

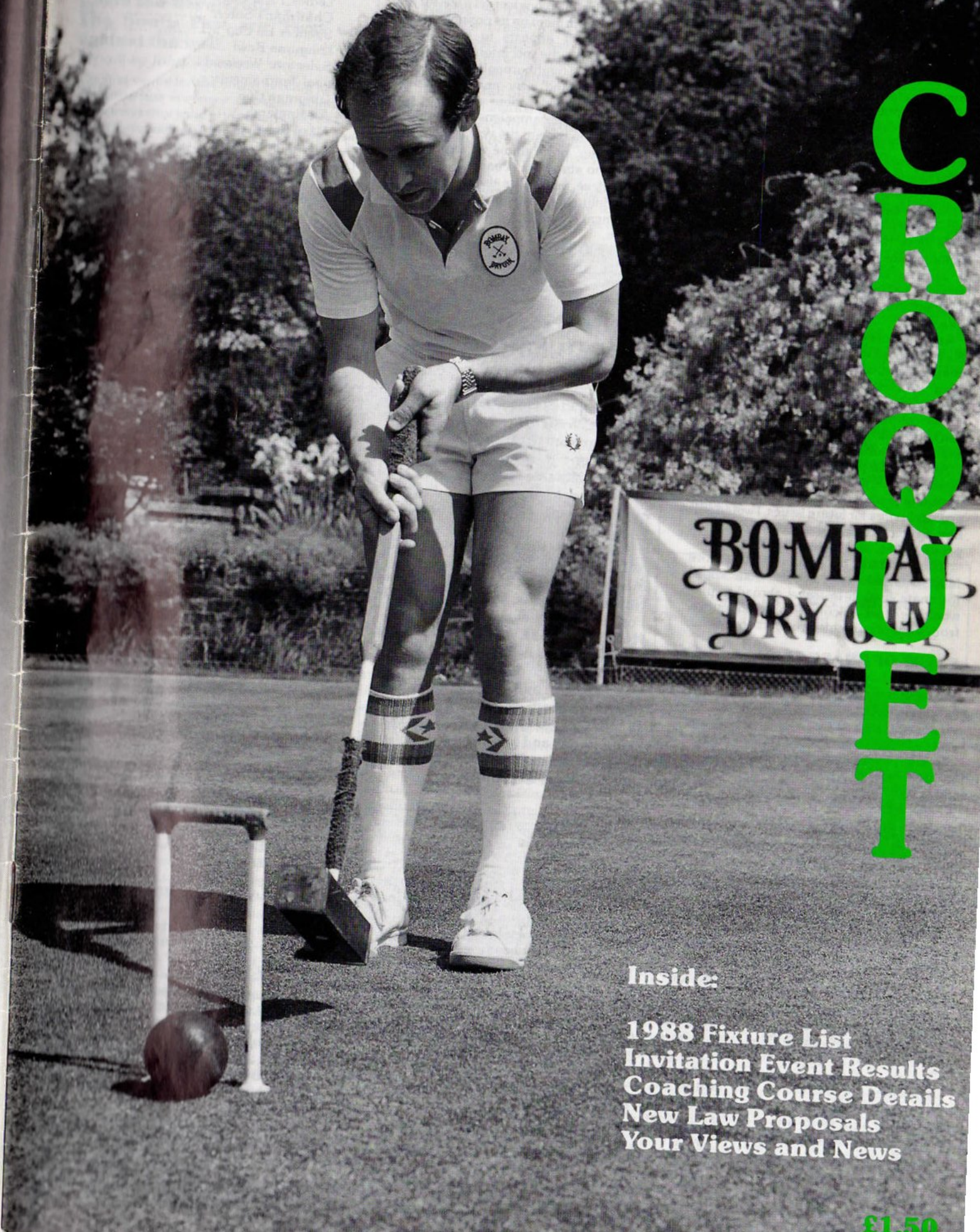
January 1988

Issue No. 195

A master stroke.



Probably the best lager in the world.



# CROQUET

Inside:

- 1988 Fixture List
- Invitation Event Results
- Coaching Course Details
- New Law Proposals
- Your Views and News

£1.50

## END OF PHASE ONE!

This issue of 'Croquet' marks the end of our first 3-year Forward Plan. Much has been achieved during the past three years with the help of our Sports Council Grant, the generosity of our sponsors, and the efforts of our own members in coaching new players, undertaking development work, and generally spreading the word about Croquet. As Development Officer, I am most grateful for all the help and support that I have received from everyone over the 3-year period.

The next issue of 'Croquet' will contain a supplement outlining the progress we have made over the past 3 years and some exciting plans for the future. I also hope to be able to announce some good news following our request to the Sports Council for Grant Aid to cover our second 3-year Plan.

At the end of another season, I would also like to thank all those who have contributed to the success of our magazine by contributing articles and photographs, either personally or by persuading others to do so. If your contribution has not yet appeared, don't despair! It will appear at some appropriate moment in the future.

Any material relevant to croquet is always most welcome, and although I am now in the fortunate position of having a number of articles in store for future issues, I would still like to receive more articles on clubs, personalities, and regional developments.

The social side of croquet could be more fully reported and reports from those fortunate enough to travel abroad to play would be most welcome, as would reports from some of our registered clubs overseas.

## START OF PHASE TWO!

December has seen the first appearance of our indoor carpet, a development again Grant Aided by the Sports Council. The first reactions are encouraging, and we shall use the coming winter to appraise and improve the indoor surface and equipment, whilst completing the programme of Indoor Regional Matches and providing indoor facilities for clubs and the general public.

The aim is to take the carpet round the country so that everyone can get a feel for the surface and comment on its possible future use. Already it appears to have great potential for TV - the spectators' galleries at Clacton and Loughborough provided a superb 'grandstand' view - and it could also be used to help Federations and Clubs run local recruitment campaigns or coaching courses at any time of the year.

The winter programme of events will enable us to study the economics of using such a surface, and we are also investigating the possibility of providing the surface with a permanent home. Suggestions would be welcome.

CHRIS HUDSON.

### The Observer/Lassale CROQUET CLASSIC PRIZE WINNERS

The Croquet Association offered two prizes of £25 each; the first to the person who submitted the best photograph of an event related to The Observer/Lassale Croquet Classic, and the second to the writer of the best report on an individual match or tournament.

The prizes have been awarded as follows: For the best photograph: **Mary Cook, 12 North Green Street, Hotwells, Bristol BS8 4NE.**

For the best article: **Howard Taylor, 40 Milton Grove, Chorlton, Manchester.**

Both items were published in Issue No. 193 (page 16), and a cheque for £25 has been sent to both winners. We would like to thank everyone else for their submissions and hope that they will try again when details of the 1988 Croquet Classic prizes are announced.

### 1988 CROQUET CLASSIC Group Entries

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 will be eligible to play.

Any club or individual who 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 soon as it is available.

A group must consist of at 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 of the national tournament.

The group tournament can be organised at any time to suit the players concerned, subject only to the constraint that the name of the group winner must be forwarded to the organisers in time to join the main competition (probably by the end of June).

The fee for a Group entry is £25.00 and to qualify for this group discount, the completed Group entry form and entry fee must reach the organisers by 1st April, 1988.

This is an excellent opportunity for clubs to provide their new players with some exciting competition, or for individuals to organise a neighbourhood croquet event. Please take advantage of it!

Chris Hudson.

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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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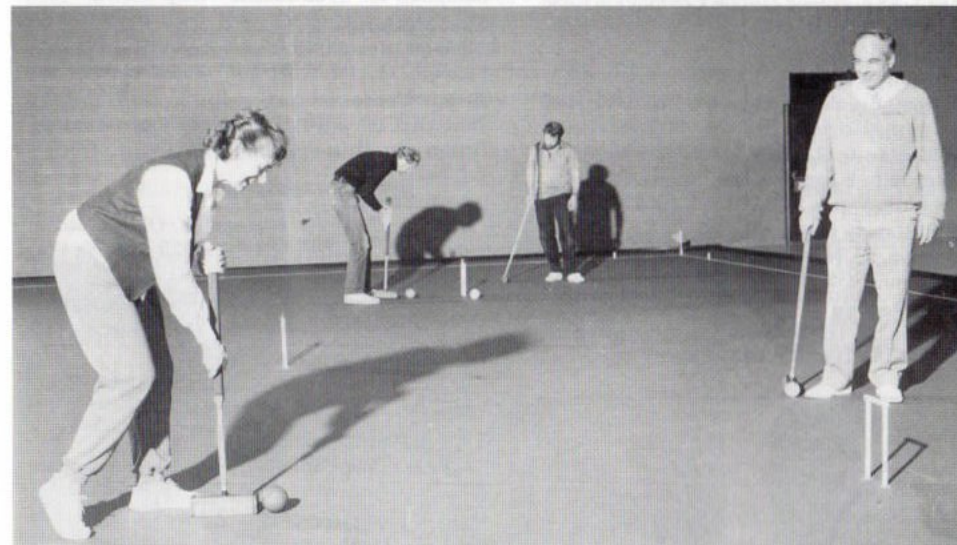
Steve Mulliner, winner of the 1987 President's Cup sponsored by Bombay Gin.

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### Clacton: 7-8 November Come the Revolution . . . The South East are 'First up against the wall'

Report by John Walters

The first venue for the only travelling carpet the world has ever seen since the height of Arabia was that jewel of the East, Clacton-on-Sea. Chris Hudson (who will doubtless soon decide that green is not the most relaxing colour!) was aided mostly by Ipswich CC members in installing the emerald isle, but the process took little over an hour so few were left 'jaded'!



Chris Hudson (right) and members of Pendle CC try out the carpet at Chorley before its official launch at Clacton.

Even more rapid was the speed of the artificial surface, faster than any lawn can have ever been. Combined with the evenness that may be obtained (determined by the floor underneath but potentially perfect), the carpet is able to produce the finest conceivable surface on which to play croquet. The only quibble can be the ridge produced around the metal plates into which the hoops are set, where the plates fit into holes cut in the carpet. However, it would be finical to complain about this too bitterly on the first trial. I'm sure it will be corrected and it does not overly detract from what is the greatest step forward in our sport for some time, and another triumph for development officer Chris Hudson.

On entering the sports centre we were first greeted with what Martin French described as an 'inflatable Hilditch' in the swimming pool. We were able to verify this observation later when the man himself appeared as referee. Stranger still was the sight and sound of Mulliner commenting on a match in which he was playing Aspinall. This appeared on a video that was showing in the foyer, where the commentary had obviously been dubbed later. It was puzzling to hear Mulliner - the commentator say of Mulliner - the player - 'Oh, what is he doing now? Ah yes, I think he's going for a wire'. But what of when Mulliner - the player - played an enormous split roll, of the type one sees Mulliner play continually, and Mulliner - the commentator - said 'Well, I wouldn't do that!'

Back to the headline. John Walters captained the East of England to victory over the South East on Saturday by 3½ matches

to ½ match. The 18-point advanced matches saw Walters & Debbie Cornelius beat Cordingley & Mrozinski in two straight games where all players coped well with the very difficult conditions which required enormous concentration and control. Elliot & Hobbs took the first of two Short Croquet handicap games against Ballard & Miller, but managed Croquet's first-ever draw in the second. The two senior players (Elliot & Ballard) were both on peg, and the two junior players were both on the first hoop!

Draws are made possible in this competition by the special 1-hour time limit rule where there is no 'time extension' - when time

appearance of Henry Cooper OBE failed to inspire, but he demonstrated great talent for trickling through long hoops (thus giving the lie to the recent 'Telegraph' advertisements boasting coverage as diverse as croquet and boxing).

Fulford & McCoig lost appalling game to the South's Smith & Barnes, while Kirby & Budd fared no better against Magee & Jackman in the handicap. Swapping partnerships produced victory for Fulford & Kirby against Smith & Magee, but despite his success in the handicap doubles at Parkstone, Budd couldn't partner McCoig to victory against Barnes & Jackman. In the latter clash the Southern team considerably overhit a roll going to an opponent ball on the South boundary but the turn miraculously continued as the croquetted ball slammed into the first hoop and the striker's ball rocketed the opponent's boundary ball on its way off. Unperturbed by this turn of fate, McCoig hit across the lawn, only to take off into the jaws of 4-back while going to the opposition.

In closing, we must thank the Clacton Leisure Centre for their hospitality, Charles Townsend, Judy and Tom Anderson and helpers for their organisational prowess, and Chris Hudson for giving up his weekends over this period to drive a croquet lawn around the country!

## RESULTS

East Anglia 3½; South-East ½  
South 3; East Anglia 1

### Worcester Norton win South West's C&G League



Worcester Norton beat Parkstone 3-2 in the final of the South West Federation's 1987 League, after being losing finalists against Nailsea in the previous year. The League is sponsored by the Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society.

Seen in the photograph are (left to right): Shirley Clay, Ivor Brand, Robin Knowles, Chris Steale (Marketing Manager for C&G), Don Clay (Club Secretary and Team Manager) and David Leggett.

Thanks are due to John McCullough, the Federation Secretary, for all his hard work, and to Cheltenham Croquet Club for hosting the final.

Don Clay.





## Father Christmas Plays Croquet

### A short story for the children of croquet players

by Brian Bucknall

Every boy and girl knows about the activities of Father Christmas on Christmas Eve. But very few people indeed know what Father Christmas does in the remaining 364 days in the year. I only recently found out as a result of meeting an elderly gentleman with a white beard who was playing in the same croquet tournament as myself at Saltwick. Yes, among other things, Father Christmas plays croquet and he told me how this had come about.

Father Christmas lives in Greenland, which is a country near the North Pole and therefore very cold, with snow and ice all the year round, even in summer. He lives in a small town which has a harbour, a warehouse and snow houses called igloos in which live the Eskimos who help him with his work.

Ships come from all over the world to the harbour, bringing dolls from America, model trains and cars from England, watches and cuckoo clocks from Germany, toboggans from Russia, footballs and cricket bats from India, and so on. All these toys and many others are unloaded by the Eskimos and taken to the warehouse. Here they are stored in a tidy manner, the dolls in one area and the footballs in another and so on, so that they can all be assembled without any difficulty ready for Father Christmas on Christmas Eve. It is very important that no child should be forgotten.

