

## **GROWING PAINS!**

The number of events listed in the Fixture Book has increased from 83 in 1984 to 115 in 1987. During this time, the number of players at each tournament has also increased and in the last three years, 52 new clubs have registered with the CA.

This is most exciting progress, but it has become very obvious in compiling this issue of the magazine that we are bursting at the seams, and in an effort to pack everything into 32 pages, some aspects of our usual tournament coverage have had to go.

The main difference that readers will notice is that the usual long lists of results have been considerably abbreviated. Reporting of results has been the subject of discussion for many years, and it is difficult to strike a balance between those of us who delight in compiling statistics and regard the magazine as an organ of historical record, and those of us who look for something a little more readable.

My own view is that we cannot go on reporting every single result as the number of tournaments continue to grow. 'Croquet' is the Croquet Association's magazine, and we must obviously cover our own national and regional championships in some detail. But we must also not lose sight of the fact that the grass roots of the sport is in the clubs, where our members play, and all those clubs running their weekend tournaments deserve our full support.

Perhaps we could reach a situation where individual clubs would like to write an annual report (illustrated with photographs) for inclusion in the magazine during the winter months, in which they could record details of the tournaments they ran during the season, their social activities, news of their members, and outstanding performances, either on or off the field.

During the season, the magazine could then concentrate on giving up-to-date news of the major tournaments and championships, trying to be as current as possible, and leaving space to include in each issue material of more general interest to help those members new to the game.

Should it prove essential to maintain the 'historical record' of results, then perhaps these could be published as part of a year book, or as a special supplement to the magazine.

Readers comments would be welcome! CHRIS HUDSON.

Photographs in this issue by: Owen Edwards, Tim Proctor Photography, Chris Hudson, Paul Starr, Andrew Bennet, Phyllis Court Club, Jim Sowerby (Brighton & Hove Leader), Edwards Harvey Associaes, Derek Rowe (Photos) Ltd., Eric Solomon, John McCullough, John Beech, Ray Hall

Front Cover: Dr Robert Bawden holds aloft the Lassale Rosebowl after his thrilling win in the Croquet Classic at Braxted Park.

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## SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 1988

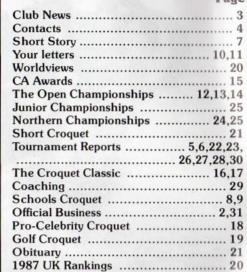
#### Pay early and receive a discount!

There will be no change in the full standard rate of subscription, but the reduced rate for non-tournament players has been slightly increased. Both classes of members paying before 1st February 1988 will, however, receive a discount.

Full details of the current subscription rates are shown below. Will those members paying by Standing Order please check with their banks to see that the correct amount is being forwarded.

Any member wishing to pay by Standing Order through his or her bank (who is not at present doing so, should contact Brian Macmillan to obtain the necessary form.

For the convenience of those who wish to pay direct or through the Bank Giro system (and avoid the charge levied by banks for



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The clubbouse forms a background to this shot of competitors at Loughborough's Short Croquel tournament for beginners, held in lune.

Standing Orders) appropriate forms are enclosed.

As in previous years, the 1988 Fixtures Book will not be despatched until the relevant subscription is received.

Alan Oldham, Hon. Treasurer.

#### 1988 SUBSCRIPTION RATES

## 1. Standard Rate: £14

(£12 if paid before 1/1/88). Confers all membership benefits.

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## 3. Reduced Rate: £9

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Associates in this category do not receive the Fixtures Book. If they wish to enter tournaments, they are liable to pay Tribute to the Association.

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(covers a period of 3 years).

This rate applies to members who are not resident in the UK, Channel Isles, or the Isle of Man. Overseas Associates are asked to remit in sterling, or to include an additional sum (equivalent to £5) to cover the bank charges for conversion and collection of non-sterling cheques.

#### 5. New Members Rate

A new member joining after 1st August in any year and paying the current full (ie undiscounted) rate of subscription for the

chosen category of membership will be entitled to the benefits of that membership until the 31st December of the following year.

## 'CROQUET'

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#### **Publication Details**

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Contributions (except tournament reports and results) and photographs (preferably black and white) should be sent to the Editor. They will be much welcomed and acknowledged.

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

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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Advertising	Brian Bucknall

## WI 'Taster Days' at Tunbridge Wells

Report from Joan Grimley

It was a glorious September afternoon, the lawns had dried out after the morning dew and conditions were ideal for the ten ladies being initiated into the mysteries and delights of Association Croquet. They were playing in pairs, three on the upper lawn and two on the lower lawn, but all were so intent on their practice that I watched without being noticed for quite a while. Soon I joined another club member in helping them try out the various shots previously demonstrated by the Chairman of our club. There were to be seven sessions, coaching ten players at a time, so that in all, seventy WI members were able to have a 'taste' of the game of croquet.



WI ladies 'on their marks' for the start of a Taster session at Tunbridge Wells.

Our club (Tunbridge Wells) was only one of many in the country approached by local WI organisations as a result of the original contact by Assocation HQ with the WI HQ. If other areas were to be so oversubscribed as ours then it is quite clear that there is a great interest in the game and that croquet will increase in popularity.

It is only fair to say that for people to be able to experience new games in this way clubs have to be as fortunate as we are in having a Chairman who is keen and enthusiastic, and furthermore willing to give of his time and expertise. Incidentally, too, the club members

## Journalism at large

What follows is the account of a previous schools final, which unsuspecting master Mr GN Gurney sent into the 'Times Educational Supplement'. The bounds of Fleet street treated this with a certain amount of Journalistic licence, as you can see from the version which finally hit the news-stands, reprinted here under its original title 'Just not croquet!'

Previously when referring to a certain Australian newspaper magnate, I have suggested that if the northern hemisphere must house the world's arsenals, the southern hemisphere should at least hold on to its first syllables; perhaps I have been unfair to single out individuals in this 'profession'! John Walters.

Croquet - the original lawn game which preceded lawn tennis - is making a comeback. Twenty-two schools entered for the third school's championships organised by the Croquet Association, with the finalists meeting recently on the lawns of the Hurlingham Club.

are involved, since they have to be prepared to forego the use of the lawns when required.

Over tea and biscuits we were interested to hear the players' reactions. Those completely new to the game were intrigued by its possibilities, but delighted they could enjoy it while still learning. Others, who had played garden croquet, were pleasantly surprised to learn how much more there was to the game.

As to the lessons to be learned from this public relations exercise, I think we should not look for an immediate increase in our own club's membership necessarily - though some new members may result — but rather take a longer view. If we do not benefit, others may, and overall perhaps we are laying the foundations for increased knowledge and interest in a game that deserves to be more widely understood.

## **Progress at Rottingdean**

Report from Vera Devlin

We held the first general meeting of villagers at the beginning of May and were very pleased to have present some 50 people out of about 80 who had expressed interest. Quite a number of those present enrolled as members, and we began by playing on an unused tennis court in one of the local parks as our own lawn in Kipling Gardens will not be fully operational until next summer.

During the summer, we have held training sessions and some 'Club afternoons', and despite playing on the tennis court, our members have remained undaunted and have enjoyed themselves, getting in some very good practice.

Recently, we were allowed to use Kipling Gardens for the first time and we decided to make an occasion of it. Below is a copy of the report I sent to the local papers.

### At Home Awash

(and rain definitely stopped play)

When Parks & Gardens agreed the Rottingdean Croquet Club could use the croquet court in Kipling Gardens at least once towards the end of the season (it can't be used fully until next year) the committee decided to make it an occasion and have an At Home'.

80 players and spectators were expected and at 7pm more than 60 were there - some on the court, some watching the demonstration, some eating, some sipping a glass of STOP PRESS

INVITATION EVENT WINNERS

The President's Cup
S.N. Mulliner
The Chairman's Salver
G.W. Noble
The Spencer Ell Cup
D.J. Goacher
The Selectors' Weekend
D.N.S. Peterson

Mrs P. Hague
The Longman Bowl
Miss F.C. McCoig
Congratulations!

The Ladies Field Cup

The Rottingdean Steering Committee (L to R): Vera Devlin, Derek Davies, Fay Carrington, John Leech, Janet Leech, Jean Coppack, Philip Newman and Margaret Green. (Photo: Brighton & Hove Leader)

wine. BUT at 7.05 it started to rain - the lightning lit the sky, the thunder rolled and it rained, and rained and rained . . .

The committee members and some gallant volunteers managed to move the food to the shelter, with only a few trays waterlogged. Not so themselves – all were wet through. Indeed one lady in a blue skirt was heard to remark she arrived wearing white briefs and would be returning home in blue ones!!!

What a night - a night to remember indeed - the 21st August, 1987.

Colchester Royal Grammar School, in only their second year of play, swept aside Dulwich College by 3-0, but needed the full three hours to overcome previous winners Manchester Grammar School, in a very close and dramatic final. The Croquet Association offers help and advice to schools wishing to establish the game and can be contacted at the Hurlingham Club, but they should take early steps to rescind their curious rule which allows one member of staff in a team.

## Just not croquet!

The refined but brutal world of schools croquet is in a turmoil. Not content with bashing each other's croquet balls into the rough and other dastardly deeds, schools croquet players are

riven with a dispute over the Queensbury rules or rather the official rules drawn up by the Hurlingham Club. It seems that Hurlingham club rules allow one member of staff to play in each school side, apparently a travesty of true croquetdom. Mr GN Gurney, master in charge of croquet at Colchester Royal Grammar School, writes in to say that the Hurlingham should 'take early steps to rescind their curious rule' as soon as possible. But there is no cause for despair - croquet is making a comeback. No fewer than 22 schools entered the third schools championships, which was won in a close and dramatic final by - wait for it - the hoopmanship of Colchester Royal Grammar School.

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## CA COMPUTER

During 1988, we are planning to install a computer to deal with membership records, and to have the system up and running before subscriptions are received for 1989.

To help us make sure that our membership records are correct, we would be grateful if members would check their name and address on the label on the plastic envelope containing their magazine.

If there are any errors, please return the envelope to Brian Macmillan, marking the corrections necessary.

## NOMINATIONS FOR COUNCIL

Anyone who wishes to stand for election to Council should note that nominations have to reach Brian Macmillan at the CA Office before 1st February 1988.

Nominations should be proposed and seconded by members of the Croquet Association. Candidates are invited to sumit 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.

## **JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS**

#### (Report on Page 25)

Junior Championship (Advanced Play) DRAW

#### 1st Round

J. Mann bt S. Warm +22; P. Spiring bt I. Aldridge +13; Miss F. McCoig bt C. Docherty +22; M. Suter bt N. Turley +2; R. Fulford bt E. Duckworth +3; C.D. Clarke bt R. Collighan +26; D.B. Maugham bt S. Hemus +20.

#### 2nd Round

Mann bt Spiring +19; Suter bt Miss McCoig +11; Fulford bt Clarke +26(TP); M. Saurin bt Maugham +9

## Semi-Finals

Mann bt Suter +6; Saurin bt Fulford +26.

#### Final Mann bt Saurin +9.

PROCESS 1st Round

Fulford bt Mann + 3; Miss McCoig bt Hemus +23; Clarke bt Spiring +17; Suter bt Saurin +12; Duckworth bt Warm +14; Maugham bt Docherty +10; Collighan bt Aldridge +15.

## 2nd Round

Fulford bt Miss McCoig +13(TP); Suter bt Clarke +12; Maugham bt Duckworth +9; Collighan bt Turley +15.

#### Semi-Finals

Fulford bt Suter +7; Collighan bt Maugham +4.

## Final

Fulford bt Collighan +7.

#### PLAY-OFF

Fulford bt Mann +17.

(In play-off for 3rd and 4th places, Collighan bt Saurin +25.)

## Progressive Swiss

(Handicap Play)

## Winner

S. Warm (10)(5 wins)

## Tournament Reports

## Parkstone: 1-6 June New Lawn Settling Down

Report by Ray Ransom

I approached my first game in the Parkstone June Tournament with trepidation. Les Butler, managing the tournament, had committed me to lawn 1, adding, with noticeable pride, that the lawn had only been laid at the end of the previous season! I remembered with horror lawn 2 at Cheltenham some years back after that had been relaid.

As I advanced on the lawn I noticed the herringbone pattern showing the joins in the turves. Closing my eyes I played my first ball onto the lawn. I looked up expecting to see an aerial projectile slam into the tennis court netting, but no, the ball was rolling in a perfectly straight line. Les and the Parkstone ground staff had achieved a miracle, not only was the lawn playable, it was good. Content I could now sit back and enjoy the game, I again closed my eyes, this time to soak up the sun. Flaming June had arrived.

Tuesday signalled the end of the sunny weather. The morning was dull with prolonged drizzle in the afternoon. It also saw the start of the class events and one of the many exciting finishes to be seen during the week. Pat Parker was playing Frances Ransom and when time was called the scores were level. Pat made rover, rushed her partner ball to corner 4, took off and pegged the rover ball out (advanced play). Two ahead for Pat. Frances, a ball for 6 on the East boundary and a ball for the peg on the West boundary just South of 1-back, hits her partner ball, takes off to 6, runs a long angled hoop, hits the 13 yard roquet, takes off to 1-back, runs 1-back and joins up. Scores now level. Pat now misses the 35 yard shot by inches and Frances is able to peg out her rover ball to win by 1.

Don Williamson, in between eulogizing Southport balls, played well and won his block in the 'B' class. In the play-off against Kay Yeoman, it looked as though he would have to be content with the runners-up slot until Kay allowed frustration to get the better of her in trying an impossible penult, letting Don back in to the game.

Mike Wilkins had a good win over Susan

## **HONOURS BOARD**

Dorset Salver D.J. Goacher Evans Trophy J.D. Williamson Evans Rose Bowl D.J. Goacher Cripps Memorial Trophy Mrs B.R. Saunders Summer Doubles Cups M.J. Wilkins & G.C.H. Weldon

Wiggins in the 'A' class but, alas for Mike, he lost a later game and Susan pipped him on points to win the block and take part in the play-off. David Goacher, who had the only triple of the week, won the play-off, beating both Susan and Ray Ransom.

Wednesday was doubles day and witnessed more close and exciting games. Mike Wilkins and Cecil Weldon had close games throughout in reaching the final unlike their opposing finalists, Frances and Ray Ransom. The final was played on the Saturday morning and was subjected to a new twist in the weather. The day was dry with some sunshine. The disconcerting aspect was the force 7 gale which made standing upright difficult and hitting-in more of a lottery than usual.

The final itself was a fairly dour affair with Mike and Cecil effectively keeping Frances and Ray out of the play until late in the game. But when, inevitably, time was called the game came to life. Mike and Cecil, peg and rover, were in play and scattered the balls around the boundaries leaving Ray on 2-back and Frances on penult. Ray hits and after struggling through a 6 yard 2-back, makes the rest of the hoops but can only manage the penult peel after running rover. With scores now level a game of cat and mouse ensued before Frances finally got into position to run rover but, waving in the wind, sticks in the hoop. Cecil with nerves of steel and showing no signs of cracking finishes the game to tumultuous applause.

It was around the middle of the week that the writer committed a gross error of judgement when he faulted the manager in a hampered stroke. A large scotch partially retrieved the situation, but a punishment of a 700 word tournament report was imposed in addition. It was also noticeable when the manager subsequently required the services of a referee, he looked around carefully before raising his mallet.

And so to windy Saturday – finals day. David Goacher, man of the week, won the 'X' against Ray Ransom although in true sporting fashion Ray allowed him a 22-point start before making a hoop himself. David then rounded off a bad day for the Ransoms by again beating Ray in the 'A' play-off. In the final of the 'Y' Beryl Saunders overcame Don Williamson and the 'Z' saw William Broad-Thomas conquer his third Parker of the week. James Mays won the 'C' class block and the games I witnessed while double banking exhibited an amazing standard of hitting-in.



David Goacher: 'Man of the Week' at Parkstone.

In spite of the weather all participants enjoyed the tournament enormously, credit for which must go to the members of the Parkstone Club for their hospitality and especially to Margaret McMordie for her handling of all the admin chores.

## East Riding: 1-2 August Hiawatha at Hull?

Report by David Appleton

For the open weekend down at Hull it was sunny with hardly a lull. Yes, the weather stayed fair for the fourteen folk there, and the croquet, too, seldom was dull. Among those who were on the ball were some fellows called Smith, I recall; for two out of three performed a TP - not Andrew, but Robert and Paul.

From Ellesmere they came, and from Bowdon; from Reading and Tyneside as well; and manager came up from Chelt'nham – little beggar, and bossy as hell. He sat in his tent and he pointed to where we should go out and play, but then, he had been so appointed to get four games in in a day.

Only two games went to time, and both involved Smith (Bob); the one he had against Ted Scott was a very dodgy job. When time was called he was one down, Ted spread the

balls out quick; Bob hit the shot, went round the lawn, ran rover, hit the stick.

When the matches had been finished, when the tents had been dismantled, then we knew who was the winner, winner of the open weekend; Colin Irwin was the winner (as indeed had been expected). Though (unlike my Hiawatha) Colin didn't have a TP, once he managed all the peeling, but just failed, alas, to peg out, failing by a millimetre on the combination peg out.

Our handicaps showed quite a range, and it would be a little strange were there to be no correlation with the final situation. I therefore worked out Spearman's rho to see if it was high or low: it came to 0.72; interpretation's up to you.

And finally, before I'm done, I'd like to say (from everyone) we thought the weekend was well run: the lawns were good, the whole thing was a lot of fun — with super food.



Ian Maugham, Manager at East Riding.
RESULT

(14 entries)

Advanced Play: 7-round Swiss Winner: C.J. Irwin (6/7 wins)

## **Tournament Reports**

## Oxford: 3-5 July

## 'Guilty of our disasters the sun' (King Lear).

Report by Robert Prichard

In Act III of Henry VIII, Shakespeare refers strangely to 'those twins of learning . . . Ipswich and Oxford', but this tournament was effectively an Ipswich-free zone, Danny Palmer entering as a member of Surbiton.

It had several perfect features: weather (the first totally sunny weekend of the year), setting (admirers of the view at Budleigh and the trees at Hurlingham please come to compare next year), seating (benches for 500 spectators) and number of entries (28 being what mathematicians call a perfect number as it equals the sum of its divisors).

Exactly half the players had been at last year's revival of the fixture and if half this year's newcomers also come back we could build up a nucleus of regulars at this somewhat unusual venue reminiscent of the devotees of Devonshire Park. However this wistful aim depends (as so much in croquet does) on the labour and enthusiasm of a tiny band of locals: in this case Ian Plummer and Mark Wormald. Let us hope their research proves slow and well-funded

Goaded by valid comment that last year his 'Swish' was flexible and obscure, Robert Prichard drew up a set of rules for a Zoned Swiss to cope with factors such as slight uncertainty as to who was turning up, a third of the players needing leave on the first day. the principle of rewarding faster players with

more games and avoiding obviously uneven contests while providing level play across a handicap range of -2 to 6.

Players were grouped into three zones by handicap and each zone was run as a Swiss, but after every second game anyone who had won his previous two games was promoted a zone, while dual losers were relegated. Fortunately, there was a clear winner: John McCullough won all his games, as Jerry Guest had last year. Other repeats were George Noble coming second and Danny Palmer and Simon Williams playing most games.

The real winner though was the sun. Its presence in our hemisphere lured a visitor from New Zealand, Greg Smith, who chose Oxford as his only tournament. Its heat kept the hoops rock hard, resulting in many disasters and five fewer games than last year's 100, despite a fifth lawn on the cricket field. Beer consumption soared, causing more disasters, including rare victories for David Peterson over the manager in both a game and the beer prize. Adam Berry showed that croquet is tougher than cycling by claiming sunstroke. In their first tournament away from Cheltenham John Ross saw Chris do the sonstroke of the weekend: accidentally pegging himself out to lose against Ken Jackson. There were three triples (by Gunasekera, Williams and McCullough) and one double triple (three pints of Pimms each in the Hobbs-Beatty match). Three cheers for Oxford!



George Noble, Ian Plummer and Dayal Gunasekera at the Oxford Weekend.

## RESULT

(28 entries)

Advanced Play: Swiss

Winner: J.R. McCullough (6/6 wins)

## Wrest Park: 3-5 July A Stack of Awards at **Wrest Park** Report by Jon Watson

After the downpours of recent weeks, the tournament was greeted by glorious sunshine. blistering heat and lightning fast lawns. By the end of the weekend the assembled company were almost fed up with the heat. Opinions on the lawns varied over the three days. On day 1, they were 'tricky' or 'challenging'. By the last day some of the comments were less printable, particularly as the club (obviously nettled by remarks in prior years about wide hoops) had set the hoops in fresh holes with tight clearances. They were also very firm in the ground, and remained so throughout. As a result there was little speculative hooping as the hoops would not accept any rubbish. There were no triples, though Richard Hilditch got closest with an attempt at an STP.

