

Championships (7)

THE CHAMPIONSHIP OF IRELAND

Carrickmines: 4-9 August

Gerard Healy wins the Irish Championship

Report by David Appleton

During the week 36 people played 105 games of croquet. How can I choose the highlights from so many? My impressions are not always confirmed by the tournament results: for example, it is not true that one or other of John McCullough, Gerard Healy and Peter Robson played in every game, though John played in 18, Gerard in 17, and Peter in 13.

Nor is it true that it rained all the time - the weather was quite good for Ireland, really - but Robin Hobbs and David Appleton could be forgiven for thinking it did as they paddled from



Gerard Healy - Champion of Ireland.

lawn 2 after their 9-hour struggle.

And I don't suppose that Gerard hit every lift shot, but when under pressure in the splendid final of the Championship of Ireland, he hitched up his trousers and certainly hit all the important ones, beating John McCullough +4 in the deciding game.

Another fine match also involved John, who beat Don Gaunt +3 in the third game after Don had managed all the peels of a triple only to overrun when approaching rover. Terence Read, last year's champion, had the week's only successful triple.

Peter Robson beat Padraig Thornton in the Green cup, but fellow Durham student Mark Hutchinson calmly beat him +1 in the handicap event, and also won the level singles for players of 9 bisques or over, beating

Charles von Schmieder.

The handicap committee's deliberations mean that Mark will not be eligible to enter the latter event next year, and it will surprise me if Charles (who beat Andrew Collin in the final of the Plate competition) is either. At 12 bisques and 13 years, his cool temperament was a model for many players half his handicap and twice his age.

David Beatty, on crutches and with a twisted ankle in plaster, found most of his opponents less sympathetic than Reggie Leonard, who (though somewhat older than his opponent) contributed to his own downfall by holding the crutches while David took his shots. Now and then David would be joined by his 'non-croquet-playing' brother Derek, who abandoned his job behind the bar (oh that lovely Guinness!) to help win the doubles.

Robin Hobbs spent much of the week spreadeagled on his stomach, making refereeing decisions; Carl von Schmieder managed the five tournaments without looking a day older at the end (a local press report took him and son Charles for brothers); the lawns were flat and green; the people friendly; the lunches good; and the tournament dinner a splendid evening. It was my first week-long tournament (at Carrickmines or anywhere else but

It's maybe someday I'll go back to Ireland, Where the sky is such a lovely shade of grey, To see again the palm trees by the lakeside, Where waterlogging's always stopping play.

The winds that blow across the lawns of Ireland Are perfumed by the Guinness as they blow, And the players missing roquets in the twilight Speak a language that the strangers do not know.

RESULTS

Championship of Ireland

(Advanced Play: Best of 3 games)

1st Round:

F. Rogerson bt N.D. Browne +25, +10;
T.O. Read bt P. Robson +11, +3(TP); J.R. McCullough bt T.N. Browne +9, +17; D.L. Gaunt bt C.A. Gamble +22, +13; G.P.N. Healy bt A.J. Collin -11, +15, +9
C. von Schmieder bt Mrs M.P. Collin +3, +9; S. Williams bt J. Rose +20, +4; D.R. Appleton bt R.M. Hobbs +4, -9, +2(T)

2nd Round:

Reed bt Rogerson +23, +13; McCullough bt Gaunt +11, -10, +3; Healy bt von Schmieder -11, +6, +20; Williams bt Appleton +12, +25

Semi-Finals:

McCullough bt Read -25, +3, +21; Healy bt Williams +7, +4

Final:

Healy bt McCullough +14, -15, +4

Green Cup

(Level Play: 6 bisques & over)

1st Round:

D.R. Appleton bt J. McAuley +6

2nd Round:

P. Thornton bt Mrs B. Leonard +5; D.R. Appleton bt A. Brown +17; H. Webb bt R.D. Leonard +8; P. Robson bt Mrs E. McWeeney +26;

Semi-Finals:

Thornton bt Appleton +3; Robson bt Webb +6

Final:

Robson bt Thornton +24

Level Singles

(9 bisques & over)

1st Round:

M. O'Shaughnessy bt Mrs E. McWeeney +8; A. Brown bt Mrs J.A. Quin

2nd Round:

M.C. Hutchinson bt P. O'Dwyer +1(T); O'Shaughnessy bt R.J. Leonard +6; T.M. Quin bt Brown +8; Charles von Schmieder bt Mrs A. Healy +16

Semi-Finals:

Hutchinson bt O'Shaughnessy +19; Ch von Schmieder bt Quin +1(T)

Final:

Hutchinson bt Ch von Schmieder +12

Steel Cup

(Plate Event: Handicap Play)

3rd Round:

A.J. Collin (1½) bt P. Robson (5)

+16; H. Webb (7½) bt T.N. Browne (5½) +21; J. McAuley (8) bt P. Thornton (7) +1; Ch von Schmieder (12) bt Mrs M. Collin (1) +23

Semi-Finals:

Collin bt Webb +11; Ch von Schmieder bt McAuley +3

Final:

Ch von Schmieder bt Collin +25

Founders Cup

(Handicap Play)

1st Round:

T.N. Browne (5½) bt M. O'Shaughnessy (16) +10; M.C. Hutchinson (12) bt Mrs B. Leonard (8) +16; Mrs M.P. Collin (1) bt P. Thornton (7) +7; G.P.N. Healy (-1) bt Mrs D.A. Quin (13) +19; D. Beatty (4) bt R.J. Leonard (9) +16; J. Rose (-2) bt A.J. Collin (1½) +13; S. Williams (1½) bt C.A. Gamble (1) +16; D. Appleton (6) bt F. Rogerson (½) +26; T.O. Read (-1½) bt T.M. Quin (13) +3; P. Robson (6) bt P. O'Dwyer (18') +24; J.R. McCullough (-2) bt J. McAuley (8) +11; C. von Schmieder (0) bt Mrs E. McWeeney +21; R.M. Hobbs (2) bt Dr H. Webb (7½) +3

2nd Round:

N.D. Browne (5) bt Ch von Schmieder +15; Hutchinson bt T.N. Browne +26; Mrs Collin bt Healy; Beatty bt Rose +17; Williams bt Appleton +5; Robson bt Read +25; McCullough bt von Schmieder +24; D.L. Gaunt (1) bt Hobbs +23

3rd Round:

Hutchinson bt Browne; Beatty bt Mrs Collin +17; Robson bt Williams +17; Gaunt bt McCullough (wo)

Semi-Finals:

Hutchinson bt Beatty +10; Robson bt Gaunt +26

Final:

Hutchinson bt Robson +1

Stonebrook Cups

(Handicap Doubles: Total bisques 6 or over)

3rd Round:

D. & D. Beatty bt Rose & Mrs McWeeney +23; Healy & O'Shaughnessy bt Read & Leonard +18; McCullough & Webb bt Rogerson & O'Dwyer; Gamble & O'Dwyer bt C. & Ch von Schmieder

Semi-Finals:

D. & D. Beatty bt Healy & O'Shaughnessy +19; McCullough & Webb bt Gamble & O'Dwyer +17

Final:

D. & D. Beatty bt McCullough & Webb +25

November 1986

Issue No 188

CROQUET

Inside:

1986 National Rankings

The Westwood Internationals

Tournament Reports
& Results

Coaches Corner

PLUS: Full Report on the
British Opens

VOLUNTEER NEEDED

Would you enjoy a challenge to increase advertising revenue for 'Croquet'? Not to rival 'Exchange & Mart', but simply because every page of advertising in our magazine pays for another page of text. If you could sell space to companies whose products would be of genuine interest to croquet players, please contact Chris Hudson (0270-820296).

The Croquet Association would like to thank
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Professionalism & Croquet

Two members of the Australian team that recently played in the MacRobertson Shield Series are reported to be on their way to America to take up appointments there as croquet professionals.

In much the same way as Golf Clubs have their own resident Golf Professional, croquet in the States has now reached the point where it is possible for someone to earn a living as a coach.

The same situation could arise in this country, perhaps rather quicker than most of us think. The demand for coaching is increasing rapidly, and already we have a number of people who are spending a lot of their time (unpaid) in coaching new players.

I wonder if it is reasonable to expect them to continue to do so, particularly as the

amount of time and travelling involved can become quite considerable.

On much the same topic, there is still considerable interest in croquet as a possible television sport. This year, the winning prize for the Royal Bank Nations Trophy was just £150, but one has only to look at other televised sports to see how the prize money has increased dramatically as each sport has taken off.

In my view, we ought to be thinking now about the impact of 'professionalism' on croquet. When professionals begin to appear (either as players or as coaches), do we want to keep them in the fold, or do we want to have two separate organisations?

CHRIS HUDSON



More and more local authorities are allowing the dual use of Bowling Greens for Bowls and Croquet. Here Croquet and Bowls are played side by side at Moor Park, Preston. (Photo Lancashire Evening Post)

A SOUTHWICK TRIPLET

The accompanying triplet was composed to commemorate an incident in the 'Y' doubles at the Autumn Tournament at Southwick.

Those who know Southwick will know that second colour balls are rarely used there and may rightly suspect that I have used some poetic licence in the interests of scansion in my choice of colours.

To S—; my long-suffering doubles partner

I pegged out both the pink and white. (Our balls were green and brown).
Cor' stone the crows, and strike a light!
I pegged out both the pink and white, (I'll never live it down).
I aimed it left, I hit it right,
I pegged out both the pink and white (Our balls were green and brown).
David Ruscombe-King

OBITUARY

Miss Alice M. Ryan

During the morning of the 25th August, Alice was cheerfully helping with the catering for the Open Tournament at the East Dorset Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club, when she suddenly felt ill.

In spite of the care that she received in the intensive care unit of Poole Hospital, she passed away at 9.00am the next morning.

The news came as a great shock and she will be sadly missed by all her friends in the croquet world.

Alice's voluntary services to the Parkstone Club were many. Only this summer she organised the reception for the players in the New Zealand and United Kingdom International at Parkstone. Everything she undertook was carried out meticulously and with a quiet charm and sweet smile which never failed to touch the hearts of those privileged to know her.

Miss M.D. McMordie.

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Front Cover: William Prichard demonstrating a corner cannon. (Photo: Jeff Bowden)

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The 1986 MacRobertson Shield Series - A Retrospect

By Martin Murray



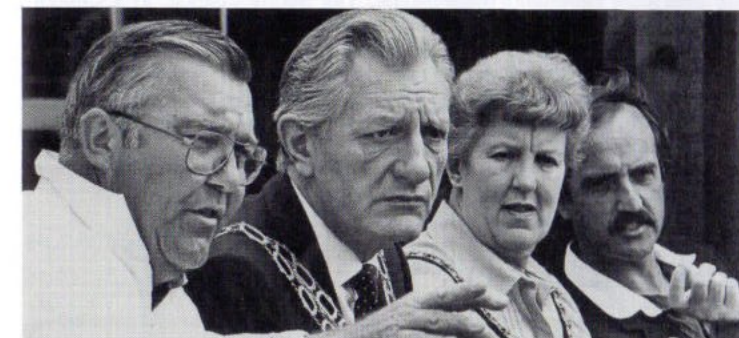
Martin Murray

At the start of the season I put forward my thoughts on how the Test series might turn out, and at least as far as the overall results go my forecast turned out fairly accurate. New Zealand won the series by a narrow margin from Great Britain, with Australia third, though not disgraced. The contest really only lasted for five test matches, since it was decided by New Zealand's second win over Great Britain at Parkstone. While the overall standard of play was probably as high as I had expected, there were several surprises in the way individual matches turned out and in the form of the players involved.

The performance of the New Zealand team entirely justified my belief that they would win the Shield; right from their arrival in England they showed the determination that had been lacking in Australia in 1982. This can probably be ascribed to two people, Ashley Heenan, their manager, and Bob Jackson. Ashley transferred his determination to the team, who showed him immense loyalty and were prepared to follow his lead. Bob provided the example on the courts that the team

series only David Openshaw approached that with any consistency, though Steve Mulliner and Nigel Aspinall gave glimpses of what they could achieve with fine performances at Parkstone and Budleigh respectively. Possibly the series came somewhat too early in our season, and the critical matches too early in the series, for Nigel played much better in the Opens than he had in the early Tests, as too did William Prichard. The two newcomers, Colin Irwin and Mark Avery, acquitted themselves quite well throughout the series; occasionally their inexperience showed itself, but their basic playing ability and keenness usually compensated for it.

After a defeat it is always tempting to speculate whether the selectors made a mistake, and whether a different team might have been more successful. Such speculation is bound to be contentious, and by its very nature unprovable. Certainly the two reserves who were called on to play, Andrew Hope and John McCullough, gave no evidence that they would have altered the outcome had they been originally



Barrie Chambers (left) and John Prince explain some of the finer points of croquet to the Mayor and Mayoress of Trafford during the first Test Match at Bowdon.

needed, not losing a singles or doubles until after the Shield was won. His play is greatly admired by all his teammates, who seem to be inspired by his presence. The strength of the team was most noticeable in their shooting, the top three, Jackson, Hogan, and Skinley all hitting an almost unbelievable proportion of their long shots. These three players played consistently at what I would term world class throughout the series, and none of the other players in the series played as consistently well as these three. The fact that Jackson and Hogan contested the final of the Opens confirmed their ranking as the world's two best players. The other three members of the New Zealand team were definitely a class below the top three, but they were at least the equal of their opposite numbers in the British team, and Roger Murfitt's contribution to two desperately close doubles victories was a decisive factor at both Cheltenham and Parkstone.

The British team's performance was perhaps marginally disappointing. To match New Zealand they would have needed to have three players of world class, and certainly at the start of the

selected, and none of the other might-have-beens, such as Keith Wylie, Michael Heap, Keith Aiton and Eric Solomon, had produced the evidence in recent seasons that they would have made much difference either. It remains an enigma of British croquet that we continue to produce plenty of players of just less than test match calibre, but produce so few players of world class, and it was world class players that were missing from the British team.

The Australians, with three new players in their team, were more of an unknown quantity than the other two teams, and they produced a few surprises. Neil Spooner was way below the form he had displayed in 1982; at times his shooting was as good as that of the top three New Zealanders, but he missed too many short roquets and stuck in too many easy hoops to offer a challenge at number one. The other Australians got some good results, especially against Great Britain, but their successes tended to owe more to determination and will to win than to tactical expertise. Another feature of the Australian team was their poor doubles performances, due in part to the lack of

established, well tried partnerships. It is perhaps relevant that the last three teams to win the Shield have done so without any changes to their three doubles pairs.

One general characteristic of the play of all three teams was that it was far too slow, particularly in doubles. To some extent this may be due to the feeling among players that the matches are so important, and that mistakes must be avoided at all costs. There was no evidence that the long periods of consultation in doubles led to better tactical decisions; the effect seemed rather to be to promote defensive tactics, aimed at avoiding defeat rather than gaining victory. The New Zealanders play without time limits in their championships, with the result that the programme has to be open-ended. We have time limits in our championships, but there is no penalty for slow play, indeed the slower player may often be at an advantage by frustrating his quicker opponent. If the play in the next series is as slow, I can see difficulty in completing the programme, especially if the courts are as fast as they often can be in New Zealand. Many spectators commented on the dreariness of much of the doubles play, and if croquet hopes to have any spectator appeal this problem will have to be solved somehow.

After any Test series it is always tempting to look forward to the next series, and try to forecast the outcome. Only three British seasons remain before the team will be selected, so it is unlikely that the British team will contain any players who are not already in the A class. It is always difficult to predict whether an improving player will make the breakthrough into a higher grade, so the safe option is to predict a team of current President's Cup players. My choice might look like - Openshaw, Mulliner, Avery, Irwin, Aiton, and Cordingley, but I would be surprised if it turns out to be correct. Certainly I don't think that such a team would win the Shield in New Zealand, particularly if Jackson, Hogan, and Skinley are still playing as well as they did this year. What we need are some new world class players, and it is perhaps encouraging that a number of teenagers are starting to make their mark. Maybe too late for 1990 but promising for 1993. The incentive is there, and while other international competitions may well be offering other possibilities for our top players, it is the MacRobertson Shield that is likely to retain its traditional place as the premier event in the croquet calendar.

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Croquet in Boston, U.S.A.



The small court at the Lenox Club.

The Boston Croquet Club and the Lenox Club affiliated to the Association earlier this year. Xandra Kayden, the Secretary of the Boston Club, has written to tell us about the New England Collegiate Croquet Association,

in the hope that any English students spending time at any of the Universities in the New England States (Massachusetts, Connecticut, Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine and Rhode Island) might join them to play croquet whilst over there.

The Boston Club has 30 to 40 members and is now going into its seventh year. They have two courts: a narrow one at Lewis Wharf overlooking the Boston harbour, and a full-size court in a suburban town called Dover, fifteen miles from Boston. They usually play in town on Saturday and in Dover on Sunday, and often in the evening at Lewis Wharf as well.

The club has held the doubles and singles New England regional titles as long as there have been regional tournaments sponsored by the USCA, and they have a sister club relationship with the Fitzroy Croquet Club in Adelaide, Australia. Brook Horowitz, formerly a member of Thameside Croquet Club, is currently at Harvard University and plays regularly at Boston.

The Lenox Club - and indeed the Lenox community, which includes the two full sized courts in Blantyre and several private courts - may become the best croquet facility in the United States. The club has one regulation court now and, if all

goes well this year, plans to put in two more next year. It is a lovely and interesting community which includes major cultural assets such as Tanglewood, the summer home of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, theatre, and ballet. It has been the home of a number of artists and writers for many generations.



The Boston Court at Lewis Wharf

Odds & Ends

A QUESTION OF LAW

Question 1. Handicap Doubles. B.P. triple peels and pegs out an opponent. He subsequently completes a second peel for his partner ball. The opponent claims that as this is B.P.'s 5th peel, it is not allowed. Is this correct?

Question 2. A ball rebounds from a hoop. In order to avoid it hitting his foot, the striker topples back and treads on another ball. Has a fault been committed?

(Answers below)

FORMATION OF A WELSH CROQUET ASSOCIATION

A Public Meeting will be held at 2pm on Saturday, 13th December at the Offices of the Sport Council for Wales, Sophia Gardens, Cardiff, with the object of setting up a Welsh Croquet Association to act as the governing body for the game in Wales.

All those interested in promoting or playing the game will be welcome at the inaugural meeting.

Whether or not you can attend the meeting, if you are interested in seeing croquet grow in Wales, please register your interest with Gordon Griffiths at the Sports Council for Wales (Tel: Cardiff 397571).

If you would like more information, please contact Chris Hudson on 0270-820296.

ANSWERS TO QUIZ

Answer 1: No. He has only done 2 peels with his partner's ball and is allowed 4. (Law 43(c)).

Answer 2: Yes. Because the striker has not 'quitted his stance under control' (Law 31(c)), the striking period is not ended and a fault can be committed under Law 32(xiv).

CA SILVER MEDALS

A CA Silver Medal is presented to any Associate who, in a first-class level singles event reaches the following stages when the requisite number of bona fide competitors are drawn and actually play:

(a) SINGLE LIFE OR BEST OF THREE - Final stage when there are not less than 16 competitors and the semi-final stage when there are not less than 32 competitors.

(b) DRAW AND PROCESS - (i) The play-off for first place when there are not less than 16 competitors. (ii) The final of the Draw or Process when there are not less than 32 competitors.

A first class level event shall be one which is played under conditions of advanced play, is open to all without any restriction other than one excluding men or women, non-Associates, or competitors with official handicaps exceeding a stated number of bisques.

NATIONAL TOURNAMENT RESULTS

INTER-CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP Round 2

Cheltenham bt Roehampton

Semi-Finals

Cheltenham bt Nottingham 4-2

Ipswich bt Harrow Oak 4-3

Final

Cheltenham bt Ipswich 4-2

MARY ROSE TROPHY

Semi-Finals

Roehampton bt Bowdon 5-1

Bristol bt Edgbaston 5-2

Final

Bristol bt Roehampton 6-1

LONGMAN CUP

Round 4

Glasgow bt Durham U.

Thomas Cook bt Wolverhampton 4-1

Reigate bt Woking 3-2

Bristol bt Oxford U. 3-2

Semi-Finals

Thomas Cook bt Glasgow

Bristol bt Reigate 3-2

Final

Bristol bt Thomas Cook 5-0

CA CLUB CONFERENCE

Draft Programme

11am. THE OPENING

'We have hit the tice and are going for the peg' - The 3 Year Plan.

'A Bisque Please' - Question Time!

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

'1st Class for all - Lifts and Contacts in Handicap Play'.

'Levy - a change in assessment'.

'The impact of sponsorship on the game and on the clubs'.

LUNCHEON INTERVAL

Video show:

The Royal Bank Nations Trophy: (Granada TV).

The 1985 Northern Championships: (Screen Sport).

Why not play Croquet?: (Channel 4)

PLAY RESUMES

Group discussion of the three topics introduced before lunch.

SEXTUPLE PEEL

Groups report back.

THE COUNCIL IN THE CORNER

Questions and ideas from the floor.

PRESENTATION OF PRIZES

THE FINAL TURN

4.30pm. TIME HAS BEEN CALLED

KNOW THE GAME BOOKLETS 'CROQUET'

Unfortunately the price of these books has now been increased by the publishers.

Copies can still be obtained from the CA Office, but at the new price.

The price to Clubs and CA Members is now £1.25 + 24p P&p.

To non-Associates, the price is now £1.50 plus 24p P&p.

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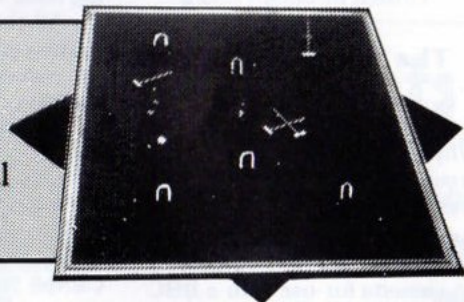
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Some low-bisquers are natural games players and are able to achieve and maintain a low handicap with seemingly little effort. But most 'A' class players only attain their low handicaps as a result of consistent practice and from the experience of competing in tournament play over a period of several years. Roger Coulsworthy fell somewhere between these two categories.

He had taken up croquet in middle-age, having been both a competent club cricketer and rugby player in his youth and latterly a rugby referee. In his late forties, he decided he had had enough and was looking for a new activity, preferably summer-based. There were long waiting lists at golf clubs, bowls he considered too tame; and as he had been introduced to croquet in the past by an old cricketing friend, he decided to give the game a serious try. He was welcome at his local club.

In his first season he made only fair progress. Being a good games player, he quickly mastered the fundamental shots, but was weak on tactics, which in his previous sports were not important elements. At the end of the year his handicap was 10.

During the following winter, he studied books on the subject of tactics and early next season went on a coaching week-end. As a result, he found he had obtained a much better understanding of the tactical side of the game. He entered two week-end tournaments and to his surprise won his block competition on both occasions. By the end of that season, his handicap was 5.

He had now become extremely keen and sensing he had the capability of becoming a scratch player, set himself the objective of achieving this handicap within a further two years.

His determination became ice-cold and his enthusiasm boundless. He went to every week-end tournament that was going and to some week-long ones as well. During the summer evenings he practised four-ball and three-ball breaks to perfection, along with corner and line cannons and so on, eventually progressing to triple peels. His handicap came tumbling down. But he neglected his house and his garden, which had previously been something of a show piece. Weeds grew in the herbaceous borders, roses remained unpruned and the lawns over-

grown. His neighbours grumbled about weed seeds and at times he envied them their tidy plots.

But worse, he also neglected his wife. She left him for a while, and this so upset his peace of mind and standard of play that only constant pleading on his part, with promises of employing a decorator and a gardener, persuaded her to return. She, in fact, returned, not unwillingly since she knew on which side her bread was buttered, while Roger Coulsworthy was shrewd enough also not to neglect his successful computer business, which provided the wherewithal, both for pacifying his wife and for staying at expensive hotels at each week-end tournament. Boarding houses were not to the taste of Roger Coulsworthy.

By the end of the third season, he had reached a handicap of + 1/2. Unfortunately though, he had become somewhat unpopular at his club by constant practising on his own and by refusing to play with the higher handicap members. As for the golf croquet players, he positively despised them and hardly ever bothered even to talk to them, let alone encourage them to take up association croquet. The general feeling in the club was that here was a selfish player, who was using the club primarily for his own ends, although they grudgingly admired his determination and success.

During the following winter, his business took him to South Africa, which enabled him to play some croquet as well. Not only did this trip keep him in practice, it helped to pacify his wife, who accompanied him.

At the beginning of the next season, he calculated that if he entered some early week-end tournaments he could reach scratch by June. At the first week-end tournament, he performed moderately well, winning three out of the five games. He had not quite adjusted to the speed of the lawns after South Africa. At the second, he won all five games, but not by large margins and as it was early in the season, his handicap was not reduced. He was disappointed but resumed practising and then proceeded to his third tournament with renewed confidence.

He won his first two games by reasonable margins, playing against middle-bisquers. The next two games against a high

bisquer and a minus 2 player respectively were won by substantial margins, primarily as a result of superb hitting-in.

In his last game, going in second against a scratch player, he hit in with his second ball and took it to 4-back. Opponent

spoke to him softly, 'Will you come this way, sir'. He went out of the room with her to what was apparently a waiting area and

Ambition

A Short Story by Brian Bucknall (Phyllis Court)



He had taken up croquet in middle age...

missed the hit-in and on his next turn, Roger took his second ball to hoop 3, peeled his first, continued through 1 back and round to penult. The spectators were watching with bated breath and as Roger started on the final stretch he paused for a moment to wipe his brow. He thought to himself, 'home and dry now. Best game I've ever played. Handicap is bound to come down.'

He bent down to address the ball to approach penult. But just as he was doing so he was struck by an excruciating pain in his head and chest. As he blacked out and collapsed he realised in an instant what was happening and his dying words, overheard by some of the spectators were 'my God, of all the lousy...'

Three days later he found himself in a white gown and sandals lying on a couch in a spotlessly clean room with the morning sunshine streaming in through the window. An attendant, noticing he was awake

his name was given to reception. In a few minutes his name was called and he was shown into another room, where a bearded man, also dressed in white, was seated behind a desk upon which was a computer terminal and a tray of coffee.

'Ah, Coulsworthy,' the man said, 'Please sit down. Are you feeling all right? Help yourself to coffee'. As Roger sipped the best cup of coffee he thought he had ever tasted, the man continued, 'I'm on the staff of Saint Peter and it is my job to tell you to which unit you are to be assigned. We try to find something suitable. It is rather like joining the army back on earth.'

'Now let me see' and he keyed in Roger Coulsworthy's name on the computer terminal. Roger was just as interested in trying to establish if there were a maker's label on the terminal as well as seeing the screen display itself, but there didn't seem to be such a label, nor could he see the

screen display properly.

'A croquet player, eh?' the man continued. 'We don't get many of these. All live long lives,

He caught the next train, enjoyed travelling at high speed through the pleasant landscape, at least on his left hand side, for on his right was a continuous wall. An excellent lunch was served to him on the journey and by late afternoon, he arrived at his destination.

He alighted from the train and as instructed, went through the exit, which led on to an entrance gate in the wall, and in he went. He was greeted by a panorama of croquet lawns, green in the beautiful sunshine and surrounded by trees and shrubs. He thought, 'this is heaven'.

He reported to reception. The receptionist said, 'Yes, we are expecting you. Your kit, mallet and everything you need is ready for you in that bungalow over there. Settle yourself in and report back here at six o'clock and I will take you to meet the others before dinner.'

'When do we play croquet?' Roger enquired.

'Oh, every day,' replied the receptionist 'we have singles tournaments on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays and doubles games on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. Sunday morning we go to church and Sunday afternoons is lawn cutting'.

