

## Regional News

### EAST ANGLIAN FEDERATION Essex Suffolk Croquet League, 1986

Report by Paul Hetherington

The Essex Suffolk League took on a slightly new appearance for the 1986 season, with three new-sounding teams, but mainly the same old faces.

Havering decided to field its own team, leaving Ingatestone, their former partner, to link with Bentley to form Benting. Colchester decided to drop its old geographical nomenclature (Colchester Essex and Colchester Suffolk) in favour of an A and B team, the A team being composed of more senior members, the B team of more youthful ones. Finally, Farlingaye found itself unable to produce a full team, so linked with Felixstowe to form Felingaye.

All matches were completed to time and the outright winners were Colchester B, with 4 wins out of 5 – their only loss being at the hands of the Colchester A side. Last year's winners, Ipswich, took second place by virtue of a victory in the final match of the season over Colchester A, who occupied fourth place.

Full results were as follows: **Colchester B** 4 wins, games won 23, lost 12; **Ipswich** 3 wins, games won 19, lost 16; **Havering** 3 wins, games won 17, lost 18; **Colchester A** 2 wins, games won 18, lost 19; **Felingaye** 2 wins, games won 14, lost 21; **Benting** 1 win, games won 17, lost 18.

### DEBENHAM TEWSON & CHINNOCKS

Simon Curtis of DTC presents the sponsor's cheque to John Solomon



at the completion of this year's British Open Championships.

Debenham Tewson & Chinnocks, Chartered Surveyors and International Real Estate Consultants, have sponsored the British Opens since 1984. They have proved to be ideal partners over the past three years and deserve our thanks for all the support they have given us.

Last year's Opens provided everyone with perhaps the greatest week's croquet ever seen in Britain, and we hope that the event was equally successful for DTC.

### What's Your Sport?

In May 1987, the Milk Marketing Board and the Sports Council will be joining forces to advertise sport on TV. Not sports equipment or an event, but sport itself, in a unique attempt to increase mass participation.

There will be four TV commercials each aimed at a particular group (teenage boys, young women, young mothers and older people). The commercials will be shown in three separate bursts during May and September 1987 and May 1988. On average, most people will see the commercials six times.

Viewers will be asked to call a central number – 0345 345 345 – at a local call rate in order to obtain an information pack on sport. This **Sports Pack** will be sent to the viewer by return of post.

Information about local opportunities will be sent from a local source a few days later – an operation that is currently being developed by the Sports Council

information officers in conjunction with local authorities, governing bodies and other organisations.

Federations and individual clubs might like to check that their Regional Sports Council Liaison Officer (see list of contacts on page 4) has all the information required to answer any queries that might arise.

### STOP PRESS

#### Great Britain's team announced for US challenge.

The following players have been selected to represent Great Britain against the USA at Palm Beach in April.

Keith Aiton (Nottingham)  
Nigel Aspinall (Roehampton)  
Mark Avery (Ipswich)  
Phil Cordingley (Harrow Oak)  
Colin Irwin (Bowdon)  
David Openshaw (Harrow Oak)

Congratulations to all of them, and our best wishes for a successful outcome.

## Garden Croquet

### Hold the back page!!! NATIONAL GARDEN CROQUET CHAMPIONSHIP

We are collaborating with 'The Observer' and Lassale Watches to promote a National Garden Croquet Championship during the summer. Promotion and administration of the event will be carried out by Alan Pascoe Associates, acting on behalf of ourselves and the sponsors. John Jaques & Son Ltd, Townsend Croquet Ltd, and Walker Croquet Equipment are helping to promote the event by circulating entry forms and lending equipment for the regional tournaments.

The Championship will be announced by 'The Observer' during March, and will be open to any player who has never had a handicap of 18 or less. 'Croquet' will carry reports on the progress of the championship and two prizes of £25 will be awarded; one for the best photograph of an event connected with the competition, and the other for the best report on a match or tournament during the course of the event.

The first few rounds of the championship will be played in competitors' gardens, pairing being done by post to match near neighbours against each other. Families can organise their garden tournaments how they like, provided one family or individual emerges to go through to the next round. (Club members, of course, can play at their clubs on a 'short' lawn if they so wish).

These early rounds will be followed by regional finals between 8 players, one in the morning and one in the afternoon at each venue. The venues will be stately homes or other places of interest. Those knocked out in the first rounds of

the regional finals will be able to play in subsidiary competitions, or to have coaching from CA members wherever we can organise this. The format is designed to give the whole family a chance to have an enjoyable day out, to play some croquet and visit an interesting venue. If space permits, an extra lawn will be set out to let spectators and family friends have a go themselves.

The national final will be played at a high-profile venue in early September and like the regional finals, will be arranged to give croquet and the sponsors maximum publicity.

Entry forms will be available from the CA Office and Club Secretaries from the end of March. The entry fee is £5.00 per family, and the money received will go towards making a coaching video to help promote the competition the following year. For the first year at least, the competition will be confined to singles only. Games will be 14 pts, and played to Association rules on a 'short' lawn. All competitors will be provided with a small booklet outlining the basic rules and popular misconceptions.

This is an event designed to entertain all the family. If you have never had a handicap of 18 or less, here's your chance to try your hand against others of the same standard. Your friends can enter as well, so even if you are not eligible yourself, don't let your garden-playing neighbours miss a treat! Tell them about the competition, because the more who enter, the more fun it will be. And remember – every garden player is a potential club member!



Here's a game for everyone to enjoy!

# CROQUET



Inside:  
National results  
Channel 4 TV  
Club Conference Report  
Recruitment Prizes  
International & Regional News

£1.50

## THE FEDERATIONS

One of the most exciting things in croquet today is the great strides being made by our existing Federations. Anyone who attends their meetings will be impressed by the enthusiasm of all present, both for playing and promoting the game. Furthermore, it is impressive how quickly each Federation takes advantage of the skills and experience of members of new clubs – no waiting for Buggin's turn here. At one Federation meeting I attended recently, the Chairman went round the table asking for reports on progress. Without exception, every one of the 16 people present was able to report a positive contribution that he or she had made during the past six months to various aspects of the game.

Federations are also beginning to attract support from outside organisations. The East Anglian Federation has just announced that it is to continue its highly successful series of Short Croquet matches in collaboration with Greene King, Moët & Chandon, and the National Trust. The South West Federation League matches have been sponsored by the Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society, whilst in the North, last year's East Pennine League was sponsored by the Newcastle Building Society. I hope that this collaboration can continue and expand to the benefit of all parties.

Looking ahead, the East Midlands

club representatives are meeting in March to set up an East Midlands Federation to strengthen the game in that part of the world. Clubs in the South are also considering forming a Federation, a move spearheaded by David Higgs. Club league fixtures are providing more competitive and friendly play for those who want it (and the number of those who do want it seems to be increasing). The North West Federation has introduced a Short Croquet league for the first time this season, and this is expected to prove popular with club players who find full-size lawns and long games too much for them.

In the long term, our organisation will be much stronger if we have regional federations who are responsible for detailed local administration and organisation. Their local knowledge is something that the CA can never hope to have. The CA's role will be to provide a voice for the sport and a central coordinating service to federations and members in matters where some form of central control is advantageous for reasons of scale or conformity – for example, with maintaining the Laws, arranging coaching courses, appointing officials, publishing the magazine, and raising funds nationally through grant aid or sponsorship.

CHRIS HUDSON



Bill Stewart (centre) directs the action in Channel 4's Croquet video. On the right is producer, Mike Mansfield.

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

Printed by DDS Colour Printers, Unit 10, Worle Industrial Centre, Weston-super-Mare. Tel: 0934 516902

Page

|  |          |
|--|----------|
| Schools Croquet .....                      | 6        |
| Contacts .....                             | 4        |
| Tournament Reports & Results .....         | 5,22     |
| Origins .....                              | 13       |
| Feature: 'Hitting-In' .....                | 19       |
| 1986 Club Conference .....                 | 20,21    |
| International News .....                   | 10,11,12 |
| Puzzle Corner .....                        | 18       |
| Club Recruitment:                          |          |
| Competition Results .....                  | 27       |
| 80 years ago .....                         | 23       |
| Television .....                           | 14,15    |
| National Tournaments:                      |          |
| The Mary Rose Trophy .....                 | 16       |
| The Longman Cup .....                      | 16       |
| National Short Croquet .....               | 16       |
| Inter-Club Championship .....              | 18       |
| All-England Championship .....             | 24       |
| Sponsorship .....                          | 7        |
| Club History:                              |          |
| Wellcome (Beckenham) .....                 | 17       |
| Moët & Chandon Challenge .....             | 23       |
| 1987 Price List .....                      | 27       |
| Regional News .....                        | 28       |
| Your Letters .....                         | 3,8,9    |
| Coaches Corner .....                       | 25       |
| Coaching Courses For Players .....         | 25       |
| Official Business .....                    | 26,27    |
| National Garden Croquet Championship ..... | 28       |

## Publication Details

The CA Secretary is Mr B.C. Macmillan, The Croquet Association, The Hurlingham Club, Ranelagh Gardens, London SW6 3PR. Tel: 01-736 3148

The Editor (Co-ordinating) is Mr C. Hudson, The Oaklands, Englesea Brook, near Crewe, Cheshire CW2 5QW. Tel: 0270 820296

"Croquet" is published on the first day of every second month. To be certain of inclusion, copy should reach the Editor on the 20th of the month, two months before the month of issue (i.e. on 20th May for the issue being published on 1st July).

**Tournament results and reports** to be sent direct, within 7 days of completion of the tournament, to the Secretary of the CA.

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

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

**Photographs in this issue by:** Andrew Wilson Photography, EMC Photographic Services, Chris Hudson, Deborah Latham, John McCullough, AM Weekend, Robert Prichard, Eastern Daily Press, and Mary Ellis.

**Front Cover:** Noel Dyson, star of the Channel 4 video, triumphant after pegging out.

Annual Subscription Rate **£7.50**  
(incl P&P). Individual copies **£1.50**

## Croquet is FUN!

Dear Sir,

I well remember my first 'games' of croquet when neither my opponent (my wife) nor I realised that only one roquet per ball was allowed between hoops! We made very long breaks but scored few points – happy days! Seven years later it seems appropriate to reflect on the changing face of croquet.

The coaching we received was hardly methodical, being largely confined to what we could glean from our opponents, who were usually very ready and willing to offer advice. Equally important were the points of etiquette, covered only in part by 'Customs of the game' in the Laws, and we shall always be grateful in particular to our friends at Cheltenham for showing us what can best be described as the charm of the game.

In about three years we had progressed to a reasonable state of competence (2 & 4), having practised a little and entered one week and two or three weekend tournaments per year. We met a lot of people in a similar position to ourselves with only a limited amount of time available to play, and a few who seemed to do nothing else. These players improved faster than we did but it didn't matter (one day they would have to work for a living too!). What mattered was that all types of player seemed to be enjoying themselves.

Now there is ever increasing pressure to move towards professionalism. We read in the November editorial 'When professionals begin to appear... do we want to keep them in the fold...?' The implication is that their arrival is both inevitable and imminent and a hope is expressed that sponsors will be ready to offer substantial prizes. I have even heard a proposal that we should select some likely young players and sponsor them so as to produce a new breed of super-player. Above all, there is the 'it's all about winning' syndrome which has led to some rather sad spectacles in other games. Not that I am against winning – I wish I could do so more often myself!

I shall be told that one cannot hold back the path of progress as Wimbledon found with tennis, but the situation is very different. There was already a TV market for tennis, whereas we are trying to create one for croquet. A more spectacular example is that most sedate of games, snooker, whose popularity has increased so much that I have no doubt the sponsors fight to get in on the act! As I write, the UK snooker championship has just finished, with allegations of head butts to the manager and suggestions that the pockets had been cut generously at the sponsor's request for big breaks and shock results. Is this what we are trying to achieve?

Another point – when we have the misfortune to commit a fault, it is universal practice to admit it. I recall that when Terry Griffiths declared a foul in a recent snooker match, it was considered worthy of special mention by the snooker commentator on TV. Enough said, I think!

Moreover, I can foresee a time when professional players will achieve a standard which is so near to perfection that the only excitement will tend to be whether the lift is hit. Even now, top croquet can be somewhat repetitive. Viewers will quickly tire of immaculate four-ball breaks and cries of 'How

boring' may even extend to the sextuple. If I am right in this, sponsored croquet will not last long, but what will have happened to the nature of the game in the meantime?

For some while there has been a fairly widespread feeling that changes are required in the game and I welcome many of the efforts being made. The popular Victorian image has to go, to be replaced by something more up-to-date. However, I believe that so much that was good about the game as little as seven years ago – the fun and the charm – could so easily be lost if we are not careful. Croquet to me is still fun, and in common with many of the other part-timers I want to retain the chance to meet my friends and make new ones for a vicious game and a drink afterwards!

So what is to be done? We should admit that changes are needed, that some will be more successful than others and that it will be a while before all is well. The recent changes introduced by the HCC, a revision of the Laws, and new procedures concerning referees are three recent examples of attempts to improve the framework of the game. Now we are confronted with some very strong views about coaching and professionalism, both major topics worthy of serious discussion at a full club meeting.

Judging by letters to 'Croquet' and chats I have had around the circuit, many members have been surprised, frustrated and in some cases angered by decisions which they felt they could not influence. We must not lose sight of the fact that it is we who elect the Council who run our affairs and make most of the decisions for change (or lack of it). However, it is not a requirement of our candidates that they issue a manifesto – perhaps we should ask them to make their views known on such important matters.

Am I worrying needlessly, or should we be taking careful stock of our objectives before we go too far and our car stickers proclaim plaintively, 'Croquet used to be fun'.

Ken Cotterell,  
Didcot.

## The Chairman of Council replies:

I am very sympathetic to the main point of your letter; it would be a great shame if the spirit of croquet died due to avarice. However, it is the duty of Council to explore all possible avenues that the future may take us.

Two small committees have been set up, one to look into the ramifications of professionalism within all facets of croquet from administration to appearance money, and the second to explore ways of improving our chances of regaining the MacRobertson Shield in 1990.

As for candidates producing a manifesto, a candidate is asked at the moment to produce a short CV and I think it would be a good idea to declare any particular changes they would like to bring about if elected. This point will be discussed at the next General Purposes committee.

Andrew Hope,  
Cheltenham.

## Humphrey Hicks

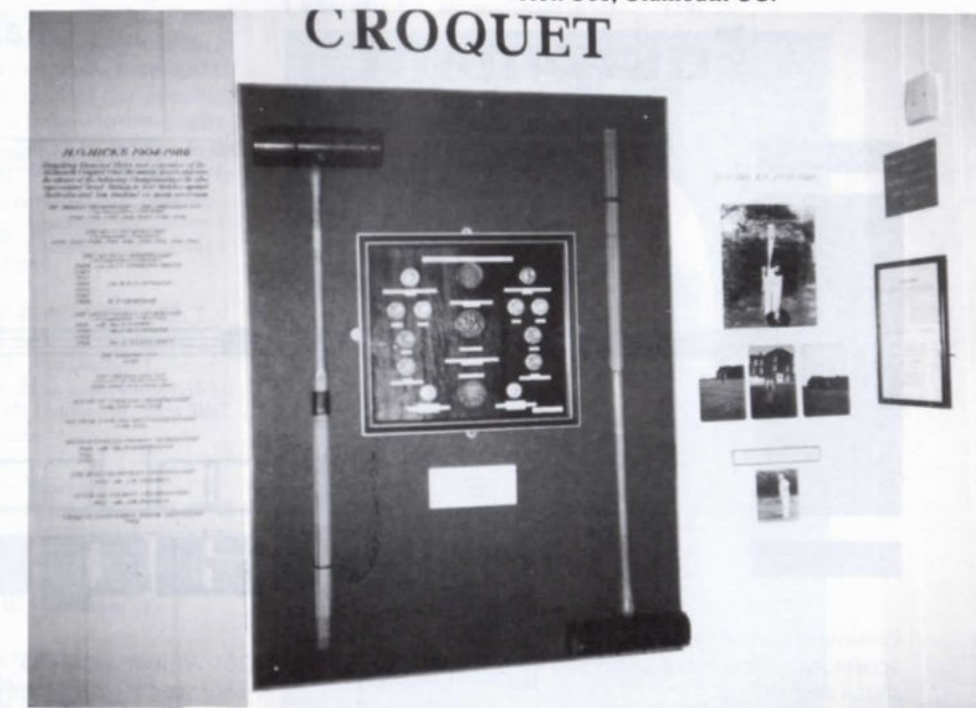
Dear Sir,

I enclose a photograph taken by Miss Mary Ellis, a member of the Croquet Section of this Club, which you may like to include in the next issue of 'Croquet'. It shows a display of memorabilia of the late Humphrey Hicks which has been arranged in the pavilion. In order to show the details to advantage, it was necessary to make a composite photograph.

