

Editorial

THE PACE QUICKENS

The Lassale Croquet Classic has opened up new horizons for the Croquet Association. Until the first Regional final, I had never met anyone who had actually won a match in the competition - all the people I met told me they had played and lost, in many cases, badly; but how much they had enjoyed the

For the first time they had found out what the rules really were, and now they knew, they were keen to have another go next year. The enthusiasm of those who reached the Regional finals was also impressive, both players and spectators.

I shall not quickly forget the scene at Blickling Hall, where the morning rounds were played in 3 hours of continuous torrential rain. Players and spectators alike, though poorly protected from the weather, stuck it out, with a long line of umbrellas on the

terrace and cheers of encouragement for the players as they battled on.

Many of those who entered the competition have now joined the Association, and I wish them well as they try out their skills at their local club. Before very long, I suspect that a number of them will be winning our tournments, because the talent is there and it has only to be developed.

Encouraging also is our success in another area, the Schools, where Peter Dorke and his School Secretaries have done a magnificent job this year in expanding the Schools tournament with the help of The Royal Bank of Scotland. Already the list of those chosen for the Invitation events includes the names of several schoolboys who started playing in the Schools and Junior Championships only a few years ago. Let's hope that very shortly the competition generates some potential lady champions! CHRIS HUDSON.

Stockey Furzen Cricket & Croquet Club

Observant readers who reach the small print of our 'Official Business' columns will notice that there are a considerable number of new members listed as coming from Stockey

Paul Henderson, Club President-for-Life, developed his interest in croquet earlier this year when he and his wife Kay took a beginners' course coached by Peter Danks, Leonard Mills and Pat Tunmer at Budleigh.

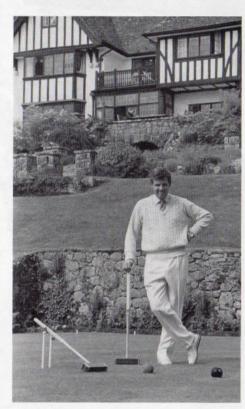
After the course, they thought it would be fun to get some of the local clients of their restaurant to come out on Saturdays to play on their croquet lawn (a pretty good one by the sound of it) and this was so enjoyable that they decided to form a proper club, recruiting some more of their friends and regular hotel clients.

Membership now stands at 52 and rising. 39 are British (14 local), 2 Australian, and 11 American (which accounts for the large number of overseas members recruited since our last issue). Their subscription of £20 per year includes membership of the Croquet Association and Paul expects to add another 50 members every year.

The scene at Blickling Hall, where the morning rounds were played in 3 hours of continuous torrential rain, was fantastic. Players and spectators alike, though poorly protected from the weather, stuck it out, with a long line of umbrellas on the terrace and cheers of encouragement for the players as they battled on.

Many of those who entered the competition have now joined the Association, and by now they will be trying out their skills at their local clubs. Before very long, I suspect that a number of them will be winning CA tournaments: the talent is there and it has only to be developed.

Paul and Kay have set out to make Gidleigh Park a place where they themselves would like to stay and eat, so even if your croquet is not too good, you should find your visit well worth while!



Paul Henderson after being thrashed 14-0 in the Observer/Lassale Croquet Classic!

Photographs in this issue by: Derek Rowe (Photos) Ltd., Dorothy Rush, Deborah Latham, Eric Harrison, Barry Keen, John Williams, Syd Jones, Andrew Bennet, Chris Hudson, Mary Cook, Chris Chapman, and Granada TV.

Paul and Kay Henderson on the lawn at Stockey Furzen Croquet Club, Gidleigh Park, Chagford, Devon.

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CROQUET

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

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TWG 'Taster' Days



TWG members try Golf Croquet at Bowdon.



the TWG's National Sport & Creative Leisure Committee, shares a joke with Joyce Ball of Timperley, who won the Short Croquet tournament

Two full-day Regional 'taster' sessions have been held recently for the Townswomens Guild. The first, held at Bath Croquet Club, was ruined by rain, but even so, a third of the 27 ladies played right through from 10 o'clock until 4pm. Bowdon had better weather, and a larger group, 40. Eight ladies played a Short Croquet tournament and the others tried their hands at Golf Croquet. A most enjoyable day.

Granada TV: International Croquet

Granada TV are following up their 1986 TV Croquet presentation with another International Short Croquet match, to be filmed indoors at Stage 1, Manchester.

The match will be filmed on Friday 30 October to Sunday 1st November inclusive and two players each from New Zealand, Australia, the United States, and Great Britain are to be invited to take part. The governing body in each of these countries has been asked to nominate its top four players from whom the final selection will be made according to availability.



Nigel Aspinall in play in last year's TV International.

It is hoped to stage 6 games on the Friday and Saturday (3 in the afternoon and 3 in the evening). It will be a round robin competition, culminating in two semi-finals and a final on the Sunday afternoon.

The matches will be recorded and it is intended to edit them to give 5 45-minute programmes. Seating will be installed around the court for 600 spectators, so players and their families and friends in the North West (and perhaps further afield) should have an opportunity of seeing some of the world's top players in action at close range.

The event will be advertised to the public, so if you want to watch it 'live', make certain that you book your seat early!

Carlsberg Croquet: Development Drive in Hotels

Carlsberg are to assist the Croquet Association to develop the playing of Croquet in hotels.

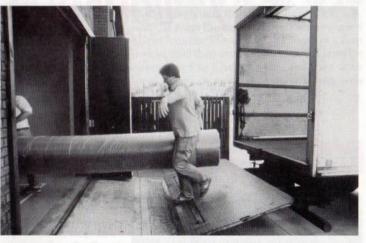
During the winter, 2000 hotels will be circulated with details of a special offer of the 'Carlsberg' Croquet Set - a high quality set which will come complete with a handbook explaining the game, a set of Rules encapsulated in plastic to protect them against the weather, a wallchart explaining the basic shots and the tactics of the game, and a plastic leaflet dispenser which will be stocked on a regular basis with CA leaflets.



Croquet being played at The Royal Berkshire Hotel, Ascot.

The special offer will include affiliation to the CA, entitling each hotel to reduced rates for advertising in the magazine and helping to establish links between the hotel and the CA so that we can work together in developing the game.

Croquet Goes Indoors



The first length of carpet goes into Chorley Sports Centre for trials.

We shall soon take delivery of two indoor carpets in preparation for our first-ever winter indoor programme. Each carpet measures 26yds by 18yds and is divided into 5 strips lengthwise, giving a 1-yard border all round the standard Short Croquet court.

One carpet will be used in Stage 1 for the Granada TV International Croquet presentation. After that, the two carpets go on tour round the country, visiting some 10 venues during the winter to enable us to carry out a programme of coaching, demonstrations, and 'taster' sessions.

At the same time, a National Inter-Regional team tournament will be organised, with the 'home' Region playing matches against neighbouring Regions on the Saturday and Sunday afternoons at each

Venue dates that have already been tentatively fixed are as follows:

7/8 November Clacton 21/22 November

Loughborough

5/6 December Bristol 19/20 December Crawley

Details of the programme at each venue will be circulated to local

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Budleigh Salterton: 6-7 June England Home In on Championship again

Report by Peter Danks

This year, for the fourth time, Budleigh Salterton was happy to welcome old and new friends in the four teams contesting the Home International Championship. Had the Club had prior notice of who was coming, the media would have been able to inform the public which scintillating stars would be on view. Perhaps next year the respective captains will remember this.



Phil Cordingley - a convincing win for England in the final.

On the Thursday before the off, the hoops were all firmly placed exactly the regulation 323/32 wide. A Nippy telephone call after this had been done was to order President's Cup hoops (3 11/16 inches wide) to be used. Six sets duly arrived on the Friday and Charles Smith, the Lawns Manager, set them on Friday afternoon. He was not too happy as it rained Datsun Cogs the whole time. On the Saturday morning last year's Test Match score boards arrived. Unfortunately some name plates had no players and some players had no name plates. An innovation this year was the provision of balls by the CA. They arrived after the Club's ten sets of new and nearly new balls had been laboriously bounce tested and graded for size. Now for the good news. I will re-word that. Now for the less bad news. Saturday was a pig of a day. A leaden sky and a strong south-westerly. Very cold.

England were again the favourites. They took no risks against Wales whom they beat 5-0 without losing a game. Nigel Aspinall beat William Prichard by +17, +26TP. David Openshaw had a comfortable win against David Croker by +13, +26. Mark Avery started strongly against Robert Prichard, winning the first game +26. The second was harder and he won by +13. Eric Solomon and Colin Prichard demonstrated to the locals how to play expert croquet on an indifferent court. The locals now realise that the skill of man can overcome the slings and arrows of outrageous slopes and bumps! Eric won +18, +18. Philip Cordingley and Danny Palmer had a close first game which Philip won by +8. He won the second +23.

Scotland beat Ireland decisively by 4-1. The most intriguing game was between Martin Murray and Simon Williams. Martin lost the first game -17 and won the second +22TP.

In the third game Simon was well ahead. He missed the peg with his forward ball and pegged out the other. Martin had one on peg and the other nowhere. He hit in. We all watched a tantalising three ball ending. Slowly Martin progressed as far as 4-back. At last Simon hit in. He took off for the peg and - you're right. He missed it! Martin gave him no second chance.

Home Internationals

Now for the better news. On Sunday the weather was more relaxed. So were the players, refreshed by the Club's party for them on Saturday evening, followed by the teams' annual dinner. Players and spectators could actually enjoy themselves.

England met tougher opposition from Scotland. Nigel Aspinall had a lengthy game with Keith Aiton. He eventually won by -22TP, +6, +25TP. David Openshaw met the in-form Martin Murray. Martin narrowly lost the first game by -3. That was enough. He stormed home by +26TP, +26TP. Mark Avery beat Ian Bond +20, +15. Eric Solomon and Stephen Wright had a ding-donger which Eric won by the odd game -12, +25, +13. Geoffrey Roy must have thought he had Philip Cordingley in the bag when he won the first game +17. Not so. Philip gave no quarter, winning the next two games +26, +26. England 4, Scotland 1.

Ireland and Wales fought hard to avoid winning the wooden spoon. David Croker narrowly beat Simon Williams +3, +7. Ian Vincent beat Colin Prichard +20, +15. Colin Irwin got his revenge for last year's defeat by William Prichard. He won after another hard struggle by +9, -5TP, +16. John McCullough beat Robert Prichard +23, -8, + 25TP. John Rose and Danny Palmer played on two courts. The first with President's Cup hoops, until they were whipped off the lawn for conveyance to Cheltenham, and then with local hoops on a different lawn. Danny won +13, -3, +7. Ireland 3, Wales 2.

News

EXCLUSIVE 'Dolly' Rush traced to **Brentwood**, Essex **Identity exposed:** A Special Report

The letter from Peter Dorke in our last issue has led through a chain of mysterious circumstances to the tracing of 'Dolly' Rush, the well-known writer of short stories.

Acting on a tip-off, our reporters tracked Mrs Rush down to a house in Shrewsbury, only to find that she had packed and left in a hurry due, it was alleged by neighbours, to her husband's promotion to a job at Head Office.

Further painstaking work has taken our team to Pilgrim's Hatch, near Brentwood, Essex, where we have been given an exclusive interview by Mrs Rush herself. We have now established beyond doubt the true facts of her identity, and are proud to be the first national magazine to reveal the full story to our readers.

Dorothy Jones was born of Welsh parents

in Southwick, where she not only played no croquet but was completely unaware of the existance of either the game or the local clubs. It was not until she went up to Cambridge in the early sixties that she was introduced to the sport in the most casual way. She still has a photograph of her first faltering strokes, taken in West Road.

The photo shows her playing in bare feet, a practice she now regards with disapproval, but soon she progressed to serious croquet and became part of the 'Great Croquet Revival' that took place in Cambridge in the 60's. Not a star player, she still won the odd game against Geoff or Robert.

It was not until much later that her handicap fell to a respectable level and she began to understand the game a little. Work in advertising took her to many parts of the country and to many croquet clubs, large and small, but marriage and croquet were incompatible and she had to hang up her old Solomon and become a reformed woman.

Now settled in her new home in Essex. Dorothy (no one has ever called her 'Dolly' except her Uncle George) hopes to take



The first faltering steps . . .

advantage of the proximity of the local croquet clubs and play the occasional game with her husband Goronwy.

Bazley & Exell (9) +18; Mr & Mrs

Gosden (12) bt MacLaren & Mrs

Suter & Miss Waterston bt Mr & Mrs

Championships

Harris (81/2) +3.

Final

Championships

Cheltenham: 17-25 May THE WESTERN CHAMPIONSHIPS Mark Suter excels in new Regional Championships

Report by Deborah Latham

The class, handicap and doubles events were played during a week of very changeable weather when waterproofs were worn as often for warmth as they were for protection from

The co-managers for this first part of the Westerns were Laurence and Deborah Latham, making their first attempt at managing a week-long tournament and emerging from the experience having enjoyed themselves whilst garnering ideas for improvement next time. A relatively small entry, about a quarter of which was made up of visitors, meant that double-banking was less frequent than usual, and most games were finished within the precautionary time limit imposed.

Circumstances led to the draw for the classes being done by Mr Jan Kusmirek, the Managing Director of Natural Assets Ltd. The two 'A' class blocks both produced three players with two wins each; Bernard Neal and Laurence Latham were the victims of Tournament Regulation 15. Mark Suter had only been promoted to the 'A' class about a week previously and could therefore have been considered an outsider, but with only Carol Smith beating him and with triple peels against Bernard Neal in the qualifying block and David Cairns in the final he eventually won with little difficulty.

The 'B' group were the biggest class,



Kismet Whittall, winner of the Reckitt

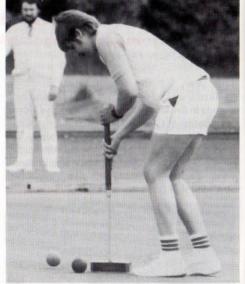
necessitating three blocks; here the 'Latham Innovation' was employed to ensure the 'best' block winners had the most favourable draws in the play-offs. In the event the two finalists turned out to be from the same block, and, as happened in their first encounter, Bob Race

players, but only Marjorie Warren and Kismet Whittall won all their qualifying games to meet in the final, where Kismet once again put Marjorie in the role of bridesmaid rather than

somewhat surprising that more long bisquers did not avail themselves of the opportunity to play for the handsome Stevenson Cup. The two top players in the block who were to play off for the cup proved to be husband and wife Leslie and Millicent James, who coincidentally both qualified with two wins, +4! They played a full untimed game - an arrangement which was met with appreciation - with Millicent notching up a convincing victory.

The managers were pleased to see only three of the doubles games going to time; the thirty-two players produced a number of strong pairings. Not least of these were the Bath combination of Bob Race and Kay Yeoman, who were eventual victors over Carol Smith and Deborah Latham. It was something of a surprise to find such partnerships as John MacLaren and Bo Harris and David Cairns and Marjorie Warren in the 'Y' doubles, but a pleasure to see Sue Waterston partnering Mark Suter to a successful conclusion therein, even though it was at the expense of Ron and Bervl Gosden.

From a field of thirty-four in the big handicap, those worthy of mention include Jean Paddon, whose very respectable wins were not quite sufficient to see her to the final stages, and John Exell who progressed to the semi-finals. John MacLaren had a good tournament, too, reaching the semi-finals in this as well as the semi-final of the 'Y' doubles and the class play-offs. He also shared with Bo Harris the distinction of constraining Mark



Mark Suter in play, watched by Laurence

Suter to his two narrowest winning margins, but the Gilbey Goblet was nonetheless destined to be another trophy for the Suter

The 'Y' was a very respectable event, with the eighteen players including some of very high calibre. Eileen Cheverton was doubtless

pleased with her win over Paddy Paddon, as was Iris Dwerryhouse with beating Carol Smith. However, it was Deborah Latham who kept up her collection of 'Y' wins against such players as David Cairns at the semi-final stage and Bob Race in the final, both of whose performances in the rest of the tournament raised the question of what they were doing in the 'Y' at all!

Only three of the entrants went on into the Coles as the fourth event of the Championships, but the players on the whole seemed happy with the first running of the tournament and, generally speaking, if the players are happy, the managers lead a much more peaceful existence!

RESULTS

Roehampton Challenge Cup (Advanced Play)

Block A

2 wins: M. Suter +25; Mrs C.A. Smith +20; Prof B.G. Neal -3. 0 wins: Dr B.G.F. Weitz.

Block B

2 wins: Dr D.S. Cairns +221; W.E.

ball on the north boundary from went to Paul.

Aiton's being the decisive one.

Meanwhile the SWIZ was super-sub in to the event.

David Goacher notched up his first tournament TP against Robert Prichard. All your reporter heard of this was Prichard moaning about how many people had done their first tournament triples against him; surely there is excellent scope for some detective work here (Keith, John, David and Robert to investigate perhaps).

Lamb +8; L.V. Latham -3 0 wins: G.E.P. Jackson

Play-Off

Semi-Finals Suter bt Lamb +9; Dr Cairns bt Mrs Smith +22.

Final

Suter bt Dr Cairns +8(TP) Trevor Williams Cup

(Advanced Play) Block A

3 wins: R. Race 2 wins: P.A. Darby

1 win: Dr R.F. Wheeler 0 wins: F.J. Exell

Block B

3 wins: Mrs G.D. Harris 1 win: Mrs D.A. Wheeler (runnerup); Mrs L.V. Latham; R.A. Gosden

Block C 3 wins: J. MacLaren 2 wins: Mrs B.G. Weitz

1 win: Lady Bazley 0 wins: Mrs K. Yeoman



Co-Manager Deborah Latham (right) with doubles partner Carol Smith

Play-Off 1st Round

Darby bt Mrs Weitz +12; Race bt Mrs Wheeler +23.

Semi-Finals

Darby bt Mrs Harris +17; Race bt MacLaren +5.

Final Race bt Darby +21.

The Reckitt Challenge Cup (Level PLau)

Block A

3 wins: Mrs A. Warren 1 win: Mrs M.E. Langley -3; P.A. Dwerryhouse -6; Mrs M. Murray -25

Block B

3 wins: Mrs K.M. Whittall. 2 wins: Mrs R.A. Gosden. 1 win: Mrs P.A. Dwerryhouse.

0 wins: Mrs B.G. Neal. Play-Off

Mrs Whittall bt Mrs Warren

Stevenson Cup (Level Plau)

2 wins: Mrs L.W.R. James +4; L.W.R. James +4. 1 win: Miss E. Cheverton; Miss S.

Waterston Play-Off

Mrs James bt James. **Handicap Doubles**

2nd Round

Race & Mrs Yeoman (81/2) bt Dr Wheeler & Mrs Whittall (121/2) +8; Prof & Mrs Neal (61/2) bt Latham & Mrs James (14) +6; Mrs Wheeler & James (18) bt Dr Weitz & Mrs Murray (8): Mrs Smith & Mrs Latham (61/2) bt Lamb & Mrs Langley (91/2) +14.

Semi-Finals

Race & Mrs Yeoman bt Prof & Mrs Neal +14; Mrs Smith & Mrs Latham bt Mrs Wheeler & James +5(T).

Race & Mrs Yeoman bt Mrs Smith & Mrs Latham

Handicap Doubles 'Y'

Semi-Finals

Suter & Miss Waterston (16) bt Lady

Trevor Williams Cup Finalist Peter Darby.

PERSONAL COLUMN

(20p per word. Min £5.)

Colin and Chris Irwin have noved. Their new address is: Hawthorne Road, Plumley, Cheshire, WA16 0UH. Tel: 0565-812556.

fat lot of good it did, with no close efforts this year.

The SWIZ was won by Mark Avery by beating a succession of strong players including John McCullough in the last game.

It is really good to end a tournament on a note of good weather, it may help to con the players into suffering again the agonies of the wet first day. Note how the really skilful players obtain a grading so low as to allow them to just watch the first day's play and make a glorious entry and exit in the SWIZ. mentioning no names. There were indeed many excellent entries for spectator of the year at this year's COLES, including the elusive Brain Sykes out to get some more blood samples it seemed.

RESULTS

The Coles Trophy (Advanced Play)

1st Round

S.N. Mulliner bt Miss J. MacLeod +26; N.G. Hyne bt E.J. Davis +4; J.O. Walters bt P.M. Johnson +15 *E.W. Solomon bt A.B. Hope +25; D.L. Gunasekera bt 'Dr M. Murray +4: A.J. Mrozinski bt G.K. Taylor +14; D.R. Foulser bt R.D.C. Prichard +16: *K.M.H. Aiton bt D.L. Gaunt +5(TP); *J.R. McCullough bt P.L. Smith +6; J.E. Guest bt J. Rose +9; S. Williams bt D.J. Goacher + 18; L.V. Latham bt *M. Avery +15; W.O. Aldridge bt *P. Cordingley +4; P.W. Hands bt Prof B.G. Neal +14; F.I. Maugham bt Dr D. Cairns +11: *C.J. Irwin bt K.F. Wylie +7.

2nd Round

Mulliner bt Hyne +24; Solomon bt Walters +26(TP); Gunasekera bt Mrozinski +5(TP); Aiton bt Foulser +25(TP); McCullough bt Guest +3; Williams bt Latham +3; Hands bt Aldridge +9; Maugham bt Irwin +6.

3rd Round

Mulliner bt Solomon +17, +26(TP);

Aiton bt Gunasekera +26, +25; Williams bt McCullough -13, +3, +9(TP); Hands bt Maugham +16. +26(TP)

Semi-Finals

Mulliner bt Aiton +25(TP), -14, +14; Hands bt Williams -8(TP), +1,

Mulliner bt Hands +17, +26. * Seeded Player.

SWIZ

(Advanced Play)

6 wins: M. Avery.

5 wins: C.J. Irwin, A.J. Mrozinski, J.R. McCullough, D.L. Gunasekera. 4 wins: E.J. Davis, L.V. Latham, F.I. Maugham, P.L. Smith, W.O. Aldridge, D.R. Foulser, D.L. Gaunt, D.J. Goacher.

3 wins: M. Murray, D. Cairns, P. Cordingley, N.G. Hyne, P.M. Johnson, J.E. Guest.

2 wins: J.O. Walters, A.B. Hope, K.F. Wylie, R.D.C. Prichard, J. Rose, G.K.

1 win: B.G. Neal. 0 wins: Miss MacLeod.



Challenge Cup.

beat Peter Darby to win the trophy.

The 'C' class had an entry of very good bride in a very closely contested game.

The 'D' had a very small entry, and it was

THE WESTERN CHAMPIONSHIPS **Mulliner wins the Coles Trophy**

The movement of the COLES to the second May bank holiday brought out a strong entry, strong play and naturally some indifferent weather. Indeed the weather on the first day, which comprised persistent rain, would have graced the earliest of events in the calendar.

Report by Richard Hilditch

This rain may have contributed to the demise of the seeds lost in the first two rounds, with Martin Murray narrowly losing to a refound Dayal Gunasekara, Mark Avery losing comfortably to Laurence Latham and lan Maugham (playing very well as a fairly late substitute in the draw) disposing of Colin Irwin. However the sharp-eyed soon pointed out the bad effect that the Great Britain jackets had had on Mark and Colin.

With their customary efficiency Eric Solomon and Steve Mulliner managed to finish off the first quarter final on the Saturday. Steve won this match convincingly although Eric had played well in the previous rounds disposing quickly of two strong opponents.

In the second quarter, Keith Aiton met Dayal Gunasekera, both fresh from TPs. Keith won the first quickly and Dayal then tried to obtain some sort of psychological advantage by holding back the second game until the next morning. However Keith proved the fitter, and Dayal failed after making a token hoop, going down -51. All this while Keith was wearing a dreaded GB jacket. Dayal continued to play well although he lost a delicate 'grudge' match in his first SWIZ game with an imposter from the bottom of the rankings

(your reporter substituting for Eric Solomon). In the third quarter Simon Williams came through to play John McCullough. The first game proved to be a traditional Irish slow game with the manager reaching for his

pegging down clips on Saturday night until Simon stuck in a hoop. Resuming on Sunday Simon managed to win a close Riggal game and then produced a delayed TP to get into the semi-final. Indeed many of the 20 TPs in all were delayed with one STP by Colin Irwin.

The weather on Sunday had improved (it was bitterly cold but at least dry, only Irish men were wearing shorts), and the modest group of spectators were able to venture out of the hut occasionally. The match between Mulliner and Aiton proved to be of variable standard with some awful patches, however Mulliner's hitting in proved to be decisive.

In the other semi-final the two unseeded players put up an exciting match for the spectators. Simon won the first game with a TP from being somewhat behind and looked to be in control in the second game when he was going round with his second ball to the peg. With Paul on 4-back and peg, Simon peeled partner through 4-back but was unable to do more straight peels. He made rover off Paul's backward ball and left it near rover going down to his peel ball at penult. He played a strong peel shot (which looked a little dangerous), rolling down to the peg to peg out both balls. Taking the lift Paul hit the ball in penult, peeling it down to near 3-back, he took off but was only able to gain position at 4-back. Simon took what looked to the spectators to be a difficult hoop position (about 45 degrees at 4 feet), and Paul made 4-back but failed position at penult (20 degrees and a yard to the side). Possibly unable to get a wire Simon confidently ran rover hard and had a shot back at the peg to the north boundary, narrowly missing both peg and ball. Paul was in a crunch position, he hit the

his position at penult and went out (including hitting a long return roquet after rover). Needless to say the match then

On the final day we had a much better display from the meteorological boys, with real sunshine and not a breath of wind. Mulliner proved far too strong for Hands, and regained the trophy comfortably. Aiton had a good tussle with Williams in which they both had TPs with

proving interesting. Overnight the key game between the two hapless players on 0 wins (Jan MacLeod and Bernard Neal) had been pegged down. The game resumed despite a marker having demonstrated quantum mechanical tunneling to the next lawn and Bernard laid up and produced a neat TP. He then cunningly retired when on top (not of the SWIZ) to let another

The almost mystical prize for the first sextuple in the COLES was remembered by some, but a

Championships

CHAMPIONSHIP Southwick: 28-31 May Surprise Win For Avon

Report by John McCullough

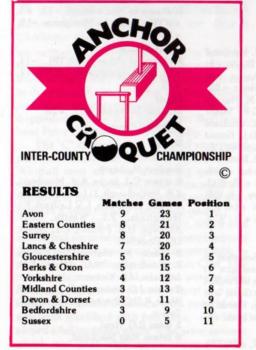
A last-minute withdrawal by Middlesex reduced the field to 11 teams and encouraged the Manager to adopt an all-play-all format, involving three 3-hour rounds a day from Thursday to Saturday. This decision seemed to be well received, despite the necessary increase in double-banking. Most players are hardened to this now, even when playing doubles and they prefer more play to less double-banking. It also avoided the 'lottery' element of which teams did not meet which other teams.