'Great' said Roger, does one retain one's earthly handicap?'

'Handicaps?' replied the receptionist 'We do not need these here for our sort of games'.

'What sort of games?' said Roger.

'Golf croquet' the receptionist replied. 'Association croquet is not allowed here under any circumstances'.

'My God' exclaimed Roger 'that's purgatory'.

'That's right' the receptionist replied. 'That's where you are for the next ten years. After that you may get a posting'.

PRIZE COMPETITION

Write a Short Story

A £10.00 Book Token will be awarded to the author of the best croquet-related short story published in this magazine in 1987.

The Judges Panel will be ten readers selected by the Editor. Their identity will be revealed when the result is announced!

Entries, which should be no longer than 2000 words, should be sent to the Editor as soon as possible, and in no case later than 20th March 1987.

Championships (1)

THE BRITISH OPENS

Hurlingham: 19-26 July

Hogan wins the Opens with a superb display

Report by Martin Murray

'No matter how lyrical I were to become, I could not evoke an adequate picture of the Championships this year. I will just record as many of the great happenings as one pair of eyes and ears could absorb'. Those words started the report of the 1974 Opens, and seem entirely appropriate for the start of this year's report. As in 1974, the Opens, following the Test Series, attracted an extremely strong entry; all six of the New Zealand Test team, two of the Australians, Neil Spooner and Damon Bidencepe, and all the British players who have played in the MacRobertson Shield since 1979, except for Colin Irwin, who had used up all his leave, and Keith Wylie. The extra two days added to the tournament in recent years, together with the generosity of the Hurlingham cricketers, in allowing the use of the cricket pitch on the first weekend, meant that Barry Keen, managing the event for the first time, was able to accept an entry of 57 for the singles, the highest ever. Of these, only 10, including 3 of the New Zealanders, were survivors from the 1974 Opens.

The first day started, as now customary, with doubles. Maybe it was the after effects of the Test Tour farewell dinner the night before, but play was less than sparkling. Many players, including championship referees, who should have known better, were observed in flagrant breach of Law 48(a). 'In doubles play, time must not be wasted in prolonged discussion'. Many games went to time, though it was interesting that third games, limited to two hours, were usually as near to finishing as first games that had lasted four hours. The highlight of the first round was Jackson and Hogan versus Aspinall and Mulliner, a result of the doubles being unseeded despite a Council resolution that 'seeding be employed in the Open Championships'. Those who fancied the New Zealand pair to win the event were soon disappointed by Jackson's form, particularly in front of hoops. The first game was a fairly easy win for the British pair, but the New Zealanders looked like winning a protracted second, until Aspinall hit a critical 20-yard lift shot just before time was called, with the British pair three points ahead. Two other high class matches also went to time, Bidencepe (partnering Mark Ormerod) scoring the necessary points to win after time was called against Heap and Bond, while a fascinating position arose in the McCullough and Cordingley versus Bell and Rose contest. Just before time, McCullough pegged out his ball in order to get a maximum lead, then Bell had to peg out himself to level the scores after time was called. This left two balls on the court, both for 4-back, and excellent possibilities for a stale-mate. Luckily, the two players declined to behave like Test match players and Cordingley scored the vital hoop to win.

Saturday's fine weather, which had led to the disturbing sight of Hilditch in shorts, gave way to rain on Sunday and an improve-

ment in the standard of play. Openshaw and Avery had a bloodless win over Tony and Colleen Stephens from New Zealand. Tony has hardly played since representing New Zealand in 1963, and needs more play to approach his old form. Two other matches, which might have been close, were, in fact, quite one-sided, Aspinall and Mulliner completing a triple piece against Hope and Murray, and Skinley and Prince easily beating McCullough and Cordingley with a Skinley triple in the second game. The only mild surprise was Peterson and Lewis's win over Solomon and Neal, though there was nearly another, as Bidencepe and Ormerod won the first against Prichard and Spooner, only just lost the second, and kept the third going to almost the full nine hours, before

New Zealand's Joe Hogan, winner of the 1986 British Open Championship, receives the Trophy from Andrew Hope, Chairman of the Croquet Association.



finally succumbing. The singles got started today as well, Aspinall, Avery, and Jackson having easy wins, but Hope lost the first against a confident Aldridge, who looked like winning the second, but broke down attempting an over-ambitious triple. The provision of liquid and solid refreshment by his caring doubles partner helped Hope to recover enough form to level the scores and take the third next morning.

Monday was dominated by singles, with several tough matches, despite the seeding, since only eight players were seeded. This meant that players of the standard of Prichard and Bidencepe were unseeded, and they met in a first round match which turned out to be very one-sided, Prichard giving an excellent exhibition with a triple in the first and almost one in the second to win easily. McCullough had almost as easy a win over Cordingley, though Cordingley had a chance in the second after McCullough pegged out one ball. Spooner became the first seed to drop a game after he pegged out one ball with the other on penultimate and Murray got round from 1 and 4-back to take the second. This match was notable for Spooner's long shooting, almost every shot over 20 yards being hit (but several shorter ones missed), and a jump shot by Murray over the second hoop (like all the hoops 1/2 an inch too high) which was perfectly

straight but bounced over both the opponent's balls!

Aiton, reappearing after an absence swotting for law exams, showed that he had learnt little by attempting a sextuple on the opponent and predictably losing the first to Susan Wiggins. He looked as if his boxer's outfit, complete with haircut and boots with laces properly tied to be undone quickly at hospital, would enable him to do an excellent impersonation of Frank Bruno, but to the disappointment of some spectators who were seen howling for blood, he picked himself off the canvas to win the next two games. Walters' disastrous season, following his excellent win in the Chairman's Salver last year, continued when he found Southern in fine form, and another surprise was just averted when Solomon scraped the third against Neal, having lost the first by 1 on time.

By Tuesday, the singles was getting well into the second and third rounds, the manager being well assisted by the easy

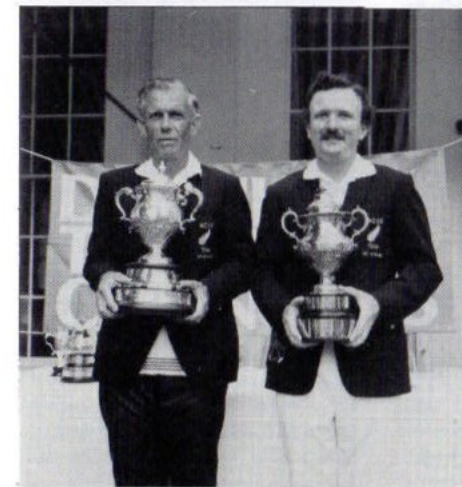
conditions. Aspinall did him a particular favour by beating him +26, +26 in under two hours, the same score being achieved by Mulliner against Guest, Jackson against Southern, and by Murfitt against Skinley, the first defeat for any of the seeds. Beale, the other unseeded New Zealander, had an awfully close win over Rose, who stuck in an easy penultimate after hitting a last lift shot by bouncing off the hoop. Beale now met Prince in the other New Zealand clash. The second game produced an interesting position after Beale got the first break; Prince laid for a sextuple (or for a TPO?), but after Beale missed the long shot, Prince wired himself from the ball at the first hoop! Eventually Prince pegged out Beale's forward ball, failed to win the pegged out game, but took the third game and the match. The good progress made in the singles allowed the manager to draw the Plate, a huge event with 40 entries, played Draw and Process, and get it started with a shock defeat for a potential blocker, Skinley, who obviously wasn't aware that Murray was no longer supposed to be the player he was in 1982.

The other shock on Tuesday was Lewis's excellent win over Avery, despite an Avery triple in the second game, and this was followed up on Wednesday when Lewis and Peterson easily dismissed Avery and

Openshaw, the defending champions, from the doubles. Lewis has impressed on each visit to the Opens; last year he almost put out Openshaw, and it is a pity he cannot play in more top-class events. Peterson, in the doubles, was almost unrecognisable as the player who, in singles, has been slipping out of the top 100 in the rankings this season. Another surprise in the doubles looked likely as Gunasekera (partnering Jan MacLeod) had a good triple chance against Prince and Skinley, but one overhit shot robbed him of the triple, and the New Zealanders took that game and the second.

In the singles Spooner retired at game all against Greenwood. Spooner has had a miserable tour, losing nearly all his matches, and finding it difficult to concentrate. The result has been a mixture of brilliance, especially in long shooting, and dreadful errors in simple positions which have not done his talents justice. Aspinall continued his excellent form with a triple in the doubles (Mulliner providing the other) and two triples against Lewis to give him five consecutive +26 wins in the singles. Openshaw, of course, is no believer in such ostentation and took the full time in his first game against Solomon to win +1 on time, this a game that Solomon should have won. The second went more easily to Openshaw, and there were other straight game wins for Murfitt against Heap and for Hogan against Prichard, though Prichard only lost the second after missing a 4-yard peg-out after completing an excellent triple.

By Thursday, the tournament was proceeding very well from the manager's point of view, the doubles being at the semi-final stage and the singles at the quarter-finals. Blocking by Aspinall, Mulliner, Prince, and Murfitt looked a likely hazard, and putting the doubles semi-finals on the cricket pitch lawns on a hot day looked risky. Both semi-finals ran to nine hours and provided plenty of incident. Peterson and Lewis seemed to have the measure of Prince and Skinley, but lost the first game after Peterson twice stuck in 1-back from six inches. Eventually he prevailed on a referee to have the ball measured, and it was found to be marginally oversize and replaced. A similar incident had occurred in one of the Test matches, and in that case, as here, no replay or recom-



Bob Jackson (left) and Joe Hogan - an all New Zealand final.

pense was allowed to the player. Those who think this harsh should consider two points; do we wish to encourage players to have hoops and balls checked every time they stick in a hoop, and even worse, do we want players to demand that hoop and ball be checked every time their opponent runs a hoop, and demand a replay if the hoop is oversize or the ball too small? After losing the first, Peterson and Lewis seemed to have the second in control when Peterson ran rover with partner on the peg, but he missed the return, which allowed Skinley and Prince to advance to 4-back and peg before Peterson hit the short lift shot to win. The third game had barely two hours of play left, and Lewis started it perfectly by going to 4-back on the fourth turn. A break by Peterson then gave his side an almost unassailable lead considering the time left and in the event they managed to peg out before time to record a marvellous win.

The other doubles semi-final was a very tense affair, Aspinall and Mulliner starting rapidly in each game, but Murfitt using all his tactical skill to pull back each time. The first he just lost by sticking in 3-back with a chance to finish, but the second he just took by pegging out his ball with time called. The third looked like another recovery by the New Zealanders as Beale went round from 3 to the peg with one peel to level the scores, but he left a double in the corner which Aspinall, for the peg, hit to score the point required after time was called.

Two of the quarter-final matches in the singles were played on Thursday, Jackson having an easy win over Greenwood, Hogan a magnificent win over Openshaw with a triple in the third game of a match which depended on the lift shots with very few errors from either player. The other two quarter-finals had to wait until Friday, and resulted in easy wins for Aspinall and Mulliner over Murfitt and Prince respectively, though Murfitt in the second game got very close after Aspinall failed on a triple. This ended Aspinall's phenomenal run of six +26 wins. Both the quarter finals were quick, so the semi-finals could start after lunch. The Jackson-Mulliner match was marked by good shooting from both players, but too many mistakes crept into Mulliner's play and Jackson eventually had an easy win in two games.

The other semi-final was a quite magnificent contest. Hogan and Aspinall had already had a three game match in the Hunstanton Test, which Aspinall had won, and both had played superbly to reach this semi-final. The first game went Aspinall's way at first, and he got to rover and peg before Hogan got his first break. Aspinall hit the lift, but had a long approach to rover, where he stuck. Hogan now hit a very long shot, had to peel Aspinall's ball through rover, but completed a perfect triple to take the game by 2 points. The second game again saw Aspinall first to 4-back, but this time Hogan hit the lift and got the second break after Aspinall missed the lift. Hogan stuck in three-back, which let in Aspinall with his forward ball, which he took to rover. He failed to make progress beyond 3 with the second ball, and Hogan got in again with the 3-back ball and proceeded to peel and peg

Championships (2)



Steve Mulliner (left) and Nigel Aspinall, this year's Open Doubles Champions.

out Aspinall's forward ball. Hogan thought it was safe, with a lead of 7 points, to peg out his own ball as well, a tactic approved by most, but not all, of the spectators. The few Wise Men were proved (??) right when Aspinall proceeded to give a superb display of how to win a two-ball game. Much of what happened was predictable to the Wise Men, for example the fact that Aspinall could make hoops 3,4, and 5 before Hogan could dare to even approach 4-back. True, Aspinall hit some good long shots, and finished with a good two-ball break from 4-back, but these are performances to be expected from a player of his class. The third game provided yet another interesting tactical position. Hogan made the first break, but stuck in the first hoop with the second ball to give Aspinall a break. He chose to go to 4-back, peeling Hogan through the first hoop, and leaving Hogan's forward ball a few yards north of the first poop, forcing (??) it to play. Hogan's response was that of true champion; he lifted the backward ball, hit the short lift shot, and finished the match with another superb triple.

The results of the two semi-finals were perfect for the manager, since the two singles finalists were not involved in the doubles final, which could be played simultaneously. The doubles final started first, and the unfancied pair, Peterson and Lewis, made an excellent start after Mulliner failed at 4th. Mulliner got in again, but failed to get to 4-back, and it was Aspinall who went to rover. Lewis then hit the lift, went round and peeled and pegged out Aspinall leaving Peterson on 4-back and Mulliner on 2-back. Having seen the Hogan-Aspinall match he did not peg out his own ball. Mulliner hit the lift, but failed to progress, and then missed a short lift after Lewis carelessly wired both balls. After one further long miss from Mulliner, Peterson finished for a very creditable win. This loss seemed to concentrate the favourites' minds, for they won a quick second game by +26 and the third by the same margin with a triple from Mulliner. This was their second doubles title, but they had looked fragile at times in the later stages of the competition.

The singles final, the first ever involving two overseas players, started at 11 a.m., to ensure some play after lunch. The first game started as a very cat-and-mouse affair, Jackson retaining the innings, but unable to

Championships (3)

The British Opens (Cont'd)

construct a break. Hogan was treating him with great respect, but eventually he was tempted to take a cross-court shot when Jackson was for 1-back. Hogan hit this, went to 4-back, and Jackson uncharacteristically took the short lift shot, which he missed by a whisker. The position gave Hogan an easy chance for a triple, which he completed without any trouble to go to lunch one game up. The second game was all Hogan, his triple containing a beautiful long roll from near the south boundary, putting his partner ball in perfect peeling position at 4-back and leaving the striker's ball with a perfect dolly rush on the pioneer at 3. This was Hogan's fifth triple in six games, and in his last four matches he had beaten all the winners of the Open Championship since 1977 as well as Jackson, who was, before this week, regarded by many as the world's number one player. If anyone is entitled to call himself World Champion, it must be Joe Hogan. I have written elsewhere about the qualities which make him such a superb player; some of our own younger players (Joe is only

27) could learn a lot from him.

Both the singles and doubles finals finished within a few minutes of each other, shortly after three o'clock, a credit to Barry Keen's management. The final event, the Plate, took somewhat longer, the final between a pair of relative has-beens, Heap and Murray, finishing about 6.30 with the same score as the other two finals, +26TP, Heap completing this one in the seventh turn. The two finalists had eliminated the two fancied New Zealanders, Skinley and Beale, who in turn had accounted for the two British Test reserves, Hope and McCullough. McCullough had looked likely to win the event up till Saturday morning, still being in both halves at that stage, but a combination of illness and exhaustion robbed him of the chance. With so many Test players in the Plate, there had been little opportunity for outsiders to shine, but notable results were achieved by Carlisle (mother and son), who eliminated Tony Stephens from the two sides, James with his first tournament triple, and by Battison, who beat Robert



Bowdon's David Peterson (left) and Steve Lewis - giant killers who reached the final of the Open Doubles.

Prichard despite attempts from certain quarters to put to nefarious use the sponsor's generosity in providing a players' bar.

RESULTS

The British Open Championship

Round 1

M. Kolbuszewski bt Miss J. MacLeod +4, -16, +6; N. Spooner* bt M. Murray +7, -2, +17; J. Greenwood bt M. French +15, -15, +11; C. Southern bt J. Walters +8, +26; R. Jackson* bt A. Mrozinski +25, +22; K. Aiton bt Mrs S. Wiggins -18, +9, +26; J. Prince* bt M. Ormerod +17, +23; G. Beale bt J. Rose +12, -10, +4; D. Gunasekera bt J. Carlisle +17, +1; W. Coles bt S. Battison +18, -11, +14; S. Mulliner* bt C. Prichard w; J. Guest bt E. Bell +10, +5; I. Bond bt R. Hilditch -11, +8, +26; R. Murfitt bt R. Hobbs +10, +25(TP); P. Skinley* bt D. Palmer +26, +21(TP); J. McCullough bt P. Cordingley +23, +6; M. Avery bt D. Foulser +10, +26(TP); S. Lewis bt I. Vincent +2, +4; N. Aspinall* bt A. Stephens 16, +26; A. Hope bt W. Aldridge -23, +10, +14; D. Openshaw* bt C. von Schmeider +17, +16; E. Solomon bt B. Neal -1(T), +15, +5; P. Smith bt P. Torrington +4, +4; W. Prichard bt D. Bidencope +23(TP), +25; J. Hogan* bt G. Noble +22, +22

Round 2

Spooner bt Kolbuszewski +24, +22(TP); GreHnwood bt Mrs V. Carlisle +2, -2, +17; Jackson bt Southern +26(TP), +26(TP); Aiton bt R. Prichard +5, -16, +15; Prince bt Beale +26, -3, +18(TP); Gunasekera bt M. Pearson +7, +23; Mulliner bt Coles +26, +26(TP); Guest bt Bond -7, +5, +14; Murfitt bt Skinley +26, +26; M. Heap bt McCullough +2, +19; Lewis bt Avery +25, -26(TP), +17; Aspinall bt B.A. Keen +26, +26(TP); Openshaw bt Hope +15, +24; Solomon bt K. Jones +2, +21; W. Prichard bt Smith +16(TP), +23(TP); Hogan bt D. Peterson +11(TP), +13

Round 3

Greenwood bt Spooner -11(TP), +8, w; Jackson bt Aiton +17, +22;

Prince bt Gunasekera +17, +16; Mulliner bt Guest +26, +26(TP); Murfitt bt Heap +17, +15; Aspinall bt Lewis +26, +26(TP); Openshaw bt Solomon +1, +14; Hogan bt W. Prichard +18(TP), +2;

Round 4

Jackson bt Greenwood +15, +17(TP); Mulliner bt Prince +16(TP), +26; Aspinall bt Murfitt +26(TP), +3; Hogan bt Openshaw +16, -22, +22(TP)

Semi-Finals

Jackson bt Mulliner +4, +15(TP); Hogan bt Aspinall +2(TP), -3, +17(TP)

Final

Hogan bt Jackson +20(TP), +26(TP)

* = Seeded Player

(T) = Win on time

(TP) = Triple Peel

The British Open Doubles Championship

Round 1

J. & Mrs V. Carlisle bt C. Southern & R. Hobbs +22, +16; R. Murfitt & G. Beale bt M. French & D. Palmer +13, +18; D. Bidencope & M. Ormerod bt I. Bond & M. Heap -6(T), +4(T), +3(T); N. Spooner & W. Prichard bt K. Aiton & R. Hilditch +12, +24; A. Hope & M. Murray bt J. Guest & P. Smith +8, +7; N. Aspinall & S. Mulliner bt J. Hogan & R. Jackson +15, +3(T); Miss J. MacLeod & D. Gunasekera bt C. von Schmeider & M. Kolbuszewski +12(T), +1(T); J. Walters & R. Prichard bt K. Jones & A. Mrozinski +4, +4; J. McCullough & P. Cordingley bt E. Bell & J. Rose +16(TP), -1, +1(T); J. Prince & P. Skinley bt D. Foulser & P. Hands +10, +26(TP); B. Neal & E. Solomon bt W. Coles & C. Prichard +11, +26; S. Lewis & D. Peterson bt B.A. Keen & W. Aldridge +1(T), +24

Round 2

M. Pearson & P. Torrington bt I. Vincent & G. Noble -18, +2, +12(T); Murfitt & Beale bt J. & Mrs Carlisle +8, +15; Spooner & W. Prichard bt Bidencope & Ormerod -17, +2, +17; Aspinall & Mulliner bt Hope & Murray +16(TP), +15(TP); Miss MacLeod & Gunasekera bt Walters & R. Prichard +1, -16, +12; Prince & Skinley bt McCullough & Cordingley +13, +23(TP); Lewis & Peterson bt Neal & Solomon +22, +5; D. Openshaw & M. Avery bt Mr & Mrs A. Stephens +26, +26

Round 3

Murfitt & Beale bt Pearson & Torrington +8, +23; Aspinall & Mulliner bt Spooner & W. Prichard +24(TP), +19(TP); Prince & Skinley bt Miss MacLeod & Gunasekera +4, +22; Lewis & Peterson bt Openshaw & Avery +25, +4

Semi-Finals

Aspinall & Mulliner bt Murfitt & Beale +6, -1(T), +1(T); Lewis & Peterson bt Prince & Skinley -10, +5, +19

Final

Aspinall & Mulliner bt Lewis & Peterson -6, +26, +26(TP)

NATIONAL JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP

Edgbaston: 2-3 August

Robert Fulford peels his way to success

Report by Peter Dorke

It must have been noised abroad in the less salubrious corners of Edgbaston - and few indeed are they - that the Charles Townsend Cup, the voluptuous and glowing trophy for which the National Junior Championship is fought, was worth a bob or two, for tournament manager Ray Jones arrived at the club on Saturday morning to find that an unsuccessful attempt had been made to break into the clubhouse. Then again, it might have been one of the Ludlow players trying to get an early look at the draw.

Certainly, it seems likely that this was the first time that it has ever been necessary to call the police to a croquet tournament, even a junior one.

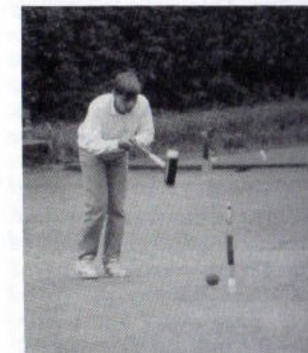
Despite this excitement, the first matches started bang on time and all twelve players set off as if they had been reading Law 48 over breakfast. Throughout the week-end, the young peoples' willingness to get on with the game, allied to Ray Jones's efficiency, made this a brisk tournament, in which time limits were unnecessary. It is not to be thought, please note, that an imbalance of skills had anything whatsoever to do with this, for the standard of play was extremely high and the players were well matched in both the Draw and the Process, so that there were few easy wins.

On Saturday, the weather was glorious; on Sunday it was not, but no-one paid the rain any attention and eventually it went away in time for the final. The lawns were immaculate, the hoops tight, and the meals provided by Rosemary Flutter, excellent. As usual, the Edgbaston members turned out in force and several players had brought their families, who - along with the local constabulary - made quite a healthy crowd. Who said croquet is not a spectator sport?

The contestants included only one young lady, one of six players who had met previously at the National Schools Championship Final at Hurlingham in July. Few of the twelve had ever entered an individual tournament before; fewer still had ever won one. There were notable absences, which led one foolish man to aver that the standard of play was bound to suffer grievously

from the lack of those players. He is glad to report hereby that he was utterly wrong: if anything, the croquet at this year's Junior Championship was better than at Bowdon last year.

In the opening round of the Draw, Chris Clarke, easily favourite for the trophy on his handicap, met the youngest, the smallest and the longest bisquered player, Edward Duckworth, and no doubt expected, as did we all, that the magic +26 would appear on the score sheet. The immaculately white Edward turned out to be a very



dark horse indeed, producing a series of very nicely executed strokes to rob Chris of fifteen of those points. After this shock, Chris staggered on, with the aid of a bye, to meet Robert Fulford, beat him by +8 and reach the final of the Draw. Here he was to meet Tim Nock, who had beaten David Lendrum (+8), Merrill Rowan (+8) and Neville Turley (+8), without great difficulty but making more errors than one expects from him.

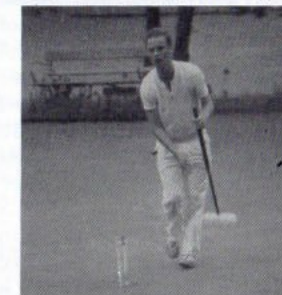
Meanwhile, in the Process, Tim had scraped through against Chris by one point, demolished Richard Lane (a brave entry from Wrekin College, where he promises to register a new club very soon), struggled successfully against David Maugham, who played well but without luck in this tournament, and by Sunday afternoon was faced with the prospect of a final against Robert Fulford, whose progress through the top half of the Process (with Chris Clarke safely in the bottom half) had been devastating, defeating Richard Stubbs +25, Simon Tilley (one of only two survivors from last year's tournament) +17 and David Lendrum +26, thus exacting a grim revenge for his defeat by David in the final

match of the National Schools Championship.

Robert's play, the excellence of whose strokes was singled out by Eric Solomon at the Hurlingham Final, was, as ever, immaculate, his shooting astonishing. If he missed a shot at all in these matches, it was not recorded by our trained observers. More than one envious croqueteer will now be practising the Fulford swing in an attempt to achieve the same perfection.

There had been other good and exciting matches and everyone had played well, many well above their own expectations. Manchester's Three Musketiers, one of whom, Martin Gill, was to win the Handicap competition, defeating all his opponents, had enlivened the week-end with their humour. David Maugham - or so I am informed - had demonstrated on Saturday night how little beer he needs to get drunk and how much food he needs to stay alive. Appropriately, David's

The two finalists - on the left, Robert Fulford (Colchester) and below, Tim Nock (Ludlow).



host for the week-end was Ken 'Yes-please, I'll-have-another-helping-of-everything' Jones, who it must be recorded, was the first to spot the eventual winner.

Who that might be had now to be decided from Tim Nock, through to both finals, Robert Fulford in the Process and Chris Clarke in the Draw. This left a possible 3 matches to be played, with time getting a little short and a heavy rain beginning to fall. A marriage was therefore proposed between Robert and Chris, the winner to play Tim in the final. At this point, your reporter left for Walsall to lead his team to resounding defeat in a league match, returning to Edgbaston just in time to have missed the game of the tournament, which Robert won (+9) with what Ray Jones described as a 'beautifully controlled' triple peel, the first ever performed in the Junior Championship. The final between Robert Fulford and Tim Nock had already begun and each had gone briskly round to

Championships (4)



Merrill Rowan, of Ludlow - the first girl to challenge for the Junior title.

4-back, Robert had taken his second ball to the peg and Tim was about to go dourly round to 3-back, where he got into a tangle and broke down.

At this point, Robert's accuracy deserted him as he became visibly more tense. Tim was able to reach the stick, peg out Robert's yellow and leave the most unmissable double which Robert duly missed. From this point Tim should have won and indeed Robert gave him a further 2 chances as hoops and long shots were missed by one or the other. At last, however, Robert hit in and took the game by four points, winner of the Charles Townsend Cup by the skin of his teeth, but a worthy winner, nonetheless.