By day 3, the heat was getting to everybody. On lawn 1 Jon Watson removed the top fifteen inches of the peg with an errant shot that would have gone largely un-noticed but for a huge guffaw by R.H. Shortly after, Richard was less amused by an apology from his oppo Bill Lamb who had just made 1-back off a ball in the first corner. The original approach having failed, Bill shot at his partner ball and hit. He then took off back to the hoop and ran it from about three yards. Richard got his revenge by winning the game, and went on to act as a sight screen for J.W. despite the obvious dangers.

Double banking also gave some troubles.

In the course of a break, J.W. left one ball in the second hoop. Judy Anderson made first and in her play up to second managed to put a ball in the jaws of sixth, just before Jon got to five. The impasse was decided when Judy lifted the ball in sixth to allow Jon to play through. In the best style however Jon duly stuck in sixth for no apparent reason!

A number of extra awards were made to sundry people. Barry Keen who managed the tournament most ably, won the coveted 'Golden lobster' for the most impressive sunburn. During the adjudication Judy Anderson was heard to say 'I want to see Brian (Storey) again undressed'. The two over-ripe bananas were awarded to Eric Audsley in lieu of a wooden spoon and from the same block, Tom Anderson won the silver egg-timer for the most games won on time (all the timed games in block B).



Howard Bottomley: a medal for catering at Wrest Park!

Richard Hilditch was at his most persuasive in his defence of Sainsburys Whole Orange Drink (with colouring) against the most effete appearance of the Orange, Lemon and Pineapple variety. The 'expression of the tournament' award was a tie between the girl in the Fish Shop with an order for 19 different packs of Fish + Chips, and John Meads on not being the first to break some equipment.

Medals should also go to the catering crew who worked in stifling heat to keep us fed and watered. Howard Bottomley ran this with help from his mum. Enid: Jim and Pam Chappelle, Eric's parents; and the topless waiter, John Bevington, Graham Redman came along to help out with the refereeing.

In the croquet, Duncan Reeve cruised to an easy victory in the C block. Tom Anderson ground remorslessly through the B block, losing only to second placed Brian Storey.

The top block ended as a tie between John Rose, and 'Steady Eddie'. The grand final was played into the gathering gloom. Eddie made the first point after thirty five minutes. The gallery of spectators were all expecting this to be enough to win. Much to their disappointment, Eddie eventually pegged out to win by

With thanks to Barry for managing, and to all the visitors - I hope you enjoyed yourselves as much as we did.

### RESULTS

Advanced Play; American Blocks

**Block Winners** 

D. Reeve; T.M. Anderson; E. Bell

## One Good Turn

A Short Story by Dorothy Rush

You stupid idiot! How could you? The whole damned lawn and you have to rush it onto the peg. Damn! Damn! Two strokes away from the Open Championship and you play a sloppy shot like that. You complacent fool, that'll teach you to count the points before you've pegged out. Well that's it, your chance is gone, kiddo; he's on his way. Where is he now, anyway? 4-back and 2. He'll never try the triple with only 3 balls on the lawn. I must get at least one more shot. All I've got to do is relax, watch him go round, hit the shot and finish. It's never over 'till its over. Yes, take it easy, don't get panicking now; take J.R.'s advice and keep smiling. What's he doing; where is he? 4-back and 3-that's 3 gone and Jeez! He's doing the peel. Has he got the rush? Looks like it. Dead bloody straight too. Bound to do something daft, like jumping it. Oh! sorry I spoke; bang in front of 4. Lucky beggar. Decision time. Where next? Ah, just going to 5, nothing too heroic. Ah! Now that's an unlucky cut: that's miles off, I'm glad to say. There's a good shot needed here. Look away and he'll foul up. Or rather he won't; what

a shot, smack in front. Face it, dear, you've lost this one. All that effort for nothing. To lose by 1 point after getting to peg and peg! Why am I such a twit? Why do I play this silly game? It's for kids like wunderkind here, not fully grown adults. And now he's got the rush to first corner. All the way - you've got to give him credit; he can hit the ball straight. Is it the swing do you suppose? The pendulum boys all play a good rush. And as for hoops! Why does he never miss a hoop? Some of the ones he . . . there really is no justice. Oh! Nice shot and he's got the rush on red, by the look of it. Well, this is the match-winner. Where is it going? Must be a good foot off centre but if he can shove it in a bit and get in front the black is dead right for 1-back. Strewth, that was heavy handed; that'll be a four foot hoop. Not that he'll care - bang it through, son. Yes, as usual, all the way and nicely behind red. If he gets this peel he deserves to win. Credit where it's due, he is good. How the hell does it come so easy to these kids? When will he discover that it's a difficult game? When he does I'll have the blighter but it doesn't look as if it's going to be today. Ah! It stuck. Now what? He'll make 1-back all right but he must lay up after that, surely. Where's my mallet?

Must have dropped it in the long grass. Can't get up now; might give him ideas. I'd rather he tried to continue the break, because if he does we might win this yet, my proud beauty. Black to 3-back. Okay. Sacre bleedin' bleu! How could he rush red to there from the jaws of penult? Now what can he lose if he rolls to 2-back? Everything, that's what! So what are you going to do, sunshine? Have a good think about it, while I, being a Celebrated International Star, light up a cigarette and observe your deliberations with polite and tranquil interest - God! Wish I did have time for a cig. Mustn't forget the lift. Lift lift lift, no dammit! I don't get one. Oh hell! I didn't mean to peg out blue - surely that makes a difference. So there's nothing to stop him rolling to the hoop, unless he's also forgotten that I haven't got a lift. Heh, heh! Nice one, Sybil. Oh-oh, that look of relief means he's remembered. Ah, here goes - one speculative roll coming up. Not a great roller our wonder boy and there we have yellow hurtling past the hoop . . . It stopped! The bloody yellow stopped dead! See that everybody? The yellow has brakes. It momentarily became a

cube. Someone up there is on that little so-and-so's side. There is no way that ball could have stopped without the aid of some outside agency. I should have gone to church this morning. That's it! Vengeance is mine saith the Lord. But surely that young sinner hasn't got God on his side? Right, now, take it easy, relax and smile. This is still not an easy hoop; it's got to be a jump and he'll never get the rush even if he gets the hoop. Missmissmissmissmiss-he-made-it-but-hehasn't-got-the-rush. One big split coming up, oh what a nice shot. Absolutely effortless. Well, that's it. In the bag now. Better get the facial muscles under control for the gallant loser's brave grin. Nicely through and the forward rush. Black to penult, yellow nicely to red. Through we go. Damn, damn, damn, why did I rush out the blue? There goes red to Rover, sweet as a nut. Stop shot approach; through penult. Tidy little rush on black. Ah, well, then, maybe next . . . Roquets red and . . . he's missed the roquet! My God! He's missed the red.

'Hard luck, Richard! Lovely turn, though. Well played! Anyone seen my mallet?'

## **HURLINGHAM HOSTS CHARITY CROQUET MATCH**



The Hurlingham Club staged a 'Second Great Croquet Tournament' on 2nd September. Sponsored by J. Trevor & Sons, the event raised a total of £5000 for the NSPCC.

Thameside's Secretary Bill Gardner provided instruction for the tournament referees and players at the Thameside Club for some weeks prior to the event. in which 45 teams of 5 played 40-minute matches on 6 full-size lawns. The tournament ran from

12 noon to 7pm, finishing with a barbecue (steaks and a bottle of wine each) that lasted till midnight. The Red Hot Peppers Jazz Band played during the proceedings.

The winning team (Weatheralls) are seen receiving their prizes from TV-AM weather girl Trisha Williamson (2nd right). They beat a team of newsmen from the London Standard in the final.



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## **Schools Croquet**

## Edgbaston: 14 June. Himley Hall: 27-28 June THE ROYAL BANK NATIONAL SCHOOLS CROQUET CHAMPIONSHIP

**The Midlands Schools Tournaments** 

Report by Peter Dorke

The Edgbaston tournament for the South Midlands group of schools was a series of whitewashes, all matches being won 3-0. Possibly, Manager Ken Jones' decision not to bring down handicaps until the end of the tournament was part of the reason for this. Several players



Andrew Saurin, Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School, Blackburn

had enormous bites taken out of their handicap at the end of the day, with Warwick's David Neale tumbling from 16 to 11. His team had beaten Mr Jones's own King Edward's, Birmingham, in one semi-final while Stowe had demolished Tudor Grange in the other. Experience had triumphed over fresh-faced enthusiasm and a well-matched final now ensued.

Stowe had reached the National Final in 1985, while in the same year Warwick had been semi-finalists. At Edgbaston in 1987 both teams contained members of those earlier teams. In losing, Stowe struggled manfully, for though Warwick's Mike Ramsay had a comfortable win over Kyno Jones, David Neale and Germaj Drillon each won by only 8 points.

Warwick now had to wait a fortnight before meeting the winners of the West Midlands and

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North Midlands Tournaments, both held at Himley Hall on June 27.

The line-up at Himley included 2 teams from Ludlow College, 3 from Bishop Vesey's Grammar School and one each from Wrekin College, New College, Telford and Wolverhampton Grammar School.

It was no surprise when, in an all-play-all competition, Ludlow emerged as champions of the West, while under the same conditions, Bishop Vesey's A triumphed over the North. Each of these schools plays regularly in the West Midlands League and some of their players have tournament experience, while their opponents were, by and large, raw beginners. It is fitting, therefore, to ignore the achievements of these giants and highlight the successes of the underdogs.

Amongst these was the effervescent Robert Heaton of Wolverhampton, who put paid to Sonna Pathakji, captain of Bishop Vesey's C team. It must be admitted however that Sonna had been up all night and was holding his eyelids open with a spare pair of clips. Another particularly pleasing success was Wrekin's Georgiana Woolley, whose brisk confident play and fence of bisques were almost too much for Ludlow's Tim Nock, senior player of the tournament on a handicap of 31/2 and last year's runner-up in the National Junior Championship. No, Georgiana did not win but it was a crowd-pleasing performance.

Saturday, then, was a hectic



David Lendrum, Manchester Grammar School

success. Sunday's Midlands Final - a 3-way contest between Ludlow, Bishop Vesey's and Warwick - was a much quieter affair in which, as expected, Warwick lost to each of the other teams and then left them to fight it out for the South Shropshire Trophy and the Royal Bank of Scotland's medals.

With Bishop Vesey's Neville Turley clearly in terrible form and Ludlow's Steve Warm playing like a veteran in spite of his inexperience, a win for Ludlow looked certain. Their third man, Simon Ashley had played badly throughout the tournament certainly he did not look capable of coping with Stuart Hemus's well developed Aunt Emma.

Continued on Page 13

## **Schools Croquet**

## **Edgbaston: 8 July** THE ROYAL BANK NATIONAL SCHOOLS CROQUET **CHAMPIONSHIP**

Bishop Vesey beat Nailsea to take title

Report by Dan Kelly

Once again the weather gods were kind to the schools as the four teams who had won the regional finals gathered together at Edgbaston in beautiful summer weather to contest the final stages of the competition.

This year two new teams won

through to the finals - Nailsea (from near Bristol) and Bishop Vesey's from Sutton Coldfield. They joined the familiar faces of the finalists from last year -Manchester Grammar School and Royal Grammar School, Colchester. Colchester once again sported the best player in Robert Fulford and the most elegantly-dressed player in Jonathan Collis, so their hopes were high. Meanwhile Manchester had the same team as last year and were full of confidence. Their best player, David Lendrum, was hoping to maintain his unbeaten record in the competition.

This year teachers were no longer allowed to take part while the format of the competition was changed to a round-robin. The splendid organization of Peter Dorke ensured that everything went smoothly, while the efforts of his wife in providing excellent food were warmly welcomed.

The morning session produced some real surprises. Bishop Vesey's made full use of their bisques to despatch Colchester 3-0, while Manchester went down 2-1 to Nailsea. The highlight of this match was a dramatic last-gasp victory by Nailsea's Andrew Barradell, who stole a +1T victory from David Knappett. With the scores level after time, Andrew laid up with his blue ball directly in front of its hoop. David shot at Andrew's black with his peg ball - a sixyard shot. Unfortunately he missed, so the spectators were spared the excitement of seeing David attempt to peg out while his other ball was for 2-B. Would his opponent have known the relevant Law?

The afternoon session was very keenly contested with Colchester and Manchester both anxious to stay in the contest. Manchester played Bishop Vesey's, whose impressive Andrew Jeeves and Stewart Hemus disposed of Martin Gill and David Knappett. However David Lendrum and Neville

Turley provided an exciting finish. David was one behind as time was called, but he made an excellent roquet. He took off from the centre of the lawn to get a rush on a vard-line ball near the first corner towards 1-B. A good rush was followed by a bad approach and an excellent hoop. When Neville subsequently chose to shoot at the furthest ball on the lawn with David in front of 2-B, David snatched a lucky victory.

Meanwhile Colchester were struggling against Nailsea. Robert Fulford put pressure on his opponent by going round on the fourth turn, and recorded an impressive win. However, Alex Leggate was proving to be the most stylish player in the tournament, and he easily disposed of Jonathan Collis, while Andrew Barradell maintained his winning streak by beating Carl Docherty in impressive fashion.

So the scene was set for an exciting evening session. With Colchester and Manchester out of the running, their match ended quickly in a win for Manchester, and David Lendrum retired from school croquet with his unbeaten record intact. However the match between Nailsea and Bishop Vesey's soon became very exciting. It was no great surprise to see Alex Leggate dispose of his opponent in double-quick time, but Stewart Hemus, who also remained unbeaten, evened the score to ensure an exciting climax.

The deciding match between Paul Spiring and Neville Turvey went to time with both players consistently choosing the most dangerous option. With time approaching, there were no thoughts of cornering or playing 'Aunt Emma'. Instead each player played for the break. Time was called with Neville well ahead, but he left his balls in a position to give Paul a reasonable chance to catch up. However, in the tenseness of the moment, it proved too difficult an opportunity for Paul to take, so the game went to Bishop Vesey's and with it the Championship.

Mr Keohane of the Royal Bank of Scotland, our sponsors, was on hand to present the medals, the Royal Bank Quaich, and the Rothwell Shield to



Bishop Vesey's Grammar School, 1987 Champions, with Peter Dorke (2nd left) and Mike Keobane of the Royal Bank of Scotland.

Bishop Vesey's. All in all, an enjoyable and impressive day. It is a wonderful thing to see so many young people playing croquet to a high level; and especially to see the development of new and exciting talents. School croquet is a very aggressive game. Very few defensive tactics are employed. Cornering is most unusual and long joins are the result of accidental miss-hits. However it demonstrates well that the best tactic is to hit-in, as time and again we saw 'suicide' shots which were hit to turn the tables.

And now for a few regrets. I was sad to hear that Ludlow has lost its lawn and is no longer very active. I hope this does not mean that Peter Dorke will stop his missionary work on behalf of school croquet. It is also a pity that we fail to attract good girls into the game in any number. And finally, I would have liked to see tighter hoop-setting to put a greater premium on skill rather than bisques.

## RESULTS

The Royal Bank National Schools Croquet Championship FINAL

## 1st Round Bishop Vesey's GS v. Colchester

(Bishop Vesey's names first) N.Turley (9) bt R. Fulford (11/2) +17; A. Jeeves (14) bt J. Collis (8) +12; S. Hemus (15) bt C. Docherty (9) +2(T).

Result: Bishop Vesey's 3, Colchester RGS 0.

## Nailsea v. Manchester GS (Nailsea names first)

P. Spiring (13) lost to D. Lendrum (7) A. Leggate (13) bt M. Gill (12) +5;

A. Barradell (16) bt D. Knappett (14) Result: Nailsea 2, Manchester GS 1

2nd Round Bishop Vesey's GS Manchester GS (Bishop Vesey's name first)

N. Turley bt D. Lendrum -1:

Manchester GS 0. Nailsea v.Colchester RGS (Nailsea names first) P. Spiring lost to R. Fulford -10; A. Leggate bt J. Collis +8; A. Barradell bt C. Docherty +13.

S. Hemus bt D. Knappett +12.

Result: Bishop Vesey's 3,

A. Jeeves bt M. Gill +6;

Result: Nailsea 2, Colchester RGS 1.

## 3rd Round Colchester RGS v. Manchester

(Colchester names first) Fulford lost to Lendrum -23; Collis lost to Gill -16: Docherty bt Knappett +8.

Result: Colchester RGS 1. Manchester GS 2

Bishop Vesey's GS v. Nailsea (Bishop Vesey's names first) N. Turley bt P. Spiring +7(T): A. Jeeves lost to A. Leggate -18;

S. Hemus bt A. Barradell +16. Result: Bishops Vesey's GS 2, Nailsea 1.

**FINAL MATCH RESULT** Pos'n School Bishop Vesey's GS Manchester GS Colchester RGS



David Isgrove, master in charge of croquet at Bishop Vesey's, watches the final drama unfold.

## **REGIONAL FINAL RESULTS**

## Wrest Park: 20 June Semi-finals

Colchester RGS 'A' bt Bedford

Modern 'B' 3-0 R. Fulford (11/2) bt Cox (18) +22; Collis (9) bt Warner (18) +18;

C. Docherty (18) bt Parsons (18) +18 Colchester RGS 'B' bt Bedford Modern 'A' 3-0 G. Budd (12) bt Cheshire (13) +4;

N. Varndell (16) bt Bell (14) +16(T); P. Harbord (17) bt Batey (16) +8(T)

Colchester RGS 'A' bt Colchester RGS 'B' 2-1

Fulford bt Budd +10(TP); Collis lost to Varndell -8; Docherty bt Harbord

## Colchester: 30th June

Colchester RGS 'A' bt Dulwich 'A' 3-0 Fulford bt J. Pearce (14) +15; Collis bt J. Gillie (15) +18; Docherty bt D. Bottle (17) +19

#### **Northern Region Preliminary Round**

Queen Elizabeth's GS 'B' bt Fettes 3-0 C.D. Clarke (1) bt C. Berger (18) +25: R. Collighan (6) bt S. Hendrey (18) +20; R. Harding (12) bt R. Finlay (18)

#### Bowdon: Semi-finals

Manchester GS bt Queen Elizabeth's GS 'A' 2-1

D. Lendrum (9) bt R. Collighan +20; M. Gill (12) bt R. Sinker +15; D. Knappett (14) lost to A. Grimbaldeston (16) -13

Queen Elizabeth's GS 'B' bt Chetham's 3-0

C.D. Clarke (1) bt R. Major (18) +16(TP): M. Saurin (2) bt P. Lewis (18) +25; R. Harding (12) bt E. Rushton (18) +15

## Final

Manchester GS bt Queen Elizabeth's GS 'B' 2-1

D. Lendrum bt C.D. Clarke +25; M. Gill lost to M. Saurin -22; D. Knappett bt A. Saurin (18) +17

Play-off for 3rd place Queen Elizabeth's GS 'A' bt Chetham's 3-0 Collighan bt Major +21; Sinker bt

Lewis +18; Grimbaldeston bt Rushton +21

**Your Letters** 

## A Signal for Umpires

Dear Sir,

At the Colchester August Handicap weekend, the shortage of available referees forced the manager to leave the relative comfort and security of the clubhouse to dash over to a distant corner, only to find that the signaller had required the services of an umpire rather than those of a referee.

It was then that the nature of the problem was realised: there is no separate signal for an umpire. One suggestion was that the mallet should be held horizontally above the head, remaining visible but different. Possibly this could be adopted with advantage as a convention – it would be interesting to know the views of more experienced tournament players.

Jonathan Collis, Colchester.

## An anomaly

Dear Sir.

Recently I was watching the double-banked game in a handicap tournament. Green (for the peg) hit in, took off to pink, obtained a rush on white (also for the peg) and pegged it out in the croquet stroke in which green also hit the peg. The player of green, clearly not conversant with Laws 15 and 39, removed white, played a continuation shot

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**Jumby Bay** 

with green and went on to win.

The player of pink and white was sheltering in the clubhouse, as was her right under Law 45(a), and did not see what I saw. As pink was six or seven hoops ahead of brown, the outcome would almost certainly have been reversed if green had been correctly removed.

When I told them afterwards, I commented that it seems anomalous that I could have intervened under Regulation 8(c) in the case of a ball wrongly removed, but not in the case of a ball wrongly remaining in play. Andrew Bennet,

Blackburn.

## **Croquet & The Arts**

Dear Sir

Not mentioned in your recent article on 'Croquet & The Arts' is 'La partie de croquet' by Pierre Bonnard (1867-1947). This charming painting, also called 'Crepuscule', is now in the Musee d'Orsay, Paris.

The figures in it are identified as being members of Bonnard's family in the garden of the property belonging to his mother's family in the province of Dauphine. It is dated 1892.

If you have not got it recorded elsewhere, perhaps you would think it worth noting.

526 Rooms

C.E.F. Trench, Navan, Co. Meath.

## Correction!

Dear Sir.

Much as I admire your publication I am not quite so enamoured with the prefix you have given me on page 30 of September's 'Croquet'.

Far from being a 'Ms', I am a 'Mr'. The angle at which I'm sitting does indeed confirm this.