Round 1 saw the first surprise, an opening 2-1 defeat of reigning champions Eastern Counties by Lancs & Cheshire. Danny Palmer and Debbie Cornelius were the first of many pairs to fall victim to the extremely successful Eddie Bell/Alan Sutcliffe combination, losing a tight game -3 on time. The impressive form of 'new boys' Sutcliffe and Brian Storey enabled the Northerners to mount a strong challenge for the title.

In Round 2 the even more successful, and ultimately unbeaten, pairing of Keith Aiton and Nick Hyne showed their mettle with a +21 against Avon's John McCullough and Roger Tribe. Unfortunately the Midlands lacked strength in depth and lost this match, like many others, 2-1.

Round 3 saw another 2-1 defeat for Eastern, by a menacingly in-form Surrey squad. Jerry Guest was the star of this encounter, playing a break from 6 to the peg just before time to secure a win by +2 on time for partner George Noble and himself against Martin French and Tim Harrison.

Thus Thursday ended with only three unbeaten teams, Avon, Lancs & Cheshire and Surrey. Everyone, not least the disconsolate non-playing captain Sarah Hampson, seemed surprised that Eastern's challenge had apparently disintegrated. The home fans must





Avon's winning team. Back (left to right): John Mann, Bob Race, Roger Tribe and Ray Ransom. Front: David Goacher, John McCullough and Frances Ranson.

have been similarly depressed that Sussex had already gravitated to the bottom of the table, alone registering three defeats. The duck was to prove unbreakable. Consolation was at hand however, not only in the bar, but in the form of natty Anchor golfing umbrellas, (a gift to each player by our sponsors that, needless to say, ensured a dry tournament) and in the form of the camaraderie of this, the most social of all Croquet events.

The vital clash in Round 4 produced a 2-1 win for Surrey against Lancs & Cheshire. Meanwhile dark horses Avon notched up a third successive 2-1 score, against fancied contenders Berks & Oxon. With two defeats in three matches, the Thames Valley side became another whose challenge appeared to be over before it had begun. With a good 3-0 win over Midlands (Aiton & Hyne separated), Gloucestershire was still in the hunt with only one defeat but they had an ominously tough programme ahead.

Sure enough Surrey proved too powerful for Gloucestershire in Round 5, which saw Avon collect its win against Sussex, and Lancs & Cheshire pick up an important 3-0 against Bedfordshire to keep in the hunt and improve their 'games for' total, which would be the deciding factor in the event of the tie. Freddie Reynold and Tommy Vale scored a notable consolation win for Sussex in this round by the large margin of +15 on time, against the otherwise unbeatable third Avon pairing of Bob Race and Ray Ransom.

Round 6 witnessed one of the most exciting games of the tournament as Eastern clashed with Avon. Double-banking on a fast lawn 3, McCullough made use of a fourthcorner cannon to start his early break to 4-back. John Walters hit the lift and got to 3-back before very honestly admitting to a fault in front of the vicious 'hill'. After a few more turns Palmer gained the innings and went to rover where he blobbed the hoop off McCullough's ball. The Avon pair gambled for the big prize but Tribe missed the lift. Palmer tried the hoop again but could only find the jaws. McCullough joined Tribe on the North boundary, allowing Palmer to make the hoop. This he did but his adventurous shot at Walters' ball on the East boundary missed. McCullough took advantage, going to the peg and pegging Palmer out. That left threequarters of an hour for the pegged-out game. Walters was allowed a number of 30+ yard shots, all of which he missed, although he made a couple of hoops as McCullough and Tribe separated following lifts. With three minutes remaining it was peg and rover v penult. Walters had just missed another 35-yarder but Tribe failed to get a good rush to rover so instead retreated to the North boundary. With his last shot Walters eventually hit (33 yards) to large cheers from the gallery and made penultimate to win +1 on time, McCullough failing to hit his last shot at the peg from corner 4. This secured a 2-1 win for Eastern and was a particularly bitter disappointment for Race and Ransom, who had staged a spectacular recovery in the last 45 minutes against Gaunt and Lewis to win +2 on time. Meanwhile Surrey had notched up their sixth successive victory with a 2-1 win over Midlands.

Thus, by Friday evening, Surrey had established a commanding lead with 6/6, followed by Avon and Lancs & Cheshire, both on 4/5 and a revived Eastern on 4/6. The weekend reinforcements were starting to arrive, but what effect would they have?

Round 7 belonged to Bedfordshire. They opened up the event with the surprise of the week, a 2-1 win over Surrey. The key game here was the +1 on time win of Jon Watson and John Wheeler against Bernard Neal and Tony Mrozinski. A late break to the peg, giving contact, by Mrozinski appeared to have rescued Surrey. Unfortunately skipper Neal had miscounted the score. He thought they had established a 2-point lead and so told Mrozinski not to peg out. In fact the lead was only 1 point and Jon Watson played an excellent last turn to make 2-back and 3-back and win the game and match.

Avon nearly suffered a similar fate. In their deciding game against Yorkshire, time was called with Race and Ransom 2 points up against John Maude and Martin Kolbuszewski. Worried about Kolbuszewski's ball on hoop 3, Ransom tried to croquet it to corner 1 but an underhit shot saw it finish within a foot of Maude's 2-back hoop. With all the balls split up, Maude hit the 25-yarder after time, made 2-back but missed a three-yarder at the ball in corner 4 to the great relief of the Avon team.

With Surrey sitting out Round 8, the other three contenders notched up wins to pile on the pressure. In the game against David Croker and Bernard Weitz of Berks & Oxon, Tim Harrison of Eastern made the best attempt of the week at a triple by completing two peels only to see the rover peel stick in the jaws, with a subsequent jump-shot that failed to move the peelee.

In Round 9 Lancs & Cheshire lost 2-1 at the hands of a strengthened Berks & Oxon team but, with their injection of new blood for the weekend, Surrey definitely seemed to have adversely affected the balance of their team, for they were convincingly beaten 3-0 by an Avon team growing in confidence with each match.

Day three concluded with Avon on 7/8, Eastern on 7/9 and Lancs & Cheshire and Surrey on 6/8. Seemingly all would hinge on the Sunday morning clash of Avon and Lancs & Cheshire. In what other sport but Croquet would the main contenders be seen disappearing into the sunset on a night out together?

And so to the controversy. With Race and Tribe beating Tim Haste and Chris Hudson +8, McCullough and Ransom were settling for a 2pt win on time against the unbeaten Bell and Sutcliffe when, with (as they thought) three minutes to go, the message came round that there was a 31/2 hour and not, even as shown on the programme, a 3 hour time limit for the Sunday sessions. The consternation caused here, as on a number of other lawns, was intense but the Manager remained firm and so the tension had another thirty minutes in which to escalate. In fact what probably would have been a 2-1 win to Avon turned into

a 3-0 win, as David Goacher

played a marvellous break after

time so that he and partner John

Mann could beat the unlucky

John Rose and Storey by yet another +1 on time.

Eastern did what they had to do in Round 11, beating Yorkshire 3-0 to keep up the pressure on Avon but in the end they had to settle for second place, as Avon notched up their

they had to settle for second place, as Avon notched up their fourth consecutive 3-0 with a win against the team that had done them such a good favour earlier,

Bedfordshire.

And so the newcomers drove home with the Cup, engraved glasses, champagne, cake, butter, cheese and cream, not to mention their umbrellas and fruit syrup. It is certainly a tournament worth entering, but not just for the generous and welcome sponsorship by Anchor Foods. The hospitality of the Southwick members, a sighting of one of Veronica Carlisle's hats, the tension of all those +l's on time. but above all the great social nature of the occasion, make this for many the highlight of the Croquet Calendar.



John Wheeler, Bedfordsbire's captain, helps team mate Jon Watson to a glass of Anchor's Fruit Syrup.

SOUTH WEST CHAMPIONSHIP Budleigh Salterton: 29 June – 4 July Bearded Pirate Regains His Loot

Report by Peter Danks

With the exception of the war years, the Budleigh Salterton July Tournament has been played every year since 1896. Old and new faces have always been welcomed. One of the more interesting winners was little Lily Gower playing in her first tournament. It was the first time she had played on a full-sized lawn, and the first time she had seen first class played. She learned her croquet from a book. As long as we keep reading, there is hope for us all!

Last year an unknown (to us) bearded pirate from Bristol scooped the loot. This year we recognised him as David Goacher. He was permitted to retain his loot.

We still missed the players from the Universities, although we had one from Cambridge – Fiona McCoig. She delighted all with her easy style and speedy play. After her first game, her handicap was reduced from 8 to 7. This enabled her to play in the advanced 'B' class singles.

The weather is always worthy of note. On the first day, it was indifferent. Banks of fret rolled across the slow lawns, making it difficult at times to see from one end of the court to the other. The experienced chose black and blue. In misty weather they are hard to see in the distance, but you can always see yellow! The rest of the week was glorious baking sunshine. By Saturday the lawns were very fast.

The Championship of the South West of England was played as two American Blocks. David Goacher won all his five games (+93) and Susan Wiggins won four of her's +(82). In the final Susan got off to a good start and got black to 4-back. Later David hit in and got red to 4-back. The lift was missed. Yellow went round to peg. David cross-wired Susan at the peg, but Susan managed to hit in. The lawn was straight but the wiring was not! Susan lay up with a rush on hoop 2, but red hit in and made the last three hoops and pegged out, winning by +15.

In the Open Handicap knockout event, the final was between the graceful Alice Dawson (who had beaten Susan Wiggins +26 en route) and David Goacher. It was an equal struggle which David won by +3.

The 'B' advanced singles was played as a Swiss event. The locals who had never played this



David Goacher (Bristol), this year's Champion of the South West.

form before had trouble working out who was winning. Peter Howell with 4 wins (+31) won with W. Broad-Thomas with 3 wins (+42) runner-up.

In the 'C' class event, Maurice Boardman won with 4 wins (+36) from T. Bower, who only started playing in April, with 3 wins (+50)

The Handicap Doubles had many close fights. Griffith and Wickham won their semi-final against West and Boardman by +1(T). In the other half, Mrs Wiggins and Davey beat Miss Dawson and Drake by +1. In the final, experience showed. The Wiggins/Davey combination won by +9.

It is worth noting that last year's winners of the Championship, the Open Handicap Singles and the Doubles all retained their trophies. If you think you can beat them, come along next year and try.

So ended the 83rd July Tournament. Long may it continue, See you all next year. Remember to book early.

RESULTS The Le Mesurier Cups Semi-Finals

N. Griffin & Lt Cdr Wickham (15) bt Dr West & M. Boardman (13½) +1(T); Dr Davey & Mrs Wiggins (8½) bt Drake & Miss Dawson (12½) +1 Final

Davey & Mrs Wiggins bt Griffin & Wickham +9

(The rest of the results are given on Page 28.)



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11

Championships

MEN'S & WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIPS Cheltenham: 14-20 June Men's & Women's Players in Drug Sensation!

Report by John Walters

Experimental Wonder-drug 'Brufen' was being used by Pat Hague and John Walters to help muscle injuries and thus build up resistance against dour play, the so-called 'grey plague'. Later, when statisticians were pondering the possibility of the number of TPs achieved in the Men's exceeding the number of OTs 'achieved' in the Women's, Bryan (well-oiled winning machine) Sykes suggested we might approach 'Mogadon' to sponsor the next Women's Championship. Mary Collin confirmed that although Generic Nitrazepam was more widely used these days, Mogadon still had the 'higher commercial profile'.

Of the conditions imposed by the old (and now defunct) CA tournament committee, seeding was not observed (everyone was told but the Manager, who wouldn't have known who to seed anyway); Southport balls were not used for the Women's or the Du Pre; President's Cup hoops (or rather, 'narrow' hoops) were used only from the Men's semifinals; William pointed out that we could not use the former name as this was not the President's Cup!

The mixed doubles got under way on Sunday with the big clash Aspinall/Cornelius vs Aiton/Collin. Although Mary was soon round to 4-back, Keith found himself lacking and a failure at sixth gave their opponents the initiative. Nigel swiftly followed Debbie's ball round for a clinical win, the last we were to see of Britain's most esteemed player until Saturday. McCullough/Ransom vs Hope/ Hague produced the thriller of the early round games. Hope stuck in 4-back after peel one of the STP, John went round from first - peeling and pegging out Andrew in two turns. Pat made penultimate off the contact but hit in only once after that (when Frances stuck in the fourth). Sadly, a double-tap on the half-roll gave Frances a 3-ball break, off which she made 5 hoops and later took the game.

At 10 o'clock on Monday morning Bryan Sykes was already in the quarter-finals of the Men's and semi-finals of the 'Y' mixeddoubles. The first of the Main events saw the 'Battle of the Northern belles' - Collin vs Hague, the honours going to Mary this year with two solid breaks in the second game following on from half an hour of near inactivity. Aiton vs McCullough went all Keith's way after John failed to progress



Debbie Cornelius partnered Nigel Aspinall to win the Mixed Doubles Championship.

beyond hoop 6 on the break given him by Keith sticking in 1st. A whitewash second game produced the first TP of the week. Thus John became the first entrant for the Du Pre. William Prichard began his bid in impressive style, dropping only 1 point to Eddie Bell in a brilliant display with two TPs. Lawn 6 had a very busy day by hosting the closest match ever, a -1(T), +1(T), +1(T) win for Dab Wheeler against Frances Ransom which included some spectacular after-time breaks

Aiton continued his quest with an easy win

over Martin French, who had chalked up a good win against Andrew Hope in their threegame first-round match. However Keith was to encounter more resistance in the following quarter-final against Danny Palmer. Keith took control of the third game after Danny stuck in second, but managed only two peels of a delayed TP when the straight Irish peel at penultimate took too much wire and ended vards from rover. A poor leave stopped Keith from joining up, Danny missed the lift but then gained a break by hitting a 7-yard roquet. At this time, the rain was pouring down, but nevertheless Keith shot with the ball at peg to Danny's rush on the 'old standard leave' position. This missed, giving away the triple. The TP disintegrated at hoop 4, causing a foot-tapping and frustrated Palmer to walk over towards the hut housing Keith and say 'Really good concentration - you're about to win the game by the way!'. A missed scatter on partner brought this histrionically delivered prophesy to fruition, with the strains of Danny's Celtic poetry recitation wafting across the lawn!

In other quarter-finals the Oxbridge clash between Robert Prichard and Bryan Sykes saw the 'winning machine' home again and heading towards a semi clash with Paul Smith. Paul had followed up his win against Paul Hands with the defeat of another Cheltenham club-mate, the defending Champion, David Foulser.

It was a pleasure to see Paul Hands return to croquet, even though he has failed to reproduce the old form. So long has been his absence that he laid a 'new standard leave' before being told that these were unfashionable. Indeed the 'old standard leave' is becoming de rigueur in some places, thus demonstrating the cyclic nature of life - and croquet - or alternatively its fickle nature.

Wednesday was the day the Du Pre got under way with a bang. Having been Rigalled (= pegged out, Sheila) by Martin French, Carmen Bazley ran an impossible looking 3-back by a yard, ran 4-back (!), hit double on North boundary and finished. It was noticed that this occurred a day early, since Thursday was to be the anniversary of the battle of Waterloo - when the French were annihilated. Indeed, this proved to be a very good day for the ladies. Patty Hague beat Dennis after an exciting pegged-out game; Dab Wheeler lost to Bernard Weitz by one after achieving the peels of a double peel on opponent. Despite failing the peg-out and having



Keith Aiton - 1987 Men's Champion.

Bernard 'do the dirty on her', Dab still caught up from 5th to miss a shot at the peg before going down; Frances Ransom was on a finishing turn against Danny Palmer following a hit in after a Rigall, but with a 3-ball break ahead she stuck in 4-back and lost the game. With all this success (and more to come, with both Carmen and Patty achieving impressive wins in later rounds) I began to wonder whether in the event of a woman winning the Du Pre we should give the Ladies Plate to the top male

Back in the main events, Mary Collin defeated Susan Wiggins surprisingly easily in a clash of styles which brought her a place in the final. Debbie Cornelius (the only quarterfinalist not a past holder of the title) had to overcome Veronica Carlisle. This she did with some break construction that showed much promise for the future, although her take-off from the end of B-baulk through the back of 5th as approach for that hoop was less conventional

The semi-finals of the mixed doubles produced another cracker for Lawn 8 with Palmer/Wiggins vs French/Wheeler. Seconds before time Susan was for peg, Danny 4-back, Dab penult and Martin peg. Danny laid a rush in 4th corner but Martin hit from 2nd corner, separated the opposition and pegged out his own ball. Faced with a 2-point deficit after time, Danny hit Dab's ball in 2nd corner from near 3rd hoop, took off to a poor position at 4-back which was scored nevertheless; he again hit Dab in 2nd and took off to position at penult, scored the levelling point and retired to Susan's ball in 4th corner. Dab was faced with the longest shot on the lawn which she missed, enabling Susan to peg out

her own ball for a win +1 on time. Now I could try to make the Men's final sound exciting . . . but not for the money I'm being paid. Aiton won +26(TP), +26(TP), thus bringing his triple count for the week to 6, following the record 8 he had in last year's President's Cup (not a mere 7 as I previously reported). It is also interesting to note that there was only one professional in the tournament and he won it; surely this demonstrates the argument that the true amateur is at a disadvantage when competing against the professional!

Championships



Mary Collin - 1987 Women's Champion.

The Women's final produced a marginally less certain match. The first game was close, with Debbie catching up from 1st and 1st vs 1-back and 4-back to 4-back and 4-back vs 4-back and penult. Later Debbie looked to be going out but failed an angled rover which proved to be fatal with Mary on 4-back and peg (but the dreaded 'on time' was avoided by a good 10 minutes). Mary always looked comfortable in the second game; Debbie looked increasingly dejected, but she will certainly have many more opportunities to take this title.

The first game of the mixed doubles final saw Debbie to 4-back after faltering initially. A few leaves later, Nigel went to peg with 2 peels of the STP (including a 3/4 yard angled, split roll clean through penult!). Although opponents showed typical Bristolic determination by hitting in twice and thus stretching the game a bit further. they failed to take advantage of the chances which they played so well to set up. In the second game, Nigel soon went to 3-back with 2 peels on Debbie, leaving her for 4th hoop where she then stuck; Frances' shot bounced off 5th leaving a good pioneer that sent Debbie to the peg. Nigel finished in the next turn. In closing, Martin French

won the Du Pre swiss after a playoff with Robert Prichard whom he had already beaten by +1 about 4 hours previously! Robert chalked up a good win against John McCullough (who completely vanished from the swiss at one point and probably regretted it when the Manager made him reappear). However, Robert forgot how to peg out against Martin - peg and peg for half an hour wasn't good enough to take the game. Patty won the play-off against Carmen Bazley for the Ladies' Plate. Both had managed 4 wins in the swiss. Engraved on the back of the Women's Locket are the words 'Derelict fifty years'. Perhaps after this week's play those fifty years are almost over!

RESULTS

Men's Championship

1st Round

D. Palmer bt Prof B.G. Neal (w/o): D. Peterson bt J.O. Walters +15, +23: M. French bt A.B. Hope -9, +9, +11; K.M.H. Aiton bt J.R. McCullough +21, +26(TP); R. Ransom bt Dr B.G.F. Weitz +19, -8, +9; P.L. Smith bt P. Hands -5, +16,

2nd Round

E. Bell bt J.R. Hilditch +8, +18; W Prichard bt J.E. Guest +25, +25(TP); Palmer bt Peterson +20, +19(TP): Aiton bt French +20. +24(TP); Smith bt Ransom +10, -10, +20; D.R. Foulser bt W.O. Aldridge -11, +14, +12; Dr B.C. Sykes bt D. Openshaw (w/o); R.D.C. Prichard bt D.H. Moorcraft -4, +4, +19.

3rd Round

W. Prichard bt Bell +25(TP), +26(TP); Aiton bt Palmer +15, -17(TP), +13; Smith bt Foulser -5, +16, +10; Sykes bt R. Prichard -4, +16, +17.

Semi-Finals Aiton bt W. Prichard +15(TP), +17:

Smith bt Sykes +11, +21. Final

Aiton bt Smith +26(TP), +26(TP). Women's Championship

1st Round

Lady Bazley bt Mrs E. Weitz +9, +10; Mrs S. Wiggins bt Mrs G.D. Harris +11. +17: Mrs D.A. Wheeler bt Mrs F. Ransom -1(T), +1(T), +1(T).

2nd Round

Mrs M.P. Collin bt Mrs P. Hague +5, +22; Mrs Wiggins bt Lady Bazley -12, +24, +5(T); Miss D.A. Cornelius bt Mrs Wheeler +24, +8: Mrs V. Carlisle bt Mrs E. Asa-Thomas +22. +11.

Semi-Finals

Mrs Collin bt Mrs Wiggins +16, +16; Miss Cornelius bt Mrs Carlisle +11,

Mrs Collin bt Miss Cornelius +2, +15.

The Mixed Doubles Championship

1st Round

A.B. Hope & Mrs P. Hague bt D.H.

Moorcraft & Mrs G.D. Harris +17; J.R. McCullough & Mrs F. Ransom bt Dr & Mrs B.G.F. Weitz +18: W.O. Aldridge & Mrs V. Carlisle bt P.L. Smith & Lady Bazley +16; D. Palmer

& Mrs S. Wiggins bt Dr B.G. Sykes & Dr S. Foden +10.

2nd Round

G.N. Aspinall & Miss D.A. Cornelius bt K. Aiton & Mrs M.P. Collin +12; McCullough & Mrs Ransom bt Hope & Mrs Hague +2; Palmer & Mrs Wiggins bt Aldridge & Mrs Carlisle +23; M. French & Mrs D.A. Wheeler bt J.O. Walters & Mrs E. Asa-Thomas +11.



Paul Smith, Men's runner-up.

Semi-Finals

Aspinall & Miss Cornelius by McCullough & Mrs Ransom +21, +26; Palmer & Mrs Wiggins bt French & Mrs Wheeler +1(T).

Aspinall & Miss Cornelius bt Palmer & Mrs Wiggins (w/o).

Mixed Doubles 'Y'

Aiton & Mrs Collin bt Sykes & Dr Foden +21.

Du Pre Cup

(Advanced Play) 7 wins: M. French

6 wins: R. Prichard; D. Foulser

5 wins: J.R. McCullough 4 wins: R. Ransom; Lady Bazley; D. Palmer; P. Hands; Mrs P. Hague;

D.H. Moorcraft 3 wins: J. Walters; D. Peterson; Dr

B.G.F. Weitz; Mrs E. Weitz 2 wins: Mrs V. Carlisle

1 win: Mrs E. Asa-Thomas; Mrs R.F. Wheeler; J.R. Hilditch

Ladies Plate

Play-Off

Mrs P. Hague bt Lady Bazley +3



Carmen Bazley had some impressive wins during the Championships.

National Results INTER CLUB 1st Round

Bowdon bt Ipswich 2nd Round

Bowdon bt Harrow Oak Cheltenham bt Surbiton Hurlingham bt Worcester (w/o) Nottingham bt Roehampton

MARY ROSE

1st Round Worcester bt Budleigh

Hurlingham bt Ryde Cheltenham 'B' bt Chelt'ham 'A' Surbiton bt Southport

2nd Round

Hurlingham bt Worcester Bowdon bt Glasgow Roehampton bt Wrest Park Colchester bt Parsons Green Woking bt Bristol Parkstone bt Colworth Edgbaston bt Edinburgh (w/o)

3rd Round

Bowdon bt Hurlingham (w/o) Roehampton bt Colchester Woking bt Parkstone Cheltenham 'B' bt Edgbaston

LONGMAN CUP 1st Round

Compton bt Ramsgate Hurlingham bt Crawley Harrow Oak bt Surbiton Ryde bt Southwick Reigate bt Roehampton Reading bt Oxford University High Wycombe bt Harwell Nailsea bt Sidmouth Bath bt Bristol **Bowdon bt Southport** Typeside bt Norton Hall Edgbaston bt Stourbridge Himley bt Walsall (w/o) **Ipswich bt Hunstanton**

Bretby bt Thos Cook (w/o) 2nd Round

Hurlingham bt Compton Parsons Green bt Caterham Woking bt Harrow Oak Reigate bt Rude Reading bt High Wycombe Wrest Park bt Colworth Bath bt Nailsea Cheltenham bt Parkstone Bowdon v. Ellesmere * Glasgow bt Edinburgh (w/o) Tyneside bt East Riding Nottingham bt Ashby Himley bt Edgbaston Worcester bt Dyffryn Ipswich bt Bretby Colchester bt Loughborough

3rd Round

Hurlingham bt Parsons Green Woking bt Reigate Reading bt Wrest Park Cheltenham bt Bath Glasgow w/o Nottingham bt Tyneside Worcester bt Himley Colchester bt Ipswich

5th Round

Cheltenham bt Reading Glasgow bt Nottingham Colchester bt Worcester *Both teams scratched by Manager as result not reported.

Your Letters (1)

The 'Latham Innovation'

Dear Sir.

I would like to draw attention to a phrase mentioned in my tournament report of the Western Championships, to wit, the 'Latham Innovation'. Whether it really is an innovation I would not care to say, but I do feel it is worth mentioning; it relates to the system whereby the top two players from American Blocks of four or five qualify for the play-offs, normally producing four, six, or eight players. Of these, obviously the number six produces an 'uneven'

It has been the (possibly somewhat limited) experience of my husband and myself that in such situations the six players are redrawn at random, excepting that players from the same block do not meet in the quarterfinal. This can often lead to a player who may have won all his or her matches finding that it is the player who has finished in a less favourable position who receives the bye. We have felt, where we have seen this happen, that it has not been very fair on the 'better' qualifier, and that the person who achieved the best record deserves to have the bye.

When this circumstance arose in Group 2 of the Western Championships therefore, we determined the play-offs in the following manner:

First Round:

(Top half) Runner-up to Winner 2 plays Runner-up to Winner 3; (Bottom half) Winner 3 plays Runner-up to Winner 1.

Semi-Finals:

Winner 1 ('Best' winner) plays winner of top half of 1st Round; Winner 2 (2nd 'Best' winner) plays winner of bottom half of 1st Round.

