Official Business



THE DATA PROTECTION ACT

Report by Alan Oldham Hon. Treasurer, Croquet Association

1. Because the Associations' membership records including handicaps are held on a word-processor, the Association applied in May to be registered as a Data User. Data User is a technical term defined as an organisation which controls the contents and use of a collection of personal data processed or intended to be processed automatically.

2. Formal registration has recently been notified to us by the Registrar.

3. For registration it was necessary to give:

i. a description of the personal data held by us i.e. names, addresses, telephone numbers and handicaps of members of the Association; and the purpose for which the data is to be held or used i.e. for membership administration.

ii. a description of the Source or Sources from which we intend or may wish to obtain the data or the information to be contained in the data (i.e. the members themselves).

iii. a description of any person or persons to whom we intend or may wish to disclose the data (i.e. the members themselves, individuals and organisations connected with the Croquet Association, accountants, auditors, lawyers and providers of publicly available information including public libraries, press and media).

iv. the countries outside the United Kingdom to which we intend or may wish directly or indirectly to transfer that data. (I answered - 'world-wide').

4. As a consequence of our registration, we shall be protected from committing an offence under the Data Protection Act, provided that we operate in accordance with the statements as above in our application and observe the other Data Protection Principles as laid down in the Act (which should not be onerous for us).

5. We must, however, not sell or give our Directory to unauthorised persons.

PUZZLE CORNER SOLUTION (Issue 189)

More contributions for Puzzle Corner will be most welcome.

IMPORTANT NOTICE VAT REGISTRATION

Due to increasing turnover, the Croquet Association has had to register for VAT. This means that in future VAT will have to be charged by the CA in respect of various items of income, including the following:

- (a) Subscriptions (less that part attributable to Gazette costs).
- (b) Club registration fees.
- (c) Levy and Tribute.

(d) Sales of ties, brooches, mallets, etc.

(e) Sponsorship fees.

The full effect of VAT will not be felt by Associates immediately, as the VAT element of subscriptions will be absorbed by the Association in the short term and there is no intention of changing the subscription rates already announced for 1987. Levy rates for 1987 (£1.20 for singles and 60p for doubles) will be inclusive of VAT.

to contain a separate VAT element. Similarly, all expense claims submitted to the CA from now on must include VAT separately and must be supported by appropriate VAT receipts.

NOMINATIONS FOR AWARDS

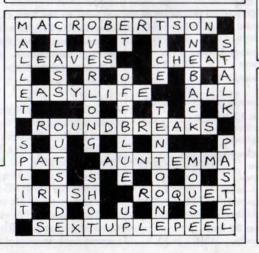
The Apps Heley Award is made each year to the 'most deserving club'; that is, the one that has done most for croquet or made the most progress during the year.



Kismet Whittall (Bath). Winner of the Steel Bowl in 1985 for the 'most improved lady player'.

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.



NEW PRICE LIST Publications available from the

Croquet Association (Prices to non-members in brackets).

Laws & Regulations The full Laws of Association and Golf Croquet, and the Regulations for

tournament play Price: £2.00 (£2.00) P&p 18p

Basic Laws Gives all the Laws necessary for beginners Price: 50p (£1.00) P&p 18p

Commentary on Laws by Col. Prichard. Explains and amplifies the

Laws Price: £1.00 (£2.00) P&p 50p 'Know the Game: Croquet'

Straightforward guidance on how to play the game Price: £1.25 (£1.50) P&p 26p

'Croquet'

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

'History of Croquet'

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

Twelve Hints for Beginners

A useful booklet for beginners Price: 60p (£1.00) P&p 18p

CA Coaching Handbook

As well as giving suggested coaching programmes for players at all levels, this 50-page booklet covers recruitment, practice routines, tips for improving play, and the rules of alternative croquet games. A mine of information, gleaned from many players and clubs over the years and a 'must' for club coaches. Price: £5.00 (£6.00) P&p 50p

Coaching Video

Seven coaching film strips and commentary available together on one Video film (VHS or Beta), complete with book containing details of each slide and commentary. Total running time approx 105 minutes. Price: £20.00 (£30.00) P&p 64p for film and book together. Please indicate type of film required when ordering.

Other items CA Brooches

£2.00 (plus VAT) P&p 18p

CA Ties £7.00 (plus VAT) P&p 18p

Please send your orders with the appropriate remittance to: The Administration Secretary, The Croquet Association, The Hurlingham Club, Ranelagh Gardens, London SW6 3PR. Tel: 01-736-3148.

HELP WANTED DO YOU KNOW WHERE THEY ARE NOW?

Magazines have been returned marked 'Unknown' for the following Associates. C.A. Cumming (East Grinstead) Mrs A. Harte (Macclesfield) D.S. Turner (Hunstanton) A.G. Darby (Portslade) P.H. Mann (Reading) Please could you let Brian Macmillan have their current address if you know it.





Inside: Schools Croquet Coaching Courses in 1987 The Eights: Reports & Result Computer Grading Explained 1987 Fixture List

Editorial

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Recruitment & Coaching

During 1986, over 300 people have joined the CA, and I hope that these new members will get as much fun out of Croquet as I have over the past 18 years.

This is the largest influx of new members for many years and reflects the growing interest in the game. Apart from the extensive media coverage we have had during the year, there are probably three factors that account for this large increase.

The first is the advent of Short Croquet, with its appeal to a wider section of players. The second is the effort that Clubs have made to recruit new members for the CA (Tyneside included a special introductory offer for new members, combining club and CA subscription). The third has been our ability to contact club members directly through lists supplied by clubs (and it has been surprising how many 18+ bisquers have joined the CA as a result of this).

All of which bears out my contention that the only thing stopping the growth of the game is that, even now, relatively few people know Croquet Clubs exist, or what a marvellous game croquet is.

Next year will see the CA put even more effort into getting the word across, and as a result I hope that more people will be tempted to contact their local club. During the 1986 season, individual clubs have provided facilities for school tournaments, for the WI, Townswomens' Guilds, and other interested groups, and for Regional Short Croquet tournaments for beginners. The pressure for croquet facilities is likely to increase, and as Development Officer, I have much appreciated the support of clubs in helping to foster interest in the game.

One fact that does surprise me, however, on looking at the membership figures is that some 73 Club Secretaries are not members of the Association! As in all things, numbers are important - for financial self-sufficiency, for grants, for sponsors, for influence, indeed for survival. The CA is not out to make a profit; it has to cover its administration costs but it uses any additional funds to carry out a great

deal of work to benefit clubs and their members.

In 1986 the CA provided Grants totalling more than £9000 to Clubs and Federations, but the benefits that arise through the CA's activities are not merely financial. Nowadays every sport needs a governing body able to represent its interests effectively, because so many individual sports are competing for the same funds and facilities. We are fortunate in this respect to have people experienced in so many different disciplines.

Elsewhere in this issue you will find details of a number of courses for players and coaches, reflecting the enormous amount of work done by the Coaching Committee during the year under their Chairman, John McCullough. The indications are that these courses will be fully subscribed, so please apply early to avoid disappointment.

Next year will see the final stage of the introduction of the National Coaching Scheme, with the appointment of Grade III Coaches. Thought is also being given to the coaching of a 'National Squad' to make sure we regain the MacRobertson Shield in New Zealand in 1990. If funds permit, a new coaching video will be made, dealing with break play with and without bisques, the construction of breaks, and an explanation of the laws.

The provision of a sound coaching structure is in my view one of the main requirements for expanding the game, and in future years I believe that coaching will come to be regarded as one of the major services provided by the CA for its members.

Finally, and by no means least, congratulations to the Bristol Club, who won three national events this year - the Longman Cup, the Mary Rose Trophy, and the National Short Croquet Team Event. Is it just a coincidence that John McCullough, one of our most enthusiastic coaches, is a member there? CHRIS HUDSON

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

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

Photographs in this issue by: Chris Hudson, Jeff Bowden, Pat Asa-Thomas, John McCullough, Chris Irwin, John Davis, Deborah Latham, and Mark Watson-Gandy.

Front Cover: Steve Mulliner jubilant after winning the 1986 President's Cup. On the left is Richard Ambler, UK Brand Manager for Bombay Gin who sponsored the event.

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Schools - Croquet's Best Chance

By Peter Dorke: Chairman, Schools Committee

There are more than 3,000 'secondary' schools in the state system and another 470 or so in the independant sector. There must be something like 600,000 teachers. I would rather not contemplate the number of children that this suggests, but they are all potential croquet-players. Unlike rugby, hockey, tennis and the other major sports, success in croquet is a real possibility for almost every one of those teaming 11-18 year olds.

All we have to do is get to them.

Since the National Schools Championship was begun, Chris Hudson and I have contacted directly about 200 schools, more than half of these being in the state sector and exactly 100 of them being Sixth Form Colleges. We know now of 85 schools where croquet is played with some seriousness and where the avowed intention is to play in the national competition. So far, however, only 29 schools and colleges have done so, and in the 3 years of the competition's existence, the Rothwell Shield has been won by one independent school and two from the public sector.

The formation of a Schools Committee in February of 1986 sprang from the need to get teachers more involved in the running of the championship and to give them a say in the development of croquet in schools. It was, perhaps, a bad time to be trying anything of the sort, as teachers were then involved in the long and as yet unresolved wrangle over pay and conditions which were to make entries to the Championship rather fewer than expected. (At least one school abandoned competitive croquet altogether after having enjoyed great success both in schools croquet and in their local league.)

Long term plans were made and strategies identified but the immediate need was to get the Schools Championship under way, with the short-term aim of organising it regionally under Schools League Secretaries. Half-a-dozen teachers had offered their services but in the end, as entries were lower than hoped for, only four were needed. Only two of these were members of the original six, as volunteers and needs did not always match and two new Secretaries were found to organise the South and East.

It had been hoped that by 1987 we might organise the competition in tournaments. rather than the knock-out format used in '81 and '85. We nearly did it in '86, with Andrew Bennet, Jonathan Collis and myself managing to cram most of our teams into tournaments and only Father Nicholas Waters' Southern Region finding the knock-out a more convenient method for the moment.

Twenty one teams were entered. One down on 1985, and of these, 2 were from the same school. Thus, 20 schools had entered and of these only 19 played in the end. The geographical distribution was: 4 in the North, 6 in the Midlands (including one interloper from down Bristol way), 5 in the East and 4 in the South. The regional winners met at Hurlingham in July and Colchester Royal Grammer School emerged as the 1986 Champions.

We learned, or re-learned, several



New Zealand celebrates at Hurlingham! (Photo by Doreen Torrington-Petrie).

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This is the way to double, treble, quadruple the number of croquet players - a better way perhaps than by means of television. (Since snooker was popularized by T.V. the number playing has only (sic) doubled from 3¹/₂ million to 7 million. The outstanding change has been in opportunities for the few at the top to earn big money, not in a widespread springing up of snooker-balls.)



Schools Croquet

lessons: that teachers crack under pressure more readily than their pupils; that doubles matches are torture; that handicapping is well-nigh impossible at the rate of improvement of some of the young players (from 16 down to 2 in one season!) (but dare we play level?); that schools are running croquet on a shoe-string, heavily dependent on the goodwill and depth of pocket of the teacherin-charge; that tournaments are good things: that exams are a nuisance (should the competition be played in the Autumn?); that referees are golden; that the National School Championship is an excellent improving ground for any school croquet players, however raw, however ignorant of the finer points of the game.

When the Rothwell Shield was placed in the deserving hands of Colchester's Jonathan Collis, I gave a sigh of relief and tried to forget about schools croquet schools anything! - for a few weeks, leaving undone those things which Chris Hudson was cruelly pressing me to do. (When they were handing out energy, he got mine along with his own.) However, after a little rest and recuperation, I began again the process of chipping away at the mountain of schools and teachers, through a now-regular column in 'Sports Teacher' and another batch of letters. Each time an article appears, each time letters are sent out, new schools appear from the closet to admit their fatal addiction to the croquet habit. But it is nobbut a trickle and this is not the way to get quick results. The way to a steady increase in the number of croquet-playing schools is through the teachers on the spot. As Ken Hillier of Ashby has said, every croquetplaying teacher must be willing to introduce the game not only into his own school but into several round about.

Having got the croquet ball really rolling, the National Schools Championship must become what the Schools Tennis Championship already is, a highly organised system of leagues, involving hundreds of schools and held together by the efforts of more than 130 teacher-secretaries from every part of the country. If croquet reached only half the number of schools which play in the tennis championship, the cost of running the resulting 160 tournaments might be something in the region of £11,000, but it would mean that almost 2,000 young people could represent their schools at croquet with, perhaps, 10,000 playing at lunchtime, at breaktime, in 'Activities', after school, in short, (knowing how the addiction takes hold of the keen ones), at every possible moment. (Just think how snooker might have taken off if it had been sufficiently 'respectable' to incorporate into a school's games programme. What, on the other hand, could be more respectable than croquet? Even computer experts play it and we all know how high their standing is in schools these days!)

Of course, without the help of the clubs and the CA-recognised coaches, the teachers cannot do it on their own. They will have neither the facilities nor, perhaps, the expertise to develop young talents fully. Nor indeed will they be able to take an afternoon off to introduce croquet to a neighbouring school. Once the contact is made and the seed sown, it may well need, say, a retired bank-manager from the local club to go along on games afternoons to coach the drop-outs from other more violent games. No school would refuse the offer of such help: croquet is just the thing that many a school needs to cater for its perennial misfits and non-sporting intellectuals - though it's more-than-me-job's-worth to claim to speak from experience!

Who then are the croquet-playing teachers who would be willing (delighted?) to help create a network of croquet-playing schools? And who are the non-teachers with a little time on their hands who would be willing to lend those hands to the efforts of their local Schools League Secretary?

Write to me now, please, at 15 Castle View Terrace, Ludlow, Shropshire. My phone number, if you prefer to get in touch that way, is Ludlow (0584) 4547.



Participants in this year's Schools Final at Hurlingham.

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Edinburgh: 18-23 August **Record entry at Edinburgh Tournament**

Report by David Warburst

The main event on the Scottish calendar started with a record 44 entries ready to brave the capricious August weather of Edinburgh. It was encouraging to see larger numbers from south of the border take croquet alongside the usual strong Scottish contingent.

In addition to plenty of good competitive croquet on the peaceful playing fields of Fettes College, the Edinburgh Tournament must offer the finest scope for après croquet activities. Festival Edinburgh abounds with vitality all through the week, there is a big party at the Rowe's one evening, and swimming is available during the day.

The game between Rod Williams and Fred Mann in the Y of the big handicap was one of many exciting finishes. Fred reached Peg and Penultimate with Rod still at 6 and 6, but Rod conjured a break from nowhere to Peg, pegging out Fred. But even 11/2 handicaps stick in hoops and, with black waiting by the Peg, blue stuck in Rover. This gave Fred his chance, but he missed. Rod also missed. Fred took position in front of Penult. Rod ran Rover then shot

at Fred, but found one coat of

RESULTS

Cramond Cup (Advanced Play)

1st Round: T.P. Greenwood bt P.W. Thompson

+7; A.H.M. Adam bt M.P.W. Smith

+2(T); R.W. Williams bt I.H. Wright +11; B.G.Hallam bt G. Anderson

+12 Semi-Finals:

Greenwood bt Adam +14: Hallam bt Williams +3

Final:

Hallam bt Greenwood +17

Silver Jubilee Salver

(Level Singles: 4 bisques and over) 1st Round:

P.G. Simpson bt R. Hissett +21; D.R. Appleton bt W.G. Masterton +4; A.M. Ramsay bt D.G. Willetts

2nd Round:

Dr C. van Griethuysen bt R. Weaver +10; Simpson bt Appleton +3; Ramsay bt A.G.M. Hunter (wo); D.S. Warhurst bt Mrs C.A. Rowe +19

Semi-Finals:

van Griethuysen bt Simpson +15; Warhurst bt Ramsay +3

Final: Warhurst bt van Griethuysen +5 'Y' Final:

Weaver bt Mrs Rowe +4

paint too many on the Peg and pegged himself out. Fred ran Penult, then Rover, but missed Rod from 4 yards and Rod won +1.

Wednesday saw the doubles start. One interesting pairing was Jean Morrison, the most experienced player on the lawns with a mere 84 years of croquet seasons beneath her belt, and Brian Hallam (1/2), the lowest handicap of the tournament. In their game against the Hunter father and daughter duo, Alastair and Hazel, the latter were well ahead with 10 minutes left. Hazel and Jean were both for 6 and Alastair at 4-Back. In his final break Brian went to Peg. After an excellent cross-lawn shot, Alastair ran Rover as time was called. A lapse of concentration made him miss the return roquet and land near Jean who took this golden opportunity and converted it into the winning hoop.

Morrison were beaten in the next round, but this did not affect his confidence when it came to the singles. Of eleven games played he won ten, going down only to that spirited swiper of the ball, Philip Simpson, in the first round of the big

Walter B Laing Cup (Handicap Singles: 8 bisques and over)

C.G. Waterfield (9) bt Mrs G.L.

F. Mann (9) bt B. Murdoch (16)

+2(T); R. Pirrie (11) bt Mrs M.G.

Wright (12) + 21; N. Gardner (16) bt

J. Marshall (14) +12; Waterfield bt

A. Nisbet (9) +3(T); Mrs J.S.

Morrison (15) bt M. Maclean (18)

+12; N. Smith (16) bt A.D. Lamont

(8) +22; R.F. Ottley (14) bt C.D.

McArthur (11) +17: Mrs M. Fother-

ingham (9) bt K.S. Hammond (10)

Pirrie bt Mann +5(T); Waterfield bt

Gardner +15; Smith bt Mrs

Morrison +21; Mrs Fotheringham

Pirrie bt Waterfield +1(T); Mrs

Fotheringham bt Smith +3(T)

Pirrie bt Mrs Fotheringham +19

Murdoch bt Nisbet +20; McArthur

Murdoch bt McArthur +10

1st Round:

2nd Round:

+19

Final:

3rd Round

bt Ottley +3

Semi-Finals:

'Y' Semi-Finals

bt Lamont +19

'Y' Final

Clarke (14) +15

Croquet in Scotland

handicap. It was, after all, the first time he had seen the Fettes lawns!

The doubles final turned out to be a wholly Bush affair. Colin McArthur and Ralph Pirrie came out on top of Drew Nesbit and Ray Ottley when, after a long period of doldrums, Colin came good with a late 7-hoop break. Ralph Pirrie also featured in the 3X final where he dominated play, making 5 and Penult before Mary Fotheringham had started.

Thanks must go to the lawn manager, Alastair Hunter, and his team, and also to the people behind the scenes responsible for increasing my waist by two inches over the week - the ladies of Edinburgh C.C.



Scotland's team in the 1986 Home Internationals. L to R (Back): Rod Williams and Ian Bond. (Front): Martin Murray, Stephen Wright (Captain), and Andrew Hope.

Norton-Wright Trophies (Handicap Doubles) **3rd Round** McArthur & Pirrie (22) bt Waterfield & Masterton (16) +10(T); Ramsay

& Anderson (101/2) bt Hallam & Mrs Morrison (151/2) +11; Nisbet & Ottley (23) bt Greenwood & Weaver (81/2) +5; Thompson & Smith (18) bt Wright & Mrs Fotheringham (11) +10

Semi-Finals:

McArthur & Pirrie bt Ramsay & Anderson +6(T); Nisbet & Ottley bt Thompson & Smith +1(T) Final:

McArthur & Pirrie bt Nisbet & Ottley +6(T)

Edinburgh Cup (Handicap Singles)

1st Round

B. Murdoch (16) bt Mrs C.A. Rowe (6) +9(T); Mrs M. Fotheringham (9) bt R.F. Ottley (14) +15(T); T.P. Greenwood (31/2) bt A.D. Lamont (8) +19; A.M. Ramsay (6) bt R.W. Williams (11/2) +14; G. Anderson (4¹/₂) bt F. Mann (9) +9; D.C. Willetts (41/2) bt A. Nisbet (9) +6; P.G. Simpson (61/2) bt B.G. Hallam (1/2) +11; R. Weaver (5) bt N. Smith (18) +10; Dr C. van Griethuysen (6) bt Mrs M.G. Wright (12) +8; M.P.W. Smith (51/2) bt I.H. Wright (2) +1: P.W. Thompson (41/2) bt Mrs G.L. Clark (14) +19; C.G. Waterfield (9) bt A.G.M. Hunter (51/2) +23; R. Hissett (7) bt D.R. Appleton (5) +18; C.D. McArthur (11) bt W.G. Masterton (7) + 1(T)

2nd Round

B. Murdoch bt A.H.M. Adam (3) +3(T); Greenwood bt Mrs Fotheringham +6; Anderson bt Ramsay +6; Simpson bt Willetts +6: Weaver bt Griethuvsen +7: Smith bt Thompson +11; Waterfield bt Hissett +12; McArthur bt Warhurst +1(T)

3rd Round

Greenwood bt Murdoch +7; Anderson bt Simpson +20; Smith bt Weaver +20; Waterfield bt McArthur +14

Semi-Final:

Greenwood bt Anderson +4: Smith bt Waterfield +2(T)

M.P.W. Smith bt Greenwood +23 Handicap 'Y': Milne Trophy

Semi-Finals:

Hallam bt Adam +8; Warhurst bt N. Smith +12

Final

Hallam bt Warhurst +7

'Z' Event Semi-Finale

van Griethuysen bt Thompson +7; Mann bt Masterton +1(T)

Final

Mann bt van Griethuysen +4(T)

Brian Hallam and Jean

Tournament Reports & Results (1)

bt H. Barnett +20

Williams bt Ruscombe-King +16;

Welch bt Mrs Wheeler +18; S.G.

Cornelius ht Mrs Hetherington

+21: Miss J. Assheton bt Miss S.G.

Williams bt Welch +20; S.G.

Ruscombe-King bt J. Reeve +22;

Miss Assheton bt Mrs Neville-Rolfe

Wheeler +14: S.G. Cornelius bt

Gosden +11: Mrs Wheeler bt Miss

Hampson +8; Williams bt Barnett

Miss Assheton bt Ruscombe-King

Hetherington +2: S.G. Cornelius bt

Mrs Wheeler +1; Williams bt Welch

Miss Assheton bt D. Cornelius +18;

S.G. Cornelius bt Miss Assheton

P.G. Williams bt S.G. Cornelius +2

(Handicap Play: 71/2 bisques and

J.F.S. Thomas (9) bt D. Hopkins (16)

+5; Miss P. Hampson (8) bt J.G.

Mrs V. Tompkinson (71/2) bt Mrs B.

Mrs Tompkinson bt Thomas +3

Williams bt S.G. Cornelius

+16; D. Cornelius bt Mrs

+12: Mrs Hetherington bt Dr

Cornelius bt Miss Assheton +23

2nd Round

Hampson +2

Semi-finals

PROCESS

1st Round

+18

+19:

2nd Round

Semi-finals

Marriage

+18

Final

over)

DRAW

1st Round

Williams (9) + 1

Gosden (8) +4

Final

Semi-final

Silver Rose Bowl

Hunstanton: 25-30 August **Paul Williams shines at** Hunstanton

Report by Donald, Debbie & Stephen Cornelius

The Hunstanton week got off to a good start with Sunday evening's Candlelight Golf Croquet, won by Donald Cornelius and John Reeve. The rain had yet to come and when it did, it rarely stopped.

However, despite this there was some very good croquet. Keith Aiton started with two TP's and continued in sparkling form to win both the Draw and the Process. The 'B' class was won by Paul Williams who showed superb form on his first visit to the Hunstanton tournament. During the whole week he failed to lose any games, also winning the 'X' handicap, as well as the doubles with his father, John. This pairing was notable for its speed, completing the final in only 1 hour and 10 minutes. Another competitor who had a notable week was Val Tompkinson, winning both the 'Z' and the 'C'

RESULTS

Norfolk Challenge Cup (Advanced Play)

DRAW **1st Round**

J. Carlisle bt P.J. Death +13; M. French bt M.G. Tompkinson +20: K.M.H. Aiton bt Miss D. Cornelius +22(TP): D.G. Palmer bt D. Reeve +7; W.E. Lamb bt D.J. Goacher +11

2nd Round

J. Wood bt Mrs H. Carlisle +7; J. Carlisle bt French +14;,Aiton bt Palmer +26(TP); Lamb bt J. Walters +23

Semi-finals

J. Carlisle bt Wood +9; Aiton bt Lamb +21

Final Aiton bt J. Carlisle +26

PROCESS

1st Round

Reeve bt Mrs Carlisle +19; Walters bt French +9; Death bt Lamb +5; Palmer bt Wood +7: Goacher bt J.