RESULTS

National Junior Championship (Advanced Play)

DRAW

1st Round

T. Nock (Ludlow) bt D. Lendrum (Manchester) +8; Miss M. Rowan (Ludlow) bt S.P. Tilley (Warwick) +16; M. Gill (Manchester) bt R. Lane (Wrekin) +11; R. Fulford (Colchester) bt D. Maugham (Bowdon) +14

2nd Round

N. Turley (Bishop Vesey) bt R. Stubbs (Manchester) +8(T); Nock bt Miss Rowan +8; Fulford bt Gill +19; C.D. Clarke (Queen Elizabeth's, Blackburn) bt E. Duckworth (Bristol) +11

Semi-Finals

Nock bt Turley +14; Clarke bt Fulford +8

PROCESS

1st Round

Fulford bt Stubbs +25; Lendrum bt Duckworth +2; Maugham bt Turley +19; Nock bt Clarke +1

2nd Round

Fulford bt Tilley +7; Lendrum bt Gill +18; Maugham bt Miss Rowan +4; Nock bt Lane +18

Semi-Finals

Fulford bt Lendrum +26; Nock bt Maugham +5

Marriage

Semi-Final

Fulford bt Clarke +9(TP)

Final

Fulford bt Nock +4

Progressive Swiss

Winner: M. Gill (5 wins)

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Championships (5)

THE NORTHERN CHAMPIONSHIPS Bowdon: 16-25 August Colin Irwin unstoppable at the Northerns; Lawn 3 claims many casualties.

Report by Martin Kolbuszewski

Have you ever heard Richard Hilditch singing? I was granted this unique privilege when he very kindly gave me a lift to Colchester recently. He has the same fresh new approach to tonality that he has to language. This is nothing to do with the Northerns but I thought you ought to know.

On the first day, Saturday, it was very cold, and the usual crowd of Bowdon croquet hooligans had to heckle from inside the clubhouse. They were not deterred but just heckled more loudly. When not heckling they debated abstruse questions of law, such as 'are you committing a fault if you play a



Chris Irwin, this year's Manager of the Northern Championships

stroke while standing on your head?' and 'can your doubles partner hold you upright while you play a stroke?'. The only croquet of note was played by Chris Clarke, who 26-ed at least two minus players. Chris is one of a small group known as 'Bennet's bandits' from Queen Elizabeth's GS in Blackburn, whom Andrew Bennet has apparently taught to make roquets, hoops etc, but not to miss or clang, which is probably in the A-level course. Eddie Bell and Pat Hague took 4 hours 59 minutes to win their 5 hour time-limited Open Doubles match.

On Sunday, Eddie Bell and Pat Hague decided to get a move on and won their second round game in a sprightly 4½ hours. The sun came out and the hecklers came out in sympathy. However, there was a sort of stunned silence when Keith Aiton appeared in a pair of trousers which were neither shorts nor longs but finished somewhere around his knees. Other comic highlights were Danny Palmer's imitation of his (nameless) opponent's style, which ran out of steam when he failed at 1-back after taking half

an hour to get there from hoop 1, and the revolutionary new attitude to bisques displayed by Bennet bandit Russell Colligan as he lost to Danny Palmer with 9½ bisques still artistically arranged in the ground.

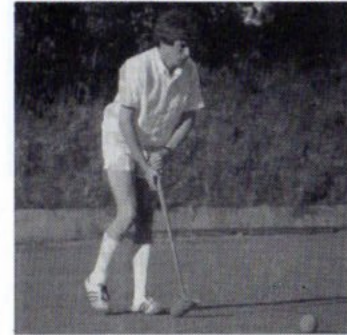
On Monday, there was a further example of avant-garde handicap croquet when Dee Dennett, who had declared her handicap to be '14, doubles 15', ignored four of her bisques, explaining later that she had mistaken them for somebody else's. Nick Hyne did a triple on the occasional fifth lawn at Denzell Gardens, which probably hadn't seen one before. Martin Kolbuszewski attempted a golf style corner cannon on the same lawn and took one of the largest divots ever seen out of it. The hoop golf (I'm sorry, I'm not dignifying it with the name of croquet) was played using quadruple banking with three sets of first colours. The standard of multiple banking was even lower than is usually seen in real croquet these days. Nobody knew the rules and a referee was put in charge of one game. After he had described himself as a 'roquet in charge', the question was asked whether you are allowed to insist on having a sober referee to watch your shot, and if so what means are available to the referee of the tournament for determining the sobriety of an assistant referee. I have been warned against discussing this point in too much detail, however, because the additional question of the sanity of referees might then be raised.

On Tuesday, David Maugham fell off his bicycle, Keith Aiton achieved two successive triple peels, and I spilt white wine over the manager, it says here. My notes get a bit incoherent at this point.

On Wednesday, the following conversation was heard on lawn 2:

'Do you want anything marked?'
'No, I'm just coming to get a rush on yellow.'
'But yellow's in our game.'
'Oh. Well, thanks for telling me.'
Martin Granger-Brown kindly produced a battery charger when his opponent's car failed to start. John Mann claims that somebody stole his shoelace as he was eating his dinner.

On Thursday, Simon Williams pegged out both his ball and Colin Wild's while playing in the X-handicap semi-final, leaving his other ball for 3 with Colin on 4 with 4 bisques



Simon Williams, of Carrickmines, who reached the final of the main event and won a CA Silver Medal

standing. This woke the gallery up. Colin missed several opportunities of using his bisques to win, but held off until the very last moment and got away with it, going on to beat Mark Suter in the final.

Simon uses a magnificent repertoire of curses on the lawn and often sounds somewhat like Muttley in 'Wacky Races'. Chris Clarke won the Reed Cup and the B class event and lost to Andrew Collin in the Y final, while another Bennet bandit, Mark Saurin, did a TPO in a friendly game off a handicap of 7 or thereabouts, and then went on to lose narrowly to Colin Wild in a marathon C class final. John Walters beat Simon Williams in the A class, and Liz Taylor-Webb won the D class.

Liz seemed to be having a rather good week, doing things like going round without using a bisque in the doubles and leaving three bisques for her partner, John Walters, who doesn't need them either. The handicap doubles was however won by Mike Wilkins and David Maugham, beating last year's winners Hyne and Watkins in the final. Bill Lamb won the hoop golf despite never having played it before. Up till now, nobody had fallen off lawn 3, as Ian Maugham had last year, injuring his knee (can you imagine writing 'fell off a croquet lawn' on a sick note?), but Danny Palmer ended the suspense by falling off it at this late stage of the tournament.

On Friday, John Meads fell off lawn 3. Eddie Bell and Pat Hague won the Open Doubles final in a record-breaking 3½ hours. The experts started arriving for the weekend event, and John McCullough put up a list of odds on the notice board.

He was far too polite to the outsiders like me, quoting us at 15 or 20 to 1 when 1000 to 1 would probably still have been overpriced. Phil Cordingley caused a sensation by winning his first game in the main event in the 80-year history of the Northern Championships. Eddie Bell followed his doubles triumph by completing the week's second triple peel at Denzell gardens.

On Saturday the Swiss event started for those of us who had lost both lives in the main competition. This produced a sort of shellshocked lunacy in those of us who had been playing serious croquet all week. A straight quintuple was attempted at Denzell Gardens. Alan Sutcliffe and Martin Kolbuszewski forgot about the time limit in a close and exciting game which went on for 4¼ hours. Ian Maugham broke down and called the RAC, who towed his car away. At dinner, National Coaching Committee Chairman, John McCullough treated us to a discourse on stop shots, which can apparently be done either by the stun method or the loose wrist method, and jump shots, which he says you can do either by retraction or flow.

On Sunday, John McCullough fell off lawn 3. The traditional madeira appeared, provided this year by Pat Hague, who has asked me to print a formal request to tournament reporters not to refer to her as



Andrew Bennet (Southport) and Pat Hague (Ellesmere) set off to do battle.

'Big Momma' in future. After a tiring tournament, the Cheltenham contingent (Paul Smith, David Foulser and Ian Maugham) could be seen sleeping peacefully in various parts of the club.

On Monday, Colin Irwin beat Phil Cordingley in one of the semi-finals. Phil had presumably won quite a lot of games to get that far, but the first one is always the most difficult. (He says that to me when I fail triples.) Simon Williams played well to beat

David Foulser in the other semi-final, but Colin Irwin was unstoppable in his march to victory, as John McCullough had predicted when setting up the initial odds (although Keith Aiton and John himself had both been favourites for about 5 minutes at an intermediate stage). It rained hard and continuously in a manner excessive even for a Bank Holiday Monday. It's been quite nice and sunny ever since, presumably because after that performance, the Met Office have been under the equivalent of a hosepipe ban.

Ten days croquet in this distinguished company followed by the combination of the Bank Holiday rain and the Bank Holiday traffic left me in a state of nervous collapse from which only increasingly panic-stricken phone calls from Messrs Bennet and Hudson and two glasses of white wine (which I didn't spill over anybody) could rouse me sufficiently to get this report written. Nevertheless the organisation was excellent and the company was good, as always, and I shall keep going back, even if I always need another holiday to recover.

RESULTS

Championship of the North of England

DRAW

1st Round:

D.G. Palmer bt C. Southern +14; R.D.C. Prichard bt M. Kolbuszewski +22; J.D. Meads bt A.J. Mrozinski +9; P.L. Smith bt S.E. Lewis +21; N.G. Hyne bt M.H. Sandler +20; D.R. Foulser bt F.I. Maugham +19; A.F. Sutcliffe bt P. Cordingley +15; M.J. Wilkins bt A.J. Collin +17; J.O. Walters bt C.J. Irwin +8; A. Bennet bt W.O. Aldridge +12; E. Bell bt T.D. Harrison +26(TP); K.M.H. Aiton bt D.J. Kelly +26(STP); W.E. Lamb bt G.K. Collin +19; J.R. McCullough bt M.R. French +6; S. Williams bt J.R. Hilditch +13; D.N.S. Peterson bt Mrs M.P. Collin +4

2nd Round:

Palmer bt Prichard +11; Meads bt Smith +10; Foulser bt Hyne +15; Sutcliffe bt Wilkins +11; Walters bt Bennet +15(TP); Aiton bt Bell +22(TP); McCullough bt Lamb +23; Williams bt Peterson +9

3rd Round:

Meads bt Palmer +18; Foulser bt Sutcliffe +14; Aiton bt Walters +8; Williams bt McCullough +3

Semi-Finals:

Foulser bt Meads +23(TP); Williams bt Aiton +13

Final:

Williams bt Foulser +12

PROCESS 1st Round:

Irwin bt Palmer +24; Hyne bt Lamb +2; Meads bt Harrison +5; Sutcliffe bt Williams +6;

Kolbuszewski bt Aldridge (wo); McCullough bt Maugham +6; Smith bt Kelly +24; Mrs Collin bt Wilkins +3; Walters bt Southern +14; G. Collin bt Sandler +23; Bell bt Mrozinski +15; Cordingley bt Hilditch +18; Prichard bt Bennet +12; French bt Foulser +14; Lewis bt Aiton +26(STP); Peterson bt A. Collin +3



David Watkins (Bowdon) who reached two finals.

2nd Round:

Irwin bt Hyne +5; Meads bt Sutcliffe +3; McCullough bt Kolbuszewski +23; Mrs Collin bt Smith +14; Walters bt G. Collin; Cordingley bt Bell +16; Prichard bt French +14; Lewis bt Peterson +2

3rd Round:

Irwin bt Meads +9; McCullough bt Mrs Collin +14; Cordingley bt Walters +24; Lewis bt Prichard +24

Semi-Finals:

Irwin bt McCullough +17; Cordingley bt Lewis +17

Final:

Irwin bt Cordingley +11

Play-Off:

Irwin bt Williams +14

Doubles Championship of the North of England

1st Round:

J.R. Mann & W.E. Lamb bt D.J. Goacher & S. Williams +15; W.O. Aldridge & S.E. Lewis bt D.N.S. Peterson & A. Bennet +24; M. Kolbuszewski & J.D. Meads bt C.J. & Mrs C.E. Irwin; E. Bell & Mrs P. Hague bt M.A. Suter & M.J. Wilkins +3

Semi-Finals:

Mann & Lamb bt Aldridge & Lewis +15; Bell & Mrs Hague bt Suter & Wilkins +5

Final:

Bell & Mrs Hague bt Mann & Lamb +5

Golf Croquet Championship of the North of England

Round 1:

J.D. Meads bt R. Collighan 7-5; Rev P.D. Hallett bt C.D. Clarke 7-6; Dr M. Kolbuszewski bt J.O. Walters 7-3; N.G. Hyne bt Prof B.G. Neal (wo); W.E. Lamb bt M.J. Wilkins 7-5; A. Bennet bt D.J. Kelly (wo); M.A. Saurin bt K.M.H. Aiton 7-1; D.B. Maugham bt D.J. Goacher 7-5; D.G. Palmer bt P. Dyke 7-3; Dr A.C. Peterson bt Mrs E. Taylor-Webb 7-2; G.K. Collin bt S. Williams (wo)

Round 2:

D.N.S. Peterson bt Mrs C.E. Irwin 7-2; Meads bt Hallett 7-5; Kolbuszewski bt Hyne 7-5; Lamb bt Bennet 7-5; Maugham bt Saurin

7-5; Palmer bt A. Peterson 7-5; G. Collin bt Mrs E.A. Neal (wo); J.R. Mann bt R. Harding 7-0

Round 3:

Meads bt D. Peterson 7-2; Lamb bt Kolbuszewski 7-5; Palmer bt Maugham 7-4; G. Collin bt Mann 7-6

Semi-Finals:

Lamb bt Meads 7-5; Palmer bt G. Collin 7-2

Final:

Lamb bt Palmer 7-1

Open Singles (Advanced Play)

DRAW

1st Round:

M. Granger-Brown bt M.H. Sandler +8; Dr M. Kolbuszewski bt D.J. Kelly +3; K.M.H. Aiton bt D.G. Palmer +8

2nd Round:

N.G. Hyne bt J.R. Mann +9; A.F. Sutcliffe bt J.D. Meads +24; J.O. Walters bt Rev P.D. Hallett +16; Kolbuszewski bt Granger-Brown +5; Aiton bt W.E. Lamb +26(TP); W.O. Aldridge bt B.G. Neal +15; S. Williams bt D.N.S. Peterson +17(TP); A. Bennet bt A.J. Collin +14

3rd Round:

Hyne bt Sutcliffe +13; Walters bt Kolbuszewski +15; Aiton bt Aldridge +17(TP); Williams bt Bennet +25

Semi-Finals:

Walters bt Hyne +26; Aiton bt Williams +20

Final:

Walters bt Aiton +22

PROCESS

1st Round:

Williams bt Mann +9; Sutcliffe bt A.J. Collin +15; Hyne bt Bennet +17

2nd Round:

Williams bt Kelly +13; Lamb bt Rev Hallett +16; Palmer bt Sutcliffe +21; Aldridge bt Sandler +13; Hyne bt Kolbuszewski +21(TP); Walters bt Neal +21; Meads bt Aiton +15; Peterson bt Granger-Brown +16

3rd Round:

Williams bt Lamb +14; Palmer bt Aldridge +13; Walters bt Hyne +12; Meads bt Peterson +5

Semi-Finals:

Williams bt Palmer +9; Meads bt Walters +13

Final:

Williams bt Meads +5

Play-Off:

Walters bt Williams +14

'B' Class Singles Championship (Advanced Play)

DRAW

1st Round:

M.A. Suter bt C.D. Clarke +23; Dr M. Elder bt G.K. Collin +14; Mrs P. Hague bt M.J. Wilkins +3

Semi-Finals:

Suter bt D.J. Goacher +6; Mrs Hague bt Elder +12

Final:

Mrs Hague bt Suter +10

PROCESS

1st Round:

Goacher bt G.K. Collin +15; Clarke

Championships (6)

bt Wilkins +13; Mrs Hague bt Suter +14

Semi-Finals:

Clarke bt Goacher +26; Elder bt Mrs Hague +7

Final:

Clarke bt Elder +23

Play Off:

Clarke bt Mrs Hague +3

'C' Class Singles Championship (Level Play)

DRAW

1st Round:

D.B. Maugham bt C.H. Wild +2; Dr A.C. Peterson bt P. Dyke +7(T); Mrs E.A. Neal bt Mrs C.E. Irwin +5

Semi-Finals:

Peterson bt Maugham +4(T); M.A. Saurin bt Mrs Neal +16

Final:

Saurin bt Peterson +17

PROCESS

1st Round:

Wild bt Mrs Irwin +11; Saurin bt Dr Peterson +20; Maugham bt Mrs Neal +13

Semi-Finals:

Wild bt Saurin +6; Maugham bt P. Dyke +10

Final:

Wild bt Maugham +24

Play Off:

Wild bt Saurin +3

'D' Class Singles Championship (Level Play)

DRAW

1st Round:

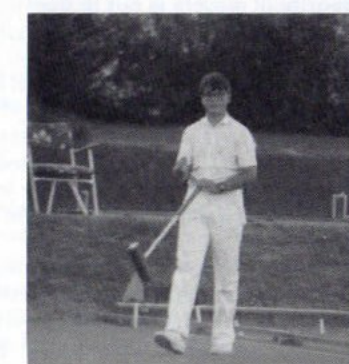
Mrs E. Taylor-Webb bt R. Harding +9

Semi-Finals:

Mrs Taylor-Webb bt Mrs D.C. Dennett +13; R. Collighan bt D. Watkins +12

Final:

Mrs Taylor-Webb bt Collighan +14



Chris Clarke (Southport) who won the main handicap event, as well as the 'B' Class Championship.

PROCESS

1st Round:

Collighan bt Mrs Dennett +12

Semi-Finals:

Collighan bt Mrs Taylor-Webb +14; Watkins bt Harding +1

Final:

Watkins bt Collighan +12

Play-Off

Mrs Taylor-Webb bt Watkins +9

(Cont'd on Page 31)

Your Letters (1)

Handicaps

Dear Sir,
It is my experience that in any treatise, whether ethics or croquet are the subjects, one must pick a level at which to aim the 'intellectual' content. Should one pitch the arguments too low, pages of basics are needed to reach the subjects of controversy. At the other extreme one risks leaving some listeners behind.

Mr Greenwood owns his inexperience, and it is clear from his letter that he has taken a crude interpretation of my article and consequently condemns as 'cock-eyed' that which I never said. Here I will briefly emphasise that which I before assumed, in the hope that Mr Greenwood might then be able to digest those more subtle points of the original arguments, which previously he has so obviously missed.

Firstly, 'reasonable' is only a word which 'causes arguments' when it is misused by those who wrongly attempt to add its weight to their unjustified opinions. I use it in the correct sense as a procedure from basic axioms (on handicapping) to other propositions (on handicap application). The use of the word is necessary to invalidate the handicap changes of those clubs which have been out of line with the Association in general (one of the basic axioms of handicapping *must* be universality). My point being that excluding those handicappers, the system which has operated *through CA handicap history* is better than Barry Keen's misled computer! Since results alone are not the reliable indication some people think them, a committee, with or without computer, that does not see play cannot handicap!

To answer Mr Greenwood's next point, the criticism he aims at players 'not trying' only applies under the blind new system. If you don't want these drawbacks, don't implement it - **that was my point**. The integrity of players is not in question since I suggest no 'intention to fool handicappers'. Disputing the variations in form which I indicate would point to substantial naivety as to the way a 'top player' operates. Motivation and interest are the most important factors at the top. Skill is taken for granted and it is 'a fact of life' that the former are less in the middle of a handicap swiss than in a 'prestigious' event.

None of these points are at the heart of the handicapping dilemma. If nothing else, Mr Keen's attempt to find a perfectionist solution to our handicapping problems demonstrates that our handicapping system is imperfect. In my next letter, I will demonstrate why it is imperfect and how it might be bettered.

John Walters,
Ipswich.

Black Balls

Dear Sir,
I was interested to see Eric Solomon's letter in your September issue.

At the Compton Test Match, where the black balls were shaded in the lunch-breaks, Dr Payne told me that laboratory tests in Australia had shown that the effect of the sun - hotter of course than in the UK - on the

performance of the balls could not be related to colour. Also that, in Australia, it is the blue balls which need more frequent replacement.

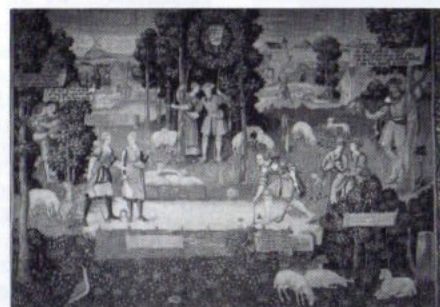
It would seem that a contribution from Australia would be useful. Or is the CA already aware of the Australian research?

James Kellaway,
Eastbourne.

A Croquet Tapestry

Dear Sir,
During September, whilst holidaying in the Dordogne, I visited Chateau de Montal near St Cere.

In the Banqueting Hall there are a number of large 16th Century tapestries, including a splendid one of a game of croquet.



Croquet in the 16th Century

Of particular interest is the man on the right of the court, who appears to have the use of both a long and a short croquet mallet.

Anyone holidaying in the area of St Cere would greatly enjoy a visit to the Chateau and if interested in the game of croquet would find the 'Jeu de Triquet' a fascinating picture!

Elisabeth White,
Taunton Deane C.C.

A Late Beginner Reflects!

Dear Sir,
I have been playing Croquet for about two years, mostly in the rain. I have learnt a great deal.

I was really elated for forty-eight hours after my first win but I no longer find as much pleasure in winning as I suffer despair when losing. I have found that some elderly men are very childish and somewhat mean - it is always suggested that I should book a court and do the telephoning when a doubles game has to be arranged; but I have found that younger men are exceptionally kind and helpful and that there are many 'school-masters manqués' - whereas women are often ruthless.

At first I thought that only I suffered from good and bad days but I now realise that it can happen even to low-handicap players; also that when practising alone one plays so beautifully that it is boring. Without doubt it is more fun playing against good players, when one knows there is really very little chance of winning, than suffering from the nerves and frustration of playing against people of one's own standard. The one thing I hate is a slow player.

I would like to suggest that a blob of white be put on the corner spot, and even perhaps a dotted yard line, to save all that bending!

I have done many interesting things in my life, but nothing that generates more conversational interest than playing Croquet!

Patricia Dirsztay,
Henley-on-Thames.

Mrs W.H. Hope, Ladies Champion

Dear Sir,
When I met you on a recent coaching course at Kelham Hall, I mentioned that I had been acquainted with a Mrs Hope, who had been Ladies Croquet Champion many years ago, and that we were still loosely in touch with her granddaughter. After the course, I asked Mrs Bayliss, as she now is, if she could turn up any memorabilia.

She has recently sent me the enclosed programme of the Devonshire Park tournament at Eastbourne in 1937. Her grandmother was then 79 and Mrs Bayliss, partnering her in the handicap doubles as Miss A. Cook, was then 26. As you can see, they got through the first round, beating Mrs Deshon and W. Helme fairly easily, but then they were put out of the competition by Lady Mann and Rev E. Bryan. For the record, in those days the programme cost six old pence! The first prize for the Championship itself (36 entries) was listed as 'value £4', whereas for the First Division handicap



Mrs W.H. Hope, winner of the Women's Championship in 1920, and runner-up in 1919 and 1923.

singles (3½ bisques and under - 68 entries) it was £5; quite a sum by today's values.

Mrs Bayliss says she still remembers Miss D.D. Steele, who was the crack player, as well as Mrs Ionides and Col. du Pre, despite the fact it was 49 years ago! Also playing in the Championship that year were Lord Tollemache, M.B. Reckitt, C.F. Colman, Rev G.F.H. Elvey, Sir Gerald Burke, Mrs E. Rotherham and Dr J.A. Carver, together with a mysterious 'Mr R.'

Bertha Hope was born in 1858 and held both the French Gold Cup and the English Gold Cup. She was a member of the Roehampton and the Ranelagh Croquet Clubs, and the photograph is from a 'Carte Postale', presumably produced in France after she had won the French title. Her handicap in 1937 was ½ - not bad at 79!

Margaret Beaumont,
Southwell, Notts.

Need for a video?

Dear Sir,
After the incident in the Cheltenham July tournament when the player in a timed game peeled the opponent through first, quite unmistakably to give him the game, it occurs to me that in a similar situation in the future a referee might be hard pressed to be sure which ball went through first, particularly if the shot were a jump shot.

It seems to me that fairness does call for a video shot in such a circumstance.

Bill Bawden,
Cheltenham.

A tricky point

Dear Sir,
I recently had to call a referee to determine the outcome of the toss of a coin at the start of a game. The coin had landed on its side, and appeared to be covered neither by the laws of croquet nor by those of probability.

The referee told me to toss the coin again, which seemed to me to be an incorrect decision. My opponent had the option of calling 'side', and having failed to do so, had presumably lost the toss.

Would the Laws Committee (or indeed, anybody else) care to comment on the correct procedure to be followed in this case, and on other cases which have come to my attention in which coins have vanished into thin air, gone into orbit or landed on inaccessible roofs?

Martin Kolbuszewski,
London.

The TPO - A final word

Dear Sir,
I feel that I should be allowed to add a correction to Mr Walter's 'interruption', in which he wrote, 'Mr Riggall's view seems to rest exclusively on Mr Aiton's results, perhaps a somewhat narrow view of life. Such blinkered vision, etc . . .'

I wish to point out that my opinion that the advantages of pegging-out opponents were very much over-rated was formed about 30 years ago. If Keith had by then entered this world, certainly he was not playing croquet.

This theory was validated by a series of test games played with Maurice Reckitt, and observation of innumerable games in various countries during the last thirty years.

Leslie Riggall,
Kloof, South Africa.

Waterproof Clothing

Dear Sir,
I would like to contribute my ha'porth to the stream of replies that followed Peter Bishop's plea for information about waterproofs which did not create more 'damp' problems than they solved, due to condensation.

I recently obtained new, white waterproofs from a company called Fox Leisure Wear (a division of the Bristol Oilskin & Overall Co Ltd) of Lynx Crescent, Weston Industrial Estate, Weston-super-Mare, Avon BS24 9DJ. I wore these waterproofs throughout the recent August Bank Holiday Monday in the Cheltenham

August Weekend, and as anyone who was there will confirm, that was a real case of testing to destruction! They passed with flying colours, and there was no trace of condensation despite having worn them the entire day.

The firm produce jackets and not only trousers but also skirts, which may be useful to those ladies who play side-style, and I found the purchase price of £32.50 (plus postage and packing) (June 1986) for an outfit extremely good value.

What impressed me very much about the firm was that when I sent a pair of trousers back on the Tuesday, asking for a different size, the replacement pair arrived on the Thursday that same week! I can therefore recommend both Fox Leisure Wear and their waterproofs to all interested parties.

Deborah Latham,
Taunton.

The Closest 'Best of Three'

Dear Sir,
During the Southwick Easter tournament someone wondered what was the closest ever 'Best of Three' match that went to three games, excluding those where a game went to time. David Peterson and I decided to investigate all old Gazettes. He found 60 instances since 1945 of matches where the sum of the margins was 15 points or less. Before the War, 'Best of Three' was much more common and I found a further 172 instances going back to the start of the modern game in 1922. The closest matches were:

Bognor 1923: H. Llewellyn Heath bt Mrs W.H. Hughes -2, +2, +2.

Devonshire Park 1924: Miss F.J. Hodgkinson bt T. Hamilton-Miller +1, -2, +3.

Gentlemen's 1931: H.O. Hicks bt Col. C.E. Wilson -2, +1, +3.

Ealing 1925: W. Windsor Richards bt C. Hewitt +3, -3, +1.

Parkstone 1924: E.J. Clarke bt Forrest Reid +5, -1, +1.

Fleet 1931: J. Dickson bt Dr J.S. Edkins +2;1,+4.

Ch. of Ireland 1961: R.J. Leonard bt A. Robinson -2, +3, +2.

In the 25 years since 1961, the closest have been:

Test Match 1974: Prince & Anderson bt Aspinall & W. Ormerod +3, -1, +4.

Opens 1984: J.O. Walters bt Dr W.R.D. Wiggins +5, -1, +2.

Opens 1962: Dr W. Ormerod bt Dr W.R.D. Wiggins +1, -4, +4.