Humphrey Hicks was an Honorary Life Member of this Club and before he died he presented the mallets with which he had won his championships to us. After his death, his god-daughter, Mrs Hilary Mabon, donated his medals. These have now been arranged in an excellent display which was completed in time for the Croquet Section AGM in October, to which Mrs Mabon was invited.

I am sure that there will be many croquet players who will be interested in this comprehensive record of the achievements of an outstanding player.

Mary Hardman,  
Hon Sec, Sidmouth CC.



The display of Humphrey Hicks memorabilia at Sidmouth.

## Contacts

### The Croquet Association:

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

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

### Regional Development Officers

**Northern Region**  
Syd Jones, 42 Ventnor Gardens, Whitley Bay, Tyne & Wear, NE26 1QD. Tel: 091-252 2962

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

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

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

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

**South Western Region**  
Martin Murray, 69 High Kingsdown, Bristol, Avon BS2 8EP. Tel: 0272 20990

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

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

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

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

(Kent & East Sussex)  
Dennis Shaw, 9 Collingwood Court, Belmont Road, Ramsgate, Kent CT11 7QQ. Tel: 0843 591789

### Regional Coaching Officers

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

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

**North West**  
Pat Hague, Brookside, Brereton Drive, Worsley, Manchester M28 4GW. Tel: 061 790 3514

**West Midlands Region**  
Ken Jones, 96 New Road, Rubery, West Midlands, BH5 9HQ. Tel: 021-453 2088

**East Midlands Region**  
Keith Aiton, 21 Nottingham Road, Ravenshead, Nottingham. Tel: 0623 792308

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

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

**Southern Region**  
Richard Brand, Bisham Abbey, Marlowe, Bucks. Tel: 0628 476911

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

**South East Region**  
David Higgs, 35 Shirley Avenue, Old Coulsdon, Surrey CR3 1QY. Tel: 01-668 6525

**Federation Secretaries**

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

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

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

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

### Schools Committee

Peter Dorke, 15 Castle View Terrace, Ludlow, Shropshire. Tel: 0584 4547

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

**Sports Council Croquet Liaison Officers**  
Dacre Dunlop, The Sports Council, County Court Building, Hallgarth Street, Durham DH1 3PB.  
Tel: 0385 49595

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

**Yorkshire & Humberside Region**  
David Heddon, The Sports Council, Aykley Heads, Durham DH1 5UU. Tel: 0385 49595

**East Midlands Region**  
Anne Rippon, The Sports Council, Grove House, Bridgford Road, West Bridgford, Nottingham NG2 6AP. Tel: 0602 821887

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

**Eastern Region**  
Tony Ploszajski, The Sports Council, 26-28 Bromham Road, Bedford MK40 2QD.  
Tel: 0234 45222

**Greater London & SE Region**  
Jim Atkinson, The Sports Council, Jubilee Stand, Crystal Palace National Sports Centre, Ledrington Road, London SE17. Tel: 01-778 8600

**Southern Region**  
Mike Halpin, The Sports Council, 51A Church Street, Caversham, Reading, Berks.  
Tel: 0734 483311

**South Western Region**  
Tim Collins, The Sports Council, Ashlands House, Ashlands, Crewkerne, Somerset TA18 7LQ.  
Tel: 0460 73491

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

## Tournaments (1)

### Southport: 13-14 September

#### Fine display by Chris Clarke

Report by Bill Lamb

A few drop-outs from the original entry and a change of management caused a late change of format from a knock-out and Swiz to a genuine Swiss. This caught out one or two players, including your correspondent, who had not bothered to read the tournament notices and imagined that they had been knocked out in the first round and were hacking around in the Swiz, whereas in reality the competition had scarcely begun.

Two of Bennet's bandits figured prominently during the weekend. Mark Saurin, handicap 7, had an interesting opening game against John Meads. John demonstrated to Mark how to jump a hoop to hit a wired target ball (later in a different game, he jumped rover to peg out): Mark demonstrated to John how to forget the lift and hit in from 30 yards at a partially wired ball. Mark's evident joy at winning this game was only surpassed when he went on to win his second round game against John Walters!

But even these heroic deeds were pale in comparison with those of Chris Clarke, who won his opening five games, collect-

ing several notable scalps along the way. Most eminent of them was Colin Irwin. Colin gradually gained the upper hand and eventually pegged one ball out, leaving the other for peg, against Chris at 4-back and six. Chris hit the lift and progressed from six to peg in one break. Colin shot at the peg from the lift, missing narrowly, and Chris pegged out in the next turn to win by the narrowest of margins. It was left to John Walters to restore some semblance of order and deny Chris a clean sweep by beating him in the final game. Nevertheless, Chris won the Stoker decanter by virtue of his win against Colin, both finishing with five wins, when he is not yet old enough to buy anything alcoholic to fill it!

Williamson balls were in use on one lawn with the hoops adjusted to accommodate their slightly larger size. One competitor complained mildly to ROT and Manager, Andrew Bennet, that there appeared to be little clearance between hoop and ball, obviously expecting some action; Andrew merely chuckled quietly. Measurement after the tournament revealed the fact that two

hoops were to proper President's Cup standard, ie. one-sixteenth clearance between hoop and ball, and the other four were even tighter. It was, perhaps, a pity, for several players found the combination of Williamson balls and very tight hoops very difficult to handle. Certainly referees were required more frequently on this lawn than on any of the others, usually to referee hampered shots when a ball had only just wriggled through a hoop.

All this goes to show that there are things to write about at some tournaments other than the tournament dinner, pace John Walters, but I am sure that John would agree that the meal of gargantuan proportions served at the local Carvery at a very reasonable price was in itself notable.

For the record, the weather was also glorious, as one is coming to expect at Southport in September.

#### RESULTS

**5 wins:**  
C. Clarke (winner) bt Sutcliffe +2, Williamson +3, Irwin +1, & Collin +17; C.J. Irwin (runner-up) bt Mrs Collin +23(TP), Miss Cornelius +20, Saurin +23, Lewis +13, & Collin +16  
**4 wins:**  
Miss D. Cornelius bt Southern +26, Williamson +4, Mrs Collin +11, & Wilkins +7; J.D. Meads bt Goacher +3, Mrs Collin +19, Wilkins +6, & Lewis +14; J.O.

**1 win:** A.W. Harding (11)  
**0 wins:** Mrs C. Bagnall (6½)

**Block D**  
**5 wins:** P.F. Leach (5½)  
**4 wins:** M. Granger-Brown (2)  
**3 wins:** H.G.T. Bolton (3½)  
**2 wins:** Wing Cdr T.N. Silk (13)  
**1 win:** Mrs P.A. Dwerryhouse (6½)

Chris Clarke in play at Bowdon earlier in the season.

Walters bt Goacher +14, Miss Cornelius +14, Meads +25, & Clarke +16

**3 wins:**  
A.J. Collin bt Wilkins +4, Williamson +20, & Walters +10;  
D.J. Goacher bt Southern +26, Lamb +17, & Mrs Collin +1; S.E. Lewis bt Lamb +10, Collin +26, & Saurin +25; M.A. Saurin bt Meads +6, Walters +12, & Sandler +8; C. Southern bt Sandler +14, Lamb +14, & Sutcliffe +8; M.J. Wilkins bt Lamb +16, Sutcliffe +11, & Saurin +11

**2 wins:**  
Mrs M.P. Collin bt Southern +3, & Sutcliffe +22; W.E. Lamb bt Sandler +17, & Williamson +14; A.F. Sutcliffe bt Sandler +7, & Williamson +3

**1 win:**  
M.H. Sandler bt Goacher +8; J.D. Williamson bt Sandler +17

**0 wins:** Mrs C.W. Marshall (10)

**Block E**  
**5 wins:** Dr P.A. Watson (5½)  
**4 wins:** W.C. Broad-Thomas (4)  
**3 wins:** A.J. Wasdell (10)  
**1 win:** J.W. Potter (2), P.A. Dwerryhouse (6½), Mrs P.K. Leach (14)



Block-winner: John Toye.

British and best  
**Jaques**  
Equipment

**Mallets**

made to your own  
specification  
by Jaques craftsmen

Known and used all over the world

The renowned  
**Eclipse**  
Championship Ball

**Jaques**  
& Son Ltd.,

Complete sets or single items, accessories, from all good sports shops and stores.

361 Whitehorse Road,  
Thornton Heath, Surrey, CR4 8XP. Tel: 01-684 4242

### Budleigh: 19-21 September

Report by Peter Danks

After excessive wet weather during the May tournament the Gods relented, and the weather this time was warm and sunny.

Of the thirty entries seventeen were visitors and thirteen local members.

After a spell of rain, eight of the lawns were in beautiful condition. One lawn was closed for annual maintenance, whilst Lawn 10 had been scarified. It dried out very quickly. Some rude remarks were made by visitors, and words like 'Sahara' and 'Gobi' were heard. Needless to say, in future careful consideration will be given when deciding whether or not to accept their entries!!

One visitor had the misfortune to forget his white trousers and was lent a pair. He was bemoaning his lack of form. Deborah Latham, in giving him sympathy, suggested that it might be because he was playing in unfamiliar surroundings!

The results speak for themselves. Although there was a

spread of handicaps in each block, the winners had handicaps of 2, 0, 1½, 5½, and 5½. Those coming second had handicaps of 0, 5½, 9, 2 and 4. Analysts - get to work.

Many found that they had to play two games after lunch and the nights were closing in. But, in lovely weather it was pleasant to play in the cool of the evening. All-in-all, a happy tournament.

There was a fairly long waiting list. Why not book early and make sure of your place?

#### RESULTS

(Handicap Play)

**Block A**  
**4 wins:** B. Redford (2) +63, L.V. Latham (0) +48  
**3 wins:** F.A. Rowlands (4)  
**2 wins:** Mrs M.G. Tompkinson (6½)  
**1 win:** N.M. Griffin (6), Mrs W.C. Broad-Thomas

**Block B**  
**5 wins:** J.S. Toye (0)  
**3 wins:** J. McBurnie-Wood (5½) +20, Mrs L.V. Latham (5½) +12, M.G. Tompkinson (2) -4  
**1 win:** Miss K. Holroyde (12)  
**0 wins:** R.W. Newnham (4)

**Block C**  
**5 wins:** Dr D.R. Laney (1½)  
**4 wins:** Mrs J.W. Potter (9)  
**3 wins:** P.K.L. Danks (5)  
**2 wins:** J.H.J. Soutter (2½)

## Schools Croquet

### The 1987 Royal Bank National Schools Croquet Championship

Extracts from our schools publicity leaflet:  
text by Simon Garrett (Bath), Advertising Copywriter.

#### CROQUET EDUCATES THE PUPILS OTHER SPORTS CANNOT REACH.

Association Croquet demands neither bulging muscles, nor lightning reflexes, nor eagle eye sight.

Instead, it rewards the learnable skills of self-discipline, delicate touch and tactical subtlety, as players manoeuvre 1-lb balls through hoops with only 1/8" clearance during snooker-style breaks of up to 91 strokes.

Which means a non-athletic boy or girl may well beat the Head of Games, and the latter will soon conclude that croquet is now much more than a genteel garden pastime.

That is why croquet is now a Duke of Edinburgh's Award option.

That is why croquet is bigger than ever at Universities.

And that is why croquet is taking

off in more and more schools, right through the 12-18 age range.

Official schools croquet started as recently as 1984, yet by 1986 nineteen schools were contesting a national team tournament, the National Junior Championship was well established, and players as young as 13 and 14 were capturing major Croquet Association trophies.

They're getting into an expanding game. 25 new clubs opened in 1986. CA membership was up 18%. Grants, sponsorship and media coverage are increasing. And with over 100 tournaments scheduled for 1987, there is no lack of glittering prizes. Ultimate goal is to be capped for one of the home countries, or even for Great Britain. (The World Croquet Federation includes Australia, New Zealand, Japan and the USA, and is likely to enter the 1989 World Games.)

#### YOUR ENTRY FORM.

#### THE ROYAL BANK NATIONAL SCHOOLS CROQUET CHAMPIONSHIP 1987

To: Peter Dorke, 15 Castle View Terrace, Ludlow, Shropshire SY8 2NG

We would like to enter the 1987 Royal Bank National Schools Croquet Championship.

School .....

Name of Contact .....

Title .....

Address .....

Telephone: (Home) .....

(Office) .....

I enclose a cheque for .....  
(1 team £5.00, 2 teams £9.00) to cover our entry fees.

Signed .....

Date .....

If you would like to be registered with the CA, please tick the box.  
(Annual subscription is £7.50.)

Please make cheques payable to 'The Croquet Association'.

17 schools and universities are already CA-registered and taking full advantage of the wide-ranging benefits of membership. Several now offer holiday croquet courses as a 'dual-use' activity. Others may soon stage their own weekend tournaments, either exclusively for their own members or as open events. Neighbourhood clubs and federations can often supplement the official CA development programme. Ring Peter Dorke, CA Schools Committee Chairman, on 0584-4547 for full details.

#### NEW IMPETUS FOR SCHOOLS CROQUET.

In 1986, 19 schools took the plunge. There were 3rd-year teams, near-beginners, rugged sixth-formers: a broad spectrum and a lot of fun.

In 1987, thanks to sponsorship by The Royal Bank of Scotland, the CA plans to spread the fun far and wide with two crucial innovations. First, local inter-schools contests will be organised to select first-round entrants for the national tournament. Secondly, a number of School League Secretaries have been appointed. Their job will be to run the local tournaments and, where necessary, to allocate handicaps to the players. These developments promise more croquet with less travel, and should greatly increase the number of schools participating.



Mark Saurin,  
Queen Elizabeth's  
Grammar School  
Blackburn,  
playing in the  
1986 Northern  
Championships.

**Rabbits especially welcome!** Some of the 'rabbits' of '84 and even '85 are now tournament veterans, so don't hesitate to enter even the most inexperienced team. In any case, the handicap system means even rabbits have teeth, with a fighting chance against the most formidable opposition.

The same applies to the National Junior Championship for individuals. This has a level-play event to find the best junior player of all, but there's also a handicap event which literally anyone could win. Every keen school player should

enter these friendly, smoothly-organised events which have given so much pleasure and valuable experience over the last three years.

#### Why doesn't YOUR school take part this year?

The 1987 Royal Bank Schools Championship is open to any school.

Teams consist of three players and each school may enter one or two teams. Wherever possible, the relevant tournament manager will allow extra teams to enter, so that the maximum number of school players may gain tournament experience.

The entry fee of £5.00 for the first team includes a free copy of the Basic Laws of Association Croquet. The entry fee for the second (and any additional teams) is £4.00 per team.

The inter-school matches will consist of three singles contests played under the Laws of Association Croquet for Handicap Play - this gives each player an equal chance of winning.

The Championship will be organised regionally by local School League Secretaries, appointed by the CA, and played in tournaments. On entry, each school will be put in touch with its local Secretary, who will arrange tournament dates to fit in with school timetables as conveniently as possible.

The Regional Tournaments will be played over one or two days during May, June and early July. It is hoped to include other events, such as Short Croquet competitions and tuition from qualified CA coaches: this will depend on the number of entries and local conditions.

The National Final will be contested at Edgbaston Croquet Club on July 8 1987, followed by the award of a handsome permanent trophy by the Royal Bank of Scotland, sponsors of this annual event.

### Why The Royal Bank of Scotland puts young folk through the hoops

By Gordon Fenton, Public Relations Manager, The Royal Bank of Scotland

Like most commercial sponsors, we at The Royal Bank of Scotland look to sport and the arts to provide us with opportunities to associate our name with excellence, enjoyment and a high standard of endeavour - and to do so in full view of customers, real or potential, and the general public. In this way, we expect to establish our commitment to the activities of the broader community and at the same time enhance an awareness of our name.

A year or so ago, we made a very careful and specific appraisal of our sponsorship in the light of a most precise requirement. The Royal Bank of Scotland had merged with Williams & Glyn's Bank to create, virtually overnight, 350 branches bearing a new name which, while long-standing and distinguished north of the border (we could point to 250 years of business and a dominating position in the country's banking) was not well-known in England and Wales.

*The awards of sponsorship - Royal Bank trophies are eagerly competed for in a wide range of sports. Since 1979 lady curlers have coveted the 'World Cup' of their sport - a solid block of crystal engraved with the wayside flowers of Scotland.*



exciting and, perhaps, capable of increased television coverage. We had been the major sponsors of the sport in Scotland and it was a logical move for us to establish a similar pre-eminence in England and Wales.

But while we made every attempt to take advantage of the areas where we had experience, we did not restrict our efforts in

discussions with the Croquet Association and with our good friends at Granada TV produced a positive achievement - televising of The Royal Bank Nations Cup. This allowed us to take part in an important step forward for croquet and we were certainly encouraged by the outcome - as I believe were the Croquet Association and Granada - pointing to an important development potential for publicising the game.

With this latest involvement of the Bank - the sponsorship of



*This year, for the first time, The Royal Bank Nations Trophy went to England's Nigel Spinnall. The silver quaich is based on a ceremonial drinking vessel of the Highlands, a symbol of hospitality and generosity.*

The means of accelerating the acceptance of a new name are many, from the design of premises to advertising on television and in the press, from direct mail to open days. Sponsorship was one which we enlisted zealously, encouraged by our experience in Scotland over a number of years and over a large span of sports.