This meant that the 'best' block winners received the byes, whilst the runners-up had to prove their mettle by playing each other or the third 'best' winner. It is also designed to ensure that two players qualifying from the

same block cannot meet unless they both reach the final.

This brief explanation of the 'Latham Innovation' may prove interesting to those who encounter this situation, and hopefully render the tournament report of the Western Championships a little more intelligible!

Deborah Latham,

Taunton.



Stone Age Croquet?

Croquet at the Grinkle

Dear Sir.

In the beauty of North Yorkshire, between the Cleveland Hills and the Whitby coastline, the impressive Grinkle Park Hotel has now got organised for Croquet, both for visitors and local players, and we hope that there will be enough local interest to form a club eventually.

The purchase of the best equipment and a day's coaching by the Croquet Association's Northern Region launched the game to the management and staff in the middle of May, and the full facilities are now available to

The photo shows ornamental stonework outside the Hall, which perhaps indicates that croquet started well before we thought

For intending visitors, the address is:

Grinkle Park Hotel, Easington, Saltburn-bythe-Sea, Cleveland, TS13 4UB.

Syd Jones, Whitley Bay.

Bryan Lloyd-Pratt

Dear Sir.

May I crave your indulgence by making some observations on John Walter's sentiments that one must surely admire the way that Bryan Lloyd-Pratt combined being the scourge of the establishment with the Gazette to create an art form during his year as Editor.

I am the last to denigrate the work of volunteers who give unsparingly of their time, but the plain fact is that Bryan wantonly and irresponsibly abused his stewardship by flouting the decisions of Council both in the matter of finance and in the expressions of views in his editorials which ran completely counter to Council decisions.

A matter of particular embarrassment was that, immediately under the then masthead 'Official Organ of the Croquet Association', Bryan, in what proved to be his last editorial, launched a bitter attack against the Sports Council Grant which had been warmly welcomed by the Council of which Bryan was himself a member. Members of the Sports Council must have recoiled in disbelief on reading this, and I hastily arranged for Vandeleur Robinson, then the CA Secretary, to write to the Sports Council making it abundantly clear that the editorial in no way reflected the views of the CA, adding that the Editor had been relieved of his post.

Bryan's correct action, if he wished so publicly to disapprove of the Council's decision, was to resign from the Council, an action which Roger Wheeler courageously took a few years ago when voicing his disagreement with the Council's intention to televise Golf Croquet in a Motion at the AGM. Jim Townsend.

Westward Ho!, Devon.

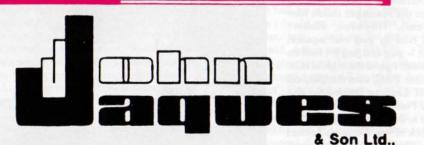
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A Short Story by Brian Bucknall

One of the pleasures obtained from playing in croquet tournaments is that of meeting and talking to old friends. While one is not playing, time is often spent watching one's fellow competitors and making appropriate comments in undertones to one's neighbours and when the day's play is finished, in talking over past games and personalities.

During the Saltwich tournament last year, I had dinner one evening with David Galt, an old friend and a member of the Club, and I demonstrated, with the aid of the table-ware, how my opponent had missed a golden opportunity which had lost him the game. Later, whilst we were taking our coffee, he said that the demonstration had reminded him of an amusing incident at his club a few years previously. There was at this club a

member of many years standing, whom he called Paul, so as not to publicise his real name. Paul had a deep understanding of the game and served on the committee with particular responsibilities for coaching and managing tournaments. He was an excellent teacher who with his extrovert manner and his careful and patient explanation of tactics, successfully managed to encourage golf croquet players to take up association croquet and high-bisquers to become lowbisquers.

He also loved to talk about the game. When he was not playing he could be found either talking about his last game or more likely talking about somebody else's game and what they should have or should not have done.

But while his knowledge of the game was profound, he himself was not a particularly good player. His handicap had remained at +5 for many years. His problem was that he did not have any eye for the ball and he was prone to losing concentration. Because of his tactical know-

ledge he could, for example, conjure up four-ball breaks out of almost nothing, but, after having made three or four hoops, he would frequently misplay a simple roquet or miss an easy approach to a hoop. The result was a four-ball break set up for the opposition and a lost game. Although he recognised this deficiency and often took steps to minimise it, sooner or later he would invariably break down. It was perhaps unfortunate that such an enthusiastic player was unable to improve matters. This did not deter him though and after a game was over he would discuss every aspect with his opponent or with anyone else prepared to listen. It was generally felt at the club that his talkative manner was in part compensation and relief for the frustration he must frequently have felt.

proficient player and by August her handicap was down to 10. In particular, she knew how to use her bisques.

In September her husband complained at the lunch table that one or two people had dropped out of the forthcoming week-end tournament and that he would have to re-work the order of play unless he could find some substitutes at short notice.

business she soon became a



He also had a captive audience in the shape of his wife, usually at the lunch table

He also had a captive audience in the shape of his wife. usually at the lunch table after a morning's game. At the table, napkin rings became hoops 1 and 2, the tumblers 3 and 4, and hoops 5 and 6 were represented by the salt and pepper pots respectively.

Repeat this performance at the table at least once a week for many years. The outcome was that his wife developed a good understanding of the game without actually ever having played it! His wife was an intelligent

woman who had been a hockey player in her younger days. She had given up sport following the arrival of their children. There simply wasn't sufficient time for There came a time though

when the children had grown up and left home. At Easter, when Paul had re-commenced his table dissertations following the opening of the croquet season, an idea suddenly occurred to her. She would take up croquet too and she wouldn't tell her husband, at least not yet.

She therefore joined another croquet club fifteen miles away and swore the members there to secrecy. She was welcomed at that club, because of her sportsmanship and her knowledge of the game. With plenty of mid-week coaching and practising whilst her husband was at | C. Irwin; F. McCoig.

His wife saw her opportunity and said 'I'll play'. Her husband said 'What!', you don't know how to, dear'. She replied 'I've been playing a bit while you've been at work. I'll be all right. You'll see!'

Paul responded 'You are a dark horse. Play if you wish to, dear, but don't say I didn't warn you - there'll be some good players in this tournament'.

His wife practised every day during the week preceding the tournament and by the week-end she felt on top form although a little nervous at having to play in her first competition.

In fact, she played very well. By using her bisques properly she won four out of her five games and ended up winning her block competition.

Her husband also played rather better than usual and it may have been that the presence of his wife concentrated his mind. The outcome was that he won his block as well.

Husband and wife therefore had to play each other in the final play-off.

Here he was faced with a dilemma. Should he play the gentleman and let her win or should he put marital feelings aside and play to win himself. In the latter case his wife, he thought, might then become upset and discouraged and he could then be accused of being unsporting by the other players. These were the thoughts that went through his mind and he recognised that he was in a classic 'no win' situation.

This is exactly what happened. He lost by quite a margin which he put down to the difficulties of the situation upsetting his concentration.

When they had their evening meal his wife demonstrated what he should have done with the aid of the table-ware.

Invitation Events 1987

The following have accepted invitations to compete:

President's Cup

K.M.H. Aiton; G.N. Aspinall; R. Bamford; R. Fulford; C.J. Irwin; J.R. McCullough; S.N. Mulliner; E.W. Solomon. Reserve: P. Cordingley

Chairman's Salver

D.R. Foulser; G.W. Noble; N.G. Hyne; I.G. Vincent; S. Williams: P.L. Smith; M. Suter; J.W.H. Carlisle.

Spencer-Ell Cup

J.E. Guest; M. French: D.J. Goacher; D.L. Gunasekera; W.O. Aldridge; J. Rose; J.O. Walters; C.D. Clarke.

Ladies Field (Barlow Bowl)

J. Anderson; E. Asa-Thomas; C. Bazley; P. Hague; F. Ramsom; D. Wheeler.

Longman Bowl

K. Yeoman; C. van Griethuysen; W.J. Browne; P. Macdonald:

TO ALL CLUB SECRETARIES

Any clubs who have NOT advertised in the 1987 Fixture Book and would like to advertise their competitions in 1988 please write to me as soon as possible for an official form. Clubs who are in the 1987 Book will be sent the forms automatically.

Jan MacLeod. Chairman.

Tournaments Committee, Flat 3, 1 Sterndale Road, Brook Green,

London, W14 0HT.

Selectors' Weekend

D. Cairns; Miss D.A. Cornelius; J.P. Dawson; D.L. Gaunt; B.G. Hallam; J.R. Hilditch; B.A. Keen; Miss J. MacLeod; A.J. Mrozinski; R.W. Ransom; M.A. Saurin; R.J. Smith; A.F. Sutcliffe: G.A. Vince: D.C.D. Wiggins; S.J.H. Wright.

Carrickmines 1-6 June 1st Round G. Henshaw & P. Thornton bt J.

Report by George Henshaw

One wonders why the **Carrickmines June Tournament** does not attract more entries the beauty of the countryside and the warmth and friendliness of the welcome make this an outstandingly happy week. Food is good, and the bar invariably packed with beautiful women. Players should try it - they will not be disappointed.

RESULTS

Championship of County Dublin

(Advanced Play)

DRAW 1st Round

G. Henshaw bt R.J. Leonard +1; G. Healey bt P. Thornton +18(TP).

2nd Round

F. Rogerson bt C. Gamble +19(TP); Henshaw bt Mrs Leonard +15; Healy bt R. Duff + 24; C.V. Schmieder bt Dr H Webb +20

Semi-Finals

Rogerson bt Henshaw +18(TP): Healy bt Schmieder +20.

Final

Healy bt Rogerson +13

PROCESS 1st Round

Thornton bt Mrs Leonard +15: Schmieder bt Gamble +23.

2nd Round

Rogerson bt Webb +26; Thornton bt Duff +23: Schmieder bt Leonard +25: Henshaw bt Healy +24.

Semi-Finals

Rogerson bt Thornton +26(TP); Schmieder bt Healy +23(TP).

Rogerson bt Schmieder +9. Play-Off

Healy bt Rogerson +1.

Duff Matthews Cup

(Level Singles: 6 bisques & over)

1st Round Mrs Leonard bt M. Salomons.

2nd Round

Dr H. Webb bt G. Henshaw +11;

P. Thornton bt Mrs McWeenev +14: Miss R. McCormick bt R.V. Leonard +2; J. McAuley bt Mrs Leonard +19.

Semi-Finals

Webb bt Thornton +12; McAuley bt Miss McCormick +15.

McCauley bt Webb +2.

Boxwell Cup

(Handicap Singles) 1st Round

C.V. Schmieder bt R. Duff +13; J. McAuley bt R.J. Leonard +5.

C. Gamble bt Miss R. McCormick +1. F. Rogerson bt Schmieder +26: McAuley bt Dr H. Webb +11: G. Healy bt Mrs Leonard +12.

Semi-Finals

Gamble bt Rogerson +19; McAuley bt Healy +13.

Final Gamble bt McAuley +16.

Coronation Cups (Handicap Doubles)

O'Driscoll & M. Salomons +7(T).

Semi-Finals

T.O. Read & Mrs McWeeney bt Miss R. McCormick & R.J. Leonard +12; Henshaw & Thornton bt C. Gamble & Mrs Leonard +9.

Final

Read & Mrs McWeeney bt Henshaw & Thornton +8.

Roehampton: 1-6 June RESULTS

The Ranelagh Gold Cup (Advanced Play)

4 wins: J.E. Guest 2 wins: G.N. Noble (Runner-up); I.P.M. Macdonald; A.V. Camroux

The Brooke Cup

(Advanced Play: 4 bisques or over)

4 wins: Mrs W.J. Browne

3 wins: Mrs I.P.M. Macdonald 2 wins: Mrs P.V. Healy

0 wins: Mrs B. Mansfield; Mrs F.H.

The Thorpe Cup

(Handicap Play: 9 bisques or over) 4 wins: R.H. Selmes

3 wins: Mrs E.F. Grant 2 wins: Mrs O.E. Camroux

1 _in: Mrs C. Osmond 0 wins: Miss G. Illidge

Trevelvan Cup (Handicap Play)

1st Round

Miss G. Illidge (18) bt Mrs E.F. Grant (9) +2(T): Mrs B. Mansfield (61/2) bt Mrs C. Osmond (13) +10; A.V. Camroux (1) bt Mrs F.H. Newman (4) +18; P. Diver (16) bt Mrs O.E. Camroux (16) +14; Mrs I.P.M. Macdonald (5) bt R.H. Selmes (14) +8(T): I.P.M. Macdonald (4) bt Mrs R.E. Vincent (10) +17; J.E. Guest (-1) bt Mrs P.V. Healy (7) +6; Mrs W.J. Browne (4½) bt F.H. Newman

2nd Round

Mrs Mansfield bt Miss Illidge +15; Diver bt Camroux +3; Mrs Macdonald bt Macdonald +6; Mrs Browne bt Guest +9

Semi-Finals

Handicap 'Y'

Mrs Mansfield bt Diver +10; Mrs Browne bt Mrs Macdonald +11

Final

Mrs Mansfield bt Mrs Macdonald

+11

Semi-Finals Mrs Vincent bt Mrs Osmond +3(T);

Newman bt Selmes +8 Final

Newman bt Mrs Vincent +2(T)

The Creyke Cups (Handicap Doubles)

Semi-Finals

Guest & Mrs E.E. Bressey (4) bt Mrs Mansfield & Miss Illidge (201/2) +5; Mr & Mrs Macdonald (9) bt Mr & Mrs Camroux + 4(T)

Mr & Mrs Macdonald bt Guest & Mrs Bressey +7

Parkstone: 1-6 June RESULTS

Dorset Salver (Advanced Play)

Block A

4 wins: R.W. Ransom 2 wins: Dr W.R.D. Wiggins; D. Charsley-Thomas

1 win: Col E.L.L. Vulliamy; J.H.J.

Block B

4 wins: D.J. Goacher 3 wins: D.C.D. Wiggins 2 wins: F.L. Shergold 1 win: R.H.C. Carder

0 wins: L.S. Butler Block C

2 wins: Mrs W.R.D. Wiggins (Winner). M. J. Wilkins 1 win: Dr C.A. Parker:

W. Broad-Thomas Play-Off

2 wins: D.J. Goacher 1 win: Mrs Wiggins

0 wins: R.W. Ransom **Evans Trophy**

(Advanced Play: 4-8 bisques)

Block A 4 wins: Mrs K.G. Yeoman 2 wins: G.C.H. Weldon (Runner-up);

1 win: Air-Cdre J.H. Greswell; Mrs

R. Stanley-Smith Block B

3 wins: J.D. Williamson 2 wins: Mrs I.E. Ransom

1 win: Miss P.E. Parker 0 wins: Mrs B.R. Saunders

Play-Off Williamson bt Mrs Yeoman +5

Cope Cup

(Handicap Play: 9 bisques or over) Block A

2 wins: J.O. Mays (Winner); Mrs D. Williamson

1 win: Mrs C.A. Parker; Mrs E.B.

Block B

2 wins: Mrs S.S. Cruden (Winner); Miss J. Wraith

1 win: Mrs J. Broad-Thomas; Mrs M.E. Denny

Evans Rose Bowl (Handicap Singles)

1st Round Mrs K.G. Zeoman ((51/2) bt Mrs B.R. Saunders (7) +10; M.J. Wilkins (3) bt L.S. Butler (1) +1(T); R.W. Ransom (2) bt Miss P.E. Parker (4) +16: W. Broad-Thomas (31/2) bt Air-Cdre J.H. Greswell (4) +6; J.O. Mays (9) bt Mrs M.E. Denny (16) +5(T); D.C.D. Wiggins (11/2) bt D. Charsley Thomas (3) +15; Mrs F.E. Ransom (5) bt Miss J. Wraith (15) +10; Dr C.A. Parker (2½) bt Mrs J. Broad-Thomas (12) +8(T); D.J. Goacher (11/2) bt G.C.H. Weldon (7) +4; Mrs C.A. Parker (11) bt J.H.J. Soutter (21/2) +2(T); Dr W.R.D. Wiggins (0) bt R.H.C. Carder (31/2) +14; Mrs S.S. Cruden (11) bt Mrs E.B. Wilton +1(T); Mrs R. Stanley-Smith (6) bt Mrs E. Asa-Thomas (3) + 3(T): Mrs W.R.D. Wiggins (-1/2) bt Mrs D. Williamson (17) +5; C.F. Moon (8) bt J.D. Williamson (5) +11; F.L. Shergold (1/2) bt Col E.L.L. Vulliamy (3) +18

2nd Round

Mrs Yeoman bt Wilkins +8; Ransom bt Broad-Thomas +16; D. Wiggins bt Mays +14; Mrs Ransom bt Dr Parker +1(T); Goacher bt Mrs Parker +23; Dr Wiggins bt Mrs Cruden +17; Mrs Wiggins bt Mrs Stanley-Smith +10; Shergold bt Moon +22

3rd Round

Ransom bt Mrs Yeoman +13; Mrs Ransom bt D. Wiggins +12: Goacher bt Dr Wiggins +24; Mrs Wiggins bt Shergold +14

Semi-Finals

Ransom bt Mrs Ransom +11; Goacher bt Mrs Wiggins +17

Final

Goacher bt Ransom +6 **Cripps Memorial Trophy**

(Handicap 'Y') Semi-Finals

Mrs Saunders bt Mrs Broad-Thomas +19; Williamson bt Weldon +13

Final

Mrs Saunders bt Williamson +10 **Summer Doubles Cups**

Semi-Finals

Wilkins & Weldon (10) bt Charslev-Thomas & Miss Wraith (16) +1(T): Mr & Mrs Ransom (7) bt D. Wiggins & Mrs Stanley-Smith (71/2) +14

Final

Wilkins & Weldon bt Mr & Mrs Ransom +1(T)

Ryde: 8-13 June RESULTS

Isle of Wight Championship (Advanced Play)

5 wins: H.B. Brownsdon

4 wins: D.L. Gaunt 3 wins: M.G. Tompkinson

2 wins: F.H. Newman 1 win: R.W. Newnham

0 wins: Mrs F.H. Newman

Hutton Cup

Chapman Cup (Advanced Play: 41/2 to 8 bisques)

4 wins: Mrs H. Cruden (10)

2 wins: Mrs M. Robinson (11)

0 wins: Mrs R.C. Sowerby (18°)

3 wins: W. Lemmey (11)

1 win: Mrs D.E. Erith (16)

(Handicap Singles: Swiss)

5 wins: R.C. Sowerby (10)

4/5 wins: F.A. Rowlands (5)

4/7 wins: M.G. Tompkinson (2);

F.H. Newman (3); W. Lemmey (12)

3/7 wins: Mrs M.G. Tompkinson(6);

D.L. Gaunt & T.I. Card (8) bt R.W.

Newnham & Mrs D.E. Erith (18)

+6(T); Mr & Mrs Tompkinson (8) bt

Mrs H. Cruden & Mrs M. Robinson

Gaunt & Card bt J.F.S. Thomas &

W. Casey (20) +1(T); Mr & Mrs

Tompkinson bt Mr & Mrs R.C.

Mr & Mrs Tompkinson bt Gaunt &

2 wins: Mrs M. Robinson (11)

1/1 win: R.W. Newnham (4)

1/7 win: Mrs D.E. Erith

0 wins: J.F.S. Thomas (9)

7 wins: D.L. Gaunt (1)

3/6 wins: T.I. Card (7)

Mrs H. Cruden (11)

The Birch Cups

1st Round

(22) + 8

Final

Card +8

Semi-Finals

Sowerby (26) +12

(Handicap Doubles)

The Dibley Cup

4 wins: F.A. Rowlands 3 wine Mrs M G Tompkinson

1 win: R.C. Sowerby; J.F.S. Thomas

0 wins: T.I. Card Exell bt Greenbury +2(T)

(Handicap Singles: 9 bisques or over)

Beard bt Exell +16 The Strickland Cup

Draw

Semi-Finals

Final

Mrs S. French (11) bt Mrs A. Millns (9) +19; J.F.S. Thomas (10) bt Mrs E. Staddon (8) +11; Miss P. Shine (8) bt Miss D. Harding (12) (w/o); Mrs E. Lewis (8) bt Miss J. Wraith (15) + 1(T); A.C. Armstrong (13) bt Miss M.J.

2nd Round

Mrs French bt Mrs K.B. Irwin (71/2) +7(T): Miss Shine bt Thomas +9: Armstrong bt Mrs Lewis +24; Mrs E. Ross (8) bt G. Pearse (13) +10

Process

1st Round

Armstrong bt Mrs French +14

2nd Round Mrs Irwin bt Thomas +6; Miss Shine

Mrs Lewis bt Mrs Staddon +1(T) Semi-Finals Mrs Irwin bt Miss Shine +14;

Play-Off

Outright winner: Armstrong 2nd Place: Mrs French bt Mrs Irwin +1(T)

The Meredith Cup (Handicap Singles)

1st Round D.M. Bull (4) bt A.C.F. Armstrong (13) +1(T): Mrs P.A. Dwerryhouse (61/2) bt Mrs E. Cox (41/2) +10; F.A. Beard (7) bt I.P.M. Macdonald (4) +13; Mrs C. Cox (51/2) bt P.A. Dwerryhouse (6½) +16; Mrs E. Mapletoft (5) bt Mrs K.B. Irwin (71/2) +22; Mrs W.J. Browne (41/2) bt Mrs A. Millns (9) + 18; Miss J. Loveys (10) bt Miss J. Wraith (15) +17; W.E. Moore (2) bt F.J. Exell (51/2) +7

2nd Round Dr C.L. Greenbury (5) bt Mrs E. Staddon (8) (w/o): Mrs Dwerryhouse bt Bull +7: Mrs C. Cox bt Beard +18: Mrs Browne bt Mrs Mapletoft +2; Moore bt Miss Loveys +15; Mrs E. Ross (8) bt W.J. Sturdy (4) +2; R.G. Balkwill (7) bt Mrs E. Lewis (8) +16: F.J.S. Thomas (10) bt Miss P. Shine (8) + 12

3rd Round

Mrs Dwerryhouse bt Dr Greenbury +1(T); Mrs Browne bt Mrs C. Cox +3; Mrs Ross br Moore +8; Balkwill bt Thomas +6

Semi-Finals Mrs Browne bt Mrs Dwerryhouse

+12: Balkwill bt Mrs Ross +16 Final Balkwill bt Mrs Browne +5(T)

Handicap Y Final

I.P.M. Macdonald bt F.J. Exell +10 The Longman Trugs

(Handicap Doubles) 1st Round

Mr & Mrs P.A. Dwerryhouse (13) bt N.W.T. Cox & R.J. Smith (81/2) +3; F.J. Exell & W.J. Sturdy (91/2) bt Dr C.L. Greenbury & Mrs S. French (16) +1(T); J.F.S. Thomas & Miss J. Wraith (23) bt R. Balkwill & Miss P. Shine (15) +9; A.C. Armstrong & Mrs C. Cox (181/2) bt Mrs E. Lewis & W.E. Moore (10) +2(T); Mrs A. Millns & Mrs E. Ross (17) bt Miss J. Loveys & Mrs K.B. Irwin (171/2) +1(T); D.M. Bull & G. Pearse (17) bt Mrs B. Pearman & Mrs E. Staddon (19)

+2(T)2nd Round

F.A. Beard & Mrs E. Mapletoft (20) bt Mrs W.J. Browne & I.P.M. Macdonald (81/2) +15; Mr & Mrs Dwerryhouse bt Exell & Sturdy +10; Thomas & Miss Wraith bt Armstrong & Mrs C. Cox +1(T): Bull & Pearse bt Mrs Millns & Mrs Ross +8

Semi-Finals Mr & Mrs Dwerryhouse bt Beard &

Mrs Mapletoft +9(T); Bull & Pearse bt Thomas & Miss Wraith +8 Mr & Mrs Dwerryhouse bt Bull &

Pearse +1(T) Handicap Doubles 'Y' Final

Mrs Lewis & Moore bt Mrs Browne & Macdonald +1(T)

Colchester: 6-11 July RESULTS

The Colchester Bowl

(Advanced Play)

Draw

M. French bt R. Hilditch +11; R. Bamford bt K. Aiton +13: J.O. Walters bt M.E. Heap +8: S. Williams bt Miss D. Cornelius +15

2nd Round

French bt Aiton +2: D. Palmer bt R. Fulford +6; D. Goacher bt J. Guest +7: Williams bt Walters +16

Semi-Finals

Goacher +15

Final

Process

+18; Guest bt Aiton +13

Williams +16; Heap bt Palmer +25;

Bamford bt Fulford +25; Heap bt Miss Cornelius +23

Final

Play-Off Heap bt Palmer +12

The Locke Bowl

6 wins: J. Eden 4 wins: D. Ruscombe-King (Runner-

up): L. Palmer

3 wins: Dr F.L. Whittaker 2 wins: G.A. Hallett; C. Sheen

Block B 6 wins: A.K. Gregory 4 wins: D. Reeve

3 wins: R. Jones; P. Elliott; Mrs P. Asa-Thomas 2 wins: Miss F. McCoig

0 wins: Mrs R. Stanley-Smith Play-Off

The Cordy Salver (Handicap 22pts: American)

4 wins: C. Docherty 3 wins: J. Collis 2 wins: Mrs C. Steward

The Franklin Cup (Handicap Singles) 1st Round

J. Collis (9) bt Mrs P. Asa-Thomas (3) +25; R. Jones (6) bt G.F. Hallett (6) +6; D. Ruscombe-King (41/2) bt L. Palmer (4) +2; R. Bamford (-2) bt P. Howell (6) +11; Miss F. McCoig (61/2) bt F.H. Butler (15) +11; P. Elliott (4) bt Mrs C. Steward (10) +3; J.P. Walters (-1) bt F.L. Whittaker (4) +3: J. Eden (4) bt S. Williams $(-\frac{1}{2}) + 5$: D. Goacher (1/2) bt D. Reeve (3) +9

Ruscombe-King +14(TP); A.K. Gregory (31/2) bt Mrs R. Stanley-Smith (6) +9; C. Docherty (9) bt D. Palmer (0) +25; Miss D. Cornelius (2) bt J. Williams (9) +12; Miss

McCoig bt C. Sheen (4) +8; Walters bt Elliott +4; Eden bt Goacher +12 3rd Round

Bamford bt Jones +11: Docherty bt Gregory +26; Miss McCoig bt Miss Cornelius +18: Eden bt Walters +12

Docherty bt Bamford +26; Miss McCoig bt Eden +3

Docherty bt Miss McCoig +5

(Handicap 'Y': Swiss)

D. Reeve bt A.K. Gregory +2

Semi-Finals

F.L. Whittaker & D.J. Goacher (41/2) bt D. & L. Palmer (4) +15; R. Jones & Mrs C. Steward (16) bt J. Eden & C. Sheen (8) +3(T)

Final

Southwick: 6-11 July

(Handicap Play: Swiss) 6 wins: Dr B.G.F. Weitz (Winner); J. Haigh (Runner-up)

Mrs I.P.M. Macdonald: I.P.M. Macdonald: Mrs B.G.F. Weitz: L.