Not the Stockey Furzen member!

Far from 'Sacha' being a French tart's name, it is the Russian abbreviation of Alexander. I should be grateful if you could point this out to your readers who will possibly think me an East German gymnast should they ever meet me.

Up the Stockey Furzens! Mr Sacha Gervasi, London. The Editor writes: My apologies for any confusion caused by my

Readers might like to know that Gidleigh Park, the home of the Stockey Furzen Cricket & Croquet Club, is described in the 1987 Ackerman Guide as 'one of the country's most beautiful country house hotels' and looks out over the magnificent Teign valley, the nearest road being over a mile away.

Seven of the Stockey Furzen members own botels with good courts and they all intend to buy good equipment in readiness for some form of knock-out competition next year. Unfortunately they have been exceptionally busy during the summer, and bave had to wait until the end of the season to formulate their plans, so details are not yet known. However, Stockey Furzen must be the first Croquet Club to be formed where members pay their subs and then think about playing croquet afterwards!

## The 'Shot Clock'

Dear Sir,

(305) 655-6611

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As the referee in charge of the international match between the USA and Great Britain in April this year, I read with interest the report by Chris Irwin. Although she makes the point in the body of her report that there were  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hour time limits for US rules

games and 2 hour time limits for international rules games, she seems to lose sight of this completely in her final paragraph in which she suggests that readers draw their own conclusions as to the relative speed of the two codes from the fact that 7 of the US rules games went to time as compared to 3 of the international rules games. I submit that this is quite misleading in the circumstances (although unintentional).

After frequent visits to the United States during the past seven years and against a background of 32 years' participation in international rules croquet, I believe that my personal opinion may be of some relevance. It is simply this, that by observation I have found the average US rules game (as opposed to games involving only top-flight players) to be very definitely faster than the average international rules game. This is surely the most relevant issue, namely what is the experience of the average player.

Finally, there is no doubt in my mind as to one aspect in which US rules croquet has pioneered a better way. This is the 60-second (or 45-second in advanced play) 'shot clock'. Combined with provision for extra time on at least two occasions during a game (at the option of the player) this calls upon all players to play with reasonable despatch. It has long been a source of amazement to me that the Croquet Association (of which I am an overseas member) has not yet seriously addressed the possibility of adopting this excellent improvement, at the very least as an optional rule.

Ian Gillespie, Constantia, South Africa.

## **Croquet Development**

Dear Sir,

The July issue of 'Croquet' has spurred me into writing on 'The Debate'. As you will know now after the General Election, we in Scotland do not always have the same views as people in the rest of the UK, but on the subject of croquet development I really cannot see what all the fuss is about.

We now have a first-class magazine, 'Croquet', which I can confidently hand to any person, without embarrassment, as an advertisement for the game; we have the numbers of players and clubs growing; we have money sponsorship increasing; and we have press coverage as a sport (sometimes!). My concern is that croquet should live, not die, and

this means more players, younger players, the highest possible standards of play, and more lawns at more clubs. If we could wave a wand to produce unlimited first-class lawns then we could invite lots of people to play on them, but of course life is not like that; we need players paying subscriptions, sponsors providing finance, and a great deal of hard work to keep croquet living, in its clubs, in all parts of the country.

The game is not being metamorphosed into something different by all this development. Even as a lazy referee, I know that the Laws refer to the same game now as they did ten years ago. Club golf is not diminished either by clock golf and crazy golf at amusement parks or by professional golf played by superstars on television; instead it is enhanced by all this, but above all club golf survives on its membership, and croquet is the same.

So long as I am a CA member I shall cast my vote for the representatives on Council. The present Council are making tremendous progress and they have my full support.

Alastair Hunter, Edinburgh.

## Croquet in Spain

Dear Sir,

I am an A-level student of Spanish preparing a project for my A-level oral exam. In order to make it as relevant as possible to my spanish studies I should like to know how extensive is the playing of croquet in Spain.

May I therefore appeal to any of your readers who might know anything about croquet in Spain to write to me at: Ludlow College, Ludlow, Shropshire. Ludlow. Miss J. Basten,

## **Cheltenham Croquet**

Dear Sir,

Going through some old papers preparatory to moving to a new house, I came across these silly lines written some years ago when there was a strong move in the Cheltenham Club to go back to 'old times' in our tournaments. I thought some others might be amused.

Spare a Tear for Cheltenham!

I sing in praise of former days
With knockouts all we knew;
The entry slight, employment
light
Save for the favoured few.

Now, Jackson's claims for shortened games And nobody knocked out; 'Petual play, past light of day And dinner gone without.

By former ways, come Wednesdays All visitors had gone; The Chalk Yard Line
Dear Sir,
I was most interested in

reading the letter from Bill Scarr in your May 1987 No 191 issue in which he made numerous logical suggestions.

One I found particularly interesting – 'the chalk yard line'

One I found particularly interesting - 'the chalk yard line' concept - having wasted a great deal of time measuring 'balls in' over the years this was driven home whilst watching my prized video on UK Short Croquet



The semi-final: Maree Heenan defeated Australia's Open Champion, John Tyrrell in a real boil-over – the handicap system really worked!

(possibly the only copy in captivity in Australia) - I was not

No idle folk, with drinks' bespoke Defied the luncheon gong.

Now all is Crank and Double

Spare players everywhere: Assume dead Draw your place once more

And Process killing fare! G.E.P. Jackson Cheltenham.

## 'The World of Croquet' Dear Sir,

For those looking for an ideal Christmas present for their croquet playing friends and relatives, may I recommend "The World of Croquet".

This is the latest book on the game, written by two of its foremost exponents for players at all levels. Copies can be obtained direct from myself at the CA Office, price £16.95, inclusive of p&p.

Bookshops in Australia and New Zealand will have copies available in a few months time, but overseas members who want a copy more immediately should send me a sterling cheque for £22.96 and I will air-mail them a copy.

Brian Macmillan Hurlingham.

## Why Promote Croquet? Dear Sir.

As the Chairman of one of the most recently formed Croquet

very impressed at the time taken or some of the views exposed when players placed the ball for the 'shoot out' - a great idea but not very graceful. 'Why not have a chalk line a yard in to save all that less than elegant bending' I thought.

During mid-May I ran a Dynamite Croquet Tournament which luckily achieved 6 minutes of Nationwide TV time on ABC TV, at the prime slot of 5.45pm Sunday.

This was a short version of croquet based on the UK Short Croquet but with; Ball Boys/Girls - large directional markers - large clips - an up to date score board showing hoops run and mandatory peels achieved, an audible PA running commentary for the gallery and best of all one yard in, the chalk line

All 6 players agreed it was an excellent idea, three of those were John Tyrrell, Australia's No 1, George Latham, Australia's No 2 and Alan Cleland who, amongst other things, was in the MacRobertson Shield team with George.

Owen Edwards, Ivanhoe, Australia.

Clubs I have read the letters and articles in the last two issues of 'Croquet' with great interest.

I do not want to get involved in the various 'nit-picking' arguments, but suffice it to say that until the creation of the Kingston Maurward Club, close to Dorchester, Dorset, the nearest other clubs were at Poole, Sidmouth, and Glastonbury. Anyone with a reasonable knowledge of local geography would know that we have filled a void in the Croquet community.

I am most grateful to the Croquet Association, the South West Federation of Croquet Clubs and the Sports Council for their untiring help and support that has enabled us to get a Club onto the lawns and to have achieved a membership of 60 in the space of 3 months. The need was, and still is there, just as I am sure it is there in other regions of the UK.

What dismays me is that so much energy seems to be expended by various writers in criticising development, instead of channelling that energy into efforts to maintain high standards. I do not believe for an instant that the 'popularisation' of bowls by the media has led to any deterioration of standards. I strongly suggest that the converse is true.

Craig W. Hitchcock, Chairman, Kingston Maurward C.C.

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## The Open Championships

## Hurlingham: 11-18 July THE CARLSBERG BRITISH OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS Probably the Best Tournament in the World

Report by Danny Palmer

With the weather fine and the lawns playing true, though a little slow, the Carlsberg Open Championships kicked off with a bang. First on in the Doubles Championship was a game that aroused much interest: Mulliner and Aspinall vs the two Keiths (Keith Aiton being a man on form – Men's Champion – but Keith Wylie still struggling to find his best). The question was: could Wylie pull something out of the bag?

He could, and he did – the two Keiths taking the first game. This obviously upset the holders and it was no surprise to hear that they had levelled in the second game – the scene was set for a 'sweaty' third game.

Aiton hit in on the 4th turn and picked up a break without too much difficulty. Wylie on his way to get a glass of water gestured to him, saying 'give me an OSL'. This he did, peeling partner through hoop 1 on the way. Wylie, back from the bar, took up his mallet, the lift having been missed, and strode on to the lawn. After a few shots things started to look promising. However, he suddenly stopped — a look of pain on his face. He'd constructed a break for a ball at hoop 1, not hoop 2! Though he scrambled a few points, things soon fell apart and Mulliner & Aspinall took advantage — the two Keiths having no more croquet.

Despite a few surprise wins, notably Southern & Wiggins disposing of Hyne & Palmer, the doubles games on Saturday went largely as predicted. The new pairing of Murray and Fulford got through-a couple of quick rounds. The youngster (Robert Fulford), looking very much at home on new ground, needed no advice from his more experienced partner as they dealt with their hapless opponents.

Sunday morning saw Richard Hilditch engrossed in his managerial duties. Devoted



Richard Hilditch, who managed the Championships with mathematical precision.

to getting a good way through the doubles competition, he'd given some players leave until Tuesday! This he assured us fitted in with his 'masterplan'. He kept this 'clearly defined in his head'! Everybody felt that that was probably the best place for it.

The biggest shock of the day was caused by your reporter turning up in a suit! Things were quickly back to normal, however, as he caught up on the day's play whilst taking advantage of the sponsor's bar (a popular feature of the event).

In a clash of styles early in the Singles Championship, Jerry Guest put an end to Wylie's challenge for the Opens with neither playing particularly well. Much was expected of Robert Fulford in his match against Ian Bond on Monday, but he quickly found himself in a very poor position. Game down, and with Ian looking set to finish the second, Robert had a very lucky break. Shooting at two balls near 3rd corner from hoop 1, he ran 4-back, his hoop, cleanly to the boundary!

Demoralised by this and a subsequent fluke, Ian lost the initiative, the second game, the third game, and with it the match. Robert was rocketted into the national press, where Carlsberg as sponsors gained the event a good deal of coverage.

Monday also saw victory for John Walters (though no press coverage). Playing well, he beat Kiley Jones in straight games. Tuesday saw the exit of the Selectors' favourite youngster at the hands of another: Mark Suter, his usual elegant self, beat Robert Fulford in an unspectacular match, only to lose to Mark Avery in two quick games on the same day. With the first lost by 26 and facing 1 and 4-back whilst for 4-back and peg, he pegged out his forward ball. Avery won, only having to concede two further very long shots. Readers will note that an 'auto-Riggall' doesn't carry the same charm as a 'standard-Riggall', mainly because the single ball receives no lift shots.

David Peterson managed an STP on his way to victory against Ken Jones. Perhaps this was to be the start of his much talked about return to form. Unfortunately, by winning he qualified to play Steve Mulliner and also unqualified himself to enter the Plate – we shall have to wait until next year.

With the first rounds of the Singles completed, 31 players had already earned places in the restricted event, the Consolation Plate. Richard's mathematical talents were put to work and spectators looked on in awe as he frantically scribbled down the Draw and Process in quick succession. From then on the event was referred to as 'The Swiss' by the Manager, more out of habit than anything else

By the evening, only one of the eight players staying in my flat was left in the main event — Nick Hyne. On the way to the pub that evening he walked into a bus stop. There is some justice in the world.

Keith Aiton generously donated his 'sextuple gin' (see last Gazette) to relieve our anguish. Clearly defeat had affected some



Mark Avery: 1987 Open Champion.

more than others: Tim Harrison was seen drinking from an elegantly fluted vase.

On Wednesday, Dave Foulser (who earlier in the week had played very well to beat Keith Aiton) lost to Steve Lewis in a fairly close match. Also out of the main event was Bryan Sykes, despite doing three peels of a TPO. He stuck in rover, giving Phil Cordingley the game.

The main favourites continued to plough through the field with Reg Bamford doing well. Having already beaten the seeded Heap in the first round, he did well to beat Vincent, after losing a close 1st game (by one)! The Manager was knocked out of the Plate. He'd been discussing earlier how he'd had the same shaft in his mallet for some time and had even pointed out a few weaknesses in it, so it came as no surprise when he returned to the Manager's hut with it in two pieces. 'I trod on it as I was walking down a bank'!

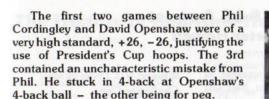
It rained on Thursday morning. Play was delayed, but after several pitch inspections a few games were allowed on. One of these was to have involved John Walters. John assured us that he wanted to play, despite the pouring rain, but he'd left his mallet in somebody's car and that somebody hadn't arrived. It turned out that his story was true but he was scratched nonetheless – the tournament must go on.

The Singles and Doubles were still running according to Richard's masterplan despite the rain. Once the rain had stopped, one of the first free lawns was given over to a game between three old hands and one newcomer: Michael Heap & Steve Wright vs Mike Stevens & (playing in his first Opens) Ray Ransom.

Despite the slow, easy conditions, play was slow with the first game going to time - a win for Ransom & Stevens. With the 1st under their belts, these two went on to win the match, taking the 2nd game by 18.

Michael Heap was not at all happy with the speed of the game. He commented that the opponents had dictated the pace to a large extent, at which a certain player perched nearby was heard to say 'Now you know what it is like to play against yourself, Michael'.

Meanwhile the Singles was hotting up the event having reached the quarter-finals where seeds meet seeds.



The other big match on was spectacular. Mark Avery looking very good, but having so far encountered little resistance, was up against Nigel Aspinall who'd had two TPs in his previous match against Bernard Neal.

The first game turned out to be very close, Avery winning by only 3. In the second, Nigel pulled his socks up. From a standard opening, he picked up a break in the 5th turn and went round. Avery missed and Nigel went round again, but only got one peel. Avery hit and eventually won by +3TP. Who says TPs aren't necessary?

As darkness approached, there was only time for the first game of one doubles semifinal, Aspinall & Mulliner vs Murray & Fulford. Murray had the first ball round, but it was no great surprise when Steve hit in and followed suit. More surprising perhaps was Fulford finishing in the next turn, especially as he had a handicap of  $1\frac{1}{2}$ .



John Solomon, CA President, presents Mike Macdonald with a Carlsberg 'mallet'.

The 2nd game was put on first thing on Friday. Aspinall & Mulliner went round quickly to penult and peg before their opponents got a look in. Murray hit the last shot, went round, but missed a short roquet as he was finishing his turn. This left only a 6-yd roquet for Nigel. To the amazement of the crowd, he missed, letting Fulford in. As a result of a very poor leave after going to the peg, Mulliner was left with only an 8-yd shot. This again was missed and Murray finished off the match.

Bryan Sykes added to his list of notable achievements by missing a 3-inch peg out. He felt so sure of hitting, he just swung his mallet towards the ball one-handed. He won't do that again!

Meanwhile, George Noble was ploughing through the opposition in the Plate event. Still in both halves, he'd had 4 triples in 5 games, disposing of several very competent players.



Steve Mulliner, this year's Single's runner-up, receives his trophy from Mike Macdonald, Carlsberg's Managing Director.

Carlsberg's support throughout the Championships was most appreciated.

In the afternoon, Mark Avery still hitting in with uncanny regularity disposed of David Openshaw without too much difficulty, +26TP, +11.

With the light fading however, the two found themselves playing together in the Doubles final. Thus far, they'd had very little trouble, but Openshaw fresh from defeat didn't look very comfortable in the first game. Avery stormed round, but both opponents followed suit. Openshaw got the innings, but only got round with a great deal of trouble. Once round, the innings was lost and it took an incredible shot from Avery (not having held his mallet for an hour) to regain it. But then he missed the peg out and lost the game by 1!

The rain during the latter part of the week had slowed down the lawns quite considerably, so it was no surprise that the Singles final was between two excellent shots, Steve Mulliner and Mark Avery. The innings in slow conditions is paramount and hitting in proved to be decisive in the final itself.

Mark missed his 1st shot when Steve had gone round, but failing to get a triple peel meant that Mark had one last chance. Despite a groundsman and his lawnmower walking right behind the target ball, Mark hit in and caught up. In a cat and mouse finish, Mark gained the upper hand but took off the lawn, giving Steve the 1st game.

The 2nd game was played during lunch. With few spectators, the finalists battled on, Avery taking the game by 16. The decider turned out to be a clinical +26TP by Mark. Will Steve ever win this event?

Through all this excitement, the Plate had been pottering along with most of us involved. Palmer had had good wins against Aiton and Solomon, but now he faced George (TP machine) Noble in the semi-finals of the draw. It wasn't long before George was finishing with a triple, but he made a real mess of the penult peel, letting Palmer win +11TP.

Palmer then went on to lose to Robert Fulford in a very close final. With Robert hardly started Palmer was laid up in 4th corner with a rush to the peg to win. Shooting from 3rd corner, Fulford just hit in, the target ball barely shaking. From this, he won, despite leaving a 9-yd lift. The result, +2TP.

This close result was typical of the final stages. George beat Jerry Guest by 3TP, Mike Stevens by 4, then Fulford by 3 to win the Plate.

As most people drifted away to the Hurlingham picnic, the Doubles final continued. With the rain pouring down Openshaw &

Avery dealt with Murray & Fulford. Mark, fresh from his first Opens victory, was playing very well. He almost had a 3 ball straight triple in the final game.

That wraps it up, apart from saying that the sponsorship by Carlsberg was greatly appreciated.

Results Overleaf



(L to R): Reg Bamford, John Walters, and Steve Mulliner reflect on a game in progress.

#### Schools Croquet

(continued from Page 8)

Ludlow, though, were sanguine: a 2-1 win would satisfy them.

Perhaps the presence of Eric Solomon, an old boy of Bishop Vesey's Grammar School here to present the trophies, inspired his team, for Neville Turley cast gloom aside and tore into Ludlow's Tim Nock with all the confidence of 6½ bisques in the ground. Three were soon uprooted but Neville went blithely round with black, laid up, watched Tim miss his shot and without further ado, took blue to Rover without taking another bisque. 'Is this lad really a ten?' we cried but the Bishop's men only smiled a secret smile and watched with quiet glee as Tim's red trickled through the third hoop to leave a severely hampered shot. At this point, enter Howard Stanley, a referee in the midst of an early tea, who walked on to the lawn fully encumbered with said meal and proceeded to spread it generously about the lawn with the words (or so it was said, no doubt apocryphally), 'Do you mind if I finish my tea first?' Tim played his shot fully into the hoop, making no contact either with the ball or Howard's sandwiches and the game was virtually over. A very untidy ending did not prevent Neville winning +23.

On lawn 2 Steve Warm was playing a waiting game as Andy Jeeves, refusing to take his bisques, crept steadily ahead. Andy's team mate on lawn 3, Stuart Hemus, was also in the lead, playing a close game as Simon Arnsby failed, time and again, to hit in on a very difficult lawn. Each of these games was to go to time with the outcome in doubt until the last stroke of the tournament — a take-off shot from Warm which rolled fatefully over the boundary line — for a desperately late and frenetic Arnsby charge had won Ludlow the third game by 1 point.

2-1 to Bishop Vesey's, then, the Old Enemy thrashed at last and the road open to the National Finals at Edgbaston on July 8th.

## The Open Championships



Martin Murray (left) and Robert Fulford - this year's runners-up in the Open Doubles Championship.

Mulliner bt Bamford -17(TP), +26,

Avery bt Mulliner -3, +16, +16(TP).

G.W. Noble & Dr I.G. Vincent bt T.W.

Anderson & H.J. Bottomley +16,

+5; Dr M. Murray & R. Fulford bt I.D.

Bond & Dr B.C. Sykes +26, +20;

D.K. Openshaw & M.N. Avery bt

P. Cordingley & J.R. McCullough

+20(TP), -15, +25; Dr E.W.

Solomon & Prof B.G. Neal bt Miss

J. MacLeod & D.L. Gunasekera +25,

-8. +16: D.J. Croker & G.C. Roy bt

R.D.C. Prichard & T.D. Harrison

+2(T), +19; C. Southern & D.C.D

Wiggins bt N.G. Hyne & D.G. Palmer

R.L. Bamford & J.O. Walters bt J.E.

Guest & P.L. Smith +21, +2; G.N.

Aspinall & S.N. Mulliner bt K.F. Wylie

& K.M.H. Aiton -16, +16, +15;

D.R. Foulser & M. Suter bt K.E. Jones

& A.J. Mrozinski +11, +15; Murray

& Fulford bt Noble & Vincent +14,

+15: Openshaw & Avery bt Solomon

& Neal +26, +2; Croker & Roy bt

Southern & Wiggins +9, +1; R.W.