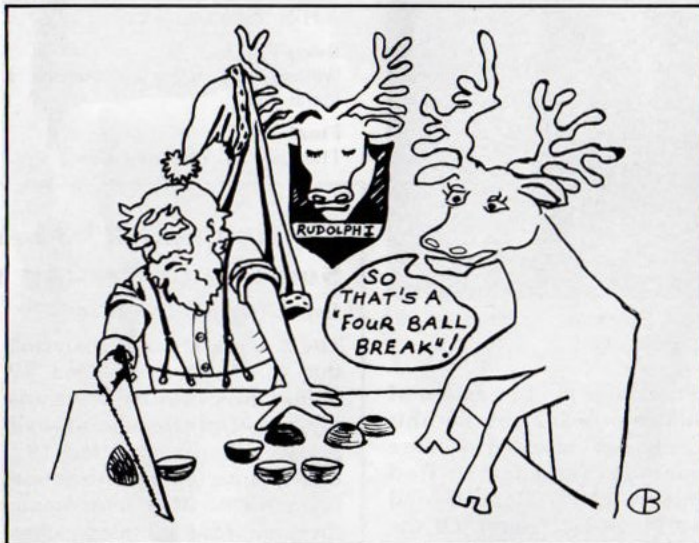
Because of the increase in the world population, which means that every year there are more boys and girls who have to be given presents, the task of the Christmas Eve operation was becoming more and more difficult. Each present has to be loaded into Father Christmas' sack in a special order, so that having delivered one present to a particular boy or girl, the next present is at the top of the sack ready for the next boy or girl. If it were at the bottom Father Christmas would waste time finding it in the dark, and he would not have sufficient time to go all round the world in one night.

Therefore, to help him with this increasingly difficult task, Father Christmas decided to install a computer.

Everything went well the first Christmas the computer was used. Each present was in the

right place in the sack at the right time and in spite of there being more deliveries than previously, he completed his round in record time, starting with Japan and going all round the world to England, America and finally Hawaii.

But even so, by the time Father Christmas and his reindeer had arrived back in Greenland in the early hours of Christmas morning, they were all very cold and tired after their hard night's work.



He sliced the balls in two and used them as pucks on the ice. (Drawing by Celia Bucknall).

He parked his sleigh on the snow outside the warehouse and unhitched the reindeer and walked to their stable. Here some Eskimos were waiting to give them a good feed and rub down.

Father Christmas patted and thanked them for their help and then returned to his sleigh to pick up his empty sack and go to the warehouse to wish his Eskimo helpers, who were waiting for him, a Merry Christmas. But, horror of horrors, as he picked up the sack he realized it was not quite empty. One present remained at the bottom of the sack.

Father Christmas was very upset. It had never happened before. One boy or girl, somewhere in the world, had been forgotten and would not receive a present and he, Father Christmas and his tired reindeer would have to set out once again on another long journey. Furthermore, it was beginning to get light already so they would have to move quickly.

He took out the present from the sack to see whom it was for. But in spite of shining his now

dimming torch all over the Christmas wrapping paper he could not see a name and address label on it. He therefore opened the wrapping paper to see what was inside the parcel.

He left it on the sleigh and dashed into the warehouse and called all his helpers into his office. He'd wish them a Merry Christmas indeed! He shouted 'There's one over, a croquet set. There's no label on it. Check who it's for. Get on with it - fast!'

loaded 26 croquet sets. No-one has gone without a present after all. We loaded one too many. There must be a fault in the computer program.'

Father Christmas re-checked this for himself. His chief warehouseman was right. His programmer was wrong but fortunately no harm had been done. 'Thank goodness for that' he said 'we can have that drink after all and then I'm going to bed. Merry Christmas to you all!'

'Should we put the croquet set back into the warehouse for next year?' asked his chief warehouseman. Father Christmas thought for a moment.

'No,' he replied, 'I'll keep it for myself. No one ever gives me a Christmas present, so this year I'll have one.'

He took it back to his house, opened the box and took out the bright, new, red, yellow, blue and black balls, which he weighed in his hand. He practised hitting them across the carpet with the shiny new mallets and then with the book 'How to play croquet' he retired happily to bed.

Next day he read through the instruction book again. When he had finished reading it he suddenly realised there was no grass in Greenland and one couldn't possibly play croquet on ice. The croquet balls would skid and probably never stop once they had been hit. He thought for a moment.

There were ice-rinks. He would slice the balls in two and use them as pucks on the ice. It would then be a simple matter to drill holes in the ice for the hoops so that they would hold tight.

This he did. He taught the Eskimos to play as well. They all enjoyed their new sport.

But for wider experience he thought he would like to play on grass. So he always comes to England now for his summer holidays.

That is why I came across him at Saltwick. He was a good player too.

#### PRIZE COMPETITION

##### Write a Short Story

The Judges Panel is now meeting to award the prize for the best short story published in 1987 (Issues 191-195 inclusive), and their decision will be announced in the next issue.

Following the success of this year's competition, a £10.00 Book Token will be awarded to the author of the best croquet-related short story published in 'Croquet' in 1988.

As this year, the Judges Panel will be 10 readers selected by the

Editor. Their identity will be revealed when the result is announced!

Entries, which should be no longer than 2000 words, should be sent to the Editor as soon as possible. Short stories already received but not yet published remain eligible for the 1988 award, and authors need not resubmit them.

The Editor would like to thank all those who have submitted short stories for the pleasure they have given both himself and other readers.

## Bowdon: 20 Sept THE LONGMAN CUP Glasgow triumph over Cheltenham

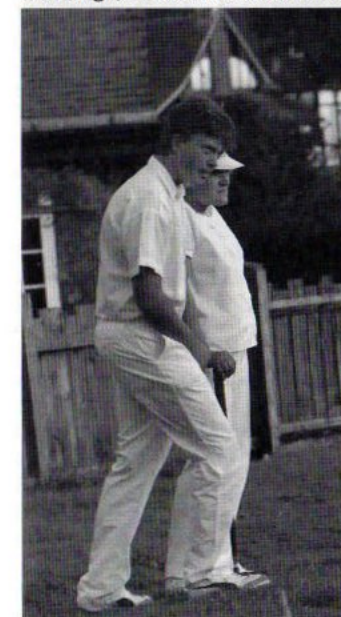
Report by Richard Sparrow

I travelled from Leeds for the Longman Cup, and it was two and a half hours before I arrived on the outskirts of Bowdon. There I came across a large sign which mentioned every town in Cheshire except Bowdon, and my heart sank. Was my map reading so bad? Was my journey through the lanes in vain?

Panic stricken, I abandoned the car and was calming my nerves when my saviour appeared - not in a heavenly chariot, but on a bicycle. I flagged him down, and after a little hesitation, he gave me directions. Only two stops of the car later, I drove into the car park next to Bowdon Croquet Club. It was 8.45 - half an hour before the appointed time and I was exhausted.

At that time in the morning the lawns and their vicinity were deserted. It was cool and damp, not surprising after heavy overnight rain, and everything was very still. The four lawns lay under heavy dew and an air of expectancy lay over the place as a field before battle.

The lawns are surrounded by very attractive architecture. On one side a pair of painted houses with influence running through from Regency to Edwardian - one pink and the other blue. On another side some modern flats of acceptable design and brick: the third side, maroon brick houses with white wood here and there - good solid modern buildings, and on the fourth side,



Partners Dab Wheeler and Cbris Ross plan a comeback in their Doubles.

the back of the Griffin hotel, a whitewashed building of indeterminate age.

The Griffin is opposite St. Mary's Church, a modest but not unattractive building of sandstone. I strolled round the church a few times and discovered a very pleasant, very quiet, village atmosphere. The only other inhabitants to move were a couple of lads on bicycles delivering newspapers.



The team captains, Corla van Griethuysen (left) and Dab Wheeler hold the Longman Cup, watched by Barry Keen who managed the event.

Returning to the club at 9.15, I found that the rest of the team had arrived - well before the opposition as it happened. Captain Corla, Jack, David and Alexis were strolling round the lawn in a fairly desultory fashion. I recognised this stage. What do you chat idly about when all you want to do is to get on with the game? However, we were able to enjoy the small but comfortable clubhouse - something which does not exist at Glasgow Green.

Shortly before 10.00 the Cheltenham team arrived, full of the energy which a Service Station breakfast imparts and a mixture of young and old, youth and experience. After introductions, the captains decide that no match will last longer than 4½ hours. (Do I hear correctly? I've never been in a game of more than 3!)

Then we got down to the business of the day. Corla and Jack played the top match and David and I played Dab and Leslie in the second match. Dab is a cheery woman in her fifties and Leslie is a very fit bearded seventy-two year old. David lost the toss and the opposition go into bat.

The first hour is hell. My arms feel as though they are not joined to my body. My head aches. I feel

lousy. What am I doing here? Will I miss the ball altogether? David is very supportive and tells me he is suffering as well. Can it really be that bad? I am in play most of the time because David wants me to get round first before he progresses. This emphasis does not help. I fire and miss; when I do try to run a hoop I miss; I take off and go off the lawn. Oh my God; why am I doing this! Please let me be elsewhere . . . But fortunately the opposition gets bogged down and little scoring takes place.

Suddenly, the weather changes for the better. The sun

comes out and it becomes quite warm. So much so that David goes off to change into his shorts - Don't go away for too long David, I don't know what I'm doing! And then I actually hit in from a long distance. Suddenly I get the pace of the lawns. Bowdon's lawns are beautiful. Smooth and true, fast and firm, and once the pace has been found the effort goes out of the game and stroking is sufficient to propel the ball from one end to the other.

And suddenly I realise that I am enjoying the game. There is no great increase in results produced but I feel more confident and begin to relax. And the sun is really very warm - and life is really quite good.

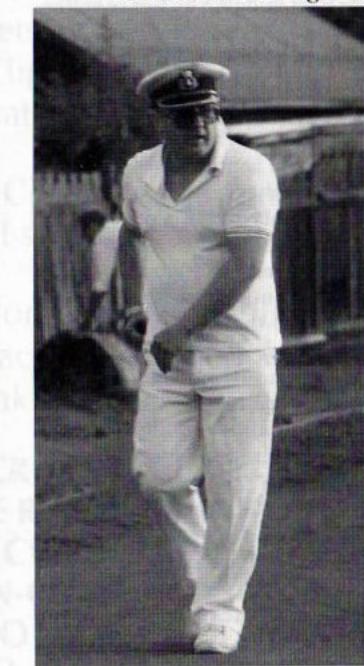
In between breaks we sit and chat. Dab and Leslie are very friendly and our conversation is not stifled by the occasion. We also have time to speak to Corla and Jack about the other game - and it certainly seems to be nip and tuck there as well. Corla has had the frustration of having a ball stick in a hoop above the ground and she has to wait until the hoop is re-measured. Like a true champion however she carries on regardless.

Meanwhile, David and I are three hours into our game and we are ahead when at 3-back I stick

in a hoop again; we take a bisque and then I miss from eight feet. The inspiration drains from my boots. Have I lost us the Longman Cup? There were many occasions like this. Half an hour later, I have run another two hoops and it is time for David to think seriously about getting himself round, but having given me the majority of the play, he is not able to find his touch.

Half an hour to go. From the other lawn I hear Jack's 'Never mind, let me buy you a pint? Surely we have won that one. Which means if we can take this one, we would be two up with three to play. So near yet so far! And then David strikes and runs nine hoops with our last bisque. We go from four down to five up with fifteen minutes to go - Surely this must be it. But no! What is this? Dab is in with a three ball break, threatening to ruin us. Ten minutes to go - five hoops to run - 'Three minutes!', calls the referee and two hoops - 'One minute!' calls the referee - 40 seconds then the call - TIME!! And Dab is still in play, she runs 1-back and plays a rush up from mid-lawn to 2-back - everyone is now grouped round this corner. The beer is being slurped anxiously. Dab's ball is only a few inches from the hoop but at a slight angle. If she runs the hoop we are surely dead because there is a ball at the next hoop. She stalks the hoop and settles over the shot, back goes the mallet, time stands still. Down goes the mallet, followed almost immediately by the encouraging ring of iron. The ball has rebounded, we have won.

Continued on Page 10.

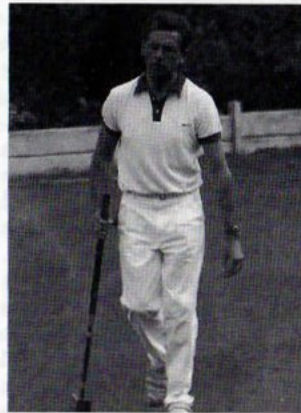


Jack Norton prowls the boundary.

## National Finals (2)

### Longman Cup (cont'd)

Gathering up what remains of my nerves, I shake hands with all concerned and we retire to the Pavilion for beer. Talk about refining fire! I can't believe this is happening to me. Corla warns against complacency as she goes out to face her afternoon opponent. I play Leslie on the



Richard Sparrow under strain.

same lawn with Jack and David playing the third doubles on lawn 1. Lunch is swift and liquid with much reminiscing over the fatal shot and a certain numbness has set in. The beauty of the setting, the magnificent lawns. The ebb and flow of battle, the tremendous team spirit, the great friendly atmosphere. I am almost in tears. But no time for that - it's off to do battle with Leslie.

Our match proves to be a very slow affair - with both of us faced with unaccustomed situations. I go into an early lead but after an hour and a half I give Leslie a five hoop break by sheer stupidity. Meanwhile Corla is not playing her best, judging by her reaction to some shots and by mid-afternoon the score is 2-1, Jack and David having lost comfortably. Corla was feeling confident about the chances of her success at the outset but is now less sanguine. Loud crashes accompany many of her shots and this may reflect her frustration as much as anything else.

In my match, I seem to be doing all the things I know I should avoid. Leslie is in one corner, four hoops ahead, and I can't budge him. With Corla in trouble, can we really lose all three afternoon matches? A superb tea is served by Barry Keen, the Manager - one example of the many ways in which he made us feel very much at home. The first cake seems to bring me alive. I get stuck in a hoop again - take a bisque and run five hoops including a rush up from 2-back to 3-back which restores spirits enormously. Now I feel I am

beginning to play. Fifteen minutes of the match to go and everyone is grouped round our lawn. I am praying that I do not have to decide the Longman Cup - even if I am two hoops ahead. Then, with Corla's match almost finished I make a mess of hoop 3 with my second ball and give the situation to Leslie on a plate.

What is Corla doing? She is in play as time is called and is splitting the opposition up. One shot to play - from thirty five yards. Kevin stalks the shot, hits the ball and I'll soon know my fate. Is the ball veering towards its target? - surely not on these lawns! - No, it shoots past and Glasgow Croquet Club at 7.10 have won the Longman Cup for the first time in their history.