Mrs E.A. Mapletoft; F.H. Newman; Mrs E.G. Ross; Miss ?. Shine

2 wins: D.M. Bull; J.H. Exell; Miss J. Wraith

Handicap Doubles Winners: Mr & Mrs I.P.M.



Mike Stevens - bandicap now down to scratch.

Southwick: 15-20 June

RESULTS

The Veterans Championship (American: Advanced Play)

4 wins: I.P.M. Macdonald 2 wins: W.E. Moore (Runner-up); N.W.T. Cox

1 win: W.J. Sturdy; D.M. Bull The Felixstowe Cup (Level Play: 31/2 bisques or over)

1st Round Mrs E. Mapletoft bt R.G. Balkwill +10; Mrs E. Cox bt Mrs W.J. Brown +1(T); F.J. Exell bt Dr G.L.

Greenbury +13

Draw

2nd Round Mrs C. Cox bt Mrs P.A. Dwerryhouse +10: Mrs E. Cox bt Mrs Mapletoft +1: R.J. Smith bt Exell +14: F.A.

Beard bt P.A. Dwerryhouse +4 Semi-Finals

Mrs E. Cox bt Mrs C. Cox +2; Beard bt Smith +1

Beard bt Mrs E. Cox +14 Process 1st Round

Balkwill bt Beard +2: Dwerryhouse bt Mrs C. Cox +5(T) 2nd Round Smith bt Mrs Brown +2(T); Exell bt

Balkwill +8; Dwerryhouse bt Mrs E.

Smith bt Mrs Dwerryhouse +4(T):

Cox +6(T); Greenbury bt Mrs Mapletoft +16

Exell bt Smith +20; Greenbury bt Dwerryhouse +17

Play-Off

(Handicap Singles: 7 bisques or over) 1st Round

Loveys (10) +6

Mrs French bt Miss Shine +10; Armstrong bt Mrs Ross +14 Final

Semi-Finals

Mrs Irwin bt Miss Wraith +15: Thomas bt Mrs Ross +13: Miss Lovevs bt Mrs Millns +25: Armstrong bt Mrs French +10; Mrs Staddon bt Pearse +7

bt Miss Loveys +10; Armstrong (bye);

Armstrong bt Mrs Lewis +21

Final Armstrong bt Mrs Irwin +15

1st Round

Final Play-Off

Palmer bt French +19; Williams bt

Palmer bt Williams +8

1st Round Fulford bt French +7; Bamford bt Goacher +12; Palmer bt Hilditch

2nd Round Fulford bt Walters +10; Bamford bt

Miss Cornelius bt Guest +13 Semi-Finals

Heap bt Bamford +17(TP)

(Level Play: American) Block A

0 wins: P. Howell

Gregory bt Eden +21

1 win: F.H. Butler 0 wins: J. Williams

2nd Round Jones bt Collis +1; Bamford bt

Semi-Finals

Week Tournament Results

Final

The Lexden Goblet

The Clark & Cork Trophies (Handicap Doubles)

Jones & Steward bt Whittaker & Goacher +21

RESULTS **Maurice Reckitt Bowl**

5 wins: Mrs W.J. Browne: D. Shaw: J.P. Ames; Lady Bazley; F.A. Beard 4 wins: Mrs E.E. Bressey; N.W.T. Cox; Miss B.E. Dennant; Dr D. Higgs;

Wharrad 3 wins: Mrs L.A. Coombs; Miss C. Cox; Miss J. Loveys; Mrs K.B. 'rwin;

1 win: Mrs N.W.T. Cox; Mrs E. Lewis; Mrs F.H. Newman

Macdonald Runners-up: J.P. Ames & Mrs S. French

The Croquet Classic

The Lassale Croquet Classic.

As this magazine goes to press, the majority of the Regional Finals have been completed.

The first Regional Final was held at Castle Drogo, a splendid National Trust site where croquet (on a rectangular court) is played on a magnificent circular lawn, totally enclosed by a 10 foot high yew hedge.

In the morning the first eight players contested a knock-out competition for a place in the National Final and despite the handicap of an artificial leg, Hamish Hall fought his way through three matches to become the first player to get to the final final. On the way to victory, he beat Reverend Dick Jones who managed to break not just one but two mallets during the match. Having won, Hamish had a lengthy luncheon party with those he had vanguished, re-appearing later in the afternoon to cheer on the players in the second block.

During the first session it became obvious that these

'garden' players knew rather more about the game than they are generally given credit for, with several good breaks in evidence and an appeal for a lift on being wired.

The second block of eight played in the afternoon, with Jonathan Cullis winning through relatively easily against Simon Radwell in the final after a hard struggle in a previous round against David Rushbrook, the winner of Basingstoke Croquet Club's preliminary group competition.

The hoops moved on to The Royal Berkshire Hotel at Ascot the following day where again there was some interesting and stylish play. Lucius Cary arrived with a very large book on Croquet under his arm, and his opponent reckoned (incorrectly) that if Lucius needed a book, he would be pretty easy to beat. Brian Horne, who had put out Alan Pascoe in an earlier round, found Giles Thorman too good for him, but in the end Giles, like everyone

else, succumbed to Lucius.

The afternoon's eight players included R.S.H. Wornum who had made his own mallet from a broom handle and a block of wood. Playing in only the second 'proper' game in his life, he had the misfortune to meet young Thomas Lawrence in the first round. Thomas has tremendous potential. Coached by his mother, he learnt to play the game on the proverbial vicarage lawn and had never played outside a garden before. In the semi-final Thomas had a close game against Stephen Tetlow who had entered the competition to find other croquet players living near him (he found 8 within 20 minutes driving distance) but



Whoops . . . there goes another one! The Reverend Dick Jones broke two mallets at Castle Drogo. (Photo by Mary Cook.)

it was in the final that Thomas really impressed. He made rover on his final turn, rushed to his partner ball on the boundary, rushed partner to peg and pegged out - a truly professional finish!

How we enjoyed a close match

By Mary Cook

After a short time into the game and I had progressed to hoops 3 and 4 with my balls, I realised that my opponent did not have a pattern of play in mind to run more than one hoop on each go. I suggested trying a 'split roll approach' - leaving a ball to roquet after running his hoop. When he fluffed it we put the balls back, he tried again and made the hoop. From then on, it was a MATCH.

At the end we were all square with all the clips on the peg when

I failed to finish after running the last hoop - with my opponent's balls two and three feet from the peg! He, unfortunately, pegged out my closer ball first and could not continue - but was still in a winning position. My last chance was a long hit in from the boundary, which I did successfully, using his ball to peg out

Result: I won by two points and we enjoyed a close game.

This account of a first-round match in the Croquet Classic was submitted by Mary Cook, who went on to the Regional Final at Castle Drogo.

A Game of Croquet

By Cyril Ives (Park Keeper)

The day - Sunday - the date the 21st of June, the time approximately 1pm on a fine summer's day. A six hoop contest between Chris 'the Peel' Bamber and Howard 'which way do I go through the hoop?' Taylor.

This match, so early in the competition between two very fancied competitors, lived up to all the pre-match talk. The Press beforehand were undecided, for the form was a little difficult to weigh up. Chris, although the more experienced, was returning from an enforced holiday after having to give up the game in 1975 in disgrace for failing to call a double tap. Then there was Howard; no actual competitive form, but coming from a background of chess and snooker meant he didn't start unfancied.

The pitch, surrounded by shrubbery, gave its previous use away by the nine spaciously planted poplars and its surface could best be described as something akin to a badly kept private road.

The first psychological blow to hit Chris was the unveiling by Howard of his new Croquet Association mallet and although complaining to the umpire of unfair advantage and threatening to walk off, the match started on

Howard, having played his ace, took an early advantage taking one ball the distance before Chris made his second hoop. However, as the crowds had written Chris off and the croquet hacks were putting the finishing touches to their articles for the 'Croquet Gazette', back came Chris.

One hoop followed another, flowing, exciting, daring croquet had the crowds on their feet; then one hoop short of pegging out, disaster. Chris had wired himself but was still in control and left a long tice. Would Howard be tempted? Being four hoops behind, he decided it was hit or bust, and what a hit it was. Not only did it hit, but it also rushed the ball next to Howard's next

After that, it was plain sailing, pilot and pioneer balls working perfectly for Howard and for his piece de resistance a delicate roll to peg out both balls in one shot. This was followed by the victor's delight, the handshake and the consoling tittle chat with the vanquished.

It remains to be seen how high the standard was this afternoon. Is it possible we have witnessed the future tournament winner or a man with pretentions of greatness?

Submitted by Howard Taylor whose mother, Liz Taylor-Webb, is a member of the Bowdon Club. Howard went on to the Regional Final at Speke Hall, Liverpool.

Continuation **Stroke** By Edward Read

The date was Saturday June 6th, the venue Eaton Park, Norwich (the home of Norwich Croquet Club). Weather conditions were not ideal for outside sports, wind force 6-7, torrential rain, but a preliminary round match in the Observer Lassale Croquet Classic commenced with the toss of a coin

I was about to meet Jeremy Kitchener to decide who would progress further in this prestigious event for nontournament players. I won the toss and this proved to be the only win I would achieve during the next one and a half hours. I elected to go in first and boldly tried to run the first hoop. The sun had come out fleetingly and tactical play had momentarily eluded me. One inch astray and my blue ball came to rest to the side of hoop 1.

Jeremy replied with a red to the east boundary and I tried again for hoop one with my black ball. My second error left my black adjacent to the previous blue and the temptation of two balls very close was too much for

Jeremy. With more wind force and rain lashing down Jeremy missed and I was now in with a

Two hoops with my blue ball before my next error which let Jeremy in. Between sheltering from rain, coats off then on again, Jeremy made progress with his red to hoop six, leaving me hopelessly placed to pick up a ball to continue my progress. Jeremy was back in play and a roll towards hoop three with yellow croquet from blue he rolled vellow through the hoop in readiness to continue his break.

Without being able to make use of Jeremy's occasional mistakes, I did at last get my blue ball through hoop three after three attempts. Jeremy by this time was ready to peg out (in the croquet sense). This he did well and with the sun shining now I had lost my first ever tournament by 14-3, but as many others in this position will feel, I shall be back next year.

Edward Read and Jeremy Kitchener are both members of the Norwich Croquet Club. Edward, aged 40, is a printer in Norwich and Jeremy works at the University of East Anglia.

The Croquet Classic

CASTLE DROGO: 21 July 1st Round (Morning)

Joe Lewis (Taunton) bt Mary Cook (Bristol) +7(T); Hamish Hall (Bristol) bt Rev Dick Jones (Bournemouth) +3(T): Bill Jacot (Basingstoke) bt Guy Arnoux (Bristol) +1(T); Martin Brandt (Basingtoke) bt Mark Nicholls (Lymington) +5

Semi-Finals Hall bt Lewis +10; Brandt bt Jacot

Final

Hall bt Brandt +10

1st Round (Afternoon) David Rushbrook (Basingstoke) bt

Simon Hurdley (Bridport) +8; Jonathan Cullis (Whiteparish) bt Simon Jacot +10; Simon Rodwell (Basingstoke) bt W.G. Howell (Southampton) w/o; Anthony Paget (Ottery St Mary) bt Simon Tuke (Petersfield) +1(T)

Semi-Finals

Cullis bt Rushbrook +3; Rodwell bt Paget +9

Final

Cullis bt Rodwell +11

ROYAL BERKSHIRE HOTEL, ASCOT: 22 July 1st Round (Morning)

Giles Thorman (Wendover) bt Brian Horne (Sunbury-on-Thames) +8; Lucius Cary (Henley-on-Thames) bt Godfrey Wilson (Tring) +13; Andrew MacKenzie (Hillingdon) bt Wendy Hardy (Ascot) +3(T); Roger Dudley (Sarratt) bt Cdr J.A. Burnett +12

Semi-Finals

Cary bt Thorman +8; Dudley bt MacKenzie +1(T)

Final Cary bt Dudley +12

1st Round (Afternoon)

Anthony Willbourne (Aston) bt Geoffrey Guiness +8; Andrew Gallacher (Kingston Blount) bt Steven Pritchard w/o; Stephen Tetlow (Faringdon) bt Jerry Yates (Hitchin) +4(T); Thomas Lawrence (North Marston) bt R.S.H. Wornum (Ravensthorpe) +13

Semi-Finals Gallacher bt Willbourne +11: Lawrence bt Tetlow +3

Final

Lawrence bt Gallacher +10

HINTON AMPNER: 24 July 1st Round (Morning)

Roger Best (Camberwell) bt Robin Reid (West Worthing) +12; Mark Higgins (London SW) bt Jonathan Cundy (Kingston-on-Thames) +11; David Blackwell (Selsey) bt Peter Abbott (Graysholt) +1(T); Paul Abercrombie (Blackheath) bt Matthew Marsh (London SW) w/o

Semi-Finals

Best bt Higgins +10; Blackwell bt Abercrombie +6

Final

Best bt Blackwell +11 1st Round (Afternoon)

Jeremy Browne (Tunbridge Wells) bt Christopher Locke (Putney) +4; Andre Genillard (Mayfield) bt Christopher Brunstrom (London W) +6; Chris Jaques (Cuckfield) bt

Winter Rose (Chertsey) +9; Michael Broadway (Stoke Newington) bt Michael Brunstrom (London W) +11

Semi-Finals

Genillard bt Browne +1(T); Jaques bt Broadway +13

Jacques bt Genillard +1(T)

SPEKE HALL: 28 July 1st Round (Morning)

Mike Rosomon (Bewdley) bt Andrew Wilson (Broughton) +9; Robert Johnson (Liverpool) bt Tom Hutton (Ellesmere) +2; John Duxfield (Wilmslow) bt Bill Marshall +1(T); Colin Abrahams (Warrington) bt Howard Taylor (Chorlton) +7

Semi-Finals

Johnson bt Rosomon +3: Abrahams bt Duxfield +7

Final

Johnson bt Abrahams +9

1st Round (Afternoon)

John Butcher (Solihull) bt Gerald Tobey (Hereford) w/o; Roger Furniss (Ludlow) bt Mike Hawthorne (Stafford) +10; Keith Fennell (Kingswinford) bt Peter Jones +13: Eddie Hudson (Crewe) bt Maureen Evans (Cheltenham) +2(T)

Semi-Finals

Butcher bt Furniss +1(T); Fennell bt Hudson +9

Final

Butcher bt Fennell +2(T)

BLICKLING HALL: 29 July 1st Round (Morning)

Richard Potter (Coggeshall) bt Frank Feilden (Wells next the Sea) +7; Peter Allnutt (Ipswich) bt Deryck Johnson (Saffron Walden) +12: John Gordon (Newport, Essex) bt Nick de Sarandy (Ipswich) +8; Albert Lawrance (Soham Ely) bt Jim Harker (Kettering) +8

Semi-Finals

Allnutt bt Potter +3; Lawrance bt Gordon +9

Final

Lawrance bt Allnutt +8

1st Round (Afternoon)

Aidan Littlewood (Westcliffe on Sea) bt Hilarie Pitts (Rowington) +1(T); Alan Richardson (Kenilworth) bt Stuart Wells (Nottingham) + 5(T); Dr Robert Bawden (Diss) bt Nigel Kenward (Leicester Forest East) +4(T); Tom Sampson (Lapworth) bt Tim Hoblyn (Derby) +5

Semi-Finals

Richardson bt Littlewood +5(T); Bawden bt Sampson +13

Bawden bt Richardson +14

CASTLE HOWARD: 31 July

1st Round (Morning) Richard Barry (Stokesley) bt Pauline

Best (Beverley) +8; Frank Meadley (Beverley) bt George Pickles (Sowerby Bridge) +11; Stuart Rogers (Wetherby) bt Mark Simmerson (Sheffield) +4; Jim Cairns (Leeds) bt John Wright +10

Semi-Finals

Meadley bt Barry +11; Cairns bt Rogers +10

Final

Cairns bt Meadlev +12 1st Round (Afternoon)

Vincent George (Colne) bt Richard Continued on page 19

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Tournament News & Results

Southport: 23-26 May **Coaching Pays Off**

Report by David Appleton

There were two handicap singles events running simultaneously at Southport over the brilliantly sunny spring bank holiday weekend: the Jubilee Tankard, played as 4 American blocks of 6 players with play-off, and the Binks Plate, played as a Swiss.



John Haslam won the Binks Plate with bis flat-bottomed mallet.

The lower handicap players fared best in the first competition, the block winners all having handicaps of 7 or less. Other common factors were that three of them came from Tyneside and two were fresh from a coaching weekend at Nottingham. These two items were certainly relevant in your reporter's case: firstly he was pleased to be playing at all, since all the Tyneside mallets and balls had been stolen the previous week, and secondly he had come away from the coaching course hitting straighter than he thought possible (thanks, Keith). His closest game was his semi-final against John Portwood who went to the peg on the fifth turn, starting from a neat promotional cannon. Appleton finally staggered round to the stick, pegged his opponent out and just survived the three-ball ending. The best games to watch involved Paul Stoker who, with a long rover peel, beat Chris Irwin +1 on time to win his block, but lost -2 on time to Derek Trotman in their semi-final, having been one and one versus peg and rover after the first hour.

Paul goes in for tight finishes as well as for setting tight hoops, one of which was smaller than Tim Haste's pink. Referee/ Manager Andrew Bennet interpreted Law 51 to neither player's complete satisfaction or dissatisfaction, indicating an admirably just decision. This occurred in the Binks Plate where John Haslam's victory was never in doubt, so the longer bisquers had some satisfaction. They were also encouraged by Andrew Grimbaldeston's twenty-sixing of Chris Clarke, whose best effort of the week-end was to complete the three peels of a triple against Mike Tompkinson, but fail with the peg-out. Mark Saurin ended Appleton's unbeaten run with a comprehensive +16 win.

Enough players - not only the Bandits - performed well enough to merit the handicapper's attention. There were reductions for the three Tynesiders, as well as Haslam, Saurin and Russell Collighan, the last having played (with others) under the guises of A. Blockfiller and A.N. Other who won eight of their ten games.

Both Jaques and Southport balls were in use, some players finding the transition difficult because of the quite different coefficients of scoopability. Judging by the cries of anguish coming from the henhouse, a new, faster production line for the Southport balls is in an experimental state.

Thanks to all concerned for a very pleasant four days: those organising the catering during the day and in the evening, the referees (Andrew, Chris Irwin and Tim) who never seemed far from my side, the manager and firkinfetcher (Andrew again), and everyone who set out the equipment before the rest of us got there and took it in after we left.

RESULTS **Jubilee Tankard** (Handicap Play)

Block A

4 wins: J.B. Portwood (5)

2 wins: Mrs A. Rimmer (15) (Runner-up), M.G. Tompkinson (2) win: Mrs B. Sutcliffe (7), Miss P. Lewis (12)

3 wins: D.W. Trotman (7) +22, J.H. Haslam (15) +15, A.F. Sutcliffe (11/2)

1 win: J.D. Williamson (5)

0 wins: Mrs L.J. Taylor (11)

Block C 5 wins: D.R. Appleton (5)

3 wins: Mrs C. Lewis (9) (Runner-up), C.D. Clarke (1)

2 wins: Mrs V. Tompkinson (6) 1 win: A. Grimbaldeston (16)

Block D

4 wins: P. Stoker (21/2) 3 wins: Mrs D.C. Dennett (14)

(Runner-up), A.G. Gordon (4) 2 wins: Mrs C.E. Irwin (6½), Miss A.E. Dawson (10)

1 win: Mrs D. Williamson (17)

Play-Off Semi-Finals

Appleton bt Portwood +5; Trotman

bt Stoker +2(T) Final

Appleton bt Trotman +16

Binks Plate (Handicap Swiss)

4/5 wins: J.H. Haslam (15), M.A.

Saurin (31/2) 3/4 wins: Mrs C. Lewis (9) 3/5 wins: Dr T.J. Haste (0), A.F.

Sutcliffe (11/2), C.D. Clarke (1); J.B. Portwood (5)

2/2 wins: R. Collighan (6)

2/3 wins: D.R. Appleton (31/2) 1/2 wins: A. Grimbaldeston (16)

0/2 wins: A. Bennet (1) 0/4 wins: Mrs L.J. Taylor (11)

0/5 wins: J.D. Williamson (5)

Cheltenham: 2-4 May Shoot Outs in a Chill Wind!

Report by Bill Bawden

I have long thought that only fools and horses compete at Cheltenham before the end of May. 1987 has done nothing to make me think otherwise, what with the Gold Cup delayed by snow and here, at the beginning of May, Frances Ransom dressed as a snow maiden and Kevin Carter unrecognisable in cap rather than Stetson.

Nevertheless, the chill winds that blew throughout the tournament, sometimes gusting to gale force, did little to spoil yet another G.E.P. Jackson jollity. How that fellow loves to play and manage! There he sits at table between turns, making copious entries in an exercise book, matching players for the next round and obviously enjoying himself. I have often wondered why, but now I think I know. This year his exercise book bore the printed title QUADRILLE. Could it be that Edgar loves to lead us all a pretty dance?

Bravery awards undoubtedly go to Paul Hands, recovering from chicken pox donated by his infant daughter, vet nevertheless attempting a sextuple peel in his game with Phil Johnson. That it failed at the fifth is of little consequence. Then Tony Mrozinski, braving the elements in shorts, tough as they come, with his 4 wins in the A class, which included the scalp of Dave Foulser, the class winner with 5

Level play advanced, in handicap classes 11/2 and below, 2-4, and 5 and above, played as a Swiss, 6 games guaranteed, one in the morning, one in the afternoon, with double-banking mornings only - the ideal format, surely. All three classes ended in a shoot-out; for first place in class C, and hot competition for second places in classes A and B involving five and three players respectively.

The much improved lawns earned favourable comment from our visitors, a fact that augurs well for the major events that are yet to come.

RESULTS:

(Swiss: Level Play Advanced)

Block A

5 wins: D.R. Foulser.

4 wins: A.J. Mrozinski (runner-up), D.J. Goacher; P.L. Smith; P. Hands; A F Sutcliffe

3 wins: Dr D.S. Cairns; G.E.P.

2 wins: B. Hallam; Mrs C.A. Smith; K.E. Jones; J.E. Ross; P.M. Johnson. 1 win: Dr B.G.F. Weitz.

Block B

6 wins: G. Johnson

4 wins: M.J. Finn (runner-up); R. Adlard; P.J. Dorke.

3 wins: R. Race.

2 wins: C.B. Snowdon; R.W. Ransom: Mrs E. Weitz: Ladv C. Bazley

1 win: Mrs D.A. Wheeler.

Block C

5 wins: Mrs R. Gugan (Block winner); P.A. Darby (runner-up).

4 wins: Dr R.F. Wheeler; Mrs F.

3 wins: K.J. Carter; C.J. Ross; Mrs K. Whittall: Mrs B. Sutcliffe.

2 wins: D. Gugan; Mrs M. Langley;

0 wins: G. Henshaw.

Nottingham: 29-31 May

RESULTS (Handicap Play)

Block A

6 wins: D.R. Appleton (31/2)

4 wins: Miss A.E. Dawson (10)

3 wins: J.J. Death (8), J.F.S.

Thomas (9), Dr G.K. Taylor

2 wins: Mrs A.A.P. Rimmer (15) 0 wins: Dr I.B. Smith (14)

Block B

6 wins: Dr F.L. Whittaker (5)

5 wins: J. Dawson (21/2)

4 wins: Mrs P.A. Watson (13)

2 wins: D.M. Gillett (8), K.F.H. Townsend (10), Mrs K. Cotterell (4) 0 wins: Mrs T.W. Smith

Block C

5 wins: J.M. Horry (12) (Winner). E.E. Scott (3½) (Runner-up), R.

Davis (7) 3 wins: Dr C.G. Waterfield (8)

2 wins: Dr T.W. Smith

1 win: Mrs K.F.H. Townsend (11)

0 wins: L. Robinson (11)

Block D 5 wins: Mrs G. Nix (7)

4 wins: G. Norman (16) 3 wins: M.R.L. Cowan (5), J.C. Straw (3), Miss P.M.H. Lewis (12), Dr P.A. Watson

0 wins: Dr M.T. Haslam

Tournament News & Results

Colchester: 23-25 May

Report by David Ruscombe-King

We assembled on Saturday morning, our car radios prophesying a weekend of inspissated gloom and unremitting downpour. It was raining. We played that first round in gum boots. Then the weather brightened. We played the second round in the dry. Sunday was brighter yet, and in the afternoon, nine pairs of shorts could be seen on the lawns; and so it continued to the end of the tournament, the lawns becoming steadily faster and A player named T.H.E.

Colgram was the first to excite remark. Every time he appeared he seemed to have a different handicap. Every time he appeared he seemed to have a different face. By the final round, when I played him, he had the face of Robert Fulford and a handicap of 11/2. Before that, he had been Jonathan Collis (handicap 9), Graham Budd (handicap 13), and Carl Docherty (handicap 10). Pat Hetherington, our resourceful manager, revealed that she was playing this composite of the Colchester Grammar School because she had four last minute cancellations and none of these scholars could spare the time from their A level preparation to play in a whole tournament.

By the end of round three, Jeremy Short, Robert Pennant-Jones, and I were leading the Swiss, but several others were pressing us hard. In round four, Robert played T.H.E.C. and won by 11, while I managed to pluck victory from the jaws of defeat against Jeremy by taking my backward ball round and pegging out his forward ball. Robert and I then met in round five with four wins each. We started at 5.15 on Sunday evening and after a game of changing fortunes Robert finally won just after nine o'clock. Promptly at 9.30 the next morning we began the sixth round. Jeremy was playing Robert in what was the key match for the leadership. Jeremy won. Meanwhile Paul Elliot, with four wins, was playing me, and eventually went down by a narrow margin; while Debbie Cornelius increased her wins total to four by a 26 point victory over Martin French, who also had four wins.