Ransom & M.J. Stevens bt S.

Williams & C.M. von Schmieder

+3(T), -2(T), +25; S.J.H. Wright &

M.E.W. Heap bt D.N.S. Peterson &

Aspinall & Mulliner bt Bamford &

Walters +3, +7; Murray & Fulford bt

Foulser & Suter +4, +22; Openshaw

& Avery bt Croker & Roy +26, +7;

Ransom & Stevens bt Heap & Wright

Murray & Fulford bt Aspinall &

Mulliner +17(TP), +4; Openshaw &

Avery bt Ransom & Stevens +20,

Avery & Openshaw bt-Murray &

Fulford -1, +8, +16.

G. Noble bt R. Fulford +3.

D.G. Palmer; M.J. Stevens.

**PLATE EVENT** 

Final

(Draw & Process)

Semi-Finalists

S.E. Lewis -14, +21, +13.

3rd Round

+8(T), +19.

Semi-Finals

Seeded Player.

1st Round

-14, +2, +15.

**Doubles Championship** 

## THE CARLSBERG BRITISH **OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Singles Championship

1st Round

Dr D. Cairns bt T.W. Aderson +18, +13; Prof B.G. Neal bt G.C. Roy -21, +7, +26; M. Suter bt D.L. Gunasekera -5, +11, +9; R. Fulford bt I.D. Bond -25, +3, +17; \*D.K. Openshaw bt R.D.C. Prichard +26, +25; J.E. Guest bt K.F. Wylie +21, +5; G.W. Noble bt \*Dr E.W. Solomon +4, +7; P. Cordingley bt H.J. Bottomley +7, +20; S.E. Lewis bt D.C.D. Wiggins +3, +2; J.R. McCullough bt D.J. Croker +13, +22; J.O. Walters bt Kiley Jones +18, +26(TP); Dr I.G. Vincent bt C. Southern +4, +12: K.E. Jones bt A.J. Mrozinski +10, +12; D.N.S. Peterson bt S.J.H. Wright -6, +23, +15; C.M. von Schmieder bt J.R. Hilditch +7(T), +9; P.L. Smith bt M.J. Stevens +20, +15.

#### 2nd Round

Neal bt Cairns +6, +7(T); \*G.N. Aspinall bt S. Williams +20, +22; Suter bt Fulford -4, +5, +11; \*M.N. Avery bt R.W. Ransom \*18, +21; Openshaw bt Guest +19, +3; Miss J. MacLeod bt T.D. Harrison -24, +13, +1; Cordingley bt Noble +25, +26; Dr B.C. Sykes bt D.G. Palmer -14, +3, +7; Lewis bt McCullough -21, +18, +23; D.R. Foulser bt \*K.M.H. Aiton -25, +3, +20(TP); Vincent bt Walters +15, +1; R.L. Bamford bt \*M.E.W. Heap +16, +11; Peterson bt K.E. Jones -15, +19(STP), +19; \*S.N. Mulliner bt D.J. Kelly +20, +20; Smith bt von Schmieder -11, +5, +16; N.G. Hyne bt \*Dr M. Murray +12, +4.

## **3rd Round**

Aspinall bt Neal + 20(TP), +16(TP); Avery bt Suter +26, +4; Openshaw bt Miss MacLeod +20, +22; Cordingley bt Sykes +15, -8, +12; Lewis bt Foulser -16, +4, +22; Bamford bt Vincent -1, +17, +4; Mulliner bt Peterson +20, +26; Hyne bt Smith -15, +22, +24(TP).

#### 4th Round

Avery bt Aspinall +3, +3(TP): Openshaw bt Cordingley -26, +26, +8; Bamford bt Lewis +26(TP), +21; Mulliner bt Hyne +14,

## Semi-Finals

Avery bt Openshaw +26(TP), +11;

## **Tournament Reports**

## **Compton: 10-16 August Big Bag for Peter Howell**

Report by Don Daintree

The early summer weather in Eastbourne this year had left much to be desired - which perhaps explains why so few 'visitors' decided to enter for this tournament? If that was the reason, they must regret staying away for, apart from a few spots of rain one morning, the sun shone throughout the week, showing the Saffrons off at its

Despite the lack of 'outside' entrants, there was no damping the enthusiasm of the 'locals', many of whom played up to 3 games a day throughout the week in a effort to win at least one of the fine collection of trophies on offer.

However, Peter Howell had the biggest 'bag' by taking both the Challenge Cup for the B Class Level Singles and the Compton Plate; but our Club Secretary (James Kellaway) was on top form to wrest the Restricted Handicap Singles Cup from last year's holder, Eric Salmon, and Giles Borrett proved he had lost none of his old skill and cunning by holding off Dennis Shaw's challenge for the C.E. Hedges Cup.

The Handicap Doubles for the Kirk-Greene Bowl were as fascinating as only doubles can be - even if the play was somewhat mixed. No one pair won all the games in their blocks, so the finalists were decided on points. After a 4-hour marathon, with some 'amazing' shots played (and missed!), Eve Dalby (playing in her first CA Tournament) and Don Daintree finally triumphed over James Kellaway and Barry James to join the illustrious names engraved on the Bowl's plinth.

The top event of the week (the Challenge Cup for Open Singles) attracted only 6 entries and once again Dennis Shawwas pipped at the post - this time by Gordon Drake who was still fresh after all his managerial activities.

Apart from the play, there was the glorious sunshine for which Eastbourne is rightly famed; the lawns were in superb condition (despite the recent illness of our tireless groundsman); and the food (organised by Truda Tom and her band of willing helpers) was first class.

Sorry you missed it - but there's always next year!

## RESULTS

Challenge Cup (6 entries)

Advanced Play; American Block

Winner: H.G. Drake (4 wins) Challenge Cup

(6 entries) Level Play (3 1/2 bisques or over);

P. Howell bt W. Nicholson +11 Finalist (Marriage)

Mrs M. Grout Challenge Cup

(6 entries) Handicap Play (7 1/2 bisques or over); Knockout

Final J. Kellaway (8) bt E. Salmon (10) + 23 Challenge Cup

(7 entries) Handicap Play; Knockout

Final

G. Borrett (31/2) bt D. Shaw (3) +10 **Kirk-Greene Bowls** 

Handicap Doubles; American Blocks

Block Play-Off D. Daintree & Mrs E. Dalby (18) bt J. Kellaway & B. James (20) +2

Compton Plate Winner: P. Howell (5 wins)





Keith Aiton, Cowborn Trophy winner at Compton

## **Compton: 8-9 August** RESULTS

**Cowhorn Challenge Trophy** (9 entries)

Advanced Play; Knockout Final

K.M.H. Aiton bt G. Noble +20, +5 **Cowbell Trophy** 

(12 entries) Advanced Play: Swiss

Winner: M French (6 wins)

## The History of the Apps-Heley Award

By John McCullough

Mrs L.C. Apps, one of the greatest servants of the Croquet Association, died on 10th April 1959. She was an associate as early as 1912, and became a formidable player between the wars, winning the Women's Championship (1923), two mixed doubles Championships with her husband, Ben C. Apps (1926 & 1927) and one with Maurice Reckitt (1937), the Ladies' Field Cup on three occasions (1935, 1936 & 1937), and the President's Cup (1936). She was best known, however, as a tireless Secretary of the Association at one of the most difficult times in its history (1948-1959).

Following her death, a collection was organised among associates to provide a fitting memorial. Captain Reed-Walker donated a silver bowl, which Council decided should be known as the Apps Bowl and which, from 1960 to 1965, was awarded each year to the most improved player, the first winner being the late Colonel D.M.C. Prichard. Following the presentation of the Steele Bowl in 1966, the Apps Bowl has been awarded each year to the most improved man.

From the money collected, an inscribed electric clock was purchased and placed in the CA Office. It was then decided that the balance of the fund be invested and that 'the interest from the investment (augmented

provide an annual gift of £5 to be known as the Apps Gift - to assist a Club which the Tournament Committee decides deserves special help'. This gift became known as the Apps Memorial Award and over the years the description 'deserving', in the phrase 'to the most deserving club', became interpreted as 'most worthy' rather than 'most needy', possibly to

if necessary by the CA) should

## APPS-HELEY AWARD WINNERS

1960 Llandudno

1961 Cambridge 1962 Burley

1963 Bristol

1964 Folkestone/Hythe

1965 Parkstone 1966 No record

1967 Cheltenham

1968 Edinburgh 1969 No record

1970 Ipswich

1971 Stourbridge 1972 Wrest Park

1973 Sidmouth

1974 Wolverhampton 1975 Southport & Birkdale 1976 Bath 1977 Ingatestone 1978 Bowdon 1979 Nottingham 1980 Colchester 1981 Bowdon 1982 Edgbaston 1983 East Riding 1984 Bristol 1985 Durham University

husband and became a regular

competitor in CA events, winning

the Ladies' Peels in 1957 and

appearing in the Ladies' Field

Cup in 1959. She was best

remembered, however, for the

great part she played in pro-

moting Croquet at Cambridge

University and in 1964 new

graduates instituted the Heley

Club as a tribute to her. In 1972

1986 Pendle

Members of Pendle Croquet Club, winners of the 1986 Apps-Heley

enhance the status of the award or possibly to make it easier to decide which Club should receive it each year.

On 11th July 1971, Ruth Heley died. She had been introduced to Croquet just after the Second World War by her second

a legacy from Mrs Ruth Heley was added to the Apps Memorial fund and the title of the award was changed to the Apps-Heley Award. In 1986 the Publicity and **Development Committee found** some difficulty in comparing the rather different merits of a spate of nominations of brand new Clubs, 'children' of our remarkably successful development

programme, and those of nominated established Clubs, whose achievements were quite different in nature. Charles Townsend then made his generous offer of a new Award for the new Clubs, so that henceforth the Apps-Heley Award will be restricted to the most deserving of the established Clubs (see separate box on Nominations for

Today the winning Club receives an inscribed plaque to keep, plus a cash award of £15.

By studying old Council records and gazettes, I have discovered who won this Award in all the relevant years except for 1966 and 1969, for which no records appear to have been kept. I would be interested to hear from any Club or Associate who can throw light on which Club won the Award in these two

## **NOMINATIONS FOR 1987 AWARDS**

The Townsend Award is a new award and comprises a trophy kindly donated to the CA by Townsend Croquet Ltd. It will be awarded each year to the Club, less than 3 years old, that has made the greatest advancement in its development during the

season. All new clubs formed in or since 1985 are thus eligible for the Award, and nominations are invited. Nominations should include information such as number of members, number of CA members, facilities the club has managed to develop (number and quality of courts and off-court facilities), playing achievements of the club and/or its individual members, notable handicap reductions achieved by members during the season, problems the club has managed to overcome, fund-raising activities, and any other information considered relevant. If the Club was fomed prior to 1987, comparative membership figures for 1986 should be included. The Apps-Heley Award,

made each year to the Club that has done the most for croquet or made the most progress during the year, will henceforth be restricted to clubs more than 3 years old. All clubs formed prior to 1985 are therefore eligible, and nominations are invited for this Award also. Nominations should include information similar to that listed above, with comparative membership and CA membership figures for 1986. Copies of, or information about, local and regional publicity obtained should be included, plus information about activities to help associated organisations outside the club; eg. hosting of CA events, work done for the local Federation or to help new clubs or schools in the Region (such as coaching by club members). Details of awards to members as coaches or referees should also be included.

award.

tions to Brian Macmillan at the CA Office by 1st February, 1988.

Nominations are also required for the most improved players (men and women) and these should reach Brian by the same date to enable the Handicap Committee to recommend the award of The Apps Trophy and The Steele Bowl for the most improved man and lady respectively. Persons nominated must be CA members and information about their improvements (including full details of handicap reductions) should relate only to that part of the season during which they were CA members (in respect of players who joined the CA midway through the season).

As a member of a club itself is

often the only person who can report on what the club and its members have achieved, please do not feel inhibited about putting your own club forward for either Please send your nomina-

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## The Croquet Classic

## Braxted Park: 29 August THE CROQUET CLASSIC Title Won By Norfolk Doctor

Report by Chris Hudson

The final of the Observer/Lassale Croquet Classic took place at Braxted Park at the end of August.

Rain over the previous week had caused floods 5 feet deep in nearby Chelmsford, and it had been so wet in the last few days before the final that it had been impossible to mow the lawns at all. 24 hours before the final was due to take place, it was not possible to play a croquet shot longer than 8 yards using brute force, and it was only with the help of the greenkeeper from the local golf course that play was possible at all on the day.

However, the players took all this in their stride, playing round the furrows and tyre marks left by competitors who had not lost a croquet game for some time.

Thomas Charles (who looked remarkably like Chris Jaques and indeed, turned out to be Chris Jaques) put out Lucius Cary, who was keenly supported by his wife and young daughter Eleanor, 14-7. The two Doctors. Bob Bawden and Jonathan Cullis, had a mighty battle, with Bob winning 14-12, and the other three games went to time, a mighty last minute surge from Peter Allnutt not quite getting him the verdict against Robert Johnson, who won 11-10. Bob Snaddon, from Alloa, beat Hamish Hall 11-3, and Albert Lawrance had a dour struggle to beat Jim Cairns 6-5.



The Final in progress. Albert Lawrance leaves the lawn with one last look at the position.

the grass-cutting machinery, and working on the principle that it was the same for everyone. Things improved as the warm weather dried out some of the worst patches, and each of the 9 lawns seemed to have its cluster of supporters taking a keen interest in the game in progress.

The Observer's man had been up early, and the area was festooned with placards advertising the event. Soon we saw their photographer on the roof of Braxted House, taking aerial shots of the play in progress, and very interesting the play turned out to be, with some of the players I had fancied to take the title disappearing in the first round.

Roger Best beat George Vincent in the first game to finish by a comfortable 14-2, and John Butcher defeated Andre Genillard 14-4. Keith Fennell had a good win over Thomas Lawrence, one of the younger

So who was going to win through to the semi-finals? Bawden was soon home and dry, with a clinical 14-1 win against Johnson. Best (14-5 against Butcher) and Jaques (14-4 against Fennell) followed soon after, but Lawrance again took the full time to beat Snaddon 9-2. There then followed a break for a ploughman's lunch, kindly provided for players and officials by our sponsors, Lassale, and served from a very impressive and colourful marquee.

The semi-finals were two contrasting games. Bawden beat Best 14-7 in a quick game where both players attempted breaks. Lawrance had a cat and mouse game against Jaques and again went the distance, winning 10-3.

The other players had been competing in a 'Losers' Plate', but after the initial three rounds they decided that they all wanted to watch the final, and so we had the marvellous spectacle of the



The 16 finalists. L to R (back): Peter Allnutt, Chris Jaques, Albert Lawrance, Hamish Hall, Keith Fennell, Roger Best, Jonathan Collis, Robert Bawden and Andre Genillard. (Front): John Butcher, Jim Cairns, Lucius Cary, Thomas Lawrence, Vincent George, Robert Snaddon and Robert Jackson.

centre court surrounded on all four sides by players with their families and other supporters and spectators.

And what a final it was! Played to a time limit of 1 hour. as were all the matches, Albert Lawrance had it all his own way for the first 45 minutes. Round to Rover with one ball and beginning to make progress with the other, whilst his opponent could not get things going at all. Bob Bawden must have found it quite unnerving to be playing with so many spectators all round the court, right up to the boundary lines, and some of the shots he would have played with ease in earlier rounds, he suddenly found he was missing. Then came the moment

when the match turned. Albert had attempted Rover and stuck in the hoop. Bob shot at it from near hoop 4, hit the rover hoop, but had he hit the ball? No, ruled the referee, and from that moment on, with the crowd right behind him, Bob tightened his resolve and found his former skill. Soon he had one ball round to the peg, with his other ball still on hoop 1, and Albert on peg and hoop 3.

Albert made hoop 3, found himself hampered on his return roquet, and played down to his other ball at hoop 4. Bob hit in, and as time was called, he had just played a croquet shot to get himself right in front of hoop 1. So there he was, on the peg with his other ball and his opponent on hoop 4 and the peg. Could he make three hoops to draw level? He made the first hoop to a ripple of applause, but then had no ball at hoop 2, although there was a ball at hoop 3 and a ball at hoop 4. He got to hoop 2 (more applause), made it, and was soon through hoop 3 (more applause - the crowd was loving it). Now they were level. Could he actually peg out and finish the game, or would we have a sudden death finish; or would Albert have a final turn to pull the game out of the fire?

The atmosphere was quite electric. To another burst of applause, Bob was through hoop 4, with his partner ball waiting for him at hoop 5. Through hoop 5 to more applause, a series of rushes to get to hoop 6, a long roll shot back to his partner ball at the peg, and in a flash, he was finished. None of your lying down to line up, or your easy three ball breaks like they play in the President's Cup. This had been



Bob Bawden in play during his final break.

croquet in the raw, dangerous and most exciting, and the crowd cheered him to the echo! But what a battle Albert had put up, and what a sporting loser. It was a real pleasure to watch.

And so we came to the end of the 1987 Croquet Classic, the first event of its kind to be held in this country, and we hope the first of many. Thanks to Lassale and their generous financial assistance, the event has been a great success, and already we are receiving enquiries from people wanting to enter next year. Our thanks, too, to The Observer, for all the help they gave us in promoting the event, to the National Trust for their help in staging the Regional Finals, and to Alan Pascoe Associates and Octopus Handling Services who looked after the organisation of the competition.

## RESULTS

#### 1st Round

Albert Lawrance bt Jim Cairns +1(T); Robert Snaddon bt Hamish Hall +8(T); Keith Fennell bt Thomas Lawrence +6; Chris Jaques bt Lucius Cary +7; Roger Best bt Vincent George +12; John Butcher bt Andre Genillard +10; Robert Johnson bt Peter Allnutt +1(T); Robert Bawden bt Jonathan Cullis +2

#### 2nd Round

Lawrance bt Snaddon +7(T); Jaques bt Fennell +10; Best bt Butcher +9; Bawden bt Johnson +13

## Semi-finals

Lawrance bt Jaques +7(T); Bawden bt Best +7

## Final

Bawden bt Lawrance +5

## THE FINALISTS

Hamish Hall: Won the first Regional Final at Castle Drogo. A member of Bristol Croquet Club, he has the handicap of an artificial leg.

Dr Jonathan Cullis: A Doctor at Southampton General Hospital. Winner of Trinity Hall Doubles competition at Cambridge in 1981, and St Thomas's Hospital Doubles in 1984. Captain of St Thomas Croquet 1985.

Lucius Cary: Winner of the Southern Regional Final at the Royal Berkshire Hotel. Had never played croquet in a competition before.

Thomas Lawrence: Studying cabinet design at Ryecroftwood College, Cambridge. His father is the Rector of Rural Dean. Had never played croquet outside his own back garden before.

Roger Best: A professional musician who plays with the Alberni String Quartet. He is a member of the Croquet Section at Dulwich Sports Club, and won the South Eastern Regional Final at Hinton Ampner.

Chris Jaques: Marketing Director of John Jaques & Sons, who manufacture croquet equipment. Playing under the name 'Thomas Charles', he won the other Regional Final at Hinton Ampner.

Andre Genillard: Teaches Economics and Politics at Reigate Grammer School. A keen sportsman who ran in the 1983 London Marathon and likes windsurfing.

Robert Jackson: The only Regional Finalist at Speke Hall not to play with his own mallet, but despite never having played in a croquet competition before, he won through to the Final. John Butcher: A Physics teacher and member of the Edgbaston Club, he won the closest Regional Final, winning by a score of 5-4 after time at Speke Hall.

Keith Fennell: Chosen for the Final as one of the 'best losers' after playing at Speke Hall, he is a Railway Clerk from Kingswinford and a member of Himley Hall Croquet Club.

Albert Lawrance: A retired school master who missed his chance to play in the Southern Regional Final due to illness, but later won through at Blickling Hall to gain a place in the National Final.

Dr Robert Bawden: A doctor from Diss in Norfolk, whose wife is also a doctor. Achieved the most convincing win of all the Regional winners, with a score of +14 in the Final at Blickling Hall.

Peter Allnutt: Gained his place in the National Final as a 'best loser' at Blickling Hall. The whole Allnutt family entered the competition, including Peter's 80-year old father.

Jim Cairns: Playing in his first croquet competition at Castle Howard, Jim only allowed his Regional Final opponents a maximum of 4 points in all three games. He comes from Barnsley.

Vincent George: A dental technician from Colne in Lancashire, he won the other Regional Final at Castle Howard. His wife lost in the quarter-finals of the same Regional Final.

Robert Snaddon: The winner of the Scottish Regional Final held at the Gleneagles hotel. He is a commercial manager and a member of the Dollar Croquet Club, who play on the lawns at Gleneagles. This was his first croquet competition.

## **Pro-Celebrity Croquet**



Nigel Davenport in play.

## Showbusiness Stars **Gather for Leeds Castle Croquet Tournament**

Report from Richard Harvey

Showbusiness stars and top croquet internationals met in the magnificent surroundings of Leeds Castle, Kent for a three-day tournament in aid of charity.