Our match is abandoned and we return to the Clubhouse. Barry makes a speech and presents the Trophy to Corla who congratulates everyone on a tremendous day's croquet. Photographs are taken in the dusk for 'Croquet' and we quaff a glass of congratulatory lager. And Leslie presents me with a trophy he has made for the high bisquer on the winning team - a delightful gesture, indicative of the spirit in which the game was played. It has been a very long day, but a great one for our team and our club. I feel very proud to have been part of it.

### RESULTS

**Longman Cup: Final**  
Glasgow beat Cheltenham by 3 games to 1, with 1 game unfinished. David Warhurst & Richard Sparrow (17½) beat Dab Wheeler and Leslie James (13½) +1(T).

Jack Norton and Corla van Griethuysen (8½) beat Kevin Carter and Chris Ross (8½) +13.

David Warhurst and Jack Norton (7½) lost to Dab Wheeler and Chris Ross (7½) -10.

Corla van Griethuysen (4½) beat Kevin Carter (4½) +3(T).

Richard Sparrow (16) played Leslie James (14). This game was left unfinished as the match had been decided. Richard was leading by one hoop (14-13).



Corla van Griethuysen battles on against Kevin Carter.

## Edgbaston: 20 Sept THE INTER-CLUB FINAL Graduation Day for Bowdon's Longman Cup Team!

Report by Robert Prichard

Both Nottingham and Bowdon had been losing finalists before, but this year's match was bound to produce a new tournament winner - and the first ever from a club further north than Bedford. (Since the competition's revival in 1971, the winner has never been north of Wrest Park or south of Caversham.)

Nottingham won 4-3 in their semi-final against Hurlingham, and Bowdon had also won both their previous rounds 4-3, defeating the champions Cheltenham in the other semi-final. Could they produce yet another 4-3, the famous score of Czechoslovakia's ice-hockey victory over Russia soon after the 1968 invasion, which thus became the prevalent anti-Russian graffiti for Czechs?

Nottingham scored first as Davis went round to 4-back on the fifth turn. Despite missing a 4-foot peg-out, he beat Peterson by 26. On the same lawn, Hyne struggled to a 2-0 hoop lead against Aldridge after one hour and two jump-missed rushes. He later missed the peg-out with both balls, sending his striker's ball into baulk. Aldridge however had the 'clips of death' (1-back and 4-back) so failed to win, taking off the lawn to give Hyne the game by 8 and Nottingham a 2-0 lead.

The doubles also started erratically: Vincent hit in with two balls at the first hoop and a ball in the middle but made only one hoop from it. Lewis tried to lay for a 1-back peel but accidentally trickled through. The only ball he could see was on the south boundary. He hit it, took off back to mamma - and missed. Bowdon eventually scraped home by 6.

After lunch, the seventh turn saw an effortless triple peel by Steve 'I don't normally do triples' Lewis, his second in the competition. It was 2-2 and the afternoon sun swelled the crowd to double figures. In a game of long breaks and failed peels, Aiton beat Irwin by 3, helped by better hitting of the 'short' life shot, to put Nottingham 3-2 up. Peterson levelled the score for Bowdon in a game where he could not run hoops and Hyne could not approach them.

The match rested on a deliciously protracted struggle between Davis and Aldridge.

Davis's best ploy was to hit a totally wired ball; his worst was to peel oppo through 4-back from 20 yards. This prove fatal because Aldridge managed a straight double, with a 10-yard peg out.

So it is Bowdon who can gloat over a 4-3 score if they are ever invaded by Nottingham. They were not mentioned by your scribe as possible winners in 1987 in his report on last year's final, although his dark horse Woking did bring off the Mary Rose. Studying the photograph in Gazette No 165 would have revealed that all four players in Bowdon's winning team had been in their squad which won the Longman Cup in 1981. This points to Worcester as 1988 champions.



Steve Lewis, only peels when really necessary!

### RESULTS

(Bowdon names first)  
C.J. Irwin & S.E. Lewis beat K.M.H. Aiton & I.G. Vincent +6; W.O. Aldridge lost to N.G. Hyne -8; D.N.S. Peterson lost to J. Davis -26; Irwin lost to Aiton -3; Lewis beat Vincent +26TP; Peterson beat Hyne +7; Aldridge beat Davis +12.

## Colchester: 26-27 Sept ALLENGLAND FINAL David Goacher takes title against all the bisques

Report by Pat Hetherington

The All England final was held at Colchester in near-perfect conditions on one of the finest and sunniest weekends of the

year (only one short sharp shower on the Saturday to dampen spirits). Played as a five-round Swiss, the eventual winner, Bristol's David Goacher (½) completed all five rounds,



David Goacher receives the All-England Trophy from Colchester President Edward Duffield.

## Bristol: 19 Sept THE MARY ROSE FINAL David Wiggins wins crucial match for Woking

Report by Jeff Dawson

This year's final of the Mary Rose was contested by Bowdon and Woking, and held at Bristol. After a beautiful Friday, everyone was 'delighted' when Saturday turned out to be a complete contrast. The morning games were played in a more or less constant drizzle, although it did brighten up a little later in the afternoon.

The two singles games played on lawn 2 in the morning were distinguished mainly by the cries of disbelief as balls twitched erratically away from (or jumped over!) their targets. However, the real interest of the first session was the doubles marathon on lawn one. Bill Aldridge and Barry Keen had reached 3-Back and Rover, with Tony Mrozinski and Bob Smith on 4 and 5 when the latter started their comeback. Woking reached Penult and Peg before the innings once again switched hands. A nervy end-game followed, with all 4 clips on the peg when Barry missed his return roquet to give the Woking

pair victory (after 4½ hours!). This gave the Woking team a mid-point 2-1 lead.

In the afternoon's games, David Wiggins quickly seemed to take control of his game, while the other three all looked like close contests. Jeff Dawson failed a peg-out, leaving himself with only one ball. He eventually hit in and finished some half-an-hour after it should have been all over. This gave Woking the deciding game, and an overall 4-3 victory.

All in all, this was an exciting day, closely contested. Our thanks are extended to our Bristol hosts (who were consoled by the thought that they had been knocked out of the competition by the eventual victors!)

### RESULTS

(Bowdon names first)  
Bill Aldridge & Barry Keen lost to Bob Smith & Tony Mrozinski -2; Tim Haste lost to David Wiggins -12; Mike Wilkins beat Jeff Dawson +12; Haste lost to Dawson -9; Wilkins lost to Wiggins -1; Keen beat Smith +7; Aldridge beat Mrozinski +3.

winning every game within the allotted three hours, despite giving away a total of 41½ bisques.

Cardiff's Adrian Trickey looked to have the runner-up position in the bag until losing in round five to Hurlingham's Derek Power, thereby ensuring a four-way tie on three wins between himself, Power, Southport's John Haslam (an adult Bennett bandit?) and Tyneside's Stephen Taggart, whose play on the Saturday had suffered somewhat from jet lag, Stephen having left home before 5am to drive the 300 miles to Colchester, arriving in time for a 9.45am start!

The manager decided to run a one-baller to determine the runner up and this proved a most exciting event, holding spectators enthralled as fortunes swayed back and forth. On court 1 Trickey triumphed over Haslam whilst on court 2 Taggart beat Power by one point after Power's jump shot back over hoop 6 failed to hit the peg. Then in a nail-biting final, with fortune changing time and time again, Taggart finally succeeded and carried off the trophy back to Tyneside. All four participants

## National Finals (3)

were rewarded with handicap reductions.

### RESULTS

#### Round 1

M. Ansell (Wrest Park) (8) bt M. O'Flynn (Swindon) (9) +5(T); S. Taggart (Tyneside) (9) bt D. Power (Hurlingham) (10) +4(T); D. Goacher (Bristol) (½) bt D. Williams (Crawley) (12) +15; A. Trickey (Dyffryn) (11) bt J.H. Haslem (Southport) (11) +1(T).

#### Round 2

Ansell bt Taggart +7(T); Goacher bt Trickey +3; Power bt O'Flynn +7; Haslam bt Williams +23.

#### Round 3

Goacher bt Ansell +18; Trickey bt Taggart +5(T); Haslam bt Power +4; Williams bt O'Flynn +21.

#### Round 4

Goacher bt Haslam +9; Trickey bt Ansell +15(T); Power bt Williams +8; Taggart bt O'Flynn +25.

#### Round 5

Haslam bt Ansell +24; Power bt Trickey +3(T); Taggart bt Williams +15; Goacher bt O'Flynn +11.

### Final Order

**5 wins:** D. Goacher

**3 wins:** S. Taggart (runner-up), A. Trickey, D. Power, J. Haslam.

**2 wins:** M. Ansell

**1 win:** D. Williams

**0 wins:** M. O'Flynn

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## Invitation Events (3)

### Hurlingham: 8-12 Sept The 1987 President's Cup: Sponsored by Bombay Gin Mulliner Sprints to Victory From a Special Correspondent

Nigel Aspinall made the news on Tuesday morning by withdrawing when unable to shake off a nasty bout of flu. This allowed Philip Cordingley, who had been unlucky to miss selection, to take part and gave Steve Mulliner the dubious honour of being the ante-post favourite.

some outrageous fluke (see below).

Phil Cordingley and Eric Solomon shared third place with 8 wins each. Solomon has not had a good season by his high standards and he was pleased to see his old shooting form returning after some intensive



The President's Men! (Left to right): Colin Irwin, Keith Aiton, Steve Mulliner, John McCullough, Reg Bamford, Paul Millett (Bombay Gin), Eric Solomon, Phil Cordingley, and Robert Fulford.

Mulliner proved the pundits right. His shooting has improved markedly this season since acquiring a long-headed mallet and his triple peel rate was stepped up after the disappointment of the Opens Final. The combination led to victory against a strong international field in the Wine Country International in California and it was no surprise that it was equally effective on Hurlingham's easy-paced lawns. He raced away with six straight wins, was pulled back on Thursday by excellent play from Bamford and Solomon but then put his foot down to win comfortably although he contrived to make Saturday morning more exciting than was strictly necessary.

Reg Bamford, aged 19, confirmed the excellent impression he made at the Open Championships. He was a very worthy runner-up with 10 wins on his debut and the simplicity and accuracy of his style was a pleasure to watch. He is an experienced campaigner despite his youth and took in his stride the rubs of the green typical of the President's, namely those games when one cannot hit or the opponent cannot miss or pulls off

indoor practice. Cordingley may have wanted to make a point to the selectors. He never lost his determination or played a careless game and he completed an excellent triple against Bamford at a crucial stage. Colin Irwin and Robert Fulford were joint fifth with six wins. Irwin, fresh from his triumph at the Northern Championship, was disappointed with his performance and made only a partial recovery from a blank Tuesday. He is the finest of shots but could not demonstrate the precision one expects from a Test player in easy conditions. Fulford, on the other hand, should be pleased with his debut. Aged only 18, he was naturally compared with Bamford although he is much less experienced but his relaxed and free-swinging style never appeared inhibited by the occasion. If he can maintain his standard of play and get used to winning consistently, he has a good chance of international honours.

Keith Aiton managed to win four games and probably actively lost half-a-dozen others. He displayed prodigious talent for peeling and an apparent indifference to the business of winning

games. No-one has the right to tell a player how he should approach croquet but it is difficult to reconcile this attitude with serious representative ambitions. John McCullough started well with two wins but then lost the knack of hitting and this proved to be a considerable handicap. When it returned he snatched a good win out of the jaws of defeat against Irwin and had the bitter-sweet satisfaction of achieving his first triple in the President's as a TPO against Bamford. Unfortunately, he could not complete the 3-ball break he created and it turned into an OTP instead. This was the lesson of the week. The TPO turned out to be a dangerous tactic against good opponents on easy lawns that favoured shooting. Aiton, the high priest of the art, tried at least six but only one resulted in victory.

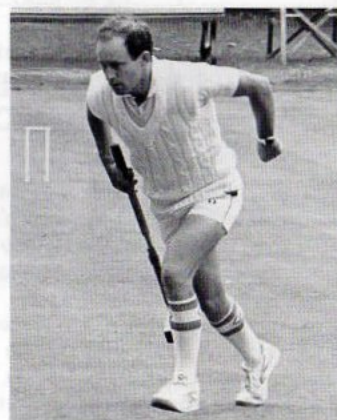
**Round 1**  
Mulliner had a 7th turn triple against Solomon and Aiton had a successful TPO against Fulford. Bamford ended up the winner of a close contest with Irwin. Cordingley v McCullough: match postponed.

**Round 2**  
Fulford caught a rusty Cordingley to record his first win in the Eights. Irwin failed twice at hoop 6 against Mulliner to lose a triple and then the game. Aiton completed the peels of a TPO but missed a short peg-out and McCullough capitalised, although not immediately. Solomon failed to complete a triple and went down to Bamford's triple instead.

**Round 3**  
Cordingley and McCullough inflicted bloodless 26s on Bamford and Irwin while Solomon had a conventional 17 against Fulford. Aiton TPO'd Mulliner and should have lost on the contact leave but Mulliner missed a short roquet after rolling to hoop 2 from hoop 1 with a break established. Failure at 2-back by Aiton led to the imposition of a classic squeeze at hoop 3 and Mulliner duly extracted a winning break.

**Round 4**  
Four unexceptional and rather clinical victories for Mulliner, Irwin, Bamford and Aiton against Fulford, McCullough, Cordingley and Solomon cleared the courts by 11.30 and permitted the delayed McCullough v Cordingley game to begin. Cordingley missed a lift with McCullough on peg and 4-back but the chance was missed and Cordingley remained alive at lunch.

**Round 5**  
Solomon and Mulliner won by 26 against Cordingley and McCullough, with Mulliner completing a straight triple. Irwin won a fluctuating game with Aiton. Bamford reached peg and peg but Fulford hit and took one ball to the peg. Bamford finally hit and pegged out one ball. Fulford rushed Bamford onto the peg-but with the backward ball - and after one more narrow miss from Bamford concluded a 2-ball break from 2-back to snatch the game + 1.



Mulliner got off to a fast start.

**Round 6**  
Solomon and Irwin showed signs of running into real form with 26TPs against McCullough and Fulford. Cordingley got as far as hoop 3 with his second ball against Mulliner and then fell to the third triple of the session. Bamford emerged the winner against Aiton in a game when both players had their chances.