Thus we entered the final round with Robert, Jeremy, and myself with five wins. Pat began to study the laws for tie-breaks in 2 wins: W.E. Lamb a Swiss with some anxiety. If we all three won there would have to L.J. Palmer be some form of play-off. On the

other hand if we all lost the situation might be extremely complicated, since Paul Elliot, Martin French, Debbie Cornelius, T.H.E. Colgram, and Colin Steward could all enter into the reckoning in a multiple tie. My game against Robert Fulford was the first to finish. I used up my bisques extravagantly to get a ball round to 4-back. Robert, who was hitting in well, then took one ball round to 4-back; seeming to toy with and then abandon the possibility of a TPO. After this, he performed the only triple peel of the tournament to win in style.

Interest now focussed on Jeremy's game with Debbie. Victory for Jeremy would put him beyond anybody's reach. Debbie struggled hard to come from behind, hitting in again after Jeremy had pegged one ball out; but she had to lay up, and left him with a shot at the peg from the south boundary in front of hoop 1. This he hit - to end the game and win the tournament with some panache.

Robert meanwhile was winning his sixth game of the tournament against Paul Elliot, and thus went into second place.

It was a weekend of tough competition on beautiful lawns, managed smoothly and hospitably to give us all a lot of fun.

RESULTS

6 wins: J.A. Short (Winner); W.R. Pennant-Jones (Runner-up) 5 wins: D. Ruscombe-King; T.H.E.

Colgram; M. French 4 wins: Miss D.A. Cornelius; P. Elliot; Mrs C. Steward; R.P. Jones; L.J. Palmer; J. Williams; S.G.

Cornelius 3 wins: N. Carter; J.P. Ames; Dr P. Watson; F.H. Butler; G.F. Hallett; Dr R.C. Jones: A. Schonbeck: A.J. Girling; Dr R.R. Sutherland; W.E. Lamb

2 wins: D.S. Cornelius: C.B. Sanford; Mrs R. Stanley-Smith 0 wins: Mrs B. Carter

Colchester: 9-10 May RESULTS

(Advanced Play: Modified Swiss) 6 wins: R.I. Fulford

5 wins: G.P.N. Healey 4 wins: J.O. Walters, R.D.C. Prichard

3 wins: Dr I.G. Vincent, M.R. French, S. Cornelius, D.J. Goacher, D.L. Gaunt, S.J.H. Wright, J.E. Guest, Miss D. Cornelius

1 win: R.M. Hobbs, J.R. Hilditch,

Compton: 12-14 June

Report by Peter Howell

The Elvey Challenge Trophy The competition got off to a good start in the warm sunshine which

lasted all Friday, when most of the country was dismal or rain drenched, certainly suggesting good reason to take one's holiday in Eastbourne.

On Saturday it was a different story - the heavens opened up and play proceeded in continuous rain all day. Both semi-finals, each best of three games, were closely fought to the third game, Denis Shaw losing the first of three to Bevis Sanford but fighting back to win by a close margin in the two subsequent games. The other semi-final between Gordon Drake and Peter Howell was equally entertaining with the latter running out the eventual winner.

Sunday saw the return of the sunshine all day for the final when Denis Shaw only required two games to dispose of Peter Howell in an interestingly tactical battle. Denis's roquets and rushes were too good and with Peter unable to contain him he ran out the decisive winner.



Dennis Shaw

The Eileen Shaw Trophy

This progressive swiss competition was run in tandem with the above, guaranteeing all entries six games. The only one to emerge with 5 wins to his credit and so take the trophy was Gordon Drake.

The whole affair was so enjoyable, in spite of Saturday's weather, due to the first-class organisation by Denis Shaw. Although he was playing as well, everything went like clockwork. No-one was hanging about for a lawn or a competitor as can often be the case. Special congratulations are due to Eileen Shaw and her various lady helpers for the continuous supply of refreshments making Compton a venue to look forward to again.

RESULTS

Handicap Singles 1st Round

T. Vale (5) bt Miss B. Dennant (8) +5(T): P. Howell (6) bt B. James (12)

+14; J. Ruddock (5) bt Miss D. Martin (16) +13; G. Drake (21/2) bt Miss P. Shine (8) +16; Miss P. Kendall (8) bt Mrs M. Grout (7); D. Shaw (31/2) bt J. Kellaway (8) +12; W.E. Philp (7) bt Mrs A. Millns (9) +17; C.B. Sanford (4) bt W. Nicholson (41/2) +10 2nd Round

Howell bt Vale +14; Drake bt Ruddock +4. Shaw bt Miss Kendall +16; Sanford bt Philp +10

Semi-Finals Howell bt Drake +10, -15, +15; Shaw bt Sanford -10, +5, +7

Final Shaw bt Howell +9, +4

Eileen Shaw Trophy (Handicap Play: Progressive Swiss)

5 wins: G. Drake 4 wins: C.B. Sanford; W. Nicholson; W.E. Philp 3 wins: J. Ruddock: Miss B.

Dennant: Miss P. Kendall 2 wins: J. Kellaway; B. James; Mrs

The Croquet Classic Continued from page 17.

Stevinson +10: Nicholas Davis (Carlisle) bt Mike Prescott (Chorley) +7; David Blinkhorn (Burnley) bt Bernard Leather (St Annes-on-Sea) +12; Patricia George (Colne) bt Robin Kelsey (Sheffield) +14

Semi-Finals

George bt Davis +13; Blinkhorn bt Mrs George +1(T)

Final

George bt Blinkhorn +7

1987 Invitation **Events**

Why not come and watch some of this year's Invitation Events? Dates and venues are as follows:

The Bombay Gin PRESIDENT'S CUP

The Hurlingham Club 8-12 September Tickets £3.00 per day, from the

Croquet Association Secretary. CA members admitted free on presentation of their 1987 membership cards.

THE CHAIRMAN'S SALVER Nottingham Croquet Club 7-11 September

THE SPENCER-ELL CUP **Bowdon Croquet Club**

7-11 September THE LADIES FIELD CUP Southport Croquet Club

14-18 September THE LONGMAN BOWL

Roehampton Club

WEEKEND

14-18 September THE SELECTORS'

Harrow Oak Croquet Club 11-13 September

Club News

Pegging Out

By Allen Parker (Parkstone)

If you peg out your opponent in the present day either-ball game it is by no means certain that you will win the game. It was very much otherwise in the old sequence game, for the balls had to be played in sequence even after one of them had been pegged out. Thus suppose that Blue had pegged out Red (ie the next player), then Blue could happily lay up Black with Yellow at Black's hoop and then go himself to Black's next hoop but one, thus laying Black a 3-ball break. This was possible because at the end of Blue's turn it was Black to play (Red having been pegged out). In other words Blue and Black got two consecutive turns for every one of Yellow's.

There was a further complication in the old pegged-out sequence game. There were in fact two kinds of pegged out game for which the tactics were quite different. The second type resulted when Blue pegged out Yellow (ie the dead ball). He could no longer lay up Black with the enemy ball because the enemy ball was now Red, which

was the next player. However, Blue and Black still got two turns to every one of Red and were therefore much more likely to win than they would be in the present day either-ball game. This explains the great concern of the Mr E*** referred to in the following correspondence which appeared in the 1909 volume of the Gazette.

To the Editor

I have kept the correspondence appearing in your columns on the above subjects by me since the publication of Mr E *** 's letter in the hope that some player of higher standing and greater experience than myself would point out and deal with what I consider the fallacy underlying his suggestions.

Mr E**** writes: 'I presume that underlying all attempts at rule-making are two broad principles: (1) That the better player, ie., the man who has played better than his opponent in a particular game, should win. (2) That both players except in the matter of personal skill, should be on an absolutely equal footing. The present law relative to pegging out and wiring violates both these principles.'

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Book Review

Mr E*** then gives a soul-'The World of Croquet' by harrowing example. 'A 3-bisquer John McCullough and obtains first innings and Stephen Mulliner advances one of his balls to

3-back, where he breaks down

badly and lets in the minus

player. The latter, now playing

perfect croquet, makes two all-

round breaks, and lays to go out.'

3-bisquer actually has the

effrontery to make the long and

probably very difficult shot with

his advanced ball, pegs out his

adversary's rover and ultimately

fearsome example 'which vio-

lates', so we are told, 'the

principles which should underlie

all attempts at rule-making? The

3-bisquer's one and only sin is

that he broke down badly at

3-back and let in the minus

player. Surely a sufficiently heavy

penalty. But up to that fatal

moment he must have played

well; for he had either retained or

obtained the first innings. Not an

altogether contemptible per-

formance against a minus player,

and I trust when I have the

pleasure of meeting Mr E**** I

has an easy entree, for the

3-bisquer has broken down badly

at 3-back, probably on his

opponent! But the former,

although going round in perfect

style with both balls, plays the

timid game. He does not attempt

to triple-peel his own advanced

ball, but overtakes it, making the

ball 'in play' a rover. He then 'lays

to go out, taking the risk of the

inferior player shooting in. He

'stakes his head' and loses, and is

to my mind rightfully punished.

His sin is wilful and premedi-

tated, while the inferior player's

breakdown at 3-back was a

misfortune, which I have seen

occur again and again - not

In other words the minus

player has not played or

attempted to play the best

croquet and he obtained his

innings easily; and to reward his

want of courage and strategy, Mr

E **** proposes to take from the

3-bisquer his only chance of

winning, because forsooth! he

made one bad and costly stroke

If, Sir, the Committee should,

in an evil hour, be tempted to

adopt Mr E *** 's suggestion, or

alone to 3-bisquers.

at 3-back.

Now mark! The minus player

may play as badly.

Let us now consider this

wins. 'Hinc illae lacrimae!'

Then comes the debacle. The

Reviewed by Chris Hudson

I have been fortunate to see the proof pages of this new book on Croquet which is due to be published on 24th August.

It is well laid out, with 224 pages and 234 photos and diagrams, and covers topics that will be of interest to croquet players at all levels, from beginner to expert.

The book falls into four main sections. The first, 'Croquet Past and Present', describes the development of Croquet and the modern game. The second, 'Basic Croquet', tells players how to get started, concentrating on the basic strokes, typical turns, attacking and defensive play, and finishing with a description of some forms of alternative croquet

The third section is aimed at more advanced players and covers tactical play in more detail, with information on lift leaves, triple peels, the pegged out game and other more advanced aspects of the game. The book is the first one to my knowledge to discuss 'Inner Croquet' and the application of psychology and mental training to the game.

The fourth section is a summary of the 'World Croquet Scene', listing countries where croquet is played. This is followed by biographical details of three croquet 'Stars', and a description of the 1986 MacRobertson Shield Test Series, with a detailed analysis of one of the matches: Nigel Aspinall & Colin Irwin (Great Britain) against Joseph Hogan & Roger Murfitt (New Zealand), played at Cheltenham on 14 June 1986.

As Andrew Hope says in his Foreword, a problem that confronts every sports author is deciding what level of competence to assume in his readership. The authors are to be congratulated on cheerfully avoiding the problem by providing something for everybody.

The book is priced at £14.95.

Mr E *** 's example has only the variations of those mainly in to be examined and stated clearly agreement with him, the fine to show up the rank absurdity calculation, combined with skill, and injustice of his suggestion, which provides the real charm of viz., that the 3-bisquer should be the game to both players and precluded from pegging out his onlookers, will have disadversary's rover ball until his appeared. own backward ball is at 4-back.

I am Sir, Yours faithfully, Arthur R.Murphy.

Croquet in Pendle . . . Off to a **Good Start!**

Report by John Beech

At Wast Hills House, south of Birmingham, a form of croquet is played which differs little from that played when the Cadbury family were in residence in the last century. Its development owes more to Aunt Emma than Chris Hudson. Nevertheless its croquet lawn proved to be the place where the first croquet club in the mid-Pennines was conceived. Sent on an advanced course for Education Officers by his Authority, a senior member of staff of a Metropolitan Borough got hooked on croquet at this outpost of the University of Birmingham. Back home in Barnoldswick, the place which put the 'B' into the Rolls Royce RB211 engine, he discovered that his near neighbour had played a similar, though different, form of croquet during a Church holiday at a Christian

Before long, garden croquet was established and friends and neighbours were getting bitten with the croquet bug. Information from the CA Office brought news of a development officer in Cheshire who subsequently encouraged the group to form a

Centre in Capernwray.

Croquet in Pendle - the idea - soon became 'Croquet in Pendle' - the Club. Founded in December 1985 with 13 members, the Club registered with the CA in January 1986 and became a member of the Federation of Northern Croquet Clubs at the same time. The infant croquet club was fortunate in securing the use of two full sized lawns at Nelson and Colne College by kind permission of the Lancashire Education Authority. There was no club house or pavilion, but a start was made. The responsibility and discipline of mowing and marking lawns was shared by members and encouraged a healthy corporate spirit. Chris Hudson had quite a

task coaching about twenty raw beginners, all ham-fisted but eager to learn. His training and encouragement proved to be a vital spur to the club's early development and soon the club grew to 27 members. The new short game was played regularly and players slowly gained confidence. A tournament for members attracted 20 entries, the finals of which were held on a glorious summer day in mid-

Pat Hague had also given

advice and guidance in the early days and subsequently Ellesmere Club 'fostered' the young Pendle squad by playing a couple of friendly matches - home and away. The new club owes a lot to that practical help.

Two members were pressed, somewhat reluctantly, to enter a beginners tournament at Southport and they found themselves as opponents in the final! Such initial success led five members to enter the Bowdon longbisquers short tournament in the autumn and again Pendle won the day with first and second prizes. By this time some members began to understand 4-ball breaks, even if they still couldn't execute them effectively, and so bit by bit the early influence of Aunt Emma at Wast Hills was replaced with the sound teaching of Chris Hudson.

Such small success went to the head! The club took the

initiative and arranged further friendly matches with other new clubs - Ripon (Pendle won) -'Bennet's Bandits', Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School (Pendle got slaughtered) - and Fylde.

Tim Haste and Andrew Bennet pushed the coaching further and one member

John Beech (back right) with the Pendle team and Andrew Bennet and bis OEGS 'Bandits

attended the Summer School at Loughborough. All members were encour-

aged to join the CA and by the end of the year, 12 had paid up. Delight was the response when the CA announced that Pendle had won the £100 second prize in the CA recruiting competition. Elation was soon to follow with the announcement that Pendle had also won the Apps Heley Award for 1986. Five members paid their first visit to Hurlingham to receive the award which took the club into its second season on the crest of a

With some trepidation,

Pendle entered the FNCC League and the new North West Short Croquet League for the 1987 season. Such presumption! Most members play off 18, a couple on 16 and just two are middlebisquers! The first opponents to tread the coarse Pendle turf were Bowdon in the first short league match. Fear shuddered through the Pendle team as Bowdon stars Colin Irwin and Chris Hudson led the formidable opposition on to the lawns. The delight and elation of former days was evaporating fast, and the glory of honours administratively secured faded with the spectre of actually playing competitive croquet! Readers will blink; Pendle succeeded again! - this time on the lawns - by winning 9 games to 7. Rumour has it that the honeymoon is over. No mercy for Pendle now, with Northern league clubs plotting to annihilate these Pendle upstarts! But Pendle will press on, using its meagre developing talents, its dozens of bisques, and at home, the slow coarse lawns and Walker balls!

Further objectives are membership growth, improvement of facilities, development of skills and strategy, and taking a full part in the CA and the Northern croquet scene.

Short Croquet introduced at Sidmouth

Report by Paul Dwerrybouse

The Sidmouth Club mounted a Short Croquet Tournament on May 27th and 28th at the request of the Committee of the South Western Federation.

The event was the first open croquet tournament at Sidmouth for 32 years. Three full size lawns, each divided into two, were allocated to the twenty four players, representing clubs from Bristol, Nailsea, Bath, Tracy Park, Wellington, and Exeter, with six players from the host

Play was organised in four blocks of six: two blocks with handicaps 11/2 to 6, and two with



The Four Finalists at Sidmouth (Left to right): Maurice Boardman (Bath), Ken Bright (Tracy Park), Leslie Toye (Sidmouth) and Dr Jim Davey

handicaps 7 to 9. Each player was allowed 75 minutes per game, with a play-off between the winners of each block.

The two finals were played simultaneously between Ken Bright (Tracy Park) and Maurice Boardman (Bath); Leslie Toye (Sidmouth) and Dr Jim Davey (Bath). Leslie Tove emerged a comfortable winner by six points. The game between Ken and Maurice gripped the interest of all the spectators until the last strokes, Maurice finally winning by three points after facing almost certain defeat.

Brilliant sunshine on both days graced the occasion, enhancing the spectacular setting of the Sidmouth lawns before the dazzling backdrop of the English Channel, overlooked by the splendid Regency Terrace of town houses, one of which was once occupied by the Grand Duchess Helina of Russia and still displays the Russian Eagle on the south wall. This was croquet in all its dignity, skill and fascinating entertainment. Play was under the capable

management of Iris Dwerryhouse and Eric Kitchener, with Katherine Holroyde masterminding first-class catering arrangements. It was unanimously agreed that the event was a most successful and enjoyable experiment, one which could well be repeated in 1988.

Tournament News & Results

Cheltenham: 4-7 June Roger Jenkins shines – And a welcome return by Sue Foden

Report by Bill Lamb

This unique event, the Cheltenham 'B' Levels, draws its faithful contingent of regulars every year, and one can understand why. The format, an eight round Swiss, played over four days, allows the tournament to proceed at a leisurely pace, with time in the evenings to practise, play friendlies or just engage in pleasant conversation in congenial surroundings. As an innovation this year a one-ball competition was arranged in the evenings for those who were still feeling sufficiently competitive.

Sue Foden chose this event to make her return to competitive play after an absence of some years. Her many friends were pleased to see her and hope that she will continue. Sue was a little rusty at first, but improved rapidly and would have been well in contention, had she been able to play all eight rounds.

As usual, the Cheltenham cognoscenti had marked their cards before the event began. However, this event has a habit of producing a dark horse and on this occasion it was Roger Jenkins of Bristol, whose good shooting and methodical approach caused one or two upsets to the form book.

Last year's winner, Paddy Paddon, was going strongly until he was disconcerted by the theft of the cash box and the previous day's bar takings. During his game against Roger, Paddy, who runs the bar, emerged from the pavilion after deep discussions about the crime, failed to realise that he had a lift, shot at his own ball in 'B' baulk from the centre of the court, hit and obtained a rush to 6. Only after he had made his approach to 6 did he realise that his clip was on 2-back! Paddy merely shrugged and came off the court with his usual smile. Fortunately some smart police work enabled the miscreants to be apprehended, much to Paddy's relief.

Amongst 'B' class players the talk is not so much of triple peels, cannons and intricate trick shots. Amusing incidents are more the order of the day. Bevis Sanford claims to be studying Alzheimer's disease so that he will be able to recognize the symptoms in himself; in others it is more advanced. In several games the forward ball was pegged out accidentally. In one game a player who shall be nameless, to spare my blushes, carefully considered whether to take an eight-yard shot with yellow offering good break possibilities or a safer five-yard shot with blue, oblivious to the fact that blue and yellow are not partner balls. Needless to say, he selected the coward's shot with the wrong ball!

The result was in doubt until the final game to finish. At the start of the last round three players, Roger Jenkins, Bill Lamb and Bob Smith, were clear of the field with six wins out of seven, each having one win and one loss to the other two. Bill was the first to finish with a comfortable win but Bob fell at the final hurdle to Bernard Weitz, leaving Roger needing to beat Lady Bazley to win the event. At first, he seemed well in command with both clips on penult against opponent's 1 and 6. However, distracted at one stage by the tea bell, and increasingly attacked by nerves, Roger completely missed a dolly rush to penult and then was unable to hit anything,



Paddy Paddon – going strongly until the cash box was stolen.

as Carmen began a worthy fight-back which only came to an end when she missed a longish rover off her partner peg ball to leave the two frustratingly wired. Roger took his opportunity and gained a narrow and decisive win, leaving Bill the runner-up with the consolation of recording the first triple-peel in the history of the 'B' Levels.

Those who remember the Cheltenham lawns of two years ago will be amazed at the improvement which has been made in so short a time. It is a tribute to the hard work of Wilf Handley and the lawns committee that the magnificent condition of the lawns, combined with rather generous hoop settings, made good break play the rule in most games.

Finally, thanks are due to Betty Weitz, whose creation this event is, for her quiet and efficient management and to Roger and Dab Wheeler for organising a tournament dinner in the clubhouse, consisting of a quantity and variety of food from a local Chinese take-away at a very reasonable price.

RESULTS

(Advanced Play: 2 bisques or over)

7 wins: R.S. Jenkins (Winner); W.E. Lamb (Runnerup)

6 wins: R.J. Smith

5 wins: Dr B.G.F. Weitz; M.T. Paddon; P. Darby 4 wins: Lady Bazley; M. Finn; C.B. Sanford; Dr S. Foden; Mrs K. Whittall; Dr C. Snowdon; R.S. Eades;

3 wins: Dr R. Wheeler; Mrs D.A. Wheeler; J. Exell 2 wins: Mrs J. Neville-Rolfe; L. Greenbury

1 win: Mrs E. Weitz

0 wins: Mrs E. Neal/Mrs J. Cima

Ipswich: 6-7 June Walters Wrists Off!

Seven games were had by all at a tournament which had surprisingly fine weather. John Walters was unlucky, he had to retire after his third game with an injured wrist.

The tournament was won by Martin French, playing without the Hilditch Testimonial which was ill.

The most notable efforts of the week were by Don Gaunt and Lewis Palmer. Don, who was also managing the tournament, was not put off by his duties and had his first TPO as well as ordinary triple. Lewis was not put off either by three close defeats and finished Day One with his first triple peel during tournament play. Clap! Clap! Clap! Clap! Clap! Clap! (Ipswich clapping codes; 1 clap per ball pegged out and one clap for each peel in that turn. Therefore, Triple Peel = 5 claps).

Other players didn't fare so well. Debbie Cornelius' concentration was obviously shattered following a vicious attack by a cherry tomato and a cup of coffee. At one point David Ruscombe-King found himself temporarily triple-banking with the ducks – they seemed to observe the rules of double-banking etiquette better than most croquet players.

David Beatty's game suffered disastrously due to severe alcohol deficiency; he complained of feeling sober in the afternoon. In an attempt to revive his flagging fortunes he started whistling tunelessly, thus evoking rude comments from the crowd.

The tournament dinner (a catastrophe – there was no Garlic bread!) finished up at Robert Divot-Jones's house for a game of Contract Whist. This was won by Andrew Gregory, who nearly lost his place to stay for the night as a result.

Food was good as always but the highlight from the catering staff (Cathy French, Celia Steward and Celia Pearce) was the first and second colour Battenburgs.

Signing off now! Debbert Jonelius.

RESULTS

(Advanced Play: 7-round Swiss)

6 wins: M. French

5 wins: A. Gregory (Runner-up), R. Jones

4 wins: D. Gaunt, P. Elliott

3 wins: D. Beatty, Dr R. Sutherland, P. Dorke, L.

Palmer, D. Ruscombe-King

2 wins: Miss D. Cornelius, R. Deacon; J. Walters (retired injured during Round 3)

Surbiton: 13-14 June RESULTS

Open Singles

(7-round Swiss)

6 wins: N.G. Hyne; S.N. Mulliner

5 wins: I.G. Vincent; D. Peterson

4 wins: J. Dawson; A. Mrozinski; R. Prichard; G. Noble: J. Meads

3 wins: M. Ormerod; G. Brightwell; R. Hilditch; J. Guest: I. Bond

2 wins: D. Beatty; M. Stevens; J. Straw

O wins: J. Gosden

Tournament News & Results

Edgbaston: 19-21 June Midsummer Mayhem at Edgbaston: Packer's Revenge Report by Peter Dorke

Not only did Ken Jones fail to achieve his third consecutive victory in the Edgbaston Open Weekend, but he did so badly that fellow-players felt it would be kinder if this report did not mention him at all. So I shall not mention

Ken Jones again.

This was Stuart Packer's weekend. Totally unfancied for this event – after all, he was refused entry to last year's tournament – Packer took a fiendish revenge on the mandarins of Edgbaston by losing only one game and rounding off a fine, sustained performance with a cruel annihilation of Manager Ray Jones.

The infamous Packer petulance was brought out as a crowd-pleaser during his Sunday game with the ineffable Bill Lamb . . . well, we thought he was ineffable until young Packer dipped into his store of adjectives, several of which began with eff. This was the game that your reporter had booked in as Match of the Tournament, expecting to see Lamb repeat the devastating precision he showed on Friday and Saturday, with Packer bringing off a match-winning charge at the last moment.

In the event, it all happened in reverse, with Bill Lamb's charge failing to do the trick and Packer, repeatedly unable to do anything with red, which was in any case for peg, and after a good deal of pointless ranting with just a soupcon of raving, took a lift with yellow, hitting in at last to finish the game off tidily.

Lamb had played a little too much precision croquet and not enough Monte Carlo croquet in the crucial middle game. Perhaps he should now burn his copy of Keith Wylie's book, whose beneficial influence he had demonstrated so admirably on Saturday in a delightful and fascinating triple-peel against Martin Grainger-Brown. Lamb had another moment of glory later that day when he became the third player to beat Ken Jones (whom I shall not mention again), while Grainger-Brown, after crushing Mark Suter in the first round, had been pipped at the peg by Chris Clarke in round two.

The two last mentioned were probably the most fancied runners (after Ken Jones, that is, though I shall not mention him again). Neither fulfilled the promise of his fearsome reputation and in Chris Clarke's case the origin of his Nemesis can be easily traced: he has agreed that I may attribute to him the heartfelt expletive (not deleted), 'Bugger Ludlow!' Your reporter would modestly like to take some of the credit for this unwonted melting of the Clarke sang-froid. The other culprit was, of course, Mr Packer.

Who then, did beat the young Pretender? Certainly not Mark Suter, who ended Saturday with a Bye and a Bye-Bye, unable, it is rumoured to face another helping of Edgbaston's Cold Colation – provided by Tournament Caterer Ken Jones (this is positively the last mention of Ken Jones).

Nor was it David 'Swifty' Goacher, though he beat Potter, Lamb, Hallam, Dorke, Jones (Ray, not the unmentionable Ken) and even the Amazing Gregg. I shall come back to Paul Gregg, so don't go away: this lad wants watching! But first, Goacher, the man with a black belt in croquet. To give you some idea of the care which this fine player takes over every shot, let me tell you only that in our game – on Edgbaston's lawn three (a cheeky little lawn, full bodied and with a delicate hint of squirrel droppings) – I was able to go in for lunch as David was lining up his approach to 3 and get back, after three courses and coffee, in time to see him run the hoop. And if you think his croquet is painstaking, just watch him eat his lunch! Ah, but he played well, too well for most.