Carlisle +3 2nd Round

Walters bt Reeve +20: Aiton bt Death +12(TPO); Tompkinson bt Palmer +18; Goacher bt Miss Cornelius +14

Semi-finals

Aiton bt Walters +20; Goacher bt Tompkinson +5

Final Aiton bt Goacher +16

Outright winner:

K. Aiton

Play-off for 2nd place J. Carlisle bt D.J. Goacher +2

Hunstanton Bowl (Level Play: 31/2 to 7 bisques)

Semi-finals Thomas bt Miss P. Hampson +2;

DRAW **1st Round**

D. Ruscombe-King bt R. Gosden +11; P.G. Williams bt Dr R.F. Wheeler +15; Mrs D.A. Wheeler bt Mrs J. Neville-Rolfe +4; R. Welch bt D. Cornelius +13; S.G. Cornelius bt

class, whilst the 'Y' was won by Martin French.

On a different note, we recall the boobs of the week. First, the two air shots - one under the watchful eye of a referee and the other after taking a bisque - and then the advanced

conceded a lift. His opponent said 'thank you' and finished! Overall a very enjoyable week was had by

player's cross wire behind 2-back having just

all and we offer many thanks to the small, hard working team at the club.



Paul Williams (right), pictured in 1984 when he competed for the Junior title.

PROCESS J.E. Reeve +7; Mrs P. Hetherington

1st Round Thomas bt Mrs Tompkinson +5; Mrs Gosden bt Hopkins +2(T) Semi-finals

J.G. Williams bt Thomas +14; Mrs Gosden bt Miss P. Hampson +3 Final

Mrs Gosden bt J.G. Williams +6 **Play-Off**

Mrs V. Tompkinson bt Mrs B. Gosden +8

Ingleby Challenge Cup (Handicap Play)

1st Round

M.G. Tompkinson (2) bt D.S. Cornelius (7) +12; R. Welch (4) bt J.E. Reeve (61/2) +13; W.E. Lamb (2) bt J.O. Walters (1/2) wo; J. Carlisle (1/2) bt Mrs P. Hetherington (7) +15; D.J. Goacher (2) bt M. French (11/2) +18: Mrs B. Gosden (8) bt Mrs H. Carlisle (2) +9; Dr R.F. Wheeler (5) bt J.G. Williams (9) +1; Miss P. Hampson (8) bt K. Aiton (-1) wo; Miss S. Hampson (4) bt D. Ruscombe-King (61/2) +3; D. Reeve (3) bt Mrs J. Neville-Rolfe (31/2) +8: S. Cornelius (41/2) bt P. Death (1/2) +26; Mrs D.A. Wheeler (4) bt R. Gosden (4) +8; J. Wood (2) bt D.G. Palmer (1/2) wo; P.G. Williams (31/2) bt J.F.S. Thomas (9) +8: Miss D. Cornelius (3) bt Miss J. Assheton (41/2) +23; Mrs V. Tomkinson (71/2) bt D. Hopkins (16) +5

2nd Round

Welch bt Tompkinson +13; Carlisle bt Lamb +2; Mrs Gosden bt Goacher +17; Miss P. Hampson bt Wheeler +10; D. Reeve bt Miss S. Hampson +20: S. Cornelius bt Mrs. Wheeler +23: P.G. Williams bt Wood +8; Miss Cornelius bt Mrs Tompkinson +15

3rd Round

Carlisle bt Welch +9; Miss P. Hampson bt Mrs Gosden +1; D. Reeve bt S. Cornelius +5; P.G. Williams bt Miss Cornelius +10

Semi-Finals Carlisle bt Miss P. Hampson +3; P.G. Williams bt D. Reeve +5

Final P.G. Williams bt J. Carlisle +25 **Rothwell Casket**

M. French bt W.E. Lamb +25: P. Death bt Miss Assheton +10

bisques or over)

(11) bt Dr & Mrs R.F. Wheeler (9) +13; J.F.S. Thomas & S. Cornelius (14) bt D. Ruscombe-King & J. Wood (81/2) +7; J.E. Reeve & J. Carlisle (7) bt Mrs B. Gosden & P. Death (81/2) +9: R. Gosden & Mrs J. Neville-Rolfe (71/2) bt Mr & Mrs M.G. Tompkinson (10) +3; J. & P. Williams (11½) bt Mrs H. Carlisle & Miss P. Hampson (10) +6

2nd Round

Miss J. Assheton & W.E. Lamb (7) +3(T); Miss S. Hampson & Cornelius bt Thomas S. Cornelius +14; J. Reeve & Carlisle bt Gosden & Mrs Neville-Rolfe +10; J. & P. Williams bt D. Goacher & R. Welch (6)

Semi-Finals

D. Reeve & Mrs Hetherington bt Miss S. Hampson & D. Cornelius +8; J. & P. Williams bt J. Reeve &

Final

J. & P. Williams bt D. Reeve & Mrs Hetherington +16

'Y' Final

King & Wood +13

Back in Time's Deep Shade

By Allen Parker (Parkstone)

I recently browsed through the Gazettes for the year 1909 and was interested to note both the differences and the similarities between the croquet world of vestervear and the croquet world of today. The first thing that strikes the reader of these old Gazettes is their enormous size compared with today's modest efforts. The 1909 edition consists of a great tome of 312 pages with almost as many separately numbered pages of advertisements! It consists of 30 parts published between 6th May 1909 and 14th April 1910. These parts were published weekly in the summer months, each consisting of between 8 and 16 foolscap pages plus almost as many pages of advertisements. Inevitably there were far fewer photographs - only four in 1909, including one of H.H. The Maharajah of Gaekwar playing on his croquet lawn at Baroda.

Probably the second difference that the reader will notice is the large number of advertisements: advertisements for tournaments, advertisements for croquet equipment and advertisements for hotels, which also ran croquet tournaments. For example the Bath Hotel at Felixstowe claimed five full-sized lawns and the Edinburgh Hydropathic advertised 'The Best Croquet Lawns in the Kingdom'. Moreover the croquet clubs (many of which are no longer with us) seemed on the whole to be much better endowed with courts, and were all busy with tournaments - I counted over 80 listed on the first page of the volume. There were in those days about 2000 members of the CA and many of these must have attended a large number of tournaments judging by the number of entries recorded. For example at the two Bournemouth Club tournaments there were over 200 and over 300 entries. (Incidentally the Bournemouth Club used to play at Dean Park before it was disbanded some time ago: a new Bournemouth Club was formed recently and is thriving.) In June of that year the Hurlingham Tournament had a record entry of 36 in the Class A Singles, 72 in the Class B Singles and 136 (Yes, one hundred and thirty six!) in the Handicap Singles as well as 12 pairs of Open

Doubles and 62 pairs of Mixed Handicap Doubles. The meeting was reported as being very successful thanks to the manager who on the draw alone spent 8 hours work.

Tournament Reports

Prominent features of the Gazettes were the reports of tournaments (as they still are), but some of the accounts were really quite long and often included digressions or anecdotes that make amusing reading now. Here are some snippets from several that caught my eye. From the Sidmouth Tournament:

... The plan he adopted of drawing lots for events at the commencement of each day's play (the courts varying considerably in character) appeared to give general satisfaction, and when the referee was seen playing on the worst court, some of the competitors thought that a kind of croquet millenium had arrived. Miss W. Heap, a lady who will not be out of her teens for some time, distinguished herself by winning both the 'B' Singles and the 'B' Handicap. Her accurate hoop running from anywhere from 3 to 5 yards - her usual position

for much of the time an atrocious summer. Here are some examples. From Felixstowe in June: '... The entry was a record in point of numbers for the Spring Tournament, and there was a general consensus of opinion that never had the seven principal courts been in better condition. They certainly reflected the greatest credit on Botwright, the Head Gardener to the 'Felix' Hotel. The two courts extemporised from the Lawn Tennis Club were, well, what such courts are bound to be - and when the cold spell set in towards the middle of the week and the North-easter was blowing, they provided as much fresh air to the square inch as the most voracious appetite for Felixstowe could desire. Indeed, if the learned judge of the High Court, who presided over a certain case in the winter in which Croquet was mentioned, had had the fortune to play on number eight or nine on the Thursday, he would have found it quite unnecessary to have asked the naive question, 'Whether Croquet were a game played in an open space?' For certainly those particular courts were open spaces within the meaning

(Handicap 'Y') Semi-Finals Final French bt Death +9 The Hope Cups

(Handicap Doubles: Total of 6



1st Round

Miss S. Hampson & D. Cornelius

D. Reeve & Mrs Hetherington (10) bt

Carlisle +18

Goacher & Welch bt Ruscombe-

for a hoop - and her delightful innocence or disregard of any tactics other than rolling two balls from any distance to her hoop were refreshing to watch . . . From Newcastle (County Down): '... A rather curious thing happened on Friday afternoon; a player busy with a break looked up and saw a cuckoo sitting on the second hoop, surely a rare occurrence on a croquet court during a game . . . ', followed next week from The Peels by: '... The players were cheered by the songs of the birds and the distant voice of the cuckoo. It is true that we did not notice any cuckoo enjoying the play while conveniently seated on a hoop. Such incidents as these are reserved for Ireland. Yet we occasionally thought we caught a glimpse of one sitting IN a hoop."

It is probably true to say that all accounts of croquet tournaments mention the weather. In 1909 the tournament scribes had much to say on this subject as, by all accounts, it was



Special Feature

Sole Makers: JOHN JAQUES & SON, Ltd., 102 Hatton Garden, London.

The cover of a 1909 Gazette.

of any conceivable Act of Parliament. Apropos of the cold spell it may be mentioned that a witty player on the ground threw off his chest a quite smart, though we imagine a carefully prepared and chestnutty 'impromptu', 'I wish' he said, 'I were the 'Daily Telegraph', because it's got the best circulation in the world, whereas as a matter of fact I'm only a 'Weekly Mail'. Everyone standing round at once took bisques and pegged him out . . . ' And from Lincoln in June: ' . . . There is a story told of a famous wine-taster who made a wager that blind-folded he would name any liquor placed before him, and he did so without hesitation until a glass of water was put in front of him. After several sips, however, he exultantly cried 'By jove, I've got it! It's that stuff you wash in'. Well, it was the 'stuff you wash in' that at Lincoln last week we perpetually lived in from morning till night, every day except Tuesday. We played in it, walked in it, sat down in it, and the referee sometimes even lay down in it. Good fresh water, we understand, costs 3d a gallon in Lincoln, so the expense must have been ruinous, but no-one seemed depressed, and victors and vanguished all seemed to go home pleased, a fact on which Mrs A. King Brook the Hon Sec., may well be congratulated, as her duties were considerably trying at times in a tempest with rain falling at a rate of 10/6d a square yard . . . ' From Horsham in September: '... The fourth annual Croquet Tournament, which was held on the picturesque cricket ground for which Horsham is famous, will always be remembered as having synchronised with the news which startled the world of the discovery of the North Pole, and probably accounted for the polar winds which prevailed all the time . . . ' Finally from Eastbourne in October: '... The fourteenth annual Tournament at Devonshire Park will long be remembered and quoted for the vile weather experienced. The Grand Hotel was crowded with croquet players and their friends, who after a week of hopeless weather - nearly everybody still being left in everything at the end of the week - optimistically staved on, expecting a change for the better; but as the second week proved even worse than the first, if possible, even the most cheerful began to look a trifle sad, and ruefully counted the games they had played in ten days . . . '

Here are some more tournament snippets. First, from the Competition for the Inter-Club Prize: '... The grounds of the Hurlingham Club proved quite ample to enable these matches to be played contemporaneously with the private club tournaments (!) and twelve lawns were available on the first day for the matches in the inter-club competition 'Second, from the Denham Tournament in July: '... In the First Class Opens Mr and Mrs Beaton were drawn in different halves, and subsequently met in the final. It is, perhaps, unfortunate when Mr and Mrs are drawn in different halves, for they have a trick of reaching the final, depriving the event of nearly all its interest. On one remarking to a lady on this difficulty, she replied: 'I would soon settle that question: I should draw them together in the first round and then scratch the winner . . . ' (Mrs Beaton, as Miss Lily Gower, became Lady Champion while in her teens see Gazette No.185, May, 1986.) From the St. Leonards Tournament we have: '... There was a shooting target provided for the use of nonplaying players, but this form of amusement

seems to be somewhat played out, and it was not much patronised . . . ' Again from Southwick in September: ... The tenth annual croquet tournament at Southwick has proved once again the popularity of this meeting. Indeed, it it doubtful whether a larger number of croquet enthusiasts has ever met together at a tournament in the South of England. (186 competitors). A radical change in the usual programme of the Southwick meetings of former years was made in the Doubles, players being divided into three classes, open respectively to an united handicap of 5, 9 and 14 and play being level in each class. The experiment has met with great success, and Handicap Doubles. the terror of all tournament managers, were thus eliminated from the programme . . . '

Correspondence

The correspondence column was a major feature of the Gazette and controversial topics were discussed at length and sometimes with cutting sarcasm, though always most politely. The fact that replies to letters could appear in the following week's issue tended to keep interest from flagging. The laws in those days were still in a state of flux and there were consequently many letters posing questions that had arisen in games, and reading them makes one realise how fortunate we now are to have such a comprehensive law book. I give below a selection of excerpts from letters on various subjects. (Correspondence on controversial subjects would need an article to itself.):

... How long is the Gentlemans' Gold Medal to be so called? Would it not be more in accordance with the facts to call it the 'Open Associates Gold Medal'? As ladies are allowed to masquerade as 'Gentlemen' (and most successfully, all credit to them), is there any logical reason why gentlemen should not be allowed to masquerade as 'Ladies' and play for the Ladies' Gold Medal? In time we might see all of the ladies playing for the Gentlemens' Gold Medal and all of the men playing for the Ladies' Gold Medal, which would be quite in keeping with the spirit of the age . .

. . . The following point has been debated recently in more than one quarter. Blue, by means of a half bisque, enters his hoop from the playing side, remaining, say, three parts of the way through. If left alone, can he run the hoop at his next turn? It has been argued that he would then

be making only one quarter of a point, since the three quarters made by means of the half bisque would not be counted

'... We, the undersigned members of the Croquet Association, desire to call the attention of the Committee to the numerous complaints made by competitors at the Peels Tournament in regard to 'Excelite' balls supplied for use at this meeting. From our personal experience, we believe these complaints to be justified, many of the balls displaying strongly marked bias, as well as considerable variations in elasticity . . .

'... May I make a suggestion which I think may be worth experiment. It is this: that a player should be allowed to retard his opponents's progress by driving or croqueting his ball the reverse way through the hoop or hoops latest in order; such hoops thereupon to be considered not to have been run by the opponent, and the clips to be record, anyhow for a second player. I give you herewith the consecutive shots of my opponent - there was not another shot played by him in between. We started in the usual orthodox way, my opponent got in, and the following are his next strokes: 1st turn: One ball to 4-back. 2nd turn: Other ball to stick. 3rd turn: Finished the game. (Each time leaving me a full

length shot at one ball only). 4th turn: Started new game in the 4th corner.

5th turn: Hit his corner ball and off it made an 'all-round' from my tice (on the 'W' boundary), his own ball to 4-back (my 4th ball not yet being in play).

6th turn: Same as the 2nd turn. 7th turn: Same as the 3rd turn. Each time leaving me only one ball to shoot, at almost the maximum length, which I missed

Of course I know hundreds of players have finished the game in two turns, but to go straight on to another game without any intermediate strokes, struck me as



removed and placed accordingly. It would be a pleasant thing, worth striving after, if in the course of an all-round break, one could not only do some hoops for one's partner but also undo some hoops for one's opponent . . .

Before the introduction of the lifts at 1-back and 4-back it was quite common for an expert to take his first ball round, leaving his opponent wired at hoop 1 with a single ball target in corner 3. This shot was rarely hit and the first player then went out next turn. The following letter records an experience that is not uncommon today with lifts, although perhaps not with fourand-one-half bisquers. 'Dear Sir, I was playing croquet today with another man of my own bisques, i.e., four-and-one-half, on a fullsized lawn, very good but very fast , and I really think the first two games we had constitute a

being pretty warm for a four-anda-half-bisquer. I do not give you the player's name, as I know he is playing in several tournaments shortly, and I do not want to draw vour unwelcome attention to him re bisques, but I have no hesitation in saying

'I was the LOOKER-ON'

... another matter which I have noticed discussed in your columns is the non-shaking of a ball when taking croquet from it. To do away with this trouble would it not be advisable to make it compulsory on the part of the striker to place a coin on top of the ball from which croquet is being taken, and unless the coin fall to the ground, it shall be taken that the ball did not shake. The coin should not be smaller than a two-shilling piece. I have made experiments with a half-acrown and a penny, and find that a very slight shake will dislodge

either; if the objection be taken that such wealth may not be in the possession of either of the players at the time, copper discs could be made larger than halfa-crown, which is an inch and a quarter in diameter (say an inch and five-eighths, and of the same thickness), a very slight tremble of the ball would precipitate the metal to the ground . . .

The following tongue-incheek criticism of the new 1909 front cover seems a little unfair. 'In 'Notes' of the Gazette of May 6th 1909, I read: 'The new design on the cover, in celebration of the completion of the fifth year of the Gazette, will probably not escape notice'. That simple remark doubtless proved correct. For my own part I noticed it with astonishment, and since then with pain, grief and amusement. Even you, Sir, had not a single word of eulogium to bestow upon its birth, and I am not surprised that such was the case. What can be said in favour of the present design? Nothing that I can see, except perhaps that the surface of the field - I cannot write lawn or court - apparently does credit to the groundsman. On the other hand, the picture is ludicrous in every way. That extra-ordinary line of trees in the background was presumably copied from a specimen of what one used to find in a baby's toy box - say, of 'Cherry Tree Farm'. However, there are plenty of them, and I expect that the construction -I use the word advisedly - of trees in luxurious summer foliage was the artist's strong point. Evidently, he did not consider himself good at croquet hoops, for he has not ventured upon a single one, although they are certainly more necessary than trees for the game. Of pegs, he has depicted but one, so the setting cannot be Hale's, the one which is generally used. In the matter of balls, he evidently felt himself quite at home, for he has given us all four; but they do not look very good ones, and the position of the three in the corner, compared with the position of the peg, seems open to question with regard to its correctness. But the young lady, who is apparently attempting to hit the three balls in the corner by aiming very wide of the mark, is not, I think, likely to give an unprejudiced person a favourable impression of the skill required for the game. She looks as favourable as the one who is 'First out and wins all the prizes' in some advertisement; or that other one in a low dress, with bare arms, legs, and feet, and with three balls lying on the train of her classical skirt, who

Special Feature

occupies the frontispiece of a well-known and excellent treatise on the game for which she is so unsuitably attired. But in all seriousness, could we not have a more appropriate design for the coming season? . . . '

The design (see page 7)



The Bedford Croquet Club, where the 1909 Gold Medals were staged in July. In 1907 the two Gold Medals were altered from Open and Women's to Men's and Women's but owing to ambiguity in the wording of the conditions, it appeared that women could still enter for the men's event. This Miss Gower did and won it, a feat that Miss Nina Coote repeated the next year. Women had won the Open Championship and the Men's Gold Medal five times in the last eight years and the men had had enough. In 1909 the committee passed an unequivocal resolution 'that women could not enter for the Men's Gold Medals nor men for the Women's'. (From Col Prichard's 'History of Croquet').

Tournament Reports & Results

Wrest Park: **19-21 September**

Report by Adrian Williams

The landscape gardeners had clearly studied sundials when designing Wrest Park. Dead on noon, all the croquet hoops' shadows pointed straight at the mansion in the brilliant latesummer sunshine. At other times, the line-up for a hoop was somewhat obscured by the dense angled shadows; a minor incon-

venience given the fair weather. The warmth mellowed the competitors in the tournament and the consequent atmosphere was one of relaxation, contrasted by the manager (Barry Keen) urging us to play within time limits. Some card suggested that, for weekends such as this, we should have a non-playing block to allow the ambience to be enjoyed without hindrance.

Wrest Parkers managed to win (and come last in) two of the three blocks (none of them NIAE players). David Warhurst was rewarded for his long journey from Glasgow by winning Block A. Games frequently ran to time, but Tom Anderson exceeded the bounds of decency by playing a 10 hoop break after time was called in a narrowly-failed attempt to snatch victory from Wally Wortley. His late exertions lengthened the game by 33 minutes to a record 3 hours 48 minutes.

Wrest Park's (and the CA's?) highest handicapped referee, Graham Redman, gave a classic demonstration of 'how not to do it' by using 81/2 bisques not to score the first hoop! Barry Keen took enough of a break from urging the other competitors to play faster to complete a triple peel against Alice Dawson. No one won the prize in the 'guess what the Wrest Park Secretary's hat will be tomorrow' contest.

RESULTS

(Handicap Play) Block A 6 wins: D. Warhurst (6) +30, P.

Cordingley (-2) + 35 wins: G.F. Redman (16) 4 wins: M. Gough (14) + 26, C. Ware (8) +14, E. Audsley (11/2) -1, H.E. Bottomley (1/2) -17 2 wins: R. Weaver (41/2) 1 win: J.H.K. Bevington (9)

Block B 7 wins: W. Wortley (18)

6 wins: T.W. Anderson (11/2) +71, J. Rose (-1) +42 5 wins: J.D. Meads (1/2) 4 wins: Dr C.v. Griethuysen (51/2) 3 wins: Miss P.M.H. Lewis (12) 2 wins: R.A. Welch (4) -42, A.G. Williams (9) -53 1 win: R.F. Hall (71/2)

Block C

6 wins: G.K. Collin (31/2) + 56, B.A. Keen (0) +28 5 wins: B. Jones (16) +19, H.C. Green (31/2) +12 4 wins: Ms J.E. Assheton (41/2) +19, Miss A.E. Dawson (11) +2 3 wins: J.A. Wheeler (1/2) 2 wins: Mrs S. Ware (12) 0 wins: A.G. Dumont (7)

1910. It was at the top of the front page of each issue, and was often accompanied by a Jaques' advertisement for 'Glisglos' Compo Croquet Balls at 20/- per set of four! Prices of other equipment are equally startling, e.g. 'Corbally' mallets at 10/6d. How

CROQUETTE The game that brings your croquet lawn indoors.

CROQUETTE is a scaled down version of the lawn game, which can be played by two or four players on a coffee table. The baize covered board which measures 24" × 30" has a mahogany surround and is mounted on a turntable allowing it to be rotated to each player in turn. Miniature brass mallets, hoops, coloured balls and a centre peg are stored within the turntable base.



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News from the South Coast

Southwick: 18-23 August Sexes segregated at Southwick

Report by Edith Tucker

Where in the world would you find 48 competitors playing with a minimum of 9 games each, in the six days? Where? Southwick, of course, with its 11 full size lawns.

This Autumn Tournament, which in years past has always been popular, once again kept to its tradition. Indeed it was a marathon for some. For the Opens, 8 blocks were planned. with four different handicap ranges, from the lowest, who played advanced, to the highest bisquers, who played just 18 points. All blocks did, though, play level.

The handicap events were once again played as separate events for men and women, as in many previous years when men and women played in the same event, the men always seemed to win. The X doubles included nearly all the competitors here, and one stipulation was that the partners had to be a man and a woman.