We built on our knowledge and track record with specific sports. Volleyball, for example, was fresh, expanding, visually

any way. We may have played sensibly but we did not play safe. For some time we had been studying the potential of Croquet, a sport which could not have been accused of over-exposure as far as sponsors were concerned! And it was a sport of considerable potential, despite the invariable smile which came over the face of any colleague within the Bank with whom we discussed the game!

We were delighted when our



*For six years the prize for winning the SRU Youth Rugby Leagues has been a bronze sculpture of tackler and tackled.*

**The Royal Bank Schools Championship** - we have achieved another important aim. We have become associated with young people as well as with an attractive, 'clean' game. It is no secret that the younger generation is important to Banks. These are certainly not days of mindless loyalty to one's Bank, but it is still true that the important step is to win a new customer and then make certain not to lose him/her rather than set out to prise a satisfied customer from a competitive bank.

We hope that our financial involvement - and, might I suggest, enthusiastic moral

### Sponsorship

**The Royal Bank of Scotland Croquet Sponsorship**

We are delighted to announce that The Royal Bank of Scotland have decided to continue their sponsorship of croquet. They have recently signed a three-year agreement with the Croquet Association to support the National Schools Croquet Championship.

Following this welcome support from The Royal Bank, we expect the schools' competition to expand rapidly. This year over 1000 schools are being invited to take part and after a series of Regional tournaments, organised by School League Secretaries, the final will take place at Edgbaston Croquet Club on 8th July.

The schools' competition provides a great opportunity for clubs to build for the future; already many of the junior players introduced to the game at school are making their mark in official CA tournaments. Entry forms for the competition are therefore also being sent to all registered clubs so that they can encourage their own local schools to take part if they have not already been contacted.

The Croquet Association is arranging courses for teachers who would be prepared to coach the game at their school. If you know a teacher who might like to take advantage of this, please ask him or her to get in touch with Peter Dorke for further details.

The future of croquet lies in the schools, and The Royal Bank of Scotland's support will be a tremendous help to us in developing the game.

support - will help the sport develop rapidly among young people. It is a fascinating and challenging game which deserves to be more widely known, more widely followed and more widely played than it is.

Naturally we have learnt from our sponsorships of a wide number of sports and artistic disciplines that what we get out of a sponsorship depends not just on the intrinsic value of the activity but also on the quality of the administration. We are convinced that in the Croquet Association we have found a committed and capable partner.

### Tournament Reporting

Dear Sir,  
There has been a tendency among some of those writing tournament reports recently to attempt to be more entertaining than factual. I say 'attempt' as I personally find these reports well-nigh incomprehensible as the 'jokes' are obviously for a selected group and not for those who are not 'in the know'!

I wonder if the writers realise that they are a privileged group who are able to find out all the facts about the tournament without having to wait for their copy of 'Croquet'. If one has to rely on the magazine for news, it is frustrating to find that the information wanted is either not there at all or only to be gleaned by wading through singularly unfunny material.

As a rule, I enjoy 'Croquet' and find its more informal layout and the excellent photographs very interesting. I also appreciate the occasional joke in an otherwise serious, and perhaps dull, report, but I would prefer to have just the bare results and no report at all than have the kind of report we have just had on the President's Cup, for example.

Sheila Black,  
Bowdon.

### Fast Play

Dear Sir  
In fairness to Fraser Ross may I correct the misprint in my report of the East Riding Handicap Tournament. In fact 48 points were scored in rather less than an hour and a half in the game described, not 18 as printed.

Whilst this is not a record - I have seen at Bowdon a reference to a friendly in which 51 points were scored in under an hour - it is nevertheless a respectable rate of scoring. As exceedingly long games, particularly in doubles, seem to be worthy of comment, I am prompted to ask if anyone knows which was the fastest tournament game played and in which tournament game were points scored at the fastest rate.

W E Lamb,  
Cottingham.

### The Edinburgh Croquet Club

Dear Sir,  
In the report of the Edinburgh Tournament which appeared in the recent issue of 'Croquet' it was stated that Mrs Jean Morrison, playing in the doubles at the age of 84, was the most experienced player on the lawns. This is not

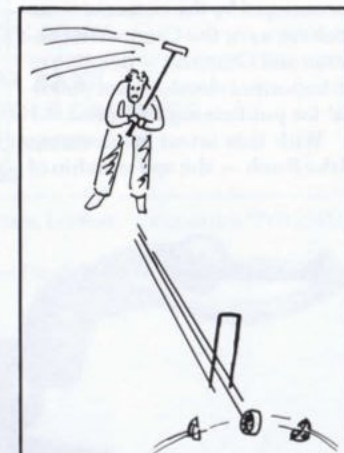
quite accurate. Also playing in the doubles was Mr J.C. McCulloch (a Founder Member and present Treasurer of this Club), who was then aged 91 and so several years older.

Both these senior members of the Edinburgh Club have known croquet all their lives, and in spite of the bad weather both played constantly on the lawns at Lauriston Castle all last season.

Anne Murray,  
Hon Sec, Edinburgh CC.

### The Southport Tournament

Dear Sir  
May I correct the unfortunate impression in my report of the Southport September Weekend that I was being critical of Andrew Bennet as Manager and ROT. The true state of affairs regarding the Williamson balls and tight hoops only came to light at the end of the tournament, when Andrew willingly gave me permission to measure the gap between hoops and balls, and I readily accept his explanation.



Looks like Derek has tightened up these damned hoops again.  
Cartoon by John Sbotton  
(Courtesy Tyneside Croquet (1986))

I was more concerned to reassure those players who had difficulty on the lawn in question and were experiencing Williamson balls for the first time, that their difficulties were not due to the balls, rather than to blame Andrew, who is a most genial and efficient tournament official.

Bill Lamb,  
Cottingham.

### Gamesmanship

Dear Sir,  
I can only express my horror at the crude tactics described in Mr Jim Townsend's anecdote.

Readers will remember that the lower-handicapped pair actually interrupted their oppon-

ents to urge expedition. The correct way to make inexperienced players play faster (and eventually, to crumble) is of course to play SLOWER YOURSELF. A useful ploy in this process is the Corner-cannon Dither, which has an inimitable effect of suggesting the passage of a significant space of time.

The striker, having achieved a Cannon situation, looks helplessly at his partner *but does not speak to him*. Partner should then wave him on impatiently, saying 'Oh, whatever you like,' whereon the Striker fiddles with the balls for a short time, trying several different arrangements, and then, raising his head, says to the opponents 'I'm awfully sorry . . .', in the appropriate intonation. Even if the turn soon ends, the effect of this on the opponents' play is striking.

I was surprised at Mr Townsend's claim that 'Croquet is happily (sic) one of the few games where the scope for gamesmanship is limited'. Although limited by Civil and Criminal Law, as well as by the Laws of the game, the possibilities are still immense. The Newspapermanship of Read is a spectacle to gladden the eye of the devout gamesman. Read, conceding Bisques, waits until his opponent has the innings - sometimes, I suspect actually GIVING AWAY the innings under the mask of an Uncharacteristic Lapse (q.v.) - whereupon he sits buried behind the paper (often *The Financial Times*) while the high-bisqued opponent goes round. Indeed, the act of perusing a newspaper is sometimes called 'Reading'. When the Striker looks up for a Bisque, or slyly peeps up to judge the effect on his opponent of a particularly fine stroke, he is horrified to find Read apparently totally indifferent to the outcome of the game.

Inexperienced gamesmen who try to achieve this effect usually chat with spectators or pretend to be asleep - tactics which invariably rebound upon themselves. Another feature of Newspaper Play is the implied threat of loud rustling at a vital moment, and the realisation that the Paperman is above so obvious a ploy is itself even more distracting!

### SPECTATOR PLAY

There was a time when it was thought quite clever to have a 'claque' of onlookers who talked among themselves, sipped drinks and laughed - sometimes noiselessly - while one's opponent was in play. In these enlightened days, this view has been overturned; it is, of course, vital to

control the behaviour of the people who are watching your game, but you must ensure that they chat during YOUR turn, and preserve a sepulchral silence while your opponent is playing. A deathly hush, with perhaps an innocent 'Shsh! He's going to shoot' as the victim places his ball for a short lift, is more effective than any giggle yet brought before the public. In general, if a player knows that someone is trying to avoid distracting him, he will begin to suspect that there is some special reason for their consideration, and this uneasiness will soon blossom into a nagging doubt in his own powers of concentration.

The same principle underlines one of the Masterplays of Croquet. You find yourself sitting (always sit, or even lie down, when not in play) at the side of the court and now in your opponent's line of aim. Whether he is far away or fairly near, you have a ploy, equally devastating in both cases, to fill the bill. In the former event, you rise hurriedly and sidle along the Boundary some distance to the RIGHT (oppo's left), where you stand, stooping slightly, with your unblinking eyes fixed on his every movement. The alternative, typically when the object ball is on the Yard-Line at your feet, is to 'freeze' in your chair, sitting bolt upright and staring at some distant object, while your opponent plays. After he has missed, get up, express condolence, and do not fail to remark on how much more distracting it is to have somebody moving out of the way just before you shoot.

I here curtail this discussion with reluctance, leaving untouched the excellent ploys of Losing the Mallet, Not Calling the Referee, etc., besides the whole subject of Double-Bankmanship, which may well warrant further correspondence. Odysseus,  
Eire.

### Handicaps

Dear Sir,  
Although I promised that my previous letter to the Gazette would be my last word on handicaps, I cannot resist a comment on Barry Keen's reply.

Firstly the system used in Short Croquet is at best pseudo-handicapping, since in its current guise it is reliant on mainstream handicaps with all those inherent inadequacies.

Secondly I was surprised to see Barry Keen appearing to advocate a populist approach, and having previously criticised

him for exercising the opposite pole of political control, I would hate to appear petulant. However I would presume to suggest that the Handicap Coordination Committee is exceeding its authority if it is currently seeking to make the handicap game one of 'variety' rather than one in which players are evenly matched. Next time you are beaten +26 on handicap by too many bisques, remember - variety!

From this time last year to now seems to have seen a move from the sublime (or rather an attempt at it) to the ridiculous in the actions of the HCC. Before, Mr Keen gave the impression he would travel to the gates of hell in order to obtain a fair handicap spread. However misguided I thought his methods, at least I could agree with his aims. Whatever has happened, Barry? John Walters,  
Ipswich.

### Ball dimensions

Dear Sir  
During the course of the last season, with the cooperation of clubs and referees, I was able to measure a selection of balls in use for tournament and test matches with the channel gauge described in my letter in a previous issue of the Gazette, and your readers may be interested in the results.

The standard size for a ball is, of course, 3 and five eighths with a tolerance of +/- 1/32". New Jaques balls are 1/64" under standard size whereas the older and bouncier variety are usually at the bottom end of the tolerance, i.e. 1/32" under standard size, and a few are smaller. I did not discover any Jaques ball, other than badly distorted ones, to be larger than standard size. Walker balls are accurately of standard size. Williamson or 'Southport' balls seem to be slightly over standard size, perhaps by 1/64", although I have not had the opportunity to measure a significant number.

I also discovered that the three CA hoop gauges that I had the opportunity to measure were all about 1/32" too wide at the calibration points. A combination of such a gauge and old Jaques balls can lead to an extremely generous gap between hoop and ball. I would suggest that for tournaments the hoops should be set to the balls with a gap of 3/32" to 1/8". This can be done just as easily, using a home-made feeler gauge of the appropriate width, as setting a hoop with a hoop gauge.

Bill Lamb,  
Cottingham.

### A Change in the Law?

Dear Sir,  
When the striker commits a fault the turn ends, and, with one exception, the balls must be replaced in their original positions (Law 32). At first sight this seems to be an appropriate penalty, but it can operate to the advantage of the *striker*.

In a recent game my opponent attempted to run a very angled hoop, the ball hit the wire and rebounded on to his mallet and came to rest in a position *open* to my ball on the other side of the hoop. My opponent quite rightly owned to having committed a fault and replaced his ball, as near as he could judge, in its original position, which was *wired* from my ball. I missed my next shot and my opponent then successfully ran the hoop on his second attempt.

It seems to me that the law gives rise to two injustices here. First, the opponent gains an advantage through having committed a fault, and second, he is given a second attempt at the hoop, and who is to say whether the ball was replaced *precisely* in the original position (a quarter of an inch could make all the difference when running a difficult hoop).

The simple remedy would be to change the law so that the adversary has the option of leaving the balls where they come to rest or replacing them in their original positions, whatever fault is committed.

Allen Parker,  
Parkstone.

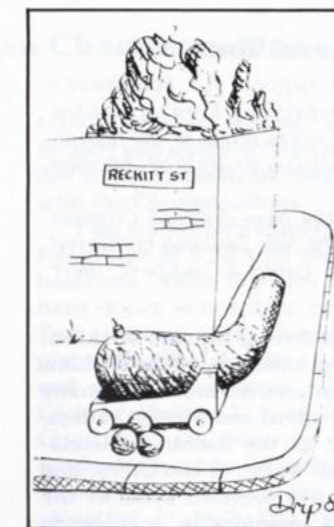
### A Question of Law

Dear Sir,  
An interesting question arose when a local player had his striker's ball in contact with another ball on the yard-line, near to a corner ball.

He was said to have rolled both balls into the corner, and then arranged a corner-cannon with the three balls in contact in the usual way, so that his next shot would be a roquet on the original corner-ball, which he was entitled to roquet.

It would appear to me that this would be illegal, and that he would be taking croquet twice in succession from the same ball, and making a roquet twice in succession on the original corner-ball. Law 16(d) (ii) says, 'If the striker's ball forms part of a 3-ball group, a roquet may be deemed to have been made on any ball in the group that may be roqueted'.

But I did not see the play, and



A corner cannon. Drawn by Ian Plummer.

there are four possible variations. We will assume blue is taking croquet from black with red on the corner spot.

(1) Blue or black overhangs or crosses a boundary line. His turn will end, even though he would be deemed to have made a roquet on red when the balls are placed adjacent to red, at the start of his next turn. Red would then be able to make a corner cannon.

(2) Blue roquets red in the corner roll, and black and red both remain in the corner area. All balls are placed in contact at the corner, but a corner-cannon cannot be played, only a croquet stroke.

(3) Blue roquets red away from the corner area, sending black into that area. The three balls are not placed in contact, blue merely takes croquet from red, leaving black on the corner spot.

(4) Blue and black both finish in the corner area, blue missing red. Black is then placed in contact with red on a boundary line, and blue may roquet red normally but is dead on black.

It seems clear that whatever happens a corner-cannon cannot be obtained by rolling the balls into a corner area, where there is a ball on the corner spot.

Leslie Riggall,  
Kloof, South Africa.

Martin Murray, Chairman of the Laws Committee, replies to the previous two letters:

Allen Parker's proposal has been made before, and certainly the example he gives does appear to be unjust to the opponent. However, it is only an example, and in general the effect of the proposed change would be to **increase** the penalty for

committing a fault. The current penalty is already quite severe, and at least in nearly all cases, and there appears to be no pressing need for an alteration to a law which has been found to work well over many years.

Mr Riggall is quite correct in stating that a corner-cannon cannot be obtained from this situation, and his treatment of the four possible cases is basically correct. However, Law 16(d)(ii) to which he refers is now Law 16(c) (ii), and the more important Laws here are 9(a) and 11.

The second paragraph of Mr Riggall's letter implies that the player rearranged all three balls, including the striker's ball (blue). This is only permissible (Law 9(a)) if blue has made a roquet (on red), so case (2) would apply.

If blue does not roquet red, then Law 11 applies, blue is played from where it lies, and a roquet may be made on red (Mr Riggall's case (4)).

If black has come to rest in the corner area, it is placed in contact with red, which severely restricts the striker's possibilities of rushing red. The tactical implications of cases (3) and (4) are discussed by Keith Wylie in his book (p.125).

### A note of dissent

Dear Sir,  
I should be unwise to enter the lists against an adversary so well versed in the Laws of Croquet as J.P.G. Watson (Jan. No 189), who claims that two balls making the same hoop are deemed to have made it simultaneously, whether in fact they did so or not.

I shall merely content myself with the thought that, once again, 'the Law is an ass'!

Bill Bawden,  
Cheltenham.

### 1987 Fixture Book

**The Longman Bowl**  
The venue for the Ladies Invitation event (2nd Six) is to be Roehampton.

**Woking**  
Please note there are 4 separate tournaments at Woking between 26th June and 5th July, so you only need to have a maximum of 3 days free to enter any of them. Details from Derek Caporn. (Home Tel: 0932-45884).

## NEW ZEALAND

## The New Zealand Supporters' Tour

Unfortunately there was not enough support for Southport's proposed New Zealand tour to enable it to proceed. Even so, the idea created a lot of interest and it could be resuscitated in the future. Minimum group size is about 20 if major discounts are to be obtained from airlines and other organisations.