And so we come - glad you did not go away - to the Amazing Gregg. Watching his play inspires his opponent with the utmost confidence. Chortle, Chortle, he's going to break down any minute, where's my mallet. blimey! He's through the hoop! Perhaps he was using the balls in the other game as well but the cold fact is that Paul Gregg may have had the highest handicap in the tournament but he got round to 4-back more rapidly than, say, well . . . dare I mention Ken Jones? What he did with the balls afterwards did not seem to concern him greatly but this lack of care did not prevent his winning half his matches and collecting a few notable scalps, including that of Him Who Shall Not Be Mentioned Again and - at last it can be told - Stuart Packer. Moreover, it was Paul Gregg who with Goacher provided the most entertaining denouement that you could wish for in a tournament.

In a double-banked spectacle on lawn one – Brian Hallam and yes, Ken Jones (positively his last appearance) being the other pair – these two did everything but peg out. A succession of what Alan Girling would undoubtedly want to call absurdnesses led to failure after failure to finish it off. As the possibleness (see Girling A.J. above) of seeing all eight clips on the peg at once became ever likelier, Gregg prolonged the agony further by failing to peg out either of his balls from a distance of two inches, with three referees in close attendance and six clips now on the peg.

Hallam now spoiled everything by pegging out while K-- J---- was penult and penult. The unconsolableness of A.J. Girling was terrific but he and the packed gallery clapped, whistled and cheered as David Goacher at last put the lid on an excellent weekend.

There were other heroes, other great moments: Jim Potter, though not his usual fluent self, featured in a five-balls-in-one-corner incident which should go down in croquet history as Potter's Cannon. Andrew Gregory was clearly suffering from train-lag and came into his own only as an active member of the last match crowd. Andrew Sweeney had the honour of being Suter's One Victim. The Gregory's, with Gladys McLean and Jessica, kept most of the superb catering safely out of the hands of Ken Jones.

Ken Jones (Himself) wanted me to tell you that he pegged out the first ball in all his games but, as I said, I'm not mentioning Ken Jones again.

Ever.

RESULTS

The Edgbaston Trophy (Advanced Play: Swiss)

6 wins: S. Packer (Winner); D.J. Goacher (Runner-

5 wins: P.J. Dorke; C.D. Clarke;

4 wins: P. Gregg; Dr R.C. Jones; B. Hallam;

3 wins: W.E. Lamb; A.J. Girling; K.E. Jones;

J. Potter; M. Granger-Brown

2 wins: A. Gregory; M. Suter 1 win: A. Sweeney

Nottingham: 26-28 June

Report by George Noble

David Goacher romped away to win the Nottingham Open Weekend with 8 wins from 9 games. Only Ian Vincent was able to provide appropriate resistance; beating him +26 early on Saturday morning. If he were a race horse, his pedigree would be described as by John McCullough, out of Spencer Buck.

After a week of heavy rain, the lawns were in a very easy condition such that nine rounds were played, compared with seven the previous year, and the manager was able to award above the average number of mars bars for triple peels. But the most important peeling feat did not formally take place. Keith Aiton, standing in for an absent player in the

first round, pulled off a tidy sextuple on lawn 1, to the delight of the gallery and the chagrin of the manager, who had to hand over the promised litre of gin.

In block B of the tournament, Bevis Sanford demolished the opposition to emerge calm and undefeated with 7 wins. He was closely challenged by John Portwood and, as luck would have it, the result was decided in a final round game on the front lawn on Sunday afternoon.

As ever, a friendly and agreeable tournament, the only blemish being that the beer ran out on the final morning.

Keith Aiton sextupled for a litre of gin.

RESULTS

(Swiss: Advanced Play)

8/9 wins: D.J. Goacher 6/9 wins: B. Hallam, I.G. Vincent, W.E. Lamb

5/9 wins: G. Noble, M. French, J. Davis, J. Walters, M. Stevens, R. Prichard, P. Hands

4/8 wins: J. Straw

4/9 wins: P. Death, T. Harrison

2/8 wins: R. Jones

2/9 wins: Miss J. MacLeod

1/8 wins: A.J. Girling

1/9 wins: R. Hilditch

American Block

7 wins: C.B. Sanford

5 wins: J. Portwood (runner-up), M.R.L. Cowan

4 wins: R. Davis, J.J. Death

2 wins: Mrs K. Cotterell

1 win: G.H. Henshaw

0 wins: Mrs F. Chamberlain

Three Cheers for Croquet!

Dear Sir,

I am a disabled person, having a partially paralysed right arm and leg (hemiplegia) as a result of a car accident. Naturally I was a little perplexed as to which sport, if any, I could participate in, but croquet was suggested to me.

At that time Alresford, Hants, was forming a Croquet Club under the leadership of Mr Les Chapman, who coached me with other beginners. Nowadays, however, I must admit I spend more time at the Winchester Tennis & Squash Club, when more mature Courts are available. Here unprecedented coaching is given by a very patient and understanding player, Harry Harrington.

Three cheers for Croquet! It gives me much pleasure; especially trying to beat Harry. It will come!

Roy C Brett-Smith, Alresford.

The Development of Croquet

Dear Sir.

In almost all sports that people can play at home, there are three types of enthusiasts. You have Spectators, Home Players and Club Players. There is considerable mobility between these three groups. So someone may become interested when seeing the sport on television and decide to try it out either at home or at a club. An improving home player may graduate on to a club. Club players may enjoy watching the sport, and may also play at home.

Croquet, however, is not like that. Croquet does have Club players and Garden players. However, although they play to the same rules, their tactics and the whole nature of their game is different. The third group of enthusiast, the Spectator, is almost non-existent in Croquet. This means that Croquet does not have people continually moving from spectator to garden player and garden player to club player. So the clubs are isolated and cannot draw strength from the other areas. This considerably hampers the development of Croquet.

To see why Croquet is different from other sports the three groups of enthusiast, Spectator, Garden player and Club Player need to be examined in more detail.

SPECTATORS

People often say that Croquet is not a spectator sport and give as an example the very few spectators at the Open Championships. On examining the obstacles to spectators at the Open Championships it is not surprising that few come. Firstly the spectators need to know that the Championship is on. It is not advertised in the papers, indeed it is probably only the club players who know of its existence. Secondly, it is not signposted and the entrance to Hurlingham is not the easiest place to find. Thirdly, on arrival at the gate the spectator is met with a barrier and a uniformed guard asking if he is a member. There is no notice saying if members of the public are admitted. The impression is of a private club with outsiders not allowed in. If the spectator gets through all that, he will see people playing. Unless he asks someone, he is unlikely to find out who is playing who, what round is being played or who has won. The games he watches will be characterised by complicated positional play, punctuated by breaks lasting maybe twenty minutes. Unless he is a player or has someone to explain the game to him, it is unlikely he will be able to understand what is going on.

This is a very forbidding picture. But it is not always like this. Croquet has been a spectator sport in the past; in Col Prichard's 'The History of Croquet' he says that at a tournament in 1871 'spectators were four or five deep around the ground' and when Keith Izard was scratched from a tournament for appearing late in 1908, he apparently retorted 'Scratch me, what about your gate money?'.

To become a spectator sport again, Croquet needs two things. Firstly, the tournaments need to be better publicised and more informative when the spectator arrives; secondly, a new variation of Croquet needs to be developed that reduces the length of breaks and makes the game easier to understand. This new variation would be an addition to the four variations of Croquet currently played: Golf Croquet, Association Croquet, Advanced play and Short Croquet.

GARDEN PLAYERS

Although most garden players roughly follow the rules of Association Croquet, they adapt it to suit what they want. It is curious that most garden players adapt Association Croquet in the same way. Typically in a garden game the balls proceed in pairs. So one side's balls, say red and yellow, will be on one hoop while the other side's blue and black balls will be on another. Occasionally one side will play a take off towards their opponents, split them up by knocking one of



A Short Croquet competition in progress at the WI's Denman College.

their balls off the court before returning to their partner. Turns do not end if balls are struck off the court on the Croquet stroke.

Talking to Garden Croquet players, it quickly becomes evident that knocking their opponents off the court is the aspect of the game they enjoy the most.

This almost universal adaption of the rules suggests that the laws of Association Croquet are failing this group of players. They want to play a slightly different game – a game where knocking one's opponent away is a valid tactic.

Garden Croquet players represent by far the largest group of Croquet enthusiasts. Bringing them and club players close together represents the most important source of new club players.

CLUB PLAYERS

Most club players play almost exclusively Association Croquet or advanced play. They normally only play Short Croquet and Golf Croquet in a small number of selected competitions.

CONCLUSION

If Croquet is to develop to its full potential it needs to develop Croquet as a spectator sport and to bridge the gap between Garden and Club players.

To do this Croquet tournaments should be better publicised and more welcoming. The Observer-Lassale Croquet Classic is helping bridge the gap

between garden and club players and should be expanded and grown as fast as possible.

The evidence also suggests that a new variation of Croquet needs to be added to the present four variations. This new variation needs to reduce the length of breaks, make the game easier to understand and be similar to the way Croquet is played by garden players. This could be done as follows:

(1) Players would be allowed to roquet each ball only once per turn, irrespective of whether they run hoops during that turn.

(2) The turn does not end if balls are hit off the court on a Croquet stroke.

(3) The game would be played on a short court to 14 points.

Club players would undoubtedly continue to play principally Association Croquet and Advanced play. The new rules, as with Short Croquet and Golf Croquet, being played in a small number of selected competitions.

With these new rules garden players would no longer need to adapt Association Croquet. If they came to a club, they would know a game familiar to the other club members. The new game would shorten the length of breaks and be much easier to understand than Association Croquet, and so be a much better spectator sport.

If Croquet is to develop to its full potential, it must have the

enthusiasts that other sports
enjoy, spectators, garden players
and club players. To do this, it
must develop a form of the game
that meets the needs of spectators and garden players. If this
does not happen, Croquet will
remain a minority sport, with the

Charles Townsend, Harwich.

very different games.

Croquet in Salisbury

club and garden players playing

Dear Sir.

I sympathise with Margaret Barnett in her plea for a croquet club in Salisbury.

Having admired for many years what must surely be England's most beautiful greensward, I wish for her sake it were possible for croquet to be elevated from the vicarage garden to the cathedral close.

Bill Bawden, Cheltenham.

The 1984 Debate

Dear Sir,

I have just watched Barbara Cartland versus Jackie Collins on Terry Wogan's programme, when it was not obvious that 'the game is the thing'.

Having absorbed the 1984? Debate in Issue 192, I am moved to hope that the 'M.. C.. C..' team and Mulliner will shake hands over a cup of tea laced with Irish whiskey.

Robert Ponsonby, Hurlingham.

Double Banking Law

Dear Sir,

During a double-banked game one of the players had occasion to move one of the balls of the other game, and owing to a breakdown in communication, the striker in the other game took off to the moved ball in its incorrect position. At this stage it was moved to its correct position where it was significantly further away from the striker's ball. Two referees were consulted and both maintained that the striker should take the shot again, and invoked the Emergency Law 51 to justify this decision.

Fair though this may seem, I believe that this was the wrong decision. Law 51 cannot be invoked to deal with a situation that is already covered by the Laws, and this particular situation is so covered. Law 29 (Playing when any ball is misplaced – General Rule) specifically quotes the relevant instances, the last of which is: '(f) all other cases except those dealt with in Law 30' (Law 30 is

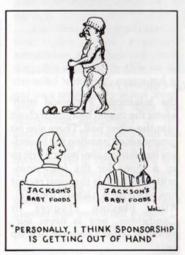
not relevant to this situation). Law 5(b) of the Appendix on Double Banking covers the interference DURING A STROKE, but not interference before the stroke is played.

Now we have always been taught that it is the duty of a referee to interpret the laws as they are written, and not as he thinks they ought to be. For this reason, I think that the above decision was wrong.

So, should an additional law be formulated to cover this situation, i.e. to allow the striker to replay the shot? One's first reaction is to say 'Yes': but consider this. Suppose the striker had taken a long shot at the misplaced ball, and had hit it. Must he play the shot again? Or take the case of enemy balls joined on the yard-line, with one of them misplaced by a player in the other game. The striker now plays a long take-off to these balls, and either stops very short, or runs over the boundary. Should he be allowed a second chance at his take-off, having now gauged the strength required?

It is important to clear up this question because double banking is on the increase and the situation is likely to occur quite frequently.

C A Parker, Parkstone.



Submitted from Tenerife by Roy Wallis.

Professionalism in Croquet

Dear Sir,

When I read Mr Cotterell's letter in the CA Gazette on the possible coming of professionalism, I thought; perhaps, but not in my day. And so I wrote a column in our local club bulletin citing parts of his letter.

However, not long after and to my utter amazement I received a California publication from one of their northern scribes which stated categorically that the first world croquet goes pro in the west. And apparently it is the sad truth.

This sudden and regrettable change has been brought about by an Australian who calls himself the Pro at the Meadowood Club in the wine country of the famous wine growing area known as the Napa Valley. And the sponsors of this professionalism is one of the french champagne growers who have moved to California to take advantage of the climate and excellent wine growing conditions.

I am enclosing a copy of the Newsletter publication which I quoted.

F. Tucker, Capt. USN (ret), Santa Barbara, USA.

WESTERN CROQUET NEWSLETTER Volume 3 Number 1. Spring, 1987 Croquet Goes Pro in West

\$15K Purse is World First Domaine Mumm will sponsor Croquet Classic

By Tom Lufkin

Damon Bidencope, croquet pro, has announced that the Meadowood Inn and Country Club will host the first large money tournament for croquet in the United States, September 3,4,5 and 6, 1987. He advised that Domaine Mumm, a premiere champagne producer in the Napa Valley, will sponsor the event and is offering a \$15,000 burse.

within the croquet community this money tournament is causing a great deal of excitement. Already top players from the East Coast and abroad have signed up. Beside the record breaking purse, the fact that players from anywhere in the world may participate makes the potential cross section of competitors challenging.

The purse will be distributed to a minimum of 30 per cent of the players with the top doubles team receiving \$5,000. Because Domaine Mumm visualizes this as an annual affair, the competition for playing berths for this premiere should be brisk. The Croquet Classic has all the ingredients to score another grand slam for croquet in the West!

The two new courts at Meadowood make it possible to expand the number of players this year. In addition to many of last year's players returning this year, the Associations of Australia, New Zealand and Great Britain are each nominating their five best players.

Spectators for the entire week are encouraged. A tournament pin, which admits the bearer to all events, luncheons, dinners and parties, can be obtained by becoming a Patron of the Tournament. Patrons are asked to make a \$500 donation to the National Down Syndrome Foundation. Patron's packages include the Monday champagne reception and dinner at Meadowood, admission to all matches, courtside luncheons and beverages, Friday evening's barbecue with a western theme, and Saturday evening's gala dinner and dance.

Your Letters (3)

Benefactor's packages are available for a donation of \$1,000 per person. They include above benefits plus round-trip airfare on Continental Airlines from any city in the US served by Continental, three nights free rooming (double occupancy) at Meadowood, Sonoma Mission Inn or Vintner's Inn (depending on availability), a Friday luncheon with a participating winery proprietor or winemaker, and a special croquet clinic on Sunday.

Editor's Note: Great Britain has been allocated three extra places in this tournament and the eight players representing us are: Keith Aiton, Mark Avery, Michael Heap, Andrew Hope, John McCullough, Steve Mulliner, Martin Murray and Keith Wylie.

Dear Sir.

I read with interest the article by Bernard Neal in the July copy of 'Croquet' on the motions passed in Council on 'professionalism in croquet' and I note that comments from members will be welcomed.

In company with Ken Cotterell and many others, I do not wish to see croquet follow the path of many sports following their adoption of professionalism. The prospect of high monetary rewards seems inevitably to lead to gamesmanship, ill-feeling, time-wasting, arguing with the referee, etc (as so often seen in tennis).

At present, members of all abilities are welcomed into a friendly atmosphere and they can enjoy the game at any level. The prospect of big prize money would attract people to the game for what they could get out of it; not, as at present, for what they can put into it. I fear that Steve Mulliner, in speaking of the 'reasonably refined and intelligent' people who are not likely to change in a hurry, is falling into the same trap that many well-intentioned people have done

Continued on page 26

Schools Championship: Eastern Region

Report by Ionathan Collis

The exigencies of the Schools' competition tend to produce regions reminiscent in shape and composition of a particularly devious example of Tammanu Hall gerrymandering. Within the Eastern region were only four schools (but eight teams) from Maidstone, Dulwich, Colchester and Bedford.

Frustrated in his desire for a Midlands-style mega-tournament by the distances involved, lack of lawns, A-levels and the like, the Regional Secretary decided on two miniature tournaments, one involving the Dulwich and Maidstone Grammar teams. and one the Colchester RGS and Bedford Modern sides. In the former case a devious though

The Cambridge

Report by Tim Harrison

The Cambridge Croquet

Cuppers competition has been

running for over twenty years

now, and in many ways is quite

unique. For a start the number of

entrants must make it one of the

world's largest croquet competi-

tions - in 1984, 372 pairs

entered making a massive total of

744 players! There is then the

variety of lawns complete with

their own local rules, the variety

in the styles and standards of play

and finally the variety in laws

despite all the efforts of the

ised as a knockout for pairs, open

to any of the ten thousand

university students (with the

proviso that both partners in a

pair must be at the same college).

Prior to this year there were no

restrictions on the entry with the

result that the competition didn't

always get finished in term time.

Only four years ago when the

final was a best of three, the first

and last games were separated by

a couple of months, which was no

For the first time this year,

Cuppers was sponsored by

Laurent Perrier Champagne,

which added a very definite

Cambridge Cuppers is organ-

croquet club.

Cuppers

effective device produced a winner in the shape of Dulwich 'A', while in the latter the match at Wrest Park had a few problems before it even started.

The Colchester secretary/ captain/factotum seriously underestimated the time it would take to get from Colchester to Wrest Park, and the tardiness of their arrival was exacerbated by a frantic series of 'phone calls from a call-box to warn the Bedford teams that the match would be delayed. In the end, over an hour and a quarter after play was due to start the match began. Colchester RGS 'A' played Bedford Modern 'B', and CRGS 'B' played Bedford 'A'.

On the slow, uneven and

pitted courts both Colchester teams won 3-0, and so while the Bedford teams left rather than grind through a third/fourth play-off they were left to play out to the end.

In a match punctuated only by the eerie cries of stray peafowl and barely-stifled curses the first triple peel of the competition was completed by, surprise, surprise, Robert Fulford.

In the Regional Final on the next day at Colchester, Dulwich 'A' met CRGS 'A', who had hacked their way past their 'B' team 2-1. The lawns were perhaps faster than Dulwich had been used to, and their good eye for the ball could not make up for the better tactics and breakmaking of the Colchester side, which ran out 3-0 winners.

In this, my second (and last!) year of being Eastern Region Secretary, I have noted one or

two things. The most striking feature of the competition has been the way in which raw talent has been exposed; even by playing on bits of the cricket field a few times a week or less, some skill has become evident. However the absence of nearby clubs, or a lack of enthusiasm on the part of the club to make overtures to schools means that this talent is effectively being wasted.

Nevertheless this year saw a lack of the sort of ignorance of the basic rules of croquet that used to occur - perhaps sending a copy of the 'Basic Laws' out to every school helped.

With time, effort, and a little imagination the present trickle of junior players into the clubs will turn into a continual source of fresh, keen club members who will secure croquet's future as a thriving sport.

jeaned Magee to score. The long shot was hit, but unfortunately the subsequent take-off was too hard, giving Corpus the title by the narrowest of margins.

All that remained was to present the prizes and for the audience to have a glass or two of Laurent Perrier champagne. How marvellous it is to see a champagne house involved with croquet and how encouraging it was to see such a merry crowd.

Your Letters (Continued from page 25)

before him, of thinking that reasonable people will always be so. We are all human and have no guarantee for the future.

The majority of those who play really well have a natural talent, whilst no matter how hard others try, some will never achieve great success. The incentives we have at present should be sufficient, as the game should be its own reward.

The motions put forward by Council seem to me to point the right way forward, as the winner of a sponsored tournament would have the pleasure of winning, plus the small cash sum allowed by CA regulation, and the remainder of the prize would go to helping promote the game of croquet at local or national level.

Promotion of new clubs and efforts of established clubs to boost their membership are necessary to ensure a healthy future for the game and the 'ploughing back' of sponsorship money will help to maintain the momentum.

Sheila Black, Bowdon.



Keith Davis in play in the Cambridge Cuppers Final.

prestige to the event, and resulted in the event being heavily oversubscribed. There were prizes of fine champagne for all those who reached the quarter-finals and having tasted it, there was every incentive to do well. There were few shocks in the early rounds save for the top seeds. Sidney Sussex's Tim Harrison and James Hawkins going out at Jesus College, in circumstances which for your correspondent were extremely agonising, sticking in a five inch wide 2-back hoop from close range.

were no tramlines around the boundary. There was no danger of running second hoop hard and ending up in a punt heading towards King's College Chapel. There was little chance of doing

the infamous 'Portwood rush' where the mallet ball jumps clean over the other ball. There was no groundsman painting the boundary line during play (which brings up a point for the laws committee: Which is the most recent line when he is halfway round?). After playing croquet in Cambridge, one is never surprised at what's going to turn up

The finalists were the Corpus pair of Colin Wright and Keith Davis and the Jesus pair of Michael Sutcliffe and Jon Magee. Somewhat unusually the tactics of the Jesus pair were dictated by Magee's morning celebrations of his exam results, and so it was not until late in the game that he showed his prowess. The pressure of the final really told on the favourites, Wright and Davis, and but for an equalising five hoop break from Davis just before time, the Jesus pair would have won easily. Aussie unicyclist Wright then made a hoop after time and so it was up to blue-

Hunstanton: 12-14 June OVER 50's WEEKEND

Report by Vincent Camroux From the moment of arrival it was evident that this was going to be an enjoyable weekend and the format (a six-round Swiss made up of two games a day played on the Bray system; plus an optional extra game a day if desired) fully confirmed this.

Entries were dominated by East Anglian Clubs - only Bill Lamb and Ted Scott from Hull, Betty and Vincent Camroux from Roehampton and Alan Oldham from High Wycombe coming from further away. There was a quite even spread of handicaps from 1 to 16 representing a considerable number of years experience down to relative newcomers.

It was unfortunate that Jane Neville Rolfe was unable to play because of back trouble and that Pat Hampson had a previous engagement which prevented her playing. However Sarah Hampson not only managed the event with her usual efficiency but also managed to play and was only narrowly pipped for the runner up position, losing the last game by 3.

At the half way stage it was nice to see the two 16 players (Betty Camroux and Barney Butler from Ipswich) were going well. It is true that Betty then lost the last three games by the narrow margins of 5, 7 and 4 giving Bill Lamb his closest match in the process but she can be well pleased with her results. Barney ran Bill very close and was rewarded for his weekend efforts with a handicap reduction.

As already intimated Bill Lamb was the winner without losing a match whilst his Hull clubmate, Ted Scott, was runner up with the best plus score of those who won four games out of six. Ron Gosden had the misfortune to break his mallet in the middle of one match - the metal shaft breaking off quite cleanly in the middle of the head - but even so he managed to break even as far as games won and lost - as did his wife, Beryl.

As far as the writer recalls there was only one whitewash and that was of John Wood by Bill Lamb (who else?) which was perhaps all the more surprising as John was generally playing well and was one of those who finished with 4 points out of 6.

The Colchester contingent of Pat Hetherington, Don Cornelius and Nick and Betty Carter all

Woking: 26 June-5 July RESULTS

Challenge Cup

(Open Singles: Less than 8 bisques) 4 wins: C. Southern; A.J. Mrozinski; G. Vince 2 wins: J. Haigh; R.J. Smith; A.

Lindley; M. Tompkinson Play-Off

(Single ball)

Southern bt Vince +5: Mrozinski bt Vince +5; Southern bt Mrozinski +1 Caporn Caskets

(Open Singles: 8 bisques or over)

4 wins: J.L. Wankling (Winner); G. Cuttle (Runner-up) 3 wins: Mrs V. Tompkinson: H.B.

Brownsdon; Mrs J. McDiarmid 2 wins: I.G. McDiarmid

1 win: Mrs P.V. Healy 0 wins: Mrs W. Jones

Open Doubles Cup Semi-Finals

Lindley & Maude bt Mrozinski & Cuttle +5; Southern & Haigh bt Vince & McDiarmid +6

seemed to find the going heavy as did John Reeve, Alan Oldham and Harry Green, although Harry (like Bill Lamb) did not appear to have heard of the proposition that lying on the ground to line up shots is bad for the health of the over 50's. There was considerable sympathy for Betty Carter who gallantly played all her six matches although in constant pain from her hip.

Needless to say the Hunstanton ladies again provided admirable refreshments each day; the weather in this so far dreadful 'summer' managed to put on a reasonably brave 'front' and all the games with few exceptions proceeded at the sedate pace in keeping with the inclinations of the 'silver oldies' involved. All in all a notable first for Hunstanton; a few more entries please next year and may other clubs follow suit and stage similar age restricted events!



Bill Lamb - unbeaten.

RESULTS **Handicap Swiss** 6 wins: W.E. Lamb (11/2) 4 wins: E.E. Scott (31/2) (Runnerup); F.H. Butler (16); Miss S.G. Hampson (4); A.V. Camroux (1);

T. Wood (2) 3 wins: Mrs Camroux (16); R.A. Gosden (4)

Southern & Haigh bt Lindley & Maude +17

Tournament News & Results

McDiarmid +3

Yellow Block

A. McCormack (5)

Blue Block

Tompkinson (6)

Black Block

Vale (71/2)

McDiarmid (8)

Red Block

Event D

Event B1

(Advanced Play: American) 4 wins: M.G. Tompkinson (Winner); D.C.D. Wiggins

3 wins: C. Southern; R.J. Smith 1 win: J.S. Maude

0 wins: F.H. Newman **Event B2**

(Level Play: American) 4 wins: J. Haigh

3 wins: Mrs V. Tompkinson (Runnerup): Mrs W.J. Browne 2 wins: Mrs P.V. Healy; G. Cuttle

1 win: Mrs W.G. Jones

Event B3 (Open Doubles) Block A

1. C. Southern & D.C.D. Wiggins 2. J.S. Maude & G. Cuttle

3. Mr & Mrs Tompkinson

Block B

1. R.J. Smith & J. Haigh 2. F.H. Newman & Mrs J. McDiarmid 3. Mrs P.V. Healu & Mrs W. Jones

Play-Off Southern & Wiggins bt Smith & Haigh +5

Event C (Handicap Doubles)

Semi-Finals A. Lindley & Mrs J. McDiarmid (81/2) bt R.J. Smith & M. Young (10) +7; J. Haigh & J.L. Wankling (11) bt Mr & Mrs M.G. Tompkinson (8) +8

5 wins: A. Lindley (21/2) (Winner); G. Cuttle (8) 4 wins: S.J. Wright (-1) 3 wins: T. Vale (5) 2 wins: Mrs G. Vincent (10)

Haigh & Wankling bt Lindley & Mrs

5 wins: M.G. Tompkinson (2)

3 wins: L. Wharrad (1); J. Haigh (4);

4 wins: Dr P.A. Watson (5) (Runner-

3 wins: M.J.C. Young (8); Mrs M.G.