Mens 1967: M. Murray bt L.J. Webb -6, +2, +1.

Opens 1984: Aspinall & Mulliner bt S. Wright & Heap -2, +3, +4.

Opens 1967: D.F. Strachan bt D.J.V. Hamilton-Miller +1, -8, +1.

Mens 1978: G. Roberts bt D.V.H. Rees +6, -1, +3.

Womens 1980: Miss F. Joly bt Miss E. Arkell +2, -1, +7.

In the 232 matches, the first game was won by the eventual winner on 111 occasions and lost on 121 occasions. The deviation from 116 (exactly 50%) is statistically insignificant. This suggests that when two players are exactly the same standard, as indicated

Your Letters (2)

by the narrow overall result, the much discussed 'psychology' of whether it is better to win the first or second of a 3-game 'Best of Three' is immaterial.

Robert Prichard,
London.

An appreciation

Dear Sir,
Having just received the July issue, I would like to express my sorrow after reading of the death of David Prichard and Humphrey Hicks.

I met them both while in England in 1974 and partnered Humphrey in the Doubles Championships and then later met both David and his son Colin during competition for the Chairman's Salver at Southwick.



Humphrey Hicks acknowledges applause whilst playing in the 'Champion of Champions' competition at Hurlingham in 1967, watched by Her Majesty the Queen.

Humphrey proved to all and sundry in the Doubles that he was as good as ever - I will never forget the match against two young New Zealand Test players Murfitt and Anderson. As the 'Gazette' said:

'Murfitt and Anderson met Hicks and Maslen and had lost the first game before they realised they were up against the most subtle tactician in the game - even Hicks's partner at times appeared mystified.'

HOW TRUE - any way we won the second game by 1 point to achieve what was, I suppose, an upset. WHAT MEMORIES.

Croquet must be the poorer for the loss of these two fine gentlemen.

George Maslen,
Mandurah, Western Australia.

An Australian Invitation

Dear Sir,
I am writing on behalf of City Tattersall's Social Croquet Club, Sydney, Australia.

We are purely a Social Roving Croquet Club, so we do not have our own lawns. We arrange to play Croquet by arranging Friendship Days with other Croquet Clubs in the Metropolitan and Country Areas throughout the State of New South Wales, to enable our Members and visiting guests to enjoy a Day's Play and to meet other players. All of our Members are familiar with Association Rules and belong to Affiliated Clubs, and are of mixed Grades.

We would like to advise that should any Croquet Players be visiting our Country from the UK on holiday and desire a game of croquet at any time, they would be made most welcome to join our Group.

Mrs Rachael Golightly,
Hon Sec: City Tattersall's Club,
198 Pitt Street, Sydney,
NSW 2000, Australia.
(Phone: 267-9421)

Tournament Reports & Results (1)

Wrest Park: 4-6 July A Wet Weekend

Report by Eric Audsley

The lawn preparation officer's prayers were belatedly answered on the first day, after the lawns had endured weeks of scorching weather. Owing to lawns 1 and 2 having had weedkiller applied, players were advised not to lick their balls. The closest match of the day was the manager's (Barry Keen) game against John Wheeler. Barry even wrote down the score, but John missed his peg out with one ball, Barry hit in, and then proceeded to score the 16 points to win without John succeeding in hitting anything.

Barry lost his next game against Eric Audsley, who pegged out in unusual style. Having peeled and run rover with a good rush back wide of rover, Eric instead cut the rush through rover! The next closest game was Paul Smith's remarkable comeback from 24 points behind in 2 hours against Kevin Fellows. Kevin accidentally pegged his ball out while the other was on 3-back, but rapidly got to rover and then could not score the last two points.

At the end of the first day, the only undefeated player of the twelve in the A block was Phil Cordingley. The LPO had changed to praying for a win, in spite of receiving most applause of the day for jumping through an impossible hoop. The only triple peel of the day was in the B block by Duncan Reeve. The victim was Pamela Fellows all the way from New Zealand. Only George Collin remained undefeated in this block, having inflicted on Duncan his only defeat of the weekend.

The star performer on Saturday was again George Collin, who devised a very successful method for removing puddles of water from the lawn. The LPO was advised to stop praying! The manager organised and won a snooker competition (the only thing he ever looked like winning) and Andy Collin beat Mary in the darts final (he also, later, beat her at croquet). Play resumed, thanks to the valiant efforts of the ground staff, at 12.15. Unfortunately, a very heavy shower at 12.30 meant further efforts were needed from the ground staff! The day's play (for strong persons only) finally got under way at 14.00. Phil Cordingley was defeated by Martin Coward and George Collin was beaten by Bo Harris - their only defeats of the weekend.

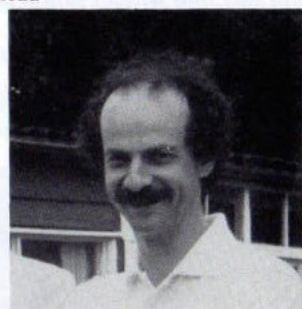
Sunday was a normal day. Duncan Reeve completed his second triple peel, Eddie Bell and Phil Cordingley both looked to have their match safely in the bag several times before Phil eventually beat Eddie by 3. Martin Coward, whose chances were ended by Andy Collin comprehensively beating him by 24, ended his season before departing to the USA by completing a TPO, the final score being 14 (answers on a postcard to Keith Wylie!). The final winners were Phil Cordingley, the only person in the A block to achieve a triple peel, and Duncan Reeve, who just pipped George Collin on points.

RESULTS

Block A
(Swiss: Advanced Play)
7 wins: P. Cordingley

6 wins: A. Collin
5 wins: M. Coward
4 wins: M. Collin (+7), E. Audsley (-1), T. Anderson (-16), P. Smith (-23)
3 wins: J. Wheeler (+12), K. Fellows (-14), E. Bell (-19), R. Hilditch (-66)
2 wins: B. Keen
Block B
(American: Advanced Play)
6 wins: D. Reeve (+83), G. Collin (+74)
4 wins: H. Green
3 wins: J. Anderson (-26), P. Fellows (-42), D. Appleton (-48)
2 wins: G. Harris
1 win: B. Woodhead

Paul Smith
(Cheltenham):
4 wins at
Wrest Park.



Edgbaston: 20-22 June Ken Jones still unbeaten

Report by Martin Kolbuszewski

This tournament featured several improving West Midlands players, plus a small group of mostly regular visitors who come for the congenial company, the excellent food, and the croquet, which they don't worry about too much because Ken Jones always wins.

One of the most interesting games was between Alan Sutcliffe and Peter Dorke. Alan, who has not yet completed a triple, decided that maybe quadruples were easier and completed all four peels, but failed to peg out. Peter hit in and caught up enough to peg one ball out, before Alan succeeded in finishing. As usual, nobody managed to stop Ken winning on his home club lawns, although he was involved in several close finishes. Now there is a target to aim at for next year . . .

RESULTS

(Advanced Play)
6 wins: K.E. Jones
4 wins: M. French, B. Hallam, M.G. Brown, A. Gregory, A. Sutcliffe
3 wins: R. Race, D. Palmer, A. Girling, D. Goacher
2 wins: M. Kolbuszewski, P. Dorke, D. Gaunt, R.C. Jones, S. Clay
0 wins: A. Sweeney

Wrest Park: 16-18 May

RESULTS

(Handicap Play)
Block A
6 wins: D. Trotman (11) +86, R. Williams (1½) +14
5 wins: H. Bottomley (½) +36, J. Bevington (9) +12
4 wins: T. Anderson (1½)
3 wins: D. Gillett (12) -3, G. Collin (3½) -42
2 wins: M. Ansell (16) -6, M. Smith (5½) -68
Block B
6 wins: P. Gregg (6)
4 wins: W. Wortley (18) +10, G. Anderson (5) +7, J. Anderson (4½) -1, E. Audsley (1½) -27, J. Wheeler (½) -67
3 wins: C. v. Griethuysen (6½)
1 win: H. Green (2½)

Oxford: 4-6 July Echoes of the past - hope for the future

Report by Bryan Sykes

Every summer the University Parks plays host to a series of cricket matches, when first class county sides come to Oxford and beat hell out of the Blues. Year after year they arrive for this act of mindless slaughter. Why do they come? Certainly not for the cricket. The most compelling reason is to enjoy a couple of easy days soaking up the atmosphere - and the drink - of this unique setting. Just the place for a croquet tournament? And so it proved.

For the first time in over thirty years, lawns were marked out in front of the magnificent pavilion. They looked completely at home, as did the players who invaded this temple of young middle-class sporting ambition. To Ian Plummer must go the main credit for charming crusty curators, grudging groundsmen and heaven knows who else into allowing us to have the run of the place.

This was a tournament for the refugees of the ratings war. Everything combined to make it a weekend where enjoyment of the game was the top priority. First the lawns. They could not have been better suited to the tournament. Combining a generally good surface with plenty of surprises, they gave everybody a chance. Even the poorest player was protected from the tedium of a fifth turn 26-0 defeat but, on the other hand, the lawns were good enough to repay careful play. Apart from the two regular lawns, which held no surprises for the locals (if in doubt, head for corner 3, aim thirty degrees to the left when approaching hoop 6) we all played on virgin territory untouched, in croquet terms, since Richard Rothwell became Champion of Oxfordshire in 1955.

The management was superb and entirely appropriate to the occasion. No-one knew what on earth was going on. Just lollop up the pavilion steps and, in a jiffy, Robert Prichard plucked an opponent from among the dice-playing lounge lizards. I didn't ask, but I think that it must have been a Swiss tournament - the results were given in Issue No 187. This will also tell you who won, who did well and who did badly. Performances I thought worthy of mention were Mark Wormald, as the most consistently immaculate dresser, Danny Palmer for getting both balls out of the notorious corner 3 without breaking his mallet, Robin Hobbs for only drinking Pimms by the pint - and losing practically all his games (correlation?) - and David Peterson for his touching vignette of wasted talent worthy of Sebastian Flyte himself.

Will there be another tournament next year? The tremendous organisational effort by the Oxford University Croquet Club required to put on an event like this shouldn't be underestimated. For one thing, the Club does not have the body of enthusiasts with time on their hands, so indispensable to the success of tournaments elsewhere. For another, the membership is ephemeral and continuity largely a matter of luck. But now the precedent is set, it would be a great pity if we had to wait another thirty years for another Christminster weekend.

Harrow: 12-13 July Harrow is well worth a visit!

Report by Andrew Bennet

I ventured south for this weekend, partly because it was restricted to exclude minus players. I had played there before, so I knew why it's called Harrow on the Hill, but apart from those take-offs over the horizon, alias the north boundary, and a few local bends, the lawns were conducive to good quality touch croquet until it poured with rain.

Martin Kolbuszewski ambitiously intended to play seven rounds of his version of a Swiss so that everybody, not only was kept occupied, but finished exhausted. As two first-round games went to time, there were some late finishes on the Saturday.

Ron Welch went storming round in his first game, to which Martin French's reply was to triple him out. He then realised that he had done this TPO before ever doing a normal TP in a tournament, so he did one in the afternoon. His other attempt allowed Arthur Reed to win with a TP.

There was plenty of good play and few easy wins. David

Ruscombe-King, at the top of the handicap range for this event, played bright and enterprising croquet and is clearly destined for further improvement.

All the early indications were that Jerry Guest was the favourite, with Martin French likely to cause him trouble. As it happened, Martin had to withdraw through illness and Jerry's progress was halted on the Sunday, first by Don Gaunt with his first straight triple and then by Andrew Bennet.

The manager decided that although Don had another game to play to establish him as a potential winner, the tie-break (a one ball game) would be played first. This turned out to be a classic demonstration of the disadvantage to your reporter of being one point ahead and the importance of hitting Don's trickle to the peg. We all know that long roquets are a normal feature of the one-ball game, but that one was especially welcome. (Does the one-ball game go into Mr Mulliner's computer?)

Continued on page 24.

Tournament Reports & Results (2)

East Riding: 12-13 July Tyneside members prominent

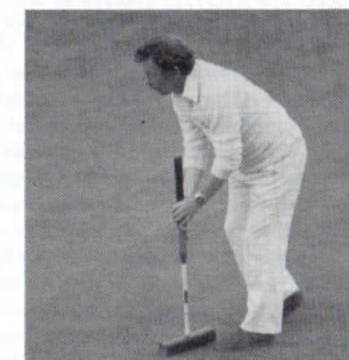
Report by Bill Lamb

With new hoops, new balls, a lot of new faces and under new management, the East Riding Handicap Weekend had a somewhat different feeling to it this year. Fewer ribald remarks and less beer drunk than usual no doubt also contributed.

Saturday was cool and overcast and play was commendably brisk. The slow, but true lawns presented easy playing conditions and nobody seemed to notice that the hoops, which had been set to the balls in typical East Riding fashion, were rather tight.

Sunday, in contrast, was brilliantly sunny - ideal weather for good croquet. Frazer Ross, on being asked by the manager for a quick game to get the manager back on schedule (everyone else was well ahead), promptly obliged and won a delightful game in which 18 points were scored in rather less than an hour and a half.

Amongst the new faces, Alice Jones and Jack and Betty Shotton from the Tyneside club were making their first CA



Ian Maugham in pensive mood at Hull

tournament appearance: all played competently and had reason to feel satisfied with their initiation.

Middle bisquers were well to the fore, winning all four blocks, although nobody had a clean sweep of a block. The Iveson Tankard, awarded to the block winner with the most games/points went to Derek Trotman of Tyneside by a narrow margin from Bill Toyne from the home club.

(Results on Page 24)

National Rankings: 1986

= 1 Mulliner SN	172	= 41 Carlisle J	110
= 1 Openshaw DK	172	= 41 Gaunt DL	110
3 Aspinall GN	170	= 41 Schmeider CM	110
4 Irwin CJ	160	= 44 French MR	107
= 5 Prichard WdeB	154	= 44 Jackson GEP	107
= 5 Solomon EW	154	= 44 Meads JD	107
7 Cordingley P	148	47 Death PJ	105
8 Avery MN	147	48 Cairns DS	104
9 Heap MEW	145	= 49 Battison JSH	103
10 Murray M	144	= 49 Mrozinski AJ	103
= 11 Aiton KMH	141	= 51 Collin AJ	102
= 11 McCullough JR	141	= 51 Collin MP	102
13 Hope AB	140	= 51 Hallam BG	102
14 Griffith T	137	= 51 MacLeod Miss J	102
15 Guest JE	136	= 51 Shergold FL	102
16 Gunasekera D	135	= 56 Bennet A	101
17 Read TO	134	= 56 Coles W	101
= 18 Lewis SE	133	= 56 Smith PL	101
= 18 Wylie KF	133	59 Rogerson F	100
20 Foulser DR	132	= 60 Johnson PM	99
21 Bond ID	130	= 60 Palmer AJ	99
22 Walters JO	129	= 60 Sutcliffe AF	99
23 Healy GPN	128	= 63 Audsley E	98
24 Neal BG	127	= 63 Gale NFC	98
25 Aldridge WO	125	= 63 Smith RJ	98
26 Wiggins Mrs S	124	= 63 Torrington P	98
27 Noble GW	123	= 67 Goacher DJ	97
= 28 Coward MJ	120	= 67 Greenwood JD	97
= 28 Croker DJ	120	= 67 Hilditch JR	97
= 28 Hyne NG	120	= 67 Wheeler JA	97
= 31 Davis EJ	119	71 Taylor GK	96
= 31 Jones KE	119	= 72 Anderson TW	95
= 31 Palmer DG	119	= 72 Reed AA	95
= 34 Bell E	118	= 72 Storey BJ	95
= 34 Vincent IG	118	= 72 Williams RAW	95
= 34 Williams S	118	= 76 Hague Mrs P	94
37 Ormerod M	116	= 76 Keen BA	94
38 Latham LV	115	= 76 Southern C	94
39 Rose J	114		
40 Prichard RDC	113		

Continued on page 21

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The Westwood Internationals (1)

5th TEST - GREAT BRITAIN v NEW ZEALAND

Parkstone: 27-29 June

New Zealand clinch series

Report by Les Butler, William Ormerod, and Allen Parker

Great Britain lost two of the doubles matches on the first day, our only winners being Aspinall & Irwin, who beat Beale & Prince in a hard fought match with few easy chances. Irwin attempted a triple peel in the second game, got the first two peels, but stuck in a relatively easy 1-back.

The match between Avery & Openshaw and Murfitt & Hogan began at 10am and finished with Hogan pegging out in the third in the gloaming at 9.25pm. There was some excitement in the second game when Avery pegged out Murfitt, and after a series of turns with Avery & his partner joining very wide, Hogan hit in but failed to get position for 4-back. Hogan finally missed a full length shot and Openshaw finished the game from penult.



Ashley Heenan, New Zealand's manager, seeks divine inspiration with victory in sight.

The first game between Mulliner & Prichard and Jackson & Skinley see-sawed about, but Bob Jackson finally finished the game with controlled skill. The second game was a fine exhibition of top-class croquet. Jackson went to 4-back with a controlled 4 ball break. Mulliner hit the lift shot and went to 4-back with another fine controlled break. Skinley hit the lift shot and went out with a triple peel.

In the singles matches, the one everyone wanted to watch was that between Nigel Aspinall and Bob Jackson. Bob's New Zealand supporters were ranged around and above Lawn 4 at Parkstone and outnumbered the English crowd. The New Zealanders clapped and pummeled the air as Bob hit in from 25 yards and threw down the gauntlet to Nigel with a meticulous break to 4-back. Nigel missed the lift, and then Bob completed a delayed triple - probably the finest turn seen at Parkstone for many, many years.

Early in the second game, British supporters looked long-faced as Jackson hit in on the 4th turn and took his yellow to 4-back. Nigel daringly took the short lift and hit to loud British applause. He tried a difficult first hoop, but failed. Jackson hit in from 20 yards with his red, setting up a break, but unexpectedly failed at hoop 4. Nigel hit an awkward length with blue and in

dashing style played to 4-back. Real vintage Nigel, this, and he laid up near corner 2. Jackson shot brilliantly, hit in with red from corner 4, and soon had a well controlled break. He peeled yellow through 4-back when at the same hoop, but a firm clatter on the wire by red told us he had missed.

Nigel then under considerable pressure hit a nervy 5-yarder with black and brought off a truly wonderful triple peel to win in fine style, like playing a century at Lords. Game all, and lunch.

We really felt that game 3 would decide the MacRobertson Trophy. Again Jackson was first to 4-back with yellow, after Nigel, having hit in from 20 yards, failed at hoop 2. But Nigel was shooting well. He bravely hit a long lift and played blue to 4-back, but tragically in his final lay-up he sent red off the West boundary. Jackson hit a 6-yarder to get in, plumb in the middle, and seemed certain to win on another clever triple.

However, a talking point to rival the All-Black's disputed try in 1905 had emerged. Keith Wylie, one of a new breed of specially examined Championship Referees confidently declared a foul by Jackson in his moment of triumph. 'A double tap', he declared, while Jackson was executing an Irish peel which would have ensured New Zealand's victory in the series. Four Championship Referees had debated for 20 minutes a point on another court, and perhaps in this critical situation in Jackson's match, another viewpoint could also have been called to witness Bob's stroke.

There was more drama to come, as soon after, loud applause greeted us as Roger Murfitt sealed the Trophy for New Zealand on another court.

Nigel then missed a very short roquet played gently near hoop 3. Jackson won both on rover made the hoop with red and laid for the final coup de grace, but brave Nigel hit again from 25 yards, and a British victory seemed probable until he became hoop bound after 3-back.

So Bob Jackson was in again, and sealed Great Britain's fate with a 6-yard peg-out hit in the middle.

A memorable match, which New Zealand seemed destined to win, but one that showed the fine rear-guard qualities of the British. We saw croquet of the highest standard, fine shooting, many well-controlled croquet strokes, small and large split shots, and best of all, victory for the game of croquet.

In the other singles, Prichard and Mulliner won their matches in straight games, but Great Britain lost the other 3 matches to lose the Test Match by 6 matches to 3. New Zealand thus made certain of taking home the MacRobertson Shield, having beaten both Australia and Great Britain in two of their three Test Matches against each country.

Match Result
Great Britain 3, New Zealand 6

6th TEST - GREAT BRITAIN v AUSTRALIA

Compton: 1-3 July

McCullough takes his time, but Great Britain win

Report by Roger Wood

It might have been supposed that with New Zealand already having won the series at Parkstone, much of the interest would have gone out of this match. But the Australians arrived on Monday to put in three hours of



David Openshaw goes through rover, on his way to beating Barrie Chambers.

solid practice, anxious no doubt to break their duck; and four of the home team spent the afternoon hard at work perfecting their strokes. All launched themselves on grand voyages of discovery - charting the contours of unfamiliar boundaries, navigating the shoals of each hoop approach and inspecting the corners for hidden reefs.

At the civic reception given by the Borough of Eastbourne that evening all guests were formally announced by the official toastmaster, resplendent in scarlet tailcoat. The Deputy Mayor and his lady were introduced to the intricacies of the game of croquet and were sufficiently fired with enthusiasm to come and watch the following afternoon.

Tuesday dawned with clear skies, the first of three days of perfect weather which found even some of the Australians remarking on the heat. This was doubles day and with the Union Jack, Australian flag and boxing kangaroo at the masthead, play got under way promptly at 10. With dry, fast lawns and firm, narrow hoops, very few games finished quickly: indeed by lunchtime Spooner and Chambers's first game win over Aspinall and Irwin was the only result on the score board. By 3 o'clock the Australians had won the first game of each encounter.

Aspinall and Irwin won the second, only to see Chambers storm home in the third with a magnificent three ball break from the

RESULTS

(GB names first)

Doubles

Aspinall & Irwin bt Beale & Prince +21, +17
Avery & Openshaw lost to Murfitt & Hogan -10, +4, -16
Mulliner & Prichard lost to Jackson & Skinley -14, -16(TP)

Singles

Openshaw lost to Hogan +22(TP), -12, -8
Mulliner bt Skinley +7, +3(TP)
Aspinall lost to Jackson -24(TP), +7(TP), -8
Prichard bt Beale +16, +5
Avery lost to Murfitt -23, -13
Irwin lost to Prince -26, -13

4th hoop. On lawn 4, Openshaw and Avery had two very close games against Cleland and Bidencope, just creeping a win by 3 in the second but going on to win the third in convincing style. The third match was the slowest and the end of the first day saw play abandoned shortly after Prichard stuck in hoop 5 in the dark at 2140!

The following morning was full of incident: Latham missed a medium roquet and later stuck in hoop 2. Prichard, wanting hoop 6, was presented with a short rush pointing NE directly at hoop 2: after much inspection and deliberation he contrived to rush the ball hard, bounce it off the wires, arrive in perfect position to approach his



hoop and so proceed to rover. Despite a McCullough double tap at 4-back and Prichard being hoop bound at rover, Great Britain won to establish a 2-1 lead.

The first games in each of the singles on day 2 were desperately close. Irwin snatched victory by a single point when Bidencope stuck in rover and then, with confidence brimming, went on to win the second by 25. Openshaw took the first game in his match with Chambers sent his forward ball off with a lift pending. Chambers took his revenge in the second, punishing Openshaw's error at hoop 3 with an all round break and 4-back peel. But Openshaw reversed the roles in the third game and won handsomely despite sticking in 4-back.

McCullough again found himself in a lengthy marathon, this time against Cleland in three hard fought battles. With one win under his belt after a 5 hour duel in the first game, Cleland just missed the peg out in the second, allowing McCullough to win by one point. Darkness again intervened to interrupt the third game and, after a slow start on resumption in the morning, Cleland ran out the winner by 5 to leave the Australians trailing 4-2.

An overnight shower slowed the pace of the lawns somewhat, but the sun soon dried them out again. Aspinall disposed of Spooner with two fine displays of controlled break making and the only triple peel of the Test Match. In the first game the 4-back peel was made after hoop 3 and, with two unsuccessful attempts at penultimate, the turn finished with a straight double peel in which the peeler was cannoned beyond the rover before the final peel.

It seemed for a while that the second

7th TEST - AUSTRALIA v. NEW ZEALAND

Southwick: 5-7 July

New Zealand win again

Report by John Solomon

Australia met New Zealand for the last time at Southwick on July 5th, 6th, and 7th. Although by now both sides knew that New Zealand had already regained the Shield, there was still everything to play for, since New Zealand wanted to go through with a clean sweep if possible, and Australia were keen to notch up at least one victory during their visit. In addition, individual players had their own record to consider, either to consolidate a good one, or to redeem a poor one.

The doubles on the first day were perhaps the poorest exhibition of skill that has been

Nigel Aspinall and Colin Irwin deep in a tactical discussion.

seen during the tour, although it must be admitted that conditions in the morning were very difficult. Heavy overnight rain lay on the courts, which were only just playable, water spraying from the balls on parts of the courts for the first hour and a half.

In the top match, Jackson left a sextuple leave, and Skinley achieved two peels before sticking in the sixth. But Jackson immediately hit back, peeled his partner through the sixth, went to the peg and pegged out. This somewhat surprising tactic paid off, for Cleland got a 3-ball break going, but came to grief after 1-back, somewhat unfortunately, and Skinley was able to finish. In the second game the Australians each made good breaks while the New Zealanders were struggling, but poor finishing let the Kiwis in to win the match (+19, +6).

In the second match there was a very slow start, but eventually a straight triple attempt by Chambers came to grief when he failed at penultimate, which allowed Murfitt and Hogan to win +6. In the second game, Murfitt showed his attractive style by making a very quick break to 4-back, followed immediately by his partner Hogan going to the peg. Spooner and Chambers each had a number of chances, but failed to make much of them until Chambers galvanized into action and went round, but poor finishing by the Australians gave their opponents too many opportunities and they eventually won +5.

The third double was a sad affair for both countries, the first game being won by New Zealand in just under 4 hours in which it was an exception if a break of 3 hoops was made. The second game was hardly better, but this time the Aussies emerged the winners to even the match at 8 o'clock, when it was properly agreed that the final game would be deferred. The Kiwis therefore ended the first day 2-0.

The singles on the next two days did a great deal to redress the shortcomings of the first day. Playing in the second slot, Hogan made the most of a number of opportunities, eventually achieving one peel of a straight triple, and although Chambers had a couple of chances, Hogan emerged the winner +22. The second game was a bit like a mixed fruit salad with many opportunities missed, Chambers winning +22. The final game showed again the Australian tendency not to finish what they had started well, as Chambers failed at 2-back in the first break, probably the most expensive place to come to grief, from which Hogan went to 4-back and immediately finished with a triple peel +19.

RESULTS (GB names first)

Doubles

Openshaw & Avery bt Cleland & Bidencope -5, +3, +21
Aspinall & Irwin lost to Spooner & Chambers -9, +12, -4
Prichard & McCullough bt Buck & Latham -17, +11, +21

Singles

Irwin bt Bidencope +1, +25
Openshaw bt Chambers +4, -24, +23
McCullough lost to Cleland -2, +1, -5
Aspinall bt Spooner +26(TP), +22
Avery bt Buck -5, +3, +26
Prichard bt Latham +11, +5

Match Result

Great Britain 7, Australia 2

The Westwood Internationals (2)

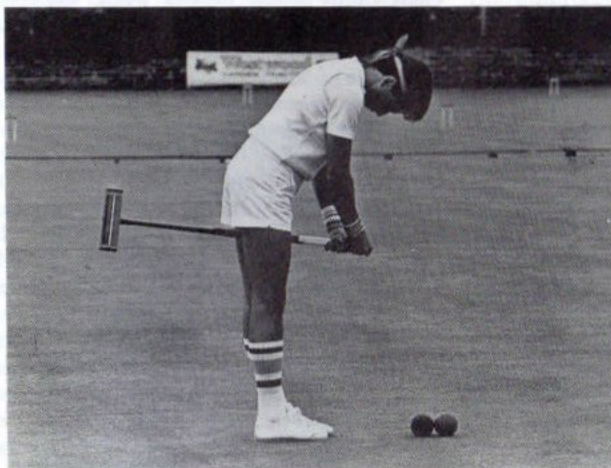
The Westwood Internationals (3)

7th Test (Cont'd)

New Zealand clinched the rubber +14.