**Round 7**  
Bamford did the event a favour by hitting a long lift and halting Mulliner's surge. Irwin should have beaten Solomon with a triple but finished on rover and rover and Solomon capitalised with a good triple. Cordingley and Fulford had almost bloodless wins against Aiton and McCullough. Mulliner now led with 6, Bamford 5, Solomon 4, Cordingley, Fulford & Irwin 3, Aiton & McCullough 2.

**Round 8**  
Bamford and Cordingley had comfortable wins against Irwin and McCullough. Solomon was tripled out by Mulliner but hit a 28 yarder and conducted a tricky 3-ball break to the peg. Aiton laid for a sextuple against Fulford who hit the 35 yarder and went to 4-back. Aiton hit the long lift, completed the TPO and one peel on partner and pegged out both rovers. However, he scored only one hoop before Fulford's shooting and 2-ball breaks gained him a thrilling victory.

## Invitation Events (4)



Runner-up Reg Bamford receives his trophy from Paul Millett.

**Round 9**  
Cordingley now did Mulliner a favour by completing his only triple of the week against Bamford. Mulliner had an ultimately comfortable victory over McCullough, Aiton a less certain win against Irwin and Solomon scraped home by 6 against Fulford.

**Round 10**  
Cordingley made no mistake when Solomon failed at hoop 2 with his second ball and Fulford completed the double against Bamford with a 26 that contained a memorable escape. Fulford stymied himself after rolling up to the peelee north of penult from 3-back. However, he played an accurate angled half-jump off the croqueted ball and hit the assistant ball 6 feet away. A shot that repays practice... McCullough hit the last shot with Irwin on peg and penult and ended his losing streak. Aiton again tripled out Mulliner, again failed to get the leave, again elected to peg out both rovers

(with both the other balls on hoop 1) and again lost!

**Round 11**  
Irwin, Bamford and Solomon had victories of increasing conviction against Cordingley, Aiton and McCullough respectively. Mulliner and Fulford had a classic game - Mulliner hit the tice and went to 4-back with a good wired leave, Fulford hit a 24 yarder and went to 4-back, Mulliner hit the short lift and finished with a triple.

**Round 12**  
Irwin hit the vital lift to defeat Fulford, Solomon had a nail-biter with Aiton and Mulliner tripled out Cordingley but had to undergo some excellent hitting from his opponent before he collected a winning break. McCullough should have completed a TPO plus 3-ball break against Bamford to give Mulliner the chance of a 3 game lead with 2 rounds to play. However, he failed to approach 1-back with Bamford for hoop 2 and went for an ambitious wire only 9 yards

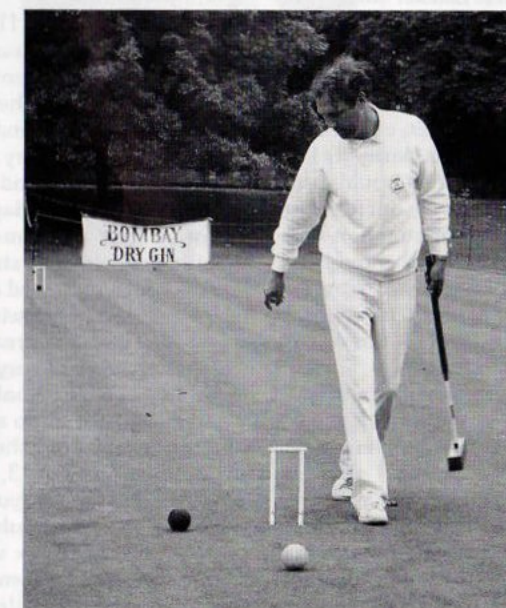
from Bamford's ball at 2-back. He missed the wire and Bamford made no mistake and kept alive his hopes of a play-off.

**Round 13**  
The crowd had no doubts - Bamford must win and Mulliner must lose to ensure a grandstand finish in Round 14 when the two leaders were to meet. Bamford met little resistance from Solomon, as did Aiton from McCullough. Cordingley squeezed home by 4 against Fulford and found that the Mulliner/Irwin clash was still in progress on Court 4. Irwin had reached 4-back first, but Mulliner hit, went to 4-back and appeared to have a delayed triple well in hand after Irwin missed. However, he had to cannon the rover peel, failed to get a good rush to the peg and missed from 5 yards, sending the forward ball off the court in the process. Irwin picked up an excellent triple, invented a problem at penult and finished on rover and peg, leaving Mulliner's balls by the peg and in

Corner 2. Mulliner lifted the ball by the peg, hit partner in Corner 2, left Irwin's balls separated by the width of the court and a long rush for himself to the peg. Irwin missed and Mulliner gave himself another lengthy peg-out. This time he succeeded to defend the trophy and become the winner for the fourth time in seven years.

**Round 14**  
Mulliner and Bamford traded sextuple attempts in the rain with Mulliner making the last error. Irwin and Aiton could not get beyond hoop 4 against Solomon and Cordingley and Fulford completed his debut with yet another close game, this time a victory against McCullough.

It would be wrong to end this report without thanking Bombay Gin, our generous sponsors, for the excellent lunches and other refreshments that we enjoyed and for their friendly presence in the shape of Paul Millett who now knows more about croquet than he may ever have wanted to!



John McCullough ponders his next move.

President's Cup: 1987	SNM	RLB	EWS	PC	RIF	CJI	KMHA	JRMCC	Games Won			Final Order
									1st Series	2nd Series	Total	
S.N. Mulliner		-17 -12	+26TP -13OTP	+15TP +7TP	+26 +17TP	+11 +3	+7OTP +6OTP	+26OTP +24	6	5	11	1
R.L. Bamford	+17 +12		+3TP +25	-26 -17TP	-1 -26	+7 -19	+13 +18	+17 +8OTP	5	4	9	2=
E.W. Solomon	-26TP +13OTP	-3TP -25		+26 -16	+17 +6	+4TP +23	-17 +3	+26TP +25	4	5	9	2=
P. Cordingley	-15TP -7TP	+26 +17TP	-26 +16		-20 +4	-24 -13	+26 +23	+4 +16	3	5	8	4
R.I. Fulford	-26 -17TP	+1 +26	-17 -6	+20 -4		-26TP -17	-11TPO +5OTP	+21 +4	3	3	6	5=
C.J. Irwin	-11 -3	-7 +19	-4TP -23	+24 +13	+26TP +17		+11 -14	-26 -3	3	3	6	5=
K.M.H. Aiton	-7OTP -6OTP	-13 -18	+17 -3	-26 -23	+11TPO -5OTP	-11 +14		-14 +25	2	2	4	7
JR McCullough	-26STP -24	-17 -8OTP	-26TP -25	-4 -16	-22 -4	+26 +3	+14 -25		2	1	3	8

### Dates for Indoor Croquet

#### INDOOR CROQUET RESULTS TO DATE

East	3 1/2	South East	1/2
East	1	South	3
East Mids	4 1/2	West Mids	1 1/2
East Mids	5	North West	1
South West	3 1/2	South	1/2
South West	3	East	1
South East	3	South West	1

Southern League			
	P	W	L
South West	3	2	1
South	2	1	1
South East	2	1	1
East	3	1	2

## Invitation Events (5)

Chairman's Salver: 1987	GWN	NGH	DRF	JEG	SW	MS	JWHC	PLS	Games Won			Final Order
									1st Series	2nd Series	Total	
G. W. Noble		19 15	3TP 13	5TP 17	1 17	26TP 15	9 12	9 12	6	5	11	1
N.G. Hyne	19 15		2 7	23 7	5 15	4 3	1 14	5 2	4	5	9	2
D.R. Foulser	3 13	2 7		1 10	26 6	4TP 2	14 2	26TP 16	6	2	8	3
J.E. Guest	5 17	+23 7	1 10		5 10	3 23	5 8	18 14	3	4	7	4=
S. Williams	1 17	5 15	26 6	5 10		23 2	5 12	11 5	3	4	7	4=
M. Suter	26 15	4 3	4 2	3 23	23 2		8 26	2 7	4	2	6	6
J.W. Carlisle	9 12TP	1 14	14 2	5 8	5 12	8 26		7 4	2	3	5	7
P.L. Smith	9 12	5 2	26 16	18 14	11 5	2 7	7 4		0	3	3	8

### Nottingham: 7-11 Sept THE CHAIRMAN'S SALVER 'Enquiries concerning lost weather'

Report by George Noble

Marcel Proust laboured over many years and several volumes in a grand effort to recall that which had gone on before. David Foulser has no such problems. He has the total recall of his eponymous namesake and sports commentator. He can relate, in perfect detail, what happened at 4-back on lawn 6 on July 14 1977 and, to his lasting credit, conjure up his few defeats with the same clarity as his more numerous victories. David would thus have been a superior reporter to your present correspondent whose span of attention and concentration barely lasts long enough to cover the latest shot. But that is not to be, so the indulgent reader will need to content himself with hazy recollections based on random, and once lost, jottings.

It is tempting to fill these columns with detail of food and beer, both of which are to be found in inexpensive abundance in Nottingham. But other people's modest indulgences are not the stuff of ace reporting. More to the point would be reports of wind and sun, damp grassy lawns, murderous hoops and tormenting flies. These elements combined to produce an unspeakable



David Foulser: A strong start, but his challenge faded.

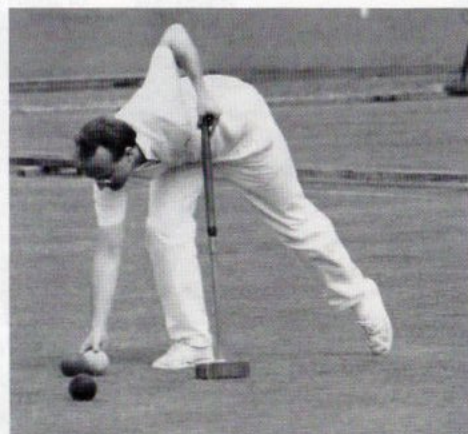
cocktail. Thus fifty-six games produced only 6 triple peels, plus a stunning quadruple from Simon Williams.

What was wrong? I blame Ian Vincent. He had to withdraw because he was about to be delivered of a new computer and inflicted maximum agony on the remaining players by instructing the groundsman in tight hoop creation. He rose every morning before dawn armed with clamps and a bucket of ready-mix in order to devise the day's torments. It was no surprise that all games in the first round should be decided by single figures. And only David Foulser showed any sign of mastering the conditions with 3 wins, including 2 triples, on the first day. The greatest excitement of the day was Hyne's 1 victory over 'Jasper' Carlisle, involving two three-ball breaks to the peg.

Day two got off to a more vigorous start with a mighty jump shot from Mark Suter to win a close game, +3, against Guest. Then Jasper unkindly beat your correspondent (his first win) to allow Foulser to pull ahead and end the day with six wins, his sixth round game against Hyne ending as a two-baller. Meanwhile Carlisle maintained the momentum of his recovery with a win against Smith to end the day with two wins. Just in time with a parental visit planned for the following day and the need to turn himself into an unspeakable form of sliced white bread.

Your cub reporter thus had to beat Foulser in round 7 in order to maintain contact. All was lost when Foulser made penultimate with partner on the peg with the miserable opponent on 3 and 4-back. But some unexpected sadness left the balls around the third hoop and a roll-up of the peelee from the third corner was just enough to win the game. Six games each after round 7. But day three really belonged to Hyne. He picked up 3 wins, including one against your servant, and Foulser had lost to Guest and Hyne (a bad day).

In round 10 Carlisle beat me again (the rotter tells me that I have never beaten him) and Suter beat Foulser +2 with some incredible shooting when everyone else



Chairman's Runner-Up, Nick Hyne.

wanted lunch. Hyne maintained his comeback with a scrappy win over Guest which included rushing a ball to rover via the peg when he was really trying to go somewhere completely different, and thus winning rather sooner than planned. But he then lost to Foulser and Smith to reduce his prospects and retain the removalisation of Smith.

Carlisle was meanwhile hard at work demoralising Foulser. On lawn one, with other games over and the bar open, Foulser did the first peel of his TP and then stuck in 3-back. Carlisle took his first ball to 4-back and started his own TP but missed a short roquet after the sixth hoop. Foulser made penultimate and was thus 3-back and rover. Carlisle hit in again and the players delighted the gallery with a scrappy half-hour ending with Carlisle on 4-back and rover v.peg and rover. After much more hitting and sticking Carlisle won + 2. By this time Simon Williams had done his quadruple, Paul Smith had written the definitive work on Keats, Mark Suter had consumed a polypin of coke and Jerry Guest, after days of vacillation, had bought a Jaguar. Perhaps the most remarkable feature of the Williams quadruple was that, in the turn before it, he missed a six inch roquet by failing to reach it!

The final round involved the traditional sextuple attempts, without much finesse, and the only feature worthy of report was Hyne's win +2 by hitting a wired ball at a distance of 39 metres.

Once again the Chairman's was a fun eight with excellent, testing conditions. Our thanks to the Nottingham club, and long may they flourish. Oh, by the way, they tell me that I won.

#### COACHING COURSES

continued from Page 29

referee. Also state which course you wish to attend. Where applicable, enclose your cheque made payable to 'The Croquet Association'.

The course leaders are:  
Nottingham - Colin Irwin  
Parkstone - Keith Wylie

#### C. Review Procedure

The Coaching Committee have decided that each Grade III coach appointed must coach at one of the weekends once every two years (three years in the case of coaches who are also Grade II coaches), the two year cycle to start in the year following their appointment, if they wish to remain on the list of official coaches.

Coaching report forms need not be completed in respect of this programme.

### Harrow: 11-13 Sept THE SELECTORS' WEEKEND

Report by David Peterson

The Selectors' Weekend was once again played at Harrow, and this time Richard Hilditch assumed all organisational duties. On the first morning he carelessly failed to scratch past and present chair-people of the tournament committee for being late, but thereafter made no mistakes.

The first morning was sunny. Generous hoops and easy lawns contributed to some good fast play. Debbie Cornelius dealt with Brian Hallam very nippily +26, and David Peterson and Richard Hilditch seemed to vent unvoiced grievances against Council members with TPs as the day progressed, though Mark Saurin and Tony Mrozinski emerged as the only two unbeaten players. They played the next morning and once Saurin had won he seemed in danger of running away with the event.