2 wins: B.P. Whitehouse (3); Mrs M.

1 win: R.A. Gosden (4); I.G.

(Handicap Play: American)

(Winner); M.D. Town (12)

2 wins: R.E. Vincent (71/2)

0 wins: Mrs W. Jones (8)

5 wins: D. Goulding (3)

up); Mrs J. McDiarmid (6)

2 wins: J.S. Maude (21/2)

0 wins: E.C. Matthews (11)

6 wins: R.T.H. Barnes (8)

5 wins: G.A. Vince (21/2)

4 wins: J.L. Wankling (6)

1 win: Mrs B. Gosden (8); Mrs P.V. Healy (7)

Bristol: 27-28 June RESULTS

Latham Cup (Handicap Play)

Semi-Finals

E. Duckworth (11) bt Mrs R. Gugan (51/2) +9; L. Latham (0) bt R. Jenkins (3) + 5

Final

Duckworth bt Latham +26

Progressive Swiss

3 wins: R. Jenkins (3) + 30; K. Carter (4½) +24; A. Sammons (6½) +30 2 wins: Mrs D. Latham (51/2) + 14; K. Bright (14) +9; Mrs R. Gugan (51/2) +6; D. Gugan (8) -1; D. Ruscombe-King (4½) -14; A. Bray (8) -25 1 win: R. Danby (10) +2; J. Exell (51/2) -16; Mrs A. Sammons (15) -19; Mrs E. Asa-Thomas (3) -49 0 wins: D. Gillett (8) -52

Himley: 4-5 July RESULTS

Block A (Advanced Play)

5 wins: J. Potter 4 wins: T.P. Greenwood

3 wins: P.J. Dorke

2 wins: G. Anderson 0 wins: T.S. Nock

Block B

(Level Play) 5 wins: R. Weaver

3 wins: D. Willetts (Runner-up); A. Ramsey

2 wins: R. Davis; Miss H. Hewitson 0 wins: H.R. Stanley

Block C

(Handicap Play) 5 wins: I. Aldridge

3 wins: K.F.H. Townsend 2 wins: K. Fennell; Mrs H. Potter;

B. Christmas 1 win: Mrs F. Townsend

Glasgow: 27-28 June Scottish CA win annual match against the English

Rod Williams and John Surgenor led the Scottish team to a convincing win over their English counterparts when their annual match against the CA was played at Glasgow at the end of June.

With 6 matches already in the bag, it was agreed not to complete the unfinished matches as some of the CA side had a long return journey.

RESULTS

(Scottish names first)

Doubles Rod Williams & John Surgenor bt Barry Keen & Jim Potter +17, +17 Paul Stoker +11, +13 Bob Maclean & David Warhurst bt Mike Wilkins & Derek Trotman +1(T), +9(T)

Griethuysen bt David Appleton &

Singles Rod Williams bt Barry Keen +12,

John Surgenor bt Jim Potter +16,

Ian Wright drew with Paul Stoker +2, George Anderson bt Mike Wilkins

+15. +1 David Warhurst drew with David Appleton +10, -2

Corla van Griethuvsen drew with George Anderson & Corla van Derek Trotman +3, -17

reflection on the quality of play, I hasten to add. However, now The final was held in the lush Cuppers is being sponsored, the surroundings of Leckhampton, a entry is restricted to 256 pairs to graduate hostel for Corpus ensure that for the May Week final there are in fact four Christi College. The lawn was finalists. Sadly this does mean quite conventional by Cambridge standards. There was no modern that no longer will it be possible to see Christ's 54 playing Queen's sculpture in third corner to wire the opponents behind. There 47, these two colleges traditionally providing the largest

Tournament News & Results

Crawley: 20-21 June Summer Rites

Report by David Williams

The first rays of the rising sun slanted between the ancient box yews as white clad figures glided from the shadow of the imposing Tower (illustration). Curtains fluttered nervously as the residents of Milton Mount speculated upon the rite being prepared to celebrate the Summer Solstice.

Calm was restored as the CACC flag flew proudly above a tent signifying that it was merely the Crawley Croquet Club preparing to welcome the guests to its first tournament in the CA calendar.

The torrential rain of the preceding week had threatened the event but the lawns were in excellent condition as the sun shone and continued to shine, turning some competitors a healthy pink. The two American blocks were managed by Nigel Gale who shortened games to 2½ hours in a race against the forecast rain which did not, in fact, arrive until Monday. A playoff however, was thereby assured.

ft however, was thereby assured.

Reading's Bob Smith was a

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clear winner of Block A. His energetic shooting caused him to spend much time among the surrounding shrubs in the company of squirrels and parkkeepers. He also delivered a sharp challenge to a Block B heel which had unwisely stepped over the boundary boards when lining up a rush.

Block B drew a fascinated crowd as Margaret Selmes from Reigate pegged out one of her opponent's balls and went doggedly on to win in a tense finish which left husband Ron in need of treatment. Gale secured his fourth win with a two ball break from 6 to rover against the clock which left Williams needing a 24 point win in his last game to reach the play-off. This proved beyond him despite a very promising opening break to

The play-off between Smith and Gale gave the spectators an opportunity to witness advanced play which is not yet seen frequently on these lawns. Gale emerged victorious to keep the trophy in Sussex during its inaugural year.

Presenting the prizes, Club Chairman Len Nash congratulated the winner and thanked everyone for making the weekend a success. He was particularly grateful to the ladies for offering tea on the innovatory basis of 'All you can eat and drink for 50p'.

As the sun set and all signs of the recent rituals were removed from view, Nigel Gale conducted the last rites by awarding handicap reductions to Margaret Selmes and David Williams whom he nominated to set down a record of the ceremonies.



Crawley's Clubbouse at Ridleys Court.

RESULTS

Crawley Challenge Trophy (American: Handicap play)

Block A

5 wins: R. Smith (2). 3 wins: C. Ware (8) -1; A.J. Oldham

(9) -4. 2 wins: J. Prior (6).

2 wins: J. Prior (6). 1 win: R. Selmes (13) - 37; S. Ware

(12) -54. Block B

4 wins: N. Gale (2) +51; D. Williams (7) +32.

3 wins: R. Pennant-Jones (6).

2 wins: R. Jackman (14). 1 win: M. Selmes (18) -38; J.

Knight (6) -44.

Budleigh

Salterton:

29 June-4 July
RESULTS

South West of England Championship (Advanced Play)

Block A 5 wins: D.J. Goacher

3 wins: B.G. Perry (Runner-up), Dr W.R.D. Wiggins 2 wins: J.H.J. Soutter, P.A. Gregg

0 wins: L.S. Butler Block B

4 wins: Mrs W.R.D. Wiggins (Winner), Dr P.D.B. West 3 wins: H.G. Drake

2 wins: Dr D.R. Laney
1 win: F.L. Shergold, Rev C.H.
Townshend

Play-Off Goacher bt Mrs Wiggins +15

The Longman Cup (Advanced Play: Swiss)

4 wins: P. Howell
3 wins: W. Broad-Thomas (Runner-

up), N.M. Griffin, M.J. Haggerston, J.G. Hatherley

2 wins: Mrs K. Yeoman, J. McBurnie-Wood, Mrs M. Langley, H.G.T. Bolton, Mrs D.J. Croker, P. Meekin, R.W. Newnham

1 win: Mrs P. Dwerryhouse, Miss F. McCoig

0 wins: P. Dwerryhouse, W.A. Scarr, Rev S. Scarr, P.K.L. Danks

The Stone Challenge Cup (Swiss: Handicap Play: 8 bisques or over)

4 wins: M. Boardman (12) 3 wins: T. Bower (18), R. Selmes (13), Mrs Selmes (18), Dr C.W. Marshall (13)

2 wins: Mrs B.G. Perry (8), Miss M. Hardman (9), G. Iredale (9), Miss P. Kendall (8), D.R. Wickham (12), Mrs Marshall (11), Mrs R. Stevens (11)

1 win: Lt Cdr A. Wickham (9), Dr C.J. Davey (9), Miss A.E. Dawson (10), Mrs Y. Arnold

0 wins: Mrs Cruden (10), Mrs Broad-Thomas (12), Miss P. Lewis (12)

The Oliver Bowl (Handicap Singles)

1st Round

P. Howell (6) bt Mrs B.G. Perry (8) +17; Dr D.R. Laney (11/2) bt J.H.J. Soutter (21/2) +23; N.M. Griffin (6) bt D.R.T. Wickham (12) +16 Mrs S. Wiggins (-1/2) bt Rev S.M. Scarr (5) +13; P. Danks (51/2) bt Dr C.J.C. Davey +1(T); J.C. Hatherley (51/2) bt R.H. Selmes (13) +19; H.G.T. Bolton (51/2) bt Lt Cdr Wickham (9) +9; T. Bower (16) bt Miss M. Harding (9) +11; Rev C. Townshend (3) bt F.L. Shergold (1/2); Miss F. McCoig (7) bt Mrs Y. Arnold (10) +17; W. Broad-Thomas (3½) bt Mrs P.M. Lewis (12) +9: H.G. Drake (21/2) bt Dr W.R.D. Wiggins (0) + 12

2nd Round

M. Boardman (12) bt P.A. Gregg (5½) +14; J. McBurnie-Wood (5½) bt L.S. Butler (1) +11; Mrs P.A. Dwerryhouse (6½) bt D.J. Croker $(-1\frac{1}{2})$ + 20; Dr P.D.B. West $(1\frac{1}{2})$ bt Mrs H. Cruden (10) +11; Miss A.E. Dawson (10) bt Mrs J. Broad-Thomas (12) +7(T); Howell bt Dr Laney +3; Mrs Wiggins bt Griffin +8; Hatherley bt Danks; Bower bt Bolton +20; Miss McCoig bt Townshend +17; Drake bt Broad-Thomas +3; P. Meekin (31/2) bt W.A. Scarr (7) +4; P.A. Dwerryhouse (61/2) bt Mrs R.H. Selmes (16) + 14: D.J. Goacher (1/2) bt Mrs K.G. Yeoman (5) +13; B.G. Perry (1) bt Mrs C. Bagnall (71/2) +7(T); Mrs M. Langley (71/2) bt M.J.B. Haggerston $(4^{1/2}) + 14$

3rd Round

Boardman bt McBurnie-Wood +12; West bt Mrs Dwerryhouse +5; Miss Dawson bt Howell +18; Mrs Wiggins bt Hatherley +5; Miss McCoig bt Bower +12; Meekin bt Drake +3(T); Goacher bt Dwerryhouse +21; Perry bt Mrs Langley +4

4th Round

West bt Boardman +15; Miss Dawson bt Mrs Wiggins +26; Miss McCoig bt Meekin +25; Goacher bt Perry +9

Semi-Finals

Miss Dawson bt West +10(T); Goacher bt Miss McCoig +5

Final

Goacher bt Miss Dawson +5

Coaches corner

more shots with which to adjust

the position of Yellow, ie the

roquet and the take-off to Black.

An Introduction to Wiring

By Allen Parker (Parkstone)

There is a saying that the mark of a first class player is not how he plays the break, but how he ends it. One way of ending it is to wire the opponent's balls either from each other or from one's own balls. In advanced play the question of wiring is complicated by the lift, and for the present purpose we shall assume that you are a middle bisquer playing a handicap game and in receipt of enough bisques to pick up and play a controlled 4-ball break. (Or you may be a high bisquer with even more bisques and the initiative to do likewise). Now the first rule for success-

ful wiring is indeed to make a break. The reason for this is obvious - a break gives you more strokes with which to accomplish your wiring scheme. It follows that you should not leave all your wiring till the end of the break, ie you should not finish the break and then, as an afterthought, start to think about wiring. The thinking should begin several points before the end of the break. The second rule is, accordingly: Think of your wiring scheme in good time. At the end of a controlled 4-ball break the making of two points will often be sufficient for the wiring scheme and we shall therefore describe the end of the break only. We shall choose a scheme that involves the minimum interference with the normal course of the break, and hence very little increase in the probability of your breaking down. The aim of the scheme is to end up with the opponent's balls DOUBLE wired across the last two hoops that you make, viz., 4-back and Penult. This will

demonstrate the general principles and when you have grasped these you will be prepared to work out slightly more difficult schemes like cross wiring at a hoop, or even cross pegging.

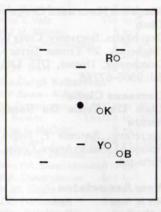


Fig 1. Position after Blue has just run 3-back.

We take up the narrative at the point where Blue has just run 3-back with a perfect 4-ball break ahead of him, ie with the position illustrated in Figure 1, in which the positions of the balls are indicated by small circles and their colours by the following letters: Blue - B. Yellow - Y. Black - K, Red - R. Blue then rushes Yellow short of Black and croquets him to Hoop 6, with a rush on Black to Red. He sends Black to the left and slightly ahead of 4-Back and roquets Red into a good position for the hoop. (As in every break, these little easy shots should be made with great care.) In approaching the hoon he places Red a foot or two North East of the hoop and wired from Penult. The position at this stage is illustrated in Figure 2.

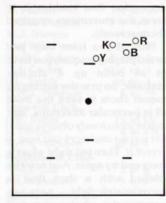


Fig 2. Position when Blue is about to run 4-back.

After running 4-Back, Blue roquets Red gently, if necessary using the take-off to Black to adjust the position of Red to the perfectly wired position, where he is destined to remain. In the take-off Blue obtains a rush on Black to just short of Yellow and croquets him to a point South of Penult (See Figure 3).

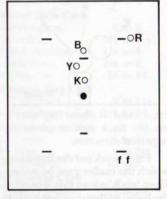


Fig 3. Position when Blue is about to run Penult.

He roquets Yellow and in approaching Penult he sends Yellow to West of the hoop to a point wired from 4-Back and Red. The positions at this stage are shown in Figure 3. After running Penult Blue has two

which each student had a chance

to discuss specific points of

What he must not do is to return to Red to adjust its position. Red's position was fixed some time ago, and if it does not lend itself to a double wire, then the wiring must be completed behind one of the hoops only. A second journey to Red can result in failure. The journey is comparatively long, and there is the danger of entanglement with the wires on both the out and return journeys, and it would be more difficult to obtain an accurate rush on Black in the take-off from Red. Thus Blue takes off from Yellow to get a good rush on Black to behind Hoop 4 (Since the take-off is at right-angles to the wiring line, Yellow will still remain wired even if it moves appreciably during the take-off). The final two shots are used to send Blue and Black to the positions indicated by the letters 'ff' on Figure 3, in which Black has a short rush to Hoop 1, and only one ball is open to Red or Yellow. A shot by Red or Yellow will

A shot by Red or Yellow will end up behind Hoop 4 where it can be picked up after making Hoop 4. In playing the second break, Black has one really difficult shot, ie the rush to Hoop 2 after making Hoop 1, but since we assume that he still has a bisque or two left, he should have no difficulty in rolling up to Hoop 2 (if necessary), laying a rush and taking a bisque. He then has a ball waiting at Hoop 3 since Yellow was almost certainly the ball that was moved.

The whole wiring procedure may at first seem complicated and fraught with danger, but in fact it has deviated little from the normal 4-ball break. There are no difficult shots involved, and there are many opportunities for adjustment if things go wrong. In particular, the attempt at a double wire provides a 'safety net' - if one wiring is not achieved, you still have the chance of the other. Try it out on the lawn, starting from the position shown in Figure 1. You will be surprised how quickly you get the idea, especially if you take bisques to complete the wiring. Practise it. It makes your practice more interesting and improves the accuracy of your break play.

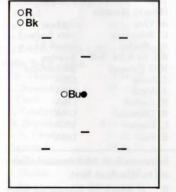
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BREAK BUILDER No 5 CA Coaching Course at Southwick

by Keith Aiton



It is the fourth turn of the game and you are to play with Yellow. How would you set up a break using a maximum of two bisques? (Solution on Page 30.)

the beginning of the season.

There were 12 players, and 6 coaches – Peter Danks, Chris Hudson, Tom Anderson, Ray Ransom, Tommy Vale, and

This was one of several coaching

courses organised by the CA at

The first day of the course dealt with some of the more diffiult strokes, hoop approaches to get more rushes, improving 4-ball breaks, and constructing

had plenty of attention!

Frances Ransom - so everyone

breaks with bisques.
Day 2 covered cannons, rover
peels and leave techniques, the
strategy of bisque taking, 3-ball
endings, and a review of some of
the Laws. At the end of the course
there was a 'clinic' session, during

Tommy Vale shows how!

Coaches Corner

Hoop Approaches

By Chris Hudson

Some form of split shot will be required when approaching a hoop from the side. More often than not, you will have to play your croquet stroke so that the front ball goes behind the hoop, where it will give you an easy return roquet after you have made the hoop. Your own ball obviously needs to go in front of the hoop, at an easy distance to

In my next article, I shall deal with how you send the two balls the correct distance, but in this article I want to concentrate on how to get the balls to go in the right direction.

First, the front ball. Simply place your ball behind it on the line that you want the front ball to go (See Fig 1). Then stand back from the balls and make sure that a line through their centres does indeed point towards where you want the front ball to go.

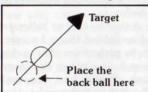


Fig 1. Lining up the croquet shot to get the front ball to go in the right direction.

Return to the balls and make sure that they are touching. It is very easy for the balls to move apart slightly, due to wind or sloping lawn, and if they are not touching, then you have no control over the direction of the

Now play the shot and observe where the front ball goes. If it does not go in the right direction, then you have misplaced the backward ball when setting up the shot.

Provided the balls are in contact, the front ball will always travel along the line of centres regardless of the direction in which you hit the back ball. If you don't believe this, then line up the front ball to hit the peg and when playing the stroke, hit the back ball in a variety of directions. See what I mean?

Have you ever wondered, when playing tennis, how it is that you can focus on the spot to which you want to play the ball, and it just goes there? You send no conscious signal to the brain telling it how to control your stroke, but the ball goes exactly where you wanted it. Why? Simply because you have observed the result of similar shots over many years, and your brain has stored a vast amount of

information that enables it to assess the movements required subconsciously.

Now if you have only just started playing croquet, you have got to build up a similar databank. So practise setting up croquet shots to send the front ball in particular directions, and always consciously observe what goes wrong and work out how to correct it. Then put right what is wrong and try again. And don't be satisfied with a shot that is approximately right - note any discrepancies whatsoever, and correct for them.

Getting the back ball to go in the right direction is dependent on the direction in which you swing your mallet. The stroke should be played so that it bisects the angle between the lines along which the balls will travel (See Fig 2). So any discrepancy in the direction of the back ball means that you have swung your mallet along the wrong line.

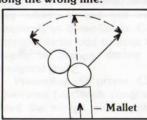


Fig 2. Aim at about half way to get the back ball to go in the required direction.

First, work out the line along which the mallet must be swung. Then 'stalk' along this line up to the balls, so that your feet get into the right position for the shot. It is no good positioning yourself and then deciding to change the direction of your stroke. If you do change your mind, then stand back and stalk the balls again.

Once again, the key to progress is practice - and feedback. Note with each practice shot where the back ball has gone. If it is too far to the right, then you have swung your mallet too far to the right. Work out what has gone wrong and try again.

Always aim at something definite - another ball or the peg - and always analyse the result of your stroke critically. If the back ball just misses the target, that isn't good enough. Compensate for your error and try again - and again. In a short time, you will find yourself making remarkable progress, because you are in control of the situation.

Break Builder No 5: Solution

Shoot at Red from B baulk. If you miss, take a bisque and roquet Red. With a little stop shot. obtain a rush on Black into court. Rush Black towards Blue. Either

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Black will finish North of Blue or South of Blue.

1. If Black is North of Blue, then croquet Black to the first hoop, roquet Blue and croquet it to the second hoop. Then go off behind Red, take a second bisque and rush Red to a pivot position

between first and second. Takeoff to Black at first.

Australia

Australia

France

France

USA

USA

USA

USA

USA

New Zealand

South Africa

Switzerland

2. If Black is South of Blue, then croquet Black to the second hoop, roquet Blue and croquet it to the first hoop. Then go off behind Red and take a second bisque as above.

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D. Palmer

R. Ransom

16 to 15

3 to 21/2

1 to 1/2

1 to 2

11/2 to 1/2

4 to 31/2

N.G. Hyne

M. Suter

0 to -1

1 to -1/2

A.J. Symons

8 to 61/2

Southwick: 15-20	June	e		1
F.A. Beard		ST 10 M	12	1
Sir A.C.F. Armstron			12	1
Edgbaston: 19-21			914	i
S. Packer P. Gregg	3½ 4½			1
P.J. Dorke	31/2			1
Bath Club				I
M. Boardman 16	D14	to	14D12	
Woking: 26 June -	5 Ju	ly		I
G. Vince	21/2		100	i
R.A. Gosden		to	-	
J.L. Wankling Mrs T. Vale	71/2			1
R.T.H. Barnes		to		I
Mrs I.G. McDiarmid	6	to	51/2	•
G. Cuttle			71/2	1
M.D. Town		to	10	1
Budleigh Salterto 29 June - 4 July	n:			1
M. Boardman 14	ID12	to	12D10	(
T. Bower 18	BD14	to	16D14	(
Miss F. McCoig		to		I
			14D12	1
Miss A.E. Dawson	10			I
Mrs P.A. Dwerryhouse P.A. Dwerryhouse	61/2			I
N.M. Griffin		to		1
J.C. Hatherley	51/2		-	
Miss P.E. Kendall	8			I
Miss F. McCoig			61/2	(
W.A. Scarr Mrs M.E. Selmes		to D1		1
Glasgow: 27-28 J		נטו	*	
J. Surgenor		to	21/2	(
Dr D. Warhurst			41/2	
Himley: 4-5 July				Ī
Miss H. Hewitson	7	to	61/2	1
R. Davis			61/2	
R. Weaver	41/2	to	31/2	F
Compton Club	16		15	
Miss D. Martin		to	15	ŀ
Southwick: 6-11 J J.P. Ames		to	4	1
J. Haigh		to		1
Mrs N.W.T. Cox	41/2	to	5	N
Miss B.E. Dennant			71/2	1
W.E. Moore	31/2	to		1
D.W. Shaw J. Exell	51/2			I
Mrs A. Millns			11	F
Colchester: 6-11 J	luly			F
Before Play				N
C. Docherty	10			1
J. Collis	9	to	8	I
After Play C. Docherty	Q	to	7	N
R. Jones			51/2	A
F.H. Butler		D		F
Mrs C. Steward		D		I
J. Eden			31/2	(
A. Gregory D. Reeve	31/2		21/2	ı
Bowdon Club	3	10	2-72	N
D.G. Lendrum	7	to	6	E
East Riding: 11-12				J
Dr R. Gillespie	11		9	H
Mrs A. Jones	14			J
A.F. Sutcliffe	11/2			N
D. Dudeney	13			N
Dr R.R. Sutherland Mrs E. Shotton	41/2			E
Mrs J. Walker	13			A
Mrs B. Sutcliffe		to		C
Hurlingham: 11-18	Jul	y		S
K.F. Wylie	-2			L
Miss J. MacLeod			11/2	H
Dr I.G. Vincent S.E. Lewis	-1/2 -11/2			J
G.W. Noble		to		J
D. Palmer			-1/2	N