Playing No 6, Prince, the New Zealand captain, made an excellent pick-up to play a very good 3-ball break to 4-back which Buck answered by hitting the lift and also going round. The leave with a ball on the wire of hoop 2 proved too complicated, and some jockeying resulted in Buck making a good attempt at a triple, with a fine long peel of 4-back after 6, and a good Irish peel at penultimate, but the last peel failed to materialise. Prince missed the lift and Australia won the first game +17.

In the second game, Prince was again round first, but Buck hit the lift and followed him. Prince made no mistake other than not hitting the lift and Buck completed the triple going to 3-back to win +17.



An abiding memory of the Test Series - Paul Skinley's backswing (left) and his toes (below).

The final day gave us Nos 1, 3, and 5, and Murfitt, playing in fifth position, despite a quick easy break to 4-back followed by getting his partner to the peg with one peel, then had to struggle for quite a time to emerge the victor +3.

Latham countered in the second game by gaining the first break but seemed to get in a muddle at 1-back preparing for the leave and gave Murfitt a gift which he accepted gratefully, and followed it with a triple +20.

The contrasting styles of Skinley and Cleland proved an interesting combination, Skinley's very upright, almost pedantic swing proving very accurate, and he played excellently to win the first game +26 with a triple, pegging out from just behind the rover.

Cleland's more natural style emerged in the second game which was noticeable for some excellent shooting by both players. Skinley nearly clinched the match with a triple, but failed a jump at the rover to allow Cleland to win +3.

The Australian got the first break in the final game, but lost the initiative and Skinley did an almost exact replica of the first game finish, narrowly missing the peg from behind the rover, but soon finishing +9.

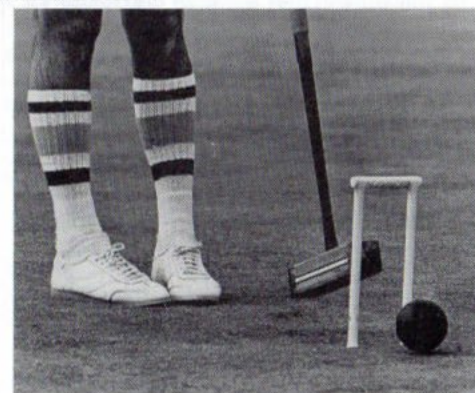
The top single between Jackson and Spooner was both interesting and disappointing. Excellent technical shots by Jackson (stop-shot approaches, long hoops) resulted in breaks which were surprisingly ragged. Indeed he lost control on a number of occasions and Spooner had the opportunity to hit in several times. Spooner's favourite leave (in this match at any rate) of having his own balls in Corners 2 and 4 did

not seem to be very rewarding since Jackson hit on both occasions. But Spooner seemed to have the first game sewn up when with his partner perfectly in front of rover for the final peel he carelessly roqueted it out of a peelable position and resorted to pegging out Jackson and himself. The resulting 2-ball game (Spooner on rover and Jackson on 3-back) was tactically well played by both players but Jackson's strong shooting resulted in him winning +2.

The second game produced good breaks by both players, Jackson completing with a triple and the classic score of +17.

New Zealand therefore added to their victories with a final score of 7-1, with one double left at game all.

As everyone would expect the Southwick



Club provided excellent hospitality throughout the match, and the visitors were well looked after. The club took the opportunity to hold a reception on the final evening to mark the 85th anniversary of their foundation, which was very well attended on a fine evening and was a fitting conclusion to an interesting three days.

RESULTS

(NZ names first)

Doubles

Jackson & Skinley bt Cleland & Bidecove +19, +6
Murfitt & Hogan bt Chambers & Spooner +6, +5
Beale & Prince v. Buck & Latham +13, -7 (left undecided at one game all)

Singles

Hogan bt Chambers +22, -22, +19(TP)
Beale bt Bidecove +4, +14
Prince lost to Buck -17, -17(TP)
Murfitt bt Latham +3, +20(TP)
Skinley bt Cleland +26(TP), -3, +9
Jackson bt Spooner +2, +17(TP)

Match Result

New Zealand 7, Australia 1

8th TEST - GREAT BRITAIN v NEW ZEALAND Hunstanton: 10-12 July Great Britain gain some consolation

Report by Jane Neville-Rolfe

A buffet luncheon reception was arranged at the Club on July 9th for the two teams to meet the Mayor and Mayoress of Kings Lynn, the Mayor and Mayoress of Hunstanton and other official guests. Members of the Club of course also attended and a very cheery party was enjoyed by all.

The New Zealand team had been practising in the morning and the British team took over in the afternoon.

The first day was devoted to doubles and a glorious summer day it was. Several visitors arrived to watch, especially wanting to see the full teams in action. Mark Avery and David Openshaw had an exciting win in three games against R.V. Jackson and J. Hogan, with David Openshaw completing a triple peel. Nigel Aspinall and Colin Irwin won in two games against J.G. Prince and P. Skinley, whilst Andrew Hope and William Prichard lost in two games to G. Beale and R.J. Murfitt.

Result: 2 matches to 1 for Great Britain.

Day 2: Singles. Again a lovely day, warm and sunny. Nigel Aspinall beat J. Hogan. After losing the first game -26, he won the next two, +9 and +25 with a triple peel. Colin Irwin beat G. Beale +4(TP) and +5, whilst Mark Avery also won against Ashley Heenan, +17 and +21.

Result after 2 days: 5 matches to 1 for Great Britain.

Day 3: Singles. A dull, drizzly day with Great Britain not doing quite so well. David Openshaw beat R.V. Jackson +3 +15, Jackson just failing to do a TPO. Andrew Hope lost to R. Murfitt +9, -15, -21, whilst William Prichard lost to Paul Skinley +5, 25, 25.

Final Result: 6 matches to 3 for Great Britain who were very pleased to have scored their first win against New Zealand. The Referees Richard Hilditch and Ian Vincent were there when needed and they were invaluable in testing the balls and hoops before each session.

Sarah Hampson managed the match very efficiently and everyone seemed to enjoy it, players and spectators alike. It was the first Test Match ever to be held in Norfolk.

RESULTS

(Great Britain names first)

Doubles

M.N. Avery & D.K. Openshaw bt R.V. Jackson & J. Hogan +26(TP), -17, +3
G.N. Aspinall & C.J. Irwin bt J.G. Prince & P.J. Skinley +11, +22
A.B. Hope & W. de B. Prichard lost to G. Beale & R.V. Murfitt -3, -10

Singles

G.N. Aspinall bt J. Hogan -26, +9, +25(TP)
C.J. Irwin bt G. Beale +4(TP), +5
M.N. Avery bt A. Heenan +17, +21
D.K. Openshaw bt R.V. Jackson +3, +15
A.B. Hope lost to R.V. Murfitt +9, -15, -21
W. de B. Prichard lost to P.J. Skinley +5, -25, -25(TP)

Match Result

Great Britain 6, New Zealand 3.

9th TEST - GREAT BRITAIN v AUSTRALIA

Colchester: 14-16 July

Australia break their duck!

Report by John Walters

A tireless sun meant conditions at Colchester were approaching 'tricky', as David Openshaw said in his thank you speech. In fact, the fast flat conditions were approaching those on which real croquet can be played - a distinct contrast to the stodgy conditions that have prevailed for most of this season which neither reward nor challenge players!

This was Great Britain vs Australia. Throughout the series, our side had two excuses for 'not being on match form' (Copyright @ K.F. Wylie 1984). Either 'Well, it's only a friendly/dead match' or 'Well, it's the pressure of such an important match!' How much better we British are at excuses (probably through experience). For instance, this by Richard Hilditch: 'A fly flew up my nose as I was about to run the 'oop!'

The Test Match kicked off in spectacular fashion. Reigning Open Doubles Champions, Openshaw and Avery, seemed to be in a strong position against Spooner and Chambers, 4-back (Avery) and peg (Openshaw) vs. rover alone (Spooner). Unfortunately our brave duo were unlucky enough to try David's famous, favourite 'match-winning' tactic - incessant wiring behind hoops. Neil hit the technically wired ball at Penult from the middle of the South boundary, and finished. The second game was won by the Australians +26 on the eighth turn.

With Aspinall & Irwin one game all and pegged down against Cleland & Bidecove, and Prichard & McCullough beating Buck & Latham in straight games (although twice McCullough hit in on a ball he wasn't aiming at, and the longest break in the second game was 4 hoops!), the teams were one all after Day 1.

Day 2 saw Buck & McCullough continuing the form shown at Compton, with a five hour first game (won by 3 to Buck). Inexplicably, the next took only one and a half hours for a win by 24 to McCullough, so everyone was able to have an early night when McCullough finished the third just before 9pm. The main highlight of this match was when Buck wished to see McCullough's mallet, to check whether he was to concede a lift. McCullough hid his mallet in a bag and refused to show it! (We thought the obvious solution was to make McCullough play his next turn with the mallet in the bag!).

Chambers showed an inventive streak in order to beat Irwin in straight games. Approaching hoops was not a problem - from anywhere - although Barry played the

last turn of the first game with the wrong ball! Also interesting was Barry's attempt to claim Colin's trundle to baulk for a lift was a shot!

Cleland was rightly proud to have taken a game off Aspinall, although Nigel went on to win the match. Finally, Great Britain staged a comeback in the third game of the pegged down doubles match to go 4-2 up, so Australia needed to win all the matches on Day 3 to win the Test.

Evening took us to a local Chinese restaurant, where Richard Hilditch declined to fault Barry Chambers for causing damage to our appetites, but joined forces to wire the rest of the table from the crispy duck! Not only did the interesting notion of fried ice-cream (!) fail to materialise, but as we worked our way down the desserts we realised that the proprietor seemed to be encouraging us to leave! Not downhearted, a



William Prichard, who made good use of corner cannons throughout the Series.

select band marched off to the Wimpy for our sweet, but it was only when Spencer said, in a strong Australian accent, 'We've come 12,000 miles for it' that a stunned assistant unlocked the door and let us in.

On the third day William Prichard, who has just left the army, produced some cannons to win his first game - corner cannons, that is (and very elegant ones too). Nothing to damage international harmony, although this match produced five severely damaged mis-shapen balls that had to be changed. However, Latham's more 'blunderbuss' approach and determined croquet won him the next two games, the last by 26. The only 'irregularity' in this match was a 'playing with the wrong ball' (clearly in vogue) which was ironically spotted by - Barry Chambers!

Avery crumbled against Bidecove. The latter displayed sufficient competence at all strokes to struggle out of most of the difficulties caused by his previous stroke. A straight games win of 3 and 1 (in which Bidecove caught up after Avery had failed a

peg-out) meant that the result of the Test Match rested on the battle of the captains.

Openshaw and Spooner gave a display of scrappy croquet throughout their match. Spooner had lost the first game and Openshaw had trudged round to 3-back and peg in the second. Without going so far as to say that Spooner then 'came alive', he nevertheless won by 4. The deciding game saw Spooner round to 4-back and peg in two turns, having conquered the hooping nerves which seemed to have dogged him throughout the series. A missed roquet at penult and a missed peg-out were not capitalised on by an Openshaw who was looking increasingly dejected. Spooner came through the tense last few minutes to give a jump of joy when he hit the peg from 20 yards, thus giving Australia their first victory, in this the last Test.

The Australians wouldn't touch Colchester's newly installed 'Castlemaine XXXX' tap with a barge pole, but the price of other drinks seemed to increase over the three days, and one member told us that drinks were cheaper at the Bowls Club!

In conclusion, the general low standard of play can be explained by the 'dead match' syndrome. This was the rundown of the series, and perhaps this possibility should be eradicated in future. Although the New Zealand overall victory was well deserved, many Tests were exceptionally close - not all of them so obviously so as this one.

It was interesting that the three countries exhibited different styles and attitudes. The Australians a practical, down-to-earth, style, while on the whole the New Zealanders showed an elegant flair for the game which the more enlightened of this country find admirable.

I'm sure all will agree that it was a pleasure to welcome both teams, and everyone hopes that they will make the long journey again, well before 1998.

RESULTS (GB names first)

Doubles

Openshaw & Avery lost to Spooner & Chambers -4, -26
Aspinall & Irwin bt Cleland & Bidecove +13, -4, +10
Prichard & McCullough bt Buck & Latham +12, +23

Singles

Openshaw lost to Spooner +8, -4, -18
Aspinall bt Cleland -13, +3, +19
Prichard lost to Latham +16, -14, -26
Irwin lost to Chambers -5, -17
Avery lost to Bidecove -3, -1
McCullough bt Buck -3, +24, +7

Match Result

Great Britain 4, Australia 5

Continued from page 17

= 79 Lamb WE	93 = 90 Drake HG	86
= 79 Maugham FI	93 = 90 Stoker P	86
81 Mann JR	91 92 Reeve D	85
= 82 Carlisle Mrs V	90 = 93 Dawson JP	84
= 82 Denison WB	90 = 93 Girling AJ	84
= 82 Tompkinson M	90 = 93 Green HC	84
= 85 Peterson D	89 = 93 Moorcraft D	84
= 85 Wiggins WRD	89 = 93 Sandler MH	84
= 87 Smith Mrs CA	88 = 98 Kolbuszewski M	83
= 87 Wharrad L	88 = 98 Weitz BGF	83
89 Collin GK	87 100 Race R	81

A detailed explanation of the Computer Grading System will be given in our next issue

The Westwood Internationals (4)

Tournament Reports & Results (3)

Ipswich: 1-3 August

Felixstowe lawn used for tournament

Report by Danny Palmer

Despite being held in the last few days before selection for the eights, I think it can be safely said that the Ipswich and Felixstowe Handicap Weekend has no effect whatsoever on the line up for September. However, though not top class in entry, this gathering proved, once

again, to be one of the most friendly and enjoyable of the year.

Under the capable management of Pat Hetherington, everybody was kept busy and thus contented for the tournament's duration (even though this was a little shorter than advertised).



Monsieur and Madame Jean Louis Menier, who have recently joined the Croquet Association, playing in the ground of their home at Chateau de Chenonceau, France.

It is often said that croquet is not a spectator sport and this view was reinforced by some of the play of Martin French. The lawns are situated in the middle of a public park and prospective spectators were a little discouraged, to say the least, to see the aforesaid firing balls off the lawn at head height!

Having a third lawn at Felixstowe proved to be a bit of a headache for the manager, but the hospitality of the local club members there was much appreciated. Some seemed to enjoy playing there so much that they were very loathe to return (it took the application of time limits in some cases).

The tournament meal was held at the traditional venue (traditional in as much as the last tournament meal was held there!) - the local pizza place. This saw John Reeve racing around, chasing the waitresses! The pursuit of beer was his plea. Combined with the excellent barbecued lunches, the tourna-

ment was pleasantly stomach-orientated.

The lack of rain on the first two days made the lawn tricky around some hoops, but the excess on Sunday made it submerged! Play had to be abandoned at 2.30 without a winner.

After much thought, it was decided to have an early tea to see if the lawns would drain. Entertainment was provided by a Norwich Gannet, who single handedly consumed an entire flan and enough sandwiches to feed a MacRobertson Test Team and accompanying officials! With all the food gone and the rain still coming down, drastic actions were in order. The four players drawing in first place were sent out into the deluge to play a one-ball decider through an odd assortment of hoops (chosen for their protrusion above the lake). Through the rain returned the winner - Robert Jones - to pick up the trophy and a well earned handicap reduction by 3 to 13.

Harrow: 2-3 August Another vibrant tournament

Report by Miles Holford

This was the fifth in a new and vibrant series of weekend tournaments. Visitors were well balanced by those playing on home ground and it was gratifying to see several faces new to the circuit. The latter included a player by the name of Jan who, on inspection (beard, sandals, glasses), turned out not to be that well-known A-class player (lipstick, fencing shorts, no glasses).

Saturday morning dawned bright and warm, allowing many games to be played on and around the lawns: cricket with a cricket ball (Hyne and Mrozinski), tennis with a tennis ball (Holford) and cricket with the club's china teacups (better left un-named).

An excellent, if rather grubby, lunch then appeared, which was eagerly devoured by all. Richard Hilditch and his team of helpers are to be thanked for providing such a delicious spread.

After some more croquet, tea followed: all the cakes were exceedingly good.

By the end of the first day, the main event had progressed to the semi-final, leaving Cordingley, who had won each game thus far with a triple peel, to play the steady and reliable Guest. Meanwhile, the Swiss consolation event had reached a stage whereby, interestingly enough, the total number of

games won equalled the total number of games lost. Bond assumed the role of elder statesman, keeping in touch with the progress on all three double-banked lawns from a spot in a remote corner whence the wind wafted his murmured declarations.

On Sunday, the rain, which had started before seven, was still thrashing down by eleven. Puddles appeared and play ceased. Your reporter then showed himself to be almost as wet as the weather by promptly scratching from the tournament. Springing to his defence, the Meteorological Office reported later that two and a half inches of rain had fallen in the South East and that this had been the coldest August day for 13 years.

The best-of-three final was restricted to one game owing to the rainfall. Cordingley won it and hence the tournament, fulfilling the predictions of many. Walters won the Swiss after some inspiring play though he was, at times, upstaged by the antics of Hyne who triple peeled and ran two-back from the second corner.

The tournament owes its success to the energetic and computer-assisted management of Dicky Hilditch; he arrived early each morning to set the hoops and revived dampened spirits with beer and Mars Bars.

Southport: 8-10 August Beware of the Bandits!

Report by Andrew Bennet

This new tournament, managed by the modest efficiency of Peter Death, saw an exceptionally high standard of play. As Barry's computer would have predicted, the low-bisquers won most of their games despite formidable opposition, with some exciting finishes. Tim Haste won from second and penultimate after Peter Dorke had pegged out one ball, and Andrew Bennet, having been pegged out by Mike Elder, had two long hits and 3-ball breaks to finish from hoop 2.

If three juveniles from Blackburn had not been present, the block winners would have been Alice Dawson, Alan Sutcliffe and myself. Peter Dorke, Peter Death and Paul Stoker each took a game off a Blackburn bandit, but nobody else could stop them, even though I tried to tire them out by making them get up early to help set out the courts.

Russell Collighan has been playing for only three months and his stroke play improved with every shot as the tournament progressed. His bisques were well used, so we have taken some away. Mark Saurin, also new to the game this season, played remarkably well. He played a bisqueless break from hoop 2, peeled Val Tompkinson through rover and pegged her out, then beat Alan Sutcliffe by 26 with four bisques left. Handicappers are trying their

best to keep up with him! The same was being said of Chris Clarke last season and is still true. Chris often takes dangerous shots, but almost always hits them and pulls a break together. He has already shed six and a half bisques this season, and I do not hesitate to predict that this information will be out of date before it is printed.

It was pleasing to have the tournament well subscribed by players covering a handicap range of 18 and an age range of 56! We look forward to welcoming more visitors next year.



Mick Tompkinson (Stourbridge)

RESULTS

Handicap Singles (American Blocks)

Block A

6 wins: R. Collighan (15)
5 wins: Miss A.E. Dawson (11)
4 wins: P.J. Dorke (4), Dr T.J. Haste (10)
3 wins: Mrs C. Lewis (9)
2 wins: M.J. Wilkins (3½), Mrs D. Williamson (18), M.G. Tompkinson (2)

Block B

6 wins: M.A. Saurin (9), A.F. Sutcliffe (2½)
5 wins: S.O. Jones (12)
4 wins: J.D. Williamson (5), P.J. Death (½)
2 wins: Mrs L.J. Taylor (11)
1 win: Mrs V.Y. Tompkinson (7½)
0 wins: J. Hawkins (18)

Block C

6 wins: C.D. Clarke (3), A. Bennet (1)
5 wins: M. Elder (5½)
3 wins: D.W. Trotman (8), P. Stoker (2½), Mrs A. Rimmer (16)
1 win: J.H. Haslam (16), Miss P.M.H. Lewis (12)

Southport: 26-27 July Dee Dennett wins long-bisquers weekend

Report by Andrew Bennet

This Northern Federation event attracted a keen collection of players, many from the North-East. The handicap range was from 11 to 20 and the age range was 56 years. Last year's formula of full bisques (base 10) with patrolling Referees was repeated, and the handicappers of the Northern clubs are to be commended on their vigilance and consistency.

Tim Haste controlled the proceedings in his usual modest manner, besides setting the hoops with Paul Stoker and Don Williamson in the mornings. These three, plus the writer, were present to act as referees and were kept busy in many situations which would have delighted an Examining

Referee.

Dee Dennett from Ellesmere won and Ann Rimmer of Southport was runner-up. Both are players who have improved steadily in recent years. Most of the other participants are waiting to pounce in their first CA calendar event, and we hope that the experience has encouraged them, as everybody had at least one win.

I humbly apologise to Dee for running out of wine on both days, thus depriving her of the celebratory drink, and if she wants to know what happened to six litres of the stuff, she should first ask one of the other members of her club.

We look forward to seeing the new faces on the tournament circuit.

Tournament Reports & Results (4)

East Riding: 2-3 August What can stop Colin Irwin?

Report by Andrew Bennet

East Riding experimented with an invitation open weekend, with a view to putting it in the Calendar next season. Setting out the lawns, and catering in tents which have to be packed away each day, requires a lot of work on the part of club members, but it all makes the visitors feel very welcome. Another attraction is the accommodation in self-catering flats. The two croquet lawns can be quite fast and the two bowling greens borrowed for tournaments are not so fast but very true.

In addition to a selection of the northern regulars, Ian Plummer and Mark Wormald from Oxford made their impression. I am sure we will hear more of their progress this season.

Pat Hague played well throughout, with a particularly well-controlled break after I clanged rover, to peg me out. She wishes it to be known that I am a robber (I hit the last shot).

John Davis always looked dangerous, but lost to Ian Maugham, the manager, in the third round after accidentally

pegging a ball out. In the next round he left four balls round rover instead of completing a triple peel. Meanwhile, Colin produced a flawless +26TP against the manager.

All sorts of Irwin-stopping tactics failed. Ted Scott's sudden chair-wrecking manoeuvre left the rest of us helpless with laughter but did not prevent Colin from picking up a break. The only thing that stopped him briefly was the lack of any opponent with enough wins to be sent to the slaughter.

On Sunday, Colin laid up for a sextuple against John, and did three peels before clanging 2-back. In his next game, he had a 3-ball plant, which seems to mean four balls close round penultimate during a delayed straight triple and a shot full of cannons, promotions, peels, and all sorts of other things which the rest of us might do only by accident.

I look forward to seeing this event in the Calendar, and recommend it to anyone seeking good lawns, good hoops and good company.

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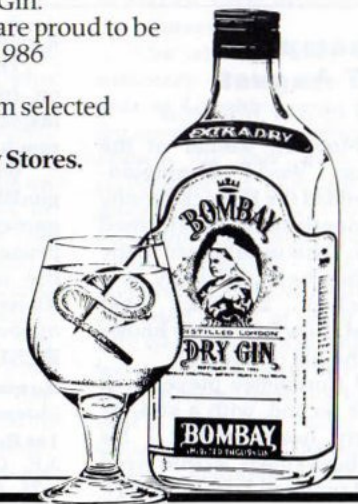
The game of croquet is a great English tradition, played throughout the world on some of the finest lawns and enjoyed by many. Like Bombay Gin for some people, nothing else will do.

Bombay Gin has the flavour of a fine English dry Gin, and is the ideal base for the perfect cocktail to relax with when your match is over. The flavour is acquired by distilling from eight 'botanicals,' and the unhurried distillation process ensures that there is only one world's finest - Bombay Gin.

Bombay Gin are proud to be sponsoring the 1986 President's Cup.

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Tournament Reports & Results (5)

Ipswich: 1-3 August

(Swiss: Handicap Play)

4 wins: P. Elliott (7½), R. Jones (16), D. Palmer (1), Dr R.R. Sutherland (5)

3 wins: L. Palmer (6), Mrs H.D. Potter (9), N. Harris (6), M. French (1½)

2 wins: D. Reeve (3½), Mrs C. Steward (14), J. Reeve (7½), J. Williams (10)

1 win: J.W. Potter (2), Ms J. Waters (16), B. Butler (18), Mrs Y. Roscoe (18)

Play-Off

Semi-Finals

Sutherland bt Elliott; Jones bt D. Palmer

Final:

Jones bt Sutherland

East Riding:

12-13 July

(American Blocks: Handicap)

Block A

4 wins: W. Toyne (8)

3 wins: D.R. Appleton (6), E.E. Scott (3½)

2 wins: Dr R.R. Sutherland (5), E.J. Davis (-½)

1 win: Mrs A. Jones (15)

Block B

4 wins: D.W. Trotman (9)

3 wins: D.R. Dudeney (14), Mrs A.F. Sutcliffe (7)

2 wins: M.J. Wilkins (3½), F.I. Maugham (1)

1 win: A.G. Gordon (4)

Block C

4 wins: A.T. Smith (6)

3 wins: P.W. Thompson (4), A.F. Sutcliffe

2 wins: Dr J.R. Gillespie (11),

Mrs C.E. Irwin (7½)

1 win: J. Shotton (16)

Block D

4 wins: W.G. Masterton (8)

3 wins: W.E. Lamb (2½), Mrs W. Hague (3)

2 wins: F.F. Ross (8), Mrs J. Shotton (16)

1 win: Dr M.T. Haslam (6)

Harrow: 2-3 August

(Advanced Play)

1st Round

P. Cordingley bt N.G. Hyne +14(TP); J. Kot bt D. Ruscombe-King +17; D. Goacher bt R. Hilditch +20; L. Wharrad bt M. Kolbuszewski +12; I. Bond bt G. Collin +9; A.J. Mrozinski bt Miss J. Assheton +7; J. Guest bt M. Holford +13

2nd Round

Cordingley bt Kot +26(TP); Goacher bt Wharrad +18; Mrozinski bt Bond +20; Guest bt J.O. Walters +23

Semi-Finals

Cordingley bt Goacher +14,+18; Guest bt Mrozinski -4,+6,+1

Final

Cordingley bt Guest +25

Progressive Swiss

Winner: J. Walters (4/5)

Games won: A.J. Mrozinski (4/7), R. Hilditch (3/5), George Collin (3/5), I. Bond (3/5), N.G. Hyne (2/4), D. Goacher (2/5), L. Wharrad (2/5), M. Kolbuszewski (2/5), Miss J. Assheton (1/3), J. Kot (1/5), D. Ruscombe-King (0/5), M. Holford (0/4)

1 win: Mrs P. Hetherington (7), H. Thake (18)

Part scores

2 wins out of 2: K. Jones (-½), D. Gregory (12)

1 win out of 4: M. Tompkinson (2), Mrs V. Tompkinson (7½)

Colchester:

8-10 August

Swiss Tournament
(Handicap Play)

6 wins: P. Elliott (7½) (winner), R. Fulford (4) & Dr R. Sutherland (5) (joint second)

5 wins: J. Williams (10), N. Gale (2), C. Docherty (13)

4 wins: W. Lamb (2½), Miss F. McCoig (11), P. Bishop (5½), Mrs J. Anderson (4½), L. Palmer (6), T. Anderson (1½), N. Gooch (4)

3 wins: Dr M. Kolbuszewski (1½), Mrs J. Neville-Rolfe (3½), Miss J. Waters (16), Mrs C. Steward (14), D. Reeve (3½), J. Wheeler (½)

2 wins: P. Howell (7), Mrs B. Carter (12), G. Hallett (6), R. Hall (7½), G. Cuttle (8)

1 win: N. Carter (9), Miss S. Hampson (3)

Edgbaston:

18-20 July

RESULTS

(6-round Swiss: Handicap Play)

5 wins: P. Dorke (5)

4 wins: S. Packer (5), Miss M. Rowan (13), C. Bennet (12), A. Girling (1)

3 wins: R. Jones (2½), A. Gregory (3½), B. Hallam (1)

2 wins: R. Welch (4), I. Meredith (5½)

1 win: Mrs P. Hetherington (7), H. Thake (18)

Part scores

2 wins out of 2: K. Jones (-½), D. Gregory (12)

1 win out of 4: M. Tompkinson (2), Mrs V. Tompkinson (7½)

Continued from page 17

Harrow: 12-13 July

Harrow is well worth a visit if you want a full day's play, good opposition and hoops (according to Don Gaunt) designed by Salvador Dali.