The wind picked up on Saturday, and as it howled down Harrow's eponymous hills play became more hazardous. Saurin was playing Peterson and had reached peg and ball-box against first and one-back, when a hit lift, a couple of three ball breaks and a missed nine-yarder resulted in a win for Peterson and opened up the event again.

With the news dominated by the extradition of British soccer hooligans to Belgium we saw the

first outbreak of the 'Harrow disease' at a croquet tournament, as local brats on their BMXs baited the players.

By Saturday evening Saurin and Peterson were both on five out of six, which gave Peterson the edge as the victor in their encounter. However, a whole clutch of players lurked menacingly behind including Dawson, Cairns, Mrozinski and Sutcliffe. An influx of spectators from Hurlingham appeared to enliven events.

Peterson lost his first game, and Saurin moved, ahead, only for the nipper to succumb in the next round to the skills of David Wiggins, one of the several firemen present. Still, Peterson had to pull out an STP against Keen, having been two breaks down, and so went into the final round against Wiggins needing to win to secure overall victory. A double-tap on a seemingly straightforward hoop-stroke, at first appeared to have cost him dearly but Wiggins embarked on a triple only to stick in one-back. Peterson made no mistake and finished with his third triple of the week-end heralding a welcome return to form and seeming particularly impressive when behind, winning three games from two break down.

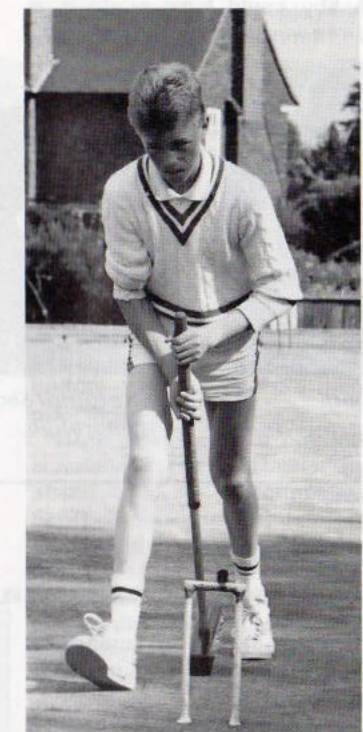
Mark Saurin should consider himself unlucky to have lost out.



David Peterson, winner of the Selectors' Weekend

His exuberant and adventurous play is typical of a player who has not yet been told about 'wrist' and who doesn't come from Bristol. Alan Sutcliffe has also impressed us recently, and Jeff Dawson had a good sequence of wins towards the end. It appears to have been a much closer event than last year, half the players still having a chance on the last day.

All the players would like to thank Richard Hilditch who single-handedly ran the event, and indeed keeps the club alive. He even won the peeling competition devised and sponsored by a nameless Ipswich player and his wife which rewarded random peels on balls stuck in hoops and penalised triplers if peels were done against them.



Mark Saurin, lost by 1 point to the winner but won 7 out of 9.

#### RESULTS

(Advanced Play: 9-round Swiss)

**7 wins: D.N.S. Peterson** (winner) bt MacLeod +11TP, Smith +7, Sutcliffe +24, Saurin +1, Cairns +2, Keen +6STP, Wiggins +9TP; **M.A. Saurin** bt Dawson +5, Cornelius +4, Sutcliffe +5, Mrozinski +14, Smith +12, Cairns +3, Keen +10.

**5 wins: D.C.D. Wiggins** bt Gaunt +14, Hilditch +17, Keen +7, Mrozinski +12, Saurin +16; **J. Dawson** bt MacLeod +11, Hilditch +3, Cornelius +5, Peterson +24, Sutcliffe +13; **T. Mrozinski** bt Hilditch +16, Vince +5, Peterson +5, Smith +17, Dawson +25; **A. Sutcliffe** bt Wiggins +11, Gaunt +21, Cairns +12, Mrozinski +11, Keen +16; **D. Cairns** bt MacLeod +19, Hilditch +20, Vince +12, Mrozinski +17, Gaunt +21; **S.D. Cornelius** bt Hallam +26, Wiggins +5, Hilditch +8, Gaunt +5, Dawson +5.

**4 wins: G. Vince** bt Keen +12, Wiggins +10, MacLeod +16, Sutcliffe +3; **R. A. Smith** bt Cairns +8, Vince +10, Cornelius +24, MacLeod +9; **J.R. Hilditch** bt Keen +26TP, MacLeod +3, Vince +7, Smith +6.

**3 wins: D. Gaunt** bt Hallam +6, Vince +5, Smith +16; **B.A. Keen** bt MacLeod +1, Gaunt +8, Cornelius +16.

**1 win: B. Hallam** (retired after Day 1) bt Dawson +8; **Miss J. MacLeod** bt Gaunt +14.

Continued from Page 15

After three days of play a leader finally emerged. Fiona McCoig had 5 wins, closely followed by Winifred Brown with 4 wins. On Thursday play continued in sunshine, still no waterproofs being necessary. In the afternoon Chris Irwin had a very exciting match against Winifred Brown. Winifred was for peg and 4-back when Chris produced a good break and pegged Winifred out with her other ball still for 1. Chris unfortunately ran out of time and had to give in when Winifred eventually managed to hit in with only about 5 minutes to go to beat Chris +6. Nerve racking for both players but quite exciting for the rest of us who were watching it closely.

Fiona McCoig played consistently well all week only losing two games, her first against Winifred Brown and the last against Corla van Griethuysen. She deservedly won the Longman Bowl and was also rewarded with a handicap reduction.

It was an exciting week, very nerve racking for a newcomer but highly enjoyable. It was very well managed by Paul MacDonald, who kept all the ladies under control admirably well.

Loughborough: 5 Sept  
The Short Croquet Team Event  
Nailsea Win Through

The National Final of the Short Croquet team event saw Loughborough Croquet Club hosting their first ever CA tournament on their greatly improved lawns at the Technical College.

Three years ago, the old bowling green on which the club was founded looked in a very sorry state, full of rabbit holes and disused for many years. The former brown and damaged surface now looks refreshingly green, following the efforts of the College groundsman and Loughborough's ground manager, Brian Melody. Improvements have also taken place on Loughborough's second playing

area, where all traces of the former grass tennis courts have been removed and the surface is improving by leaps and bounds.

Four teams travelled to Loughborough to compete in the final. Ashby had an easy trip, but the others, Pendle, Reading and Nailsea had long journeys. Nevertheless, they all arrived on time and very soon all were in action, playing in four blocks of four, with the games all time-limited to 1½ hours.

At the end of the first round, Pendle and Nailsea had both won three games, with only single wins for Ashby and Reading. However, a late challenge from Ashby could have made it a three-way tie, but in the end it was

Nailsea who took the title. Nailsea's Tony Brown and Ashby's Gary Norman were the only two players to record 3 wins out of three. Gary and Peter Dyke both had the distinction of playing a careful break to peg out their opponent's ball, only to peg out their own ball on the same stroke.

Campbell Morrison and Gary Norman's game was the last to finish, although by that time the result of the competition was decided. Campbell was some way behind when time was called, at which point both players had one bisque standing. Gary had both balls on the peg; Campbell was on Rover and 5. He attempted the Rover peel but the peleee stuck in the hoop. He then played a half-jump shot and succeeded in completing the

peel, taking the ball through that was stuck.

This left him a long and somewhat difficult rush to the peg on his partner ball, and in attempting the rush, he unfortunately rushed his partner ball on to an opponent's ball, leaving himself a long croquet shot to peg out. He missed the peg with his partner ball and, not bothering to peg out his own ball, left all four balls for the peg at the end of his turn. In his final turn, Gary hit a 12 yard shot and pegged out to take the game.

Chris Hudson presented Nailsea with their trophy, with a replica for each team member. Shelagh Rastall, Loughborough's Secretary, did some sterling work in providing tea and coffee for the players throughout the afternoon, in between games and heavy showers, and Brian Melody saw to the equipment.

Of the four clubs represented, Nailsea have just levelled their entire site, and now have room for 4 full size lawns. Very shortly, Ashby will be able to use a new full-size lawn built specially for the club by the local Council. Pendle have recently installed a clubhouse and Reading have exciting possibilities for expansion. Perhaps this demonstrates that enthusiasm gets teams into finals.



The National Short Croquet Final in progress at Loughborough.



Nailsea's winning team (left to right): Peter Dyke, David Thatcher, Paul Spiring, and Tony Brown.

Bowdon: 3 Oct  
ALL ENGLAND SHORT CROQUET  
Alex Leggate Is First Short Croquet Champion

Report by Chris Hudson

The first-ever national individual short croquet tournament was held this year, with the winners of five Regional Finals coming to

Bowdon at the beginning of October to contest the national final.

The five competitors mirrored the membership of the Croquet Association. Two ladies, Heather Perren from Bristol and Anne Rutter from Auchincruive, balanced by two men, Walter Sanders from Teesside, and Brian Melody from Loughborough, and 14-year old Alex Leggate, from Nailsea.

The first round saw an exciting game between Melody and Sanders. Won eventually by Melody, the game might well have gone to Sanders had he not missed a short roquet after making rover with his second ball. He had already had the foresight to send his partner ball to within a few feet of the peg, to wait for the peg-out, but it was not to be.

In the other first round game, Anne Rutter was beaten by Heather Perren before she had a chance to use her three remaining bisques, but it was the next

two games that highlighted how much confidence so many bisques give to up and coming players. In his first game, Alex Leggate beat Walter Sanders in half an hour, having 2 bisques left over himself, and leaving Walter with 5 bisques still unused. Brian Melody did even better, beating Anne Rutter in 29 minutes and having 3 bisques left over himself, with Anne having only used one of her total of eight!

After this round, the players began to tighten up and the remaining games saw very few bisques left standing at the end of each game. Heather Perren and Alex Leggate fought a long battle, only one of two to go to the full time limit of one and a quarter hours. Alex just scraped home by 8-7, and now looked to be set to challenge Brian Melody for the title.

And so it turned out. The winner was decided in the final game, with these two playing each other. Alex went round to 6 on the third turn of the game, using 4 of his 6 bisques. Brian used all his six bisques to get round to the peg, peeling Alex's forward ball in the process, but

ran out of steam before he could peg Alex out.

Alex took advantage of this to peg out Brian and used his last bisque to lay a rush to hoop 1, guarding the boundary. Brian shot and missed, giving Alex the break he was looking for. The break went wrong after hoop 3, where Alex's shot was only 3 inches short, but that left him wired from the ball he was going to rush to hoop 4.

Brian shot and missed; Alex rushed to hoop 4 and fluffed it; Brian shot and hit, got a 3-ball break going but stuck in hoop 3, and before long, Alex was round to win the title +4.

The players brought along their own supporters and treated them to some skilful, exciting croquet. In all, 101 players entered the competition this year, and next season should see the number of entries grow considerably.

RESULTS

- 4 wins: A. Leggate
3 wins: B. Melody
2 wins: W. Sanders
1 win: Mrs H. Perren
0 wins: Mrs A. Rutter

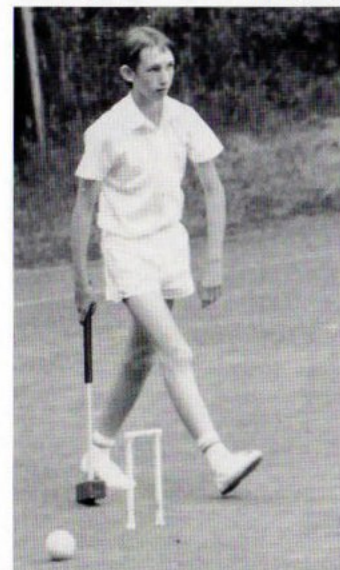


Photo No 203: Alex Leggate, Short Croquet Champion.

SHORT CROQUET TEAM EVENT  
RESULTS: Final

- Block 1
3 wins: G. Norman (12) (Ashby)
2 wins: D. Gillett (8) (Pendle)
1 win: P. Dyke (8) (Nailsea)
0 wins: C. Morrison (9) (Reading)

- Block 2
2 wins: D. Thatcher (12) (Nailsea); K. Hillier (18) (Ashby)
1 win: J. Dyer (9) (Pendle); M. Kay (9) (Reading)

- Block 3
2 wins: P. Spiring (13) (Nailsea); J. MacDonald (10) (Pendle)
1 win: R. Wildblood (18) (Ashby); R. Tillcock (12) (Reading)

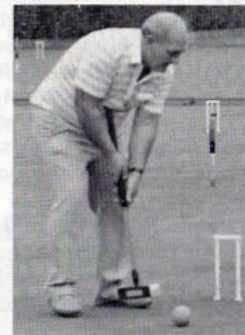
- Block 4
3 wins: T. Brown (15) (Nailsea)
2 wins: N. Hicks (13) (Pendle)
1 win: A. Boddington (13) (Reading)
0 win: J. Kirby (18) (Ashby)

MATCH RESULT

- 1. Nailsea 8 wins
2. Pendle 7 wins
3. Ashby 6 wins
4. Reading 3 wins

RESULTS OF PREVIOUS ROUNDS

- 1st Round
Group 1: Edgbaston bt Thos Cook (w/o)
Group 2: Leicester 8 wins; Werrington 4 wins
Group 3: Reading 10 wins; Surbiton 7 wins; Woking 1 win
Group 4: Ashby 9 wins; Loughborough 8 wins; Colworth 1 win
Group 5: Nailsea 7 wins; Bath 'A' 5 wins; Wolverhampton (scr)
Group 6: Pendle 'B' 9 wins; Bowdon 3 wins
Group 7: Bristol 9 wins; Bath 'B' 3 wins
Group 8: Southport 8 wins; Pendle 'A' 4 wins
2nd Round
Group 1: Reading 7 wins; Nailsea 7 wins; Edgbaston 5 wins; Bristol 5 wins
Group 2: Pendle 'B' 9 wins; Ashby 6 wins; Southport 3 wins; Leicester (scr)



Runner-Up, Brian Melody, in play at Nottingham in the Regional Short Croquet Tournament.

Ardingly: 27-28 June  
Ardingly win School Area Final

Report by David Higgs

Now, there was the monk and the matron . . . There was also a military band and a choir . . .

The South-East area tournament for the Royal Bank of Scotland Trophy was held at Ardingly College over the weekend of 27 and 28 June under humid conditions. Eight teams from schools and colleges had entered, but one withdrew as their lawns had been waterlogged all season, and two had dispersed between exams and end of term.