R. Fulford	
	1½ to -1/2
D.C.D. Wiggins	1½ to 1
M.J. Stevens	½ to 0
Prof B.G. Neal	-1½ to -1
Dr B.C. Sykes	-1½ to -1
D.J. Croker	-1½ to -1
P.L. Smith	-1/2 to -1
D.N.S. Peterson	0 to -1/2
Ipswich Club	
F.H. Butler	15 to 13
L. Palmer	4 to 3½
Mrs C. Steward	
	10 to 9
Southwick Club	
N.W.T. Cox	3 to 4
P.J. Mansfield	9 to 8
QEGS Blackburn	
A. Grimbaldeston	16 to 13
Edgbaston: 17-19	
A. Gregory	3 to 21/2
A. J. Symons	10 to 8
Cheltenham: 20-	
C.D. Clark	1 to 0
D. Harrison	18 to 16
Mrs D. Lenfestey	8 to 6
P. Leach	5 to 4½
D. Maugham	41/2 to 4
I. Maugham	½ to 0
Miss F. McCoig	6½ to 5
J. Reeve	6 to 4
D.C. Reeve	21/2 to 2
C. Ross	6 to 4
Wrest Park Club	0.10.1
	0 + 0
J. Bevington	9 to 8
G. Collin	3½ to 2½
Mrs J. Anderson	4½ to 4
J. Watson	2½ to 2
W. Wortley	16 to 14
Harrow Oak Club)
J.R. Hilditch	2 to 11/2
A.K. Gregory	21/2 to 2
Cheltenham Club	
K. Carter	5 to 4½
M. Finn	4 to 3½
	4 10 372
	10 to 5
J.J. Jackson	10 to 5
J.J. Jackson Ellesmere Club	
J.J. Jackson Ellesmere Club Mrs D.C. Dennett	10 to 5 14 to 13
J.J. Jackson Ellesmere Club	
J.J. Jackson Ellesmere Club Mrs D.C. Dennett	
J.J. Jackson Ellesmere Club Mrs D.C. Dennett Parkstone Club	14 to 13
J.J. Jackson Ellesmere Club Mrs D.C. Dennett Parkstone Club L.S. Butler	14 to 13 1 to 1½ 5½ to 4
J.J. Jackson Ellesmere Club Mrs D.C. Dennett Parkstone Club L.S. Butler D. Purdon F.L. Shergold	14 to 13 1 to 1½ 5½ to 4 ½ to 1½
J.J. Jackson Ellesmere Club Mrs D.C. Dennett Parkstone Club L.S. Butler D. Purdon F.L. Shergold Edgbaston: 31 Ju	14 to 13 1 to 1½ 5½ to 4 ½ to 1½ 11 to 1½
J.J. Jackson Ellesmere Club Mrs D.C. Dennett Parkstone Club L.S. Butler D. Purdon F.L. Shergold Edgbaston: 31 Ju R. Collighan	14 to 13 1 to 1½ 5½ to 4 ½ to 1½ 2 to 1½ 2 to 4 ½ to 1½ 2 to 4 ½ to 1½
J.J. Jackson Ellesmere Club Mrs D.C. Dennett Parkstone Club L.S. Butler D. Purdon F.L. Shergold Edgbaston: 31 Ju R. Collighan Miss F. McCoig	14 to 13 1 to 1½ 5½ to 4 ½ to 1½ ily - 2 Aug 6 to 4½ 5 to 4½
J.J. Jackson Ellesmere Club Mrs D.C. Dennett Parkstone Club L.S. Butler D. Purdon F.L. Shergold Edgbaston: 31 Ju R. Collighan Miss F. McCoig Ipswich: 31 July	14 to 13 1 to 1½ 5½ to 4 ½ to 1½ ily - 2 Aug 6 to 4½ 5 to 4½ - 2 Aug
J.J. Jackson Ellesmere Club Mrs D.C. Dennett Parkstone Club L.S. Butler D. Purdon F.L. Shergold Edgbaston: 31 Ju R. Collighan Miss F. McCoig Ipswich: 31 July D. Cornelius	14 to 13 1 to 1½ 5½ to 4 ½ to 1½ 119 - 2 Aug 6 to 4½ 5 to 4½ - 2 Aug 7 to 8
J.J. Jackson Ellesmere Club Mrs D.C. Dennett Parkstone Club L.S. Butler D. Purdon F.L. Shergold Edgbaston: 31 Ju R. Collighan Miss F. McCoig Ipswich: 31 July D. Cornelius Miss J. Waters	14 to 13 1 to 1½ 5½ to 4 ½ to 1½ 119 - 2 Aug 6 to 4½ 5 to 4½ 5 to 4½ -2 Aug 7 to 8 13 to 14
J.J. Jackson Ellesmere Club Mrs D.C. Dennett Parkstone Club L.S. Butler D. Purdon F.L. Shergold Edgbaston: 31 July R. Collighan Miss F. McCoig Ipswich: 31 July D. Cornelius Miss J. Waters A. Schonbeck	14 to 13 1 to 1½ 5½ to 4 ½ to 1½ 11/2 11/2 2 Aug 6 to 4½ 5 to 4½ 2 To 8 13 to 14 14 to 12
J.J. Jackson Ellesmere Club Mrs D.C. Dennett Parkstone Club L.S. Butler D. Purdon F.L. Shergold Edgbaston: 31 July R. Collighan Miss F. McCoig Ipswich: 31 July D. Cornelius Miss J. Waters A. Schonbeck F.H. Butler	14 to 13 1 to 1½ 5½ to 4 ½ to 1½ aly - 2 Aug 6 to 4½ 5 to 4½ - 2 Aug 7 to 8 13 to 14 14 to 12 13 to 12
J.J. Jackson Ellesmere Club Mrs D.C. Dennett Parkstone Club L.S. Butler D. Purdon F.L. Shergold Edgbaston: 31 Ju R. Collighan Miss F. McCoig Ipswich: 31 July D. Cornelius Miss J. Waters A. Schonbeck F.H. Butler D.A. Gaunt	14 to 13 1 to 1½ 5½ to 4 ½ to 1½ aly - 2 Aug 6 to 4½ 5 to 4½ - 2 Aug 7 to 8 13 to 14 14 to 12 13 to 12 1 to ½
J.J. Jackson Ellesmere Club Mrs D.C. Dennett Parkstone Club L.S. Butler D. Purdon F.L. Shergold Edgbaston: 31 July R. Collighan Miss F. McCoig Ipswich: 31 July D. Cornelius Miss J. Waters A. Schonbeck F.H. Butler	14 to 13 1 to 1½ 5½ to 4 ½ to 1½ aly - 2 Aug 6 to 4½ 5 to 4½ - 2 Aug 7 to 8 13 to 14 14 to 12 13 to 12 1 to ½
J.J. Jackson Ellesmere Club Mrs D.C. Dennett Parkstone Club L.S. Butler D. Purdon F.L. Shergold Edgbaston: 31 Ju R. Collighan Miss F. McCoig Ipswich: 31 July D. Cornelius Miss J. Waters A. Schonbeck F.H. Butler D.A. Gaunt	14 to 13 1 to 1½ 5½ to 4 ½ to 1½ aly - 2 Aug 6 to 4½ 5 to 4½ - 2 Aug 7 to 8 13 to 14 14 to 12 13 to 12 1 to ½
J.J. Jackson Ellesmere Club Mrs D.C. Dennett Parkstone Club L.S. Butler D. Purdon F.L. Shergold Edgbaston: 31 July R. Collighan Miss F. McCoig Ipswich: 31 July D. Cornelius Miss J. Waters A. Schonbeck F.H. Butler D.A. Gaunt Harrow Oak: 1-2 G. Vince	14 to 13 1 to 1½ 5½ to 4 ½ to 1½ aly - 2 Aug 6 to 4½ 5 to 4½ - 2 Aug 7 to 8 13 to 14 14 to 12 13 to 12 1 to ½ Aug 2 to 1½
J.J. Jackson Ellesmere Club Mrs D.C. Dennett Parkstone Club L.S. Butler D. Purdon F.L. Shergold Edgbaston: 31 July R. Collighan Miss F. McCoig Ipswich: 31 July D. Cornelius Miss J. Waters A. Schonbeck F.H. Butler D.A. Gaunt Harrow Oak: 1-2 July G. Vince Loughborough: 1	14 to 13 1 to 1½ 5½ to 4 ½ to 1½ aly - 2 Aug 6 to 4½ 5 to 4½ - 2 Aug 7 to 8 13 to 14 14 to 12 13 to 12 1 to ½ Aug 2 to 1½ -7 Aug
J.J. Jackson Ellesmere Club Mrs D.C. Dennett Parkstone Club L.S. Butler D. Purdon F.L. Shergold Edgbaston: 31 July R. Collighan Miss F. McCoig Ipswich: 31 July D. Cornelius Miss J. Waters A. Schonbeck F.H. Butler D.A. Gaunt Harrow Oak: 1-2 A G. Vince Loughborough: 1 M. Boardman	14 to 13 1 to 1½ 5½ to 4 ½ to 1½ aly - 2 Aug 6 to 4½ 5 to 4½ - 2 Aug 7 to 8 13 to 14 14 to 12 13 to 12 1 to ½ Aug 2 to 1½ -7 Aug 12 to 11
J.J. Jackson Ellesmere Club Mrs D.C. Dennett Parkstone Club L.S. Butler D. Purdon F.L. Shergold Edgbaston: 31 Ju R. Collighan Miss F. McCoig Ipswich: 31 July D. Cornelius Miss J. Waters A. Schonbeck F.H. Butler D.A. Gaunt Harrow Oak: 1-2 G. Vince Loughborough: 1 M. Boardman D. Dudeney	14 to 13 1 to 1½ 5½ to 4 ½ to 1½ ily - 2 Aug 6 to 4½ 5 to 4½ - 2 Aug 7 to 8 13 to 14 14 to 12 13 to ½ Aug 2 to 1½ -7 Aug 12 to 11 14 to 12
J.J. Jackson Ellesmere Club Mrs D.C. Dennett Parkstone Club L.S. Butler D. Purdon F.L. Shergold Edgbaston: 31 Ju R. Collighan Miss F. McCoig Ipswich: 31 July D. Cornelius Miss J. Waters A. Schonbeck F.H. Butler D.A. Gaunt Harrow Oak: 1-2 G. Vince Loughborough: 1 M. Boardman D. Dudeney J.M. Farley	14 to 13 1 to 1½ 5½ to 4 ½ to 1½ aly - 2 Aug 6 to 4½ 5 to 4½ - 2 Aug 7 to 8 13 to 14 14 to 12 13 to 1½ - 2 Aug 2 to 1½ - 7 Aug 12 to 11 14 to 12 17 to 15
J.J. Jackson Ellesmere Club Mrs D.C. Dennett Parkstone Club L.S. Butler D. Purdon F.L. Shergold Edgbaston: 31 Ju R. Collighan Miss F. McCoig Ipswich: 31 July D. Cornelius Miss J. Waters A. Schonbeck F.H. Butler D.A. Gaunt Harrow Oak: 1-2 G. Vince Loughborough: 1 M. Boardman D. Dudeney J.M. Farley H.M. Hall	14 to 13 1 to 1½ 5½ to 4 ½ to 1½ aly - 2 Aug 6 to 4½ 5 to 4½ - 2 Aug 7 to 8 13 to 14 14 to 12 1 to ½ Aug 2 to 1½ -7 Aug 12 to 11 14 to 12 17 to 15 16 to 15
J.J. Jackson Ellesmere Club Mrs D.C. Dennett Parkstone Club L.S. Butler D. Purdon F.L. Shergold Edgbaston: 31 July R. Collighan Miss F. McCoig Ipswich: 31 July D. Cornelius Miss J. Waters A. Schonbeck F.H. Butler D.A. Gaunt Harrow Oak: 1-2 G. Vince Loughborough: 1 M. Boardman D. Dudeney J.M. Farley H.M. Hall Mrs E. Hoar	14 to 13 1 to 1½ 5½ to 4 ½ to 1½ aly - 2 Aug 6 to 4½ 5 to 4½ 5 to 4½ 2 5 to 4½ 2 5 to 4½ 2 10 1½ 2 1½ 2 Aug 7 to 8 13 to 14 14 to 12 13 to 12 13 to ½ Aug 2 to 1½ -7 Aug 12 to 11 14 to 12 17 to 15 16 to 15 18
J.J. Jackson Ellesmere Club Mrs D.C. Dennett Parkstone Club L.S. Butler D. Purdon F.L. Shergold Edgbaston: 31 July R. Collighan Miss F. McCoig Ipswich: 31 July D. Cornelius Miss J. Waters A. Schonbeck F.H. Butler D.A. Gaunt Harrow Oak: 1-2 G. Vince Loughborough: 1 M. Boardman D. Dudeney J.M. Farley H.M. Hall Mrs E. Hoar J.A. Hobbs	14 to 13 1 to 1½ 5½ to 4 ½ to 1½ aly - 2 Aug 6 to 4½ 5 to 4½ - 2 Aug 7 to 8 13 to 14 14 to 12 13 to 12 1 to ½ Aug 2 to 1½ - 7 Aug 12 to 11 14 to 12 17 to 15 16 to 15 18 17 to 14
J.J. Jackson Ellesmere Club Mrs D.C. Dennett Parkstone Club L.S. Butler D. Purdon F.L. Shergold Edgbaston: 31 Ju R. Collighan Miss F. McCoig Ipswich: 31 July D. Cornelius Miss J. Waters A. Schonbeck F.H. Butler D.A. Gaunt Harrow Oak: 1-2 G. Vince Loughborough: 1 M. Boardman D. Dudeney J.M. Farley H.M. Hall Mrs E. Hoar J.A. Hobbs Mrs M. Tope	14 to 13 1 to 1½ 5½ to 4 ½ to 1½ aly - 2 Aug 6 to 4½ 5 to 4½ - 2 Aug 7 to 8 13 to 14 14 to 12 13 to 12 1 to ½ Aug 2 to 1½ - 7 Aug 12 to 11 14 to 12 17 to 15 16 to 15 18 17 to 14 15
J.J. Jackson Ellesmere Club Mrs D.C. Dennett Parkstone Club L.S. Butler D. Purdon F.L. Shergold Edgbaston: 31 July R. Collighan Miss F. McCoig Ipswich: 31 July D. Cornelius Miss J. Waters A. Schonbeck F.H. Butler D.A. Gaunt Harrow Oak: 1-2 G. Vince Loughborough: 1 M. Boardman D. Dudeney J.M. Farley H.M. Hall Mrs E. Hoar J.A. Hobbs Mrs M. Tope Mrs S.J. Yonge	14 to 13 1 to 1½ 5½ to 4 ½ to 1½ aly - 2 Aug 6 to 4½ 5 to 4½ - 2 Aug 7 to 8 13 to 14 14 to 12 13 to 12 1 to ½ Aug 2 to 1½ - 7 Aug 12 to 11 14 to 12 17 to 15 16 to 15 18 17 to 14 15 18
J.J. Jackson Ellesmere Club Mrs D.C. Dennett Parkstone Club L.S. Butler D. Purdon F.L. Shergold Edgbaston: 31 Ju R. Collighan Miss F. McCoig Ipswich: 31 July D. Cornelius Miss J. Waters A. Schonbeck F.H. Butler D.A. Gaunt Harrow Oak: 1-2 G. Vince Loughborough: 1 M. Boardman D. Dudeney J.M. Farley H.M. Hall Mrs E. Hoar J.A. Hobbs Mrs M. Tope Mrs S.J. Yonge Budleigh Salterto	14 to 13 1 to 1½ 5½ to 4 ½ to 1½ aly - 2 Aug 6 to 4½ 5 to 4½ - 2 Aug 7 to 8 13 to 14 14 to 12 13 to 12 1 to ½ Aug 2 to 1½ - 7 Aug 12 to 11 14 to 12 17 to 15 16 to 15 18 17 to 14 15 18 on Club
J.J. Jackson Ellesmere Club Mrs D.C. Dennett Parkstone Club L.S. Butler D. Purdon F.L. Shergold Edgbaston: 31 July R. Collighan Miss F. McCoig Ipswich: 31 July D. Cornelius Miss J. Waters A. Schonbeck F.H. Butler D.A. Gaunt Harrow Oak: 1-2 G. Vince Loughborough: 1 M. Boardman D. Dudeney J.M. Farley H.M. Hall Mrs E. Hoar J.A. Hobbs Mrs M. Tope Mrs S.J. Yonge Budleigh Salterto A.J. Wasdell	14 to 13 1 to 1½ 5½ to 4 ½ to 1½ aly - 2 Aug 6 to 4½ 5 to 4½ - 2 Aug 7 to 8 13 to 14 14 to 12 13 to 12 1 to ½ Aug 2 to 1½ -7 Aug 12 to 11 14 to 12 17 to 15 16 to 15 18 17 to 14 15 18 on Club 1D10 to 9
J.J. Jackson Ellesmere Club Mrs D.C. Dennett Parkstone Club L.S. Butler D. Purdon F.L. Shergold Edgbaston: 31 Ju R. Collighan Miss F. McCoig Ipswich: 31 July D. Cornelius Miss J. Waters A. Schonbeck F.H. Butler D.A. Gaunt Harrow Oak: 1-2 G. Vince Loughborough: 1 M. Boardman D. Dudeney J.M. Farley H.M. Hall Mrs E. Hoar J.A. Hobbs Mrs M. Tope Mrs S.J. Yonge Budleigh Salterto	14 to 13 1 to 1½ 5½ to 4 ½ to 1½ aly - 2 Aug 6 to 4½ 5 to 4½ - 2 Aug 7 to 8 13 to 14 14 to 12 13 to 12 1 to ½ Aug 2 to 1½ - 7 Aug 12 to 11 14 to 12 17 to 15 16 to 15 18 17 to 14 15 18 on Club
J.J. Jackson Ellesmere Club Mrs D.C. Dennett Parkstone Club L.S. Butler D. Purdon F.L. Shergold Edgbaston: 31 July R. Collighan Miss F. McCoig Ipswich: 31 July D. Cornelius Miss J. Waters A. Schonbeck F.H. Butler D.A. Gaunt Harrow Oak: 1-2 G. Vince Loughborough: 1 M. Boardman D. Dudeney J.M. Farley H.M. Hall Mrs E. Hoar J.A. Hobbs Mrs M. Tope Mrs S.J. Yonge Budleigh Salterto A.J. Wasdell G.H. Webb	14 to 13 1 to 1½ 5½ to 4 ½ to 1½ aly - 2 Aug 6 to 4½ 5 to 4½ - 2 Aug 7 to 8 13 to 14 14 to 12 13 to 12 1 to ½ Aug 2 to 1½ -7 Aug 12 to 11 14 to 12 17 to 15 16 to 15 18 17 to 14 15 18 on Club 1D10 to 9
J.J. Jackson Ellesmere Club Mrs D.C. Dennett Parkstone Club L.S. Butler D. Purdon F.L. Shergold Edgbaston: 31 July R. Collighan Miss F. McCoig Ipswich: 31 July D. Cornelius Miss J. Waters A. Schonbeck F.H. Butler D.A. Gaunt Harrow Oak: 1-2 A G. Vince Loughborough: 1 M. Boardman D. Dudeney J.M. Farley H.M. Hall Mrs E. Hoar J.A. Hobbs Mrs M. Tope Mrs S.J. Yonge Budleigh Salterto A.J. Wasdell G.H. Webb Sidmouth Club	14 to 13 1 to 1½ 5½ to 4 ½ to 1½ aly - 2 Aug 6 to 4½ 5 to 4½ - 2 Aug 7 to 8 13 to 14 14 to 12 13 to 12 1 to ½ Aug 2 to 1½ -7 Aug 12 to 11 14 to 12 17 to 15 16 to 15 18 17 to 14 15 18 on Club 1010 to 9 10 to 9
J.J. Jackson Ellesmere Club Mrs D.C. Dennett Parkstone Club L.S. Butler D. Purdon F.L. Shergold Edgbaston: 31 July R. Collighan Miss F. McCoig Ipswich: 31 July D. Cornelius Miss J. Waters A. Schonbeck F.H. Butler D.A. Gaunt Harrow Oak: 1-2 G. Vince Loughborough: 1 M. Boardman D. Dudeney J.M. Farley H.M. Hall Mrs E. Hoar J.A. Hobbs Mrs M. Tope Mrs S.J. Yonge Budleigh Salterto A.J. Wasdell G.H. Webb Sidmouth Club L.E. Toye	14 to 13 1 to 1½ 5½ to 4 ½ to 1½ aly - 2 Aug 6 to 4½ 5 to 4½ - 2 Aug 7 to 8 13 to 14 14 to 12 13 to 12 1 to ½ Aug 2 to 1½ -7 Aug 12 to 11 14 to 12 17 to 15 16 to 15 18 17 to 14 15 18 17 to 14 15 18 18 19 Club 1010 to 9 10 to 9
J.J. Jackson Ellesmere Club Mrs D.C. Dennett Parkstone Club L.S. Butler D. Purdon F.L. Shergold Edgbaston: 31 July R. Collighan Miss F. McCoig Ipswich: 31 July D. Cornelius Miss J. Waters A. Schonbeck F.H. Butler D.A. Gaunt Harrow Oak: 1-2 A G. Vince Loughborough: 1 M. Boardman D. Dudeney J.M. Farley H.M. Hall Mrs E. Hoar J.A. Hobbs Mrs M. Tope Mrs S.J. Yonge Budleigh Salterto A.J. Wasdell G.H. Webb Sidmouth Club L.E. Toye Hurlingham: 3-8 A	14 to 13 1 to 1½ 5½ to 4 ½ to 1½ aly - 2 Aug 6 to 4½ 5 to 4½ - 2 Aug 7 to 8 13 to 14 14 to 12 13 to 12 1 to ½ Aug 2 to 1½ -7 Aug 12 to 11 14 to 12 17 to 15 16 to 15 18 17 to 14 15 18 19 10 to 9 10 to 9 12 to 11 Aug
J.J. Jackson Ellesmere Club Mrs D.C. Dennett Parkstone Club L.S. Butler D. Purdon F.L. Shergold Edgbaston: 31 Ju R. Collighan Miss F. McCoig Ipswich: 31 July D. Cornelius Miss J. Waters A. Schonbeck F.H. Butler D.A. Gaunt Harrow Oak: 1-2 G. Vince Loughborough: 1 M. Boardman D. Dudeney J.M. Farley H.M. Hall Mrs E. Hoar J.A. Hobbs Mrs M. Tope Mrs S.J. Yonge Budleigh Salterto A.J. Wasdell G.H. Webb Sidmouth Club L.E. Toye Hurlingham: 3-8 J.W.H. Carlisle	14 to 13 1 to 1½ 5½ to 4 ½ to 1½ aly - 2 Aug 6 to 4½ 5 to 4½ - 2 Aug 7 to 8 13 to 14 14 to 12 13 to 12 1 to ½ Aug 2 to 1½ -7 Aug 12 to 11 14 to 12 17 to 15 16 to 15 18 17 to 14 15 18 17 to 14 15 18 17 to 14 15 18 19 to 9 12 to 11 Aug ½ to 0
J.J. Jackson Ellesmere Club Mrs D.C. Dennett Parkstone Club L.S. Butler D. Purdon F.L. Shergold Edgbaston: 31 Ju R. Collighan Miss F. McCoig Ipswich: 31 July D. Cornelius Miss J. Waters A. Schonbeck F.H. Butler D.A. Gaunt Harrow Oak: 1-2 G. Vince Loughborough: 1 M. Boardman D. Dudeney J.M. Farley H.M. Hall Mrs E. Hoar J.A. Hobbs Mrs M. Tope Mrs S.J. Yonge Budleigh Salterto A.J. Wasdell G.H. Webb Sidmouth Club L.E. Toye Hurlingham: 3-8 J.W.H. Carlisle Kiley Jones	14 to 13 1 to 1½ 5½ to 4 ½ to 1½ aly - 2 Aug 6 to 4½ 5 to 4½ - 2 Aug 7 to 8 13 to 14 14 to 12 13 to 12 1 to ½ Aug 2 to 1½ - 7 Aug 12 to 11 14 to 12 17 to 15 16 to 15 18 17 to 14 15 18 on Club 1010 to 9 10 to 9 12 to 11 Aug ½ to 0 ½ to 0 ½ to 0
J.J. Jackson Ellesmere Club Mrs D.C. Dennett Parkstone Club L.S. Butler D. Purdon F.L. Shergold Edgbaston: 31 Ju R. Collighan Miss F. McCoig Ipswich: 31 July D. Cornelius Miss J. Waters A. Schonbeck F.H. Butler D.A. Gaunt Harrow Oak: 1-2 G. Vince Loughborough: 1 M. Boardman D. Dudeney J.M. Farley H.M. Hall Mrs E. Hoar J.A. Hobbs Mrs M. Tope Mrs S.J. Yonge Budleigh Salterto A.J. Wasdell G.H. Webb Sidmouth Club L.E. Toye Hurlingham: 3-8 J.W.H. Carlisle Kiley Jones J.D. Greenwood	14 to 13 1 to 1½ 5½ to 4 ½ to 1½ aly - 2 Aug 6 to 4½ 5 to 4½ - 2 Aug 7 to 8 13 to 14 14 to 12 13 to 12 1 to ½ Aug 2 to 1½ - 7 Aug 12 to 11 14 to 12 17 to 15 16 to 15 18 17 to 14 15 18 18 19 10 to 9 10 to 9 12 to 11 Aug ½ to 0 ½ to 0 1½ to 1
J.J. Jackson Ellesmere Club Mrs D.C. Dennett Parkstone Club L.S. Butler D. Purdon F.L. Shergold Edgbaston: 31 Ju R. Collighan Miss F. McCoig Ipswich: 31 July D. Cornelius Miss J. Waters A. Schonbeck F.H. Butler D.A. Gaunt Harrow Oak: 1-2 G. Vince Loughborough: 1 M. Boardman D. Dudeney J.M. Farley H.M. Hall Mrs E. Hoar J.A. Hobbs Mrs M. Tope Mrs S.J. Yonge Budleigh Salterto A.J. Wasdell G.H. Webb Sidmouth Club L.E. Toye Hurlingham: 3-8 J.W.H. Carlisle Kiley Jones	14 to 13 1 to 1½ 5½ to 4 ½ to 1½ aly - 2 Aug 6 to 4½ 5 to 4½ - 2 Aug 7 to 8 13 to 14 14 to 12 13 to 12 1 to ½ Aug 2 to 1½ - 7 Aug 12 to 11 14 to 12 17 to 15 16 to 15 18 17 to 14 15 18 on Club 1010 to 9 10 to 9 12 to 11 Aug ½ to 0 ½ to 0 ½ to 0

recruit

O	fficial Bus	iness			
1/2	Mrs P.V. Healy	7 to 6½			
/2	P.J. Mansfield	8 to 7			
	Mrs E. Taylor-Webb G.A. Wombwell	10 to 9 14 to 12			
	Southwick Club				
	P. Emery	6 to 7			
	E.P. Davey P. Mansfield	11 to 11D9 9 to 8			
/2	Colchester: 7-9 Au				
3	J. Collis	8 to 6			
1/2	We regret that we can caps of non-Associate				
	1987 MEMB	ERSHIP			
	RECRUIT	MENT			
	COMPETI	TION			
3	Roehampton				
	Edgbaston cha	THE RESIDENCE OF THE PERSON NAMED IN			
1/2	Congratulations	THE RESERVE TO SHARE THE PARTY OF THE PARTY			
	ton, the second cl				
	3 full members th				
6	Several new				
1/2	entered the Top 20 Is yours one of the	this month.			
-	what can you				
	because the more				
	have, the stronge	r we are.			
	At the end of the				
	clubs who have re new members fo	cruited most			
	1987 will receiv				
1/2	equal to the CA sul				
* =	those they have r	ecruited.			
	Please enco				
4	more people to joi				
1/2	help us to help you!				
	The Top (
	16 clubs.	ie current top			
1/2	Cheltenham Roel	hampton			
/2	RECORD FOR THE RESIDENCE OF THE PARTY OF THE	th Shropshire			
	Worthing Tees Thameside Com	side ipton			
3		ingham			
1/2	Ramsgate Bath				
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	election to Counci				
1	that nominations l				
2	Brian Macmillan				
	Office before 1 1988.	st rebruary			
	Nominations	should be			
/2	proposed and s	econded by			
	members of th	o Croquet			

FOR

led by Association. Candidates are invited to submit not more than 200 words stating brief biographical details and their objectives in standing for Council.

We are giving members early notice of the closing date for nominations because of the interest caused by the CA's current development activities. A contested election would enable candidates to test the strength of support for their views, whilst at the same time making sure that Council reflects the wishes of the CA membership.