Next year, coaches will have 2 days full-time tuition on coaching before the improvers course starts. They will then be able to coach full time on the improvers course, putting into practice the theory they have learnt on the first two days.

We shall also advertise two separate courses for improvers - one for beginners down to a handicap of about 14, and one for handicaps from 14 down to 8.

More time will be allowed at the end of the course to concentrate on the difficulties of individual players as these are identified.

Course Dates for next year are:

Coaches
Grade I: 1-7 August.
Grade II: 1-7 August.

Personal performance
Beginners: 3-7 August.
Improvers: 3-7 August.

Swiss Plate Event
Winner: M. Ormerod (5 wins)

+14; S.N. Mulliner bt J.S.H. Battison +20; H.G. Drake bt J.R. Hilditch +5; P. Cordingley bt M. Ormerod +10; M. French bt J.D. Greenwood +3; R.D.C. Prichard bt J.C. Straw +10(T); Miss J. MacLeod bt A.A. Reed +9(T)

2nd Round: Guest bt Mrozinski +13; Mulliner bt Drake +21; Cordingley bt French +20; Prichard bt Miss MacLeod +11

Semi-Finals: Mulliner bt Guest +19,+15; Cordingley bt Prichard +11,+9

Final: Mulliner bt Cordingley +16,+19

Swiss Plate Event
Winner: M. Ormerod (5 wins)

in one game.

The rest of us fiddled around on hilly and surprisingly fast lawns. With tight hoops, it was much too difficult.

Writing this report was punishment for not playing 3 games on the first day. Compensation was given by Steve, the manager, in the form of Richard Hilditch, as first opponent on the second day!

RESULTS

Rowlock Trophy

(Advanced Play)

1st Round:

J.E. Guest bt I.P.M. MacDonald +26; A.J. Mrozinski bt N.F.C. Gale



Brian Macmillan with a party of Japanese Croquet players who visited Hurlingham recently.

Roehampton:

16-17 August

Report by Jan MacLeod

Steve Mulliner, winner of the American 'World' Championships, added the Rollock Trophy to his mantlepiece. He stormed through at his usual speed to the final when he surprisingly over approached 2 back but survived. Now Steve also knows about the hill on lawn 2!

Phil Cordingley played well to come second, with a strange and very heavy mallet - his having been stolen. Arthur Reed showed returned form with a TP

Loughborough

ROLL CALL

Those who attended in 1986:

Players

Barbara Ashford	Bristol
Joyce Barnes	Bournemouth
Betty Barnes	Bournemouth
Chris Begrie	Lansdown
Muriel Berry	Bournemouth
Betty Brierley	Pendle
Monica Catling	Lansdown
Mary Causton	Bournemouth
Yvonne Colbeck	Bournemouth
Arthur Cowley	Bournemouth
Trudie Cowley	Bournemouth
Gwen Holliday	Cheltenham
Linda Kitchener	Sidmouth
Audrey Mead	Bristol
Pat Meredith	Edgbaston
Heather Perren	Bristol
Alan Pickles	Cassiobury
Marjorie Ryle	Bournemouth
Eileen Steffens	Bournemouth
Mary Sweeney	Southport
John Trost	Loughborough
Monica Trost	Loughborough
Alan Tunbridge	Loughborough
Sue Waterston	Cheltenham

Coaches

David Higgs	Reigate & Caterham
Chris Hudson	Bowdon
John Jeffrey	Nailsea
Eric Kitchener	Sidmouth
Ivor Meredith	Edgbaston
Ron Welch	Edgbaston

NEXT YEAR

Full details of the courses available next year will be published in later issues of the magazine.

Judging by the returned questionnaires, most people were happy with the general content of the course, but we plan to make some changes as a result of our experience this year and the comments received.

Next year, coaches will have 2 days full-time tuition on coaching before the improvers course starts. They will then be able to coach full time on the improvers course, putting into practice the theory they have learnt on the first two days.

We shall also advertise two separate courses for improvers - one for beginners down to a handicap of about 14, and one for handicaps from 14 down to 8.

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2nd Round: Guest bt Mrozinski +13; Mulliner bt Drake +21; Cordingley bt French +20; Prichard bt Miss MacLeod +11

Semi-Finals: Mulliner bt Guest +19,+15; Cordingley bt Prichard +11,+9

Final: Mulliner bt Cordingley +16,+19

Swiss Plate Event
Winner: M. Ormerod (5 wins)

Loughborough Summer School

LOUGHBOROUGH SUMMER SCHOOL

Loughborough: 11-15 August

First Croquet Course for many years

Report by Chris Hudson



Monica Catling, right, Secretary of the Lansdowne Croquet Club and fresh from Loughborough, poses with her sister Muriel to advertise a Croquet Competition at a local Summer Fair

This was the 56th Summer School to be held at Loughborough, and as usual there were many courses on offer, covering a wide range of topics.

The last Croquet Course was held at Loughborough many years ago, and the croquet lawn that was used on that occasion has long since disappeared. For this year's course, we used the cricket outfield which turned out to be better than most club lawns. Not surprising, really, as some £30,000 had been spent recently on improving it!

In all, there were three 4-day croquet courses that ran in parallel. One for players to improve their skills, which 24 people attended, one for Grade I Coaches (which 2 people attended) and one for Grade II Coaches (3 attendees). The coaching was carried out on six small lawns by the coaches who attended the coaching courses as part of their practical work.

The 'improvers' course was a mixture of coaching, individual practice, and competitive play, with rounds of a Swiss tournament being played at intervals during the four days of the course. Coaching and the Swiss competition occupied the mornings and the afternoons, and after dinner each day, for those who wanted it, there were some more voluntary sessions - 'alternative' croquet competitions or individual coaching, followed by the showing of some croquet videos.

That took us up to about 10pm, at which point the coaches retired to consider the success of the day's activities and plan events for the morrow. As one coach said, the only thing that was missing from the timetable was a period for sleep!

On the first evening, the 'improvers' took part in a 6-event gymkhana, which was won by Linda Kitchener of Sidmouth. The gymkhana was designed to assess each player's ability to approach and run hoops, make roquets, and play the various croquet shots. The coaches recorded the performance of each player by awarding points on a standard scale, and noted anything that they felt needed attention. At the end of the course, the gymkhana was repeated to see what effect the coaching had had.

On Tuesday, the first full day, the coaches all attended a National Coaching Foundation Course run by Rod Thorpe on 'Effective Coaching'. Chris Hudson took the improvers over the points noted by the coaches during the gymkhana, and he then dealt with the theory of a 4-ball break. After an initial demonstration, the players tried breaks for themselves from a set position, working in pairs, one playing and the other offering advice.

After lunch, there was session on using bisques to pick up a break, and how to get the most out of bisques. Again working in pairs, one player put three balls anywhere on the lawn. Then his partner played the fourth ball on to the lawn, and set up a 4-ball

break with as few bisques as possible.

After a much needed tea-break, we played the first round of a 5-round Swiss Short Croquet tournament, with a time-limit of 1¼ hours. This was followed after dinner by 3 games of Pirates, with both coaches and improvers joining in. Besides giving everyone a great deal of amusement, these games provided some very good practice in long roquets and hoop running.

On the second day, with all the improvers split into smaller groups for coaching (4 players to each coach). The first practice session was given over to the hoop approach, and then followed another session on the 4-ball break, with each player having a chance to practice a break and comment on breaks played by others. The second round of the Swiss competition took place before lunch, and then in the afternoon there was more practice in setting up breaks with bisques, under the supervision of individual coaches, before the 3rd round of the Swiss.

In the evening, we played 4 games of 'single roquet croquet', organised by David Higgs who devised the game in the first place. This was followed by the showing of an edited version of the Granada TV 'Nations Trophy'.

The practice session at the start of Day 3 covered the use of controlled rushes to make a 2-ball break through hoops 4, 5 and 6 and then peg out. Then two presentations were given - 'The Start' by Ron Welch and 'Leaves' by David Higgs. There followed the 4th round of the Swiss competition and after lunch, three more presentations - John Jeffrey on 'Wiring', Ivor Meredith on 'Corner Cannons' and Eric Kitchener on 'The Laws'.

After this, there was the final round of the Swiss, watched closely by all the coaches who were charged with awarding handicaps to all the players. (This had been requested particularly by members coming on the course from new clubs or clubs where there were no members with CA handicaps).

In the evening, Ron Welch organised a Single Ball Knock-out competition with a 'Y'. The final of the main event was held over to the following day because it got rather cold and by the time we reached that stage, it was almost dark anyway! Once again, we showed some

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videos for those who were interested - The NatWest training strip on 'Breaks' and a short video of the 1985 Northern Championships filmed by Screen Sport.

On the final day, the attendees returned the questionnaires they had been given so that we could obtain feedback on the course. Loughborough Summer School also supplied a questionnaire for completion, so everyone was kept busy! Having completed the clerical work, we repeated the initial gymkhana events, and these were marked by the same coaches as previously. This time, John Trost of Loughborough won the 'yellow jersey'. The total scored by the group had gone up by 10%, but whether or not that is statistically significant, I will leave to others to decide. The main thing is that both the coaches and the players themselves felt that there had been a general improvement!

After the tea break, John Jeffrey gave a demonstration of practice routines that everyone could use when they got back to their clubs. This was followed by the final of the 2-ball event, held over from the previous evening, which was won by Monica Catling of the Lansdown Club. She was awarded a Summer School badge for her efforts!

There followed a final summing up and the presentation of a CA Brooch and Summer School badge to Pat Meredith who won the Swiss competition. Those improvers who had qualified for a CA handicap (ie below 18) were given their 'cards' and Grade I Coaches badges were presented to Ivor Meredith and Eric Kitchener - the Grade II Coaches still had to qualify as Referees. Last but not least, all present were given a Certificate provided by the Summer School to record their attendance on the courses!

The above is only a bare summary of what went on this year at Loughborough. It does not cover the social aspects - the chance to mix with other courses or to compare notes amongst ourselves - nor the excellent food and the marvellous welcome that every member of the University staff extended to all of us. It was a very happy four days, and if you feel you would like to attend next year, please book early. This year's courses were fully subscribed, and as the word gets round, demand is likely to increase.

Week Tournaments (1)

Woking: 27 June-6 July

An 'Irish' week!

Report by Derek Caporn

The Woking 'Irish Week' lasts for 10 days - hence its name!

The opening weekend tournament, which included the Saturday and Sunday and the following three evenings was abandoned this year. Instead the weekend opened on the Friday and lasted until the Sunday evening in gloriously hot summer weather. The bar did a roaring trade!

This was the first of four tournaments and any person who entered for all four got 22 guaranteed games in 10 days! Value for money.

From Monday to the Wednesday evening there was another Open Tournament, again in glorious weather. The Manager's relief day came on the Thursday, with XY handi-

cap doubles, it being obligatory to wear Carnival Hats in the Y Doubles finals - weird and wonderful they were too!

For the first time, the contestants took it seriously, requesting a Referee until the Manager intervened and said it wasn't done - the rules were always waived in the Y, crushes were permitted, and you could even move the peg!

The final weekend was devoted to Handicap Singles. On the Friday evening the Summer weather departed in a cloudburst and on arrival on Saturday morning we found the four courts flooded, so we retired for coffee and some went home! However after much sweeping and swishing, the floods drained away and croquet resumed at 11am in the 'Cage', so called because it is two tennis courts in a wire surround.

Watering time there is 11am (coffee) and 4pm (tea). You are not allowed out until you have finished!

Gradually order was restored and the Manager finished the full day's programme with only one game unplayed. He had offered 10 to 1 against finishing it all, but had no takers as the locals know him too well to take any chances! The summer weather returned on



Finalists in the Y Doubles this year at Woking - complete with hats! L to R: Tommy and Marjorie Vale, Val and Mick Tompkinson.

Sunday when play started at the uncivilised time of 9am!! By 5.30 the event was completed by the prize-giving.

The food was superb under the able management of Jill McDiarmid and her band of 'willing' helpers, which included some of our visitors and in particular Moira Wharrad.

The lawns were very good in spite of some mutterings about 'bananas' and screams of anguish from some of our volatile ladies and stronger words from the men.

A very enjoyable and jolly 10 days of croquet, plus a BBQ and a Dinner - so why not try a 'Croquet Holiday' next year, but you must enter early.

Thanks are given to the Managerial Team of Derek Caporn, Bob Smith and Geoff Cuttle - a jovial trio.

The results of this tournament were included in our previous issue.

RESULTS

Budleigh Salterton: 30 June-5 July

South West of England Championship

(Advanced play)

Block A

4 wins: D.J. Goacher
2 wins: D.H. Moorcraft, Mrs W.R.D. Wiggins, P. Stoker
0 wins: L.S. Butler

Block B

4 wins: F. Shergold
3 wins: Dr W.R.D. Wiggins
2 wins: H.G. Drake
1 win: Mrs E. Asa-Thomas
0 wins: B.G. Perry

Play-off for the Colman Cup

D.J. Goacher bt F.L. Shergold +5

The Longman Cup

(Advanced play: 3½ to 7½ bisques)

DRAW

1st Round

Rev S. Scarr bt J. McBurnie Wood; P. Gregg bt J.C. Hatherley +3(T); R.W. Newnham bt N.M. Griffin +9

2nd Round

R.H. Carder bt Dr W.R. Bucknall +12; Mrs K. Yeoman bt J.D. Williamson +4; W. Broad-Thomas bt Mrs P.A. Dwerryhouse +16; Rev Scarr bt Gregg +12; Newnham bt W.A. Scarr +2; Mrs D.J. Croker bt H.G.T. Bolton +16; R.S. Stevens bt Mrs C. Bagnall +16; P.A. Dwerryhouse bt P.K.L. Danks +1(T)

3rd Round

Carder bt Mrs Yeoman +7; Broad-Thomas bt Rev Scarr +14; Mrs Croker bt Newnham +1(T); Stevens bt Dwerryhouse +1(T)

PROCESS

1st Round

Mrs Bagnall bt Carder +1(T); Williamson bt Dwerryhouse +17(T); Danks bt Dr Bucknall +7(T)

2nd Round

Hatherley bt Mrs Bagnall +6(T); W.A. Scarr bt Mrs Dwerryhouse +9; Williamson bt Griffin +11; Rev

Scarr bt Bolton +24; Gregg bt Danks +14; Broad-Thomas bt Mrs Croker +22; Newnham bt Mrs Yeoman +15; Stevens bt McBurnie Wood +16

3rd Round

Hatherley bt W.A. Scarr +17; Williamson bt Rev Scarr +1(T); Gregg bt Broad-Thomas +2; Stevens bt Newnham +11

Two-life variation

1st Round

Carder bt Mrs Croker +1; Williamson bt Hatherley +12; Gregg bt Broad-Thomas +16

Semi-finals

Carder bt Stevens (wo); Gregg bt Williamson +16

Final

Gregg bt Carder +23

Stone Challenge Cup

(Handicap Singles)

DRAW

1st Round

Lt Cdr A.M. Wickham (9) bt Dr H.A. Thomas (14) +1(T); Mrs K. Whittall (9) bt Mrs D.J. Iredale (12) +4; Mrs T.M. Quin (14) bt Mrs H. Thomas (16) +19; Dr C.J.C. Davey (13) bt D.R.T. Wickham (15) +6(T); Mrs C.W. Marshall (10) bt Miss M. Hardman (9) +1(T)

2nd Round

Mrs M. Langley (8) bt Dr C.W. Marshall (11) +16; T.M. Quin (16) bt W.G. Iredale (10) +8(T); M. McF. Davis (10) bt Lt Cdr Wickham +6; Mrs Whittall bt Mrs Quin +16; Dr Davey bt Mrs Marshall +7; Mrs D.H. Moorcraft (10) bt R.G.E. Minter (10) +3; A.J. Wasdell (10) bt Mrs H. Cruden (10) +11(T); Mrs J. Broad-Thomas (12) bt Mrs J. Williamson (18) +4(T)

3rd Round

Quin bt Mrs Langley; Mrs Whittall bt Davis +12; Dr Davey bt Mrs Moorcraft +20; Wasdell bt Mrs Broad-Thomas +11

Semi-finals

Quin bt Mrs Whittall +2; Dr Davey bt Wasdell +3

Final

Dr Davey bt Quin +2.

PROCESS

1st Round

Mrs Moorcraft bt Dr Marshall +6(T); Davis bt Mrs J. Williamson; Mrs Cruden bt Iredale +3(T); Mrs Langley bt Wasdell +2(T); Quin bt Mrs Broad-Thomas +4(T)

2nd Round

Mrs Moorcraft bt Mrs Whittall +18; Davis bt Dr Davey +1(T); Mrs Cruden bt Mrs Thomas +4(T); Lt Cdr Wickham bt Mrs Marshall +4; Mrs Langley bt Mrs Quin +18; Miss Hardman bt Dr Thomas +1(T); Wickham bt Quin +4(T); Mrs Iredale bt Minter +2

3rd Round

Mrs Moorcraft bt Davis +3(T); Lt Cdr Wickham bt Mrs Cruden; Mrs Langley bt Miss Hardman +2(T); Wickham bt Mrs Iredale +3(T)

Semi-finals

Lt Cdr Wickham bt Mrs Moorcraft (wo); D.R.T. Wickham bt Mrs Langley +1

Final

D.R.T. Wickham bt Lt Cdr A.M. Wickham +2

Play-off for Stone Challenge Cup

Dr Davey bt D.R.T. Wickham

The Oliver Bowl

(Handicap Singles)

'X'

1st Round

D.J. Goacher (3½) bt R.S. Stevens (3½) +21; F.L. Shergold (½) bt Dr C.J.C. Davey (13) +4; J.D. Williamson (5½) bt P.A. Dwerryhouse (6½) +3(T); P.K.L. Danks (5) bt D.H. Moorcraft (0) +7; Mrs R.S. Stevens (8) bt Mrs C. Bagnall (6½) +4(T); Mrs K. Yeoman (5½) bt P. Stoker (2½) +13; Mrs P.A. Dwerryhouse (6½) bt Mrs E. Asa-Thomas (3) +11; R.H.C. Carder (3½) bt W.A. Scarr (7) +7

2nd Round

Mrs W.R.D. Wiggins (-½) bt R.E.G. Minter (10) +3; B.G. Perry (1) bt Mrs

M. Langley (8) +1(T); Rev S. Scarr (5) bt J. McBurnie Wood (6½) +7; Dr D.R. Laney (2) bt J.C. Hatherley (5½) +13; Mrs T.M. Quin (16) bt Lt Cdr A.M. Wickham (9) +10; Dr W.R. Bucknall (6½) bt L.S. Butler (1) +18; Goacher bt Shergold +21; Williamson bt Danks +14; Mrs Yeoman bt Mrs Stevens +4; Mrs Dwerryhouse bt Carder +11; N.M. Griffin (7½) bt Mrs H. Cruden (10) +15; H.G. Drake (2½) bt P.A. Gregg (5½) +17; H.G.T. Bolton (3½) bt T.M. Quin (16) +12; Mrs D.J. Croker (5½) bt Miss M. Hardman (9) +7; Dr W.R.D. Wiggins (0) bt Mrs B.G. Perry (7½) +14; Mrs K. Whittall (9) bt A.J. Wasdell (10) +1(T)

3rd Round

Mrs Wiggins bt Perry +1(T); Dr Laney bt Rev Scarr +11; Dr Bucknall bt Mrs Quin +4(T); Goacher bt Williamson +11; Mrs Yeoman bt Mrs Dwerryhouse +14; Griffin bt Drake +14; Bolton bt Mrs Croker +2; Dr Wiggins bt Mrs Whittall +7

4th Round

Dr Laney bt Mrs Wiggins +15; Goacher bt Dr Bucknall +14; Griffin bt Mrs Yeoman +8; Dr Wiggins bt Bolton +8

Semi-finals

Goacher bt Dr Laney +14; Griffin bt Dr Wiggins +13

Final

Goacher bt Griffin +24

'Y'

3rd Round

McBurnie Wood bt Mrs Langley +6; Butler bt Moorcraft +1(T); Gregg bt Mrs Asa-Thomas +3(T); Quin bt Mrs Perry +4(T)

Semi-finals

McBurnie Wood bt Butler +26; Gregg bt Quin (wo)

Final

Gregg bt McBurnie Wood +15

(Cont'd on Page 29)

Week Tournaments (2)

Budleigh: 30 June-5 July Bearded pirate scoops the loot

Report by Peter Danks

For some years the University young have played here to the delight of all. This year they had another engagement. We missed them. David Goacher (3½) descended in the rain from Bristol and performed a clinically clean singles sweep. In the A class, he won the S.W. of England Championship, beating all his (lower handicapped) opponents, including Susan Wiggins (-½) by +2. After four days of sunshine, the weather reverted to thin rain for his final with Frank Shergold of Parkstone. It was an in-and-out sort of a game with not much between them. In the end, despite his tender touch, Frank failed to entice penultimate to open its jaws to him. Thrice he was denied. David took advantage and ran out the winner +4.

In the B class (level, advanced, draw and process) a marriage was arranged between the semi-finalists. There were seven. Time was short and Ray Stevens (Tournament

Secretary), who was twice eligible, scratched in order to accelerate the finish. It was a generous gesture, because on present form he would probably have won. In the final, the steadily improving Paul Gregg overwhelmed Bob Carder of Parkstone by +25.

In the C class (handicap, draw and process) Dr D.C.J. Davey reached the final easily and confounded the computer (which had raised his handicap from 12 to 13) by beating Michael Quin of Geneva (swiz handicap 14) and David Wickham (non-CA) in the final.

In the open handicap (40 entries) the final was between - yes you have guessed - David Goacher and the improving local Neil Griffin. Neil was receiving 4 bisques, which he must have treasured dearly. When David pegged out, Neil had still 4 bisques. He had made 2 hoops. Later, he said that he thought that David would break down. David didn't. It seems that it is not only God who is infallible!!

In the Y event, Paul Gregg (pity he cannot play in more tournaments) beat the solid playing of local Croquet Secretary

McBurnie Wood to win by +15. His grandmother, Barbara Ormerod, a local club member, was modestly proud of him. Mark you have been warned.

The handicap doubles is always popular. The first upset was the annihilation of twice previous winners by Kay Yeoman and Frank Shergold by +21 in 79 minutes. Is this a record? But the victors met much sterner stuff in Audrey Croker and Dr. Don Laney, who won by +7(T). In the other half, Susan Wiggins and her well bisqued Dr. C.J.C. Davey beat Pat Asa-Thomas and David Goacher by +11. In the final, the cognoscenti felt all the time that Susan and her doctor would beat Audrey and her doctor in the end. They did by +6. It was the second local tournament in which Audrey and Don were the bridesmaid. Let us hope that next year they will be the blushing bride!

All-in-all a good tournament. Some people had a moan, but they always do. It was a large entry and there was hardly any double banking. Roy Newnham of Ryde did an excellent job as manager. It goes without saying that the lawns (or most of them) played well. Hoops fair and firm. Catering the usual five star stuff. We are all looking forward to next year, so book early.

Footnote: Michael and Nita Quin came from Geneva full of trepidation. It was their first tournament. They expected to play 3 games each and then sit out. Michael played 13 games and Nita 7. They will be back next year. They want to reassure those who do not enter because they are timid or nervous that it is all right. They thoroughly enjoyed themselves and left in one piece, having had more than their money's worth.

(Results on Page 26)

THE CHELTENHAM JULY WEEK



David Cairns partnering Marjorie Warren in the Barwell Salvors.



Debbie and Donald Cornelius deep in thought. (Photos: Deborah Latham)

Cheltenham: 21-27 July Youth has its fling

Report by Bill Bawden

After the Lord Mayor's show (the New Zealand Test Match) - the dust cart? Not a bit of it. Cheltenham's wonderfully successful July tournament showed the real stuff of which croquet is made. Here we had not the robotic precision of the triple peel and +26 win, but excitingly close games born of the cut and thrust of human fraility.

It was a week in which the vital qualities for success were skill, wits and endurance. In the latter two departments age tended to cast its shadow, though even the younger element found three games on a very hot day somewhat exhausting. That rising star, 20 years old Debbie Cornelius, is in fact reported to have nodded off in the middle of a rather late dinner party.

As for wits, how sad that your correspondent failed to cope with advanced and handicap play in alternate games, forgetting a lift in the former and his half-bisque in the latter. Then there was Liz Neal battling it out with John Exell, all square on time, both wanting penult, and Liz in play to take croquet at the hoop, near enough to be virtually certain of making the hoop and winning the game. What happened? No, Liz didn't stick in the hoop, thereby giving John a heaven-sent chance. A now crest-fallen Liz and a jubilant John are no doubt still reliving the incident. Yes, you've guessed right. Liz peeled John through. It was this

incident that prompted my letter, hopefully in this issue, on the subject.

As for skill, shot-making had to be combined with a rare degree of adaptability. With ten lawns available for play, and those other than the three Test-groomed lawns showing a varying degree of idiosyncrasy, few players had the opportunity to get to know a lawn, and even those who did found that lightning fast had suddenly become rather slow, after Wednesday's thunderstorm during the doubles.

More than anything else, however, this tournament was a Testament of Youth. Here, we had 15 years old Christopher Clarke, who plays at Southport, playing off 5 in only his second season, being reduced to 4 after his first game, and again to 3 at the end of the tournament. He lives for the game, playing in all the tournaments he possibly can, and with the added virtue of being an unassuming opponent.

By contrast, we had 18 years old Timothy Exell, grandson of Cheltenham's John Exell, with quite a different attitude to the game. He plays little more than one tournament a year, and even then, one feels, merely to humour his croquet-mad grandfather. He came in at 12, was reduced to 10 during the tournament, and after reaching the final of the Calthrop Cup and winning the Y doubles with his grandfather, finally found himself down to 7.

Lastly, that trim, lithe Debbie Cornelius of Harlow. Quietly efficient, she came to us at 5, and was reduced to 3 after a blistering performance in the final of the Daniels Cup.

Unbeaten in the tournament, Christopher Clarke was favourite to win, but Debbie entered the arena like a boxer, throwing punches right from the first bell, delivering the knock-out in double-quick time, +26 in three quarters of an hour to a rather chastened, but sporting, opponent.

This accent on youth in no way detracted from the tributes paid to Edgar Jackson, in his 14th year as player-manager of the July tournament and having his 80th birthday on finals day. Competitors by now are used to having the book thrown at them, a la Bray and Rule 53 B and woe-betide the latecomer, and accept with good grace the hustle required to get through a very full programme. May there be many more July tournaments with Edgar in charge. He had most generously invited club members and competitors to join him and his family in an after-tournament celebration, at which he was presented with a cassette player and headphones in appreciation of the many years he has devoted to the club. A great lover of music, and of opera in particular, Edgar has possibly been something of a trial to his family. Alas, not even a muted Callas will now be heard penetrating the farthest corners of Park House - it will all be in the mind!