Thanks to the continuing dry conditions, the teams from Ardingly, Varndean and Worth played four matches each and so completed the block. The girls

from Heathfield could not play on Sunday, and so were only able to complete three of their four games.

Father Nicholas Waters administered the arrangements for the tournament whilst still having college duties to perform, and with the help of referees and coaches (Terry Ballard, David Higgs, Alan Oldham, Dorothy Miller, Marjorie and Tommy Vale) made the event flow.

The opportunity was taken to assess three aspiring Grade I coaches, with the teams and Ardingly College Junior School pupils as the 'guinea pigs'. Everyone appeared to enjoy the weekend, with the visitors

anxious to find an excuse to return to the delightful surrounds of the College.

The result of the tournament was Ardingly College (4 wins), Varndean College (3 wins) and Worth Abbey (two).

It was the prep. school's parents' day and prize giving on the Saturday. Parents were entertained during tea on an adjacent lawn by the school's military band. The choir could be clearly heard and appreciated during the service in the chapel next to the lawns.

The matron was the chaperone of the girls from Heathfield School - and the monk, the 'mentor' of the Worth Abbey team.

Hurlingham: 11 June  
Oxford v Cambridge  
Five Men in Cambridge Team

Report by Tim Harrison

While most croquet players went to the polls on Thursday June 11th, the combined might of Oxbridge croquet assembled at Hurlingham to contest the Frank Cooper Bowl. With Oxford having won the three previous encounters, the country was crying out for a change. For Cambridge, the time had come to introduce a woman into their

side. To mark the occasion the Torygraph pictured Fiona McCoig in Girton's third ladies boat above a report on the May bumps - they clearly had their priorities right.

Both teams arrived uncharacteristically early and but for the absence of our distinguished Scottish international referee, play would surely have started at the kick-off time of 10.30. Keeping to tradition, the Cambridge players did their best to play red and yellow, so as not to confuse the crowds. The nerves were, oh so very exposed in the early exchanges. However it was not long before the first of the day's results came in from lawn 2, where the Oxford leader Nick Luff had overwhelmed Colin Wright with a 25 point majority.

On the top lawn, the much maligned David Peterson was rediscovering the form that had taken him to the national junior championship, to emerge the winner of a closely fought battle with Tim Harrison, the veteran Cambridge player, making his last appearance for the university. The next result came in from lawn 1 where John Watts defeated Fiona McCoig, despite all the attentions of the press photographer. So it was now three-nil, shortly to become four-nil when Mark Wormald scraped through against Andrew Gregory. Oxford were thus only one short of an overall majority with the pundits predicting an 8-1 landslide.

However, out in the wilds on lawn 5, away from the crowds on the front lawns, it was a very different story. Cambridge's numbers 5 and 6 were putting up a resilient fight, no doubt benefiting from much more familiar conditions. Both games went to time. Andy Tyson nearly pulled back after time, but was very unlucky to just run 4-back and then not be able to hit anything. A recount was demanded by the spectators but John Calver had indeed scored one more point. In the final game, Steve Babbage decided after 4 hours to play like a master, making 4 hoops and pegging out after time had been called, with some extravagant hoops and return roquets. This brought the scores level and so it was up to astronomer Mike Bithell to score the winning point. This he did but only after sticking in penult at the first attempt.

The afternoon's doubles thus became academic, but it was a good opportunity for newcomers Tyson and Watts to pack some punches with two fine breaks, and not even thunder, lightning nor hail could stop them. Overall the match was played in a very sporting manner and the two captains, Nick Luff and Andrew Gregory are to be congratulated on this. The clear message coming to the nation from Hurlingham was: OXFORD IS GREAT AGAIN. However Cambridge gives notice of its wrecking intentions.

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Match Result  
Oxford 6 Cambridge 3

Note on Short Croquet Handicaps

Following experience of Short Croquet this season, we are making some adjustments to the bisque table for next year. For the 1988 season, for a trial period, the CA handicaps will correspond to the following bisques for Short Croquet.

Table with 3 columns: Normal CA Handicap, Short Bisques, Croquet Mandatory Peels. Rows include handicaps from -5 to 1 to 18+ and corresponding bisques and peels.

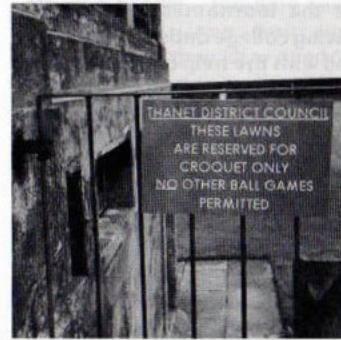
### A First Visit to Ramsgate

Report by James Kellaway

We would, we decided, make an occasion of it. We would get a party together and hire a small coach or, failing that, a minibus. But we found that Compton members either have commitments in September or are reluctant to travel to foreign parts on the 13th of the month, and in the end two cars sufficed. It was a pity, because it was Compton's first visit to Ramsgate and Ramsgate CC had been founded by two Compton members, Dennis and Eileen Shaw, who had succeeded in enlisting the backing of an enlightened Council. Now there were four lawns and 50 members and our match was to be graced by the presence of the Mayor and Mayoress.

The Shaws had long been members of the yacht club and Eileen offered to arrange an overnight stay there to avoid an early start. Early starts on Sunday mornings are not particularly popular and we gratefully accepted. When we arrived there (it was 'Royal' no less) it was

obvious that they took croquet seriously and we were welcomed as if we were visiting yachtmen. The club stands high above the harbour. It would have been very pleasant to have had a drink on the terrace with the sun sparkling on the yachts and the water but the cloud looked a mile thick and the wind was howling. We stayed



An enlightened Council.

in the bar. There were a lot of silver trophies on display and even one for the member who annually visits the most yacht clubs. Croquet clubs with spare trophies might note. When the bar closed we set off to inspect the Ramsgate lawns. Ramsgate CC is situated right on the front. A gale was blowing straight from

France so forcefully that Barry wondered if, playing from the seaward end, it would be possible for a ball to stick in the hoop. Probably, I thought, but not for long.

Next morning we arrived to find that the local vandals had included the club in their Saturday night rounds, smashing up the gent's loo and possibly as an afterthought stealing a clock and the wine intended for lunch. The French had relented somewhat. There was hardly a breath of wind, only a drenching rain. This did not deter the Mayor and Mayoress who not only arrived on time but stayed all morning. After they had left, I was told that the Mayor had promised to join the Club. I chalked up another mark for local government.

The match itself? Well, I must not trespass too much on the editor's space and 'Croquet' is full of detailed reports. Perhaps it was the weather or the unfamiliar lawns. Perhaps it was the lobster we had eaten the night before. In any event, as Barry said, it would have been bad form to have beaten them in front of their first citizens. The vandals did not, as it turned out, undermine the Ramsgate hospitality. Dennis kindly ensured that we were not deprived of lunchtime wine.

### Reflections

Report by David Isgrove

The heady victorious days of winning the Royal Bank Schools Championship are long gone. Nights are drawing in - first frosts - groundsman long since given up cutting the grass - but down in front of the cricket pavilion at Bishop Vesey's Grammar School ...

Today ... there's a mad rush to get 2 short croquet lawns ready for the 32 competitors in the L6 knockout competition. Help and advice needed as many know little about the game ... (one green's gone missing?) ... somewhere in this lot is another rising star ...

Yesterday ... as the final leaves fall from the surrounding trees, recollections of yesterday's 2nd/3rd yrs croquet club - 16 keen youngsters eagerly trying different shots and approaches, competing with each other ... with more bystanders unable to play because of lack of balls.

Tomorrow ... the final matches of these competitions (no rain?) - 4 in a team, 2 singles, 1 doubles ... started during the day and continued in free periods, lunchtime and after school - it'll

be a relief to get this out of the way so that we can run the U6 knockout tournament - this will have to be seeded according to their position on the croquet ladder (20 entries).

Next year ... too many wanting to play in school teams (desiring school colours?) ... have to have Div I team with one game advanced play (Steve Hemus), 2 Div II teams (an U6 and L6 one) - can I find other friendly matches? What about playing Oxford University at home and away this time? (hope we get a meal next year) ... must write and thank Solomon for his support ... can I get the 5th form on to the 6th form croquet games option in the summer term again? ... I hope I can use Edgbaston again ... I must write another letter to the Parks dept to try to get more time for the groundsman and to get the lawns dewormified (never had any success yet) ...

Now ... oh no! more broken mallets. 10 is NOT enough for so many and now we're down to 5 passable ones. They'll all have to be repaired yet again - at least I can buy some more balls with the P.A. money we've been given ... where can I get some more? ... Sponsorship? ... and where can I get some decent STRONG mallets that will stand up to the battering they have to suffer? ... must put the hoops into vices to tighten them again ...

This month ... mustn't forget the Parents Bazaar Display to raise a little more cash ... and that idea of sponsorship ... mmm ...

Happy New Year ... 'may your mallets break and balls split asunder' ...

David Isgrove is the Master i/c Croquet at Bishop Vesey's Grammar School, Sutton Coldfield.

### Moet & Chandon Croquet Challenge 1987.

Report by Judy Anderson

The East Anglian Croquet Federation staged this event in association with the National Trust and Peatling & Cawdron (Fine Wine Merchants throughout East Anglia).

The Public Relations staff of Greene King Brewery once again organised this sponsorship for us, for which we are extremely grateful.

It was a 16-team Short Croquet competition held at 4 different National Trust properties. It was blessed with

fine weather at all but the Final. Peatling & Cawdron provided free wine tasting at each venue, and there was champagne for all the croquet personnel too, plus champagne prizes.

There was some expert croquet played in impressive surroundings, although at times the 'lawns' were rather difficult.

### Memorable Events

Anglesey Abbey - creation of our HQ tent, brought each time by Nick and Betty Carter.

Wimpole - Robert Fulford's mandatory peels despite NT undulations. The 'public' champagne was won by the United States Air Force Solicitor (or was he the dentist?) from Alconbury.

Oxburgh - We gave the Trust House Owner Donor private croquet tuition most of the day, then he finished HIS day paddling his boat in his moat!

Ickworth - the final was played on five lawns and spectators had a grandstand view from the terrace and orangery - very useful in the rain, and much wine and champagne was consumed.

Table with 4 columns: Venue, Winners, Runners Up, Also Played. Lists results for various venues including Anglesey, Wimpole, Oxburgh, and Ickworth.

### Holiday Fellowship Croquet

Report by Monica Catling

What a splendid place to visit at the end of August! I was one of a small group that joined an HF holiday at Freshwater Bay, Isle of Wight, in order to learn Croquet.

Most were complete beginners, others had some knowledge of the game, but whatever our standard, our coach, Ivor Meredith and his wife made sure we progressed. Our last day was spent at Ryde Croquet Club where we endeavoured to play



Ivor Meredith with some of the players on the Beginners' Course.



Marcus Westerby, Director of Moet & Chandon, presenting engraved goblets to the Newport winners, John Hobbs (left) and John Farley.

Moet & Chandon Director Marcus Westerby presented the winning club - Newport - with a very fine engraved Glass Goblet for the Club, and also engraved goblets for the winning players, John Hobbs and John Farley (their second win in this event).

This series of Tournaments has greatly benefitted croquet in our Region, providing excellent publicity for Croquet and bringing together players from both established and recently formed clubs.



HF Holidays 1987 Beginners' Croquet. View from Freshwater Bay House.

matches on flat, full-sized lawns encountered by most for the very first time.

When time permitted we enjoyed the heated pool and the superb view, and in the evenings were entertained by the Opera Group who were fellow holiday-makers in the house.

The ground left much to be desired but who cared when it was all such fun and the same for everyone.

Let's hope that the CA and HF holidays will both gain members through this trial course.

### 1988 CALENDAR FIXTURES

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

Large table listing fixtures for the year 1988, organized by month from April to October. Each entry includes dates, venue, and tournament name.

### Sponsors

We are grateful to the following organisations who have already notified their intention to sponsor events in 1988:

Bombay Gin who are sponsoring the President's Cup. The Royal Bank of Scotland, who are sponsoring the National Schools Championship. Carlsberg, who are sponsoring the Open Championships.

## New Laws

### Proposed Alterations to the Laws

*Report by Martin Murray (Chairman: Laws Committee)*

It is the duty of the Laws Committee of the Council to consider possible revisions to the Laws of croquet. There is an agreement between the Councils of England, Australia and New Zealand that the Laws should be the same in all three countries, and therefore alterations can only be made with the agreement of all three Councils. Since the only opportunity for representatives of all three Councils to meet is normally during a Mac-Robertson Test Match Series, such occasions are usually exploited for an exchange of views on suggested alterations.

A meeting was held between representatives of all three Councils in July 1986 in London and broad agreement was reached on a number of alterations. These were substantially considered by the Laws Committee, which produced precise wordings for the new Laws, and these new Laws were then approved by Council at its meeting in March 1987. Before they can be accepted as part of the Laws they must be approved by both Australia and New Zealand, and they must be published in 'Croquet' to allow members to offer any comments or suggestions they feel appropriate. Only when these two conditions have been met can new Laws be accepted as valid by a meeting of Council.

Although the proposed alterations, appended to this article, might appear to be quite extensive, there are in fact rather few significant alterations that could

affect the average player. Many of the points covered are clarifications of accepted practice, which have been more clearly stated in order to assist referees in explaining situations to players.

The two most important amendments, which players should be aware of, are those described in items 2(a) and 4 below. The first of these allows a referee to correct immediately a hoop which has been found to be too wide or too narrow, and similarly to straighten a peg which is found to be not vertical. Previously this was not possible where such alterations were critical to a shot about to be played or to a referee's decision about such matters as wiring lifts under Law 13. The old situation still applies however to boundary lines; this is particularly relevant to string boundaries which are more common in Australia and New Zealand than in Britain. Notice that the positions of the hoops and peg on the lawn cannot be altered after a game has started; players should check that they are happy with these before a game starts.

The second important amendment, item 4 below, concerns the situation that occasionally occurs when a player is attempting a 'straight' peel, that is one where he intends to run the same hoop in the continuation stroke. If the ball to be peeled sticks in the hoop, players often attempt to complete the peel and run the hoop by playing the continuation as a half-jump

stroke. When successful, this often results in a second contact after both balls have run the hoop. Under the new Law, this second contact would no longer constitute a roquet. This new Law is consistent with the general principle that decisions which rest on the judgement of a situation where two balls are both moving should be avoided as far as possible.