Donald Sinden, Auberon Waugh, Ian Ogilvy, Nigel Davenport, Isla Blair, John Wells, Linda Baron, Margaret Courtnay and Julian Glover partnered members of the All-England team on the Castle's croquet lawn set in the shadow of 'the most beautiful Castle in the



Linda Baron seeking guidance from David Openshaw.

Among the croquet internationals were David Openshaw, former Open Champion John Solomon, and top woman player and former international fencer Jan MacLeod.

The tournament, which was fund-raiser for the Mental Health Foundation, was sponsored by the National Westminster Bank, and was in accordance with the Leed Castle Foundation's declared objectives of supporting medical research.



Ian Ogilvy poses in front of Leed Castle before the start of play.

## British and best

John Solomon and Donald Sinden in the commentary box.

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## Phyllis Court: 20-21 June THE GOLF CROQUET CUPS

Report by Smokey Eades

With the largest entry for some years and two days of glorious sunshine the National Golf Croquet Tournament was an undoubted success.

Golf Croquet lends itself to a more relaxed and convivial atmosphere than its more prestigious cousin - Association Croquet. In Golf Croquet there are no pensive solitaries incommunicado at the touch lines: all is bustle and activity on the crowded courts: cries of relief and dismay are voiced without fear or inhibition and opponents are regularly heard talking to each

Phyllis Court, on the Henley Reach of the Thames, is surely one of the most delightful settings for a sporting event and, it being the week before Regatta, the Club and grounds were 'dressed overall'.

Not only was the number of entries high but the quality of player was more than maintained - Stephen Wright, John Rose, Geoff Roy and David Croker to mention but some.

David managed the Tournament with skill, tolerance and exactitude but even he was somewhat thrown on the timings. This year, possibly due to the greater skill of the players (some of the hitting out was quite exceptional) the 13-hoop games averaged 48 minutes (last year

In Golf Croquet, unlike Association, a doubles game is normally quicker than a singles. Nevertheless one 13th hoop when Stephen Wright/Sheila Soutter were playing Peter Howell/Smokey Eades was fought over for 38 minutes (timing by courtesy of Geoff Roy). Victory on that occasion went to Soutter/Wright although Howell/Eades finally beat Croker/Maugham for the Delves Broughton Cup. Sadly the Wanklings - last year's winners - failed to find their usual form.

In the singles, Peter Howell (holder of the Ascot Challenge Cup) won his block but then went down to Derek Goulding who, after a hard fight with Ian Maugham, went on to the final only to be beaten, by the nearest of margins, by Geoff Roy.

Kay Yeoman also won her block but then lost narrowly to the Champion whilst Ian Brand (part of the much welcomed Brand contingent - father and two sons) beat David Croker but then fell at the same fence (hoop?).

Only one critical voice did I hear throughout the delightful two days and that from a past Captain of the Temple Golf Club who remarked that Golf Croquet was a simple childish game. From a Golfer, the cheek!

**Golf Croquet Cups** The Ascot Challenge Cup (Open Singles: Level Play Block 1

4 wins: I. Brand 3 wins: D. Goulding 2 wins: S. Wright

RESULTS



Croquet Cups at Phyllis Court.

1 win: Mrs P. Dirsztav 0 wins: Mrs R.F. Crane

4 wins: Mrs K. Yeoman

3 wins: I. Maugham 2 wins: J. Rose

0 wins: Mrs E. O'Dair

3 wins: R.S. Eades (winner); D.J. Croker

2 wins: Mrs J. Wankling; R. Brand 0 wins: E. Matthews

3 wins: P. Howell (winner); G. Roy 2 wins: R.F. Crane

1 win: Mrs J. Soutter: A. Brand

Quarter-Finals

I. Brand bt D.J. Croker +4; G. Roy bt Mrs K. Yeoman +2; D. Goulding bt P. Howell +4; I. Maugham bt R.S.

Semi-Finals

Roy bt I. Brand +5; Goulding bt

Roy bt Goulding +1, +2

The Delves Broughton Challenge Cup

Block 1

3 wins: I. Maugham & D.J. Croker

0 wins: Mr & Mrs R.F. Crane

## Block 2 3 wins: P. Howell & R.S. Eades (winners); G. Roy & J. Rose 2 wins: R. Brand & I. Brand; S. Wright & Mrs Soutter 0 wins: E. Matthews & D. Goulding Howell & Eades bt Maugham & Croker +2, -4, +2 Bowdon: 22-31 August

The Doubles Finalists in the Golf

Block 2

1 win: J. Wankling

Block 3

Block 4

1st Round R.J. Collighan bt Mrs J. Walker +5;

Maugham +2

(Open Doubles: Level Play)

2 wins: Mr & Mrs J. Wankling 1 win: Mrs Yeoman & A. Brand

3rd Round

Cornelius +2

Clarke bt Peterson +4; Collighan bt Walters +1: Saurin bt S.G. Cornelius +4; Lamb bt D.S. Cornelius +5

**Golf Croquet** 

**Chris Clarke wins** 

Twenty two players contested the

North of England Golf Croquet

event at this year's Northern

the final, in which Chris Clarke

beat Mark Saurin +3. John

Meads and John Walters took 25

minutes to decide the 13th hoop.

John Walters eventually made it

**Golf Croquet Championship of** 

Dr A. Bray bt Rev P.D. Hallett +1;

J.O. Walters bt J.D. Meads +1; A.F.

Sutcliffe bt Mrs D.C. Dennett +6; S.G.

Cornelius bt Mrs C. Lewis +3; D.B.

C.D. Clarke bt R.R. Edwards +1; Dr

A.C. Peterson bt Mrs L. Taylor-Webb

+4; Collighan bt M.J. Wilkins +2;

Walters bt Bray +6; S.G. Cornelius bt

Sutcliffe +5; M.A. Saurin bt D.B.

Maugham +2; D.S. Cornelius bt A.

Bennet +2; W.E. Lamb bt Miss D.A.

Maugham bt J.S. Dyer +1

Two 'Bennet Bandits' met in

Northern's Golf

Croquet

Championships.

and took the game.

the North of England

RESULTS

(Level Play)

2nd Round

Semi-Finals

Clarke bt Collighan +3; Saurin bt Lamb +2

Final

Clarke bt Saurin +3



Chris Clarke, Golf Croquet winner at Bowdon

## From earlier years

**Editorial Notes** (May 8th, 1937)

**Golf Croquet** 

This week the two Challenge Cups for Golf-Croquet, generously presented by Sir Delves Broughton, are being competed for at Roehampton. Last year, this competition took place during the Challenge and Gilbey Cups Meeting and proved very successful. We have sometimes observed friendly - or at any rate practice - games going on at Golf-Croquet, and though the game has now had official recognition and a code of laws for about three years, the standard of play does not seem to us to have much improved. It is essential in this game, which has a character of its own, for each player to know the tactics and to employ them without waiting. There does not seem to be, generally speaking, this ready familiarity with the game - which is surprising since we hear there is a book of instruction written on Golf-Croquet. The full pleasure of the game is lost without a thorough grounding in its essentials - the more orthodox tactics combined with wiliness and

A WI member exults after making the boop in a Golf Croquet competition at Denman College.

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## **Letter from America**

By John McCullough

## SONOMA-CUTRER INTERNATIONAL 1987 Stephen's Revenge

Stephen Mulliner beat Mark Avery with a stylish display in the final of the second annual Sonoma-Cutrer tournament, thus gaining revenge for his defeat in the final of this years Open.

After some jockeying for position, Avery made a break to 4-back on the 8th turn with the aid of a spectacular open cannon played from near corner two, in which he sent a ball to hoop 3 and promoted a nearby ball most of the way to hoop 2. Mulliner hit the lift and replied with a TPO.

Avery, perhaps distracted by one of the many photographers, missed a short roquet after the contact and allowed Mulliner to set up a 3-ball break. Although Mulliner stuck in hoop 1, Avery missed the shot from hoop 2, and soon afterwards Mulliner had reconstructed his break and gone round to win – like the rest of the crowd seemingly enjoying Keith Wylie's excellent broadcast commentary.

Although the courts were very true and very easily paced, it was a display worthy of a champion, bearing in mind the heat (90F) and the pressure of such a prestigious final.

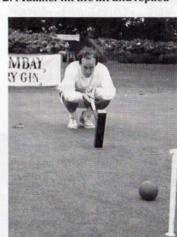
Five days earlier, 36 players had assembled in California's wine country to start the contest. They represented the strongest field ever gathered at an individual tournament and included no less than 18 MacRobertson Shield internationals, and representatives from 6 countries.

The format involved 4 blocks of 9 players each playing a round robin to get 20 finalists for the second stage. The four block winners then played a round robin to get one finalist (Mulliner), while the remaining 19 played off in a losers' bracket to get the other finalist (Avery). All but the last four games were double-banked and all games were played with a 2 hour time limit — approx 75% were finished.

From the outset triples were commonplace, and many players were chasing the prize of a magnum of vintage wine for the first sextuple. Graham Beale (NZ) duly achieved this to great cheers – it is believed to be the first completed on the North American continent.

The American players performed impressively, but their lack of tactical experience tipped the balance and only Ed Cline (Arizona) managed to qualify for the final round.

Excitement came thick and fast. Andrew Hope did a fine triple to inflict on John Prince his only block defeat. Michael Heap dismissed Bob Jackson +26TP, and



Steve Mulliner, back on top again.

Keith Aiton so nearly completed a 3 ball triple against Bob Kroeger, only to lose control after penultimate. John McCullough went all round after hitting the last lift against Avery, pegging Avery out to leave a 1 and peg vs penult situation, from which McCullough won in two turns. Martin Murray hit a 32 yard shot when 1 down against Jerry Stark after time, and went on to win +4, including a rover peel from north of the peg. Jerry Guest did an all round break after time to beat Tremaine Arkley +1.

Six Brits qualified for the final round, Mulliner winning his block with 6 triples in his 7 wins. Simon Williams also played impressively to qualify but turned up 2 hours late for his Friday morning match against Paul Skinley, to find himself scratched. Besides Mulliner and Prince, the other block winners were Bidencope, playing very well on his adopted turf, and Chambers, the only player to score 8/8 in the round robin series.

As the losers bracket knockout progressed, Avery and Bob Jackson (recovering from a bout of jet lag) appeared the main threats and sure enough Avery dispatched Skinley in the classiest of games, Skinley going to 4-back on the third turn after hitting a ball on the middle of the East boundary, with the other ball positioned on the middle of the West boundary. Avery hit the

## National Rankings: 1987

		Grade	Games				
1	Mulliner SN	176	85	65	Meads JD	106	43
2	Aspinall GN	173	23	66	Lamb WE	105	71
3	Avery MN	164	62	67	Jackson GEP	104	21
4	Openshaw DK	164	25	68	Maugham FI	104	37
5	Prichard WdeB	150	16	69	Death PJ	102	16
6	Cordingley P	149	72	70	Southern C	102	55
7	Heap MEW	147	24	71	Roy GC	99	11
8	Irwin CJ	147	68	72	Wood R	99	19
9	Lewis SE	144	31	73	Packer SW	98	13
10	Aiton KMH	139	118	74	Tribe R	98	12
11	Aldridge WO	138	48	75	Shergold FL	97	15
12	Goacher DJ	138	72	76	Williams RAW	97	13
13	Noble GW	137	81	77	Beatty DV	96	37
14	Solomon EW	137	43	78	Ransom RW	96	45
15	Fulford RI	135	82	79	Reeve DC	96	20
16	Murray M	134	65 77	80	Bennet A	94	31
17 18	Foulser DR	132		81	Gale NFC	94	25
19	Clarke CD Vincent IG	131	66 40	82	Greenwood JD	94	17
20	McCullough JR	129	85	83	Johnson PM	94	18
21	Healy GPN	128	24	84 85	Keen BA Taylor GK	94	12
22	Hope AB	127	21	86	Camroux AV	92	14
23	Walters JO	126	117	87	Harrison TD	92	44
24	Williams S	126	72	88	Drake HG	91	10
25	Palmer DG	125	43	89	Kelly DJ	90	10
26	Croker DJ	121	14	90	Tompkinson M	90	22
27	Saurin MA	121	39	91	Mann JR	89	12
28	Wright SJH	121	27	92	Moorcraft D	89	21
29	French MR	120	83	93	Ross JE	89	10
30	Gunasekera D	120	25	94	Hague P Mrs	87	30
31	Read TO	120	12	95	Hopewell CG	87	12
32	Sutcliffe AF	120	44	96	Potter JW	87	10
33	Wylie KF	119	35	97	Wiggins WRD	87	23
34	Hyne NG	118	84	98	Bazley C Lady	85	53
35	Neal BG	118	29	99	Carlisle V Mrs	85	24
36	Prichard RDC	118	84	100	Girling AJ	85	18
37	Bell E	117	18	101	Parker CA	85	18
38	Latham LV	117	20	102	Stoker P	85	10
39	Peterson DNS	117	66	103	Collighan RJ	84	25
40	Carlisle J	115	26	104	Jones RC	84	14
41	Ormerod M	115	10	105	Maugham DB	84	20
42	Davis EJ	114	42	106	Kolbuszewski M	82	24
43	Smith PL	114	75	107	Wheeler RF	82	11
44	Hands PW	113	- 44	108	Weitz BGF	81	44
45	Smith RJ	113	47	109	Anderson Mrs J	80	12
46	Vince GA	113	39	110	Foden S Miss	80	11
47	Wiggins DCD	113	45	111	Macdonald IPM	80	26
48	Bond ID	112	38	112	Wharrad L	80	21
49	Cairns DS	112	38	113	McCoig Miss FC	79	26
50	Collin MP Mrs	112	15	114	Wilkins MJ	79	25
51 52	Suter M	112 112	68 32	115	Gregg P	78 78	11
53	Wiggins S Mrs Rose J	111	40	116	Hobbs RM		13
54	Schmieder CM von	111	33	117	Dorke PJ	77	19
55	Sykes BC	111	28	118 119	Finn MJ Jenkins RS	77	15
56	Gaunt DL	110	56	120	Paddon MT	77	
57	Guest JE	110	95	121	Sanford CB	77	14
58	Stevens MJ	110	46	122	Shaw DW	77	40
59	Cornelius DA Miss	109	71	123	Smith CA Mrs	77	30
60	Mrozinski AJ	109	60	124	Haggerston MJB	76	15
61	Rogerson F	109	29	125	Hilditch JR	75	100
62	Dawson JP	108	42	126	Maude JS	75	10
	Jones KE	108	24	127	Straw JC	75	42
63							
64	Hallam BG	106	36	128	Cornelius SG	74	22

lift, went to 4-back and tripled out on turn 6.

In the losers' bracket semifinals attempted TPO's proved the downfall of Chambers, who presented Heap with a variation on the 'four balls round rover' leave, and Prince, who failed to peg out Avery but pegged out himself when 1-back vs 1 and peg. The losers' bracket final provided another demonstration by Avery of how to win a game in two turns.

In conclusion, this was a

In conclusion, this was a marvellous event with some great croquet and a worthy winner. Brice Jones, Stan Palmer and Neil Spooner are to be congratulated for staging a tournament that is likely to find a permanent place as one of the World's premier events.

## 1987 MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT COMPETITION

## Nottingham catching up

Congratulations to Nottingham who have joined the leaders in the Recruitment competition.

Several new clubs have entered the 'Top 20' this month. Is yours one of them? If every club recruited just one more member this season, that would increase the CA's membership by 160.

At the end of the year, the 6 clubs who have recruited most new members for the CA in 1987

will receive an award equal to the CA subscriptions of those they have recruited.

Please encourage even more people to join the CA and help us to help you!

## The Top Clubs

Listed below are the current top 16 clubs.

Cheltenham Roehampton
Nottingham Colchester
Compton Edgbaston
Loughborough Ramsgate
Teesside Bath
Cambridge U. Hurlingham
Letchworth Phyllis Court
Sidmouth South Shropsh
Thameside Worthing

## JANE NEVILLE-ROLFE

**Obituary** 

Jane died at her home at Heacham on 26th August 1987, after a short illness. She was 78 and had been the Secretary of the Hunstanton Croquet Club since 1963. Her funeral was on the Wednesday of the Club's annual tournament and play was stopped for the afternoon to enable players to attend.

Jane married Captain Arthur



Neville-Rolfe in 1953. She had

trained as a nurse at St Thomas's

Hospital and met him whilst

Jane Neville-Rolfe

helping to care for his first wife at Addenbrooke's Nursing Home, Hunstanton. Her conventional nursing career had been interrupted by the war, when she joined the First Aid Nursing Yeomanry (FANYs). She used to say that she had taught the present Queen to drive and that she was one of only four women to have driven a tank. Jane had many interests: she was the leading light at the Hunstanton Convalescent Home for many years; she was active in the Ladies section of the British Legion and in her local Church: she was a keen golfer, bridge player and gardener. Her husband, who lived until the age of 95, had the unusual distinction of celebrating a silver wedding with each of his two wives; and no one who attended the funeral will forget the sincere and affectionate tribute made by Jane's stepson, Edmund, in thanks for the care given by her to his father. One of the Neville-Rolfe's ancestors married the Red Indian princess Pocahontas, who is remembered by a brass memorial in the Church, and it was said at the funeral that Jane was the last resident at Heacham to bear the family name, in a line going back continuously to the fifteenth Croquet became one of Jane's

Croquet became one of Jane's interests in the late fifties. Although the Hunstanton Club had been in existence for many years it had fallen on hard times. Jane was then one of only three

## Wolverhampton: 12 Sept Brian Melody wins Area Final

Report by Terry Greenwood

A strong breeze swayed the nearby large poplar trees and although large threatening clouds promised a wet afternoon, only one sharp shower occurred halfway through this Area Final of the 'All-England' Short Croquet competition.

It was going to be interesting to see how Ken Townsend, an occasional Short Croquet player, would fare against the three visitors who had been weaned on the short game. The lawns were surprisingly fast, considering the recent spell of wet weather, but the players soon mastered the pace.

It was soon apparent from the Norman/Townsend game that the tight hoops were going to give problems. Norman began to use his bisques quite rapidly as he continually stuck in hoops; in fact, only one bisque remained as both players began to take their second ball round. That belonged to Townsend, but Norman eventually won +1.

The Melody/Tunbridge game was soon over, Melody winning in 35 minutes and still having 4 bisques left. Showing a form far better than his handicap, Melody demonstrated a sound knowledge of the Short game.

resident players (the others were Mrs Perowne and Mrs Leake) and they each decided to give a set of balls to enable a tournament to be held. This was the beginning of the modern club, and its development owes much to Jane's enthusiasm and devotion. She herself became one of the outstanding lady players of her time, being regularly selected for the Ladies Field Cup. Although she never won either that or the Women's Championship she was always near the top and played an attractive open game. At the Club she had a welcome for all and encouraged play at all levels. Her past as a sister was sometimes indicated by an authoritative approach, but this was put to good use in management, as was her astringent wit.

All visitors will remember Jane as the smiling face of Hunstanton. That the Club was able in recent years to host invitation events and a Test match is evidence of the success of her stewardship. She leaves behind a flourishing club and very many friends, both in the world of croquet and outside. She is much missed.

H.C.



Area Finalists, Loughborough members Alan Tunbridge (left) and Brian Melody. Over 100 players took part in this year's 'All-England' Short Croquet competition.

In his game against Norman, Melody again showed good form, but in taking his first ball round, he did have to indulge in 3 bisques. Gary Norman used 4 in his turn, skillfully peeling his opponent's ball through Rover. However, he then promptly pegged both balls out, and with 4 bisques to 1 in Melody's favour, the result was a predictable victory for Melody +5.

Townsend/Tunbridge saw the former win +8, but Alan Tunbridge gave a good account of himself, making up ground but then going off the lawn near his opponent's ball when attempting a take-off. In his last game against Norman, Alan showed he is a useful player, played to his handicap, and won +6.

The Melody/Townsend game turned out to be the best of the day. Melody advanced to Rover quite quickly. Townsend used a bisque, ran hoop 1 with both balls and then took one ball all the way round to the peg. Melody reacted, used a bisque, and then took his other ball round, sensibly using bisques to obtain better positions, and completing a peel through rover. He won the game +7, leaving Ken Townsend with 4 bisques.

So it was Brian Melody who went on to the National Final, and deservedly so. His use of bisques was without blemish, but he also ran the hoops very well and missed very little when hitting in was critical.

## BERNARD NEAL CROQUET MALLETS

Aluminium Alloy Shafts Permali Heads

## STANDARD MALLET

Rubber Grip Length as required

## **OPTIONAL EXTRAS**

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## **Tournament Reports**

## Colchester: 6-11 July Brown Lawns and Red Noses

Report by Andrew Gregory

At Colchester the hottest week of the summer helped create what were surely the fastest lawns of the summer. Quick at the start of the week, the surface was daily baked to a glassy finish. Watching any game start in mid-afternoon one could almost guarantee to see the first unsuspecting takeoff fizz into the hedge with alarming alacrity. But when treated with deserved respect the lawns proved a pleasure to play on, though the demanding accuracy did preclude many an attempted triple. Indeed there was more peeling of skin than of hoops, as Monday's predominantly white legs were later hidden, having been grilled a lobstrous pink.