In an earlier report I did warn you that handicappers lurked in the undergrowth at Cheltenham. No longer. They are out in the open. No less than thirteen players suffered at their hands in this tournament. Unlucky for some?

(Full Results on Pages 28 and 29)

Week Tournaments (3)

RESULTS

Nottingham: 11-16 August

'Robin Hood' Gold Cup Handicap Singles

1st Round:

Dr R.C. Jones (2½) bt Mrs E. Chamberlain (13) +3; B. Hallam (1) bt J.O. Walters (0) +18; E.J. Davis (-½) bt Dr I.G. Vincent (-½) +18; P. Stoker (2½) bt Dr I.B. Smith (11) +13; Mrs K. Cotterell (4) bt G.H. Henshaw (5) +6; R. Bateson (5) bt Mrs G. Nix (8) +4; G.W. Noble (0) bt J.F.S. Thomas +17(TP); K. Cotterell (2) bt Mrs T.W. Smith (13) +6; C.G. Hopewell (2) bt Dr G.K. Taylor (0) +20; M.R.L. Cowan (7) bt A.J. Girling (1) +25; D.C. Reeve (3½) bt L. Robinson (11) +9; Miss D.A. Cornelius (3) bt Dr T.W. Smith (5) +6; J.E. Reeve (7½) bt N.G. Hyne (0) +26; Dr F.L. Whittaker (6) bt Dr R.F. Wheeler (5) +3; K.M.H. Aiton (-1) bt D. Palmer (1) +13

2nd Round:

Hallam bt Jones +8; Stoker bt Davis +21; Bateson bt Mrs Cotterell +8; Cotterell bt Noble +13; Cowan bt Hopewell +15; D. Reeve bt Miss Cornelius +9; J. Reeve bt Whittaker +5; Aiton bt Mrs R.F. Wheeler (4) +8

3rd Round:

Stoker bt Hallam +23; Cotterell bt Bateson +10; Cowan bt D. Reeve +18; Aiton bt J. Reeve +4

Semi-Finals:

Cotterell bt Stoker +8; Cowan bt Aiton +26

Final:
Cowan bt Cotterell +25

Open Singles (Advanced Play)

DRAW

1st Round:
J.R. McCullough bt Dr R.F. Wheeler +24(TP); E.J. Davis bt G.W. Noble

+10; Dr I.G. Vincent bt D.C. Reeve +9

2nd Round:

J.O. Walters bt Mrs R.F. Wheeler +23; N.G. Hyne bt Miss D.A. Cornelius +16; D. Palmer bt C.G. Hopewell +19; Davis bt McCullough +25(TP); Vincent bt A.J. Girling +22; K.M.H. Aiton bt K. Cotterell +24; B. Hallam bt Dr G.K. Taylor +23; P. Stoker bt Dr R.C. Jones +4



Brian Hallam, who won both the 'X' Handicap Singles, and also the Handicap Doubles with Gillian Nix.

3rd Round:

Hyne bt Walters +1; Palmer bt Davis +6; Aiton bt Vincent +25; Hallam bt Stoker +11

Semi-Finals:

Palmer bt Hyne +4; Aiton bt Hallam +11

Final:
Palmer bt Aiton +26

PROCESS

1st Round:
Walters bt Stoker +25(TP); Mrs Wheeler bt Dr Jones +7; Davis bt D. Reeve +18

2nd Round:

Noble bt Walters +23; Aiton bt Hopewell +25(TP); Hyne bt Vincent +4; McCullough bt Taylor +12; Davis bt Mrs Wheeler +24; Palmer bt Cotterell +13; Miss Cornelius bt

Girling +5; Hallam bt Wheeler +16

3rd Round:

Aiton bt Noble +24(TP); McCullough bt Hyne +7; Davis bt Palmer +26(TP); Miss Cornelius bt Hallam +4

Semi-Finals:

Aiton bt McCullough +19; Davis bt Miss Cornelius +22

Final:

Davis bt Aiton +18

Play-Off

Palmer bt Davis +17

'B' Level Singles

Advanced Play

DRAW:

1st Round:
Dr F.L. Whittaker bt M.R.L. Cowan +6

2nd Round:

R. Bateson bt Mrs K. Cotterell +8; Dr Whittaker bt Dr T.W. Smith +18; Mrs G. Nix bt D.C. Reeve wo; J.E. Reeve bt G. Henshaw +22

Semi-Finals:

Bateson bt Whittaker wo; Mrs Nix bt J. Reeve +15

Final:

Bateson bt Mrs Nix +2(T)

PROCESS:

1st Round:

Bateson bt Henshaw wo

2nd Round:

Bateson bt Cowan +12; Smith bt D. Reeve wo; Mrs Cotterell bt Mrs Nix +7; Dr Whittaker bt T. Reeve +19

Semi-Finals:

Bateson bt Smith +20; Whittaker bt Mrs Cotterell +2(T)

Final:

Whittaker bt Bateson +2

Play Off: Bateson bt Whittaker +11

Handicap Singles

9 bisques and over

4 wins: J.F.S. Thomas

2 wins: Mrs C. Chamberlain, L.

Robinson

1 win: Mrs T.W. Smith, Dr I.B. Smith

Handicap Singles 'X'

1st Round:

D. Palmer bt Dr I.G. Vincent +26; K.M.H. Aiton bt Dr R.F. Wheeler +25; J.F.S. Thomas bt Dr G.K. Taylor +23; Mrs K. Cotterell bt A. Goodwin wo; J.O. Walters bt H.A. Albrecht wo; D.C. Reeve bt N.G. Hyne +24; Mrs G. Nix bt J.E. Reeve +4; M.R.L. Cowan bt Mrs R.F. Wheeler +15; E.J. Davis bt Dr I.B. Smith +18; C.G. Hopewell bt Dr R.C. Jones +6; B. Hallam bt Miss D.A. Cornelius +10; K. Cotterell bt Dr T.W. Smith +22; Mrs T.W. Smith bt G.W. Noble +16; A.J. Girling bt Dr F.L. Whittaker +10; L. Robinson bt P. Stoker +14; R. Bateson bt Mrs E. Chamberlain +8

2nd Round:

Aiton bt Palmer +20; Mrs Cotterell bt Thomas +15; D. Reeve bt Walters +26; Cowan bt Mrs Nix +12; Davis bt Hopewell +8; Hallam bt Cotterell +24; Girling bt Mrs Smith +6; Bateson bt Robinson +2

3rd Round:

Aiton bt Mrs Cotterell +21; D. Reeve bt Cowan +10; Hallam bt Davis +5; Bateson bt Girling +26

Semi-Finals:

D. Reeve bt Aiton +25; Hallam bt Bateson

Final:
Hallam bt D. Reeve +16

'Y' Final

Dr Whittaker bt Dr Wheeler +15

Handicap Doubles

Semi-Finals:

D. & J. Reeve bt G.W. Noble & Dr F.L. Whittaker +18; B. Hallam & Mrs G. Nix bt Dr R.C. Jones & Miss D.A. Cornelius +7

Final:

Hallam & Mrs Nix bt D. & J. Reeve +5

Play-Off

Play-Off

Block A

5 wins: T. Exell

4 wins: F.I. Maugham

3 wins: Mrs M. Langley (7½)

2 wins: W.J. Sturdy, Dr G.K. Taylor, Mrs D. Latham

1 win: Gp Capt R.S. Ryan, Mrs E.E. Turtle

Block B

4 wins: Mrs C.A. Smith, D.S. Cornelius

3 wins: Mrs G.D. Harris (5)

2 wins: Mrs I.P.M. Macdonald, W.R. Bawden, D.H. Moorcraft

1 win: F.J. Exell, Mrs B.G. Neal

Block C

5 wins: S. Toye

3 wins: Dr R.F. Wheeler, Mrs M. Langley

2 wins: G.E.P. Jackson, F.H. Newman, Mrs W. Hague, Mrs P.F. Leach

1 win: Mrs K.M.O. Wheeler

Block D

5 wins: C.D. Clarke

4 wins: M.B. Jackson

3 wins: D.J. Croker, Lady Bazley

2 wins: L.V. Latham, Mrs A. Warren

1 win: Miss E. Cheverton

Block E

4 wins: Dr B.G.F. Weitz

3 wins: Mrs K. Yeoman

Cheltenham: 21-27 July

Cheltenham Challenge Cup (American: Advanced Play)

Block A

4 wins: Dr D.S. Cairns

3 wins: J.S. Toye

1 win: D.J. Croker, F.I. Maugham, D.H. Moorcraft

Block B

4 wins: Dr G.K. Taylor

3 wins: L.V. Latham

1 win: P.W. Hands, Dr B.G.F. Weitz, Mrs C.A. Smith

Play-Off

Semi-Finals

L.V. Latham bt Dr D.S. Cairns +14;

J.S. Toye bt Dr G.K. Taylor +13

Final:
Latham bt Toye +9

Money Salver

(Advanced Play (No contact): 22pts)

Block A

4 wins: Lady Bazley

2 wins: R.A. Gosden (runner-up), Mrs K. Yeoman

1 win: Mrs F.H. Newman, W.J. Sturdy

Block B

3 wins: J. McLaren (winner), Mrs I.P.M. Macdonald

2 wins: F.H. Newman, Mrs D.J. Croker

0 wins: Mrs B.G.F. Weitz

Block C

4 wins: M.B. Jackson

2 wins: Mrs G. Harris (runner-up), Mrs F.W. Ransom

1 win: Dr R.F. Wheeler, Mrs P. Asa-Thomas

Block D

4 wins: Mrs. Hague

3 wins: R.W. Ransom

2 wins: I.P.M. Macdonald

1 win: R.W. Bawden

0 wins: Mrs L.V. Latham

Play-Off

1st Round:

Lady Bazley bt Ransom (wo); McLaren bt Mrs Harris +14;

Jackson bt Mrs Macdonald +17;

Gosden bt Mrs Hague +16

Semi-Finals:

Lady Bazley bt McLaren +14;

Jackson bt Gosden +16

Final:

Jackson bt Lady Bazley +10

Asa-Thomas Trophy

(American: 22pt Handicap play)

Block A

3 wins: P.F. Leach (5½)

2 wins: Mrs R.A. Gosden (7) (runner-up), D.S. Cornelius (8), Miss I.M. Roe (7½)

1 win: Mrs K.M.O. Wheeler (6)

Block B

4 wins: Miss D.A. Cornelius (5)

3 wins: Mrs A. Warren (6½)

2 wins: F.J. Exell (5½)

1 win: Mrs M. Langley (7½)

0 wins: Gp Capt D.S. Ryan (6½)

Play-Off

Semi-Finals:

Leach bt Mrs Warren +6; Mrs Gosden bt Miss Cornelius +14

Final: Leach bt Mrs Gosden +5

Calthrop Cup

(American: 22pt Handicap Play)

Block A

4 wins: T. Exell (12)

3 wins: Mrs K. Whittall (8)

2 wins: Miss E. Cheverton (16)

1 win: Mrs D.H. Moorcraft (11)

0 wins: Miss J. Wraith (15)

Block B

4 wins: C.D. Clarke (9)

3 wins: F.F. Ross (8)

2 wins: Mrs B.G. Neal (8)

1 win: Mrs P.F. Leach

0 wins: Mrs E.E. Turtle

Play-Off

Semi-Finals:

Exell bt Ross +16; Clarke bt Mrs Whittall +14

Final:
Clarke bt T. Exell +3

Daniels Cup

(Handicap Singles: Swiss &

Play-Off)

Block A

5 wins: T. Exell

4 wins: F.I. Maugham

3 wins: Mrs M. Langley (7½)

2 wins: W.J. Sturdy, Dr G.K. Taylor, Mrs D. Latham

1 win: Gp Capt R.S. Ryan, Mrs E.E. Turtle

Block B

4 wins: Mrs C.A. Smith, D.S. Cornelius

3 wins: Mrs G.D. Harris (5)

2 wins: Mrs I.P.M. Macdonald, W.R. Bawden, D.H. Moorcraft

1 win: F.J. Exell, Mrs B.G. Neal

Block C

5 wins: S. Toye

3 wins: Dr R.F. Wheeler, Mrs M. Langley

2 wins: G.E.P. Jackson, F.H. Newman, Mrs W. Hague, Mrs P.F. Leach

1 win: Mrs K.M.O. Wheeler

Block D

5 wins: C.D. Clarke

4 wins: M.B. Jackson

3 wins: D.J. Croker, Lady Bazley

2 wins: L.V. Latham, Mrs A. Warren

1 win: Miss E. Cheverton

Block E

4 wins: Dr B.G.F. Weitz

3 wins: Mrs K. Yeoman

Week Tournaments (4)

Colchester: 7-12 July Marathon contest for Colchester Bowl

Report by Pat Hetherington

With the final Australia v Great Britain test match starting on the following Monday, the manager decided to try for completion of Colchester's 22nd annual week's tournament in five days instead of the scheduled six. Aided by near-perfect weather and with the courts playing well, she very nearly succeeded, but was thwarted in the end by a marathon contest in the A class event for the Colchester Bowl. The event was played as a best of 3 games draw and process. The draw saw Danny Palmer playing immaculately to



John Walters

2 wins: Mrs K. Whittall, Miss I.M. Roe, Mrs A. Thomas

1 win: Mrs D.J. Croker, F.F. Ross

Block F

4 wins: Dr D.S. Cairns, Miss D. Cornelius

3 wins: Mrs B.G.F. Weitz, R.A. Gosden, Mrs R.W. Ransom

2 wins: P.F. Leach

1 win: I.P.M. Macdonald

Week Tournaments (5)

Hurlingham: 2-9 August Martin Murray in great form

Report by Keith Aiton

There was an innovation for the Hurlingham tournament this year in that the Hurlingham Cup was sponsored by a local business rejoicing in the name of Alexander Bartholemew Double Glazed Conservatories Limited. Rather unfortunately this created an atmosphere of 'us and them', because only players in the A-class were entitled to wear badges and receive free teas and drinks in the evening. Hopefully this will not arise again next year. However, in order to show that Alphonse Karr knew a thing or two ('plus ça change, plus c'est la meme chose'), I would like to quote from reports of previous Hurlingham tournaments.

1951: 'True to tradition, the

holder of the Hurlingham Cup went out in the first round.'

1950: 'Opinions seem to vary as to whether these courts are now quite so good as they were - or might be.'

1924: 'There was much outcry against the Official Handicapper.'

1908: 'The Handicap Doubles were chiefly remarkable for the length of the games. Three hours was quite a short time for a game to be finished in. Admiring the beauties of Hurlingham, and thinking deeply, seemed to occupy a great deal of time.'

The management of the tournament was in the capable hands of Mike Pearson and George Doughty, who managed to produce draw sheets and orders of play for four days in advance for each competition. They also employed a portable telephone which proved to be useful in prising people away from their offices, or in one case, from her bath.

There was a very strong entry for the Hurlingham Cup, at least that's my excuse, with the result that there was much fine play. Nigel Aspinall seemed to be in devastating form although made to work hard by the management. On the final day it was Martin Murray who emerged triumphant with two wins over Nigel, the first by a well executed triple peel. Other notable performances came from James Carlisle in the Handicap Singles and Jan MacLeod who nursed her partners round successfully in both the Open Mixed Doubles and the Ladies' Handicap Doubles.

As is customary, there were many interesting points for referees. Two that spring to mind concern the wiring lift. In one game, the striker claimed a lift on the basis of an impeded follow-through, and at least two referees present were prepared to concede the lift! In another game, the adversary thought he

had cleverly just left an unimpeded swing for the striker past the upright of a hoop, but the referee quite correctly gave a lift because part of the carrot prevented the mallet from hitting the ball.

No report is complete without some comment on the weather. There was a thunderstorm on Sunday which halted play for an hour, but otherwise the weather was sunny at times. In fact, Bernie Duthie found the sun to be too much for her (perhaps shocked by its appearance), collapsing after one of her games. Jan MacLeod rushed her to hospital, but much to everyone's relief Bernie reappeared later in the day and was able to continue playing.

Finally mention should be made of the tournament barbecue held on Thursday evening. Many thanks are due to Jan MacLeod for organising it, and to the Hurlingham Club for providing the food.

Haggerston +20; Mrs Macdonald bt Mrs Yeoman +7

Semi-Finals
Wilkinson bt Bellm +15; Cornelius bt Mrs Macdonald +9

Final
Cornelius bt Wilkinson +18

Play Off: Haggerston bt Cornelius +5

The Longworth Cup
(Handicap Play)

DRAW

1st Round
P.D. Hardyment bt Ms S. Davies wo

Semi-Finals
Mrs C.A. Osmond bt Mrs E. Taylor-Webb +2; Hardyment bt Mrs D. Torrington-Petrie +23

Final
Hardyment bt Mrs Osmond +19

PROCESS
1st Round

Mrs D. Torrington-Petrie bt Mrs Osmond +7(T);

Semi-Finals
Hardyment bt Mrs Taylor-Webb +1(T); Mrs D. Torrington-Petrie bt Ms S. Davies +5(T)

Final
Hardyment bt Mrs Torrington-Petrie
Outright Winner: P.D. Hardyment

The Hurlingham Doubles
(Advanced Play)

Semi-Finals
Aiton & Miss MacLeod bt S.G. & Miss Cornelius +3; J. & Mrs Carlisle bt Dr & Mrs Wiggins +10

Final
Aiton & MacLeod bt J. & Mrs Carlisle +10

The Ladies Field Candlesticks
(Ladies Handicap Doubles)

Semi-Finals
Mrs Macmillan & Mrs Yeoman bt Mrs Neal & Mrs Weitz +3(T); Miss MacLeod & Mrs Wiggins bt Miss Duthie & Mrs Torrington-Petrie +10

Mike Pearson (left), one of the tournament Managers, and (right) Tom Coles, who reached the semi-final of the Draw.



RESULTS

The Hurlingham Cup
(Advanced Play)

DRAW

1st Round

J. Carlisle bt S. Battison +2; J. Guest bt K. Aiton +12; M. Murray bt Miss J. MacLeod +14; Mrs S. Wiggins bt M. Pearson +6; J. Walters bt R. Prichard +25; N. Aspinall bt P. Torrington +10

2nd Round

T. Coles bt B. Weitz +20; B. Neal bt J. Greenwood +3; Carlisle bt C. Southern +18; Murray bt Guest +11; Mrs Wiggins bt Walters +2; Aspinall bt D. Peterson +26(TP); D. Gunasekera bt R. Wiggins +15; G. Roy bt Mrs V. Carlisle +19

3rd Round

Coles bt Neal +16(TP); Murray bt Carlisle +10; Aspinall bt Mrs Wiggins +26; Roy bt Gunasekera +19

Semi-Finals

Murray bt Coles +15; Aspinall bt Roy +26

Final

Murray bt Aspinall +17

PROCESS

1st Round

Aspinall bt Weitz +26(TP); Southern bt Roy +17; Neal bt Wiggins +15; Peterson bt Coles +12(TP); Gunasekera bt Mrs Carlisle

2nd Round

Aspinall bt Guest +8; Mrs Wiggins

bt Southern; Neal bt Miss MacLeod +10; Walters bt Battison; Murray bt Peterson +17; Prichard bt Carlisle/Greenwood +2; Gunasekera bt Pearson +24; Torrington bt Aiton +16

3rd Round

Aspinall bt Mrs Wiggins +21; Walters bt Neal +20; Murray bt Prichard +6; Gunasekera bt Torrington +3

Semi-Finals

Aspinall bt Walters +9; Gunasekera bt Murray +16

Final
Aspinall bt Gunasekera +11

Play Off
Murray bt Aspinall +17

The Turner Cup
(Advanced Play)

DRAW

1st Round

D.C.D. Wiggins bt C.B. Sanford +13; Mrs B.G.F. Weitz bt I.P.M. Macdonald +8; B.P. Whitehouse bt G. Doughty +22; A. Lindley bt R.A. Welch +12

2nd Round

Mrs W.J. Browne bt R.S. Eades wo; D. Wiggins bt Mrs Weitz +23; Lindley bt Whitehouse +25; H.G. Drake bt Miss D.A. Cornelius +18

Semi-Finals

D. Wiggins bt Mrs Browne +23; Drake bt Lindley +11

Final

D. Wiggins bt Drake +12

PROCESS

1st Round

Eades bt Welch +15; Miss Cornelius bt Sanford +11; Lindley bt Mrs Browne +15; Wiggins bt Drake +19

2nd Round

Mrs Weitz bt Eades +3; Miss Cornelius bt Whitehouse +5; Lindley bt Macdonald +5; Wiggins bt Doughty +20

Semi-Finals

Miss Cornelius bt Mrs Weitz +11; Wiggins bt Lindley +24

Final

D. Wiggins bt Miss Cornelius +16

Outright Winner: D. Wiggins

The Younger Cup
(Level Play)

DRAW

1st Round

Mrs P.V. Healy bt Mrs E.A. Neal +14; Col M. Fox bt Miss A.B. Duthie wo; S.G. Cornelius bt B.H. Bliss +23; Mrs P. Macdonald bt C.E. Wilkinson +9; M.J.B. Haggerston bt H. Bellm +16; Mrs K. Yeoman bt Mrs B. Mansfield +6

2nd Round

Cdr R. Ponsonby bt Mrs Healy +18; Cornelius bt Fox +21; Haggerston bt Mrs Macdonald +17; Mrs Yeoman bt Judge A. Karmel +16

Semi-Finals

Cornelius bt Ponsonby +16; Haggerston bt Mrs Yeoman +11

Final
Haggerston bt Cornelius +7

PROCESS

1st Round

Wilkinson bt Ponsonby +3; Miss Duthie bt Mrs Mansfield +19; Bellm bt Mrs Neal +25; Haggerston bt Mrs Healy +10; Cornelius bt Karmel +23; Mrs Yeoman bt Fox +3

2nd Round

Wilkinson bt Miss Duthie wo; Bellm bt Bliss +10; Cornelius bt

Week Tournaments (6)

Southwick: 8-12 July

RESULTS

Handicap Singles
(6-Round Swiss)

The Pilots

6 wins: D.C.D. Wiggins (4½)

5 wins: N.W.T. Cox (4)

4 wins: Mrs P. Macdonald (5½), Mrs E. Weitz (4)

3 wins: Miss J. Loveys (11), J. Haigh (2½)

2 wins: Miss P. Shine (7), Mrs T. Vale (6½)

1 win: Mrs E. Lewis (8)

0 wins: Mrs B. Solomon (16)

The Cricketers

5 wins: Mrs F. Ransom (5)

4 wins: Lady C. Bazley (4), G.E.P. Jackson (0), Mrs E. Cox (4½), Mrs H. Coombs (5)

3 wins: Mrs A. Millns (9), F.J. Exell (5½), I.P.M. Macdonald (3)

2 wins: Mrs N. Clapperton (11)

1 win: Miss B. Dennant (8), G.F. Paxon, Miss D. Harding

The Smugglers

5 wins: Dr B.G.F. Weitz (0) (winner), R.W. Ransom (3)

3 wins: Dr D. Higgs (6), Mrs E. Mapletoft (5½), D.M. Bull (4), Miss C. Cox (5½), Major T. Vale (4)

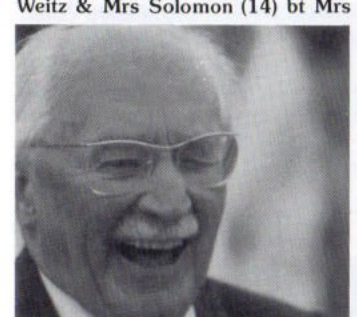
2 wins: Mrs S. French (12), Mrs E. Ross

0 wins: Mrs E.E. Bressey (5)

Handicap Doubles

1st Round

J. Haigh & Lady Bazley (8) bt D.C.D. Wiggins & Mrs Rankin (17½) +20; Mrs Weitz & Miss Shine (11) bt J. Exell & Mrs Staddon (12½) +14; Dr Weitz & Mrs Solomon (14) bt Mrs



John Haigh, who won the Doubles with Carmen Bazley.

Final

Miss MacLeod & Mrs Wiggins bt Mrs Macmillan & Mrs Yeoman

The Wine Coolers
(Men's Handicap Doubles)

Semi-Finals

Neal & Godfree bt Macdonald & Haggerston +9(TP); R. & D. Wiggins bt D. & S. Cornelius +10

Final

R. & D. Wiggins bt Neal & Godfree +19

Silver Jubilee Cup
(Handicap Play)

1st Round

D.C.D. Wiggins bt D. Gunasekera +26; D.S. Cornelius bt B.H. Bliss +7; A. Karmel bt H. Bellm wo; H.G. Drake bt D. Peterson +10; G. Doughty bt Ms S. Davies +7; C.E. Wilkinson bt B. Whitehouse +16, J.S.H. Battison bt Mrs E. Taylor-Webb +5; P.D. Hardyment bt M. Fox +24; S.G. Cornelius bt M.G. Pearson +1(T); Mrs W.R.D. Wiggins bt K.M.H. Aiton +13; Mrs V.

Coombs & Miss Harding (19); Mrs Mapletoft & Mrs Peasman (18) bt Major & Mrs T. Vale (10½) +2(T); Mr & Mrs P. Macdonald (8) bt Dr Higgs & Mrs French (18) +18; G.F. Paxon & Mrs E. Lewis (15) bt D.M. Bull & Mrs Bressey (9) +3(T); Mr & Mrs Ransom (8) bt Miss Dennant & Mrs Clapperton (19) +18; W.E. Moore & Miss C. Cox (7½) bt Mrs Ross & Mrs Millns (17) +13

2nd Round

Haigh & Lady Bazley bt Mrs Weitz & Miss Shine +14; Dr Weitz & Mrs Solomon bt Mrs Mapletoft & Mrs Peasman +1(T); Mr & Mrs Macdonald bt Paxon & Mrs Lewis +17; Mr & Mrs Ransom bt Moore & Miss Cox +19

Semi-Finals

Haigh & Lady Bazley bt Dr Weitz & Mrs Solomon; Mr & Mrs Ransom bt Mr & Mrs Macdonald +14

Final

Haigh & Lady Bazley bt Mr & Mrs Ransom +8(T)

The Northern Championships

(Cont'd from Page 13)

'D' Class (Cont'd)

PROCESS

1st Round:

Collighan bt Miss Dennett +12

Semi-finals:

Collighan bt Mrs Taylor-Webb +14; Watkins bt Harding +1

Final:

Watkins bt Collighan +12

Play-Off

Mrs Taylor-Webb bt Watkins +9

(The remaining results of the Northern Championships will be given in our next issue)

Carlisle bt Dr W.R.D. Wiggins +26; Miss D.A. Cornelius bt R.A. Welch +13

2nd Round

A. Lindley bt C. Southern +12; J.E. Guest bt Miss A.B. Duthie +8; Miss J. MacLeod bt I.P.M. Macdonald +12; Dr B.G.F. Weitz bt Mrs E. Neal +12; G. Roy bt Mrs E. Weitz +15; D. Wiggins bt D.S. Cornelius +24; Drake bt Karmel +10; Wilkinson bt Doughty wo; Hardyment bt Battison +15; S.G. Cornelius bt Mrs Wiggins +11; Miss Cornelius bt Mrs Carlisle +13; M.J.B. Haggerston bt C.B. Sanford +12; J. Carlisle bt T. Coles +11; Mrs I.P.M. Macdonald bt Prof B. Neal; Mrs P. Healy bt R. Ponsonby +10; Mrs D. Torrington-Petrie bt Mrs B. Mansfield

3rd Round

Guest bt Lindley +2; Miss MacLeod bt Weitz +21; D. Wiggins bt Roy +26; Drake bt Wilkinson +21; Hardyment bt S.G. Cornelius +26; Miss Cornelius bt Haggerston +14; J. Carlisle bt Mrs Macdonald +12; Mrs Healy bt Mrs D. Petrie +11

4th Round

Miss MacLeod bt Guest +24; D. Wiggins bt Drake +20; Hardyment bt Miss Cornelius +1(T); J. Carlisle bt Mrs Healy +12

Semi-Finals

D. Wiggins bt Miss MacLeod +21; J. Carlisle bt Hardyment +4

Final

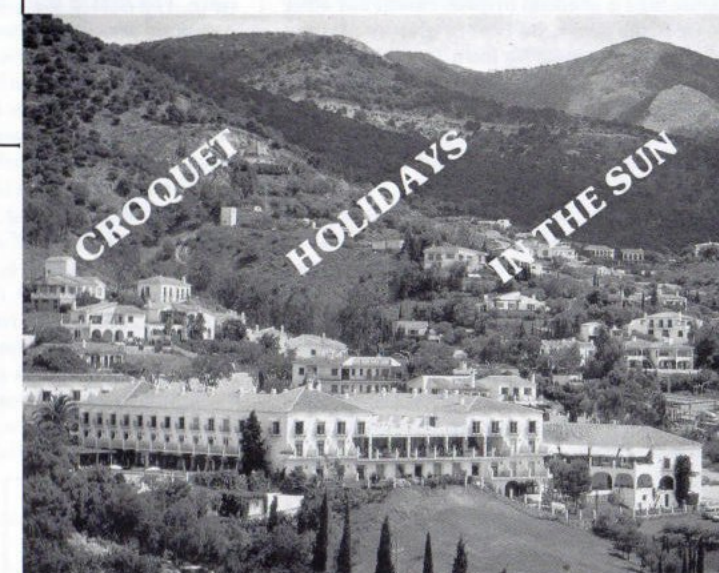
J. Carlisle bt D. Wiggins +18



HOTEL MIJAS

Croquet Club

COSTA DEL SOL
(Spain)



Come and play croquet all year round at the Hotel Mijas, which nestles in the slopes of the Sierra de Mijas amongst pine and palm trees, with a breath-taking view of the Mediterranean and a panoramic view of the Costa del Sol, Spain.