Many clubs were represented, and players even came

from Jersey, Guernsey and Ireland. All the week there was a constant flow of games, ably managed by Betty Weitz and Patricia Shine

Due to mostly dry weather and no empty lawns, curtain call was at 5pm on Saturday. A most excellent tournament with 160 games played.

RESULTS

Abbey Challenge Cup (Advanced Play) 4 wins: J.S.H. Battison 2 wins: J.H. Haigh (runner-up). B.G.F. Weitz 1 win: W.E. Moore, L. Wharrad Scott Cup (Level Play: lift, no contact) Block A 4 wins: R.A.G. Rogers 2 wins: G.A. Hutcheson, Mrs F. Cox 1 win: D.M. Bull, Mrs E. Weitz Block B 4 wins: Mrs E. Mapletoft 3 wins: Dr S. Sadek 2 wins: Mrs C. Cox 1 win: J.H. Exell 0 wins: Lt Col D.F.T. Brown/ W. Philp



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Play-Off: Rogers bt Mrs Mapletoft +23**Daldy** Cup (Level Play: 22pts) Block A 4 wins: Miss R. Gugan 3 wins: D. Ruscombe-King 1 win: Mrs E. Staddon, Miss P. Shine, Mrs M. Wharrad Block B 4 wins: D.W. Trotman 3 wins: Mrs E. Ross 2 wins: Mrs F.F. Grant 1 win: F.A. Beard 0 wins: Mrs E. Lewis Play-Off: Trotman bt Mrs Gugan +5

Monteith Bowl (Level Play: 18pts) Block A 4 wins: Dr D. Gugan 3 wins: A.J. Oldham 2 wins: P.J. Mansfield 1 win: Miss J. Lovevs 0 wins: Mrs A. Millns Block B 4 wins: P.A. Archer 3 wins: R.C. Sowerby 2 wins: J.E. Swabey/Mrs S. French 1 win: H. Catten **0 wins:** G. Pearce Play-Off: Dr Gugan bt Archer +11

'E' Class Event

(Level Play: 14pts) 4 wins: Miss S. Rankin (winner), Miss B. Pearman 3 wins: R. Jackman

2 wins: Mrs G. Wiggins 1 win: Mrs D. Catten, Miss D. Harding

Douglas Jones Cup

(Men's Handicap Singles) **1st Round:**

D.W. Trotman (8) bt L. Wharrad (1) +12; P.A. Archer (12) bt G.F. Paxon (7) +13; Dr D. Gugan (9) bt D.M. Bull (4) +14

2nd Round:

N.W.T. Cox (4) bt F.J. Exell (51/2) +6; R.A.G. Rogers (41/2) bt P.J. Mansfield (10) +18; R.C. Sowerby (12) bt G.A. Hutcheson (4) +13; Archer bt Trotman +9; Gugan bt Dr S. Sadek (5) +7; J.H. Haigh (4) bt

Southwick: 12-14 September

RESULTS Block A

5 wins: A.J. Mrozinski (winner), R.A.G. Rogers (runner-up) 4 wins: D.H. Moorcraft 3 wins: Mrs E.A. Mapletoft 2 wins: Dr D. Higgs, F.A. Beard 0 wins: Miss D. Harding **Block B** 5 wins: Miss S. Rankin 4 wins: Gp Capt R.S. Ryan wins: D.C. Caporn, Mrs I Moorcraft, L. Wharrad 2 wins: D.M. Bull 1 win: G.A. Hutcheson Block C 6 wins: G. Vince 5 wins: Dr B.G.F. Weitz 4 wins: F. Reynold 3 wins: D.W. Shaw 2 wins: Mrs S. French 1 win: A. Thomas 0 wins: Miss P. Shine

F.A. Beard (8) +22; Dr B.G.F. Weitz (1/2) bt D.R.T. Ruscombe-King (61/2) +13; J.E. Swabey (13) bt A.J. Oldham (9) +14 **3rd Round:** Rogers bt Cox +17; Sowerby bt Archer +2; Gugan bt Haigh +10; Weitz bt Swabev +17 Semi-Finals: Sowerby bt Rogers +13; Weitz bt

Gugan +1 Final: Sowerby bt Weitz +13 **The Sussex Vase** (Women's Handicap Singles) 1st Round Miss J. Loveys (11) bt Mrs E. Ross (8) +8; Mrs E. Cox (41/2) bt Miss D. Harding (14) +12; Mrs R. Gugan (8)

bt Mrs M. Wharrad +19: Miss S. Rankin (15) bt Mrs E.A. Manletoft (51/2) +5: Mrs E. Weitz (4) bt Mrs K.B. Irwin (9) wo; Mrs A. Millns (9) bt Mrs N. Clapperton (11) +7; Mrs E.F. Grant (9) bt Mrs E. Lewis (8) +16

2nd Round:

Mrs Cox bt Miss Loveys +2; Mrs Gugan bt Miss Rankin +10: Mrs Weitz bt Mrs Millns +13; Mrs Grant bt Miss P. Shine (7) +21

Semi-Finals:

Mrs Gugan bt Mrs Cox +23; Mrs Weitz bt Mrs Grant +10 Final:

Mrs Gugan bt Mrs Weitz +10

The Howard Austin Cups (Mixed Handicap Doubles: 22pts) **3rd Round:**

N.W.T. Cox & Mrs Ross (12) bt Mrs French & R. Smith (181/2) +10; Mrs E. Cox & F. Beard (121/2) bt A.J. Oldham & Mrs Wiggins (23) +7; Mrs Weitz & R. Sowerby (16) bt Mrs Staddon & F.J. Exell (121/2) +14; Dr & Mrs Gugan (19) bt Miss Shine & B.G.F. Weitz (71/2) +11

Semi-Finals:

Cox & Mrs Ross bt Mrs Cox & Beard +10: Dr & Mrs Gugan bt Mrs Weitz & Sowerby +10 Final: Dr & Mrs Gugan bt Cox & Mrs Ross

+22



Tony Mrozinski, who won the Block Play-Off.

Block D 6 wins: D.C.D. Wiggins 5 wins: J.S.H. Battison 4 wins: J. Haigh 3 wins: J.H. Exell 1 win: Mrs E. Ross, Mrs M. Wharrad, Miss M.J. Lovevs **Block Play-Off** Semi-Finals Mrozinski bt Wiggins +7 Vince bt Miss Rankin +16 Final Mrozinski bt Vince +24

Parkstone: 25-30 August **A Dark Horse at Parkstone**

Report by Paul Dwerryhouse.

Some years ago, the Government of the day decided that Britain should have a Bank Holiday on the last Monday in August, instead of the first. One of the reasons for the change was that there was more chance of better weather at the end of the month. Little did they know how wrong they could be.

As the contestants for the **Parkstone August Tournament** assembled for the first playing session of the week, storm clouds were already threatening. When play commenced at the scheduled time, rain was falling in a steady downpour. By 12 noon there were 24 very wet croquet players moving around like mobile statues from a Roman water garden. By 3 o'clock many of the sme dripping robots were having to endure a visit from what the weather experts referred to as the tail end of Hurricane Charlie.

I have never been able to understand why impending disasters like hurricanes and cyclones are given such frivolous names as Charlie and Cleopatra. In this particular instance, of course, the tail end of the hurricane made us all look 'right Charlies'!

RESULTS

Bournemouth Bowl & Ashton Trophy (Advanced Play) Block 1 3 wins: T.I. Wood (+48), R.F. Bailey (+47) 2 wins: F.L. Shergold 1 win: Dr W.R.D. Wiggins, J.H.J. Soutter wins: D.C.D. Wiggins (Scratched) Block 2 4 wins: Mrs W.R.D. Wiggins (+55), D.H. Moorcraft (+42) 3 wins: L.S. Butler, Dr C.A. Parker 1 win: Mrs E. Asa-Thomas 0 wins: R.H.C. Carder Play-Off: T.I. Wood bt Mrs W.R.D. Wiggins +4 **Deshon** Cup (Semi-Advanced Play: 4-8 bisques) Block 1 4 wins: P.A. Dwerryhouse 2 wins: Mrs B.R. Saunders, Air Cdre J.H. Greswell, Mrs T. Vale 0 wins: W.A. Scarr Block 2 5 wins: J.C.P. Eden 4 wins: Mrs K.G. Yeoman 3 wins: Rev S.M. Scarr win: Major T. Vale, Mrs P.A. Dwerryhouse, Miss P.E. Parker 0 wins: P. Bishop (scratched) Play-Off: J.C.P. Eden bt P.A. Dwerryhouse +17

In spite of climatic violence on several days, the welcome extended to all contestants by the Management and Officers of the Club contained the same warmth and friendliness for which Parkstone is renowned. Catering was of the highest standard, offering a selection of sweets that would do justice to the sweet trolley of a five star hotel.

So much for the general situation; what of the competitors and standard of play? It has been my experience in

many open tournaments that a 'dark horse' always appears from somewhere. In this event, the horse was cast in the human form of Jules Eden, trained in the Parsons Green 'stable'. He appeared with a handicap of 9. played the tournament handicapper in his first match of the Open handicap, winning the game by 26. Now, no one can do this to the official handicapper and expect to get away with it; so he was promptly reduced to 6. From this level, he proceeded to casually brush aside all opposition to win both the Open Handicap and the B Level Singles. Part of his reward for this outstanding performance

was a further reduction of his

Halse Salver (Handicap Singles: 9 bisques or over) Block 1 3 wins: Mrs M.E. Rumsey (14) +23, D.M. Wood (15) +20, Mrs C.A. Parker (11) +8 1 win: J.O. Mays (9) 0 wins: Dr C.W. Marshall (11) Block 2 3 wins: Mrs D.H. Moorcraft (11) 2 wins: Mrs C.W. Marshall (10), Mrs E.B. Wilton (12), Mrs S.S. Cruden (10) 1 win: Miss J. Wraith (15) Play-Off: Mrs M.E. Rumsey bt Mrs D.H. Moorcraft +1(T) **Bishop Cup** (Handicap Singles 'X') 1st Round: T.I. Wood (0) bt Mrs M.E. Rumsey (14) +11; Dr C.A. Parker (21/2) bt Mrs C.W. Marshall (10) +15: F.L. Shergold (1/2) bt Mrs K.G. Yeoman (51/2) +1(T); Mrs T. Vale (61/2) bt Miss J. Wraith (15) +2; J.H.J. Soutter (21/2) bt Mrs C.A. Parker (11) +9; Mrs E.B. Wilton (12) bt Mrs P.A. Dwerryhouse (61/2) +1(T): R.F. Bailey (1) bt Rev S.M. Scarr (5) +22; Mrs S.S. Cruden (10) bt Miss P.E. Parker (4) + 2(T); D. Charsley-Thomas (3) bt D.C.D. Wiggins (2) (wo); J.C.P. Eden (6) bt L.S. Butler (1) +25: Mrs E. Asa-Thomas (3) bt

News from the South Coast

Dr W.R.D. Wiggins (0) +10; Mrs B.R. Saunders (7) bt D.H. Moorcraft handicap to 4.

Everyone else performed in accordance with their expected standards, providing a number of close finishes in both singles and doubles. The tournament produced a number of promising high bisquers, who I am sure will be appearing in B class events in the 1987 fixtures.

It is with deep regret that I have to end this report on a sombre note. Alice Ryan, who was in attendance early on Monday morning to mastermind the catering arrangements for the week was taken ill during the morning. After receiving medical attention at the Club, she was taken by ambulance to hospital where she was admitted to the intensive care unit. On Tuesday morning, everyone was deeply shocked to learn that she had died.

Alice had been a devoted and valuable member of the Club for many years, always friendly, always ready to take her share of the day to day activities. I am sure that I speak for everyone when I say that her presence will be greatly missed. both on the lawns and in the general administration of the Parkstone Club.

(0) +26; Mrs W.R.D. Wiggins (-1/2) bt P.A. Dwerryhouse $(6^{1/2}) + 6$; Major T. Vale (4) ht R.H.C. Carder (31/2) +7; W.A. Scarr (7) bt P. Bishop (51/2) (wo); D.M. Wood (15) bt Air Cdre J.H. Greswell (4) +4 2nd Round: T. Wood bt Dr Parker + 20; Mrs Vale

bt Shergold +21; Soutter bt Mrs Wilton +17: Bailey bt Mrs Cruden +20; Eden bt Charsley-Thomas +24; Mrs Asa-Thomas bt Mrs Saunders +11; Mrs Wiggins bt Vale +9; D.M. Wood bt W.A. Scarr +21 **3rd Round:** T. Wood bt Mrs Vale +3: Bailey bt

Soutter +14: Eden bt Mrs Asa-Thomas +26; D.M. Wood bt Mrs Wiggins (wo) Semi-Finals: Bailey bt T. Wood +15; Eden bt D.M. Wood +11 Final: Eden bt Bailey +24 Handicap 'Y' Semi-Finals Rev S.M. Scarr bt Mrs Yeoman +11; D.H. Moorcraft bt P.A. Dwerryhouse +7 Final: Rev Scarr bt Moorcraft +5 **Handicap** Doubles (Total 4 bisques & over) 1st Round: W.A. & Rev S.M. Scarr (12) bt Major T. Vale & J.C.P. Eden (10) +7: P.A. Dwerryhouse & Mrs M.E. Rumsey



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Terry Wood, winner of the Bournemouth Bowl.

(201/2) bt Mrs C.W. Marshall & Mrs S.S. Cruden (19) +13; Dr & Mrs C.A. Parker (131/2) bt R.I. Bailey & Miss P.E. Parker (5) +4(T): T.I. & D.M. Wood (10) bt L.S. Butler & Dr C.W. Marshall (12) +14; Mrs W.R.D. Wiggins & Mrs T. Vale (6) bt R.H.C. Carder & Mrs B.R. Saunders (10;) +4(T); F.L. Shergold & Mrs K.G. Yeoman (6) bt Mrs P.A. Dwerryhouse & Mrs E.B. Wilton (181/2) +12; Mr & Mrs D.H. Moorcraft (10) bt J.O. Mays & Miss J. Wraith (22) +9; J.H.J. Soutter & Mrs E. Asa-Thomas (51/2) bt Air Cdre J.H. Greswell & partner

2nd Round:

W.A. & Rev Scarr bt Dwerryhouse & Mrs Rumsey +2; Dr & Mrs Parker bt T.I. & D.M. Wood +13; Mrs Wiggins & Mrs Vale bt Shergold & Mrs Yeoman +1(T);Mr & Mrs Moorcraft bt Soutter & Mrs Asa-Thomas +4(T)

Semi-Finals:

Dr & Mrs Parker bt W.A. & Rev Scarr +16(T); Mr & Mrs Moorcraft bt Mrs Wiggins & Mrs Vale +2(T) Final:

Mr & Mrs Moorcraft bt Dr & Mrs Parker +5

Invitation Events (1)

Southport: 14-19 September THE LADIES' FIELD CUP A well-deserved victory for Debbie Cornelius

Report by Tim Haste

Southport welcomed this first venture of the Ladies' Field to the North-West of England with a week of fine, sunny weather which was much appreciated by all those who were there. The entry included one previous winner, Pat Hague, and a newcomer to the Ladies Invitation Events, Debbie Cornelius, fresh from a successful appearance in the previous Open weekend.

Debbie soon made an early impression with a brisk win over Bo Harris in the first round. In the second, a close match between Debbie and Pat Hague resulted in the latter winning by +5 after some tense moments in the final stages, not a few caused by the manager's tight hoops! On the second morning, Pat gained a quick win over Dabs Wheeler, following a fine fourth turn break to 4-back.

By the end of the third day, Debbie had moved into a narrow one-game lead following close wins over Pat Asa-Thomas (+3) and Bo Harris (+1), who had played well to share second place with Pat Hague at the end of the first series. Debbie's game against Pat Asa-Thomas saw an exciting three-ball ending after Debbie had picked up a long break to peg out her opponent's rover ball. Pat was unable to make penultimate following a fine 40 yard hit-in, and Debbie was

eventually able to conclude the game from her position at 3-back.

The decisive match between Pat Hague and Debbie on the following morning saw the latter reverse the result in the first round, after both players had missed early opportunities. By the end of the day, Debbie had established an unbeatable lead with an eighth round win over Jane Neville-Rolfe.

On the following day, Pat Hague eliminated the prospect of a three-way tie for runner-up position by beating Pat Asa-Thomas +3 and Bo Harris +7, thus taking a hard-fought second place. Bo was unlucky in the second series to lose a number of close games. Dabs Wheeler recovered well in the closing stages with some tenacious croquet to take third place. In the end, Debbie's enterprising break play and accurate long hitting coupled with a fluent style led to a well-deserved victory for an improving young player.

The management of this event was greatly aided by the unfailing punctuality of the ladies and their willingness to play at all times, and all present appreciated the excellent catering by Carol Lewis and her industrious team. The Club enjoyed hosting this Ladies event, and we hope to see them again.



The six ladies who played in this year's Ladies' Field Cup. L to R: Pat Asa-Thomas, Jane Neville-Rolfe, Bo Harris, Dabs Wheeler, Debbie Cornelius, and Pat Hague.

				EA-T			G			
Ladies' Field Cup 1986	DC	WH	REW		GDH	JNR	1st Series	2nd Series	Total	Final Order
Miss D. Cornelius		-5 +16	+26 +9	+3 +24	+16 +1	+7 +12	4	5	9	1
Mrs W. Hague	+5 -16	1	+21 -4	-12 +3	-5 +7	+8 +16	3	3	6	2
Mrs RF Wheeler	- 26 - 9	-21 +4		-11 +4	+9 +9	-7 +5	1	4	5	3
Mrs E Asa-Thomas	-3 -24	+12 -3	+11 -4		-9 +2	+16 -8	3	1	4	4
Mrs GD Harris	-16 -1	+5 -7	-9 -9	+9 -2		+14 -2	3	0	3	=5
Mrs J Neville-Rolfe	-7 -12	-8 -16	+7 -5	-16 +8	-14 +2		1	2	3	=5



Debbie Cornelius receives the Ladies' Field Cup from Ena Hawkins, President of the Southport Club.

Nottingham: **15-19 September The Longman Bowl** Report by Keith Aiton

It was with some trepidation that I agreed to act as Tournament Referee for this event, thereby consigning myself to a week of spectating at what is not, let's face it, the premier festival of first class croquet. I should, therefore, say at the outset that I had a most enjoyable week.

When I arrived on Monday morning, I found that the ladies had cunningly started twenty minutes early, thereby avoiding having the hoops adjusted to a less accommodating width. Mrs Ransom made a fast start and had a comfortable win over Mrs Handley who never seemed to recover from this defeat on her first excursion away from Cheltenham. Meanwhile Mrs Anderson was showing no signs of dominating the event, scraping through against Mrs Irwin because the latter missed two short rushes when for 3-back and peg against rover alone.

The critical game came in round three when Mrs Anderson beat Mrs Ransom in a long game that saw all four clips on the peg. Mrs Ransom had just run rover and rejected a hampered return roquet in favour of trickling back to partner. Unfortunately she left a double and Mrs Anderson hit in to win by two. Mrs Ransom's game in the next round was pegged-down and when she later had another game pegged-down and then lost to Mrs Anderson in the second series, it became clear that the latter was not going to be caught.

Mrs Browne, a past winner, figured prominently but suffered from a common complaint - an inability to beat Mrs Anderson. Mrs Macdonald seems to handicap herself by only playing two types of croquet shot, the take-off and the straightroll. She would surely do better if she tried some split shots at hoops. Mrs Irwin probably played the best croquet of anyone but destroyed her chances of winning by missing too many short roquets and easy hoops.

Thanks are due to the Nottingham club for providing three excellent lawns, to Steve Thomas who managed to finish the event in the time allowed, and on a personal note, to the ladies themselves for taking us out to dinner at the exotic Baltimore Diner - a must for future visitors to Nottingham.

			WJB		ІРММ		G			
Ladies' Longman Bowl 1986	TWA	RWR		СЛ		HGH	1st Series	2nd Series	Total	Final Order
Mrs TW Anderson		+2 +11	+20 +25	+6 +13	+5 +11	+21 +19	5	5	10	1
Mrs RW Ransom	-2 -11		+5 +10	+15 -13	-2 +6	+21 +22	3	3	6	2
Mrs WJ Browne	- 20 - 25	-5 -10		+12 +10	+4 -11	+17 +14	3	2	5	=3
Mrs CJ Irwin	-6 -13	-15 +13	-12 -10		+20 +7	+8 +15	2	3	5	=3
Mrs IPM MacDonald	-5 -11	+2 -6	-4 +11	-20 -7		+20 +21	2	2	4	5
Mrs HG Handley	- 21 - 19	-21 -22	-17 -14	-8 -15	-20 -21		0	0	0	6

Nottingham: 15-19 September THE LONGMAN BOWL **Judy Anderson wins all her games**

Report by Chris Irwin

Monday morning dawned bright and fair as we assembled at Nottingham Croquet Club. With old friendships renewed and new introductions made, battle commenced under the watchful eyes of Manager Steve Thomas and newly qualified referee Keith Aiton.

The early games were not spectacular as all competitors fought against nerves and apprehension to master the pace of the lawns which were faster than anyone had expected. Keith soon got into his stride as tournament referee watching 5 hampered shots in the game between Judy Anderson and Chris Irwin, although no other game seemed to require his services. At the end of the first day, Frances Ransome was looking very strong, having played some of the best breaks of the day, with Judy Anderson and Wynifred Browne also unbeaten.

On Tuesday, Frances and Judy fought a long hard battle which Judy eventually won by 2. In the afternoon, Frances's game against Pat Macdonald proved to be another marathon and had to be pegged down in the evening. Judy beat Wynifred to become the clear leader at this stage of the event.

Disasters come in threes and so they did at Nottingham, though thankfully not on the lawns. On Tuesday the attentions of the manager and referee were outside the club grounds where a cyclist and a pedestrian had collided, and Keith proved as adept with a first aid kit as he was with replacing balls. That night, the clubhouse was broken into and to the dismay of one

certain player, the supply of whisky was stolen. Next day, Steve came to the rescue with fresh supplies but at lunchtime redecorated the wall and noticeboard with a spray of Guinness from a rather lively can.

These diversions aside, play continued. Frances staged another marathon, this time against Wynifred which again had to be pegged down and Steve was starting to worry about finishing the tournament by Friday. At the halfway stage, Judy was still unbeaten.

As the week progressed, Judy's play improved with every game and she justifiably took the Longman Bowl with 10 straight wins. Frances's two pegged-down games were eventually completed on the Friday and after losing to Pat by 2, Frances's game against Wynifred became the play-off for second place. As dusk was falling, the Park Keeper was induced with offers of whisky to delay locking the park gates for a few more minutes. The eventual winner of the game was Frances who so took second place and the tournament was completed.

Our congratulations to Judy and our thanks to Nottingham Croquet Club for providing some of the best lawns I have ever played on with well set hoops, and for looking after and feeding us so well. Finally, thanks to Steve (yes, your lawns are good enough for a Test Match in 12 years time) and to Keith (next time you have the balls back, I hope that it's not my shot that you have just refereed).

Invitation Events (2)

Below: Players in this year's Longman Bowl. L to R: Pat Macdonald, Heather Handley, Wynifred Browne, Judy Anderson, Frances Ransom and Chris Irwin.



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The Croquet Grading System Explained

by Stephen Mulliner

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1. The Croquet Grading System ('CGS') was originated in 1978 and underwent substantial development until 1981. It has been run on a consistent basis since and produces a ranking list which is published regularly in 'Croquet'. Although articles explaining the CGS have appeared before. they deal with the system before it reached its present form. In view of the steadily increasing interest in the CGS, it is now appropriate to describe the current system to answer questions and stimulate comment and constructive criticism.

2. The CGS records and evaluates about 2400 level games per season played by over 250 players (including a number of overseas players this year). The basic item of data is a competitive level game played in a calendar event, club championship, invitation event, or some other formal competitive situation. A best-ofthree match is treated as either two or three separate games. In practice all games used have

been played under Law 36 but this is not mandatory. Handicap games are obviously irrelevant. 3. The CGS operates as follows. At the start of each season every player in the system is allotted a number (the 'index') which is altered after every relevant game he or she plays. The index is a measure of relative playing success and can range in practice from about 50 for the least successful players up to over 180 for the most successful. A player who was graded in the previous season will receive an initial index equal to his latest grade (see below). A new player will be allocated an index by reference to his handicap or by comparison to other graded players of similar standard.

