 to 2½
Mrs I.G. McDiarmid	7 to 6
M. Young	9 to 8

Norton Hall Club

W.G. Masterton	8 to 7½
Miss C.M. Hay	14 to 15D13

Bristol: 28-29 June

S. Packer	11 to 8
D. Gugan	10 to 9
D.M. Gillett	10 to 8
R.S. Jenkins	6 to 5
Miss J.A. Skinner	15 to 17

Hunstanton Club

J. Reeve	10 to 9
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Colchester Club

D. Reeve	4 to 3½
P. Elliott	8 to 7½
G.F. Hallett	5½ to 6
J.E. Reeve	9 to 7½

Wolverhampton Club

D. de Q. Lenfestey	9 to 11
T.P. Greenwood	4½ to 3½

Budleigh Salterton:

30 June-5 July	
Mrs A. Croker	5½ to 5
Dr C.J.C. Davey	13 to 11D9
D.J. Goacher	3½ to 2
P. Gregg	5½ to 4½
N.M. Griffin	7½ to 6½
Mrs M. Langley	8 to 7½
Dr D.L. Laney	2 to 1½
J. McB. Wood	6½ to 5½
Mrs K. Whittall	9 to 8
J.D. Williamson	5½ to 5

Bristol Club

M. Suter	5 to 4
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Oxford: 4-6 July

M. Wormald	3 to 2½
A. Schonbeck	16 to 14

Himley: 5-6 July

S.W. Packer	8 to 5
H.R. Stanley	9 to 8
R. Weaver	6 to 5
Mrs F. Townsend	10 to 11

Southwick: 8-12 July

D.C.D. Wiggins	4½ to 3½
Mrs B. Solomon	16 to 18

High Wycombe Club

D. Magee	12
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Hull: 12-13 July

D.W. Trotman	9 to 8
W.G. Masterton	7½ to 7
D.R. Dudeney	14 to 13

Wolverhampton Club

D.E. Spear	6 to 5½
Miss H. Hewitson	6 to 7

Handicap Coordination

Committee (on appeal)	
I.D. Bond	-1½ to -1
Mrs B. Gosden	9 to 8

Bentley Club

V.R. Carter	8 to 9
F.H. Northcote	9 to 10
W.L. Pulley	10 to 11
G.T. Stone	16 to 18

Edgbaston: 19-21 July

P.J. Dorke	5 to 4
S.W. Packer	5 to 4½

Glasgow: 19-20 July

F.V.X. Norton	2 to 3
Dr C.v. Griethuysen	6½ to 6
G. Anderson	5 to 4½

Cheltenham Club

Mrs J. Cima	10 to 9
Mrs M.D. Murray	8 to 7
Mrs B.G. Neal	6 to 8
Mrs K. Wheeler	4 to 6
Mrs K. Turtle	15D13 to 14D12

We regret that we cannot list

handicaps of non-Associates.

Official Business

RECRUITMENT DRIVE

The following clubs have now achieved 50% or more of their recruitment targets:

Group 1: Ealing and Harrogate
Group 2: High Wycombe, Cassiobury and Surbiton
Group 3: Southwick, Bowdon and Woking

Other clubs are well on the way.

Which club will be the first to meet its target?

Enrol another CA member today and help your club develop its facilities.

Remember - there is over £1000 to be won for development grants!

For full details of the Recruitment Drive and the details of the competition, see Issue No 185 (page 20) or phone the CA Office.

Changes in Officials

Buxton C.C.

New Secretary: Mrs Leslie Nugent, 35 South Avenue, Buxton, Derbyshire. 0298-78865

New Examining Referee

B. Redford

New Championship Referee

K.F. Wylie

New Referees

G. Cuttle	W.E. Lamb
F. Newman	P. Stoker
Mrs M Newman	C. Hudson
Mrs C.E. Irwin	J. Rose
A.J. Collin	R.J. Smith

CA CLUB CONFERENCE

The CA Club Conference, held every 2 years, will take place at Hurlingham on Saturday

6th December 1986.

It is being organised by Derek Caporn and Chris Hudson, who would welcome suggested topics for discussion.

ISSUE No 186

We regret that some Associates did not receive their copy of the last Issue after the initial mailing. Copies were despatched to all members from the CA Office, the names being checked from the latest Directory and the correct number being established by the number of stamps used. Many copies, however, seem to have been lost in transit, and we are taking the matter up with the Post Office.

In the meantime, if you should have had a copy of Issue 186 and still have not received it, please let Brian Macmillan know. Spare copies are still available, and he will be delighted to send you one. Please accept our apologies for the delay.

CA MALLET

1986 Prices

£35.00 to Associates