Below, in a report reprinted from the *New Zealand Croquet Gazette*, Phil Clarke describes how much the New Zealanders enjoyed a similar trip over here when they came to support their MacRobertson Shield Team last year.

We expected lunch soon after boarding in Auckland! We had it at 4 pm, afternoon tea at 8 pm NZ time and dinner at 12 am NZ time. All meals delicious.

In Singapore we had a half day tour of Sentosa Island, where there was a waxworks museum depicting the Japanese surrender to the British. The Japanese are not too happy about this and they pointed out that the British had also surrendered to the Japanese and as Singapore has a large trade balance with Japan, it surely is not diplomatic to include the surrender!

Next day the party took a tour to Malaysia. If anything, Malaysia is even cleaner and certainly more beautiful than Singapore and we passed three controls before entering this country. Our visas were stamped 'Drug carriers are put to death'.

Thursday afternoon saw some of our members bare-footed, soaked to the skin, descend from a taxi and walk calmly up the stairs of the Plaza Hotel, having been caught in a tropical downpour which flooded the streets of Singapore in no time. As we were leaving for London that evening, there was quite a rush to get dried out. The night trip was hilarious with meals at all hours. We arrived in London mid-morning with a temperature of 5 degrees. We then transferred to Dublin. Temperature again 5 degrees.

Sight of the day was seeing Edna Wills being whisked round Heathrow Airport in a wheel chair. Anyone who knows Edna and her independence will appreciate the joke and just how much we laughed. However the laugh was on us, because Edna became addicted to the wheelchair treatment, which meant that her bags were always collected and delivered and when we finally entered the plane, she and her friend Ula Halloway were already seated, having been whisked up the lift well ahead of we lesser mortals!

Our four day visit to Ireland was delightful. As well as watching Australia play Ireland at Carrickmines we visited Rosslare after travelling via the

coastal route through Wicklow. The granite mass of the Wicklow Mountains is traversed by many deep glens and wooded valleys, such as the haunting Glendalough 'Valley of Two Lakes', and this trip provided some of the most memorable scenery in Ireland.

Next we travelled to Waterford, where some members took the opportunity to buy the famed Waterford crystal. We then continued on to Youghal, a fishing port renowned for its connections with Sir Walter Raleigh and the filming of Moby Dick.

During this time we passed through several of the 26 Counties which make up Ireland, including Kilkenny and Killarney. Here we saw many itinerants permanently parked in caravans on the side of the road, sometimes in groups of 3 or 4, sometimes alone and once we saw about 40 in a group. These itinerants are causing a problem, as they collect pensions (sometimes in 3 or 4 different Counties) and when they run out of money they send the children to beg in the streets.



Carrickmines Croquet Club - one of many ports of call for the New Zealand touring party.

We travelled through Cork to Blarney, but none of our group was willing to climb the hundred or so steps and then lie on our back to kiss the Blarney stone. However, some woollen goods were bought from the Blarney Woollen Mills where we spent a

pleasant hour fossicking about. Then we saw a religious procession which moved from the Church through the streets to the Square.

From Cork, we travelled north to Cahir in the Ballyhourd Hills and on to Cashel where the Rock of Cashel rises 300 feet above the Tipperary plain with a top exceeding two acres in area. Then it was on to Kildare, whose early ruins include a fine Round Tower which is 106 feet high and it has a decorated Romanesque doorway and St Brigid's Cathedral, begun about 1229. Our day ended back in Dublin.

From Dublin, we flew to Glasgow, a 35 minute flight. Again Edna and Ula were whisked round the airports and in and out of the plane before anyone else.

Next day we were off to Edinburgh, Scotland's historic capital. Prices were better here. Ireland was very expensive.

We spent a full day sight-seeing in the regions of the Trossachs, with glorious mountain, loch, glen and woodland scenery. We visited Stirling with its famous castle perched on the towering rock which was such a vital stronghold and the scene of many battles, including the Battle of Bannochburn in 1314. Of course we had to stop and admire Loch Lomond.

From Glasgow, we continued through the Southern Uplands for a stop at Gretna Green, then on through the beautiful Lakes District, before arriving in the industrial town of Manchester. Here a Mayoral reception had



been arranged for the Teams and the Official Party. Two representatives, Edna Wills and myself, had a delightful evening. We had seen the Australian Team in action in Ireland and in Scotland, and we felt certain 'our boys' would acquit themselves well in

the first Test at Bowdon. Everyone was quietly confident, so it was not a big surprise when N.Z. won 7-1.

From Manchester, we travelled through Stoke-on-Trent, famous for its potteries. Then to Birmingham, one of the greatest industrial centres in the world and home to 1800 different trades with a long standing reputation for careful craftsmanship.

Then came the vital second Test against Great Britain at Cheltenham. It was a delight to witness all the games. Our team was in better form than before and it ended with another win for NZ. Two in a row! Cheltenham is mentioned in the Guinness Book of Records as the only club in the world to have 11 Croquet greens.

Next day we were off sight-seeing again into the Cotswold Hills, one of the prettiest of the English Upland landscapes. The Cotswolds stretch from Bath in the South to Stratford in the North and contain quaint mellow stoned-cottages such as the market town of Tetbury, the nearest town to Highgrove House, the home of the Prince and Princess of Wales. The Northern Cotswolds are very attractive with their 'olde worlde' villages, Broadway, Bourton-on-the-Water and Stow-on-the-Wold all with narrow twisting lanes. As far as possible, we kept away from motorways, so we saw many delightful villages. On to Exeter by way of the famous spa town of Bath with a visit to the Roman Baths and Pump Room. This complex is Britain's greatest remnant of the Roman era and the baths are still lined with the lead put there by the Roman craftsmen almost 2000 years ago. We saw also the magnificent Bath Abbey, which was built between 1495 and 1503 with its fan vaulted interior and Pulteney Bridge, designed in 1770, and inspired by the Ponte Vecchio in Florence.

Exeter is a delightful town with its many historic buildings, Tudor and Stuart houses and Georgian crescents. Here we watched Australia play Great Britain at the lovely sea-side town of Budleigh Salterton. These games provided a few tense moments, but Great Britain was the team to beat if we were to take home the Shield. A day's sight-seeing to Plymouth included a boat trip round the Harbour and a view of the Earl of Edgumbe's Castle. You may remember that the Earl was previously a New Zealand farmer living in Edgumbe when he inherited, quite unexpectedly, the title and the

property. We returned to Exeter across Dartmoor National Park which extends over 365 miles of country-side - a mixture of granite tors and sweeping moorlands, sparkling streams and clapper bridges. The wild horses and ponies are delightful and are rounded up twice a year and if the numbers are too great, some are sold. However, the Moor is their home even in the winter when the snow and fog close all roads.

From Exeter we travelled to Salisbury to visit the 13th Century Cathedral, immortalised in the paintings of Constable. Sunday, 22nd June was a memorable day. Hurlingham opened its grounds to visitors at the cost of £5 with all proceeds going to charity. Wimbledon players gave exhibition matches and all Croquet Test Teams gave exhibition games. Tents sold strawberries and cream and all sorts of goodies. The huge grounds were thronging with people and every seat around the eight tennis courts was occupied, with a few people watching the Croquet.

The week in London was busy. We saw New Zealand defeat Australia at Hurlingham, visited Windsor Castle, a royal residence for 900 years and the largest and oldest inhabited castle in the

property. We returned to Exeter across Dartmoor National Park which extends over 365 miles of country-side - a mixture of granite tors and sweeping moorlands, sparkling streams and clapper bridges. The wild horses and ponies are delightful and are rounded up twice a year and if the numbers are too great, some are sold. However, the Moor is their home even in the winter when the snow and fog close all roads.

From Exeter we travelled to Salisbury to visit the 13th Century Cathedral, immortalised in the paintings of Constable.

Sunday, 22nd June was a memorable day. Hurlingham opened its grounds to visitors at the cost of £5 with all proceeds going to charity. Wimbledon players gave exhibition matches and all Croquet Test Teams gave exhibition games. Tents sold strawberries and cream and all sorts of goodies. The huge grounds were thronging with people and every seat around the eight tennis courts was occupied, with a few people watching the Croquet.

The week in London was busy. We saw New Zealand defeat Australia at Hurlingham, visited Windsor Castle, a royal residence for 900 years and the largest and oldest inhabited castle in the



One of New Zealand's 'boys' in action. Paul Skinley playing in the first Test match.

world. We were able to fit in a couple of shows - the long running comedy 'No sex Please' which was a laugh from beginning to end. We did see 'Cats' and we even attended a mediaeval banquet at the Beefeater-by-the-Tower.

On June 27th, we nine New Zealanders left the Australian party to travel to the South of England through the picturesque New Forest renowned for the little wild ponies. Our destination was the popular sea-side resort of Bournemouth. This is a delight-

## SOUTH AFRICA

## The 1986 South African Championships

By Jerry Guest

## Pietermaritzburg:

Held alternately in the West and in the East of the country, this year it was the turn of the Maritzburg Croquet Club in Pietermaritzburg. This club is nicely situated in a lovely public park on the edge of the town, amidst a multitude of shrubs, palm trees and the superb Jacaranda trees, which are a mass of lilac blue flowers at this time in their short blooming season.

The club has three lawns and arrangements had been made to borrow a further three separate bowling greens not far away. Lovely surroundings, yes, but lovely weather? No! Torrential rain on the Friday before meant that the writer was not able to get in a much-needed practice, and the week itself was very mixed, being hot, cold and often wet.

Thirty one players entered, half from the Cape Town area over 1000 miles away, half from five other clubs in the eastern half of the country, plus one foreigner from England. The Cape Town contingent included three of the four minus players, but regret-



ful town set among pines on the rim of a wide bay. Our hotel was on the edge of a high cliff overlooking the bay and this hotel is used by Margaret Thatcher for her Summit Meetings.

A visit to Beaulieu and the fine Motor Museum founded by Lord Montague in 1952 was much appreciated by those of us interested in the history of transport.

Of course Croquet was the all important subject because this Continued on page 12

tably, Charles Barlow (the holder) was unable to take part, due to his examinations clashing with the Championships.

Play started on Saturday 1st November at 8.30 with the 'X' handicap, which this year had been drawn in handicap order. Tom Barlow (-1½) therefore played Reginald Bamford (-1½) and won a close game, whilst Dick Le Maitre (-1) beat Jerry Guest who, the following day, graduated from the 'Y' to the 'Z'. This was all part of the plan, the object being to be the first British player to win the 'Z' handicap in a national championship.

On the Monday, sunny and about 90 degrees F, the singles and doubles got under way. The open singles was played through the week in two blocks of five, Tom Barlow winning one and Reginald Bamford winning the other. The final best-of-three play-off took place in continuous rain on the Saturday with Reginald Bamford winning +23, +21. Unfortunately, the writer did not witness this, as he was trying (unsuccessfully) to win the aforesaid 'Z' handicap out on a wet and lonely bowling green.

The final stages of the open doubles saw Tom Barlow and Dick Le Maitre playing Jerry Guest and Andy Knox in both draw and process (Reginald Bamford had to withdraw from one half to take examinations). There ensued a long-winded struggle, Guest and Knox snatching the process +2 after Knox traditionally hit the 'last shot', then Barlow and Le Maitre staying ahead in the draw to take it +5.

The play-off proceeded fairly evenly with many changes of innings, until Guest, on 4-back, managed to peel and peg out Le Maitre. In fact there were no cries of 'Riggall' (Leslie Riggall was watching, but anyway this does seem to be purely an English phenomenon). This left Guest and Knox on peg and 2-back, but they failed to press home their advantage and Barlow played a competent end-game to come through from hoop six to win.

The restricted singles was won by Ian Gillespie, having just returned home from one of his extensive overseas tours. Nelson Leech narrowly won the Veterans from Leslie Riggall. Tom Barlow convincingly won the big 'X' handicap, not a bad achievement for a minus player, the 'Y' was not finalised and Corry Carter won

the 'Z'. I am sorry to say that I do not know for certain who won the restricted handicap singles, maybe it was Joyce Slowson, but the restricted handicap doubles was won by Harry Chadderton and Mrs Frazer.

All the players were invited on the Friday evening to a drinks party in the impressive town hall (did you know that it boasts more bricks than any other building in the Southern Hemisphere?), meeting the Mayor and councillors. And on the Saturday evening most of us attended the dinner and prize-giving and were addressed by an impressive lady guest speaker and Ian Gillespie, who presented trophies and many bottles of J & B rare scotch whisky.

Our thanks to J & B, who sponsored the Championships. Our thanks also to Carol Knox for her hard work in competently managing the Championships, not forgetting many others who contributed to a very good week.

Although the croquet scene in South Africa is not so highly developed as in, say, England or New Zealand, nevertheless, there are quite a number of clubs and a wide variety of keen players. And the top three or four players are capable of holding their own with the best in the world. The greater distances between clubs tends to restrict the number of tournaments being held, however, but croquet is played throughout the year in the excellent climate. Anyone visiting South Africa for a major tournament is assured of good croquet and a real welcome and hospitality in this beautiful country and is very unlikely to come across any trouble as things are at present. A visit is thoroughly recommended.

TIBET  
Even the lamas do it!

Report by John Freeman (Godalming)

I have just been reading 'Trespassers on the roof of the world' (about Tibet) by Peter Hopkirk, in which he records that Captain George Sheering of the British Mission to Tibet in 1942 introduced croquet to the Tibetans. He and his wife observed with amusement that the lamas became adept at cheating by using their long robes to manoeuvre their croquet balls into better positions.

As Lasa is about 12,000 feet above sea level, this must have been the highest level at which croquet has ever been played.

## HOLLAND

## The Dutch Invitation Open Championship

Report by Keith Aiton (Nottingham)

Eindhoven: 22-23 November

There are always many factors involved in the organisation of a successful croquet tournament. Obviously a venue is necessary and in this case we were indebted to Dayal Gunasekera, firstly for being in Holland and secondly for the use of his lawn. Court equipment is another prerequisite and Harrow Oak Croquet Club is to be thanked for the loan of a set of hoops and balls. Richard Hilditch provided the transportation, aided by Townsend Thorensen's 60-hour mini-break. Last, but by no means least, the arrival of three crates of Heineken provided the players with the last push necessary to get them out on the lawn – clearly it refreshes the tournaments other sponsors cannot reach.



Keith Aiton and Richard Hilditch, doubles partners in the Opens before their trip to Holland.

Anyway, so much for the witty (?) intro. What of the play? Unfortunately the results sheet has been mislaid, but I shall resist the temptation to be economical with the truth. There was a brisk start on Saturday morning, at 10.00 local time, with the first match on court pitting a former junior champion against a former holder of the Spencer Ell Cup. How nice to see Tim 'Hairy' Harrison competing again after his long exile in the States. Clearly he has lost none of his skills, as he had little difficulty in seeing off his young opponent. David Peterson's play seems to be crippled by nerves these days (he was caught trying to break out of the flat the previous night). Is this a case of croquet burn-out? Do we care?

Second on court were Keith Aiton and Dayal Gunasekera, who share the distinction of captaining Cambridge to 9-0 wins over Oxford. On this occasion local knowledge prevailed, Keith failing two combination peg-outs on what proved to be the penultimate turn of the first game.

In the first semi-final, Tim faced Richard Hilditch, the

former again winning easily. JR played awfully as usual, perhaps over-burdened with the responsibility of being ROT, chauffeur, equipment officer, duty free officer and credit card officer.

The second semi-final was a terrific tussle with Nick Hyne overcoming Dayal in three pulsating games. So they say, anyway. At the time, I was trying to poach some sleep on the living room floor – some of the twelve hours total that I had in four days! At one point I was awakened by the cries of disbelief attendant upon Dayal causing his ball to pass over fifth, through second and effect a roquet in the second corner – shot of the tournament.

As darkness closed in, the players settled down to watch television, play bridge and

consume vast quantities of the 'sponsor's' product; rather like being at any other tournament really. Regarding the television, David wants me to say that the Belgian writer who won the Eurovision Song Contest brought memories of Muriel flooding back. It could be an in-joke or very early senile dementia! I would like to recommend the Indonesian restaurant where the tournament meal took place, but I cannot remember its name.

So, to the final, and what a final. Actually I cannot remember anything about it except that Tim won in time for us to catch the ferry home. Altogether a most enjoyable trip, although the sea crossings were rather calm for some tastes.

## RESULTS

## 1st Round:

T.D. Harrison bt D.N.S. Peterson 2-0; D.L. Gunasekera bt K.M.H. Aiton 2-0.

## Semi-Finals:

Harrison bt J.R. Hilditch 2-0; N.G. Hyne bt Gunasekera 2-1.

## Final:

Harrison bt Hyne 2-0.

## TASMANIA

## East Launceston Croquet Club

By Elsie Burke

The Club was founded in 1917 and now forms part of a complex comprising croquet, lawn bowls, tennis and swimming.