Referees will need to be aware of the renumberings of Laws contained in item 1. The reason for these renumberings is the decision to incorporate into the Laws those Regulations (currently Nos. 4-8) which deal with the powers and duties of referees. This decision was taken since Regulations are a matter for each Council, and are not agreed between all three countries, and there was a feeling that in these matters it would be preferable to use the same Regulations in all three countries. The opportunity was then taken to improve the arrangement of those Laws (previously 44 to 56) which deal with the conduct of the Game and Modified Games and Courts.

Readers will also notice in item 11 that rules for Double-banked games, currently contained in Appendix 2, would in future have the status of Regulations, thus allowing each Council to impose its own rules. While the C.A. will for the time being retain Appendix 2 in its current form, there is some feeling that more stringent rules are desirable, involving defined penalties for players whose failure to abide by the rules results in interference between the two games. This will be the topic of an article in a future issue of 'Croquet', and members comments and opinions on this topic will be very welcome.

#### Detailed Proposals

1. It had been agreed at the International Laws meeting that the Regulations referring to Referees (currently Nos 4-8 in the British Law Book) should be incorporated into the main body of the Laws and subject to the same agreement between the three Associations as the other Laws. The following new numbering was suggested:

Old Numbers	New Numbers
Part 5	Part 3E
Laws 52-56	Laws 44-48
Part 4 (Customs of the Game)	Part 4 (Conduct of the Game)
	Part 4A
	Customs of the Game
Laws 44,46-49	Laws 49-53



will remember the annual Garden Party at Moorpark and in particular Gerald and Marjorie's Silver Wedding party. Their happiness in each other was witnessed by all their friends, who share Gerald's grief in his loss.



Martin Murray

	Part 4B (Referees)
Law 45	Law 54
Law 50	Law 55
Regs. 4-8	Laws 56-60
Law 51	Law 61
Regs. 9-22	Regs. 4-17

2. Several amendments to the Regulations (now Laws) were proposed following the discussion at the International Laws Meeting.

- (a) Reg. 5(h) (New Law 57(h)) should be amended as follows: 'To correct the setting of the hoops, peg, and boundaries if necessary before the start of a game. To correct at any time the width or alignment of a hoop or the alignment of the peg. To correct any boundary line which has moved unless the position is critical, in which case no correction may be made until the position has ceased to be critical.'
- (b) New Law 55 (Old Law 50, Tournament and Match Play) needs a new first clause as follows: '(a) TOURNAMENT REFEREE A Tournament Referee is an Official Referee or, if none is available, some other suitable person, who must be appointed at any tournament or match.'

- (c) Regulations referring to Umpires should be each Association's own concern; hence New Law 56(f) (Old Reg. 4(f)) should be amended to read: 'To appoint Umpires to act as Referees with restricted powers and duties.'

Since the C.A. has no formal examination procedure for Umpires, it was thought useful to add to New Reg. 4 (Old Reg. 9) a note referring to New Law 57(f) to remind Umpires not to state whether a ball has been

moved or shaken unless asked by a player.

3. Law 15(d) was felt to be unsatisfactory in that points could be scored by a pegged-out ball after a game had effectively ended. It was agreed to amend this Law so that no point could be scored for another ball by a ball which had scored the peg point. The words 'and may therefore' should be replaced by '; however, it may not'.
4. The case of a second contact in a half-jump stroke where the first contact was not a roquet had been raised by both New Zealand and Australia, and agreement had been reached that the second contact should not be a roquet. It was agreed that the best way to amend the laws was to insert a new clause 16(b)(iv) as follows: 'if the striker's ball hits a ball that may not be roqueted under Laws 16(a) and 17 and then scores a hoop point for itself and thereafter in the same stroke hits that ball again, a roquet is deemed not to be made; however, if such balls come to rest in contact, a roquet is deemed to have been made under (c)(iii) below.'
5. Both G.B. and N.Z. had raised the need to deal with the case where the adversary starts his turn before the striker has finished his. It was agreed that this should be covered by the following amendments:
  - (a) Law 27(a): substitute 'a player' for 'the striker'.
  - (d) Law 26: Insert new paragraph (d) to read 'THE START AND END OF A TURN. A turn starts as soon as the previous turn ends. A turn ends when the striker quits the court in the belief that his turn has ended (see Law 55(d)(iii) for tournament and match play).'
6. Attention had been brought to the anomaly which could arise under Law 28(b) where the player of the fourth turn could not play other than a wrong ball because both his balls had already been played. A new Law 28(c) was therefore proposed, to read as follows:

'PLAYER UNABLE TO PLAY CORRECT BALL. If, as a result of Law 28(b), the player of the fourth turn of the game finds that both his balls have already been played onto the court, the game shall be restarted.'

7. Law 32(a). The following addition was proposed to Law 32(a)(xvi) after 'to the court'; 'by the mallet. Substantial damage is damage capable of affecting a subsequent shot played over the damage, normally involving the breaking of the surface of the turf.'
8. An amendment to Law 32(b) was felt necessary to include a limit of claims to the adversary's right to waive a fault. It is suggested that the words 'before the next stroke is played' should be inserted at the end of the first sentence of Law 32(b).
9. The limit of claims under Law 35(a)(ii) was felt to be too short, and there was considerable discussion over a suitable limit of claims. It was proposed that the best compromise would be to alter the first sentence of Law 35(a)(ii) to 'The error is condoned if it is not discovered before the end of the offender's next turn.' Although rare cases could still arise where this would still be unjust to the opponent, it was pointed out that both players are responsible for seeing that the clips are correctly placed (Law 35(c)).
10. Additions to Law 38(h) were felt to be necessary to deal with the case of a game restarted under Law 30(d) or 28(c).

The following new Law 38(h)(iii) is suggested: 'LAW 28(c). If a game is restarted because the player of the fourth turn finds that both his balls have been played onto the court, any half bisque or bisque is played by either player is restored.' Similarly a new Law 38(h)(iv); 'LAW 30(d). If a ball that has not been pegged out is removed from the court or a ball that has been pegged out is left in play, any half-bisque or bisque played after the first stroke in error is restored if the error is discovered before the end of the game.'

11. It was agreed at the International Laws meeting that each Association should be free to agree its own rules for double-banked games. To accommodate this, it was felt necessary to include the following sentence in Law 4(h) after 'Law 34(b)(ii)'; 'and Law 55(f) for tournament and match play' and to insert a new paragraph (f) in New Law 55 (Old Law 50) as follows '(f) DOUBLE-BANKED GAMES. Double-banked games are additionally subject to any regulations governing double-banked games (See Appendix 2).'
12. An anomaly in Law 4(b) was pointed out in that there is no definition of the (obvious?) order of the twelve hoops. This should be corrected by the addition of the words '1 to 6, then 1-back to 4-back, then penultimate, then rover' after 'correct hoop in order'.
13. New Law 54(c) (Old Law 45) is slightly inconsistent in that the adversary may forestall play, but a stroke is only regarded as questionable if the striker suspects the fairness or effect may be doubtful. It was therefore

proposed that the words 'or adversary' should be inserted in the first sentence of New Law 54(c) after the words 'the striker'.

14. An ambiguity in Law 26(d) was raised, since some members thought that the meaning of this Law was that a game in a match only ended when the next was started. The ambiguity should be cleared up by amending it to read 'A game ends when the players quit the court in the belief that it has ended, or when the players start another game on the same court.'

#### STOP PRESS INDOOR CROQUET 1988 VENUES

**9/10 January: Manchester**  
The Gymnasium,  
Manchester Grammar School,  
Fallowfield, Manchester, M14.

**6/7 February: Dudley**  
Brierley Hill Leisure Centre,  
Cottage Street, Brierley Hill, Dudley

**13/14 February: Darlington**  
Top Spin Racquet & Leisure Centre,  
Teesside Airport, Middleton St George,  
Near Darlington, Co. Durham.

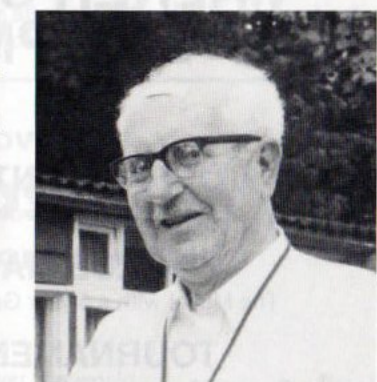
**26/27 March: Southampton**  
Calshot Activities Centre,  
Calshot Spit, Fawley,  
Southampton SO4 1BR.

*Weekend Programme details available  
from local Federations.*

#### Obituary DENNO HARRIS

Denno Harris died in hospital on 19th October, 1987. He was 81. For the many who have played croquet in Eastbourne over the last 20 years, Denno Harris WAS Compton Croquet Club. As Secretary for 14 years and subsequently Chairman and President, he was always at the centre of club affairs. His hallmark was his outstanding practicality: where others discussed the pros and cons, he got on with the job in hand, never allowing formality or bureaucracy to get in the way. When the club needed a hut for shelter in poor weather, he built one; his tables and benches are to be found in the clubhouse and from his tiny garden and greenhouse came a never-ending stream of pot plants to brighten the summer scene. He was in constant demand as a mallet doctor and honoured all requests with patient good humour and wonderfully revitalised mallets.

His success as a player was built on a direct, highly effective style of play - croquet without frills and fancies - which made him a tough opponent. He



quickly became a scratch and then a minus player and was a regular tournament entrant, almost entirely in Sussex. As a mainstay of the Sussex team at the Inter-Counties Championships over almost two decades, and a devotee of 'Devonshire Park', his enthusiasm for the game became known to a wide section of the Association.

We shall miss the anecdotal asides which enlivened committee meetings, prize givings and car journeys; we shall miss his mastery of the slightly risqué joke; above all we shall miss the wise counsel and obvious good sense which characterized his dealings with his fellows.

## Your Letters

### Setting Hoops

Dear Sir,  
I am amused by Appendix 1 of the 1987 Fixtures Calendar, section 2(i): 'referred to the groundstaff for re-setting'.

At my clubs (Southport and Bowdon), rigorous hoop-setting is a matter of pride, and it is done by club members in the early morning. I wonder which world the compiler of Appendix 1 is living in.  
Andrew Bennet,  
Blackburn.

### Croquet Canada

Dear Sir,  
Canada has just formed its first national association under the name 'Croquet Canada'. A Board of Directors has been appointed and the organisation has been officially functioning since May, 1987. We have just produced our first issue of 'The Mallet' which we plan to publish quarterly - Fall, Winter, Spring, Summer.

The Board is comprised of people from Ontario at the moment, but we fully expect that this will change as we invite others from across the country to

participate in this national association.

We are interested in the concept of a world organisation and our firm intention is to challenge the US and Britain to Test matches in the year ahead as we believe we field a useful team of players at the international level. Our organisation supports both Association rules and US rules - a typical Canadian compromise.  
William B. Prentice,  
Executive Director, Croquet Canada.

### Croquet Clothing

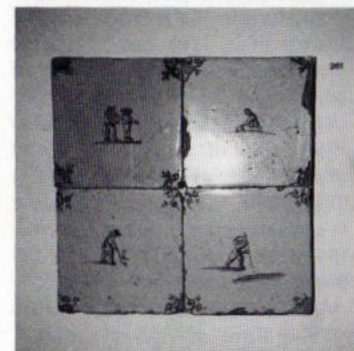
Dear Sir,  
When are croquet players going to start to take a pride in their appearance? Go to watch a bowls/tennis/cricket match and you will find the players properly dressed for their sport. Sadly it seems that for croquet tournaments and matches any old gear will do.

I am not referring to the 'predominantly white' requirement (this summer some players only qualified for this by virtue of their white arms and legs) but to general clothing or lack of it.

Please could players eschew too tight/too revealing shorts? Must players (so far male only) bare their torsos at the first sight of any sun? And any club that values its lawns must surely bar the practice of barefoot play - every groundsman knows that a shod foot distributes weight more evenly, whereas the naked foot puts uneven pressure on the turf.

If we want to improve the image of croquet we could begin by making it look more attractive. A little window dressing never does any harm, even if it does not improve the actual standard of play.

Patricia Hetherington,  
Colchester.



*Sportsmen on the tiles!*

### Croquet Tiles

Dear Sir,  
I thought you might be interested in the attached photograph. It was taken at an exhibition of tiles in Funchal, Madeira.

Unfortunately the catalogue was not very informative, merely saying that the tiles were Dutch, depicting various sports. The hoop looks a bit tight!

John Lindsay,  
London.

### Signals for Umpires

Dear Sir,  
The reply to Mr Collis's enquiry in Edition No. 194 about signalling for an umpire is contained in Gazette No. 150 (Winter 1978) in a letter on page 7.

The practice of raising the mallet head downwards to call an umpire is still widespread in this part of the world, following its application by the late Dr Brian Sandiford whenever he was a Tournament Referee.

I echo the suggestion of the 1978 correspondent that all players should be acquainted with what is now Regulation 9 so that they know which signal to make.

I recall an incident in the 1987 Ladies' Field when a player called for a peg-watcher. A minus player volunteered and was rejected by

the lady because he was not a referee!

There is one power of the Umpire, namely deciding whether a ball hits another ball, which perhaps ought to be confined to Referees. An angled shot at a ball slightly protruding from the hoop and on or near the wire can be an extremely difficult decision to make, whereas the other duties of an Umpire can be done by any competent and experienced player.

Andrew Bennet,  
Blackburn.

### Call for Croquet Artists

Dear Sir,  
We are keen to encourage young talented artists to paint croquet scenes by featuring their work in this Gallery and by holding special exhibitions to which we would like to invite selected guests who would be interested in acquiring works of art in this field.

If any of your members are interested, please could they contact me direct for further details and future invitations.

Mrs M.A.E.L. Wingfield,  
The Wingfield Sporting Gallery,  
55 Old Town, Clapham, London,  
SW4 0JQ. Tel: 01-622-6301.

### Yardlines

Dear Sir,  
I learnt to play Croquet on a court in which the yardlines were marked and would warn the correspondents who have suggested it in recent issues that the practice has an overwhelming drawback.

The lime used to do the marking so burnt the grass that, after a few weeks of the season, you could join as wide as you liked on the yardline and be certain of hitting along the resulting groove. The concept of a tice was a bit difficult to grasp under these circumstances!

Ian Vincent,  
Nottingham.

### PERSONAL COLUMN

20p per word. Min £5.  
Please add 15% VAT.