4. A player's index rises after a win and falls after a loss. The amount (the 'increment' or INC) depends on how the winner's index before the game compared to the loser's index. INC is the same for both winner and loser and cannot exceed 5 in a single game. If A and B had the

same index before the game, INC will be 2.5. Thus, if A beats B, A's index, I(A), will rise by 2.5 and B's index, I(B), will fall by 2.5. If I(A) was 50 greater than I(B), INC would only be 0.45. If I(A) was 50 less than I(B), INC would be 4.55. This is logical because a probable result (A wins when I(A) is greater than I(B)) is less significant and should have less effect on the indices than an improbable result (A wins when I(A) is less than I(B)).

For the mathematical, INC is defined as 5/(1+X) where X=10 raised to the power of (I(W)-I(L))/50 and I(W) and I(L) are the indices of the winner and loser respectively. A player's index will rise and fall ingly, at any grading point (typically the end of July and the end of the season), a ranking list is compiled by averaging the last 20 indices achieved by each player (subject to paragraph 6 below) to produce a new number (the 'grade' or 'rating').

When grades 6. are calculated, the CGS checks that each player's latest index is reasonably close to his grade. A large difference would indicate that a trend has developed within the last 20 games which should be recognised by using a shorter base for the average. The CGS calculates the standard deviation ('SD') of the difference between latest indices and grades for the whole population. If a player's index is



Pictured at Ickworth Park, the winners of the Moet & Chandon Croquet Challenge: John Hobbs & John Farley of Newport (Essex) Croquet Club, with L to R: Simon Redman, Managing Director, Greene King & Sons plc, Lord Marchwood, who presented the prizes. Marcus Westerby, Marketing Director, Moet & Chandon, and Simon Jamieson, Greene King Marketing Manager. The series of 5 matches played throughout the summer was sponsored and promoted by Greene King, Moet & Chandon, and the National Trust, in collaboration with the East Anglian Croquet Federation.

during the season as he wins and loses games. The definition of INC ensures that simply winning many games against weak opposition is not an easy path to a high index. The highest indices are achieved by the most successful players, those who win a high proportion of all their games, including those against their peers, and lose few games to those ranked below them.

5. The index is necessarily a sensitive number so that it can rapidly track the significant changes in form that are frequently experienced by croquet players. This property makes it unsuitable for compiling a ranking list directly. Accord-

more than 2 SD away from his grade (which occurs in fewer than 5% of cases), his grade is recalculated using the last 10 indices achieved. If the index is more than 3 SD away (less than 1% of cases), the grade is recalculated using the last 5 games. It should be stressed that for almost all active players the grades are based on the last 20 indices achieved.

It is sometimes asked if indices are altered arbitrarily to suit my view of where a player should be in the rankings. The answer is an emphatic 'no' in respect of all active and established players. Once a player is in the system and plays 20 or more relevant games per

Computer Grading System season, his initial index every year always equals the grade he

achieved at the end of the previous season. For such players, almost all of the top 50, the system operates entirely automatically and without subjective interference. New players are allotted handicapbased indices which may be revised if their subsequent performance requires it. Overseas players are allotted indices initially by comparison with home players of similar standard and these may also be adjusted in the light of experience. Infrequent players who have had grades in the past may also be given an arbitrary index if their current form requires it. The principle at work is that no-one should be prejudiced by a wildly inaccurate opponent's index.

8. The CGS classifies events into three classes. Most events are Class 2 and INC is defined as in paragraph 5. Internationals, the two major championships and the President's Cup are Class 1 events and INC is calculated using a class factor of 6 instead of 5. Certain comparatively weak events and all weekend consolation events are Class 3 and have a class factor of 4.

9. How does the system handle 'dead' matches or players who are fooling about? Put briefly, it ignores such considerations and treats every game as being played to win. This is justified on three grounds. First, active players who play a reasonably large number of games can expect the law of averages to work. They will benefit as much as they suffer and so the net effect will be ignorable. Second, many players do play every competitive game reasonably seriously and should not be prejudiced. Third, if a player makes a habit of frivolity in play this is likely to be a material factor in his overall success rate and should be reflected in his ranking.

10. What significance do differences in grade or index have? All ranking systems have an historical and a predictive role. In its historical role, if A ends a season with a grade of 110 and B with a grade of 105. the system permits A to claim validly to have been more successful than B under the system rules, albeit by a small amount. Whether A is 'better' or 'stronger' than B is not a question that the CGS addresses. A is simply entitled to appear higher up that particular ranking list and it is

up to A, B and the rest of the world to draw what conclusions they will. If that higher grade enables A to enter a tournament next season from which B is excluded because his grade is not high enough, then at least a comparatively objective reason can be found which may be more satisfying than a handicap difference of half a bisque which B may reasonably claim is largely subjective and, indeed, erroneous.

11. The CGS is a development of the Elo Rating System familiar to chess players and as such is a probability-based system. The theoretical probability of A beating B can thus be calculated using their indices. An index difference of 15 suggests odds in favour of the higher-indexed player of about 2:1, which is equivalent to winning a best-of-three in three games. However, the theoretical odds are only likely to be borne out if a reasonable sample of games exists and have less relevance to any individual game. 12. No numerical ranking system has achieved perfection and the CGS certainly makes no claim to have done so. Although it has respectable origins as a child of the Elo System, the only worthwhile test is whether its principles are relevant and consistent and the rankings it produces are in accordance with general experience. So far as the top 30 or 40 players are concerned, this seems to be the case and it is accepted that the system's great advantage is its comparative objectivity. The CGS 'sees' every game a player plays in a way that no human judge can today. For those further down the scale the point is often made that they play too

little for the CGS to work effectively. This certainly used to be the case, although in 1986 over 100 home players played at least 10 relevant games (enough to be graded) and over 50 home players played at least 30 relevant games.

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1987 CALENDAR FIXTURES

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

t	Fixtur	e Book in February.		
5	April		Augus	
5	10-12	Ryde W/end	1-2	Harrow W/end 5*
۱ I	17-19	Cheltenham Weekend A	1-2	East Riding W/end 2*
1	17-20 18-20	Roehampton W/end 1 Southwick W/end 1*	1-8 3-8	Hurlingham Irish Championships
2	23-26	Woking W/end 1	3- 0	(Carrickmines)
	23-26	Roehampton W/end 2	7-9	Colchester W/end 3
1	25-26	Southport W/end 1*	7-9	Southport W/end 3
5	May		8-9	Himley Hall W/end 2§
,	1-4	Southwick W/end 2	8-9	Compton W/end 3*
	2-4	Hurlingham W/end 1*	10-16	Compton
.	2-4	Cheltenham W/end B	10-15	Nottingham
t	2-4	Hunstanton W/end 1*	15-16	Roehampton W/end 2*
1	8-10	Bowdon W/end	22-23	Guildford & Godalming
5	8-10	Compton W/end 1	00.01	W/end 1*
1	9-10	Colchester W/end 1*	22-31	Northern Championships
-	11-16 15-17	Budleigh Salterton 1 Wrest Park W/end 1	17-22	(Bowdon) Edinburgh
2	16-17	Southwick W/end 3§	17-22	Southwick 2
.	16-17	Bristol W/end 1*	29-31	Cheltenham W/end C
	16-17	Harrow W/end 1*	29-31	Hurlingham W/end 2
2	17-25	Western Championships	31- 5	Hunstanton
t		(Cheltenham)	31- 5	Parkstone 2
	23-25	Colchester W/end 2	Septe	
	23-26	Southport W/end 2	5-9	Cheltenham 3
2	28-31	Inter-Counties	5	Final: Short Croquet Team
•	00.01	(Southwick) (S)		Championship§
2	29-31	Nottingham W/end 1	5-6	All-England Handicap
2	June	Destates a 1	7.1.1	Area Finals
5	1- 6 1- 6	Parkstone 1 Carrickmines	7-11	Chairman's Salver (Nottingham)
1	1- 6	Roehampton	7-11	Spencer Ell Cup (Bowdon)
	4-7	Cheltenham 1	8-12	President's Cup
.	6-7	Home Internationals	0-12	(Hurlingham) (S)
3	0.1	(Budleigh)	11-13	Selector's Weekend (Harrow)
1	6-7	Ipswich W/end 1*	11-13	Southwick W/end 4
	6-7	Surbiton W/end 1*	11-13	Ryde W/end 2
1	8-13	Ryde	11-13	Nottingham W/end 3
1	12-14	Compton W/end 2	12-13	CA v. Irish CA (Southport)
1	12-14	Hunstanton W/end 2	14-18	Ladies Field Cup (Southport)
5		(Over 50's)	14-18	Longman Bowl
1	13	1st Round: Short Croquet	18-20	Budleigh Salterton W/end
t		Team Championship§	18-20	Cheltenham W/end D
2	13-14	Harrow W/end 2	18-20	Nottingham W/end 3
r	13-14 14-20	Surbiton W/end 1*	18-20	Peel Memorial W/end
	14-20	Mens & Womens Championships	19	(Wrest Park) Regional Short Croquet
2		(Cheltenham)	19	Tournament (Bowdon)§
2	15-20	Veterans Championships	19-20	Guildford & Godalming
2		(Southwick)		W/end 2
S	15-21	Durham University	19-20	Southport W/end 4*
5	20-21	Golf Croquet Cups (Phyllis	19-27	South of England Champion
r		Court)		ships (Compton)
1	19-21	Edgbaston W/end 1*	19	Mary Rose Final
2	20-21	Crawley W/end	20	Inter-Club Final
t	22-26	University Champiodships	20	Longman Cup Final
,	06.00	(Himley Hall)	26	Regional Short Croquet
	26-28 27-28	Nottingham W/end 2*	26-27	Tournament (Nottingham)§
i	27-28	Scottish CA v. CA Bristol W/end 2	20-21	All-England Final (Colchester)
5	26- 5	Woking	26-27	Southport W/end 4*
	29- 4	Budleigh Salterton 2	26-27	Woking W/end 2§
t	July		Octob	
	3-5	Wrest Park W/end 2*	2-4	Cheltenham W/end 5
	3-5	Oxford University W/end*	2	Final: National Short
	4-5	Himley Hall W/end 1*		Croquet Competition§
	6-11	Colchester		
	6-11	Southwick 1	* Con	ntain events other than
11	8	Final: The Royal Bank		ndicap blocks
		National Schools		ort Croquet tournaments
	11-12	Championships	S Spo	onsored Event
	11-12	Junior Championships (Edgbaston)	Spor	sors
	11-12	East Riding W/end 1		
	11-12	British Open		e grateful to the following
		Championships		isations who have already
		(Hurlingham)		d their intention to sponsor
	17-19	Edgbaston W/end 2		in 1987:
	20-25	Cheltenham 2		bay Gin, who are sponsor-
	25	2nd Round Short Croquet		e President's Cup. The
		Team Championship§		Bank of Scotland, who
	25-26	Harrow W/end 3*		ponsoring the National
	25-26	Surbiton W/end 2		ls Championship. Anchor
	31- 2	Leeds Castle W/end§	Food	s, who are sponsoring the
	31- 2	Ipswich W/end		Counties Championship.

1987 Fixtures

Invitation Events (3)

THE PRESIDENT'S CUP **Sponsored by Bombay Gin**

	-		кмна	JRMcC	PC		DRF		G	ames Wo	on	Final Order
President's Cup 1986	SNM	GNA				JEG		JOW	1st Series	2nd Series	Total	
SN Mulliner		-10 -17	+26TP -17TP	+14 +26	+17 +26	+20TP +4	+17 -1	+16 +22TP	6	4	10	1
GN Aspinall	+ 10 + 17		-5 +13TPL	+25TP -13	-13 +3	+26 -4	+23TP -26	+15 +26TP	5	4	9	2
KMH Aiton	- 26TP + 17TP			+5TP -20	+26TP -26	-13TPL +25TP		+17TP +18	5	3	8	= 3
JR McCullough	-14 -26	-25TP +13	-5TP +20		+17 -23	-10 +7	+23 +11	+24 +14	3	5	8	=3
P Cordingley	-17 -26	+13 -3	-26TP +26	-17 +23	1482	+6 +13TP	-4 +7TP	-15 +24	2	5	7	5
JE Guest	- 20TP - 4	-26 +4	+ 13TPL - 25TP	+10 -7	-6 -13TP		+25 +10	-17 -16	3	2	5	=6
DR Foulser	-17 +1	-23TP +26	-23TP +26	-23 -11	+4 -7TP	-25 -10		-17 +10	1	4	5	=6
JO Walters	-16 -22TP	-15 -26TP	-17TP -18	-24 -14	+15 -24	+17 +16	+17 -10		3	1	4	8

NOTES: TP = Triple Peal TPL = Triple Peel by Loser.

Hurlingham: 2-6 September **Aiton falters - Mulliner wins!**

Report by John Walters

This year the selectors took their revenge on those who hadn't been good little boys or girls during the year. The President's Salver lodged at Hurlingham, but the Chairman's Ell was banished to Southport and the Spencer's week to Budleigh.

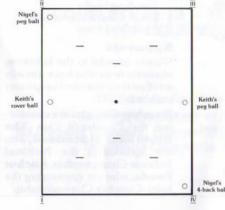
This was the first year of sponsorship by Bombay Gin. The dour nature of the event meant that consumption of the product was very slow (non existent) to begin with, but grew substantially by some competitors as the week drew to a close! All were given sponsor's badges to wear, but since Daley Thompson was absent this year, no trouble was caused and the badges remained undefaced (faced?), except by the position that Mr Aiton chose to wear his on the now ubiquitous 'shorts'!

Day 1

To the delight of the local Gestapo, some unwary sponsors were caught sitting on the grass (screams of shock, horror), so a representative sample was promptly taken out behind the swimming pool and shot. Aspinall and Aiton reeled off routine TP's in the first round, setting up a promising clash in round 2. This was certainly match of the day, with Nigel breaking down at 2-back due to a miss on his pivot from 2 or 3 yards! Keith went to 4-back leaving one of Nigel's balls two yards north of hoop 1. This short shot was missed, allowing Keith to proceed to rover and peg. Hitting his last shot with the backward ball allowed Nigel 4-back and peg after 2 peels, leaving Keith's peg ball between 4-back and 3-back and his rover ball well out of the way near second corner.

To Nigel's surprise, Keith lifted the rover ball and shot at him in 4th corner, hitting and finishing the game. True the 'safer shot' with the peg ball would still have allowed Keith a pegout on Nigel's ball and a 40 yard shot for Nigel to save the game (with no guarantee of a win even if hit); nevertheless, one might accuse Nigel of negligence for not constructing a more creative leave.

My own preferred solution is shown in the diagram (Keith's balls are both sufficiently in from the boundary to form a double with any boundary ball, from the adjacent corners). I leave readers to work out the considerable advantages of this position for themselves (and suggest that Keith's best shot is rover ball to Nigel's peg ball).



After hitting a 30 yard 'wrong shot' against Walters on Friday (from which a TP rose) Nigel declared 'I think I have proved this week that there's no such thing as forcing a ball to play'; the many such proofs which arose that week will probably be an enduring memory for all - are they an aftermath of the real Keith's book?

Day 2

Saw Aiton continuing his success, thus encouraging the traditional ritual of the favourites for the event recounting the story of how Bernard Neal had great success at the beginning of one President's cup, only to 'crack' half way through. Veronica Carlisle (our manager) was fascinated to hear of dour JR's game plan - he decides on one before each match. She said she had a game plan for each match, to go to 4-back and finish with a TP, it was just that she rarely managed to stick to it! V'ron also tried to brighten up proceedings with a colourful score chart, but having failed deserted us to watch her son's progress in the chairman's Ell at Southport.

Nigel took the first of the Aspinall/ Mulliner clashes. Unperturbed, Phil demonstrated that Keith wasn't the only one who could beat Nigel, in a game where early on Nigel hit 2 or 3 consecutive 25 yard shots, but uncharacteristically failed to hit vital lift shots later in the game.

Day 3

Was the day Nigel chalked up his 200th win in the President's cup, and champagne celebrations even persuaded Keith to break his vows. Walters usurped Mulliner's traditional role in an active photo session that lasted at least half an hour. The day ended with another clash of the titans, Nigel once again having the upper hand.

Day 4

By this time the sponsors were beginning to feel repeats as the parma ham and melon emerged each day. The lunches were undoubtedly delicious and much appreciated, but had been ordered with the clients (who would only appear for one day) in mind. Therefore, with a view to variety, a change occured, the unfortunate but ironic choice of Kiwi pie! After the test match performance against aforementioned, perhaps we should have been eating humble pie!

Today was Jerry's turn to enter the limelight with a good win over Aspinall, but

(Continued on page 31)



The President's Cup players with the Trophy and the prizes generously donated by the sponsors. Bombay Gin. L to R: Nigel Aspinall, Keith Aiton, John Walters, Steve Mulliner, Phil Cordingley, Jerry Guest, Dave Foulser and John McCullough.

Southport: **1-5 September THE CHAIRMAN'S SALVER** Nick Hyne finishes as top 'Stoker's Teenager'

Report by John Davis

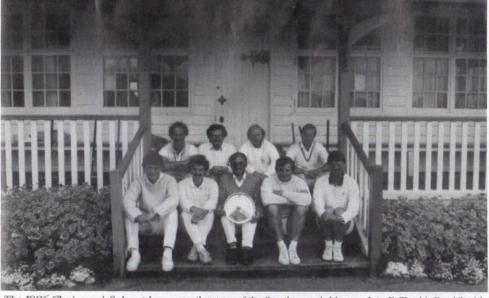
This was bound to be a week of firsts. The first time an 'Eight' had been staged at Southport, the first time five of us had played in the Salver, and indeed the first Eights appearance of any form for James Carlisle and Andrew Collin. Also, because none of the eight players had ever won an Eight, a first win for someone. The final and probably most significant first was that it was the first time five of us had ever stayed at Pontin's! John Davis confessed to two weeks at Butlin's twenty years ago but this previous experience proved of less and less use as the week went by.

Previous history says that late substitutes do well, so Paul Smith and Andrew Collin must have started optimistically. Monday morning dawned with the conditions we had all expected, rain and wind and low temperatures. John Davis managed to avoid this by spending most of the morning on the M62. By the time he arrived, the skies were beginning to brighten. A good day ended with Ian Vincent and John Davis undefeated. The most notable game was that between Ian and James Carlisle. When James's TP failed, Ian showed him how to do it with an impressive +3(TP). 'Stoker's Teenagers' then retired to Pontins for the evening where Ian Vincent's steak and kidney pudding proved an ideal appetiser for the Miss Pontin competition. Some disagreement with the judges' decisions led to an early night however.

Tuesday was sunny but windy and the competition suddenly became wide open. **Triples by Ian Vincent and George Noble and** Nick Hyne (both against Ian) meant that at the end of the day George, Ian, and John Davis had four wins, Nick, John Rose and James Carlisle each had three. Following NH Hyne **GW** Noble IG Vincent JWH Carlisle **EJ** Davis I. Rose PI Smith AJ Collin

Chairman's Salver 1986

start.



The 1986 Chairman's Salver players on the steps of the Southport clubhouse. L to R (Back): Paul Smith, Ian Vincent, John Davis & Nick Hyne (Front): James Carlisle, Andrew Collin, Andrew Bennet (Manager), John Rose & George Noble.

	n	ames Wo	Ga	AJC							
Final Order	Total	2nd Series	1st Series		PLS	JR	I GWN IGV JWHC EJD J	NGH			
1	10	6	4	+13 +26TP	+9 +7	-20 +6	-4 +18	+16 +14	+26TP +14	- 25 - 14	
=2	8	3	5	+13TPO -4	-3 +13	+14 +20	+17 -26	-7 -3	+10TP -3		+ 25 + 14
=2	8	3	5	+9TP +25	+5 +5	+24 -5	+16 -9	+3TP -19	é	-10 +3	- 26 - 14
=4	7	4	3	+26 +2	+23 -18	-15 -17	-9 +16	5	-3 +19	+7 +3	-16 -14
=4	7	3	4	-17 -18	+13 -14	+14 +3		+9 -16	-16 +9	-17 +26	+4 -18
=4	7	3	4	+14 -11	+5 +3		-14 -3	+15 +17TP	-24 +5	-14 -20	+ 20 - 6
7	5	3	2	+2 +14		-5 -3	-13 +14	-23 +18	-5 -5	+3 -13	-9 -7
8	4	3	1		-2 -14	-14 +11	+17 +18	-26 -2	-9 -25	-13 +4	-13 -26

Invitation Events (4)

our disappointment with the judges on Monday evening, we decided to avoid the 'Miss Glamorous Legs' competition (George Noble would have won anyway!) and spent the evening in the Peking Gardens.

Wednesday got off to an interesting start with Ian and George being summoned to the camp receptionist to explain why five teenagers under the name of Stoker were sharing a chalet. This was flattering to all of us except James Carlisle! George used all his charm, and diplomatic relations were restored. However, an offer to demonstrate the game of croquet on the camp television channel was politely declined. The croquet was getting more confusing. George and Ian leading the way with six wins each and the rest of the field not far behind. The game of the day was George's TPO on Andrew Collin. Andrew used the contact to get position for the first hoop. George then hit a 35-yarder and finished in one turn. He celebrated his good fortune by cooking the most marvellous chicken dinner for 'Stoker's teenagers' plus the manager, Andrew Bennet. The reason for inviting the manager became clear when George asked for, and got, a late

Thursday was the day when Nick Hyne

emerged from the pack with 3 wins, including beating lan to join him on eight wins. George Noble slipped a bit with defeats against Ian and John Davis, but at close of play five players were still in contention. Apart from the leaders, George had seven wins, and James Carlisle and John Rose had six each. Partisan support was much in evidence with Hugh and Veronica Carlisle arriving to intimidate James, Mary Collin bringing Andrew's number-one-fan to distract him (Postman Pat is easier to read than Wylie's book!) and Heather arriving to support Paul Smith. The evening was spent at 'The Carvery'. As much as you can eat for £3.95. They should have had more sense. With John Rose and Nick Hyne present, they nearly had to send out for more.

The final day dawned with glorious weather for the fourth day running. Nick Hynes's TP against Andrew Collin, and James Carlisle's defeat of Ian Vincent meant that Nick had to beat Paul Smith in the final round to be sure of overall victory. George Noble had beaten Paul Smith to remain in contention. The final round saw John Rose complete a very quick TP against James Carlisle and George Noble lose to Andrew Collin. This left the battle between Nick and Ian. Paul Smith was doing his best to beat Nick after Nick had failed to peg out both balls, whilst John Davis was trying to beat Ian. After a lot of messing about, John beat Ian to take the pressure off Nick, who then managed to beat Paul.

In the end, a well-deserved win for Nick. who had six straight wins on the run in. George and Ian finished joint second with eight wins each, but everyone had played well in spells in what turned out to be a very even Eight.

Southport proved to be an excellent venue and the hospitality was marvellous. The lunches and teas were extremely good, with the Southport ladies even finding time to play croquet on lawn 5 between meals. Andrew Bennet took his managerial duties very seriously as the hoops became tighter and tighter during the week, and Paul Stoker popped in regularly to check on his teenagers. Even Ian Vincent's copy of the Tide Tables proved unnecessary.

Well done, Southport, and we all hope you stage many more events as successful as this one.