The Club has produced some fine players over the years, the most successful being Mrs A.R. Gee. In 1916 the Singles Croquet Championship of Tasmania was instituted. In 1936 Mrs Gee won the Championship Cup outright, having won it three times, and it is now one of the prized possessions of the Club.

For twenty years from 1921 to 1941 the Croquet Association of England generously donated Gold and Silver Medals to the Tasmanian Croquet Association and the competition for these added much interest to the annual tournament. Mrs Gee was again successful winning the event four times. She was also a member of the Tasmanian State Team.

In 1965, Mr Hal Clemons retired to Launceston from England and became a Member and later President of the Club, which position he held until his death in 1975. His experience and general know-how were a great boost to the Club. He continued to return to England every couple of years to play in various tournaments and this

Continued from page 11

next match against Great Britain COULD give us the MacRobertson Shield. It was with baited breath that we watched on that final day when we needed just one of the three final matches to clinch the Shield. There were heart-stopping moments but the final outcome was 6-3 to NZ. A great result! Next day Edna Wills and I travelled to London to be the guests of Bernard Neal, the Chairman of the Wimbledon Committee, at a luncheon held in the Wimbledon Members' Enclosure, where we celebrated New Zealand's win with champagne. Tennis matches were in progress close by, on Centre Court, and seated near us were Princess Di and the Duke and Duchess of Kent.

From Bournemouth we travelled to Yelverton – on the edge of Dartmoor – through the beautiful County of Devon and past Exeter, where we visited the Cathedral which is the only Cathedral in England without a central tower.

An early start next day took us right down to Penzance and

kept members very much in touch with the English scene.

In 1977 members felt honoured to receive a letter from Buckingham Palace sending greetings and good wishes, on behalf of Her Majesty The Queen, on the occasion of the Club's Diamond Jubilee.

The Club, along with most other croquet clubs, felt the impact made by the upsurge in interest in the game of Lawn Bowls, and membership declined. However, in the last few years, interest in croquet seems to have returned and our numbers have begun to improve. The success of our 4th Division team (C grade) in winning their Northern Tasmanian Pennant Competition this year is an encouraging sign for the future.

It requires a lot of hard work and on-going effort by the Management Committee to maintain the facilities and standard of the Club, to enlist new members and, most importantly of all, to obtain the publicity which this very enjoyable and fascinating sport deserves. However, with a dedicated core of members the Club looks forward to the future with much optimism.

Lands End and the various Cornish fishing villages which all agreed were delightful. As we were to catch up with the Australian party in Brighton we travelled across Dartmoor National Park by a different route from our previous visit. We over-nighted in Salisbury, then on through Winchester, across the Sussex Downs to Brighton.

The final match against Australia had lost some of its zest because the Shield had already been won.

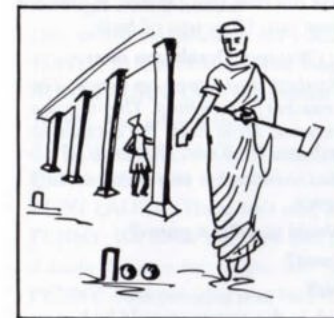
While in Hunstanton we visited the lavender fields and distillery and also attended a concert by Val Doonican who was staying at the same hotel as we were. We then left for Norwich, Norfolk's splendid capital with a beautiful Norman Cathedral and 32 mediaeval churches. On the way we visited the Norfolk Broads spending three hours on the water – a delightful place for a holiday. Norwich is a fascinating city full of quaint byways and old gabled houses with crooked timbers and colour-washed plasterwork. It

Continued on page 27

## It's a funny old game

By David Appleton (Tyneside)

Perhaps it is because too many croquet players are trained in the more scientific disciplines, such as computing and chemistry, mathematics and metallurgy, that no proper attention has been given to the origins of the game. Prichard's 'The History of Croquet' would have us believe that the game originated, probably in Ireland, in the 19th century; I hope to show that it was well-known in the England of the first Elizabeth, and indeed that Shakespeare himself was a thoughtful, enthusiastic, though perhaps not a particularly consistent player. He was almost certainly a qualified referee.



This was the most unkindest cut of all.

It would be wrong, I believe, to extrapolate from references in Macbeth and Julius Caesar to the assumption that croquet was played in mediaeval Scotland or classical Rome. Shakespeare wrote of other times, but for his own time from his own experience, and the references were intended to be understood by his own audiences.

We can see how he gained their sympathy, as he would have gained ours, for King Duncan ('this Duncan . . . will plead . . . against the damnation of his taking off'); do we not all feel like that when the croqueted ball doesn't move (is 'unshaken of motion')? Have we not all cried out with Mark Anthony ('this was the most unkindest cut of all'), and cursed with Macbeth ('the devil damn thee black')? Do we not all feel for Othello who did 'speak of some distressful stroke'? During the close season do we not suffer with King Lear who could only 'hear poor rogues talk of court news'?

Not all the references are as easy to interpret: are the witches bemoaning leaving a double, or is Shakespeare cautioning against putting a four-ball break in peril by attempting a double peel ('double, double toil and trouble')? It is because of the

depth of feeling in these quotations – notice that they all come from tragedies – that I suggest that their author probably played off no better than about 6 bisques, but it may be that in 1599 and 1605, when he wrote Julius Ceasar and Macbeth, he was particularly off his game.

In the comedies and the sonnets he is much more positive and offers advice. In A Midsummer Night's Dream, Bottom says he 'could play . . . to make all split' (a good season in 1595?), and in the sonnets – were W.H. and the dark lady doubles partners? – he discusses the leave ('when yellow leaves') and points out how early in the break it would be planned ('thou must leave ere long'). In Henry VIII (1612, by which time he was very experienced) he criticises a high bisquer ('he puts forth the tender leave of hope'). There are ambiguities in the sonnets too: is 'all men make faults' a cry of anguish about himself (another poor season in 1594 perhaps), or was he starting his interest in refereeing? This last pervades the play: Hamlet, possibly hoop-bound, calls for a referee who awards a roquet ('a hit, a very palpable hit'); Cassius very correctly has 'all his faults observed', and Caesar himself is heavily penalised, possibly for persistent double-tapping ('it was a grievous fault, and grievously hath Caesar answered it'). By 1603 (in Measure for Measure) Shakespeare's refereeing was so skilled that 'every fault's condemned ere it be done'.



Double, double toil and trouble.

Apart from the advice on the leave, Shakespeare offers two other coaching hints on hoop-running: 'strike flat the thick rotundity' (King Lear) and 'I will not jump with common spirits' (Merchant of Venice). Clearly there was a tendency among his contemporaries to force the ball through, but he correctly

favoured a smooth stroke to run the hoop with control.

What sort of playing conditions the Elizabethans had for croquet is difficult to determine: Shakespeare's only reference is to 'lawn as white as driven snow', but that is from the Winter's Tale. From other available sources – the Prayer Book (1662) and the King James Bible (1611) – one should only draw conclusions about vicarage lawns: these were poor ('the grass withereth' and 'My soul hath a desire to enter into the courts of the Lord . . . for one day in Thy courts is better than a thousand').

There is much further research to be done in these books and in the works of authors. Who was the player of whom it was said that his 'driving is like the driving of Jehu . . . for he driveth furiously'? And how much was the driving of Jehu . . . for he driveth furiously? What of Marlowe's difficulty in getting the balls to remain in contact for a croquet shot ('stand still you ever-moving spheres'), and Bacon's advice on taking bisques ('a man must make his opportunity as oft as find it')? It is impossible to come



A bit, a very palpable bit.

to any conclusion other than that, in the first Elizabethan age, as in the second, people of learning and culture spent their leisure playing croquet.

Reprinted from 'Tyneside Croquet 1986'. Price CA members 50p, non-members £10.50p, and well worth the money!

## BERNARD NEAL CROQUET MALLETS

Aluminium Alloy Shafts  
Permalin Heads

STANDARD Mallet  
Rubber Grip  
Length as required

OPTIONAL EXTRAS  
Brass Bound Head  
Octagonal Suede Grip

Brochure on application to:

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





## National Tournaments

### Three in a row for Bristol!

**Parkstone: 4 October**

**THE MARY ROSE TROPHY**

Report by Robert Prichard

The Roehampton '4 Zeroes' had been sabotaged by Jerry Guest's new minus handicap and George Noble's unavailability. Robert Prichard, Mark Ormerod, Peter Alvey and Miles Holford took only 100 minutes to cover the 105 miles from London to Parkstone, whereas John Mann, David Goacher, Ray Ransome and Mark Suter travelled at half the speed, taking 135 minutes to cover the 70 miles from Bristol. This was almost Roehampton's only victory in their title defence in their third successive final.

At 11.15, Prichard, Ransome and Suter put their clips on 4-back simultaneously, but the games then diverged. Demonstrating his antipathy to doubles, Prichard twice failed to warn Ormerod he was playing with the wrong ball. Mann sped and Goacher crawled round, until a careless leave allowed Ormerod to set off. A few errors plus ferocious shooting by Mann gave Bristol victory by 9.

Ransome never looked in any difficulty in his much quicker victory over Alvey. Suter got bored with his second break at the 3rd hoop and pegged out his front ball instead, with Holford both on the first hoop. Suter hit most of the many chances he was left and won comfortably by 20. Surely this was not the elegant Wyliesque influence the writer was hoping for in his report on last year's final.

Roehampton needed all four second games, but Ransome played confidently to beat

Holford and Suter orthodoxly to beat Alvey. Goacher won another slow tussle, but only after a plausible triple by Ormerod collapsed. Prichard's win over Mann was all that averted the third consecutive 7-0 whitewash in the Mary Rose final. Every Bristol player was 1½ bisques 'worse' than his Roehampton counterpart. Their easy victory shows the reward of frequent tournament play.

However, croquet needs more than small, keen clubs. Large clubs for important tournaments and matches are essential and we were fortunate that Parkstone made four lawns available to us. As in croquet's nadir in the late fifties and early sixties, there are still only a dozen clubs in the country where this is possible. Many of the joys of croquet cannot be bought, such as the warm welcome we received, the dedication of Les Butler in setting the courts, and the warm autumn sunshine.

#### RESULTS

(Bristol names first)

##### Doubles

D. Goacher & J. Mann bt R. Prichard & M. Ormerod +9

##### Singles

R. Ransome bt P. Alvey +24;  
M. Suter bt M. Holford +20;  
J. Mann lost to R. Prichard -15;  
D. Goacher bt M. Ormerod +9;  
R. Ransome bt M. Holford +26;  
M. Suter bt P. Alvey +10

##### Match Result

Bristol bt Roehampton 6-1

using them until the end of games. Despite going a long way behind in both morning doubles games, they did not use any bisques until 1hr 52mins had elapsed in one game and 2hrs 27mins in the other.

In each game, the break play proved decisive and it all came from Bristol.

In the morning Alvar Bray made an early break from 2 to Penult and although his partner, Frances Ransom, found the going difficult on the slow lawn and opponents Roger Green and Andrew Wood staged a fight-back, it always looked like being enough. Roger Sampson and Ken Hawkes both got round in a couple of breaks to win easily.

In the afternoon Thomas Cook took an early lead in all three games but you always had the feeling that the attempts of

### Edgbaston: 21 September NATIONAL SHORT CROQUET FINAL

Report by Donald Gagan

Bristol's team of four reached the Edgbaston club in time for a leisurely lunch before the promised hectic afternoon: three matches, each on half-lawns, time-limits of one and a quarter hours, double banked. Can you imagine it? We couldn't. Nice lawns at Edgbaston, we admired them for an hour. No sign of half-lawns though, neither lines, hoops or even holes. No sign of opponents either - were we in the right place on the right day, we asked? At 1.40 pm first home-players arrive, by 1.45 first hoop-holes found and by 2.15, twenty out of twenty four hoops in position and lawns divided by cords. By 2.25 pm, 8 games in progress - second colours starting at hoop 3, reducing congestion but increasing confusion. Bristol, Bowdon, Edgbaston and Buxton (or was it Ashby? - never did clear this up,



Bristol's winning Longman Cup team (L to R): Ken Hawkes, Frances Ransom (Capt), Alvar Bray and Roger Sampson.

the Bristol players to play breaks would eventually bear fruit. Sure enough, Ken Hawkes made a break of 7 hoops to even up his game and from then on he and Roger Coats had a real dogfight, which Ken won after Roger twice blobbed 4-back late in the game.

Alvar had great problems making hoop 2 with his brown ball but when he eventually ran it (from 2 inches!), he made a break to penult and thereafter always looked in control.

Roger Green and Ian Strain had built up a big lead in the doubles and it looked as if there would be some consolation for their team. They reckoned, however, without Frances's pride. Having struggled all day, she decided, with 15 minutes left, to show what she is capable of and made a break from hoop 4 to the peg, finishing after time to the

never mind, can put all the facts in 'Croquet'. Who did we play? - John, Brian, David, Cecil... all were muddled together in my memory, - though Liz I seem able to remember. Which club did each play for? - haven't a clue. Buxbasdon perhaps. Events, many, and often absurd: Ken joined up, opponent (with row of bisques) joins up and leaves two balls at hoop 1, Ken's hoop... the rest is history. Buxton fast on shooting, weak on strategy. Donald, bisque remaining when time called (tut, tut); opponent dismayed when told he couldn't win by pegging-out forward ball and stunned to hear that bisques become usable again... Rosemary, for peg and hoop 1, ditto opponent, in play with 5 bisques and under misapprehension that victory will be guaranteed by pegging Rosemary out - unfortunately, used 4 bisques to do it, Well, Bristol, with the possible exception of Edward, who had plenty of time for enjoying a beautiful sunny afternoon by winning all his games, each in about 30 minutes, made plenty of errors too, but still won 10 matches out of 12, well ahead of runners up Bowdon with 6 wins, Edgbaston 5, and Ashby (playing under assumed name?) 3. We finished with just about sufficient daylight for photographs of the presentation by Chris Hudson of the trophy for the FIRST NATIONAL SHORT CROQUET CHAMPIONSHIP - and we don't have to give it back! Photos in scrapbook, trophy in clubhouse. We all enjoyed the afternoon, but was it really croquet? We are not quite sure, but it was a lot of fun, and yes, you can double bank on half lawns without falling over each other.

cheers of the Bristol supporters.

In conclusion, thanks to the Hurlingham Club for making this a memorable day for all concerned by allowing us to stage the final there, to Jan MacLeod for being a cheerful Manager, Referee and Handicapper, and to the Hurlingham barman for the tip that two bottles of sparkling wine was a more cost-effective way of celebrating than one bottle of champers!

#### RESULTS

(Bristol names first)

##### Doubles

Mrs F. Ransom (5) & A. Bray (10) bt R. Green (8) & A. Wood (D14) +5(T)  
K. Hawkes (8) & R. Sampson (8) bt I. Strain (9) & R. Coats (D11) +13  
Mrs F. Ransom & R. Sampson bt R. Green & I. Strain +4(T)

##### Singles

K. Hawkes bt R. Coats (13) +4(T)  
A. Bray bt A. Wood (18) +11

## The History of the Wellcome Beckenham Croquet Club

By Mike Keen, Club Secretary

Viewers of Channel 4's programme 'Lets play croquet' which is due to be screened in the spring may wonder where it was filmed. The action takes place on two slightly undulating lawns, situated beside an old mansion house, and bounded on three sides by herbaceous borders. One might think that this was a country manor deep in the countryside, but in fact the location used was the Wellcome Research Laboratories which are only 10 miles from Central London.

The Laboratories are situated in the picturesque 180 acre grounds of Langley Court, near Beckenham, Kent. The mansion house was built in 1886 at a cost of £10,000 on the site of Langley Manor Farm. This was the farm house of a manor which was first mentioned in the Domesday Book as part of the possessions of Odo, Bishop of Bayeux, and Earl of Kent. The house stands next to an old chapel which was first dedicated in 1607.



A croquet tournament on the chapel lawn, 13th July, 1902. The old chapel in the background dates from about 1607.

In 1922 it was purchased by the drug manufacturer, Sir Henry Wellcome, who moved his research laboratories there to allow for future expansion. At first only a few people were employed there with numbers rising slowly until just after the 2nd World War, when rapid development took place. Today there are over 100 buildings at Langley Court and over 1500 people are employed.

Although it is unclear when croquet was first played at Langley, it seems probable that lawns were laid out in front of the old chapel in the early 1890's just after the mansion was built. As you can see in the photograph, local rules croquet was definitely being played in 1902, so for all we know King Edward may have popped in for a game on a drive down to Brighton. Unfortunately, the names and handicaps of these Edwardian beauties are unknown, but one of the gentlemen might possibly have been Mr Bucknall, a pioneering balloonist who lived at Langley but ended up bankrupt.

There are no more records of croquet being played for many years, although it seems likely that Country House croquet would have continued until the coming of Wellcome in 1922. In the 1928 photograph it is impossible to make out whether the chapel lawn was still in use, although it is known that

Sir Henry Wellcome was considered an enlightened employer and encouraged his staff to take part in sports. Retired employers have said that before the war croquet was mainly the preserve of the senior staff who had their own lawn on the terrace in front of the mansion.