In the early rounds of the X, Reggie Bamford made one of the week's rare triples before his progress was arrested by Carl Docherty. In all his games the latter was most cagey with his numerous bisques: he did not waste them in setting up a break, relying on his opponent to stick in first hoop. Those who doubted the wisdom of such tactics could not question their efficacy, as Carl conceded just one point in his path to the X final. Another debatable decision in the crucial game in the C class involved Docherty attempting to jump a hoop to peg out his single ball. The embarrassing failure of this shot was not fully punished as Jonathan Collis' comeback met a sad end in the jaws of rover.

The other triple peel at Colchester also involved Bamford, this time as victim as Michael Heap won the genuinely A class final of the process. Heap continued his precise play in the overall final, as he nearly brought off a second triple against Danny Palmer. Michael thus retained the trophy he seems to have made his own.

The second X semi-final was a tense tussle between Julian Eden and Fiona McCoig. Eden pegged out his opponent with both other clips on rover, and joined up near first corner. McCoig hit in from 30 yards, but after her imperfect rush to rover decided to play safe in her approach and send the croqueted ball toward fourth corner. Her own ball finished in position to run rover, but the other stuck on the wire of 4th hoop, whence she had to roquet it to win the game. She thus gained revenge for an earlier doubles game. With all clips on rover, she and her partner Bamford had been forced to watch as Eden made a 40 yard hit-in to set up for partner Chris Sheen, who calmly finished off in the time turn.

'Time!' was heard mercifully infrequently: not because of the players' speed, rather the manager's bravery in only limiting doubles games. Pat Hetherington managed efficiently and enthusiastically, despite having to withdraw from play when the scheduled manager was unable to come. A glimpse of the chaos that might have ensued without her was provided during Wednesday evening's golf croquet, as John Walters assisted the manager in producing three semi-finals. A best-of-13 six-ball final was proposed, though this was curtailed to first-to-3 so that supper could be started before dusk.

There was an additional social event, as Debbie Cornelius took time off her consuming duties as Referee of Tournament to host a flat-warming party. Here a most extraordinary game took place between Simon Williams and Fiona McCoig, with Danny Palmer playing an unconscious part. Williams dominated from the start, adapting well to the unusual playing surface. After his innings there was a lengthy pause as everyone gathered to admire the leave. When it came to McCoig's turn, she lacked the touch of the A-class player, went too hard for first hoop, and clanged. Palmer made his first active intervention, and thus ended the game.

## **HONOURS BOARD**

The Colchester Bowl
M.E.W. Heap
The Locke Bowl A.K. Gregory
The Cordy Salver C. Docherty
The Franklin Cup C. Docherty
The Lexden Goblet D. Reeve
The Clarke & Cork Trophies
R. Jones & Mrs C. Steward

More entertainment was to be had on the lawns, as Andrew Gregory demonstrated controlled use of his 1½ bisques. Finding himself a foot in front of first hoop with a break set up, he stuck in the middle of the jaws; cunningly used his whole bisque to hit the ground, missing the ball entirely; and then was forced to use the half-bisque to defensively retire to the boundary, conceding the innings. Earlier, Gregory had shown more competence on the

easier lawns at Boxford, recording his first TP as he and Eden won their B class blocks without conceding a game.

And so to Saturday's finals. The doubles was a surprisingly swift affair, with the Ipswichian pair of Celia Steward and Robert Jones making effective use of their bisques to win with ease. The Y and B class finals were similarly one-sided, Duncan Reeve and Andrew Gregory respectively triumphant. In the attritive final of the X, Carl Docherty held a narrow lead throughout, frustrating Fiona McCoig by taking a bisque only when she threatened to draw level. After the bisques were exhausted the fourth hour proved tense, but Docherty just held on to win by 5.

Meanwhile, on a distant lawn, two men were quietly passing their afternoon dutifully playing out their academic game in the B class. After four hours Lawrence Whittaker was seen to peg out one of David Ruscombe-King's balls, and spectators who were momentarily unabsorbed in the X final commented that with his other clip on rover, and his

opponent's on fifth, Whittaker really should have pegged out his own ball as well.

But after the excitement of the X was over, the spectators were surprised to notice the same two men still pacing the lawn, Ruscombe-King more purposefully now, and look – he has won, by one. In the last and longest game of the tournament a tactical misdemeanour has been justly punished.



Fiona McCoig, prominent at Colchester.

## East Riding: 11-12 July

Report by Derek Trotman

With six lawns available, East Riding were able to organise their largest tournament to date most successfully. Players came from a wide range of clubs, but being the nearest tournament to Tyneside that club treated the event as a club outing, with seven members travelling by some extremely varied and lengthy routes to Hull.

Bill Lamb efficiently managed the weekend, even arranging for the rain to cease by mid morning on the first day. The five blocks, three with six players and two with five, contained a range of handicaps from -2 to 18 which resulted in some interesting games and a lot of sitting out by some of the lower bisquers.

Ross Gillespie in Block 'A' was in great form, winning all his games by such margins that he achieved a plus 94 score which made him outright winner of the tournament and the object of some handicap adjustment.

Blocks 'B' and 'C' were much closer affairs, with two players having four wins. Dave Appleton won the former due to his victory

over Alice Jones, while Barbara Sutcliffe's win over Andrew Smith put her top of Block 'C'.

Block 'D' was won by Alan Sutcliffe who made a speciality of three ball finishes, but in a playoff against the Block 'E' winner, he lost to Bob Sutherland.



Barbara Sutcliffe, block winner at Hull.

#### RESULTS

(30 entries)

Handicap Play; American Blocks

#### **Block Winners**

Dr R. Gillespie (11) (5wins); D. Appleton (3) (4 wins); Mrs B. Sutcliffe (7) (4 wins); A. Sutcliffe (1½) (4 wins); R. Sutherland (4½) (4 wins)

## **Tournament Reports**

## Ipswich: 31 July - 2 August 'How green (and spongy) is my valley . . . '

Report by Martin French

There was a change to the programme advertised in the Fixtures List, and this weekend developed into two events. The main event was the night-time Golf tournament played in intermittent floodlighting at Celia Steward's house. This was fitted-in between courses of the superb tournament dinner: a choice of Chilli or Beef in Red Wine.

The Gaunt Handicap Method was used in this event – all players under 5 (handicap, not age) had to play with a rough lump of wood nailed to the end of a broom handle. This is not to be confused with the similar, though more expensive, mallets made by a long-established firm. Andy Schonbeck, fresh (?) from his honeymoon, was not put off by the alarming way in which hoops kept moving in the darker regions of the sloping garden. He won the gripping shoot-out at the mobile peg.

Oh yes, there was also some play at the two Ipswich and one Felixstowe lawns. This was an unusual event as it was not attended by any beer drinkers from London. After the Ipswich

Hit Squad invaded the Isle of Wight earlier this season, we were hoping for a return influx of Ryde members, but none materialised.

The decisive game was

probably that between Don Gaunt and Lewis Palmer. Lewis looked in control, having riggalled Don and being near to finishing. The crowd watched with bated breath (\*poetic licence here, there wasn't any crowd!) as Don shot from near 1 to Lewis laid up near 3. A cunning rebound off the hoop resulted in a hit-in, and Don went on to finish. Don finished with 7 wins from 7 games, thus vindicating the Keen maxim on the bias in favour of the low bisquer in handicap play.

Two slightly unusual aspects of the event. There were no 'bandits' – as many players had their handicaps increased as reduced. The hoops were all set to give a clearance of up to ½ th inch on the fattest ball, rather than to a gauge; this did catch out several players used to fat hoops and skinny balls.

## Surbiton: 13-14 June A Notable 'First' at Surbiton

Report by David Peterson

Surbiton's first tournament was a 7-round two-day Swiss managed, as is so often the case these days, by Richard Hilditch.

The leader in the clubhouse. or at least he would have been if it had been built yet, was a resurgent David Peterson with four wins. More significant though was that Hyne who was only one win behind had already beaten Mulliner, who had yet to play David. Accordingly on Sunday Steve beat David who then fell behind for Nick to emerge victorious on six out of seven by dint of his win against Stephen. The croquet had not been brilliant but it was certainly an enjoyable weekend.

George Noble organised everything (balls, beer, barbecues, pizzas, pubs, hoops, etc.) and Jerry Guest sacrificed himself to mowing the lawns. These two are typical of a remarkably enthusiastic membership (by no means all tournament players). It is certainly a very ambitious club (five lawns already, and two more and a sumptuous club house to follow) and hopefully it will blossom at a time when other

London clubs are feeling pressure on their lawns from covetous neighbours. So far, the CA's investment in this club seems to have paid off, and we could have been privileged to see the birth of croquet's first venue capable of handling CA events for many a year.



George Noble: Sterling work at Surbiton.

## RESULT

(18 entries) Advanced Play; 7-round Swiss)

Winner: N.G. Hyne (6 wins) Surbiton: 25-26 July RESULT

(18 entries) Handicap Swiss

Winner: J.P. Dawson (2) (5 wins)

The catering is always mentioned in reports, this time with good reason. Apart from the excellent Tournament dinner already described, we continued our eccentric habit of offering 1st and 2nd-colour Battenbergs as part of the splendid Teas. Particularly popular was the daily Barbeque for lunch – a good change from the endless tournament salads.

Like most venues this year, the continuing wet weather has led to ridiculously easy lawns. Even the consistently good weather over the three days did little to speed up the verdant lawns. This had a noticeable



Martin French prepares the lunchtime barbecue at Ipswich.

effect in one game, where the players started on 'Bob' and 'Pat' terms. Taking full advantage of the easy lawns, one player contrived a spectacularly enterprising break (worthy of Desperate Dan or Ken Jones). It was observed that a rather more icey 'Robert' and 'Patricia' tone was present by the end of the game!

This sadly might be the last Ipswich Handicap Weekend in this format, as the possible 'Easterns' next year (likely to involve Colchester and Ipswich) will cause us to divert our efforts to other events.

#### RESULT

(14 entries) Handicap Play; 7-Round Swiss

Winner: D. Gaunt (1) (7 wins)

## WANTED REWARD!!

Assistance in tracing the following members would be appreciated. Their magazines have been returned marked 'gone away'.

A.G. Darby (Portslade)
R.J. Evans (Littleton)
J. Hawkins (Cambridge)
P.M. Johnson (Cheltenham)

N. Lisle D. Purdon (Colchester)

E.F.P. Melters (Wells Palace)

**Reward:** The satisfaction of knowing they will have the opportunity of reading an excellent magazine.

Brian Macmillan, Admin Secretary.

## Harrow: 25-26 July Hilditch Bounces Back

Report by Lewis Palmer

Fourteen players entered this restricted (0-6½) advanced weekend but the draw had to be re-arranged due to two local players not turning up! Although no minus players were present, most of the field consisted of improving players eager to pick up ranking points.

With medium paced lawns and easy hoops, games were played in quick time, but it wasn't until the third round that the first triple was completed, a TPO by Ray Ransom against Richard Hilditch. This obviously stung Richard into action as he beat Debbie Cornelius +17TP in 40 minutes on her 21st birthday. Tim Harrison also completed a triple against Peter Dorke in round 4 but it was Andrew Gregory who emerged as the clear leader after day 1 with 4 wins out of 4.

Alternative sport was provided by some bored spectators in the form of a game of cricket in the park and some players tried their hand on the putting green.

Sunday began with Andrew losing his unbeaten record but he had a triple against Martin French in his next game. Both Tim and Richard completed their second triples of the tournament in round six.

In the final round Tim beat Andrew to give them both five wins along with Richard. Unfortunately Gordon Vince lost to Lewis Palmer to miss out on the play-offs.

To decide the winner, the manager (Richard) had an advanced one ball with Tim and Andrew. Much to the crowds amazement and delight, Richard won with Tim a close second.

## RESULT

(14 entries)
Advanced Play; Swiss

Winner: J.R. Hilditch (5 wins)

## **Championship Reports**

## Bowdon: 22-31 August THE NORTHERN CHAMPIONSHIPS Slime stops play: Irwin wins again

Report by David Maugham

On the first day, Saturday, the weather was fair, with no hint of the impending doom that was to strike. One of the more interesting strokes of the day was Angus Peterson's worm cannon which left a seven yard 'rush' to his hoop; Colin Irwin described it as 'more of a python's cannon'. Russell Collighan managed to miss a 1½-foot peg out to lose the game and Andrew Bennet lost in two events without even scoring one hoop.

Very little play was seen on Sunday, due to the almost incessant rain. Lawn 4 was the first to be abandoned, because of a strange slipperyness which was to herald the start of the dire happenings. With no play going on, points of Law were debated, such as; in an 18pt game, can one player start on five and five, whilst his opponent starts on one and three back? A lot of people played cards, as no-one was playing croquet, and I even managed to win a game of contract whist. Later on, a clothing sale was held, at which Bill Lamb was seen to strip. Meanwhile a lake was filling outside the clubhouse, into which it was suggested John Walters could put his newts.

The weather on Monday was a distinct improvement over that of the previous day. Paul Stoker had his first three games at Denzell which, despite rumours to the contrary, was in very good condition, apart from the hole in corner 2. It was of course slower, but the bouncy Southport balls made up for this quite adequately. In the handicap doubles, John Walters and Liz Taylor-Webb appeared in matching colours; on Monday, they wore



David Peterson, looking for a return to form.

pink trim and Tuesday was yellow. Also in the doubles, David Peterson did the first triple of the week in the form of an STP to win the game. By Monday, Jeremy Dyer was showing himself to be the bandit of the week, starting at 16, being reduced to 13 after his first game and finishing off the week on 11 after winning the X. By now, Chris Clarke had proved his incompetence at opening packets of peanuts, first being unable to open a packet and then spilling half the contents of another packet whilst opening it.

Tuesday saw Debbie Cornelius and John Meads start their game in the X under conditions of advanced play. Reports of a 6-hour C-class game reached me, but I never found out who the protagonists were. In the evening, John Meads and John Walters contested the deciding hoop in their game of Golf Croquet for 25 minutes and I had a small difference of opinion with Chris Clarke.

The 'ATTACK OF THE GREEN SLIME' occurred on Wednesday and lawns 3 and 4 had to be abandoned. People were not falling off lawn 3 this year, they were falling on it. Liz Taylor-Webb and John Walters won the doubles (in turquoise) against John Meads and Jeremy Dyer. Richard Hilditch experimented in training wasps to track a cup of coffee around the room, but decided that killing them with his hat was easier.

Thursday dawned bright and clear, but due to dew (or should it be dew to due?) the slime on lawns 3 and 4 was still a problem, so a vacuum cleaner was used to remove the slime (yes, I know it sounds silly, but it is true). Meanwhile Jeremy Dyer was beating Carol Lewis in the final of the X, and David Maugham won the B-class. Chris Clarke twentysixed Alan Sutcliffe in the final of the A-class, and Chris also won the Golf Croquet. The C-class remained undecided, since Carol Lewis had too many other games to play and Alvar Bray was not available after Thursday. Dave Watkins won the D-class. In order to get in as many games as possible, the Open Doubles was played on Thursday, and Bill Aldridge and John Walters won after an abortive TPO by Mark Saurin who was playing with Stephen Cornelius. The final of the Reed Cup between Chris



Watched by Alvar Bray and Angus Peterson, Tournament Manager Chris Irwin cleans slime from lawn 4 with a vacuum cleaner to keep the tournament running.

Clarke and Carol Lewis (which Carol won) had to be played on Sunday, as she had no time for it on Thursday.

The weekend started well for me, as I got into the main event when Phil Cordingley dropped out. However, on the serious side, John McCullough started the betting this year with Mark Avery at evens and Colin Irwin at 3-2 against.

In one game, Colin was playing Bill Aldridge at Denzell when a wiring decision required a third referee to go and sort it out. Mark Avery did the first triple of the weekend, also at Denzell, thus showing that the conditions there were easy rather than badly slow as some had said.

The first TPO was done by John McCullough (who won) against Mark Suter. The lawn-mower decided to break down on Saturday, but with Colin Irwin's expert help (and my socket set) it was repaired. Before the tournament dinner on Saturday, we were treated to a list of flowers that Robert Prichard can recognise, for some reason.

On Sunday, Andrew Bennet was playing Stephen Cornelius and a referee had been put in charge. This in itself is not unusual, but the RIC missed Stephen lifting a ball and playing it when he was not entitled to a lift. (The RIC shall remain nameless so as not to embarass him!)

The shot of the week has to go to Bill Aldridge for his running of penultimate cleanly from the North boundary to the South, thus winning the game against Steve Lewis.

Richard Hilditch impressed us with more biological wisdom on Sunday. The inside of his right wrist is very hairy and his explanation for this is that since his watch rubs hair off his left wrist, it sends messages to the right wrist to grow more hair. (It has to be seen to be believed.)

Despite having odds of 6-1 against at one point, Colin Irwin was unstoppable and he beat Chris Clarke (who played very well during the tournament) by two games to one in the best-of-three final.

Yet another wonderful Northerns, with excellent management. Certainly one to be reserved for next year.

#### RESULTS

The Championship of the North of England (32 entries)

Advanced Play; Draw & Process

#### DRAW 3rd Round

K.M.H. Aiton bt R.D.C. Prichard +16(TP); C.D. Clarke bt F.I. Maugham +23; S.E. Lewis bt Mrs M.P. Collin +23; W.O. Aldridge bt J.O. Walters +11

## **Semi-Finals**

Clarke bt Aiton +14; Aldridge bt Lewis +7

## Final

Clarke bt Aldridge +9



Liz Taylor-Webb won the Bowdon Doubles with John Walters.

#### PROCESS 3rd Round

M. Avery bt D.R. Foulser +25; C.J. Irwin bt A.F. Sutcliffe +17; M. French bt N.G. Hyne +17; S.E. Lewis bt C.H. Wild +14

#### Semi-Finals

Irwin bt Avery +5; French bt Lewis +5

## **Championship Reports**

Irwin bt French +19

PLAY-OFF

Irwin bt Clarke +25, -13, +19.



Colin Irwin, 1987 Northern Champion.

3rd Place Play-Off Aldridge bt French +19 Event 1A (Plate)

Advanced Play; Progressive Swiss Winner: K.M.H. Aiton (2 losses)

Doubles Championship of the North of England (7 pairs) Advanced Play; Knockout

W.O. Aldridge & J.O.Walters bt M.A. Saurin & S.G. Cornelius +13

Open Singles (11 entries) Advanced Play; Draw & Process

PLAY-OFF

C.D. Clarke bt A.F. Sutcliffe +26

Semi-finalists J.O. Walters; W.E. Lamb

'B' Class Event (7 entries)
Advanced Play: Draw & Process

(2 bisques or over)

FINAL

D.B. Maugham bt M.J. Wilkins +13

Marriage Semi-finalist

R. Collighan

'C' Class Event (7 entries)

Level Play; Draw & Process
(6 bisques or over)

Finalists
D. Watkins; Dr A. Bray
(Result not recorded)

Semi-finalists
Mrs C. Lewis; Miss A. Dawson
'D' Class Event (5 entries)
American Block: Level Play

(10 bisques or over: 18pt games)

Winner K.B. Cooper (3 wins)

The Bowdon Handicap (29 entries) Handicap knockout

Semi-Finals
J.S. Dyer (16) bt D.B. Maugham (4)
+24; Mrs C. Lewis (9) bt Miss
Cornelius (2) +20

Final
Dyer bt Mrs Lewis +15
'Y Handicap

C.H. Wild (5) bt Miss A.E. Dawson (8)

The Bowdon Doubles (14 pairs)
Handicap Play; Knockout

Mrs E. Taylor-Webb & J.O. Walters (8) bt J.D. Meads & J.S. Dyer (13½) +7 The Reed Cup

(31 entries)
Handicap Play; Knockout

Edgbaston: 31 July-2 August
JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS
Fulford Scrapes Through

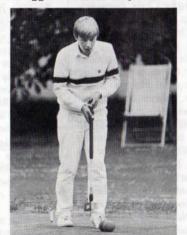
Fifteen juniors entered for the Championships this year, and the general standard of play continues to rise. Nearly all the competitors had played for their schools, which suggests that individual clubs are not doing

enough to encourage juniors to

Report by Chris Clarke

begin the game.

An extra half day had been added to the Championship this year which enabled the manager to get more than two hours sleep at night. In the first round of the draw, both the favourites (on handicap) looked to be on the brink of defeat. Robert Fulford's opponent, Edward Duckworth, had a rush to rover when for rover and peg, but was unable to capitalise on this opportunity. Robert eventually regained the innings to win plus 2. Mark Suter's opponent, Neville Turley from Bishop Vesey's, had only to run a straightforward rover hoop to be virtually certain of victory. However, the pressure once again took its effect and Mark struggled back to win plus 2.