Invitation Events (5)

Budleigh: 1-5 Sept THE SPENCER-ELL CUP **Martin French takes the Spencer-Ell**

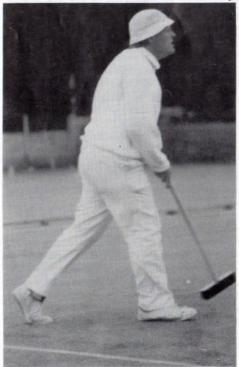
Report by John Greenwood

18

C		-	АЈМ	JRH		JRM	JDG	cs	Games Won			Final
Spencer-Ell Cup 1986	MF	DLG			JM				1st Series	2nd Series	Total	Final Order
M French		+24 -4	+1 +14	-14 -7	-3 +4	+4 +18	+5TP +9	+12 +18	5	5	10	1
DL Gaunt	-24 +4		+5 -12	+17 +7	-15 +12	-14 +12	+18 -17	+15 +11	4	5	9	2
AJ Mrozinski	-1 -14	-5 +12		-9 +19	+23 +9	+6 +10	-15 +12	-7 +17	2	6	8	3
JR Hilditch	+14 +7	-17 -7	+9 -19		+26TP -11	+3 -5	+10 +14	-16 -17	5	2	7	=4
Miss J MacLeod	+3 -4	+15 -12	-23 -9	-26TP +11		+1 -21	+5 -4	+20 +17	5	2	7	=4
JR Mann	-4 -18	+14 -12	-6 -10	-3 +5	-1 +21		+22 +10	-12 +23	2	4	6	6
JD Greenwood	- 5TP - 9	-18 +17	+15 -12	-10 -14	-5 +4	-22 -10		+4 +13	2	3	5	7
C Southern	-12 -18	-15 -11	+7 -17	+16 +17	-20 -17	+12 -23	-4 -13		3	1	4	8

Richard Hilditch won his first four games to establish himself as a clear leader. completing the first triple peel of the tournament +26 against Jan MacLeod. He must have been disappointed to be able to win only three further games out of the remaining ten to finish fourth equal. His losses included two to Colin Southern, who with John Greenwood, struggled throughout to regain whatever consistency they may have enjoyed before travelling south.

Martin French lost his first game to Hilditch by 4, but went on to win two close games, starting a run of 5 consecutive victories to take the lead by round 6. His first win followed immediately after a failed pegout by Tony Mrozinski and a successful hit-in on the lift. The second also came directly



Richard Hilditch who completed the first triple at the Spencer-Ell.

from a hit lift-shot, this time to imitate a triple peel against Greenwood on peg and 4-back; the second and final triple of the week.

MacLeod, after her two initial losses, found form to join French and Hilditch as coleaders at the half-way point. This included the narrowest of wins against John Mann. Mann managed to peg-out only one ball, when MacLeod was on 2 and 4 back and failed the remaining 5 yard peg-out after MacLeod had joined up. MacLeod advanced to penultimate and peg allowing Mann only three more shots at the peg. A two ball break left a rush back to the peg after running rover, which was left short. The forward ball missed ending up near the south boundary. Mann chose to dribble up to the peg from near 4 back, rather than shoot at MacLeod's ball 12 yards away. It was straight, but stopped inches from the peg. MacLeod shot at the peg and hit to win +1. This was a very popular win with the ladies of Budleigh Salterton club who were by now rallying to the female cause.

MacLeod had on arrival declared that being a woman did not mean she should not organise a Spencer-Ell dinner (new wave feminism?) It was, perhaps, the prospect of being late for this meal that encouraged Gaunt and French to finish quickly their morning game, which had had to be pegged down after 3 and a half hours croquet (sic). Gaunt beat French by 4 to leave them joint leaders after 12 rounds. Hilditch and Mrozinski were in joint second place, the latter having stormed up from behind after winning only two of his first seven games.

MacLeod lost a close game to Greenwood which deprived her of joint second place with Hilditch and Mrozinski. Having had one ball pegged out, she failed to make 4 back after hitting the lift shot. Her next turn saw her shoot at a guarded boundary, allowing Greenwood to finish with a break from hoop 1.

Gaunt's accuracy deserted him in the 13 round game against Greenwood, two missed shortish (5-6 yard) roquets giving Greenwood a straightforward win from 1 and rover. However, he came back to win his final game, against Mann, to finish on 9 wins despite a failed straight double which had left 3 balls ranged round rover.

French, in the meantime, was engaged in what turned out to be a lengthy struggle with MacLeod, which was to decide whether French won outright or would have to playoff against Gaunt. It was an excellent match for the spectators with the atmosphere of a final aided to a large degree by MacLeod's local supporters.

MacLeod and French both advanced one ball to 4 back with accurate hitting but faltering breaks. Eight changes of innings later saw them level again on penultimate and peg. French's next rush to penultimate hit the rover hoop, so he put MacLeod's backward ball (red) to corner 2 leaving black a rush to penultimate from the south boundary. A poor rush on his next turn, followed by a narrowly run hoop, left him no roquet so he paired by penultimate with red two yards beyond rover. Red hit yellow, but subsequently jammed in penultimate on black from 3 feet.

Black made penultimate, but the take off from yellow at the peg went 4 yards past blue at rover, leaving yet another 2 yard approach and a 2 to 3 foot hoop. This he ran with a rush back to the peg to win by +4. This was a fitting style of win for French. It was almost a caricature of parts of his earlier games which had prompted him to apologise on several occasions for the manner in which he found himself winning. Nevertheless, he was from the end of the second day the player the rest of us knew we had to beat.

French received the Spencer-Ell Cup, thanked the Manager, Ray Stevens, the Chairman and all the Club members for making it such an enjoyable and hospitable week, and apologised for the undrunk beer which previous eights had led them to believe would be needed each year.

Nottingham: 12-14 September

RESULTS

- (Handicap Play: 7-Round Swiss)
- 7 wins: R. Davis (9) 5 wins: P.J. Death (1/2), B. Hallam (1/2), J.C. Straw
- (31/2)
- 4 wins: K. Cotterell (2) 3/5 wins: M.R.L. Cowan (51/2), Dr I.G. Vincent
- (-1/2), Mrs R.F. Wheeler (4)
- 3/6 wins: R.W. Ransom (21/2), Mrs I.P.M. Macdonald (5), Mrs R.W. Ransom (5), Dr F.L. Whittaker (5)
- 3/7 wins: Mrs K. Cotterell (4)
- 2/6 wins: I.P.M. Macdonald (8), C.G. Hopewell (2), Dr R.F. Wheeler (5)
- 2/7 wins: R. Blackburn (9), Mrs E. Chamberlain
- 1/1 wins: Mrs C. Irwin (71/2)
- 1/2 wins; J.F.S. Thomas (9)
- 1/6 wins: Mrs T.W. Smith (13)
- 1/7 wins: Mrs M.J. Haworth (16)

Harrow Oak: 5-7 September THE SELECTORS' WEEKEND **Robert Fulford undefeated**

Report by Bill Lamb

The early birds for the Selectors' Weekend arrived under the impression that the start was for 9.30, only to find a bemused groundsman who was under the impression that no event was due to start at all. Nevertheless the lawns were quickly mown and lines marked in time for the arrival of Ian Maugham, Manager, ROT and Lord Low Everything Else. Ian promptly delegated jobs and the hoops were swiftly in position and just as swiftly removed when it was discovered that their widths varied from $3\frac{1}{2}$ to 41/2 inches. With a little persuasion they were reset to a standard perhaps closer to that for the President's Cup rather than to normal tournament standard. In spite of this, no one seemed to have difficulty in running hoops except lan, who kept muttering something about his balls being bigger than anyone else's, a fact which might have been disputed by Nigel Gale, who was the only person to have a ball which wouldn't go through one particular hoop.

Ian declared that although the event was a Swiss, if we all got on with it, we could end up with all play all. Alas, he had overlooked the knock-on effect of allowing one player a late start in a Swiss event. However, all except Ian, who had magnanimously given himself a morning off to await the late arrival, were dispatched to do battle with each other and Harrow's notorious slopes and treacherous boundaries. 'It just went off,' was a common cry, as the innings changed hands in the early games.

It soon became apparent that the player to beat was National Junior Champion, Robert Fulford. Robert's powerful and accurate hitting gave the slopes no chance and, combined with neat play, enabled him to emerge undefeated, albeit by the skin of his teeth on several occasions. The favourite tactic employed against him was to peg out his forward ball; Chris Clarke achieved this with a tidy all-round break and walked off the court with a satisfied smile, having played his final stroke to the middle of A baulk. under the impression that the contact was compulsory. Robert calmly stepped forward. took the lift and obtained a useful rush on the ball in A baulk. The staggering revelation that lifts and contacts are optional seemed to unnerve Chris, for he wobbled disconsolately round the lawns to a string of defeats, until he pulled his game together on the final day.

Duncan Reeve started slowly but ran into fine form and was playing as well as anyone towards the end of the tournament. He was unlucky to find himself hampered after running rover with his second ball against Robert and lost by two when the game had seemed within his grasp.

Steve Battison found the fast lawns and older balls much to his liking and strode relentlessly round the courts. He looked like coming a clear second until he discovered the north boundary of court two on the final day. Clubmate David Wiggins played solidly throughout and in one game made the best boundary

assist with the chores.

David Goacher started well but lost his shooting touch and with it, his confidence. His attempts to line up his mallet caused much amusement, which was all taken in good part. Similarly, Nigel Gale seemed to have lost some of his usual accuracy.

The unluckiest players were Debbie Cornelius and Martin Kolbuszewski. Debbie had the misfortune to peg out her forward ball accidentally, when it curled by at least a foot in her first game against Chris Clarke, when she was well in command, and afterwards she suffered a number of narrow defeats. Martin had the misfortune to be tripled twice, on the first occasion after he had played a wrong ball and on the second when his own attempt at an STP came to grief with the first peel achieved and his own ball on the wire of 4-back. Both played sufficiently well to deserve better overall results

The evenness of the play can be judged by the number of close results and the number of players with four, five, or six wins from the nine rounds that were comfortably achieved. In general, play was aggressive, balls were meant to be hit and corners avoided except in extremis. Robert Fulford, Duncan Reeve and Bill Lamb each had a triple.

and coffee.

Finally, in view of the complete absence of selectors and the quantity of chocolate consumed. Martin's suggestion that the event should be renamed the 'After Eights' ought to be taken up.

RESULTS (Advanced play)

+20(TP)

+4, Clarke +22, Wiggins +24, Goacher +22, Lamb +9, & Williams +8; D.C.D. Wiggins bt Kolbuszewski +8, Reeve +26, Clarke +3, Williams +9, Lamb +14, & Goacher +17 5 wins: F.I. Maugham bt Gale +12, Goacher +3, Miss Cornelius +13, Kolbuszewski +9, & Wiggins +4; D. Reeve bt Miss Cornelius +4, Kolbuszewski +24(TP), Gale +7, Goacher +1, & Maugham +22: 4 wins: C. Clarke bt Miss Cornelius +8.

possible recovery from a grievous by hitting the peg with his first shot from a side

Rod Williams beamed his way happily throughout the tournament, whether winning or losing, and was usually the first to

The weather was beautiful throughout and the lawns excellent. Thanks are due to Ian Maugham for his management and to Martin Kolbuszewski for keeping the Oak's self-service cafe stocked and providing tea

9 wins: R. Fulford bt Wiggins +19, Williams +9, Battison +3, Clarke +7, Lamb +13, Goacher +9, Reeve, Gale +3, & Miss Cornelius

6 wins: J.S.H. Battison (runner-up) bt Reeve

Maugham +19, Lamb +12, & Williams +1; N. Gale bt Kolbuszewski +14, Miss Cornelius +12, Clarke +7, & Battison +14; W.E. Lamb bt Gale +12, Miss Cornelius +3, Maugham +1, & Kolbuszewski +7(TP); R.A.W. Williams bt Kolbuszewski +5, Reeve +17, Maugham +3, & Miss Cornelius +11

Robert Fulford, National Junior Champion, and now winner of the Selectors' Weekend.

3 wins: D.J. Goacher bt Lamb +12, Williams +26, & Gale +4

2 wins: Miss D. Cornelius bt Kolbuszewski +13, & Goacher +25; M. Kolbuszewski bt Clarke +10, & Battison +10

Ryde: 12-14 September

RESULTS

(Handicap Play: 7-Round Swiss)

6 wins: D.G. Palmer (1/2) (winner), L.G. Palmer (6) (runner-up)

5 wins: M.G. Tompkinson (2)

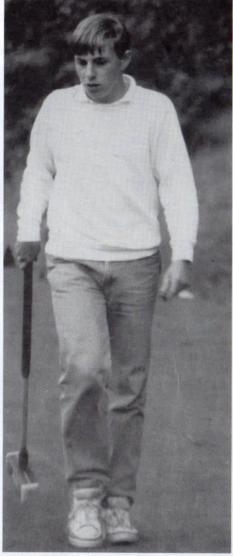
4 wins: Mrs M.G. Tompkinson (7), C.B. Sanford (4), Mrs C. Osmond (15), P. Cordingley (-2), N.G. Hyne (0), T.I. Card (7), A.V. Camroux (1)

3 wins: H.B. Brownsdon (41/2), D.L. Vollebregt (9), Mrs M. Robinson (11), Mrs J. Bonser (7), F.A. Rowlands (4), Mrs A.V. Camroux (16)

2 wins: I.G. Menzies (11/2), N.M. Griffin (6), Mrs G.H. Davies (8)

1 win: Mrs L.A. Showan (7), E. Carleton (17), Mrs D. Eith (16)

Invitation Events (6)

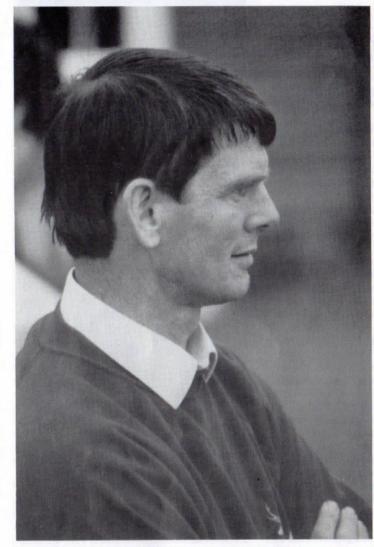


Tournament Reports & Results (2)

Compton: 9-10 August

No Ace Peeler this year!

Report by Roger Wood



George Noble, who won the Swiss event at Compton.

The Northern Championships

RESULTS (Cont'd from last Issue) **The Bowdon Handicap**

DRAW

1st Round:

J.D. Meads (1) bt M.J. Wilkins (31/2) +12; Mrs C.E. Irwin (71/2) bt B.G. Neal (-11/2); Mrs E.A. Neal (8) bt M.H. Sandler (2) +7; M. Granger-Brown (2) bt Mrs W. Hague (3) +6

2nd Round

C.H. Wild (7) bt P. Dyke (8) + 26; Dr A.C. Peterson (9) bt A.F. Sutcliffe (2) + 21; M.A. Saurin (71/2) bt W.E. Lamb (21/2) +16; D. Watkins (10) bt D.N.S. Peterson (0) + 26; R. Harding (14) bt G.K. Collin (3¹/₂) +2; N.G. Hyne (0) bt D.B. Maugham (71/2) +9; S. Williams (1) bt Dr M. Elder (51/2) +3: Meads bt Mrs Irwin +2; Granger-Brown bt Mrs Neal +11; Dr M. Kolbuszewski (11/2) bt Rev P.D. Hallett (1) +22; D.G. Palmer (1/2) bt A. Bennet(1) + 21: R. Collighan(11) bt K.M.H. Aiton (-1) +25; M.A. Suter (4) bt D.J. Goacher (2) +7; J.O. Walters (-1/2) bt Mrs D.C. Dennett (14) + 10; Mrs E. Taylor-Webb (11) bt C.D. Clarke (21/2) +13; D.J. Kelly (21/2) bt J.R. Mann (2) +16 3rd Round

Wild bt Peterson +19; Watkins bt Saurin +2; Harding bt Hyne +25;

Williams bt Meads +26; Granger-Brown bt Kolbuszewski +23: Collighan bt Palmer +25; Suter bt Walters +11; Mrs Taylor-Webb bt Kellv +13

4th Round

Wild bt Watkins +8; Williams bt Harding +3; Granger-Brown bt Collighan +3; Suter bt Mrs Taylor-Webb +15

Semi-Finals:

Wild bt Williams +4; Suter bt Granger-Brown +26

Final: Wild bt Suter +8

Bowdon Handicap 'Y'

3rd Round:

Sutcliffe bt Lamb +5; A.J. Collin bt G.K. Collin +10: Bennet bt Mrs Hague +5; Clarke bt Goacher +8

Semi-Finals:

A.J. Collin bt Sutcliffe +4; Clarke bt Bennet +4

Final: A.J. Collin bt Clarke +4

Displaced by a fortnight because of the extension to the Opens and diluted somewhat by the ravages of Test Match year, the Compton **Open Weekend nevertheless** raised 16 brave men and true to do battle for glory, assorted trophies and the odd stick of Eastbourne rock. The hoops were firm, but not too tight; the weather warm, but breezy; and the lawns fast enough to bring out all the imperfections (described by some as 'tricky', and by others with more colourful expressions) thus slowing the games and denying anyone the pleasure of completing a triple peel. The overlap with the tail end of the County Cricket Week on the Saffrons tempted some of the players away to peep between the marguees whilst their opponents were playing and increased the number of requests for games on lawns 2 and 3. The truly dedicated arrived complete with bat, ball and pads in order to spend those otherwise deadly boring moments between games (and in some cases turns) practising in the nets!

The main event was won for the second year running by Phil Cordingley who reached the final having conceded only 15 points in four games. On the other side, Jerry Guest sailed through the first two rounds before a close semi-final struggle with Mark Ormerod. Phil faltered in the first game of the final, losing by 5, but then steadied to take the other two games decisively.

Meanwhile in the Swiss strenuous efforts were being made to

The Bowdon Doubles (Minimum Handicap: 5 bisques total)

J.R. Mann & P. Dyke (10) bt J.D. Meads & D.J. Goacher (3) +15; M.J. Wilkins & D.B. Maugham (11) bt K.M.H. Aiton & C.H. Wild (6) +4; J.O. Walters & Mrs E. Taylor-Webb (101/2) bt Rev P.D. Hallett & Mrs D. Dennett (16) +10; N.G. Hyne & D. Watkins (10) bt D.N.S. Peterson & R. Harding (14) +19

Semi-Finals

Wilkins & Maugham bt Mann & Dyke +1: Hyne & Watkins bt Walters & Mrs Taylor-Webb +2(T)

Final: Wilkins & Maugham bt Hyne & Watkins +15

The Reed Cup

(Handicap Singles)

1st Round:

M.A. Saurin (71/2) bt C.H. Wild (7) +8; Mrs C.E. Irwin (71/2) bt P. Dyke (6) +3(T); W.O. Aldridge (0) bt Dr A.C. Peterson (9) +4; N.G. Hyne (0) bt W.E. Lamb (21/2) +6

2nd Round:

S. Williams (1) bt J.O. Walters (-1/2) +22: R. Harding (14) bt M. Granger-Brown (2) +5: C.D. Clarke (21/2) bt B.G. Neal (-11/2) +26; C.J. Irwin (-2) capture the Ace Peeler's award. But mere heroics were not enough - one double peel each by **Richard Hilditch and Nick Hyne** did not soften the manager's heart sufficiently and the hat was consigned to a Bexhill attic to gather dust until next year (which will be the tenth staging of the tournament). George Noble emerged as winner of the Swiss, just reward for his devotion to this event over the years.

RESULTS

Cowhorn Challenge Trophy (Advanced Play) 1st Round

H.G. Drake bt D.W. Shaw +20; J.E. Guest bt J.R. Hilditch +23; G.W. Noble bt G.O. Brightwell +15; P. Cordingley bt D.G. Palmer +17; M. Ormerod bt Dr R. Wood +15: N.G. Hyne bt J.C. Straw +22; M.R. French bt A.J. Palmer +1(T); A.J. Mrozinski bt L. Wharrad +12

2nd Round

Ormerod bt Drake +17; Cordingley bt Mrozinski +23: Noble bt French +3: Guest bt Hyne +24

Semi-Finals Guest bt Ormerod +3,+8;

Cordingley bt Noble +26, +17 Final

Cordingley bt Guest -5, +26, +22 **Cowbell Trophy**

(Progressive Swiss) 5 wins: G.W. Noble 4 wins: M. Ormerod, J.R. Hilditch, M.R. French 3 wins: N.G. Hyne, J.C. Straw, H.G. Drake, A.J. Mrozinski, A.J. Palmer 2 wins: Dr R. Wood, D.G. Palmer, L. Wharrad 1 win: G.O. Brightwell

0 wins: J.C. Straw

bt Dr M. Kolbuszewski (11/2) +18; J.R. Mann (2) bt Mrs D.C. Dennett (14) +14; J.D. Meads (1) bt D. Watkins (10) +6; A.F. Sutcliffe (2) bt A. Bennet (1) +18; Mrs Irwin bt Saurin +10: Aldridge bt Hyne +25: Dr M. Elder (51/2) bt D.J. Goacher (2) +26; M.J. Wilkins (31/2) bt Mrs E.A. Neal (8) +13; K.M.H. Aiton (-1) bt D.B. Maugham (71/2) +12; R. Collighan (11) bt G.K. Collin (31/2) +20; D.G. Palmer (1/2) bt D.J. Kelly (21/2) +11; M.A. Suter (4) bt Mrs W. Hague (3) +10; D.N.S. Peterson (0) bt Mrs E. Taylor-Webb (11) +14

3rd Round

Williams bt Harding +1; Clarke bt Irwin +26: Meads bt Mann +14: Mrs Irwin bt Sutcliffe +4: Elder bt Aldridge +11; Aiton bt Wilkins +5; Palmer bt Collighan +20; Suter bt Peterson +17

4th Round:

Clarke bt Williams +9; Mrs Irwin bt Meads +23; Elder bt Aiton +12; Suter bt Palmer +26

Semi-Finals:

Clarke bt Mrs Irwin +12; Elder bt Suter +4

Final: Clarke bt Elder +4

Cheltenham: 23-25 August New faces at Cheltenham

Report by Deborah Latham

When you are managing a tournament for the first time, people are prone to tell you how well you have done it (even if only out of politeness). To avoid such embarrassing plaudits, we thought we would break with tradition and, as managers, write our own tournament report. And if instead of plaudits, there were brickbats - well, we avoid them too!

We were not the only ones embarking upon a new phase of our croquet career. Five players were attending their first CA club tournament: local members Margaret Searles and Sue Waterston: John Brudenell, who hails from the Bear of Rodborough and went from 15* to 9 over the weekend; and Mike Flynn and Joe Jackson from Swindon, who both acquitted themselves extremely well (Joe winning his block) and both also getting handicap reductions. Other players who turned in good performances included Peter Dorke, Chris Ross, and Ivor and Richard Brand. In passing, let's mention it was good to see Alan and Sheila Blenkin back from their Antipodean sojourn.

All things considered (mainly meaning the weather!) the weekend seemed to be enjoyed by everyone, and went well from our point of view - although we wonder if a manager winning his block makes it look slightly fixed . . . ?!

Unfortunately, everyone suffered the effects of what was reported to be the tail end of Hurricane Charlie on the Monday (Bank Holiday Monday, you note!) but good spirits were generally maintained (particularly in the bar). That's one of the nice things about managing tournaments at Cheltenham everyone tries to buy you drinks, and your tea is free!

RESULTS

(American Blocks: Handicap Play) **Block A** 6 wins: L.V. Latham (0) 5 wins: Mrs K. Whittall (8) 4 wins: Mrs D. Clay (14) 3 wins: F.H. Newman (3) 2 wins: G. Johnson (31/2) 1 win: Mrs A. Blenkin (7)

0 wins: A. Brand (14) Block B

5 wins: I. Brand (7) + 56 (winner), Mrs R. Ransom (5) +33 4 wins: Mrs I V Latham (51/2)

3 wins: Mrs M. Searles (18) 2 wins: G.E.P. Jackson (0)

1 win: R. Crane (4), Mrs M. Haworth



Laurence Latham, one of the six Block winners.