In 1948 the Wellcome Beckenham sports and social club was formed, and one

of the founding sections was croquet and bowls. The section was given permission to use the terrace lawn, a decision that for a short while caused some friction. However common sense prevailed, and within a year the only confrontation was on the lawn not over it.

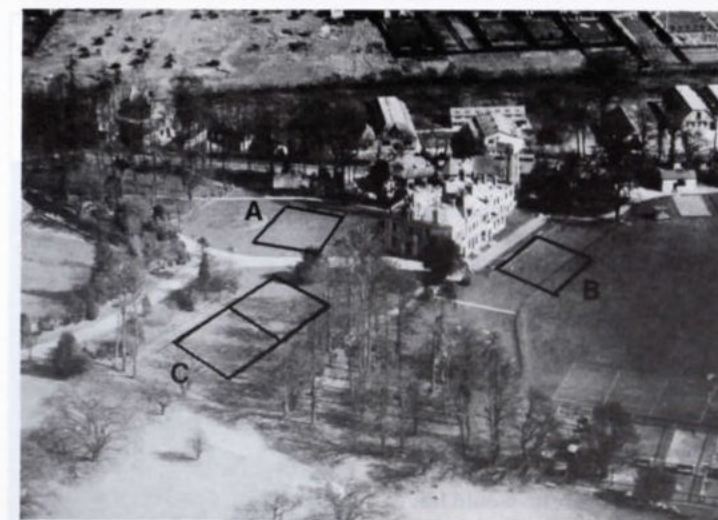
Play continued on the Terrace Lawn until 1953 when, in an act of pure vandalism, it was incorporated into the outfield of the cricket ground. Croquet continued on the chapel lawn which undulated alarmingly in places. In time, when the Tennis Association was given new grass courts, the old tennis courts were taken over and used for a full sized croquet lawn. In the early 1960's, croquet increased in popularity and this lawn was replaced by the two 7/8th full-sized lawns we use now.

It is interesting to see how the section has fared over the years. When it was first formed in 1948, both croquet and bowls were played. Croquet proved more popular and by the late 1950's, bowls was no longer played. Early croquet was at first dominated by Alan Green and later by Peter Fraser. At this time, both golf and association croquet were played, although association was far more popular.

The club continued isolated from the rest of the croquet world until in 1968 contact with the Croquet Association, followed by a coaching course and a visit to Hurlingham, led almost overnight to a change. No longer was it sufficient to dispatch your opponent into the shrubbery, now tactics had arrived! Several moderately good club players, such as Geoff Coker, Barry Weatherley, Mike Hughes and Peter Baker with handicaps (unofficial) of between 6 and 9 emerged. In 1973 we eventually joined the CA but still only internal



Croquet at Wellcome about 1945 on the terrace lawn. Note the air-raid protection tape on the windows.



1928 aerial photograph of Langley Court, showing the location of present and former croquet lawns. A: the site of the original chapel lawn. B: the site of the terrace lawn. C: the site of the present lawns.

matches were organised. Geoff Coker came to dominate these competitions, winning them time and time again.

Towards the end of the 1970's, there was a decline and for a while it seemed that croquet might stop altogether. The number of regular players dropped to 3 or 4. I first picked up a mallet in 1980 and tried to get to grips with Association Croquet, but after a couple of games I gave up, being totally baffled by terms such as croquet, roquet, bisque and rover and feeling fed up that I never seemed to have a go.



Croquet today. The Wellcome team that won the 1986 South-East Regional League (L to R): Tony Sheppard, Peter Baker, Mike Keen and Geoff Coker.

In 1981 Geoff reintroduced golf croquet and organised a competition. Things then instantly changed as there was a surge of enthusiasm and the number of players rose to about 50. In 1983 David Higgs from Reigate Priory arranged for a team to visit us and two doubles matches were played. Reigate won both of these but the most important thing for us was that at last we had started to play other teams. I took over as secretary in 1983 and tried once again to get to grips with Association Croquet. Since 1983 though, the club has gone from strength to strength. We now play over 15 fixtures each year, and this year very much to our surprise won the newly formed South East Regional Club League organised by David Higgs.

In the future I hope that we will continue to play, but more importantly continue to enjoy both Association and Golf Croquet. Next year we hope to give David Higgs a hand in setting up a South East England Club Federation.

## A Club History

## Inter-Club Championship

### Roehampton: 5 October Cheltenham beat Ipswich in Final

Report by Robert Prichard

Cheltenham and Ipswich reached the final by beating last year's finalists, Nottingham and Harrow Oak, respectively. The two teams differed markedly in experience: Martin Murray, William Prichard, Andrew Hope, and David Foulser totalled 70 years of tournament experience, but Mark Avery, John Walters, Danny Palmer and Don Gaunt totalled only 20 years. If Paul Hands had been playing, as in the semi-final, the ratio would have been 80-20 and Cheltenham would have had exactly the same team as won the competition in 1976.

A newer tradition was maintained when the top Ipswich pair, Avery and Walters, arrived late, but Hope started the doubles speedily by going to 4-back on the fifth turn. Walters took 35 minutes to make the same break and this set the tempo for the game, which did not end until nearly 4 o'clock. Meanwhile, Gaunt had derived great satisfaction in beating Foulser: not a



John Walters - establishing a new tradition?

great game, but no worse than the first game of the Roehampton Club Championship, a game won by Mulliner although Aspinall eventually won the match. The best game was between Prichard and Palmer: two balls on 4-back on the 8th turn, laseric shooting, but a tendency to stick in 1-back. Prichard missed his peg-out from two yards, but won by pegging out from twenty yards next turn.

Palmer blackened Foulser's day further by beating him in the afternoon to level the match. Murray, whose position as second string amused those who had seen him play at Compton the previous weekend, had the last laugh by beating Walters +25, with a straight triple peel. He played three singles in this year's competition and won them all with a triple. Until Prichard misapproached 3-back with his second ball, Gaunt made no impression, but when he too took a ball to 4-back and got an early peel in his second break, an upset loomed. It unloomed when he missed a two yard rush to 4-back, giving game and title to Cheltenham. Avery and Hope abandoned their game, but not until Hope had done three peels of a triple but still ended with both clips on Rover (he forgot he had done the penultimate peel before 4-back, so did it again afterwards).

Cheltenham won 4-2, although Ipswich won the supporter count 14-0, half of

them Danny's flat-mates. Cheltenham have now won four times since the competition was revived in 1971, second only to Roehampton's five wins. With half Roehampton's team defecting to Surbiton next year and half of Ipswich's likely to be starting work, maybe Cheltenham will start as favourites to retain the title. Last year's finalists are their most plausible rivals. Or will Woking (six times winners in the years 1924-37) surprise us all?

#### RESULTS

(Cheltenham names first)

##### Doubles

A. Hope & M. Murray bt M. Avery & J. Walters +5;

##### Singles

W. Prichard bt D. Palmer +10;  
D. Foulser lost to D. Gaunt -13;  
M. Murray bt J. Walters +25(STP);  
W. Prichard bt D. Gaunt +7;  
D. Foulser lost to D. Palmer -12;  
A. Hope v. M. Avery (unfinished)

##### Match Result

Cheltenham beat Ipswich 4-2

#### MISSING MEMBERS

The following have 'gone missing'. Please advise Brian Macmillan of their whereabouts if known:

D.P. Turner - Hunstanton  
Hilary Shuff - Crawley  
D.L. Gunasekera

#### Puzzle Corner By Robert Jones, Ipswich

It's that time again! This month: A LOGIC QUIZ.

From the facts given, I want to know who played with whom, with what colours and what hoop they were approaching. In each team, both players are for the same hoop.

Any resemblance to any player, living or dead, is entirely accidental, and no libel claims will be accepted by the author.

1. Erwand required 16 stitches when he was attacked by Chaty's partner who had just clanged at rover (yet again).

2. Nitram (a player in the other game), responded to claims that Nod's partner's white ball was oversized by removing the albino hedgehog from the lawn.

3. Wesli faced disqualification when it was discovered that his green ball was leaking glue. The referee became suspicious when Wesli was seen to sniff the ball several times, then deem a 30 yard hit-in.

4. While their partners stayed at

the lawns, Nitram, Chaty and Braney went off for a drink. I think they're still there!

5. Blue's partner was just a teensy-weensy bit annoyed to discover immediately following his dodectuple (12) peel, that he had, in fact, played throughout with blue.

6. Wesli was in mallet-cracking form, but he hadn't scored as many hoops as Chaty, who was experimenting with 'sidesaddle' roll shots. Her opponents initially objected to her use of a horse, but later withdrew the objection when Chaty agreed to clear up the outside agents.

7. Erwand's partner clanged 2-back from three inches, (for the fourth successive time). His mallet was last seen heading towards Russia.

That's it folks. No additional information is required, except that Alice and John (an excitable chappie) were also playing in the games, and one team was at hoop 5.

## A Scientific Approach to Hitting-In

By Reginald Bamford (Rondebosch)

I was interested to read the article in 'Croquet' by Keith Aiton, in which he compares the probability of winning to losing a game if the player attempts a TPO. It prompted me to think about calculating the odds of hitting a 'hit-in'. I hope that even the most unmathematically-minded can follow the 'proof' of a formula I have worked out.

The variables are (1) Handicap (H), and (2) Distance (D). We must assume the following:

1. That a player is on 'average form'.
2. That a player plays to his handicap.
3. That a player's handicap is representative of the player's hitting-in ability.
4. That a player never 'miss-hits' a ball.
5. That a player is attempting a 'true hit-in' and not simply a rush or a controlled roquet.
6. That there is no added degree of 'pressure' on the player.

To derive the formula for calculating the odds, I am going to estimate the angle (the 'outer-limiting' angle) by which a player deviates from the correct line of aim. Graphically it can be illustrated as shown in Figure 1.

I have made the following estimations regarding these angles, based on experiments using players at the Rondebosch Croquet Club in Cape Town.

| Handicap | Angle (A)<br>(degrees) |
|----------|------------------------|
| -2       | 0.7                    |
| 2        | 1.3                    |
| 6        | 1.9                    |
| 10       | 2.4                    |
| 16       | 3.3                    |
| 24       | 4.4                    |
| H        | (H+7)/7                |

Let P(x) = odds, where  $0 \leq P(x) \leq 1$

Let D = Distance, where  $D \geq 0$  (in metres)

Let H = Handicap, where  $24 \leq H \leq -2$

Let M = Distance by which a player misses the target, where  $M \geq 0$

Graphically, we can illustrate H, D, and M, as shown in Figure 2.

From Figure 2:

$$M = D \cdot \left[ \frac{\tan(H+7)/7}{\dots} \right] \dots (i)$$

Diameter of ball = 3.625 ins  
= 0.092 m

From Figure 2, we can see that the probability of a hit equals the ratio

$$\frac{\text{Distance which constitutes hit}}{\text{Total distance missed}}$$

Therefore:

$$P(x) = (\text{Diameter of ball})/M$$

or

$$M = 0.092/P(x) \dots (ii)$$

Therefore, from equations (i) and (ii) above,

$$D \cdot \tan \left[ \frac{(H+7)/7}{\dots} \right] = 0.092/P(x)$$

(both equal to M), and so

$$P(x) = 0.092/D \cdot \tan \left[ \frac{(H+7)/7}{\dots} \right] \dots (iii)$$

However, when D is close to zero (when the two balls are close together), the value of P(x) is greater than 1. This must be impossible, since P(x) is defined to be  $0 \leq P(x) \leq 1$ . Therefore, P(x) will only take on realistic values when the distance between the balls is greater than a certain distance, given a particular handicap. Anyway, the formula should only be used for 'hit-ins'. The graph in Figure 3 shows how to estimate these minimum distances. For example, a player with a handicap of 3 can only use the formula if the distance (D) is greater than 5 metres.

For simplicity, we can use the formula, for which credit must go to Marcus Bizony:

$$P(x) = 37/D \cdot (H+7) \dots (iv)$$

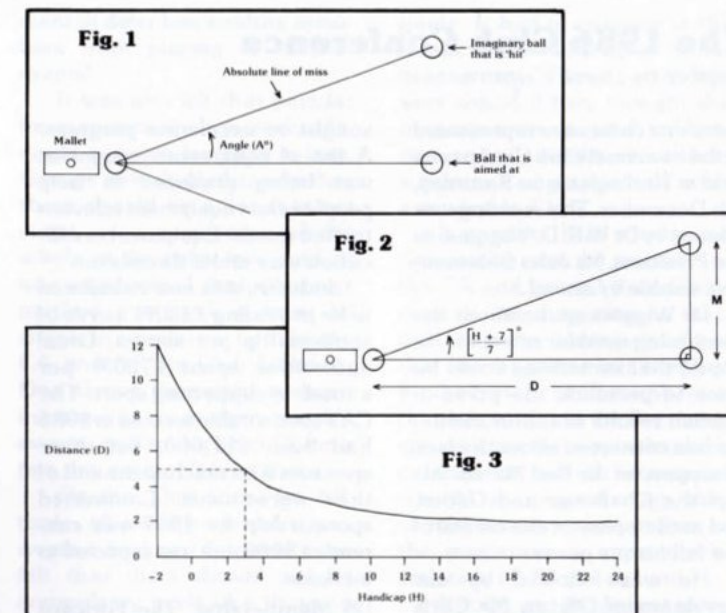
which gives (almost) the same values for P(x) as equation (iii). The reason for this is that  $\tan(H+7)/7$  has a gradient of (or close to) one, for all handicaps H, such that  $-2 \leq H \leq 24$ .

As an example, calculate the probability that a player, with handicap 13, will hit a ball at a distance of 10 metres.

In this case,  
 $P(x) = 37/(10 \times 20) = 0.185$ ,  
giving a probability of 18.5%, or approximately 2 shots out of 11. (Equation (iii) above gives a value of 0.184.)

How useful is this in reality? Although mainly academic, the formula may be used in a match situation. Take, for example, the placing of a tice. If you are playing a weaker opponent, you should lay a tice at a distance at which you will hit more than 50% ( $P(x) \geq 0.5$ ) and at which your opponent will miss more than 50% ( $P(x) \leq 0.5$ ). However, if you are playing a stronger opponent, I would suggest you lay a tice at a distance at which you will hit more than 50% ( $P(x) \geq 0.5$ ), irrespective of his probability of hitting.

As an example of this, at what distance 'should' a tice be



positioned by a player, handicap 3, when playing an opponent, handicap 5?

Applying equation (iv) above, for the handicap 3 player,

$$0.5 = 37/D(H+7) = 37/D(3+7),$$

$$\text{so } D = 7.4 \text{ metres}$$

For the handicap 5 player, from equation (iv),

$$0.5 = 37/D(H+7) = 37/D(5+7),$$

so  $D = 6.2$  metres.

Therefore the tice should be positioned between 6.2 and 7.4 metres (which will be a point where the difference in the probabilities will be at their greatest).

Thanks must go to both David Cunningham and Marcus Bizony for their help in preparing this article.

## THINK TURF:- THINK ROLAWN

From private palaces to public parks, from prestigious golf and tennis clubs to croquet lawns and garden festivals, top people use Rolawn.

We are the market leaders and Europe's largest turf-growers with more experience and better quality, mature turf than any other grower.

There is a grade of Rolawn to suit all purposes and all budgets growing now, at units throughout the country.

Contact us direct . . .

# Rolawn®

For further information phone  
**(0904 85) 661**  
24 hour ansaphone service

Rolawn Ltd., Dept. C, Elvington, York YO4 5AR.

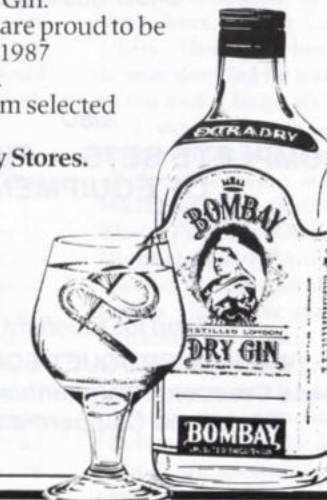
**BOMBAY**  
ENGLISH DRY GIN  
Created in 1761

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

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

Bombay Gin are proud to be sponsoring the 1987 President's Cup.

Available from selected branches of  
**Army and Navy Stores.**  
**Harrods.**  
**Selfridges.**  
**Peter Dominic**  
and good  
Off Licences.



## Club Conference

### The 1986 Club Conference

Report by Derek Caporn

Forty one clubs were represented at the bi-annual Club Conference held at Hurlingham on Saturday, 6th December. The meeting was opened by Dr W.R.D. Wiggins, as our President, Mr John Solomon, was unable to attend.

Dr Wiggins spoke about the continuing need for referees. He hoped that something could be done to persuade the press to publish results of tournaments. He was concerned about the lack of support for the Peel Memorials and the Challenge and Gilbey, and made a plea for the revival of the full bisque game.

He was followed by our Development Officer, Mr Chris Hudson, who reported on the development programme.