Junior Champion, Robert Fulford.

In the first round of the process, the 'star' match was between Fulford and John Mann. Both players made mistakes, but John then went round and pegged two balls out, leaving Robert for 6 vs. 4-back?! Robert got to 2-back before John made 4-back and then took position at penultimate. Robert took the lift, rushed the ball at penult to 2-back and predictably finished on a 2-ball break.

With play having started at

Semi-Finals

Mrs C. Lewis (9) bt A.C. Peterson (7½) +4(T); C.D. Clarke (2) bt Mrs E. Taylor-Webb (9) +3

Final Mrs Lewis bt Clarke +13 2pm many players were stunned to be asked to play a third game that day, due to the efficient management of Peter Dorke and the easy playing conditions. Robert seemed to have settled in at last, beating Chris Clarke plus 26 with a 9th turn TP. Robert gained his second triple against Fiona McCoig, the only girl competing in the Championships. Fiona showed a great deal of natural ability and will no doubt soon be one of the top (six)



triple, but broke down at 3-back with one peel done. John had a couple more shots, but Robert finished a few turns later to take the Championship for the second consecutive year.

After the final, the crowd were entertained by the final of the 'Womble' competition which Mark Saurin won in convincing style. Steve Warm won the handicap event with consistently accurate breaks. David Maugham was still showing signs of uncertainty about whether he was playing croquet or golf as he took yet another huge divot.

Many thanks must go to the Edgbaston club for hosting the event and providing the usual high standard of catering and also to the many club members



Losing Finalists in the Draw and Process respectively: (Left) Mark Saurin, and (right) Russell Collighan.

The handicap event started on the Saturday morning with Chris Clarke managing the interesting score of plus 1TP. Meanwhile, in the Championship itself, Mark Saurin 26'd Robert and Mark Suter lost to John Mann, leaving nobody unbeaten. Robert then played Mark Suter and would have been out of the event if a 4-yard roquet of Mark's had not jumped over the ball.

The finals of the draw and process started on Sunday morning with John Mann beating Mark Saurin in the draw, and Robert playing Russell Collighan in the process. Russell hit every shot for the first hour and looked to be in a commanding position when he took a 10-yard roquet instead of playing with his other ball which was in contact with another. After this mistake, Robert was able to gain a close victory.

The final started, as promised, at 1pm and John was quickly round to 4-back. Robert hit the short lift and went to 4-back.

Soon after John had missed the lift, Robert started on the

who put up the players. Lastly thanks to Peter Dorke who managed ably and was always willing to fix things as long as you crossed his palm with silver. Some of us obviously weren't rich enough.

## Manager's Notes

Peter Dorke writes:

1. Who was the minus player who TWICE placed a backward ball, landing inside the yard line, onto the yard line? Are we bringing these lads on too fast, perchance? Could we teach them the Laws, first?

2. Chris Clarke's poor performance in the NJC can be attributed entirely to the responsibilities of the 'Womble' competition, which he managed and which was clearly of far more interest and importance to the younger players than the Advanced play.

3. Bennet's Bandits were unlucky not to bave at least one player in the Advanced final. Collighan and Saurin in particular played with tremendous nerve and consistency. Maybe next year.

Full results on Page 4, Col 3.

## **Tournament Reports**

## Cheltenham: 20-25 July Chris Clarke goes from D to A

Report by Deborah Latham

A postcard-borne missive was despatched to certain relatives in Somerset on the Tuesday evening of this tournament, consisting of the following rhyme:

'Croquet is oquet It's raining a storm At least it's July And the rain's nice and warm!'

Well - mostly!

Co-manager Dennis Moorcraft (Betty Weitz being his able assistant) started the week by ensuring that he would not - as is his wont - fall to Deborah Latham in the final of the Y by the simple strategy of beating her in the first round of the X. Cunning, eh? Dab Wheeler set out the general tone of her intentions by putting John Toye in a unique position as far as he was concerned - into the Y, where he joined other such prestigious company as Robert Fulford, Laurence Latham, Fiona McCoig, Carmen Bazley,

While this huge accumulation of players in the Y was proceeding, it came to the attention of the handicappers that 18-bisquer Derek Harrison had not only won his first tournament game (hence the untimely exit of Fiona McCoig), but had gone on to win convincingly his next two as well, just to show it was no fluke. His reward for this achievement was to end the first day with two bisques less to his handicap. Chris Ross found himself in the same position: beating Robert Fulford and both generations of Maughams saw him reduced from 6 to 4 by Monday evening!

Peter Leach and Kismet Whittall.

In the third round there were two cases of contestants beating their own doubles partners - to wit. Chris Clarke winning against Kay Yeoman, and Terry Greenwood beating Roy Weaver. In the semi-finals Nancy Lenfestey beat Bernard Neal with exacting thoroughness (and bisques left standing), while Duncan Reeve and Chris Clarke had a very exciting game; two balls pegged out, Duncan for rover and Chris for the third hoop. Chris then calmly performed a tremendous two-ball break (ten yard roquets/rushes, six foot hoops, all the usual stuff) with only a slight hiccup at two-back, of which Duncan took advantage by putting his ball into the jaws of rover. No problem - Chris simply hit the third of it that he could see from near the first corner, and carried on to win.



Nancy Lenfestey, a great win in the main bandicap event.

The final proved to be immensely exciting. Nancy Lenfestey used two of her five bisques to set up an immaculately executed break and

went straight to the peg. Chris leapt up probably with the words 'peg out' whizzing behind his glasses like a fruit machine - only to stick in penult. Nancy then returned to the court and, in a beautiful display of temperament, unhurriedly and thoroughly completed her second break and pegged out. A shame for Chris, but no-one could deny Nancy her evident pleasure in such a consistent performance.

In the Y John Reeve crept quietly and competently through the field to meet and triumph over Fiona McCoig in the final, and at the prize-giving Roy Weaver was enthusiastically cheered, clapped and whistled at for winning that prestigious event - the Z!

In the D class, the play-off for the Calthrop Cup paired Kathy Turtle and Don Lenfesty in the final; with Kathy on peg with both balls Don started catching up, but eventually Kathy laid a good rush to the peg and Don didn't hit, so Kathy won, albeit narrowly. In the C semifinals, Peter Howell beat John Exell, and Fiona McCoig, in a - how shall I term it? - PRErun(?) of the Y final, this time beat John Reeve. She and Peter then had a very close and exciting game, but since it was on court three virtually no-one was there to appreciate it. . . Never mind, Fiona - the Asa-Thomas Trophy is nonetheless yours!

Among the B's fighting it out for the Money Salver, youthful firepower showed a tendency to overwhelm mature experience as Chris Ross beat Pat Asa-Thomas and David Maugham beat Peter Leach. In a very tight game, David won the Salver by a narrow margin. Still, good going for Chris, considering his sudden handicap cut on Monday had abruptly elevated him from the C to the B

The qualifying blocks for the A's produced the odd moment of note; the most interesting of these was probably Paul Hands' game against Bernard Weitz, where the former completed five peels of an attempted septuple on the opponent. Despite this his form fell off so badly he had to be content with merely winning the game . . . With the holder safely out of contention, the holder's wife made herself extremely popular by drawing the playoffs so that Ian Maugham and Bernard Weitz got byes while Dennis Moorcraft had to battle it out with Bernard Neal and John Toye similarly with Chris Clarke. Dennis made a valiant attempt to come from behind against Bernard's extensive lead, but didn't quite manage it. Against John, Chris hit the lift and proceeded to execute a very neat, thorough and - for Chris - somewhat slow and ortho-

## **HONOURS BOARD**

Cheltenham Challenge Cup C.D. Clarke

Money Salver D.B. Maugham **Asa-Thomas Trophy** Miss F.C. McCoig Calthrop Cup Mrs K. Turtle **Daniels Cup** Mrs N. Lenfestey Secretary's Spoon D.C. & J.E. Reeve **Barwell Salvers** D. Ruscombe-King & Miss J. Wraith

dox TPO, very beautifully done. With John on three and his backward ball on three-back Chris elected to peg out his forward ball. John thereafter played very well to catch up, but unfortunately failed rover with Chris lurking near the peg. Chris then met Ian, who had won the Battle of the Byes; both players made somewhat tentative starts (eg Chris missed four long shots in succession!), but Ian never really got into his stride and Chris took the Cheltenham Challenge Cup by a comfortable margin. And to think that this time last year he'd just won the D class . . . !

The Secretary's Spoon for family doubles was played as an event in its own right this year, and the first round saw such previous holders as the Lathams and the Moorcrafts despatched with unexpected alacrity. Roger and Dab Wheeler were responsible for the Lathams' quick exit with a most deserved win; in the turn in which time was called the latter were peg and peg, and it was necessary for Dab to ensure a victory by making the last four hoops, peeling her partner through rover, and pegging out - so she did just that! In so doing she brought to an end Laurence and Deborah's record of not having been beaten by a family pair in this doubles event since 1984. It was John and Duncan Reeve who came up against the Wheelers in the final, and despite the latter's very good form (other victims included the Neals and the Maughams) the Spoon is now in the hands of the Reeve family.

Nobody was particularly surprised that Terry Greenwood and Roy Weaver won the Y doubles; the only surprise was that they were in it in the first place!

That was the doing of Edgar Jackson and Pat Hague, who were proceeding very nicely until they ran into Chris Clarke's and Kay Yeoman's determination to be in the final of the Barwell Salvers. The same was true of the potentially very dangerous pairing of Fiona McCoig and Margaret Langley, but David Ruscombe-King and Jean Wraith were equally determined to be in the final - and, as Chris and Kay discovered, even more determined to win it! David finished in fine style by peeling his partner through rover and pegging out to the great applause of the

With X, Y and Z handicap events, at least four qualifying games in the classes and X, Y and family doubles, one certainly could not complain of a shortage of events, although played in some of the worst July weather for a good few years. At least Finals Day was bathed in sunshine, so it could be seen (as the manager remarked most appreciatively) that all the trophies had been returned in a sparkling clean condition, which made a nice change!

## RESULTS

Cheltenham Challenge Cup (16 entries) Advanced Play; American Blocks

**BLOCK PLAY-OFF** Semi-Finals

C.D. Clarke bt Prof B.G. Neal +17; F.I. Maugham bt Dr B.G.F. Weitz +21.

Final

Clarke bt Maugham +21.

Money Salver (15 entries)

Advanced Play: Law 53. 22pts. American Blocks

**BLOCK PLAY-OFF** Semi-Finals

## **Tournament Reports**

D.B. Maugham bt P. Leach +10; C. Ross bt Mrs E.

Final

Maugham bt Ross +5.

Asa-Thomas Trophy (10 entries)

Level Play: 22pts. American Blocks

**BLOCK PLAY-OFF** Semi-Finals

Miss F.C. McCoig bt J. Reeve +11; P. Howell bt J. Exell +12.

Final

Miss McCoig bt Howell +3.

Calthrop Cup (10 entries) Level Play: 18pt game. American Blocks

**BLOCK PLAY-OFF** Semi-Finals

Lenfestev bt Miss S. Waterston +7.

Mrs Turtle bt Lenfestey +3.

The Daniels Cup (48 entries)

Handicap Play: Knockout

4th Round

C.D. Clarke (1) bt T.P. Greenwood (3) +7: D.C. Reeve (21/2) bt C.J. Ross (6) +4; B.G. Neal (-11/2) bt D. Harrison (18) +7; Mrs N. Lenfestey (8) bt N.

Girling had seemed in complete control; by

the afternoon Andrew Gregory had com-

mandeered the clipboard and with relish was

wrestling with the Swiss system - Alan was

26-ing. Fiona McCoig lost one of her games

by the comparatively close score of -8: her

other five games were decided by horrifyingly

tensest, was that which determined the

tournament winner; unfortunately (inevit-

ably?) it was the only game to go to time. After

time was called, both Andrew Symons and

Andrew Gregory were for peg and rover, and

both were joined up. Knowing he needed one

point for victory, Symons played with his peg

ball, took off and 'pegged out' - in sad

ignorance of Law 39. Gregory apologetically

ran rover in the next turn

HELP IN THE

Alan Stockwell has

Macmillan as a part

time assistant in

OFFICE!

joined Brian

close margins of no more than three!

One player did succeed in avoiding all the

The tightest game though, and the

Semi-Finals

Clarke bt D.C. Reeve +2; Mrs Lenfestey bt Neal +26.

Mrs Lenfestey bt Clarke +1.

wrestling with the washing-up.

Mrs K. Turtle bt Mrs I. Moorcraft +1(+); D.

Family Handicap Doubles; Knockout

Barwell Salvers (11 entries) Handicap Doubles; Knockout

D. Ruscombe-King & Miss J. Wraith bt C.D. Clarke & Mrs K. Yeoman +9.

D.C. & J.E. Reeve bt Dr & Mrs R.F. Wheeler +5.

'Y' Doubles

'Y' Handicap

J. Reeve bt Miss McCoig +12.

The Secretary's Spoon (11 entries)

Final

T.P. Greenwood & R. Weaver bt Mrs N. Lenfestey &

Mrs K. Turtle +17.

Some congratulations should go to the (over-) long-bisquers - after all they did spend more time out in the rain - especially to Ian McClelland and Andrew Symons, whose handicaps were deservingly dismembered.

Our thanks to our visitors; to Andy Sweeney and Ken Ruston who substituted for a late withdrawal; to Juliet Reeve and Hilda Gregory for making lunch-time the most enjoyable part of the day; and to Alan Girling for facilitating the traditional manager's birthday celebration, and for managing so vicariously.

RESULTS

(17 entries)

6-Round Swiss: Handicap Play

A. Gregory (21/2) (6 wins)

## **Edgbaston: 17-19 July Gregory Manages to Win** Report by Andrew Gregory

The seasonal July weather of three days' almost continuous rain made waterproofs de rigeur but playing a break not too rigorous on the sodden Edgbaston lawns. Indeed, the widespread reluctance to break down led to seven +26's during the weekend, often with bisques to spare.

The lower-handicapped players, denied a reasonable amount of play, amused themselves in other ways. Brian Hallam took vengeance on the long-bisquers by fouling any shot he refereed - despite not being qualified. Stuart Packer seized a rare opportunity to compile a triple peel, and Peter Dorke claimed the shot of the tournament with a cut rush rover peel from near penult. Alan Girling achieved a three-figure minus score, despite beating Hallam +1 in the final round. However, Duncan Reeve and Andrew Gregory had a quite different approach, both being unbeaten before they met in the 4th round. In the game, although Reeve scored neither a hoop nor even a roquet, Gregory unsportingly failed to 26 him.

During Saturday a curious usurpation in management occurred. In the morning Alan

#### the CA Office to help with the greatly increased workload

## Harrow: 27-28 June **An Invitation Tournament**

The Harrow Oak Club held an extremely strong invitation 'best of three' tournament which attracted five current Great Britain internationals.

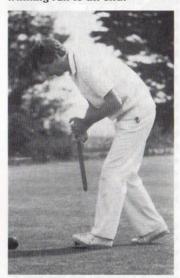
In the first round Openshaw and Aiton both had convincing wins. Openshaw won his second game against Rose with a straight triple. In the other two matches Mulliner and Fulford both won the first game convincingly with triples, but their opponents Irwin and Avery respectively took the next two

In the semi-finals Aiton had a good win over Irwin. The Openshaw v Avery match went to a third game and both players missed a number of opportunities to win. Finally Avery missed a 6 yard shot to give Openshaw an easy break to finish.

The final produced excellent croquet from Openshaw who

won with triples in both games, bringing Aiton's excellent winning run to an end.

there.



David Openshaw wins at Harrow with two triples.

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alike.

Shepshed, Loughboroug Leicestershire LE12 9QD

## **Harrow Oak: 1-2 August Home win for Cordingley**

Report by Andrew Gregory

In the August Open Weekend at Harrow, the seeded players made rapid progress through the first round of the knockout. In most cases this was because they had been given fortuitous byes by manager Richard Hilditch. The second round caused them rather more difficulty, as John Walters lost narrowly to Danny Palmer, and Eric Solomon was defeated by Gordon Vince.

Vince went on to beat Nick Hyne in a closely fought best-ofthree semi final. In the first game Hyne had pegged out two balls, leaving his other clip on rover with his opponent on 1-back. But a series of medium-length hits-in by Vince gave him victory by one.

In the final Vince seemed to be heading for another notable win when he sadly stuck in rover with his second ball. This enabled Phil Cordingley to win the tournament without conceding a game; he completed three triple peels in his six wins.

The Swiz was won with consistent play by Bill Aldridge,

**Bandits still lurk!** 

Report by Andrew Bennet

This tournament was fully

subscribed, with a handicap

range of 18 and a height range of

nearly two feet! The long

bisquers, both locals and

Tynesiders, were anxious to show

what they would have done three

weeks earlier if the Long

Bisquer's Weekend had not

clear block winner, but a very late

defeat by Don Williamson robbed

her of that prize, which went to

the shortest competitor, Andrew

Saurin. Andrew lost heavily to a

scratch player two days before

the tournament, but when he

played Tim Haste on the

Saturday he finished with NINE

bisques left. Many of the players

could be described as 'rapid

improvers', but this was extra-

Russell Collighan, started with

ten and a half fewer bisques than

he had a year ago and lost some

more for winning Block A easily.

Block B was won by Hillary

Turner, playing in her first

tournament. She lost only one

game, and that because of the

opponent's unfamiliarity with

Laws 15 and 39 and her right to

stay in a warm, dry clubhouse

under Law 45(a)! Mike Sandler

was second on points, showing

how the low-bisquer ought to hit

everything and go round. Syd

One of last year's bandits,

ordinary.

Gail Curry seemed to be a

disappeared under water.

**Southport: 7-9 August** 

despite a late challenge from Nick Hyne. In their individual game Hyne had seemed to be well in control when with both his balls for the peg he experienced an apparent reluctance to finish. Before Aldridge completed his comeback to win, Hyne did manage to peg one ball out, accidentally, thus achieving his second -1 of the weekend.



Bill Aldridge, who won the Harrow Swizz.

## RESULT

(13 entries)

Advanced Play; Knockout

Cordingley bt Vince +3, +26(TP)

Jones made sure that the other

on the last afternoon, causing

confusion to the double-bankers

on lawn 4 when it brought a small

hedgehog out of hibernation.

Death for managing the 28 of us

despite a mix up that I created for

him at the start, and of course to

those members who maintained

the standard of Southport food

Andrew Saurin, Southport block

Handicap Play; American Blocks)

R.J. Collighan (41/2) (6 wins); Ms H.

Turner (16) (5 wins): S.O. Jones (9)

(5 wins); A. Saurin (18) (5 wins)

and hoops.

RESULTS

(28 entries)

**Block Winners** 

The sun eventually appeared

Thanks are due to Peter

block's prize went to Tyneside.

## **Hurlingham: 1-8 August** Even the dogs enjoy themselves!

Report by Eileen Shaw

It is always a great pleasure for me to visit Hurlingham, especially this year as Dennis was in his first week's tournament our previous visits have only been for the 'Longman' heats and for a 'Friendly' against our new Ramsgate Club. It was especially nice to meet old friends who had been down to play at Compton our other club - and to make

Nigel Aspinall who managed the tournament (ably assisted by Mike and Jean Henderson) was as always kind and considerate and of course superbly efficient. Also on hand was young Kiley Jones from the New York City Croquet Club, not only to help as one of the referees but also to keep 'Domo' who owns Bernard Neal, 'Mac' who owns Veronica and James Carlisle, 'Mitzie and

Tuesday' who own Mike and Jean Henderson, well under control with frequent 'walkies' and so well behaved that not one 'bark' was heard and just a little wagging of tails when their owners won a game. Kiley is equally bemused by dogs as croquet!

The weather generally was very good except Tuesday afternoon when the heavens opened, thunder, lightning, high wind the lot. Bowlers on adjacent lawns abandoned their games and ran for cover but the croquet still went on and the ladies still managed to emerge from their wet gear looking elegant - well done ladies. The lawns were in excellent condition and lush and green with the rain. A very nice week thoroughly enjoyed by all -Here's to next year's!

## **Colchester: 7-9 August** 'A' Class Players Disappoint

Report by Jonathan Collis

Any hopes entertained by competitors that Colchester's traditionally fast lawns would have been made easy by the previous fortnight's heavy rain were thwarted by a chill wind which dried the courts off enough to make concentration essential. These meteorological and topographical factors combined to make for some very slow play in some quarters which on the second day forced Bill Lamb acting as assistant manager in Pat Hetherington's absence - to assume some results simply to

get people playing. The clear leader by the end of the second day was Jonathan Collis, who showed that enough bisques could compensate for a lack of style, by 26-ing assorted lower-handicapped players. The key match was on the morning of the Sunday, against Fiona McCoig, another local junior player. Despite - or possibly because of - a number of 'insulting' leaves eg refusing to take a bisque having broken down with the opponent's ball, Collis emerged the victor +17, thus wrapping up the tournament and being rewarded by having his handicap cut by 2 to 6.