Block C

5 wins: M.T. Paddon (2) +40 (winner), D.J. Brudenell (15*) +79 4 wins: C. Ross (6) 3 wins: D. Clay (6) 2 wins: Mrs M. Langley (71/2) 1 win: Mrs H. Handley (41/2), Mrs K. Turtle (13) **Block D**

6 wins: P.J. Dorke (4) 5 wins: R. Ransom (21/2) 4 wins: Miss I.M. Roe (71/2) 3 wins: Gp Capt R.S. Ryan (61/2) 2 wins: Dr C.B. Snowdon (21/2) 1 win: Mrs R. Crane (13) 0 wins: Miss S. Waterston (17)

Block E

5 wins: J. Jackson (14*) +60 (winner), Mrs C, Smith (11/2) +25 4 wins: R. Brand (71/2) 2 wins: Mrs A. Mead (17), W.J. Sturdy (4), Mrs F.H. Newman (31/2) 1 win: A. Blenkin (10)

Block F

5 wins: Mrs G.D. Harris (41/2) 4 wins: P.M. Johnson (1/2), Mrs M.T. Paddon (9) 3 wins: W.R. Bawden (5)

2 wins: M. Flynn (18*), S. Packer $(4^{1/2})$

1 win: Mrs A. Warren (61/2)

2nd Round

Cheltenham: 3-7 September Double torture at Cheltenham!

Report by Bill Bawden

Despite being so ably managed by Dab and Roger Wheeler, Cheltenham's September 5-day tournament had the touch of that master manager Edgar Jackson about it. The format contained the usual devilish devices he loves to think up, plus, believe it or not, COMPULSORY **DOUBLES!** This ultimate torture makes me suspect that beneath Edgar's benign exterior lies a throw-back to Torquemada, of infamous memory.

Other than that, it was an ideal tournament, with good weather, fast lawns, like playing like, one game in the morning and one in the afternoon, good spirits all round, and a welcoming of old friends from distant parts.

In the A class block, Edgar returned to form, relegating Dennis Moorcraft to a second place by beating him. Both had four wins each, but the result was merely a demonstration of the pecking order as between Club President and Club Chairman of Committee, though it is just possible that Edgar has more room on his sideboard for the trophy, Bill Gladstone's Salver.

In the doubles, the combination of Mike Wilkins and David Maugham, both from up North, proved too strong for the opposition. Their unbeaten run and good performance generally earned them reductions in handicap, Mike from 31/2 to 3, and David from 71/2 to 61/2.

Des Willetts (on his annual visit to Cheltenham from Stourbridge) and his partner Kismet Whittall from Bath took first place in the other doubles block. Altogether a most successful

tournament, with club volunteers providing lunch and tea. In the latter respect, it was good once again to enjoy the home-baking of Doreen Exell and Betty Wiseman, with some regret that both no longer play croquet themselves.

RESULTS **Handicap Doubles** Block A

4 wins: D. Willetts & Mrs K. Whittall (121/2) (winners); Mr & Mrs M.T. Paddon (11) (runners-up)

3 wins: Mrs D.A. Wheeler & D. Lenfestey (15), Mr & Mrs D.H. Moorcraft (10), Mrs K.M.O. Wheeler & L. James (22), Dr B.G.F. Weitz & Miss P.R. Bishop (17)

2 wins: Mr & Mrs R.A. Gosden (12), Mrs P. Asa-Thomas & Mrs K. Turtle (16)

1 win: Mr & Mrs R.F. Crane (15), Mrs M.A.L. Warren & K.F.W. Townsend Block B

21

5 wins: M.J. Wilkins & D. Maugham (11)

4 wins: Mr & Mrs P. Leach (171/2) 3 wins: Dr R.F. Wheeler & Mrs N. Lenfestev (121/2), J. McLaren & Mrs. M. Langley (101/2), Mrs J. Neville-Rolfe & M. James (191/2)

2 wins: Mr & Mrs Wharrad (9), Mrs K. Yeoman & Miss E. Cheverton (181/2)

1 win: Mrs B.G.F. Weitz & Miss P. Shine (11), E. Jackson & Miss S. Waterston (161/2), J. Exell & Mrs F. Townsend (16¹/₂)

Swiss

Group 1

(Advanced Play) 4 wins: G.E.P. Jackson (winner). D.H. Moorcraft (runner-up) 3 wins: B.G.F. Weitz, L. Wharrad 2 wins: M.T. Paddon, Mrs J. Neville-

Rolfe, Mrs P. Asa-Thomas

0 wins: J. McLaren

Group 2

(Advanced Play)

5 wins: M.J. Wilkins

4 wins: Mrs D.A. Wheeler

3 wins: D. Willetts

2 wins: R.F.A. Crane, Dr R.F. Wheeler, P.F. Leach

1 win: R.A. Gosden, Mrs E. Weitz Group 3

(Advanced Play: 22pts) 4 wins: Mrs K. Yeoman (winner) Mrs R.A. Gosden (runner-up)

3 wins: Mrs K. Whittall

2 wins: Mrs D.deQ. Lenfestey, Miss P. Shine, J. Exell, Mrs M.A.L. Warren

1 win: Mrs M. Langley

Group 4

(Level Play: 22pts)

5 wins: D. Maugham

3 wins: Mrs L. Wharrad (runner-up),

K. Townsend, Mrs M.T. Paddon

2 wins: Mrs K.M.O. Wheeler, Mrs D. Moorcraft

1 win: D. Lenfestey, Mrs K. Townsend Group 5

(Handicap Play: 18pts)

- 5 wins: Mrs K. Turtle (13)
- 4 wins: Miss E.M.P. Cheverton (15)
- 3 wins: Mrs M. Leach (14), L.W.R. James (16)
- 2 wins: Mrs D.M. James (18)
- 1 win: Miss S. Waterston (17)
- 0 wins: Miss P.R. Bishop (16)

If you see him tell Sid his subscription is due, if he wants to qualify for the rebate to send it now.

The South of England Championships

Compton: 20-25 September 'Devonshire Park' takes on new life

Report by Allen Parker

As in the previous year, this 6-day event (the old 'Devonshire Park' first week) was followed by the 3-day Singles Championship of the South of England. The popularity of this arrangement continues and it will no doubt assume a permanent place in the calendar. As is usual, the first six days were taken up with four classes of singles, an open and a handicap doubles, and a handicap singles X and Y.

Saturday dawned bright and sunny and the anti-cyclone stayed with us for the whole of the week. The indefatigable Dennis Shaw, ably assisted by wife Eileen, was thus able to put on 23 games on the first day and 21 on the second. With only five courts, no time limits, many games involving a large number of bisques, and many between high bisquers, this was no mean feat. This tempo continued throughout the six days with play starting most mornings at 9.30am and continuing every evening until 7.00 or 7.30pm in semi-darkness.

Notable on the first day was Tommy Vale's game against Danny Palmer in the X. Tommy was able to get his clips on penult and peg, with bisques in hand, and with Danny still on 1 and 1-back, before Danny got in and finished the game in two turns. Some high bisguers had fun with their bisques. Jo Loveys, with 81/2 bisques, kept Allen Parker on court for 43/4 hours and finally lost by only 5. (She played well in this and other games and lost one of her bisques at the reckoning.) Joan Parker got round to 2-back and rover before her bisques ran out against Keith Aiton, who finally pegged out in the gloaming at 7.30pm.

In the X semi-final, Aiton played his first ball to a couple of yards in front of hoop 1. Allen Parker missed this short shot, going off by hoop 2. Keith then made hoop 1 with control and went round to 4-back before his opponent had played his second ball into court. His opponent then went to the peg with his second ball but had to use 31/2 bisques to

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cocktail to relax with when your match is over.

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process ensures that there is only one world's

do so. Keith hit in and started a triple, but failed at hoop 2 and had to lay up. His opponent used his last bisque to set up a 4-ball break but failed at hoop 2. Keith then went out with the triple. The latter included the 'Shot-of-the-Week'. With both enemy balls near 4-back and a ball near the enemy's hoop 2. Keith failed to get his rush on the enemy ball to 3-back. He took off for position (leaving a 4-ball break if he failed the hoop). Ran a long angled hoop and hit the shot from 3-back to 4-back and so com-

to peg out. From then on, the 3 0

Tommy Vale (left) and Dennis Shaw.

pleted his triple. In the final Keith had little opportunity to exercise his skills. Derek Caporn used his bisques much more effectively than the previous opponent and ran out a worthy winner of the Sussex Challenge Cup.

Keith Aiton also provided some intriguing play in the Open Doubles, which had only three entries and was played as an American best-of-three. With the opponents still on hoops 1 and 2, he peeled his partner through hoops 6, 1-back, 2-back and 3-back before going to the peg and giving contact. He and partner John Walters won the event comfortably without conceding a game and Keith distinguished himself by completing triples in two of the games. Indeed, spectators came to regard triples or uncompleted triples as the norm when watching Keith. However, he was unable to finish in the Open Singles against John Walters. who beat him +2 and went on to win the final against Danny Palmer.

Notable in the other class events was the performance of Alec Thomas who played much better than his handicap of 9 and beat Joan Parker in both finals of the D Class. Incidentally he played a superb break in one of the earlier rounds of the handicap doubles and, under the expert guidance of partner Derek Caporn, went on to win this

RESULTS

Ionides Challenge Trophy (Advanced Play)

DRAW 1st Round

K.M.H. Aiton bt L. Wharrad +24

Semi-Finals: J.O. Walters bt Aiton +2; D.G. Palmer bt D. Gaunt +20 Final: Walter bt Palmer +10 PROCESS

1st Round Walters bt Palmer +18

event. In the C Class, Peter

Howell won both halves and lost

a bisque. Gordon Drake, with his

accurate shooting and precise

rushing, beat Allen Parker in one

half of the B Class and beat him

again in the play-off, to become

the new holder of the Devonshire

with an entertaining lunch hour

by Debbie Cornelius and Allen

Parker. After a prolonged middle

game lasting all morning, Allen

stuck in rover when he was about

The spectators were provided

Park Salver.

Semi-Finals: Walters bt Aiton +19;

Gaunt bt Wharrad +16

Final: Walters bt Gaunt +26

Outright Winner: J.O. Walters Devonshire Park Salver

(Advanced Play: 21/2 bisques and

over) DRAW

1st Round

H.G. Drake bt Major T. Vale +3; D. Caporn bt Miss D. Cornelius +7; G. Borrett bt Mrs Mapletoft +7

2nd Round

Dr A. Parker bt D.A. Harris +8; Drake bt Caporn +10; Borrett bt D. Shaw +10; Miss Parker bt W. Nicholson +11

Semi-Finals: Drake bt Parker +5; Miss Parker bt Borrett (wo)

Final: Drake bt Miss Parker +15 PROCESS

1st Round

Harris bt Shaw +4; Drake bt Miss Parker +16; Dr Parker bt Nicholson

2nd Round

+18

+17

Miss Cornelius bt Harris +12; Drake bt Borrett (wo): Dr Parker bt Caporn +13; Major Vale bt Miss Mapletoft Evenett (wo)

peg-out took about an hour, with short shots missed on both sides and two peg-outs missed from 2 yards and 1 yard (The striker blamed the milling on the balls. but nobody believed this!). In the second attempt he unintentionally pegged one ball out. Debbie almost got both balls round before her opponent finally hit the peg after 41/4 hours, much to the amusement of spectators.

The final of the Y created some interest. James Kellaway got one ball to penult and one to hoop 4 with one bisque in hand. Danny Palmer got in, went round and double-peeled James but failed a combination peg-out. James then hit in but failed an attempt to peg out Danny's ball. After some further attempts to peg each other out, Danny was finally successful, and James made only two more hoops before Danny was able to finish the game.

The Compton Club members are to be congratulated on their co-operation in giving up their courts for ten days to accommodate these tournaments. Special thanks should go to Dennis Shaw who gave up the opportunity of playing in 2 events in order to

Semi-Finals: Miss Cornelius bt

Drake + 25; Dr Parker bt Major Vale

Final: Dr Parker bt Miss Cornelius

Play-Off: Drake bt Dr Parker +8

(Level Play: 51/2 bisques and over)

D. Brown bt Mrs Vale +7: J. Kellaway

bt Miss Dennant +6(T); P. Howell bt

Mrs Wharrad +13; D. Daintree bt

Semi-Finals: Brown bt Kellaway

Howell bt Mrs Vale +15; Kellaway bt

Mrs Millns +14; Brown bt Mrs

Wharrad (wo); Daintree bt Miss

Semi-Finals: Howell bt Kellaway

+15: Daintree bt Brown +17

Final: Howell bt Daintree +7

Outright Winner: P. Howell

Trevor Williams Cup

+2; Howell bt Daintree +15

Final: Howell bt Brown +18

+17

+5

DRAW

1st Round

Mrs Millns +15

PROCESS

1st Round

Dennant +17

The Luard Cup

South of England) 2 wins: K.M.H. Aiton & J.O. Walters H.G. Drake +22(TP), +26

1 win: D.G. Palmer & Miss D. Cornelius bt Gaunt & Drake +14,

0 wins: D.L. Gaunt & H.G. Drake

(Handican Doubles) **1st Round** Mrs T. Wills & Miss D. Harding (18) bt Mr & Mrs L. Wharrad (9) +3; D. Brown & Miss B. Dennant (14) bt G. Borrett & Mrs A. Millns (121/2) +5; D. Caporn & J.A. Thomas (12) bt R. Smith & Mrs E. Mapletoft (11) +15; J. Kellaway & D. Daintree (141/2) bt Mrs M. Grout & Mrs B. Salmon (19) +18

2nd Round

+10(T)

Parker +12

Major & Mrs T. Vale (111/2) bt (Level Play: 9 bisques & Over. 18pts) W. Nicholson & Miss J. Lovevs (151/2) +3; Mrs Wills & Miss Harding bt Mrs Parker bt E. Salmon +12; Miss Brown & Miss Dennant +12: Caporn M. Loveys bt Mrs B. Salmon +7; Miss & Thomas bt Kellaway & Daintree D. Harding bt M. Evenett (wo)

Semi-Finals

1st Round

Mrs Parker bt Miss Loveys +3; J.A.

Thomas bt Miss Harding +5 Final: Thomas bt Mrs Parker +11 PROCESS

1st Round

Salmon bt Miss Harding +4; Thomas Final: Caporn & Thomas bt Major & bt Miss Loveys +7; Mrs Parker bt Mrs Vale +7

night, and also organised perfect weather. Some twenty lady members deserve special mention for organising and serving the delightful lunches and teas. and for showing considerable patience when games continued well beyond the normal lunch or tea time. The Club has unfortunately had to give up one of its six lawns, but the remainder were kept well mowed and swept by Tom Mewitt, the groundsman, who came at crack of dawn to prepare everything so that play could start promptly at 9.30am. Many thanks Tom.

Although not strictly relevant to this account, it should be mentioned that those players who had the opportunity of staying for the following 3 days had the benefit of Roger Wood's expertise in managing the 3-day event, in which we all had 8 games (some in complete darkness) and perfect weather. Altogether the 'Devonshire Park' has now become a most enjoyable occasion with which to end the croquet season. Long may it continue

Semi-Finals: Thomas bt Salmon +11: Mrs Parker bt Mrs Salmon +11 Final: Thomas bt Mrs Parker +14 **Outright Winner:** J.A. Thomas **The Victor Vases** (Open Doubles Championship of the

bt D.G. Palmer & Miss D. Cornelius +10(TP), +25, and D.L. Gaunt &

+18

Anna Millns Salver

The South of England Championships

manage. He did this with calm efficiency and kept everyone busy for most of the time from morn till

+12; Dr & Mrs A. Parker (121/2) bt Miss P. Parker & P. Howell (11)

Semi-Finals: Major & Mrs Vale bt Mrs Wills & Miss Harding +19: Caporn & Thomas bt Dr & Mrs

Compton: 26-28 September Keith Aiton wins South of England Championship



Keith Aiton - Champion of the South of England.

Keith Aiton completed four triple peels to win the South of England Championship and so takes the O'Callaghan Gold Cup from Steve Mulliner who won the event in 1985

In the second game of his semi-

	Sussex Challenge Cup
(Handicap Singles: 'X')
	st Round
ł	K.M.H. Aiton (-2) bt J. Kellaway (8
	+8(TP); P. Howell (7) bt D.A. Harris
(31/2) +9; Miss M.J. Loveys (11) b
1	Mrs M. Grout (7) +7; Dr A. Parker
(2 ¹ / ₂) bt Miss D. Harding (12) +6
	D. Daintree (6 ¹ / ₂) bt Mrs L. Wharrad
1	8) +13; Miss D. Cornelius (2½) b Mrs A. Millns (9) +16; D.L. Gaunt (1)
1	ot D.G. Palmer $(\frac{1}{2})$ +16; D.L. Gaunt (1)
	Parker (4) bt Major T. Vale (4) $+3$
	Wharrad (1) bt D. Brown (6) +6
N	$Mrs T. Vale (6^{1/2}) bt J. Thomas (9) + 5$
	and Round
	Irs A. Parker (11) bt W. Nicholson
6	$4^{1/2}$) +11; Aiton bt Howell +4; Dr
È	Parker bt Miss Loveys +5; Miss
	Cornelius bt Daintree +3; Gaunt bt
N	Aiss Parker +15; Wharrad bt Mrs
V	ale +10; J.O. Walters (-1/2) bt Miss
C	Dennant (8) +19; D. Caporn (3) bt
E	E Salmon (10) +12
	rd Round
A	iton bt Mrs Parker +8; Dr Parker bt
N	liss Cornelius +17; Gaunt bt
	Vharrad +20; Caporn bt Walters
s	emi-Finals: Aiton bt Dr Parker
4	-13(TP); Caporn bt Gaunt +23
F	inal: Caporn bt Aiton +24
	elixstowe Cup Handicap 'Y')
s	emi-Finals: Kellaway bt Mrs
u	harrad (wo); Palmer bt Miss
	ennant +12
	inal: D.G. Palmer bt J. Kellaway +8

final against Richard Hilditch. Danny Palmer pulled off a quadruple peel, including a straight triple to finish.

RESULTS

South of England Championship (Advanced Play) Round 1

Dr R. Wood bt D.W. Shaw +24: K.M.H. Aiton bt N.G. Hyne +15; R.D.C. Prichard bt D. Peterson +1; Dr M. Murray bt J.O. Walters +1

Round 2

Miss J. MacLeod bt D. Caporn +14; N.F.C. Gale bt Dr C.A. Parker +12: L. Wharrad bt M. French +10; Aiton bt Wood +26(TP); Murray bt Prichard +21: D.G. Palmer bt Miss D. Cornelius +17; J.R. Hilditch bt T.D. Harrison +1; J.S.H. Battison bt H.G. Drake +20

Round 3

Miss MacLeod bt Gale +12, -15, +1; Aiton bt Wharrad + 26(TP), + 24(TP): Palmer bt Murray +26, +16; Hilditch bt Battison -16, +3, +12

Semi-Finals

Aiton bt Miss MacLeod +9,+5; Hilditch bt Palmer +9, -10(QP), +11 Final

Aiton bt Hilditch -8, +13(TP), +4

Sussex Union Cup

(for losers in main event)

(Advanced Play: Progressive Swiss) 5 wins: N.G. Hyne, Dr R. Wood, M. French, R.D.C. Prichard, T.D. Harrison, Miss D. Cornelius, L. Wharrad

4 wins: Dr M. Murray, J.S.H. Battison, J.O. Walters

3 wins: N.F.C. Gale, Dr C.A. Parker 2 wins: D.G. Palmer, H.G. Drake, D.W. Shaw

1 win: D. Peterson, D. Caporn

All players with 5 wins played a oneball play-off (draw and process) to decide the winner. Hyne won the Draw, Wood won the Process, and in the play-off, Hyne beat Wood +2 to win the event.

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Your Letters (1)

Tight Hoops

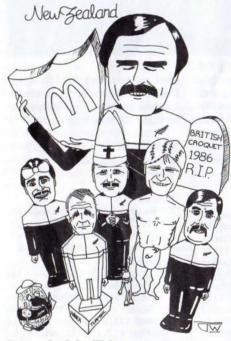
Dear Sir,

In reply to criticisms made in Bill Lamb's report on the Southport September Open Weekend, I should like to point out that the format had not been advertised as knockout with progressive Swiz, and that all competitors were given the option of not playing on the lawn whose equipment is questioned.

Although the hoops were re-set each morning, as they were on the other lawns, they did tend to revert to their tighter setting appropriate to Jaques balls. I freely admit to presiding over this state of affairs and to uttering the quiet chuckle mentioned in Bill's report.

Hoops need to be tight in Southport's sandy soil, and we try to keep them legal . . . just.

Andrew Bennet, Southport.



Drawn by John Walters

Those Kiwis

Dear Sir,

I was very interested to read Martin Murray's comments on the recent Test series and his report of the Open Championships.

Unfortunately I was only able to see the last two Tests and so feel unable to comment on the play in the Series as a whole. However, I was able to observe the New Zealand players during the Opens and I thought that the most noticeable feature of their play was the care they were prepared to take. Now some people reading this will say 'Ah, he's having a go at them for being too slow'. Not a bit of it; if something is worth doing it is worth doing well, and if that takes time then so be it.

Martin rightly suggests that Joe Hogan should be considered as World Champion. In Issue 186 he says that he has an ideal temperament, 'appearing unflappable and calm at all times'. Quite so, and this is what allows him to demonstrate his superior technique. I was also impressed by Paul Skinley although he was beaten easily by Roger Murfitt in the Opens.

In conclusion I would say that Joe Hogan has shown me what can be done on a croquet lawn, if sufficient care is taken. So you won't see me rushing around the lawn in future. Joe also has supreme confidence in his own ability. Some of our leading players have that already, but I recognise the need to work hard at acquiring the ability in which to have confidence.

Keith Aiton, Nottingham.

Editorship - Prerogative vs Duty Dear Sir

I am not writing to complain that once again a tournament report of mine has been a victim of particularly savage editing (a euphemism for censorship) - honest! That my MacRobertson Shield report had sentences and a whole paragraph removed, changing the tone and meaning of various sections is not something I intend to whinge about - honest!

However I must point out, if only to avoid the potential of libel action against myself, that unlike the Editor's report of the last Test Match at Colchester, my report had the words 'one of the other teams involved in the series' and not 'our side' (second paragraph, line 2), unless this is a particularly clever (and uncharacteristic) swipe at me I'm sure you will understand my irritation, I haven't emigrated to New Zealand yet - honest!

Perhaps in future I will forward my reports in the format of letters. If they were altered at least I would be the one who could initiate legal proceedings!

John Walters, Ipswich.

The Editor replies

An Editor has to select articles from many that are submitted and condense them as necessary to fit the space available. In some cases, where I personally have difficulty in understanding what is meant by a phrase, some piece of jargon, or an 'in' joke, I also try to make the meaning clearer.

Clearly I missed the point of the relevant sentence in John's article, which read in full 'But this was Great Britain vs. Australia, one of the other teams involved in the series has two excuses for 'not being on match form'. (Copyright K.F. Wylie 1984).

Perhaps there was a transcription error, but whatever the reason, I mis-translated it. My apologies to John, and at the same time, my thanks both to him and all the others who bave contributed so many articles for past issues. Long may they continue to come in! Chris Hudson.

No Need for a Video? Dear Sir.

At the risk of muddying the waters, I would like to dispute Mr Bawden's idea of calling for a video of a shot in order to ascertain which ball runs the hoop first.

Surely the answer is that the balls both have to run the hoop simultaneously - in the eyes of the law, if not in reality. A ball is only deemed to have run its hoop in order if it comes to rest through the hoop. In other cases where there is the problem of a dynamic situation, the laws firmly reject the need to make a decision that would require a video the example of a ball rolling back into a hoop it has cleared is probably the commonest (and certainly the most irritating!) example.

I would have no doubts about adjudging

the points scored to be simultaneous, provided both balls complete the running of the hoop, and I would be interested in any other opinions. J.P.G. Watson, Stevenage.

Congratulations!