(1) Membership Services: The print run for 'Croquet' had increased from 1500 to 1600 during 1986. Advertisement income had risen from £1100 to £1700. The number of pages had increased from 104 to 188.

The 'Southport' ball had been put through 'field trials' by several clubs, and ways were being

sought to accelerate progress. A list of equipment categories was being produced to help people select equipment relevant to their needs. Equipment certification was under discussion.

Industry was now calculated to be providing £130M worth of sponsorship per annum. Local authorities spent £700M per annum in supporting sport. The CA's sponsorship income in 1986 had been £17,000, but three sponsors had reached the end of their agreements. Committed sponsorship for 1987 was currently £8000, but was expected to increase.

(2) Membership: The Forward Plan gave a membership target of 1588 for the end of 1987. Some 300 new members had joined the Association during 1986 and we had caught up the recruitment shortfall in 1985. If we could maintain the same rate of recruitment during 1987, we would achieve our Forward Plan target. Clubs had given considerable assistance in recruiting new members for the CA by direct

encouragement and by supplying lists of members for the CA to contact.

Other sources of new members were school and junior events (the Schools Committee had now appointed several School League Secretaries to help with the organisation of events), the Universities (where we were working closely with the British Universities Sports Federation), and the Womens Institutes and the Townswomens Guilds (both of whom were planning expanded croquet programmes for 1987).



Sponsorship - where should the money go?

A 10-minute feature film on croquet had been produced and was expected to be shown on Channel 4 in April/May. Indoor croquet would be featured on Granada TV, probably in October. Discussions were being held about staging Pro-Celebrity events and a National Garden Croquet Championship.

(3) Access: The number of clubs had risen from 94 in 1984 to over 140 in 1986. There were 3 Federations in 1985. Now there were 4, with two more being formed. Grants given to clubs and federations by the CA had risen from £3600 in 1985 to £9000 in 1986.

Access to the game would be improved by the expansion of Short Croquet (enabling the game to be played on bowling greens, at hotels and tennis clubs, and by players with neither the time nor inclination for the full game); by the introduction of indoor croquet (providing an all-year-round game and better access for TV); and by the provision of more tournaments (over 100 planned for 1987).

However, all this was no good if the new clubs disappeared after a short time. We needed properly established croquet clubs - enclosed spaces, with a definite period of tenure - and more 4-lawn clubs. Someone in the past must have planted all those beech hedges round bowling greens in public parks - we ought to do the same for croquet!

(4) Coaching: 84 Grade I coaches and 11 Grade II coaches had now been appointed. Several

coaching courses were already scheduled for 1987 - for players, coaches, school teachers, and others. Residential courses were also arranged at Loughborough Summer School, Millfield School and Bishop Stortford College.

More coaching videos were becoming available. New videos for coaches had been produced by the National Coaching Foundation. The CA planned to make its own coaching video in 1987 if funds could be found. It would cover breaks and certain aspects of the Laws.

(5) International: A World Croquet Federation was being established. Nine countries had expressed an interest in joining, and the CA's International Committee had been asked to draw up a draft Constitution. We were hoping that croquet would be a demonstration sport at the 1989 World Games in Karlsruhe.

A public meeting was to be held at Cardiff to set up a Welsh Croquet Association, and International Croquet was generally gaining ground. Several overseas clubs had affiliated to the CA during the year.

(6) Regional Development: Development work in the Regions had been spearheaded by the Federations and the Regional Development Officers. 'Learn to Play Croquet' courses had been arranged in many Regions in collaboration with the local Sports Council Officers.

Mr Hudson said he saw 1987 as a year of opportunity and consolidation. Opportunities through TV coverage, indoor croquet, the World Croquet Federation, planned media events, and increased sponsorship. Consolidation by achieving our target of 1600 members, strengthening the new clubs, expanding the National Coaching Scheme, and strengthening our finances. He was most grateful for all the help and support he had been given by everyone.

Three speakers then introduced subjects for discussion. First was Mr Peter Danks on Sponsorship and where the money should go.

(a) If a Club finds the sponsor for the Club's event, should the club retain all the money, or pay some to the CA?

(b) If the CA finds the Sponsor, should it keep all the money?

(c) Will Sponsorship spoil the 'Queen of Games'?

Mr Steve Mulliner, the Chairman of the F&GP Committee, then introduced the second topic by asking-

1. Do tournament players receive greater benefits from the existence of the CA than non-tournament players?

2. Should levy be increased rather than subscriptions?

3. If you think that levy should be significantly increased, should the CA make a flat percentage charge, or substantially increase the charges for events where players had more than one life (for example, American blocks)?

Lastly came Mr Lionel Wharrad, our immediate past Chairman, on the third topic: 'First Class for All - Lifts and Contacts in Handicap play'.

After reviewing the history of the changes in the game, he pointed out that he did not know of any game that had different rules for different classes of players. Why therefore should there be a change in the rules of Croquet when a person graduated to Open Play. Lifts and contacts meant that, just at the time when a player was making considerable progress, he found a change in the rules and tactics had to be altered.

A high bisquer might also feel that he was playing an inferior type of game to the A and B Class players. It would surely be a lot easier for a newcomer to learn about lifts and contacts at the beginning than later.

Would it make a lot of difference to the handicap game if these options were included? The major alteration that might have to be made was for the A class player to have to do a number of compulsory peels (as in 'Short Croquet') so that he would not be able to go round with his first ball and peg it out, leaving the higher bisquer only three balls with which to play.

Following the introduction of these three topics, Chris Hudson screened three videos. These lasted about 10 minutes each and showed three different approaches to explaining the game - Screen Sport at the



Should tournament players make a bigger contribution to CA income?

1985 Northern Championships, Granada TV at the 'Royal Bank Nations Trophy', and Channel 4 in the film to be shown in April 1987.

There was a continuous performance of these films, during which time people drifted away to the bar and lunch and came back later to watch what they had missed.

The afternoon session as is usual at these conferences was devoted to small groups talking about the three topics presented during the morning. These lasted for one and a quarter hours. Then the discussion leaders reported back to the full conference.

On Sponsorship, all Groups decided that if the Club found the Sponsor for their own event, they should retain all, or a large part of the money. Most did acknowledge that local sponsorship was possible because of the publicity generated mainly by the CA, and therefore there was a case for making a payment to the CA.

If the CA found the Sponsor then they should retain most of the cash but any club staging the event should have a share. All Groups agreed that we should be careful in connection with Sponsorship that nothing should be contemplated which would spoil the game. Some Groups felt that if the fixture being sponsored appeared in the list of Calendar Fixtures, then even if the sponsor had been found by the Club, the CA should be paid a percentage.

If TV was involved, then the Club should be recompensed for the extra work involved in this and be paid for any damage caused.

On Levy, all Groups agreed that tournament players received more benefit from the existence of the CA than non-tournament players. In increasing income, therefore, the CA should focus more on increasing levy rather than on heavy increases in subscriptions. There was of course a limit to increases, as we do not

want to deter less wealthy members from playing in tournaments!

It was also felt that popular tournaments, such as weekends, could carry an increase in levy. Groups were divided on whether there should be a flat rate per event, or a percentage of the whole of the entry fees paid. It was emphasised that whatever method was used, it must be simple to calculate - both for the CA and for the Club Officials. One Group suggested a sharp increase in more than two life events, and put forward £2 for a two day event, £3 for a three.

On the 'First Class for All' topic, all Groups agreed it was worth a trial run. Some Groups felt that there should not be compulsory peels like those in 'Short Croquet', and that the rules of this game should not be incorporated into the Association game. One group pointed out that there were already three different sets of rules covering Open, Handicap and 'Short' play, and therefore it might be a good idea to limit high bisquers to a 14 point game. Lifts and contacts would not then affect them. One Group was against the whole idea, believing it would be too confusing for the high bisquers, but presumably they had not addressed their minds to the 14 point game? Another group were split down the middle and said that if this type of event was to become part of any tournament it must be clearly advertised as such.

Several Groups queried the idea of a bisque being taken on a lift shot turn as this would result in a low bisquer having to distance his balls at the end of his break (this might be a good idea as it might well give the innings to the higher bisquer - DCC). If the idea of compulsory peels was not pursued, some felt that the peg out rule in handicap play would have to be retained. Many Groups agreed that it was a good idea to have one set of rules covering all games so that as a high bisquer improved he would not suddenly be confronted with the problem of lifts etc.

A lively afternoon of discussion was completed by an 'Any Questions' session.

A question was raised as to why the Gazette had to be such a glossy publication with use of different colours. The Editor, Chris Hudson pointed out that the magazine was produced not only for the benefit of members of the CA, but it was also used to attract sponsorship and was read by an increasing number of people who did not yet play the

## Club Conference

game. It had to compete in the market place with other sports magazines. Those attending were asked if they thought the magazine was a good publication, and all raised their hands in support. Congratulations were extended to Chris.

It appears that some Club Secretaries were not members of the CA and treated their Club's copy of the magazine as their own property. It was pointed out that the magazine was supplied for the benefit of all members of the club, and that the Secretary should leave the copy in the club's pavilion or hut! If Secretaries wanted a personal copy they should become a subscriber to the magazine - current subscription £7.50 per annum!

A point was made that some weekly tournament entries were declining and that clubs which are suffering from this ought to look carefully at their programmes to see if they gave enough play to anyone who might be knocked out early in the whole tournament.



Why not have lifts and contacts in handicap games - one set of rules for all?

The CA was told that it should provide a Council Member to attend part of the time at any of its events staged at a club, and that it was not good enough to ask a club to stage an event, and then wash its hands!

The Conference was brought to a close half an hour earlier than anticipated by the joint organisers, Derek Caporn and Chris Hudson, because the former decided he wanted a cup of tea and a large sticky bun!

I would like to extend my warmest thanks to Chris Hudson, all the discussion leaders (Jan MacLeod, Pat Shine, Dennis Shaw, Paul MacDonald, David Higgs and Keith Aiton), the three speakers who introduced the topics for discussion, and particularly Brian MacMillan who did so much to make the Conference such a success. Finally our thanks to the Hurlingham Club for allowing us to hold our meeting in such congenial surroundings.

## WALKER CROQUET EQUIPMENT

### TOURNAMENT MALLETS

Made to your choice of weight and length

### CLUB MALLETS

The Mallet with a 5-year Guarantee on the Head

### TOURNAMENT BALLS

Croquet Association Approved for Tournament use.  
2-year Guarantee

also

### COMPLETE SETS - FULL RANGE OF EQUIPMENT

Send for Brochure to:

WALKER CROQUET EQUIPMENT  
82 Queens Crescent, Chippenham, Wilts. SN14 0NP  
Telephone Chippenham 654319

## Tournaments

### Cheltenham: 19-21 September Lift experiment inconclusive

Report by Paul Hands

What a pleasant change it was to be blessed with gorgeous sunshine all day every day, although being September it did tend to get quite chilly in the late evening. It was also nice for your reporter to get back into the thick of tournament management, even if it did coincide with house-moving and my 2-year old daughter sick with measles! However, her illness enabled me to borrow her crayons to colour in bits of paper to stick onto old clips to produce the required set for double-banking. What skill – I'll be on Blue Peter next!

But enough of this idle chat, what about the croquet... Well, 27 started out full of hope, in 3 blocks - 8 in the A's, 8 in the B's, and 11 in the C's. Block C was played under advanced play rules, except that the lifts were taken at 1-back and penultimate rather than 1-back and 4-back – an experiment Andrew Hope had suggested. Feedback from the participants (handicap range 3½ to 6) on this variation was inconclusive, so presumably experimentation will continue.

**Block A** was eventually decided, due to intense pressure from the crowd – Mark Chard in particular – by a four-way shoot-out at the peg. Dave Foulser won this by hitting (scraping!) with 3 of his 5 shots. Paul Smith, Robert Prichard and Paul Hands failed to match this tally (in fact my 0 out of 4 never quite looked likely to be enough). This shoot-out had robbed Paul Smith of being Block winner by more conventional methods (ie who beat whom), with 5 wins from 7 games.

Robert Prichard looked set for glory when winning 3 games on Friday, Dave Foulser being one of his scalps, but he never quite recaptured that form on the other days. Dave Foulser then won 5 games in a row, including an impressive (so I'm assured) straight triple against Bernard Weitz, while Paul Hands, after a patchy first two days, finally found his old form (at long, long last) on the Sunday – winning his last 3 games, two with triples (one on the adversary), and then to come from behind for an exciting win over Dave Foulser – robbing Dave of being outright Block winner. Paul Smith had been chugging along very nicely too, proving too reliable at break play for most of his opponents, so an eventual four-way tie resulted. Mention should also be made of Edgar Jackson, winning 4 out of

7, and at 80 years old still more than capable of beating anyone, as well as being so nice to watch.

**Block B** proved to be David Goacher plus 7 others. He won all his games, playing extremely steadily throughout (we were so glad he wasn't in Block A). Only two of his opponents really stretched him – Duncan Reeve narrowly losing by 4 when seemingly set to win, and Matthew Jackson... perhaps unfortunate that Dab Wheeler found a torch to shine on his ball by the peg in the black of night on Sunday, David Goacher hitting it from the side boundary to win by 1.

Duncan Reeve was runner-up with 5 wins from his 7 games - he improved steadily throughout the weekend, looking an extremely good player at times. Alan Sutcliffe asked me in future only to put him on lawn 6 or 7 and then only in the afternoons – a result of somewhat inconsistent play (and not enough morning drink, I suspect). Robin Burnell played well to win 4 games, but like my favourite football team, he isn't too good on Saturdays – losing all 3 games that day.

**Block C** proved a David Beatty benefit. He played 8 games – winning the first 7 of them – only then to be beaten in under 2 hours by Roger Wheeler, who had earlier in the weekend looked very unlikely to beat anybody, let alone in such a short time. Oddly enough, none of David Beatty's 7 wins was by more than 9 points, and indeed the games in this Block were invariably close fought.

John Exell was runner-up with 5 wins from 6 games (with 11 in the Block the quicker players got more than the guaranteed 6 games), playing well throughout as did Peter Darby (4 from 6 games) despite being the longest handicap. Of the others, Mark Suter (5 from 7) looks stylish but tends to get over-annoyed with himself at times when things aren't going quite right, and then, exactly as I used to, hits the ball harder and harder; Nan Coatzee played very steadily but without much luck at the end of games; Bevis Sanford as always both enjoyed his games and gave everyone a good run for their money.

As manager I would like to thank all the players who took part, and of course all those who worked so hard behind the scenes, altogether making it a most enjoyable tournament.

### RESULTS

#### Block A (Advanced Play)

**5 wins:** D. Foulser (winner), P.L. Smith (runner-up), R.D.C. Prichard, P.W. Hands

**4 wins:** G.E.P. Jackson

**3 wins:** Dr B.G.F. Weitz

**1 win:** Mrs C.A. Smith

**0 wins:** D.H. Moorcraft

#### Block B (Advanced Play)

**7 wins:** D.J. Goacher

**5 wins:** D. Reeve

**4 wins:** R. Burnell, A. Sutcliffe

**3 wins:** R. Race

**2 wins:** M.B. Jackson, N. Gale

**1 win:** Lady Bazley

#### Block C (Advanced Play: Lifts at 1-back & penultimate)

**7/8 wins:** D. Beatty

**5/6 wins:** J. Exell (runner-up)

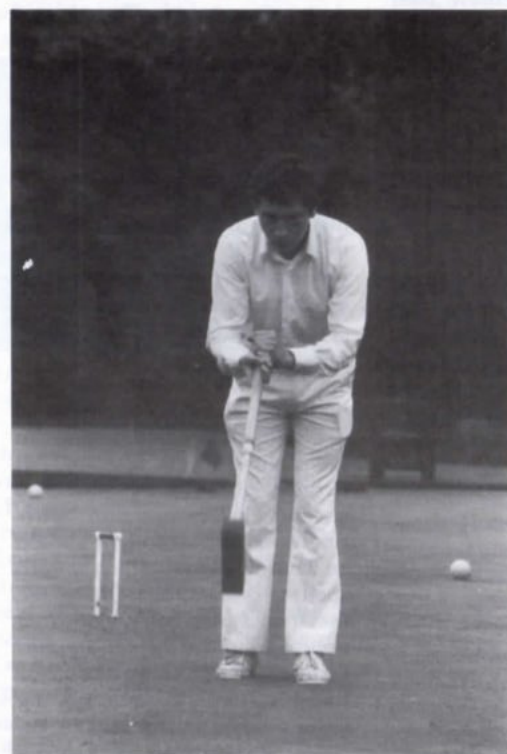
**5/7 wins:** M. Suter

**4/6 wins:** P.A. Darby

**3/6 wins:** M.J. Finn, B. Sanford

**2/6 wins:** N. Gooch, Dr R.F. Wheeler

**1 win:** Mrs N. Coatzee, W.R. Bawden, Gp Capt R.S. Ryan



Duncan Reeve 'improved steadily throughout the weekend'.