Fiona tied for second place with three others: Andrew Gregory, Paul Elliott (last year's winner) and Lewis Palmer. In a definitely unofficial shoot-out play-off Gregory hit the peg a magnificent 3 times out of 5, as befitted the lowest handicapped

runner-up.

The average handicap of the players in the weekend was 5, but the A-class players disappointingly failed to produce a triple between them, despite the slowing of the lawns by rain on the Sunday afternoon. Far from disappointing was the food, which during the weekend was hot and appetising, much needed when the weather broke. All in all an enjoyable and (especially for the reporter!) successful weekend.



Jonathan Collis with his Trophy.

## RESULT

(24 entries) Handicap Play; 7-Round Swiss

Winner: J. Collis (7 wins)

## **Another Successful Course at** Loughborough

Report by Chris Hudson

As in 1986, the 1987 Loughborough Summer School was over-subscribed, even though the number of places was increased from 24 to 32. So if you were disappointed this year, or are thinking about coming next time, please make an early

application. Eight short lawns were laid out on the hockey pitch at Loughborough and this proved to be an ideal site. Being close to the main road through the University campus, our activities attracted a lot of attention, and this was reflected in the number of people from other courses who joined us each evening to play forms of 'alternative' croquet or just to enquire about the game. And don't be misled by the term 'hockey pitch' - at Loughborough, even hockey pitches are up to the standard of many club lawns!

some quarters and not in others, it was a great help to the coaches to be able to recognise at a glance what stage each player had reached.

On the first evening, the 32 players took part in a gymkhana, which was marked by the coaches and provided an initial assessment of how good each player was at playing the main croquet strokes and how much each knew about 4-ball breaks. This enabled the players to be split into 5 groups according to ability, the idea being that in subsequent sessions, those in the top group could get through the benchmark tests quicker and make faster progress. If anyone in a lower group showed similar progress, then he or she could be promoted to a higher group.

On each subsequent day, each group had a session practising strokes under the super-

Hilary Boardman

Mary Causton

Joyce Dudeney

John Green

**Evelyn Hoar** 

Hazel Jenkin

Janet Leech

Leonard Nash

Chris Hudson

Elisabeth White

Heather Mallinson



Players and coaches at the CA's Grade II coaching weekend at Nottingham.

2, taking off from a ball near the peg to a ball near the hoop, and then making the hoop using block 1. When block 2 was mastered, the player began practising block 3, eventually joining that on to blocks 1 and 2, and

Block 4 introduced the drive shot from the first hoop to put a ball at the next-but-one hoop, going to the ball in the middle, and by blocks 5 and 6, the player was practising a 4-ball break, and even beginning to consider a simple rush after making the hoop.

The third strand of the course dealt with setting up a break from scratch. The eight lawns were laid out with 'break-builder' problems, and in later sessions, players played shots in turn to set up a 4-ball break and then take the ball round to the peg.

There were also daily competitive sessions, and formal presentations on particular aspects of the game. Every evening after dinner we played alternative croquet, sometimes with 20 or 30 outsiders joining in, and on the last day we had a video show as well. All handicaps were assessed at the end of the course and several players achieved an official handicap of 18 or less for the first time.

1988 LOUGHBOROUGH SUMMER SCHOOL Next year's Summer School

Coaching

Courses at Loughborough will be held between 30th July and 5th August. Preliminary details are given below Full details will be published in

this magazine and in the Summer School Brochure, obtainable from:

Mrs Shirley Sandover, Loughborough Summer School University of Technology Loughborough, LE11 3TU. (Tel: 0509-222773).

The Brochure is published in January, but you can apply for your copy now. Bookings for the courses should be made through Mrs

Course dates for next year are: Coaches Grade I: 30th July - 5th August

Grade II: 30th July - 5th August Accommodation: £60 Tuition: £50 (CA members) £60 (Non-members)

Personal performance Beginners: 1st - 5th August Improvers: 1st - 5th August Accommodation: £60 Tuition: £65 (CA members)

£75 (Non-members)

## **ROLL CALL**

Christine Begrie

Dennis Dudeney

Frank Butler

**Alain Giraud** 

Hamish Hall

Allen Jenkin

Cecile Leech

Jean Nash

Margaret Macfarlane

Those who attended in 1987:

Players Beryl Amner Maurice Boardman Yvonne Colbeck John Farley Margaret Green

John Hobbs Denise Johns John Leech Lorna Mallinso Eva Ridgeon Kathleen Yonge

Coaches Ross Gillespie John Jeffrey

and although this found favour in

Mary Tope Susan Yonge

**David Higgs** Bill Lamb

The coaches arrived two days vision of their coach and, as and before the course and sampled when they were ready, individual one of the sessions being run by players attempted the benchthe National Coaching Foundamark tests. The top group, tion before getting down to coached by Bill Lamb, were soon sporting their award badges, and preparing for the players. In mounting a course of this nature, encouraging progress was being there is quite a lot of work to be made lower down the field, so done in laying out lawns and that at the end of the course, hoops, coordinating different most players had completed the coaching sessions, and defining basic tests.

Following a 4-ball break common course objectives for all demonstration on the first day, the coaches. Croquet is mainly a matter of the theory of playing a break was discussed, and this lead on to the confidence - if you know you second main strand running can do a particular shot successthrough the course. The 4-ball fully, then it will happen! So we break was broken down into a decided to set a number of benchmark tests that each player series of 'building-blocks'. First, would have to pass before going the hoop approach, learning how on to the next stage. In fact, to take croquet from any position near the hoop to enable the hoop players found themselves being awarded 'badges' for each test to be made, with an easy return somewhat reminiscent of the primary school 'star' system -

Having mastered the first block, the player practised block

## BREAK-BUILDER No 6 - 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?

You may be wondering how the balls came to be in their present positions. I leave that as an exercise, with the clue that the first two turns of the game (by Blue and Red) were the same as in Break Builder No 5.

(Solution on Page 30).

16 to 15

16 to 13

1 to 2

13 to 11

4 to 3

1 to 1/2

15 to 12

16 to 14

6 to 41/2

5 to 41/2

41/2 to 31/2

7 to 61/2

11 to 9

## **Nottingham: 10-15 August**

Report by Ken Jones

Monday morning saw a motley assortment of 38 croquet players gathered at the Nottingham lawns. The five regular lawns were supplemented by two bowling green lawns and, as double banking was used extensively. fourteen games were played simultaneously for much of the

The first round of the Handicap Singles passed without great incident, many people being relieved not to be eliminated as the event was being run as a 7-round Swiss for the first time. There was more tension in the first two rounds of the class events (Process). Late in the afternoon on Lawn 1 Danny Palmer decided to defend his title in style by laying up for a sextuple against Mike Stevens; Mike carefully missed the 25 yard shot and Danny subsequently missed a short shot near the first hoop to give Mike an easy break. After the double-bankers had firstly cannoned into a ball carefully placed by penult and then intentionally roqueted the same ball (!), Mike won by 17.

On Tuesday morning David Appleton decided to ignore the customary siege tactics in the Handicap Doubles and was only a pegout short of finishing the game with a sixth turn triple against Eve Chamberlain and Keith Aiton. David's partner, Bill Lamb, later won a game against Dab Wheeler and then complained that his black ball was biased - subsequent tests by Brian Hallam and Ken Jones proved this to be true; in fact they gained such skill in anticipating the bias that they spent much of the rest of the week playing bowls (not to be missed at 50p per hour!).

Wednesday saw two more rounds of the Doubles played to determine the finalists. In their second round match Des Willetts showed his partner, Chris Clarke, the way to play a break and later pegged out Duncan Reeve. Chris was not to find his form until Thursday morning and could only make a hoop or two at a time until John Reeve hit in across the lawn, ran a slow, controlled third hoop from within the ward line after an overambitious pass roll and played an immaculate three-ball break to win by 5. Mike Stevens came the closest to beating Keith Aiton in an open game when he jammed in rover with his second ball before losing by 3 in the final of the Open Singles Process.

On Thursday morning torrential rain delayed the start of play until 10.15 on the main lawns and 1 o'clock on the bowling greens. The afternoon sunshine made this the day of sartorial elegance with various two-tone wellies and other exotic raingear giving way to natty shorts, bare feet and at least one over-exposing vest. Gerald Johnson took the lead in the Handicap Singles with five wins out of five and looked unbeatable, and Andrew Gregory and Fiona McCoig maintained their unstoppable progress in the B and C level singles respectively.

Friday saw the strain beginning to tell in the Handicap Singles, as most people played two rounds and some failed to make it to the last round on Saturday. The Battle of Stourbridge gave Des Willetts victory by 3 in a dramatic three-ball ending against Gerald Johnson, these two being joined on five wins by Andrew Gregory (via the repechage, having lost his first game despite receiving three bisques) and Lawrence Whittaker. In the class events, Keith Aiton completed his third successive triple in the Open Singles Draw and Fiona McCoig completed her sixth straight win to take both sides of the C class.

## **HONOURS BOARD**

**Robin Hood Gold Cup** Dr F.L. Whittaker **Open Singles** K.M.H. Aiton 'B' Level Singles A.K. Gregory 'C' Level Singles Miss F.C. McCoig **Handicap Doubles** W.E. Lamb & D.R. Appleton

On Saturday Andrew won by against Des, completing the game after time had been called, and Lawrence and Gerald both joined him on six wins by taking their final games. There followed several hours of consultation between the Manager, Ian Vincent, and Deputy Returning Officer, Tim Smith, and three recounts before Lawrence was declared the winner, Gerald second and Andrew third. Keith won his final Draw game against Chris Clarke, but somehow failed to complete a triple, Andrew completed his clean sweep of the B class and, while most eyes had turned to the Doubles final on lawn 1, a drama was unfolding in the D class final on lawn 4 . . .

Steve Thomas, giving away an undisclosed number of years



Lawrence Whittaker, winner of the Robin Hood Gold Cup.

(and no bisques) to Reg Forth had decided to concentrate on one ball at a time, progressing to first hoop and peg against six and one-back before his shooting deserted him. He clearly had a problem gripping the mallet in the sultry conditions as, on more than one occasion, a missed roquet was followed by his mallet slipping from his grasp and flying gracefully off the lawn and into the surrounding foliage. Reg kept his cool and emerged the winner by 12.

Meanwhile back on lawn 1 the Doubles was reaching its climax when, with his partner Bill Lamb having pegged two balls out and John Reeve in front

ignored the conventions of Handicap Doubles and simply rolled up to the peg from the first corner, unfortunately hitting it in the process, thus finishing game, event and tournament just as the call for tea was sounded. Particular thanks must go to

of 4-back, David Appleton again

Ian Vincent for managing us all so effectively, and to all those involved in the catering, which was not only of the excellent quality found these days at many tournaments but was also carried out with so little fuss that rumours flying around about non-playing entries next year may well prove to be true!

## **Robin Hood Gold Cup**

(27 entries)

Handicap Play; 7-Round Swiss

Winner: Dr F.L. Whittaker (6/7

Event 2 (13 entries

Advanced Play; Draw & Process Winner: K.M.H. Aiton

Finalists: C.D. Clarke: M.J. Stevens

**Event 3** (9 entries)

Advanced Play (H'cap 2 or above); Draw & Process

Winner: A.K. Gregory Finalists: Mrs R.F. Wheeler; Dr F.L.

Whittaker **Event 4** 

(9 entries) Level Play (H'cap 6 or above); Draw & Process

Winner: Miss F.C. McCoig Finalists: Dr R.F. Wheeler; D.

**Event 5** (7 entries)

Handicap Play (H'cap 10 or above); Draw & Process)

Finalists: R. Forth (10): J.F.S. Thomas (10), (Result not recorded). Semi-Finalists: A. Tunbridge (10); Mrs T.W. Smith

Event 6 (16 pairs)

Handicap Doubles; Knockout

Semi-Finals

W.E. Lamb & D.R. Appleton (5) bt D. Palmer & F.J. Exell (7) +24; D.C. & J.E. Reeve (6) bt E.J. Davis & R. Forth  $(9^{1/2}) + 11$ 

Final

Lamb & Appleton bt D.C. & J.E.

## **BREAK-BUILDER No. 6** Solution

Shoot at Black from A baulk. If you miss, take a bisque, roquet Black and croquet it to first hoop. Send Yellow to Red and take a bisque. Roquet Red. You may be able to rush Red either towards the peg or to near Blue. Do so if possible. Otherwise Red can be left at third hoop with Yellow going to just North of Blue with a take-off. Rush Blue nearer second hoop and take off to Black at first hoop.

## **New Clubs Registered** Welcome to . . .

Southport Croquet Club Inc PO Box 2034, Southport 4215, Queensland, Australia. Secretary: Sid Bingham.

**New Affiliates** 

The Shepshed Building Society, Bull Ring, Shepshed, Loughborough, Leics, LE12 9QD. Contact: Mr G. Aisbitt, Chief Executive. Tel: 0509-503302.

## Changes in Club Officials **Buxton Croquet Club**

New Secretary: Mrs A. Jackson-Bass, Clun Cottage, 2 Bagshaw Lane, Sparrowpit, Buxton, Derbyshire, SK17 8EU. Tel: 0298-812669

### **New Handicapper** Miss P. Shine

## **New Associates**

A.A. Stockwell Mrs P.H. Stockwell Mrs P.M. Sterling Dr R.F.H. Bawden **Bury St Edmonds** Cambridge U. Mrs M.E. Graham Cardiff Mrs T.N. Noel-Smith Cheltenham Mrs M.B. Peebles Cheltenham Colchester P.C. Barker Ms N. Smith Compton Mrs C. Mogford Cranford A. Trickey Dyffryn Heathfield School T.A. Backhouse High Wycombe P.A. Frost R.F. Hoskins Loughborough R.A. Climpson B. Melody Loughborough Loughborough Mrs S. Rastall J. Ansteu Northampton Miss C.M. Edwards Nottingham J.M. Horry P.C. Trimmer C.J. Southworth Parsons Green S. Waterfall Pendle J.S.O. Haslewood Dr D. Nixseaman Dr F. Nixseaman N.P. Breadman H.E. Ovens

P.M. Gadsby

B.R. Knight

G. Mayer

G. Greenberg

Mrs B.S. Milne

H.W. Smorfitt

E. Atherton

P.B. Bird

J. Cull

Phyllis Cour Piersland Piersland Ramsgate Southwick Southwick Stockey Furzen Stockey Furzen Sir B. Nicholson MP Stockey Furzen Miss F Nicholson Stockey Furzen Winchester P.E. Abercrombie

J.A. Bowering A. Cooper J.O. Cullis Dr H. Ebdon J.B. Fletcher M. Hawthorn G.O. Herford Mrs M. Jameson L.F. King T.A. Lawrence D.C. Lewis R.B. Lilleywhite Dr M.J. Llewllyn-Williams D. Manley A.J. Nelson J.D. O'Brier M.J. Pickering D. Reeve L.J. Riches Mrs N.D. Robinson Mrs G.K. Spraggs Dr P.A. Stones Miss J.H. Waters

G.P. Wooldridge

Mrs P.A. Falls USA (Total: 67)

## Deaths

We regretfully have to report the following deaths: C. Weldon Mrs J. Neville-Rolfe Miss I.M. Roe

## NOTICE TO ALL CLUB **SECRETARIES & TREASURERS**

It would be appreciated if you would pay any outstanding accounts for literature you have had on a sale or return basis. When paying, please let me know if you are still retaining any stock.

At the same time, would you please let me know if there are any claims against the Croquet Association, to enable me to arrange payment and clear our books.

Brian Macmillan, Admin Secretary.

## **Handicap alterations**

**Bowdon Club** B.J. Storey K.B. Cooper D. Maugham 5 to 41/2 Surbiton: 25-26 July Mrs E. St John

J.P. Dawson East Riding: 1-2 August R.J. Smith

**Ipswich: 31 July-2 August Bowdon Club: 7 August** 

Miss S.E. Black Southport: 7-9 August 41/2 to 3 R.J. Collighan

14 to 12 G. Curry J.H. Haslam M.H. Sandle 21/2 to 2 SO Jones 9 to 8

Compton: 10-16 August E.J.A. Salmo

The individual entry fee for the

1988 Croquet Classic will remain

at £5.00. Everyone who has

never had a handicap of 18 or less

would like to organise a Group

Entry for next year should write

to Chris Hudson, The Oaklands,

Englesea Brook, Near Crewe.

Cheshire, CW2 5QW to register

their interest. A Group Entry

form will be forwarded to them as

least 8 players whose names and

addresses have been notified to

the organisers. The winner of

each group competition will go

forward to the appropriate round

The group tournament can be

of the national tournament.

A group must consist of at

Any club or individual who

will be eligible to play.

soon as it is available



Sheila Black, Bowdon's Secretary: Reduced from 11 to 10.

P. Howell

R. Jackman

April, 1988.

advantage of it!

Chris Hudson.

1988 CROQUET CLASSIC

**Group Entries** 

A.J. Kellaway Cheltenham Club: 14 August 15D13 to 14D12 Miss E. Cheverton 12D10 to 10D9 Mrs S. Clay Miss G.M. Holliday 17D15 to 15D13 16D14 to 15D13 Mrs D.M. James 16D14 to 14D12 L.W. James W/Cdr R. Noel-Sn 16D14 to 14D12 Miss H. Pritchard 16D14 to 14D10 Mrs E.E. Turtle 12D10 to 10D9 Miss S. Waterston 16D14 to 14D12 H.R. Moule 14D12 to 13D11 D.J. Brudenell 8 to 6 M.J. Finn 31/2 to 3 M.T. Paddon Wrest Park: 15-16 August M. Hutchinson 6 to 5 J. Bevington **Northern Federation:** 15 Augus N.J. Hicks **Woking Club: 17 August** Mrs P.A. Watso G. Cuttle 71/2 to 7 Southwick: 17-22 August R. Crane Mrs D. Shaw 18D13 to 18D14 Mrs K. Pitt 13 to 12 D. Trotman 6 to 5

organised at any time to suit the

players concerned, subject only

to the constraint that the name of

the group winner must be for-

warded to the organisers in time

to join the main competition

£25.00 and to qualify for this

Group discount, the completed

Group entry form and entry fee

must reach the organisers by 1st

tunity for clubs to provide their

new players with some exciting

competition, or for individuals

to organise a neighbourhood

croquet event. Please take

This is an excellent oppor-

The fee for a Group entry is

(probably by the end of June).

14 to 13

#### Mrs E. Ross Mrs D.M. Miller Mrs G. Wiggins G. Pearse **Bowdon: 22-31 August** J.S. Dyer After play A. Bennet C.D. Clarke K.B. Cooper J.S. Dyer Mrs C. Lewis 9D71/2 to 7 D.B. Maugham A.F. Sutcliffe Mrs E. Taylor-Webb Himley: 22-23 Augus G. Norman H.Stanley T.C. Young Swindon: 23 August P.A.J. Lewis **Budleigh: 14 August** I.B. Brand R. Brand W/Cdr T.N. Silk 13D11 to 11D9 Edinburgh: 17-22 August Dr C. van Griethuvsen D. Warhurst

**Official Business** 

#### 4 to 31/2 P. Thompson Hurlingham: 29-31 August B. Whitehouse 5 to 41/2 P. Howell C.J. Ware A.J. Symons 61/2 to 51/2 T.N. Browne 41/2 to 4 D. Magee 12 to 8 Cheltenham: 29-31 ugust R.T.H. Barnes 41/2 to 3 IR Brand R.S. Brand 5 to 4 D. Harrison 16 to 14 Dr M.H. Kay Dr C.B. Sno 3 to 21/2 M. Boardman 11 to 10 M.J. O'Flynn 13 to 11 **Hunstanton: 31 Aug** 5 Sept

#### D.J. Hopkins J.J. Jackson 5 to 41/2 L.J. Palmer 31/2 to 2 R.P. Jones 51/2 to 4 D.C. Reeve 2 to 1 Ryde Club: 4 Sept

17 to 16D13 Major E.H. Carleto Mrs D.E. Erith 16 to 15D13 Mrs M.J. Robins 11 to 10 Ipswich: 5 Sept

10 to 8

All-Lingianu negion	ai i inais
Ms G. Curry	12 to 10
N.G. Williams	10 to 9
A. Lindley	21/2 to 2
M. Flynn	11 to 9
J.H. Haslam	13 to 11
D. Ruscombe-King	41/2 to 4
D. Power	12 to 10

#### Cheltenham: 5-9 Sept 18D16 to 16D14

Mrs P. Leach	12D10 to 11D9
A. Potter	14D12 to 12D1
Miss S. Waterston	14D10 to 13D1
Mrs M. Langley	7½ to 7
D.B. Maugham	3 to 21/2
Mrs E.J. Paish	11 to 9
Dr I.R. Plummer	3 to 21/2
Mrs K. Townsend	11 to 10

We regret that we cannot list bandicaps of non-Associates