**SOUTH DEVON:** Farmhouse B&B with opt. EM overlooking River Dart. Full-size croquet lawn, heated swimming pool, horses, boats and tennis court. Tel: 0804-423278. Claire Grimshaw.

**WANTED:** Old Gazette copies as follows: 1954: No's 2,3. 1955: No's 9,10,11,13,14. 1961: No 55. 1967: No 96. 1974: No 133. 1975: No 135. 1976-78: No's 139-146. John McCullough. Tel: 0272-779943.

## Coaches Corner

### NATIONAL COACHING SCHEME

#### Review of Progress in 1987 Report by John McCullough

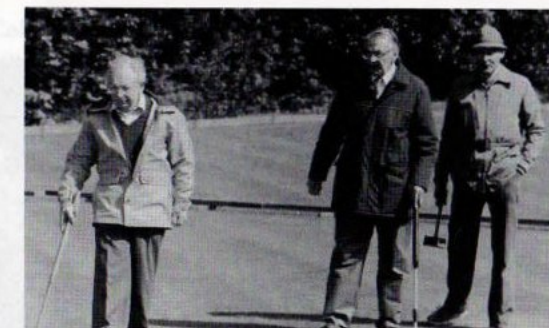
Five Seminars were held for potential Grade I (beginners) coaches. Instead of just being half-day, indoor seminars, they were extended to one-day courses with practical, outdoor, afternoon sessions. The outdoor element proved so popular that next year most of each Seminar will be held on court.

Twenty seven new Grade I coaches were appointed during the year, 4 resigned and sadly 2 (Jane Neville-Rolle and Sos Row) died, leaving 104 in total. We still need more coaches to support our Development programme and, given the number of Croquet players in the Region, London and the SE is very poorly represented, with only 13 qualified Grade I coaches for the new Federation to call upon. I hope that a number of you, from this region especially, will attend one of the three Seminars arranged for this year (see page 29).

During the year two Regional Coaching Officers, Ken Jones (W Mids) and Tom Anderson (E), resigned and, due to the formation of the new Federation covering London and the SE, the two posts for those two areas were merged into one, Nigel Aspinall (London), stepping down. Two new RCO's were appointed, Ivor Meredith (W Mids) and Robert Jones (E). Our thanks are due to the first three, who helped set up the National Coaching Scheme, and we wish the new RCO's good luck.

Four Grade II weekends were held, giving about 40 players the chance for some intensive intermediate coaching. Seven more coaches are now adorned with the green badges.

A lot of hard work by Keith Aiton and Keith Wylie culminated in two inaugural and



*Ian Wright (centre) coaching at the CA's Grade II weekend at Nottingham.*

extremely successful Grade III (advanced play) weekends at Nottingham and Colchester. These were fully booked and 9 Grade III coaches were eventually appointed. Have you spotted a red badge yet?

Chris Hudson, National Development Officer, is to be congratulated for another marvellous Summer School course at Loughborough.

Other activities included a weekend course for schoolteachers at Cheltenham at Easter, the production and sale of 12 magnetic demonstration boards, the revision of 'Know the Game: Croquet' and the drafting of the Coaching section of the CA Forward Plan for 1988-90.

#### Programme for 1988

At its AGM in October, the Coaching Committee decided to run 3 Grade I Seminars, 4 Grade II weekends and 2 Grade III weekends in 1988 (see pages 28 & 29) for details of W/E's and syllabuses). Chris Hudson will again be running a Summer School course at Loughborough and we are investigating running, or helping to run, Summer School courses at two other locations. In addition, at the request of the Schools Committee, a Grade I weekend for schoolteachers will be held at Cheltenham in early Spring.

We will also be running 5 Demonstrator's

days for people such as Sports Co-ordinators from the WI and Townswomens Guild, Action Sport and Sports Centre staff, Trainee PE teachers etc. The objective will be to teach them Golf Croquet and how to run Golf Croquet tournaments, so that they can adequately demonstrate the same to others. They will be shown a demonstration of Association Croquet, so that they can make others aware that Golf Croquet is just a simple introductory game that can lead on to further things.

We are launching National Junior squads at Under-21 and Under-18 level and we are instituting a National Merit Award Scheme to give all tournament players something to strive for. We have also inaugurated a 'Coach of the Year' award (see March edition of 'Croquet' for more details on all of these items).

We are continuing work on producing a new video, suitable for intermediate players, whilst slowly accumulating the money necessary to produce it, and we hope to produce a new handbook for Grade I coaches, together with a set of aide-memoire cards. Chris Hudson also hopes to be able to offer for sale special T-shirts or sweatshirts for coaches before the end of the year.

All in all, an ambitious programme for the 4th year of our National Coaching Scheme.

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The Mallet with a 5-year Guarantee on the Head

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Croquet Association Approved for Tournament use.  
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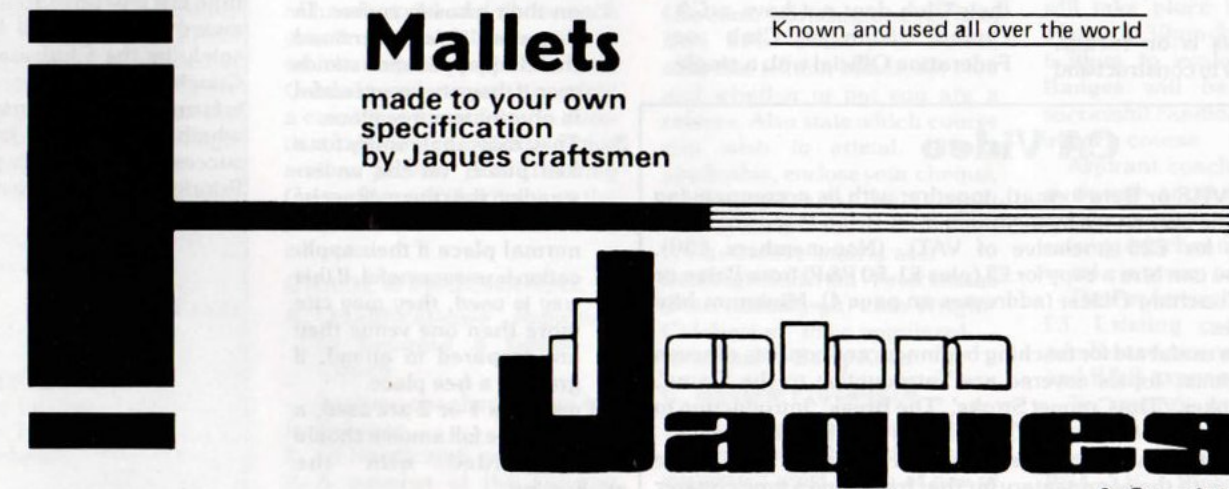
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## 1988 Coaching Courses

### COURSES FOR PLAYERS HOW TO APPLY

- Applications for places on Grade II and Grade III weekend courses should be sent to: Mr J.R McCullough, 100 Queensdown Gardens, Brislington, Bristol BS4 3JG.
- Please enclose a cheque for the appropriate amount, payable to 'The Croquet Association'.
- State your full name, address, telephone number, Club, handicap, and whether or not you are a CA member (and, if so, which category: full, reduced or junior).



Coaches David Croker, Keith Wylie, John McCullough, Don Gaunt and players at the CA's 1987 Grade III weekend at Colchester.

### GENERAL INFORMATION

- All the courses last from 10am - 6pm each day, with a one hour break for lunch.
- Unless you receive information to the contrary when your booking is confirmed, you should assume that teas will be provided but you will have to make your own lunch arrangements.
- For information about accommodation please write direct to the Club Secretaries.
- Priority on courses will be given to those who have not previously attended a course of the same level.

### GRADE II COURSES

There are 12 places for players on the courses at Budleigh Salterton and Colchester and 8 places on the courses at Bush (Edinburgh) and Southport. These courses are designed for players who hope to improve rapidly, given the coaching. Last year's courses filled quickly and several players achieved handicap reductions of 4 bisques or more in the remainder of the season, after the course.

The emphasis is on tactics, particularly how to construct and

play 3-ball and 4-ball breaks using bisques, also 3-ball endings, openings and leaves.

Each course is split into groups of 4 players, according to handicap. The course content will vary somewhat according to the handicap range of each group. For example, groups in the range 6-9 may study single peels, cannons and big splits whilst groups in the range 12-18 may spend more time on 4-ball break play. Each course offers a 'clinic' session, where players may seek personal advice to overcome a special area of weakness.

The coaching ratio will be 1:2 where trainee coaches are taking a group, or 1:4 when an appointed coach is being used.

The course leaders will be: Budleigh Salterton - Peter Danks Bush (Edinburgh) - Ian Wright Colchester - To be appointed Southport - Barry Keen

### PLAYERS OF HANDICAP 15-18

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

figure handicap. That letter must testify that the applicant has the potential to become a single-figure handicap player by the end of 1988.

### GRADE III COURSES

There are 8 places for players on each course and there will be a coaching ratio similar to that on Grade II courses.

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

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

The course leaders will be: Nottingham - Colin Irwin Parkstone - Keith Wylie

### CA JUNIOR MEMBERS

Junior members may apply in one of three ways:

- In the normal way, as outlined above, in which case the full fee is payable and they will be given equal priority with full members.
- As above but also they apply for one of the two free places on their chosen course. In this case it is understood that their application stands even if they are unsuccessful in obtaining a free place.
- They may apply solely for a free place, on the understanding that they will not be considered for any other normal place if their application is unsuccessful. If this way is used, they may cite more than one venue they are prepared to attend, if granted a free place.

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

If a free place is sought (2 or 3 above), you should state your age and whether or not you are a

### HANDICAP 6-18?

Do you want to improve quickly? Then come to a **Grade II Coaching Weekend:**  
1/2 May at Budleigh Salterton  
14/15 May at Bush (Edinburgh)  
14/15 May at Southport  
25/26 June at Colchester  
**FEES** £12.50 for CA Members  
£20 for Non-Members  
**APPLY EARLY - Places Limited**

### HANDICAP 6 or Below?

Do you want to master the tactics of Advanced Play or maybe learn how to do a triple peel? Then come to a **Grade II Coaching Weekend**  
23/24 April at Parkstone  
14/15 May at Nottingham  
**FEES** - £17.50 for CA Members  
£25 for Non-Members  
**APPLY BY RETURN OF POST TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT**  
Great Demand

### CA JUNIOR MEMBER?

We are offering 2 **FREE** places on each of the 6 courses above.

See this page for further information and how to apply for all the above courses.

wage-earner on your application, in addition to the usual details. The application should also be accompanied by a letter from a CA coach or, if your Club does not have a CA Coach, from a Club or Federation official with a single-figure handicap. That letter should include some assessment of your potential for improvement plus arguments as to why you should be awarded one of the free places.

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

### COURSES FOR COACHES

#### Grade I Programme

#### A. Qualifications required to become a Grade I Coach

Aspiring Grade I coaches should be:

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

#### B. 1988 Courses

All courses will start at 11am and run to approx 5pm. Given fair weather, all but an hour will be an on-lawn session where the RCO will be joined by an experienced coach and practical coaching techniques will be taught.

The indoor session will be a brief study of coaching aids such as books, videos and demonstration boards and an explanation of how the scheme works. We expect that some existing Grade I coaches will want to attend, as the outdoor sessions have been set up as a result of a request from a number of them for more advice on how to coach.

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

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

### 1988 Loughborough Summer School

Next year's Summer School 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 Sandover.

Course dates for next year are:

Coaches	
Grade 1: 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)

Ardingly College - David Higgs  
Cheltenham - Ivor Meredith  
East Riding - Bill Lamb  
Where applicable, enclose your cheque, made payable to 'The Croquet Association'.

#### C. Procedure for appointing Grade I coaches

Following the course, aspiring coaches must run a course for beginners and they will be expected to keep a log of their lessons. They must arrange to be visited during one of their lessons by the RCO for their region, or a qualified Grade I coach nominated by the RCO. At the end of the beginners course the log should be sent or shown to the RCO, who will discuss it with the candidate.



John Grimshaw (right), Dyffryn's Secretary, with members of a coaching course held at the club.

Final approval, based on a recommendation from the RCO, will be made at the Coaching Committee AGM in Autumn. Successful candidates will be sent badges by the Chairman of the Coaching committee.

#### D. Review Procedure

The coach will be expected to run a course for beginners or players of handicap 14 and above each year. In seasons following that in which they are appointed, all Grade I coaches must complete a coaching report form to show that they are remaining active and to provide the Coaching Committee with feedback on the progress of the Scheme and its courses.

### GRADE II PROGRAMME

#### A. Qualifications required to become a Grade II Coach

- Aspiring coaches should be:
- Referees
  - Of Handicap 6 or below.
  - A member of the Croquet Association
  - Prepared to coach outside their own clubs.

## 1988 Coaching Courses

### GRADE I COURSES

10 April at East Riding  
17 April at Cheltenham  
24 April at Ardingly College  
FEE £3 (existing Coaches FREE)

### GRADE II COURSES

30 April - 2 May at Budleigh Salterton  
13-15 May at Bush (Edinburgh)  
13-15 May at Southport  
24-26 June at Colchester  
FEE £3 (FREE to existing coaches, who will be reimbursed travelling and B&B expenses.)

### GRADE III COURSES

22-24 April at Parkstone  
13-15 May at Nottingham  
FEE £3 (FREE to existing coaches, who will be reimbursed travelling and B&B expenses.)

For details of how to apply, check Para B under the relevant Programme heading on this page.

coaches), the two year cycle to start in the year following their appointment, if they wish to remain on the list of official coaches.

Coaching report forms need not be completed in respect of this programme.

### GRADE III PROGRAMME

#### A. Qualifications required to become a Grade III Coach

Aspiring coaches should be:

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

#### B. 1988 Courses

The courses start at 8pm on the evening of the first day, with a Seminar that should last for 2-2½ hours. On each of days two and three, coaching meetings will take place from 9.30am-10am, 1.30pm-2pm and 6pm-6.30pm to evaluate progress. Badges will be awarded to successful candidates at the end of each course.

Aspirant coaches will always work with another coach when taking a group of 4 players, existing coaches may be required to take a group on their own.

The Fee for aspirant coaches is £3. Existing coaches will be reimbursed reasonable travelling and B&B expenses.

To apply, write to John McCullough, 100 Queensdown Gardens, Brislington, Bristol BS4 3JG. State your name, address, tel. no., handicap, club and whether or not you are a

continued Page 18.