### Durham: 11 October The Golfe Croquet Championship

Report by Paul Hetherington

The 1st Northern Golfe Croquet Championship was a major success. It was sponsored by the Northern Echo and held on Durham Racecourse on October 11th by the Northern Sports Association for People with Mental Handicap.

There were 33 entries, including members of Croquet Clubs, the Public and people from Adult Training Centres. The prizes were presented by Mr N. Longridge, NSAPMH Secretary, and the 21 medals were shared by 17 people, some from as far away as Lynne Street ATC, Hartlepool.

Paul Wrightson (Durham ATC) won the singles in a penalty shoot out against John Embleton (Durham ATC), Ian Hampson (Belmont Labour Party) won the bronze. The doubles was deservedly won by Alan Foster and Christine Usher (Lynne Street ATC) with their team mates Paul Fletcher and Sheila Hutchins

taking the bronze. Peter Robson (Durham University Club) and Marion Cook (Stanley) were the silver medal winners, with some tough shoot outs on the way.

The team event was won by Durham Reserves, comprising Marion Cook, David Nelson, Pat Nelson (Stanley) and Ian Hampson, who beat Durham ATC 1 (Velda Bryden, John Embleton, Linda Wilkinson and Paul Wrightson) 2-0 in the final. The bronze medal went to the Riff-Raff – Mr Longridge (NSAPNH), Dick Appleby, John Burnip (Durham ATC Staff) and Mr Jack (Durham) father of Graham Jack, bronze medalist in the Durham Championship.

The event was great fun, with everyone enjoying themselves and medals being distributed evenly between 'normal' and mentally handicapped people in a 'world first' for truly level competition.

### The Instructive Stroke

By Allen Parker (Parkstone)

There was a very active correspondence column every week in the early volumes of the Gazette. One controversial subject, which for some obscure reason carried the title 'The Instructive Stroke', ran for a considerable time. Two typical letters published some time after the start of this topic are the following.

Sir,

As the primeval introducer of the above lesson of deep instruction, permit me to recall to your readers – who may still survive – the details of the Original, Ancient Case. My friend – Mr Feeny – in a friendly game, found his ball a foot, or less, in front of his next hoop. On the other side, some inches from that hoop, lay a ball of mine. With a hard stroke, now historically the 'Instructive' one, his ball certainly passed through the tight hoop, certainly struck my ball – but, with a recoil spin, comparable to the 'drawback' stroke at Billiards – his ball spun back again through the hoop, coming to rest almost on the spot it started from. He then took up the ball, to take croquet, claiming both hoop, and 'roquet'. I respectfully declined to allow either; also claiming a 'foul', on the ground

that his ball had been through, but never legally made that hoop, and consequently could not claim the 'roquet' beyond a hoop it had never made. How on earth could a man do, or effect, anything in the inside of a house, or in its backyard, until he had gone through its front door. My amiable friend at once agreed to submit it to expert advice; we then tossed: I won, and still think secured a just result.

Your readers will remember – who are still alive – the storm which arose! How the unfortunate writer was, very improperly, accused by imputations of mere desire to have a joke with, and waste the time of the Committee. How the incapable took sides – rushing in where 'Angels fear to tread' – how even Mr Gladstone, like 'King Charles' head, was dragged in; and how the then Editor – now probably deceased – stopped a lively series of letters, far more calculated to afford the readers a little innocent amusement than much that obtained in the Gazette of that day, NOT excluding the 'Editorial Remarks'. Present day editors wisely encourage, instead of cutting short, letters of an original and lively character, which bear upon a perfectly

legitimate croquet point, such as 'The Instructive Stroke'. Those who – like the writer – still have that distant correspondence, can only murmur sadly – 'There were Giants in those Days' (Gen.VI., 4). I still maintain with cheerful firmness that that Ball of Mr Feeny's, never legally made that hoop – never legally made a roquet – and, that being illegally taken up, constituted 'a Foul'.

Yours very truly,  
E.Shorthouse, 26th August, 1909.

This was soon followed by a letter stating the opposite view:

Dear Sir,

Rule 23 distinctly defines a ball beyond the hoop, and it seems to me to be a legal quibble, instead of the spirit of the game, to say, if in hitting the ball beyond the hoop the striker's ball runs it clear and then rolls back into the hoop, it has not run the hoop. Why should not the striker be entitled to have the referee to watch the stroke and decide whether his ball ran clean through or not? There appears to be no reason why he should not have that privilege. His ball would certainly have run that hoop and made the

roquet if, as I suggested, he followed his mallet through the hoop and kept it from rolling back. Or take another case, in doubles. The striker could ask his partner to kneel down by the hoop, and if his ball began to roll back, to pick it up before it got back into the hoop. Both these are perfectly fair strokes, whether the ball beyond the hoop has or has not been roqueted since the last point was made, and being so, why should the striker not have a referee to decide if his ball ran clear of the hoop?...

Yours faithfully,  
J.W.H. Vivian

This second letter is enough to make modern referees squirm. Imagine following the ball through the hoop with the mallet to stop the ball rolling back! Or having one's partner pick the ball up before it ran back into the hoop. Or having a referee watch you run every hoop when there is a ball on the other side (although this is of course necessary when there is any doubt about it being hoop and roquet). Let us be thankful for our present comprehensive laws. But was it hoop and roquet or just a roquet?

### THE MOET & CHANDON CROQUET CHALLENGE



Much to our delight, Moët & Chandon and Peatling & Cawdron have told us that they are to continue their joint sponsorship of croquet in East Anglia in 1987. The Moët & Chandon Croquet Challenge matches will again be staged in collaboration with the National Trust. Peatling & Cawdron, fine wine merchants, are a subsidiary company of Greene King who initiated the sponsorship last year. The photograph shows Blickling Hall, venue for one of last year's Moët & Chandon Croquet Challenge Matches, with Betty and Maurice Allain, of Bradfield, trying their hand at the game. A beginners' lawn was provided at each venue to enable spectators to have a go for themselves.

TOWNSEND CROQUET  
LIMITED

For a comprehensive range of Croquet Equipment, Mallets, Balls, Hoops, Winning pegs, Clips, Corner flags, Corner pegs, etc. All at competitive prices.

Ask for Townsend Croquet equipment at your local sports shop.

Write or 'phone for a free Croquet Aimer to help practise lining up the balls when taking Croquet.

TOWNSEND CROQUET LTD.  
CLAIRE ROAD  
KIRBY CROSS  
FRINTON-ON-SEA  
ESSEX CO13 0LX

TELEPHONE: FRINTON (02556) 4404



## EXTRACT FROM MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 29TH NOVEMBER 1986

### 1. WELSH C.A.

Dr Murray felt it was undesirable for the Welsh CA to be an autonomous Association as the CA would then be unable to make grants or loans to Welsh Clubs. It would be better if the Welsh CA was treated as a Federation. Mr Hudson told the meeting that the Welsh Sports Council have stated they could not recognise a Welsh Federation for grant aid unless it was an independent National Association. The problem was referred to several Committees for further consideration.

### 2. MOTIONS

(a) The motion in the name of Dr Wiggins was withdrawn.

(b) 'The experiment of seeding in the Singles Championships be continued for a further year' was proposed by Miss J McLeod and seconded by Mr S N Mulliner. After discussion, it was carried by 17 votes to 4.

(c) 'The Men's and Women's Singles Championships ('Caskets') be seeded for one year as an experiment' was also proposed and seconded by the same persons. A vote was taken separately for the 'Men's' and the 'Women's' and the former passed by 12 votes to 9 and the latter by 14 to 6.

(d) 'President's Cup Hoops be used in the quarter finals and later stages of the Men's Championship Singles and the Open Singles and Doubles Championships' was proposed by Mr S N Mulliner and seconded by Mr R F Rothwell, and after discussion was passed by 17 votes to 1.

(e) 'A Sub-Committee of the Council to be established forthwith to prepare potential Test Match players for the 1990 series' was also proposed by Mr S N Mulliner and seconded by Mr B A Keen. Mr Mulliner said a list of potential Test match players should be compiled and regularly revised, and players should be informed. He hoped that this system, in conjunction with other events, would encourage players on the list to develop a winning instinct. This motion was approved unanimously.

(f) 'Council nominate Lionel Wharrad for election as a Vice President at the next AGM' was proposed with enthusiasm by Mr R Rothwell, seconded by Mr D C Caporn and passed unanimously.



Lionel Wharrad - nominated for election as a Vice-President at the next AGM.

### 3. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

(a) The P&D report was given by Mr P Stoker. A 'logo' for the CA and the subject of professionalism were two subjects under discussion. The decision of the Committee that it be split into separate Publicity & Development Committees with the latter including all the Regional Development Officers was unanimously approved in principle. This was not to take effect until P&D had brought before Council detailed proposals for effecting implementation for Council's approval.

(b) The Coaching Committee report was tabled by Mr J McCullough who reported on some of the items. He was warmly congratulated for all his work on this.

(c) The F&GP report was given by Mr S Mulliner, who noted that the CA would be registered for VAT with effect from 1st October 1986 and was already registered as a data user. He also drew attention to the increase in club registration fees to 60p per member, including VAT; that the school clubs' registration fee will continue at £7 inclusive of VAT; and that all University & College Clubs and all clubs in their first 3 years of registration will be charged £12 inclusive of VAT, irrespective of numbers. It was hoped to set up a Charitable Trust covering students, a draft of which was being submitted to the Charity Commission and the Inland Revenue. The Committee recommended that if it was necessary for establishing the Association's liability to VAT on its subscription income, a new class of membership be created whose sole privilege would be to receive the magazine. This was agreed by Council unanimously.

(d) The Development Officer's Report was given by Mr C Hudson.

(i) An application had been made to the Sports Council for a grant for two carpets on which to play croquet indoors.

(ii) Kingston & Oxford Councils were interested in indoor Mini-Croquet.

(iii) The Royal Bank of Scotland had agreed to sponsor the Schools' Tournament for £2000 in 1987.

(iv) There was a possibility of promoting a 'Garden Croquet' Tournament nationwide.

(v) It was unlikely that Granada will repeat the short Croquet Tournament in March 1987 but they are planning to put on a similar tournament indoors in October 1987.

(vi) The Channel 4 Video in their 'Minor Sports' Series had been completed.

(vii) We had to apply 4 years in advance to get into the 'World Games'. We therefore can apply in 1989 for the one in 1993. We may get an invitation to the 1989 World Games as a 'Demonstration Sport'.

(e) The Tournament Committee Report was given by Mr B Keen, who said he had not received any offer of venue for the 'Longman Bowl'. The Junior Tournament would be staged at Edgbaston.

(f) The Administration Report was given by Mr B Macmillan.

(i) Mr E M Hunt who is an honorary Life Associate had sent the CA a donation of 500 Australian Dollars (£221.70) to commemorate the 50th year of the first England v Australia Match. He believed he was the only survivor of the players in matches before

World War II. Mr Macmillan had written thanking him and said his name would be recorded in the Benefactors' Book.

(ii) Mr R A Godby had generously bequeathed £500 to the CA and his name would be recorded in the Benefactors' Book.

(iii) Mr Macmillan reported problems in getting census forms from Clubs. Mr McCullough suggested that, in future, he write to Regional Development Officers, who may have the information required.

(iv) The election of 17 new Associates was agreed.

(g) The Schools Committee Report was given by Mr Dorke who tabled a list of 89 schools who are interested in Croquet, and also the conditions and budget for the National Schools' Championship. The cost had now been covered by the Royal Bank of Scotland.

(h) The International Committee Report was given by Professor Neal. A letter had been received from Mr Jones of California, who had organised a World Croquet Tournament which had been won by Mr S Mulliner. Mr Jones will be organising a 'Wine Country International World Croquet Tournament' in 1987 with free accommodation and travel but with a \$250 entry fee. He asked if the Council would like to nominate 5 players who would be seeded. Professor Neal said the event would not infringe the CA conditions relating to amateur status. Council agreed to the invitation.

### 4. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(i) The Chairman notified Council that Mr E Strickland had resigned from Council due to his commitments with the Saffrons Club at Eastbourne. This was received with regret and Mr Macmillan was asked to write to him accordingly.

(ii) Mr Mulliner asked if the results and reports of the Invitation and other premier events could be published in the magazine earlier than at present. The Editor said he would be pleased to do so if he received them in time but even at this late date, he still had not received some of the reports. It was pointed out that it was part of the Manager's duties to send in the results and to arrange for somebody to write the reports. This matter was referred to the P&D Committee.

(iii) Mr Danks asked whether consideration could be given to arranging for the 1988 Club Conference date to be brought forward to November to take advantage of any British Rail concessions for Senior Citizens.

(iv) Mrs Hague enquired about the possibility of an item which could be worn by those who had played in the 'Ladies Field.' This was referred to the F & GP.

### New Associates

|                  |                  |
|------------------|------------------|
| M.J. Falconer    | Ashby            |
| E.T.D. Duckworth | Bristol          |
| H.H. Glatson     | Budleigh         |
| Dr J.R. Murdoch  | Budleigh         |
| C.G. Bennett     | Edgbaston        |
| P.R. Spiring     | Nailsea          |
| Mrs Y.M.A. Steed | Newport          |
| S. Cross         | Parsons Green    |
| H.W. Wright      | Parsons Green    |
| Mrs E. O'Dair    | Phyllis Court    |
| P.E. Kendall     | Preston Lawns    |
| Dr M.H. Kay      | Reading          |
| Mrs P. Dorke     | South Shropshire |

|                            |             |
|----------------------------|-------------|
| Miss B. Fielding           | Wellington  |
| Ms E.M. Brignall           |             |
| Dr M. Game                 |             |
| J.B. Haggerston            |             |
| E.C.K. Laing               |             |
| F.H. Boots                 | Australia   |
| Mrs P. Statham             | Australia   |
| W.M. Langstroth            | Canada      |
| Miss E.G.S. Burke          | New Zealand |
| L. Meisner                 | USA         |
| (Total 23)                 |             |
| <b>New Referees</b>        |             |
| P.J. Dorke (Ludlow)        |             |
| K. Jones (Edgbaston)       |             |
| <b>New Grade I Coaches</b> |             |
| D.R. Appleton, Tyneside    |             |

### THE SECRETARY NEEDS YOUR HELP.

Have you paid your subscription?

Please help the Secretary by sending your cheque now and save him having to send reminders.

The Fixture Book will only be sent to members who have already paid.

|  |        |
|--|--------|
| Full Membership                        | £14.00 |
| Reduced Membership                     | £7.50  |
| Junior Membership (under 21 on 1/1/87) | £7.50  |
| Overseas (covers three years)          | £20.00 |

### THANK YOU

### Club Recruitment Competition Membership up and accelerating!

#### CONGRATULATIONS!

The end-of-year count of new members shows that the following clubs have won the major prizes in the Membership Recruitment Competition announced in our May 1986 issue.

| Group   | Prize                 |
|---|-----------------------|
| <b>Group 1</b><br>(Clubs with 0 CA members)   |                       |
| Winner:                                       | <b>Ealing</b> £250    |
| Joint   | <b>Ashby</b> £50      |
| Runners-up:                                   | <b>Harrogate</b> £50  |
| <b>Group 2</b><br>(Clubs with 1-9 CA members) |                       |
| Winner:                                       | <b>Tyneside</b> £250  |
| Runner-up:                                    | <b>Pendle</b> £100    |
| <b>Group 3</b><br>(Clubs with 10+ CA members) |                       |
| Winner:                                       | <b>Bowdon</b> £250    |
| Runner-up:                                    | <b>Southwick</b> £100 |



Ron Welsh

### 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: £2.00 (£3.00). P&p 26p.

**'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 (£8.00). 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 (£8.95). 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**  
£2.30 (incl VAT). P&p 18p. Total £2.48.

**CA Ties**  
£8.05 (incl VAT). P&p 18p. Total £8.23.

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.

### BANKERS ORDERS

A number of members have enquired about Bankers Orders. These will be available from Brian Macmillan later in the year.

### New Zealand (continued from page 12)

has also a permanent 'flea market' where almost anything can be bought... and shoes are mended while you wait. We went south to the City of Cambridge where the Colleges of the ancient University provide many rich examples of mediaeval and later styles of architecture.

Whilst in Cambridge, I was lucky enough to be poled around 'the Backs' by a university student and also saw the Croquet lawns. A number of students are now playing serious croquet and entering tournaments which should supply England with a wider selection for future Test Teams.

From Cambridge it was back to London to meet up with the Australian party again. A couple of free days in that big city and the MacRobertson farewell dinner at Hurlingham, provided the finale for a superb holiday and a superb supporters' Tour of Great Britain.



OH... DID YOU MISS ?!!  
Cartoon by Gillian Nix

A condition of the awards is that the prize money is used to develop club facilities or to improve existing facilities for the club members. Cheques have been sent to the winners.

The table below shows how membership has increased over the past few years. Our target for this year is a net gain of 271 members.

| Year | Net Gain |
|------|----------|
| 1983 | 28       |
| 1984 | 36       |
| 1985 | 118      |
| 1986 | 215      |

Watch out for details of the 1987 recruitment competition!