TWO full-sized croquet lawns available for overseas players/club participation and local club activity. Competitions can be arranged as required. Two swimming pools (one heated throughout the year), tennis court, and indoor health centre offering gymnasium, sauna, massage etc., all set in the unique and pretty ambience of this luxury four-star hotel.

From breakfast beneath the shade of the olive tree, to afternoon tea on the terrace overlooking the lawns, to a candlelight barbecue to the accompaniment of guitar music... the perfect ending to a perfect day of croquet at the Hotel Mijas.

For further details please contact in England:

Peter Howell, 10 Court Meadow, Rotherfield, E. Sussex, TW6 3LR, or at

**HOTEL MIJAS,
MIJAS/MARBELLA, (MALAGA) ESPANA**

Coaches Corner (1)

Pegging Out

By Cbris Hudson

I first met Bert Ward when he arrived one afternoon at the Bowdon Club and said he would like to learn to play Croquet. Apparently he had just moved into the area to be near his daughter, and as he looked about 60-ish, I asked him if he had just retired. 'No', he replied with a grin, 'I retired nearly 20 years ago - I'm 84!'

Well, that was a good start, and I watched his progress with interest. Before long, he was turning out occasionally for one of Bowdon's teams in the North West League. He had natural ability, and if he had not taken up the game so late in life, he could have been a top-class player. As it was, he maintained a gradual improvement but after two or three years, he had to give up playing in matches because he found it rather tiring to play three games in a day, on top of all the travelling.

It must have been about three years after he joined Bowdon that I found myself partnering him in the Club Doubles Championship. We had worked well as a team, and I reached the point where we were destined to peg out on our next appearance on the lawn, provided our opponents didn't hit in. So I left Bert a simple rush to the peg and walked off the lawn, to find him in a somewhat excited state.

To my amazement, I discovered that despite playing the game quite regularly for the past three years, both socially and

competitively, during the whole of that time Bert had never actually pegged out! Either his games had been adjourned on time, or else his opponent had got there first! Now, I wonder, how many other beginners are in the same position? When the great moment comes, will you be able to cope with your first peg out?

The basic mechanics are relatively simple. Pegging out both balls is achieved by means of a croquet stroke. Rush your partner ball as close to the peg as possible. Place your own ball against it, with the line of centres of the balls pointing directly at the peg. A stop shot or a drive will then cause the forward ball to hit the peg, and you can peg your own ball out with the following continuation shot.

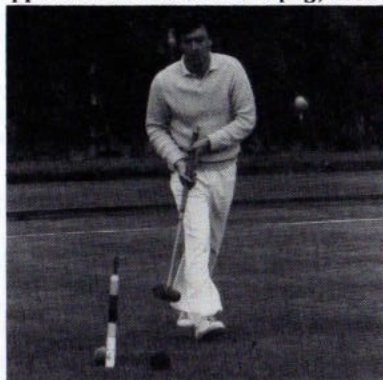
There are, however, two crucial points to note. The first is that, however well the balls are lined up, they must be in contact if the front ball is to go in the direction intended. It is all too easy to overlook the fact that the balls have moved ever so slightly apart since you last checked them, either due to the lawn or the wind or other causes.

The second point is that in rushing your partner ball to the peg, be very careful not to hit the peg with it. If it does hit the peg, it pegs itself out and is taken off the lawn, resulting in the end of your turn. This is because, after the rushed ball has been removed, there is no ball from which you can play your subsequent croquet shot.

Opinions vary about whether it is better to use a stop shot or a drive for the peg out, but it does seem generally agreed that either

of these shots is more accurate than a roll in getting the forward ball to hit the peg. Like many things in life, it is a compromise. If the rushed ball finishes up some distance from the peg, say 10 feet or more, then a stop shot or a drive will leave the striker's ball still some way from the peg, making it difficult to guarantee pegging out the second ball.

In such cases, a strong drive might be attempted, with the object that if the forward ball misses the peg, it will finish away from the centre of the court and so be of less use to the opponent. If it does hit the peg, then the



Nigel Aspinall pegs out in the Royal Bank Nations Trophy earlier this year.

backward ball will come to rest close to the peg for an easy finish.

I have always envied players who can achieve a quick, nonchalant lining up of the balls with their foot for a perfect peg out, but others get down on their stomachs to do the job. You may have often wondered what they look at when they get down as low as that!

Basically they are checking that the line of centres of the two balls is aimed directly at the peg. They do this by looking slightly over

BERNARD NEAL CROQUET MALLETS

Aluminium Alloy Shafts
Permalin Heads

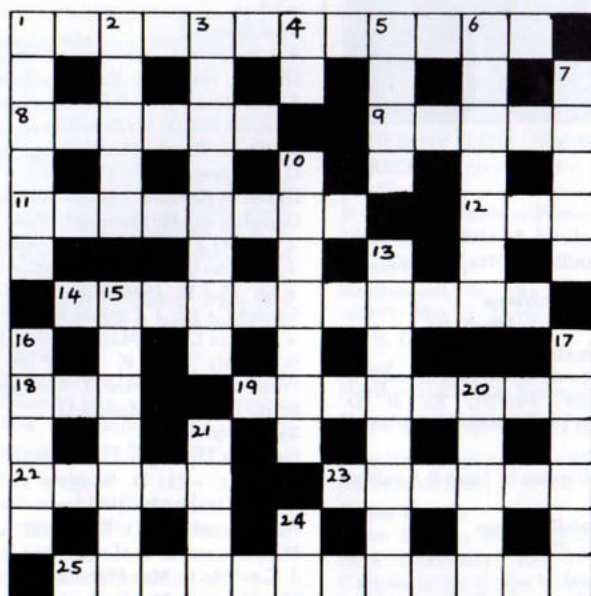
STANDARD MALLET
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Length as required

OPTIONAL EXTRAS
Brass Bound Head
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Brochure on application to:

B.G. Neal, Moat Cottage, Kidnappers Lane
Cheltenham GL53 0NR
Tel: 0242-510624 or 01-731 6188

Puzzle Corner - by Bob Race



CLUES

Across:

1. It's his protection, when it comes to the test, from crazy mob at corners. (12)
8. If poor they may give away the innings, a hazard late in the season. (6)
9. Cold briefly, then warm - not in a Croquet Club I trust! (5)

Down:

11. Say I feel poorly, but not to the Tournament Manager! (4,4)
- 12,14. Entirely circular fractures are much to be desired. (3,5,6)
14. See 12.
18. Give yourself one on the back if you never double this back. (3)
19. Little Bella's Miss Wodehouse unwilling to attempt a break. (4,4)
22. Get a grip, 18! (5)

the top of the balls and comparing the size of the crescent of the forward ball on each side of the line of aim. When the crescents on each side of the peg are of equal size, then the balls are lined up correctly. Players often make a further check by looking at the line of the balls from the other side of the peg.

Indeed it is possible to put in a lot of time and effort checking and re-checking the line-up of the balls. Usually this is only necessary because your initial rush to the peg was a poor one and left you more than 3 feet away. So whilst playing your final break, start thinking how you can guarantee that your partner ball will be less than 3 feet away from the peg when you come to take your last croquet shot from it to finish the game. Like a boxer, once you've got an opponent going, never let him off the hook! The peg out should be a clean clinical operation with all element of chance removed.

If you are playing a controlled break, then plan ahead to get your partner ball close to the peg. If it is not already there by the time you make 4-back, then it must either be the ball with which you make 4-back or the pioneer ball at penultimate. If it is the ball at 4-back, then after making that hoop, stop shot your partner ball near the pivot ball at the peg whilst going to the pioneer ball at penultimate. Then, having made penultimate, use your partner ball near the peg to get a rush on the pivot ball to rover.

If on the other hand, when you reach 4-back, your partner ball is at penultimate, then use it to make that hoop and having made penultimate, roll your partner ball to the peg as you send your own ball to the pivot ball before going on to rover.

Completing a neat peg out is one of the

Coaches Corner (2)

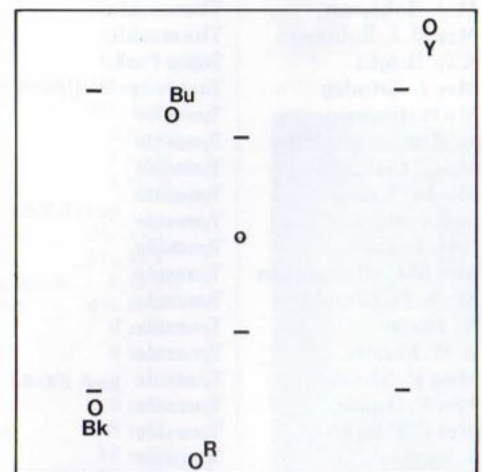
joys of the game and it is well worth practising a 4-ball break from 4-back to make sure that when you have victory within your grasp, you take it every time!

BREAK BUILDER (B.B.) No 2

By John McCullough

Today we assume you wish to play with Red, which is for Hoop 1. You are prepared to set up a break using one bisque. What sequence of shots should you play to set up the break?

The solution will appear in the next issue, so don't send in your ideas yet. If you disagree with the solution when it is published, submit your own solution then, together with your reasons for preferring it.



Yellow (Y) is on the North yardline, 3ft west of corner 3.

25. The ultimate achievement for the remains of half a dozen oranges? (8,4)

Solution to puzzle by Ian Plummer
(See Issue No 187, Page 36)

Answer 1: 5040 different sequences. There is a choice of 1 out of 7 items to be planted first, then 1 out of 6 to be planted second, etc. Therefore the number of different sequences is given by 7x6x5x4x3x2x1=7!

Answer 2: There are four equivalent routes. The starting points lie half way up the east or west boundaries. The sequences are X451P263X, X362P154X, Y154P362Y or Y263P451Y. The first route is illustrated in the accompanying diagram.

Answer 3: The minimum distance is 81.7827 yards or 81yds 2ft and 4ins approximately. In a badly devised route you could walk a further 40 yards or so.

1. Croquet Club. (6)

2. Tuition group for girl with sixteen bisques? (5)

3. Or not yet finished? 19's games tend to be. (8)

4. The end of Croquet for alien visitor. (1,1)

5. A temptation in frost, ice or snow. (4)

6. The first in a 25 - that's half enough! (7)

7. Approach your ball from behind, it bears fruit. (5)

10. One way to make 6 if you are black, red or yellow. (3,4)

13. Chances against a 25 just before lunch? (3,2,3)

15. Open University's diet upset the partners in play. (3,4)

16,21. Shares out ill-gotten fisherman's weights. (5,4)

17. Thrash learner (pale coloured). (6)

20. Timid creature initially makes our usual score easily. (5)

21. See 16.

24. Raised President's Cup: CID's present for removal. (2)

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Official Business

NOTICES

SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 1987

Pay early, and receive a discount!
There will be no change in the 1987 subscription rates. However, members paying before 1st February 1987 will receive a discount.

Current subscription rates are shown below. Will members please check with their Banks to see that the correct amount is being forwarded.

Any member wishing to pay by Bankers Order (who is at present not doing so) should contact Brian Macmillan to obtain the necessary form.

As in previous years, the 1987 Fixture Book will not be despatched until the relevant subscription is received.

Thank you for your help in this.

1987 SUBSCRIPTION RATES

(a) **Standard Rate** of Subscription for 1987 £14.00, but discounted to £12.00 if paid before 1st February 1987.

(b) **Reduced Rate** of Subscription for 1987 £7.50, but discounted to £6.50 if paid before 1st February 1987.

The reduced rate of subscription of £7.50 applies to

(i) Junior members (ie. those under 21 years of age on 31st December 1986).

(ii) Golf Croquet only and Non-Tournament members.

(c) **Overseas Rate** of Subscription £20.00. This rate applies to members who are not resident in the UK, Eire, Channel Isles or the Isle of Man and has been fixed to cover a three year period so as to reduce the cost of remitting sterling to the UK which is disproportionately high for annual payments.

(d) **New Members Rate.** A new member joining after 1st August 1987 is entitled to membership until the 31st December 1988.

Payment of Subscriptions

Payment may be made:

(a) By cheque or cash direct to Brian Macmillan at the CA Office.

(b) By Bankers Order or Bank Giro Credit direct to the Association's Bankers - the Midland Bank plc., 172 Upper Richmond Road, London, SW15 2SH for credit of the Association's Account No 10262145.

Those remitting non-sterling cheques etc should include an additional sum sufficient to cover the bank's charges for conversion and collection.

CA LEVY FOR 1987

The Levy will be increased for the 1987 season from £1.00 to £1.20 for Singles, and 60p per person instead of 50p per person for Doubles.

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 . . .

Dyffryn Croquet Club

Dyffryn Gardens, Cardiff, S. Glamorgan.
Secretary: John Grimshaw, 60 Coleridge Avenue, Penarth, South Glamorgan, CF6 1SQ. 0222-709266

New Associates

Mrs D.P. Hughes	Ansell Trust
J.A. Kirby	Ashby
D. Lewis	Ashby
Miss I.C. Begrie	Bath
J.M. Malcolm	Bath
J.A.T. Plummer	Bentley
C.H. Ballinger	Beverly
Miss M.F. Causton	Bournemouth
Mrs M.E. Ryle	Bournemouth
K.B. Cooper	Bowdon
Ms S.J. Drake	Bowdon
D.G. Lendrum	Bowdon
Mrs E. Massey	Bowdon
R.C. Pennington	Bowdon
H.M. Hall	Bristol
Mrs S. Legg	Budleigh
Dr G. Younge	Caterham
D.Y. Harrison	Cheltenham
Miss H. Prichard	Cheltenham
Miss S. Waterston	Cheltenham
Mrs M.M. Clary	Colchester
C.S. Docherty	Colchester
R. Fulford	Colchester
Mrs F.C. McCoig	Colchester
R. McCoig	Colchester
C. Ashworth	Crawley
Miss P. Cook	Ealing
C. Dardart	Ealing
I.B. Davidson	Ealing
A.J. Eccles	Ellesmere
J.B. Leather	Fylde
S. Rogers	Harrogate
Ms A. Dalton	Harrow Oak
N.G. Williams	Harwell
R.T. Jackman	High Wycombe
M.E. Henderson	Hurlingham
J.A. Pickness	Ingatstone
R.P. Jones	Ipswich
Mrs G.K. Gumming	Kington Langley
A. Szlamp	Leicester
Mrs M.B. Huston	Littleton
Miss D.G. Hussey	Loughborough
A.D. Tunbridge	Loughborough
T. Nock	Ludlow
R.T.H. Barnes	Met. Office
R.S. Howells	Newark
P.F. Boston	Nottingham
M. Donelan	Parsons Green
G. Rumsey	Parsons Green
Mrs B. Brierley	Pendle
V. George	Pendle
Mrs V. George	Pendle
A.J. Heald	Pendle
S. Roe	Pendle

N.P. Tomlinson	Pendle
J.L.A. Cary	Phyllis Court
R.J. Collighan	Q.E. Grammar
J.P. Ames	Reigate
R.H. Selmes	Reigate
Mrs R.H. Selmes	Reigate
Ms A. Ewbank	Ripon
E.N. Cohen	Roehampton
Mrs S. Cohen	Roehampton
D. Gurney	Roehampton
J.H. Haslam	Southport
N.J. Hicks	Southport
M.A. Saurin	Southport
Prof. G.L. Slack	Southport
H.G.R. Catten	Southwick
Mrs D. Catten	Southwick
M.M. Cooperman	Southwick
Ms M.A. De Laurey	Surbiton
M.J. O'Flynn	Swindon
C.D. Royle	Swindon
M.J. Robinson	Thameside
Mrs M.J. Robinson	Thameside
K.G. Bright	Tracy Park
Mrs J. Grimley	Tunbridge Wells
Ms H. Brown	Tyneside
A. Burn	Tyneside
Ms G. Curry	Tyneside
Ms J.P. Curry	Tyneside
G.T. Eddy	Tyneside
I. Holloway	Tyneside
Mrs M.G. Honseman	Tyneside
Ms S. McDonald	Tyneside
R. Nixon	Tyneside
B.M. Rannie	Tyneside
Miss E. Shotton	Tyneside
Mrs E. Smith	Tyneside
Mrs F. Taggart	Tyneside
J. Taggart	Tyneside
D. Wright	Tyneside
Mrs K. Wright	Tyneside
Ms O. Young	Tyneside
H.M. Harrington	Winchester
E.F. Robinson	Wrest Park
R.J. Boulton	
A.M. Eye	
J. Handy	
P. Henderson	
J.P. Hill	
R. Maclean	
C. Mawby	
Dr A.E. Mill	
Mrs D.M. Miller	
C.K. Nimmo	
I. Smith	
E. Crouch	Australia
Miss R. Fotheringham	Australia
M. Lockhart	Australia
C. Need	Australia
D. Weaver	Australia
D.G. Vice	Canada
D.F. McKenzie	Egypt
J. Kujansuu	Finland
P.A. Archer	Guernsey
L.A. Wilde	Jersey
L. Kaiser	New Zealand
P.E. Barnhart	USA
J.J. Upton	USA
(Total 120)	

Deaths

We regret to report the following death:

Miss A.M. Ryan

New Referees

P.L. Smith; J. Straw

NOTICES

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, and details of the day's programme are given elsewhere in this issue.

LITERATURE ON 'SALE OR RETURN'

It would be appreciated if Treasurers or Secretaries of Clubs could please pay any outstanding money for literature they have had on a 'Sale or Return' basis, and also let me know what stock they are still holding.

At the same time, please would you let me have any accounts for Lawn and Ball Hire that have not already been presented.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter, which will greatly help the Treasurer to complete his books at the end of the year.

Brian Macmillan

NOMINATIONS FOR AWARDS

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



Bill Lamb, winner of the Apps Bowl in 1985 for the 'most improved man'.

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

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

CA MALLET

1986 Prices

£35.00 to Associates

£45.00 to Non-Associates

Official Business

RECRUITMENT DRIVE

Congratulations to the following clubs who have already achieved their recruitment targets:

Group 1: Ealing.

Group 2: Tyneside, High Wycombe, and Pendle.

Group 3: Bowdon and Southwick

and to the following clubs who have achieved 50% or better to date.

Group 1: Ashby, Bournemouth, Harrogate, Met. Office, Newark and Tracy Park.

Group 2: Cassiobury, Littleton and Surbiton.

Group 3: Cheltenham, Colchester, Ellesmere, Ipswich, Reigate, Southport and Woking.

Other clubs are well on the way.

There is still time to catch up - the competition runs until 31st December this year.

Enrol another CA member today and help your club towards its target.

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.



A group of Bowdon members at The Royal Bank 'Nations Trophy' in May. Bowdon are currently amongst the leaders in the CA recruitment competition, but there is still two months to go!

Handicap Alterations

Colchester: July	Mrs G. Holliday	17
G. Hallett	Mrs A.C. Mead	18 to 17
J. Hobbs	Miss S. Waterston	18 to 17
P. Bertorelli		
J. Collis	Nottingham: 11-16 Aug	
	Before Play	
	R. Bateson	5*
	After Play	
Hurlingham (Opens): 18-27 July	D. Reeve	3½ to 3
E. Bell	B. Hallam	1 to ½
Dr I.G. Vincent	R. Bateson	5* to 4½
C. von Schneider	M.J. Cowan	7 to 5½
	J. Reeve	7½ to 6½
Cheltenham: 21-27 July	Dr F.L. Whittaker	6 to 5
During Play	D. Palmer	1 to ½
C.D. Clarke	Mrs G. Nix	8 to 7
After Play	G. Henshaw	5 to 7
Lady C. Bazley		
Dr D. Cairns	Bowdon: 16-25 Aug	
Miss E. Cheverton	Before Play	
C.D. Clarke	R. Collighan	13 to 11
Miss D.A. Cornelius	After Play	
D.S. Cornelius	C.D. Clarke	2½ to 2
R.A. Gosden	M.A. Saurin	7½ to 7
M.B. Jackson	R. Collighan	11 to 10
Mrs P.E. Leach	D. Watkins	10 to 10D9
R.W. Ransom	Mrs E. Taylor-Webb	11 to 10
	W.E. Lamb	2½ to 2
Southport: 26-27 July	A.F. Sutcliffe	2 to 1½
Mrs D.C. Dennett	J.D. Meads	1 to ½
East Riding: 28 July	S. Williams	1 to ½
A.T. Smith		
Bath: 7 Aug	Edinburgh: 18-23 Aug	
M. Boardman	T.P. Greenwood	3½ to 3
Dr G.J. Davey	M.P.W. Smith	5½ to 5
D.G.P. Sheppard	Dr C.v. Griethuysen	6 to 5½
A.P. Collins	Dr D. Warhurst	6½ to 6
Mrs Y.M. Arnold	F. Mann	9 to 8
	C. Waterfield	9 to 8
Hurlingham: 2-9 Aug	Southwick: 18-23 Aug	
During Play	Dr D. Guban	9 to 8
P.D. Hardyment	Mrs R. Guban	8 to 7
After Play	R. Sowerby	12 to 10
D.C.D. Wiggins	P. Mansfield	10 to 9
D. Peterson	R. Rogers	4½ to 3½
Miss J. MacLeod	D. Trotman	8 to 7
H.G. Bell		
P.D. Hardyment	Sidmouth Club	
C.E. Wilkinson	Mrs V. Collier	11 to 10
Dr B.G.F. Weitz		
W.T. Coles	Ryde Club	
M.J.B. Haggerston	H.B. Brownsdon	5½ to 4½
S.G. Cornelius	Mrs M. Robinson	12D11 to 11
J.W. Carlisle	E. Carleton	18 to 17
P. Torrington		
	Cheltenham: 23-25 Aug	
Southport: 8-10 Aug	Before Play	
Before Play	Mrs J. Cima	9 to 8
M. Saurin	Mrs K.M. Wheeler	6 to 8
After Play	Mrs D. Clay	15 to 14D12
M. Saurin	After Play	
A. Sutcliffe	Mrs D. Clay	14D12 to 13D11
C.D. Clarke	G.E.P. Jackson	0 to 1½
	J. Jackson	14 to 10
Colchester: 8-10 Aug	Miss I. Roe	7½ to 7
Mrs C.M. Steward	Mrs A. Warren	6½ to 7
P. Elliott	Mrs K. Whittall	8 to 7½
Miss J. Waters	D. Brudenell	15* to 9
J.G. Williams		
Miss S. Hampson	Hunstanton: 25-30 Aug	
	P.G. Williams	3½ to 2½
Cheltenham: 1-10 Aug	D. Ruscombe-King	6½ to 6
Dr E.E. Turtle	Mrs V. Tompkinson	7½ to 7
L.W.R. James		
C. Ross	Parkstone: 25-30 Aug	
	Before Play	
Bristol Club	J.C.P. Eden	9 to 6
R. Sampson	After Play	
R. Tribe	J.C.P. Eden	6 to 4
	Mrs C.A. Parker	11 to 10
Compton: 9-10 Aug	Mrs N.F. Rumsey	14 to 12
D.W. Shaw	Major T. Vale	4 to 5
	D.M. Wood	15D10 to 13D10
Parkstone Club	R.F. Bailey	1 to ½
C.F. Moon		
Budleigh: 12-14 Aug	Ipswich Club	
S.F. Blackler	Dr R.R. Sutherland	5 to 4½
I. Brand		
R. Brand	Bristol: Longman Cup	
N.M. Griffin	R. Sampson	9 to 8
	Budleigh: Spencer Ell	
Loughborough: 11-15 Aug	M. French	1½ to 1
Mrs B. Ashford		

J.R. Hilditch	-½ to ½	A. Thomas	9* to 9
J.R. Mann	2 to 1½	J.S.H. Battison	1 to 0
C. Southern	½ to 1	Miss S. Rankin	13 to 12D9

Hurlingham: President's Cup

K.M.H. Aiton	-1 to -2	G. Vince	3½ to 2½
J.E. Guest	0 to -1	R.A.G. Rogers	3½ to 3
J.O. Walters	-½ to -1	T. Mrozinski	1 to 0
		D.C.D. Wiggins	2 to 1½
		Miss P. Shine	7 to 8

Edgbaston: All-England

P.J. Dorke	4 to 3½	Nottingham: 14-16 Sept	
S. Packer	4½ to 3½	M.R.L. Cowan	5½ to 5
		J.C. Straw	3½ to 3
		R. Davis	9 to 7

Cheltenham: 3-7 Sept

Mrs C. Smith	1½ to 1	Cheltenham: 19-21 Sept	
D. Maughan	7½ to 6½	I. Brand	7 to 6
M. Wilkins	3½ to 3	Miss H. Prichard	16D14 to 16D12
Mrs K. Turtle	13D11 to 12D10	D. Beatty	3½ to 3
J. McLaren	3 to 4	D.J. Goacher	2 to 1½
		P.A. Darby	6 to 5½

Harrow: 5-7 Sept

R. Fulford	3½ to 2	Southport: 13-14 Sept	
		C.D. Clarke	2 to 1½
		M.A. Saurin	7 to 5

Ryde: 12-14 Sept

Before Play		Compton: 20-28 Sept	
D.L. Vollebregt	7½ to 9	P. Howell	7 to 6
After Play		Miss M.J. Loveys	11 to 10
Mrs C. Osmond	15 to 13	Mrs T. Vale	6½ to 7½
L. Palmer	6 to 5	Miss D.V. Harding	12 to 12D10
R. Newnham	4½ to 4	A. Thomas	9 to 8
Mrs V. Tompkinson	7 to 6½		

Himley Hall: 13-14 Sept

R. Weaver	5 to 4½	Colchester: 27-28 Sept	
H.R. Stanley	8 to 7	R. England	10 to 8

Worthing Club

G. Pearce	13
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Southwick Club

Before Play	
A. Thomas	9*

After Play	
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We regret that we cannot list handicaps of non-Associates.