Dear Sir,

David Ruscombe-King, whose splendid verse appears on page 2 of the November Gazette, has been striving to achieve a triplet for some time. However, in the interests of scansion I must reveal that what he has delivered is not a triplet, but an octave in the form of a TRIOLET (O not P). Or very nearly - in fact the fifth and sixth lines should be interchanged to match this traditional verse form which originated with the 13th century trouvères

lambi aside, what an evocation of incredulity results from this pattern with its thrice repeated refrain line! And another thing: How on earth, and in particular, how on a perfect court, can a catastrophe such as that of which he sings, occur? In a single stroke at any rate.

Eric Solomon, London.

Gamesmanship

Dear Sir.

Croquet is happily one of the few games where the scope for gamesmanship is limited, perhaps the only notable exception arising in time-limited games, and even then only rarely. When it does occur, it seems usually to be in doubles games, where in the last remaining minutes the side which is ahead on points indulge in protracted discussion on the lawn, when to the onlooker the choice of shot seems fairly obvious. Law 48(a) however covers this point - 'In doubles play, time must not be wasted in prolonged discussion'.

A case came to my knowledge recently however where the art of gamesmanship was so to speak on the other foot. During the course of a handicap doubles when the higher-bisqued pair were well ahead and the game had still more than half its allotted time of 31/2 hours to run, one of the lower bisqued opponents interrupted play by walking on to the lawn during the opponents' turn and then criticised their lack of expedition, having regard to the time element in the game.

I can understand the feelings of the outplayers if only little time had remained, although even Law 46(a) prescribes that the adversary must not interrupt the striker, which should have debarred the action. Be that as it may, the opponent's action seemed so to disconcert the member of the side in play (the least experienced of the quartet) that her game began to disintegrate and in due course they lost the game.

If in fact the outplayers had good reason to draw the attention of the opponents to the need for more expedition, the correct action should surely have been to await the end of the turn and not, as it appeared to some onlookers, to be exercising a subtle form of gamesmanship.

Jim Townsend, London.

A New Handicap System Dear Sir,

In previous letters I have shown why Barry Keen's purist approach to handicapping cannot work. The handicap system itself is contradictory. Someone correctly handicapped to play against 8's may not be so against 0's, although the 0's are against the 8's.

Clearly the main problem is a moving base against which one is trying to handicap. I suggest handicap games should be full bisqued and calculated to bring all standards of play to the current 4 level. This could be accomplished by

(a) reducing all handicaps by 4 bisques,

(b) each +1 bisque to represent a bisque as usual, each -1 bisque to represent a peel that must be accomplished.

Thus one is always receiving the same number of bisques or doing the same number of peels. A current -2 always has 6 peels to do, a current 8 always receives 4 bisques. No longer would there be the ubiquitous handicap discussion: 'Why don't you bring his handicap down?', 'Well, he's alright when he's got bisques, but when he plays somebody of his own handicap he can't do a thing!'. Of course there will be some people who, with their set number of bisques, always sweep round the course, but their handicaps could be immediately reduced without argument. The problem at the heart of the controversy would be solved.

I hope next to turn my attention to the increasingly important problem of a reliable rating system.

John Walters. lpswich.

The Chairman of the Handicap Coordinating Committee replies:

The system which John is proposing is very similar to that adopted for Short Croquet, and in this guise is being well tested at present. It will be interesting to see whether players prefer the Short Croquet approach once they progress to the full game.

My own view is that the differing approaches required for giving bisques. playing level, and receiving bisques add variety and are part of the appeal of the standard bandicap game, even if a perfect bandicap system is not possible. Perhaps players would like to air their own views through these columns.

Barry Keen. Chairman, HCC.

The Aspinall Mallet

Dear Sir,

I would like to clarify two points in the review of our Aspinall Mallet written by Martin French in your September 1986 issue.

When Mr French wrote the article, the price of the mallet was, as he quoted, £29.95. However, we review our prices at the beginning of September each year for the Sports Trade Fairs. This is so that when we talk to the buyers in the Sports Trade we can give them the prices for the coming season.

Unfortunately your September Issue came out just at the time of our price review. The new price of the Aspinall mallet is £34.90. This price, like the previous price of £29.95, is for

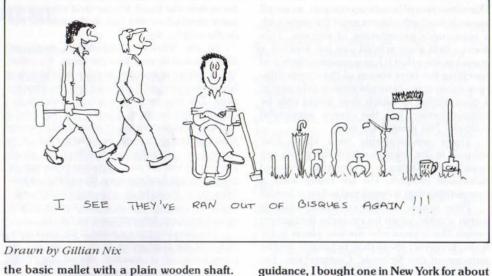
grip is £43.60. Charles Townsend, Managing Director, Townsend Croquet Ltd.

Dear Sir. have an unusual shape

The other trunk is a lightweight version made for me by Mossman & Son Ltd. of 22 Lea Valley Trading Estate, Edmonton, London N18. They charged me £49 and were very obliging. Its finishing is a little cheap, but then you would expect that at the price. It is 3 inches below the limit so a more capacious one could be designed. It survived a trip to California, returning with two mallets and 17 bottles of wine. I can recommend the manufacturers.

Neither of these trunks fills the role of a cheap and simple case for a player's personal use. The 1986 New Zealand team arrived with soft mallet covers with robust tubes inside them to protect shafts, but to my eye they were rather gauche and likely to attract unwelcome comment in the street. (The covers, that is). Besides, they had no room for clothing.

I was therefore delighted to meet in California an American player who had found the perfect solution - a gun case. Following his



Your Letters (2)

The price of the Aspinall mallet with a leather

Luggage for the Jet Set

Travelling by air with croquet mallets poses a problem for those who have full-length mallets. Some people succeed in taking theirs as hand luggage, but they run the risk of being required by check-in staff to let them go in the hold unprotected. I have searched for a massproduced suitcase, but in vain. Luggage for carriage across the Atlantic and inside the USA should have external dimensions (length, width and height) which add up to not more than 62 inches, so that a case long enough for full length mallets will necessarily

I have therefore had two trunks made to fit these constraints. They have internal measurements of 935, 260 and 230 mm. (about 37 x 10¹/₄ x 9 inches). One is a really sturdy trunk that will last for ever, but it is too heavy to be appropriate for only one player. I have therefore donated it to the Croquet Association for use by any group of Associates who are playing abroad. It awaits them at the CA Office. With appropriate packing it can take 6 full-length mallets (more if they are shorter) as well as several sets of balls.

guidance, I bought one in New York for about \$35. (Unfortunately its retail price in Great Britain is £60). Its internal measurements are about 37 x 11 x 4 inches, and it comes with a removable foam filling which entirely fills it but which is almost infinitely squashable. It comfortably takes one full-length mallet plus one day's clothing and footwear and is capable of taking two mallets. It is called 'Gun Guard'. From now on I expect comments from passers-by to be of a strictly respectful nature. Keith Wylie.

Southampton.

Schools Croquet

Dear Sir.

Peter Dorke has lost sight of the purpose of school croquet when he makes recommendations in his article on the Final of the School Croquet competition.

What we are trying to achieve in this competition is to introduce as many school children as possible to the game, to make them realize that it is a serious and enjoyable sport, and hopefully to 'catch some of them young' so that they will continue with the sport into their adult lives.

The Schools' Competition was originally devised with these ideas in mind and it is doing this splendidly, if we are to judge by the increasing number of schools taking part in the competition and by the growing number of good young players who are to be found playing the game to a high standard.

Peter makes two recommendations which, if implemented, would probably lose from the competition, and from croquet playing, many schools which are now taking an active interest in the game.

Firstly he recommends that teachers be banned from the competition. This would be a mistake. The charm and attraction to a school teacher in running a school croquet team is that he or she can get actively involved in the game along with their pupils instead of sitting passively on the sidelines. Unless the game is made attractive to teachers, we shall not find many willing to give up time to fostering it. The best way to do this is surely to allow teachers to take part. The present system whereby teachers can try to nurture and assist a doubles partner in one of the games seems to be an eminently wise and sensible arrangement.

Peter's other recommendation is also detrimental to the success of school croquet.

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Your Letters (3)

The attraction of handicap croquet, as we all know, is that both players enter the game with a reasonable expectation of success. This means that each school can put forward a team knowing that it has a genuine chance of reaching the later stages of the competitin. How many schools would want to take part in a competition in which they would only be cannon-fodder for the more successful schools? Not many I am sure.

There are probably only about four schools in the country where the pupils are capable of playing a reasonable game of Advanced croquet. Do we really want a competition that is restricted to four schools?

Peter makes another comment which is worth a reply, when he remarks that young people like to know who the best player is. He is surely correct about this; but that is not the purpose of the Schools' Competition. For those who wish to establish this fact, the correct competition is the Junior Championship, where the top junior players can meet to establish their relative merits. This is not what we are trying to do in school croquet. Dan Kelly,

Sale.

The Chairman of the Schools Committee replies:

I am grateful for Dan Kelly's comments on my remarks about Schools Croquet. I had hoped to attract a much greater response, for the involvement of teachers is, of course, what we need most and the last thing we want is for teachers to accept without protest any changes which might be made by the Schools Committee. I should say, though, that those teacher-players to whom I have spoken informally about the format of the Schools Championships have agreed, generally, on the desirability of leaving teachers out of the teams. There is a much wider range of opinions on the question of bandicapping.

To take the first issue: is it so certain that the presence of a teacher in the side has a benign effect upon play or the approach of his students? In a competition where the conduct of the children has been unblemished, the only complaints made about behaviour on the lawns have been directed against teachers. Perhaps Dan has been lucky enough not to encounter this aspect of Schools Croquet - and indeed such **prime donne** are few and far between - but it is there, I can assure him.

Let us assume, however, that this is, and always will be, a minor problem, and address his main argument which is that teachers will not be willing to organise croquet if they cannot play in the team. Would Dan claim validity for his statement that 'The charm and attraction to a school teacher in running a school croquet team is that he or she can get actively involved in the game along with their pupils instead of sitting passively on the sidelines' if the words 'rugby' or 'hockey' were substituted for 'croquet'?

The comparison with rugby is interesting. For there must be many school rugby coaches whose playing days are over and whose only involvement in the game is their selfless devotion to the school team. Croquet-playing teachers, however, have always got their tournaments and their club matches and can indeed play friendlies (or not-so-friendlies) with their own students whenever they wish. In some areas they can put a school-based team into the local league and play in the team themselves, not just in the doubles but in the singles, too.

In the Schools Competition, however, there should be no place for them. No other sport allows a teacher to play and not just because of size and strength or even greater skill. The reason is that school sport is for children, not teachers. The sponsorship which Schools Croquet hopes to attract will not be forthcoming if it can be interpreted as a means of subsidising teachers' croquetplaying. If teacher participation in the school croquet team had not been thought of, would Dan have thought of it himself? (For all I know, of course, he was its instigator, which would explain his enthusiasm for it).

The bandicapping issue is far less clearcut and the confusion is illustrated by the complaint of a teacher about the 1985 competition that his side bad no chance against a team which contained 'an England player'. He was saying, in other words, that the bandicapping system did not protect his beginnners from the fearsome skills of youthful experts like, in this particular case, John Mann.



The 1986 'Inter-Schools Croquet Championships'. A fun afternoon organised by Mark Watson-Gandy for nine schools in the Bedford area.

The more usual problem is the reverse, with the better players demanding protection from the 'banditry' of their inadequately bandicapped opponents. This is a problem which we are no nearer solving than we were a year ago. The fact is that many young players never see the handicapper until they play in their regional tournament, by which time it is too late. Entering your school team in the local league is an easy answer to this - swift indeed is the bandicapper's knife when be is the victim of some schoolboy's plethora of bisques - but not all schools have croquet clubs nearby and not all schools can afford the travelling involved. In any case, young people improve so fast in their first year of playing that what handicapper could keep up with them?

And so we have, I would suggest, an

insoluble problem. If there is a compromise between my 'recommendation' - and I am not sure I intended it to be that - and Dan's perfectly reasonable views, then I dare say the Schools Committee will give it a try. Perhaps one game could be played level and two on handicap. There are plenty of precedents for that arrangement. What I did not say, incidentally, was that I was in favour of introducing the Advanced Game to the National Schools Championship. As Dan states, the Junior Championship is the place for that and I hope we can persuade more young players to have a go at it. Perhaps, indeed, this competition should be organised on the lines of the All-England Handicap, with regional finals based on schools or clubs as convenient.

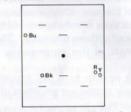
Peter Dorke,

Chairman, Schools Commitee

A Leave for Sadists Dear Sir.

We have all probably heard this: 'Croquet, that's a really vicious game, isn't it?'. I used to feel obliged to alter this impression, but now I can only agree.

Consider the leave in the diagram. Y is for 1, R is for 4-back.



This is not a new leave though as far as I know it has never been fashionable. I used it for the first time in the first round of the last President's Cup when incompetence forced me to abandon my original plan. I used it again in the second round and have used it ever since.

I do not propose to bore you with a theoretical discussion since this leave works best against human beings rather than machines. However, I shall point out the obvious, namely that Blue has a ten yard shot at Black from A-baulk and that Black has a 'safe' shot at Red from B-baulk. These are the only shots that my opponents have taken up to now.

The attraction of the leave is that it can really put Blue/Black through the mill psychologically. It takes real courage to leave Black as a pioneer at hoop 1, but if he plays with Black then he is passing up a ten yard shot

Whatever happens, you should have the satisfaction of seeing Blue/Black suffering which is, after all, the real joy of croquet. As a refinement of the torture, you can place Blue and Black according to which ball he would rather play.

For example, Blue, say, is for 4-back and Black is for 1. If you think he is likely to take the ten yard shot, then leave Black at hoop 1. If you think he is more likely to move the ball at hoop 1, then make it Blue. In other words, give him one less reason for doing what he is inclined to do.

Now, I would say that's really vicious, wouldn't you?

Keith Aiton, Nottingham.

NATIONAL COACHING SCHEME

Review of Progress in 1986

By John McCullough: Chairman, Coaching Committee

The Coaching Committee was officially recognised as a sub-committee of the Publicity and Development committee of the Croquet Association in January 1986, and I was appointed as its first Chairman.

Three Seminars were held for potential Grade 1 (beginners') coaches and 19 new coaches were appointed during the year. 4 Grade 1 coaches resigned, leaving 83 in total. Not surprisingly, the four regions with Federations are best represented, whilst the figures for the South East (7), London (3), and the East Midlands (0) give some cause for disappointment. I hope that a number of you, from those three regions especially, will attend one of the four Seminars arranged for this year (see page 28).

During the year, four Regional Coaching Officers, John McCullough (SW), Jock



A practice session at this year's Loughborough Summer School.

For Sale

DEMONSTRATION BOARDS, each 30" x 24", made of ¹/₂" chipboard, faced with 22 gauge steel and covered with white plastic, on which is marked a diagram of a Croquet court. Each board is edged in pine moulding and has a receptacle for storing the 4 magnetic ball discs, which are also provided. Price £10.

The Coaching committee have commissioned 12 of these highquality boards. We believe they are an essential item of equipment for any serious coach. We urge clubs,

where a large amount of coaching takes place, to purchase one for their coaches. They have been designed for use at a single site and, because of their size and weight, are not suitable for transportation. By selling the boards at £10 each, we are offering a large discount in order to promote their use.

To order, please write to John McCullough and enclose a cheque made payable to 'The Croquet Association'. Delivery will be arranged at the start of the season.

CA VIDEO

The CA Video (VHS format), together with its accompanying handbook, can be purchased from Brian Macmillan, the CA Secretary, for £20. Alternatively, you can hire a copy for £3 (plus postage) from Brian or any Regional Coaching Officer (addresses on page 4). Minimum hire period is 2 weeks. The Video is a useful aid for teaching beginners and consists of

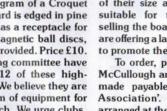
7 x 15 minute sections. Topics

covered are 'Introduction to the

Game', 'Single-Ball Strokes', 'The

Croquet Stroke', 'The Break', 'Introduction to Tactics', 'Handicap and Three-Ball Tactics' and 'Further Techniques'. The accompanying handbook displays each still frame used in the Video tracther with the

displays each still frame used in the Video, together with the commentary for that frame and a tape counter guide to the sections. This enables coaches to see beforehand what will be shown and thus makes it easy to decide which section to show to a particular group.



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baps to on The Coaching Commi ts for recognised as a sub-

National Coaching Scheme

McElwain (S), Paul Stoker (NW) and Tommy Vale (SE), resigned and five new RCO's were appointed, Keith Aiton (E.Mids), Richard Brand (S), Peter Danks (SW), Pat Hague (NW), and David Higgs (SE). Our thanks are due to the first four, who helped set up the National Coaching Scheme and we wish the new RCO's good luck.

A lot of hard work by many people culminated in two inaugural and extremely successful Grade II weekends at Southport and Cheltenham. As a result of these courses, a lot of bisques were lost and 11 Grade II coaches were appointed. Have you spotted a green badge yet?

Chris Hudson, National Development Officer, is to be congratulated for setting up and running a marvellous Summer School course at Loughborough, which is to be repeated this year. Meanwhile, we are investigating running, or helping to run, Summer Schools at two other locations.

At its AGM in November, the Coaching Committee decided to run 3 Grade II weekends this year and, having agreed a syllabus for the Grade III (advanced play) programme, 2 Grade III weekends (see pages 28 and 29 for details of W/E's and syllabus). In addition, at the request of the Schools committee, a Grade I weekend for schoolteachers will be held at Cheltenham on 11/12 April.

Coaching resources have also been improved and elsewhere on this page you will find articles about videos and demonstration boards.

A major project this year will be an attempt (much dependant on raising finance) to produce a CA video to supplement the Grade II programme, concentrating on break play and construction, with a section on the laws.

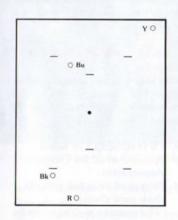
BREAK-BUILDER (B.B.) No.2 (see page 33, Issue No.188)

An Apology

I would like to apologise to Fraser Ross and other readers who spotted the poorly drawn diagram, with a square court and the outer hoops positioned too near the corners. As you will see Fraser, I was looking for the obvious procedure.

The Question

You are about to play with Red, which is for hoop 1. You are prepared to set up a break using one bisque. How would you go about it?



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

The suggested play

Be honest, how many of you, in a game situation, would have taken the 9-yarder, Red at Black, in the hope of getting going without using a bisque? This position was taken from a game, where the bisque-receiver, with 5 bisques available, succumbed to the old enemy, greed. The soft shot was missed, a bisque was taken, but the return roquet knocked Black 3 yards away from the hoop and a second bisque was needed after a poor hoop approach. Even after running hoop 1, only a poor three-ball break had been obtained.

If our friend were wiser and

realised it is better to set up a perfect four-ball break for one bisque rather than get a poor three-ball break for no bisques, the solution would have been easy and the reward much greater.

Remember the first step is to make a mental picture of where you want the three balls other than the striker's ball. In this case, because you are for hoop 1, you obviously want one ball close to hoop 1, a good pioneer at hoop 2 and a pivot ball somewhere just West of the peg. Black will obviously be your ball at hoop 1, so Yellow must either become the pioneer at hoop 2 or the pivot.

Once again the key is the position of the seemingly most inaccessible ball, Yellow. Red can be hit into corner 3 or between corner 3 and Yellow (quite a large target area), giving a good rush to hoop 2. You should be able to rush Yellow fairly close to hoop 2 and you can then place it accurately in the croquet-stroke, meanwhile trying to get a southwards rush on Blue. This can then be rushed close to the peg, or maybe between the peg and Black or, even better, South of hoop 1. In the latter case, you can then position Blue exactly where you want it by means of the croquet stroke.

Summary

Hit Red into, or just West of, corner 3. Take a bisque. Rush Black as close as possible to hoop 2. Croquet Black into perfect position at hoop 2, getting a rush on Blue towards the South boundary. Position Blue as the pivot and send Red to Black, either by means of a rush and take-off or by a rush and croquet-stroke.

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

Courses for Coaches

COURSES FOR COACHES

GRADE 1 PROGRAMME A. Syllabus

The full syllabus was printed in Issue 183 (January, 1986). As a reminder, aspiring Grade I coaches should be:

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

B. Report Forms

At its AGM in November, the **Coaching Committee reaffirmed** that Grade I coaches appointed in a previous year must complete an annual Coaching Report form if they wish to remain on the list of official coaches. The form will be redesigned to be more flexible so that, where many players are coached, names of players need not be recorded (although we would still prefer it) and, where coaches work together, a joint form may be completed. Also a space will be made available for feedback from the coaches to the committee. These forms will be distributed in Spring and all existing Grade I coaches are asked to cooperate by completing and returning them by the end of September.

C. 1987 Courses

All courses will start at 11am and the morning session, until approx 1pm, will be a Seminar for aspiring coaches. As, however, a number of new Videos are now available, as well as some other

GRADE I COURSES

26 April at Cambridge or Colchester 2 May at Nottingham 2 May at Ellesmere 10 May at Parkstone FEE £3 (existing coaches FREE)

GRADE II COURSES

- 2-4 May at Nottingham 8-10 May at Cheltenham
- 22-24 May at Southwick

Fee £3 (FREE to existing coaches who will be reimbursed travelling and **B&B** expenses)

> **GRADE III COURSES** 15-17 May at Nottingham 26-28 June at Colchester FEE £3

SPECIAL COACHING DAY 2nd May at Nottingham For existing Grade II Coaches and aspiring Grade II and Grade III coaches

For details of how to apply for all the courses, plus further information, see column 1 on page 29.

new material, existing Grade I coaches are invited to come for a 'refresher session'. The afternoon session, from 2pm to 5pm, with a break for tea, will be an on-lawn session, where the RCO will be joined by an experienced coach and practical coaching techniques will be taught. We expect that many Grade I coaches will want to come for the afternoon session only, as these sessions have been set up as a result of a request from a number of them for more advice on how to coach. Some or all of the coaches (depending on the numbers attending) will be given short

topics to coach, so that we get the chance to see a number of different styles of coaching. The courses are free to existing Grade I coaches and the fee for aspiring coaches is £3.

To apply, contact the organising RCO's, as follows:

AMBRIDGE or	
OLCHESTER	- Tom Anderson
LLESMERE	- Pat Hague
OTTINGHAM	- Keith Aiton
ARKSTONE	- Peter Danks

D. Weekend Course for Schoolteachers

Any existing Grade I coach who is prepared to help run this course, on one or both of the 11/12 April at Cheltenham, should contact Peter Dorke (Tel. 0584-4547). Reasonable travelling expenses will be reimbursed.

GRADE II PROGRAMME A. Syllabus

The full syllabus was printed in Issue 183 (January 1986). As a reminder, aspiring coaches should be: 1 Referees.

- 2 Of Handicap 6 or below.
- 3 A member of the Croquet Association.
- 4 Prepared to coach outside their own clubs.

The courses may be taken by players who are not yet referees or do not yet have the relevant handicap qualification, provided they reasonably expect to fulfil those qualifications in the near future.

B. Review Procedure

The Coaching Committee have decided that each Grade II coach appointed must coach at one of the Weekend Coaching Courses once every two years, the two year cycle to start in the year following their appointment, if they wish to remain on the list of official coaches. Coaching report forms need no longer be completed in respect of this programme.

C. 1987 Courses

The courses start at 8pm on the evening of the first day, with a Seminar that should last for 2-21/2 hrs. These Seminars are not compulsory for existing Grade II coaches, who may arrive at 9.30am on the second day. On each of days 2 and 3, coaching meetings will take place from 9.30am-10am, 1.30pm-2pm and 6pm-6.30pm to evaluate progress.

Badges (Green) will be awarded to successful candidates at the end of each course. Aspiring coaches will always work with another coach when taking a group of 4 players; existing coaches may be required to take a group on their own.

The Fee for aspiring coaches is £3. Existing coaches will be

Successful candidates for the Grade II Coaching Badge at Southport in April 1986. L to R: Tim Haste, Barry Keen, Andrew Bennet, John McCullough, Bill Lamb, Chris Hudson and Paul Stoker

reimbursed reasonable travelling and B&B expenses.

To apply, write to John McCullough, 100 Queensdown Gardens, Brislington, Bristol BS4 3JG. State your name, address, tel.no, handicap, club and whether or not you are a referee, also state which course you wish to attend. The course leaders are:

NOTTINGHAM	- John
	McCullough
CHELTENHAM	- Bernard Neal
SOUTHWICK	- Chris Hudson

GRADE III PROGRAMME A. Syllabus

The following syllabus was agreed at the Coaching Committee AGM in November:

1. Scope of Grade III Coaching - to help players of handicap 6 and below to learn laws, strategies and tactics related to Advanced play.

2. Content of Grade III Coaching - the list of things that the Grade III Coach should be able and prepared to teach

ranges from the laws of Advanced play, techniques used in break construction, break management, cannons and the triple peel, to the principles of openings and leaves.

3. Qualifications required to become a Grade III Coach -Aspiring coaches should be: 1 Referees

- 2 Of Handicap 1 or below, or has previously had such a handicap.
- 3 Members of the Croquet Association
- Prepared to coach on a regional basis.

4. Procedure for appointing Grade III Coaches - Each aspirant must attend one of the Grade III weekend courses arranged by the Coaching

How to apply 1) Applications for places on

> Grade II and Grade III weekend courses should be sent to: Mr J.R.McCullough, 100 Queensdown Gardens, Brislington, Bristol BS4 3JG.

2) Please enclose a cheque for the appropriate amount, payable to 'The Croquet Association'.

3) State your full name. telephone number, Club, handicap and whether or not you are a CA member and, if so, which category, full, reduced or junior. **General information**

4) All the courses last from 10am - 6pm each day, with a one hour break for lunch.

5) Unless you receive information to the contrary when your booking is confirmed, you should assume that teas will be provided but you will have to make your own lunch arrangements. 6) For information about accom-

modation, please write direct to the Club Secretaries.

7) Priority on Grade III courses will be given to full CA members in preference to reduced rate members. The same will apply for Grade II courses and, in addition, reduced rate members will be favoured over nonmembers and priority will be

COLCHESTER - Keith Wylie

To apply, write to John McCullough with details as listed above (re Grade II programme).

SPECIAL COACHING DAY

In response to a request from Grade II coaches that the programme contain a greater element of coaching for coaches, a special Coaching day has been organised at NOTTINGHAM for 2nd May. It is designed for existing Grade II coaches and aspiring Grade II and Grade III coaches and will be free. It will start at 11am and will finish at approx. 5pm. A video or videos will be shown but most of the time will be spent on the lawn.

Chris Hudson, John McCullough and Bernard Neal will be among the coaches giving demonstrations. Both general coaching style and special techniques for coaching certain aspects of the game will be addressed. Coaches attending will all be liable to be asked to give a short demonstration. If you wish to attend, please let John McCullough know beforehand. so that he can give the Nottingham Club some idea of the likely demand for teas.

play. Each course offers a 'clinic' session, where players may seek personal advice in overcoming a

coach is being used.

range may apply to take part in a Grade II course, provided their application is accompanied by a letter from a CA Coach or, where their Club does not have a CA Coach, from a Club or Federation Official with a single figure handicap. That letter must testify



Committee. A standard charge

Friday evening Seminar from

approx 8pm to 10pm, with a

review of coaching materials and

a discussion about techniques

and the programme for the

weekend. Before and after each

morning and afternoon session

on the Saturday and Sunday

there will be a coaches meeting

to review work done and plans for

the next session, in the same way

as at Grade II weekends. Grade

III coaching badges (Red) will be

awarded at the end of the

weekend to those who have all

the qualifications mentioned in

C above and who, in the view of

the course leader, have shown

themselves competent to coach

5. Review Procedure - not yet

formalised, but likely to be along

the same lines as that for the

Grade II programme.

The course leaders are:

NOTTINGHAM - Keith Aiton

B. 1987 Courses

the syllabus.

The course will start with a

of £3 (1987) will be made.

COURSES FOR PLAYERS

Grade II courses There are 12 places for players on each course. These courses are designed for players who, given the coaching, hope to improve rapidly. Last year's courses were filled and several players

the same level.

achieved handicap reductions of 4 bisques or more in the remainder of the season, after the course. The emphasis is on tactics,

particularly how to construct and play 3 and 4-ball breaks using bisques, also 3-ball endings, openings and leaves.

Each course is split into three groups of 4 players, according to handicap. The course content will vary somewhat according to the handicap range of each group, e.g. groups in the range 6-9 may study single peels, cannons and big splits whilst groups in the range 12-14 may spend more time on 4-ball break

special area of weakness. The coaching ratio will be 1:2

where trainee coaches are taking a group or 1:4 when an appointed

The course leaders will be: NOTTINGHAM - John McCullough. CHELTENHAM - Bernard Neal. SOUTHWICK - Chris Hudson. **Players of handicap 15-18** Players within this handicap

Courses for Players

given to those who have not previously attended a course of

that the applicant has the potential to become a singlefigure handicap player by the end of 1987.

Grade III courses

There are 8 places for players on each course and there will be a coaching ratio of 1:2.

Topics covered will include laws of advanced play, openings, leaves, cannons, wiring, defensive tactics, peeling finishes etc.

Each course will be split into two groups of 4 players, according to the handicap and the course content will vary somewhat according to the handicap range of each group.

The course leaders will be: NOTTINGHAM - Keith Aiton. **COLCHESTER** - Keith Wylie.

CA Junior Members

Junior members may apply in one of three ways:

1) In the normal way, as outlined above, in which case the full fee is payable and they will be given equal priority with full members. 2) As above but also they apply for one of the two free places on their chosen course. In this case it is understood that their application stands even if they



Barry Keen taking a Grade II coaching class at the start of the 1986 season.

are unsuccessful in obtaining a free place.

3) They may apply solely for a free place, on the understanding that they will not be considered for any other normal place if their application is unsuccessful. If this way is used, they may cite more than one venue they are prepared to attend, if granted a free place.

If methods 1 or 2 are used, a cheque for the full amount should be forwarded with the application.

If a free place is sought (2 or 3 above), you should state your age and whether or not you are a wage-earner on your application. in addition to the usual details. The application should also be accompanied by a letter from a CA coach or, if your Club does

HANDICAP 6-14?

Do you want to improve guickly? Then come to a Grade II **Coaching Weekend:** 3/4 May at Nottingham 9/10 May at Cheltenham 23/24 May at Southwick FEES - £10 For CA Members £15 For Non-Members **APPLY EARLY** PLACES LIMITED

HANDICAP 6 or BELOW?

Do you want to master the tactics of Advanced Play or maybe learn how to do a triple peel?

> Then come to a **GRADE III COACHING** Weekend

16/17 May at Nottingham 27/28 June at Colchester FEE £15

CA Members only

APPLY BY RETURN OF POST TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT GREAT DEMAND

CA JUNIOR MEMBER? We are offering 2 FREE places on EACH of the 5 courses above.

For details of how to apply for all the courses, plus further information, see column 1 on this page.

not have a CA Coach, from a Club or Federation official with a single-figure handicap. That letter should include some assessment of your potential for improvement plus arguments as to why you should be awarded one of the free places.

All applications by methods 2 or 3 must be received no later than 1st post on March 1st. The award of places will be made solely by the Chairman of the Coaching Committee, who will inform all applicants as to whether or not they have been successful as soon as possible. Priority will be given to non-wage earners.

1987 LOUGHBOROUGH SUMMER SCHOOL **COURSES FOR PLAYERS AND COACHES** COACHES Grade I: 1-7 August Grade II: 1-7 August PLAYERS **Beginners: 3-7 August Improvers: 3-7 August** For Prospectus and Entry Forms write or phone: Loughborough Summer School University of Technolog Loughborough LE11 3TU Tel: (0509) 263171

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Official Business

Extract of Minutes of Council Meeting held at the Hurlingham Club on Saturday 18th October, 1986.

Before the meeting commenced, Mr Hope referred to the tragic deaths of the Vice-President, Lt Colonel D.M.C. Prichard and Council Member R.A. Godby. All present stood in silent tribute to their memory.

Motions

1. Mr McCullough moved his motion 'That all players in the Longman Cup must be members of the CA.' The motion was defeated by 11 votes to 10.

2. Mr McCullough asked to withdraw his motion that 'Any player who qualifies for and wishes to play in the Area Finals of the All England Handicap must be a member of the CA.' Mr Mulliner opposed this, so Mr McCullough moved the motion. During the discussion it was pointed out that by its very name 'All England' it implied it was open to all comers. The motion was defeated by 14 votes to 7.

Reports of Committees Tournaments

Mr Keen said there were 4 items which required an urgent decision by Council so that, if agreed, they could be published in the Fixture Book, namely:

(i) That the 'Southport' balls be used in the 'Men's & Women's Championships, provided a sufficient number can be manufactured.

(ii) That the 'Challenge & Gilbey' which was not a very successful Tournament should form part of a new Event, The Western Championships, to be staged and organised by the Cheltenham Club. The 'Challenge & Gilbey' would be played during the week concluding with the Coles Open Week-End.

(iii) That the Peels Memorials which also did not attract many entries should cease in their present format and that for 1987 the 2 trophies should be loaned to a Club willing to stage a Handicap Week-end which produced a result for both men and women. Wrest Park had agreed to hold such a tournament in 1987.

(iv) The Handicap Doubles Trophies, which were not part of the original 'Peels' Competition, should be transferred to the Western Championships on loan.

All the above were approved by Council nem con.

International

It was approved unanimously that an Annual, or Biennial match between GB and the USA under Association Croquet Rules be held with a Trophy provided by the CA to be called 'The Solomon Trophy'. Professor Neal reported that:

(i) the MacRobertson Shield Contests will, in future, be planned on a 10 year cycle, the next between GB, NZ, and Australia to be held in NZ in January 1990.

(ii) the application by the USA to compete had been rejected.

(iii) 7 countries had agreed to form the World Croquet Federation, subject to approval by their Governing Bodies.

In reply to a question, Mr Mulliner said that there would be no financial obligation on the CA in connection with the matches versus the USA.

Mr McCullough congratulated the Committee on their work in connection with the MacRobertson Shield Series but asked if a Committee could review the arrangements and record their views on what improvements might be made so that they would be available when the series was next held here. The International Committee was requested to do this.



John McCullough.

Mr Mulliner stated that if Clubs staging a Test Match had incurred expenses for hire of marguees, this could be reclaimed from the CA and that Clubs which held a Test Match would be paid Two Hundred Pounds out of the Sponsorship money.

Administration Report

A list of 231 new Associates plus some not listed was approved. Mr Macmillan reported that membership now stood at 1313, a net gain of 200 on the year, and that there were now 136 registered clubs. We had reached our membership target.

Development Officer

Mr Hudson gave a lengthy report which included the following:

(i) About £1700 had been raised from advertising in the magazine.

(ii) Granada TV were considering televising Short Croquet in 1987.

(iii) 21 teams had entered the Schools' Tournament in 1986.

(iv) 4 Universities had entered the University Championship, but only 2 had competed. (v) The WI and the Townswomens' Guilds had

held croquet tournaments in 1986. (vi) An 'All-England' style Short Croquet individual tournament would be held in 1987. (vii) Merchandising of goods was under

serious consideration. (viii) Media coverage had been particularly good in 1986, due to the Test Matches and

other activities. (ix) Channel 4 were producing a ten-minute

video on Croquet for its minority sports programme.

(x) There had been a large influx of new associates during the year, many of which resulted from Mr Macmillan's efforts in writing to non-members from lists supplied by Clubs. (xi) Grants of about £7000 had been paid out so far during the year to Clubs and Federations.

(xii) A new Federation had been formed in East Anglia. A Welsh Croquet Association was being set up, and plans were going ahead for forming new Federations in the East Midlands and the South East.

(xiii) More Grade I Coaches were needed. (xiv) Application had been made to the Sports Council for a Grant to buy two prototype artificial surfaces for Short Croquet.

Mr Hudson said he was grateful for all the help he had received from Associates. His report was greeted with applause.

Mr McCullough said that due to the great

demand for Coaching Courses, the Regions should approach experienced players to help whether they were recognised coaches or not. Mr Stoker said that we should concentrate our financial help towards clubs with a potential for 4 lawns or more.

Letters

A letter had been received from the solicitors to the estate of the late H.O. Hicks informing us that we had been left a legacy of £1000.

Any Other Business

Mr Hope announced the resignation of Mr D.K. Openshaw on his appointment as Managing Director of Lex Mead. This was received with great regret and he was thanked for his services.

New Clubs Registered Welcome to . . .

Guildford & Godalming C.C.

The Clubhouse, Broadwater, Guildford Road, Godalming, Surrey. (Tel: 04868-6199). Secretary: R.M. Harrison, 86 High Street, Godalming, Surrey, GU7 1DU. Tel: 04868-5245.

St Albans Croquet Club Secretary: Mrs S. Thomas, 112 Fishpool Street, St Albans, Herts

Bishop Auckland Croquet Club P.J.C. Hetherington, 52 Broomside Lane, Belmont, Durham, DH1 2QT. Tel: 0385-62105.

University of London C.C. Secretary: C. Ashworth, 275 Addiscombe Road, Croydon, Surrey, CR0 7HI. Tel: 01-654-1163.

Vardean 6th Form College Brighton, BN1 6WQ. Secretary: David Lockett. Tel: 0273-508011.

Overseas Clubs **Forest Lawns Mallet Club, USA** 30930 Camas Swale Road, Creswell, Oregon 97426, USA. Secretary: Michael Hanner.

Sonoma-Cutrer Croquet Club, USA 4401 Slusser Road, Windsor, CA 95492, USA. Secretary: Brice Jones

Boston Croquet Club, USA President: Miss X. Kayden, 372 Harvard Street, Cambridge, Mass. 02138, USA. Williamette Croquet Club, USA

Secretary: Tremaine Arkley, 9775 Hultman Road, Independence, Oregon 97351, USA. Lenox Club, USA

President: Mrs P. Sprague, 101 Yokun Avenue, Lenox, Mass. 01240, USA.

Roval Muskoka Croquet Club, Canada 4 Bain Avenue, Toronto, Ontario, M4K 1EB, Canada

Organisations newly affiliated The Grange Hotel Ellesmere, Shropshire. Secretary: P. Hutton.

Tel: 069-171-2735.

Changes in Club Officials Parsons Green

New Secretary: H.W. Wright, 69 Studridge Street, London SW6 3TD.

New Secretary: P. Dyke, 30 Whitesfield Road, Nailsea, Bristol, BS19 2NF. Tel: 0272-854804. Bentley

New Secretary: A.P. Smith, Woodmans Mill Green, Ingatestone, Essex, CM4 0PS.

Ipswich & District New Secretary: Mrs E. Butler, 53 Coopers Road,

Nailsea

Martlesham Heath, Ipswich, Suffolk. Carrickmines New Secretary: P. Thornton, 1 Coliemore Villas,

Dalkey, Co Dublin, Eire. Tel: 0001-859773. Bretby

New Secretary: Dr M.J. Gibson, 65 Gresleywood Road, Swadlincote, Burton-on-Trent, Staffs DE11 9QP.

Official Business

New Associates

R. Brett-Smith

J.C. Greenhalgh

Mrs A.H. Jerome

G. Norman

P.E. Best

Mrs P.E. Best

Dr A.C. Bray

D.M.H. Moon

J.M. Phillips

N.M. Langley

Mrs J.M. Bell

Mrs M Jones

J. Waterhouse

A. Edmondson

F. Warrington

Dr S.K. Sadek

R.A. England

B.E. Batchelor

C.C. Akerman

S.G. Manning

New Referee

New Handicapper

Mrs G. Dorke

C.A. Parker

R.A. Watts

(Total 33)

J. Straw

D.W. Shaw

I. Brand

S. Jones

J. Davis

L. Mills

J. Potter

D. Trotman

D. Willetts

J. Watson

D.W. Shaw

Area Final

A.J. Collin

N.G. Hune

M.E. Henderson

Mrs H.G. Handley

Ladies Field Cup:

Miss D. Cornelius

W. Broad-Thomas

Mrs J.W. Potter

Dr P.A. Watson

Mrs C.J. Irwin

A. Tunbridge

A. Harding

P.F. Leach

J. Rose

Mrs C. Steward

New Manager

I.P.M. Macdonald

R. Gillespie

R.E.G. Minter

H.R. Stanley

Mrs M. Vale

Mrs A. Jones

E. Kitchener

C.E. Leach

Mrs B. Warrington

H.J. Payne

B.P. James

J.M. Leach

A. Sedcole

Miss J. Goodhart

Mrs M.W. King

Cheltenham: 3-5 Oct Mrs S. Blenkin Alresford 7 to 8 K. Carter 6 to 5 Ashby P. Hands Bear of A. Rowlands 4 to 5 Rodborough Dr C.B. Snowdon 21/2 to 3 Bear of Mrs S. Clay 13D11 to 12D10 Rodborough Mrs M. James 18D16 to 17D15 Beverley Beverley **Bristol: 6 Oct** 21/2 to 2 Bowdon R.W. Ransom Bristol M. Suter 4 to 3 Bristol Mrs A.E. Coetzee 41/2 to 5 Bristol Mrs B. Ashford 16D15 to 15 Budleigh Mrs A.C. Mead 17 to 16 Budleigh Mrs B.M. Evans 18D16 to 17 Caterham Scottish CA: 13 Oct Compton F.V.X. Norton 3 to 4 Ellesmere G. Anderson 41/2 to 4 Ellesmere M.P.W. Smith Ellesmere Dr D. Warhurst 6 to 5 Miss C.M. Pearson Harrogate Woking: 18 Oct **HMS** Nelson 14D13 to 13D12 B. Brown S.N. Baldwin-Parry Newport I.G. McDiarmid 7 to 8 Oxford Mrs M. Nalder University Mrs F.H. Newman 31/2 to 4 Pendle Southport: Oct Pendle Mrs C.L. Lewis Pendle Mrs A. Rimmer 16D14 to 15D14 Southwick Miss A.E. Dawson 11 to 10 Wells Priory Wrest Park **Colchester: Oct** 51/2 to 4 P. Elliott Mrs M. Gough 17 to 16 **Budleigh: 24 Oct** 61/2 to 71/2 Mrs C. Bagnall Canada 14D12 to 15D12 T. Brand Jersey W. Broad-Thomas Dr W.R. Bucknall 61/2 to 71/2 H.J. Crozier 61/2 to 71/2 Mrs H.J. Crozier Mrs H. Cruden P.K.L. Danks Mrs P.K.L. Danks **New Grade I Coaches** P.K. Devitt 6 to 7 Sidmouth Mrs P.K. Devitt Worcester Mrs M.J. Goode 8 to 9 Beverley Mrs W.E. Iredale 12D10 to 10 Tyneside R.H. Lee 4 to 5 Budleigh Mrs S. Legg 8 to 9 W'hampton J.McB Wood 51/2 to 6 Southwick Dr C.W. Marshall Norton Hall Mrs C.W. Marshall 10D9 to 11D9 Tuneside R.E.G. Minter Budleigh Mrs B. Ormerod Stourbridge Mrs B.G. Perry 71/2 to 8 Tyneside Mrs E.M. Pursey Stourbridge Mrs C.W. Smith 12D10 to 13D11 Wrest Park A.J.P. Staton 12D10 to 14D12 Watford Mrs A.J.P. Staton Roehampton Mrs R.S. Stevens 8 to 9 Dr H.A. Thomas 14D12 to 15D13 P.A. Tunmer 71/2 to 8 Mrs P.A. Tunmer 61/2 to 8 **Handicap** Alterations J. Wasdell Chairman's Salver/All-England Bath: 31 Oct 11D9 to 10D9 Dr C.J.C. Davey 11/2 to 1 Mrs Y. Arnold 12D10 to 11D9 -2 to -1 M. Boardman -2 to -1 **Roehampton: 8 Nov** Hurlingham: 14 Sept P. Hardyment 10 to 8 14 to 12 Edgbaston: 17 Nov Longman Bowl: 15-27 Sept P.E. Jones 11 to 10 41/2 to 6 Miss M. Curtois 15D14 to 16D14 71/2 to 61/2 **Compton: 17 Nov** E. Mids Short Croquet: 27 Sept Miss P. Embleton 9 to 8 18 to 16 Mrs D.W. Shaw **Parsons Green: 23 Nov** 3 to 21/2 15D13 to 14D12 M. Donelan Budleigh: 19-21 Sept Mrs W. Jones 9 to 8 R. Pennant-Jones 10 to 7 4 to 31/2 11 to 10 Mrs C. Osmond 51/2 to 5 Mrs A. Robillard 16D14 to 15D13 9 to 8 **Parkstone: 24 Nov** 51/2 to 5

0 to -1

5 to 41/2

10 to 10D9

9 to 9D71/2

4 to 31/2 10 to 11D10 10 to 11D10 5 to 51/2 D14 to 18D14 8 to 10 11 to 13D11 10 to 11D10 11 to 13D11 8 to 10D9 9 to 11D9 10 to 11D10

16D14

18 to 15D13 13 to 13D12

Miss A. Searle 15D13 to 13



Carrickmines Croquet Club during the 1986 Ireland v. Australia match. (Photo: John McCullough).

The Presidents Cup (Cont'd from page 16)

the nailbiter was a twilight finish between Mulliner and Foulser. After Dave had failed to finish with a clinical 26. Steve had fought back, and after a missed lift embarked on a triple - later turned down in favour of a solid leave, but Dave hit the last shot to take the game. Dave and Jerry were both fighting back, pulling themselves off the bottom of the leader board in spectacular fashion, leaving that dubious honour for John W with 6 consecutive losses in the last 6 rounds.

To our surprise, it looked like Steve and Nigel were breaking with usual habits by being at the event all the time, but unable to stay the distance Steve cracked and got this afternoon off (could this be a first for an eight?) disappearing into the sunset with cohort JR (the latter having previously tried and failed in the only 6P attempt of the week).

Keith succeeded with his first TPO of the tournament, and predictably went on to lose the game to Jerry.

Evening brought the tournament dinner -an occasion which showed inflation to be running at about 100%/4hrs. Indeed it proved to be less expensive to travel to Budleigh for the Spencer tournament dinner! As Steve told me, 1 President's meal = 2 Chairmans' meals or 3 Spencer meals!!!

Day 5

The final day, bringing Aspinall and Aiton together for a crunch match. Nigel's break to 4-back was replied to with a TPO. Nigel then struggled to 6th before taking on a risky, long hoop. It's failure gave Keith a 3 ball break, but nerves were oh so painfully obvious, giving Nigel the break and the game (although this game took the total number of Aiton TPs during the week to 7). The final round saw Aspinall fall at the hands of Foulser and Aiton to McCullough and so to avoid a play-off with Nigel, Steve had to beat Jerry. Jerry always looked in command of the game and had more than one opportunity to finish it, but Steve turned the game around by hitting from corner to corner, later, taking the game and the President's cup.

To end proceedings, our generous sponsors made kind presentations for those who wished to celebrate or forget, JR gave out some handicap reductions (what are they?), but not an increase for himself after sticking in a 2 inch hoop, a croquet enthusiast stole the hoops on JR and Dave's lawn before they'd finished their game, and Yoland's pigeons did escape from the chimney

In closing I point out that this event, predicted to contain the weakest players for a long time (bar two) in fact produced the closest battle for a long time, won with 10 wins, lost on 4. There are more 'top' players now (as opposed to 'world class' players), more closely bunched than ever before. In future, unless the President's Cup is selected on past reputation or the off chance of a few good games over a week or even a weekend, twenty into eight won't go. Our system of eights must be rethought.

If you doubt me, simply consider the names that would appear in a Chairman's Salver where a more reasonable number of players are available than this year. Rather than this year's 'Chairman's Ell' one might call it a 'Chairman's Cup'. If this year we thought the Chairman's Salver should have been presented to Keith, what would the winner of such an event be given?!!