

Indoor Croquet

Editorial

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

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**

1988 Croquet Classic will least 8 players whose names £25.00 and to qualify for this remain at £5.00. Everyone and addresses have been group discount, the who has never had a handicap notified to the organisers. The completed Group entry form of 18 or less will be eligible to

Any club or individual who would like to organise a Group national tournament. Entry for next year should write to Chris Hudson, The it is available.

The individual entry fee for the A group must consist of at The fee for a Group entry is winner of each group and entry fee must reach the competition will go forward to organisers by 1st April, 1988. the appropriate round of the This is an excellent oppor-

The group tournament can new players with some exbe organised at any time to citing competition, or for Oaklands, Englesea suit the players concerned, individuals to organise a Brook, Near Crewe, subject only to the constraint neighbourhood croquet Cheshire, CW2 5QW to that the name of the group event. Please take advantage register their interest. A winner must be forwarded to of it! Group Entry form will be the organisers in time to join Chris Hudson. forwarded to them as soon as the main competition (probably by the end of June).

tunity for clubs to provide their

INDEX

Invitation Events:	ige
President's Cup 16	,17
Ladies' Field Cup	15
Chairman's Salver	18
Spencer Ell Cup	14
Longman Bowl 14	
Selectors' Weekend	19
National Tournaments:	
Longman Cup 9	,10
All-England	11
Mary Rose	11
Inter-Club	10
Club Tournaments 5,6,7,12	,13
Contacts	4
Short Story	8
1987 Coaching Review	27
Indoor Croquet	
Obituaries 24	,25
Short Croquet	20
1988 Fixture List	
News & Views 22	,23
Schools & Universities	21
1988 Coaching Courses 28	,29
Personal Column	
Your Letters	26
Official Business 30	,31
Proposed New Laws24	

'CROQUET'

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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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Front Cover:

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'!

to 1/2 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

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 commentating on a match in which he was playing Aspinall. This appeared on a video that was showing in the fover, 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 31/2 matches is called, that is the end. This interesting innovation (worth experimenting with further) creates a situation very much like that in snooker. If one side is allowed to get very far ahead to begin with, the other side must work especially hard to win. In snooker this manifests itself in the need to obtain 'snookers'. Often, so many are required that the game is given up by that side. With croquet, the behind side must start playing with greater speed to catch up the deficit before time is called. This variation could only work on the small lawn, however, where if one side has got far ahead, the other has been truly complacent - the lift shot is only about 10 yards! It is important to note that by increasing the difficulty of conditions (faster surface and very firm hoops) it is now realisically possible for top class players to play on a small lawn. Previously the small lawn made the game far too easy at the

The East of England team are very grateful to Charles Townsend Croquet Ltd for their generous sponsorship, which provided team shirts and medals for all the players. Charles also organised a popular sideshow with his new indoor croquet 'mini-tournaments'. These were 5-minute games played on the sports centre's own hard surface court of about 10yds x 7yds, with Charles' new indoor set (including light balls filled with glass beads to give them the same inertia properties as ordinary balls).

Sadly Robert Fulford's team were unable to duplicate success for the East on Sunday. Players on this day demonstrated a difficulty in coping with the surface that was far less apparent on the previous day. Even the

lie to the recent 'Telegraph' advertisements boasting coverage as diverse as croquet and 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

appearance of Henry Cooper OBE failed to

inspire, but he demonstrated great talent for

trickling through long hoops (thus giving the

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 croqueted ball slammed into the first hoop and the striker's ball roqueted 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 31/2; South-East 1/2 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 Cheltenbam & Gloucester Building Society.

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

Thanks are due to John McCullough, the Federation Secretary, for all bis bard work, and to Cheltenham Croquet Club for bosting the final.

Don Clay.

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Parkstone: 31 Aug-5 Sept **Derek Wood in Determined Mood**

It is most distressing to have to begin this account by reporting the sad death of one of the members of the Parkstone Club, especially following the equally unexpected death of Alice Ryan at this same tournament last year. It was therefore a great shock to us all when Cecil Weldon left the court having finished a turn in the 'Y' handicap final and quite suddenly collapsed and died. Even those of us who had only come to know him during the course of this tournament could readily appreciate how greatly he will be

missed by all his club colleagues.

Aside from this tragic occur-

rence, the tournament overall

had been a very enjoyable one,

managed by Dennis Moorcraft

and played on very fast courts,

mostly in brilliant sunshine.

Indeed, the courts were playing

so fast that a great many games

were going to time, and the time

limit on all but a few singles was

therefore decreed to be three

hours only, despite the double

banking, so that everyone could

go to bed at a reasonable hour

each day! (Especially the poor

manager and his able assistant,

Of the three class events, the

'A' was played as three American

blocks of five players each, and

the 'B' and 'C' as Swiss blocks.

The destination of the Halse

Salver depended on the result of

the very last game to be played on

the final day, between Derek

Wood and Joan Parker. To no-

one's particular surprise Derek

won both the game and the 'C'

class with a clean sweep of wins,

with Ingeborg Moorcraft coming

second. No prizes for guessing

which young man got a handicap

reduction! With his assured and

of course . . .!)

Report by Deborah Latham

positive style of play - a pleasure to watch - it won't be his last, either . . .

The 'B' class players were operating under semi-advanced (Law 37) conditions, which apparently suited Pat Parker right down to the bottom of her very long mallet, since she won the Deshon Cup just ahead of Beryl Saunders, whose performance throughout the week earned her a handicap reduction.

The play-offs for the Bournemouth Bowl paired Susan Wiggins against husband Robert (the latter as block third

replacing Frank Shergold, who

was unable to play on the final

day owing to a prior commitment

he had to honour) and Terry

Wood against Martin Murray,

while Bob Bailey and Laurence

Latham had the byes. The

Wiggins' understandable reluc-

tance to put each other out of the

tournament led to a slow-scoring

game from which Susan

emerged +3(T). In the other

game Martin came from behind

to peg Terry out, after a fair few

attempts at breaking boundary

(Martin's style of play led to

spectators hearing such as the

following: THWACK! THUD! 'No

need to jump, dear - it's only

When one player informed

Martin that she was only

attempting to imitate his

'delicate' style of play he assumed

an aggrieved air and said 'I

always play delicately!') His hard-

hitting style became a wily game

of wiring as he sought a suitable

position from which to make

rover, during which time Terry

twice hit in but was foiled in his

hoop approaches by the speed of

Martin making a roquet . .

boards with his shooting.

Winners' line-up (left to right): Pat Parker, Laurence Latham, Terry

Wood, Dennis Moorcraft, Graham Budd, and Jonathan Collis.

the court. Third time lucky, however, and Terry, who had not started the week playing his best, was now showing every sign of returning to top form.

Both the semi-finals were somewhat nip-and-tuck affairs, Terry and Laurence emerging as the finalists. The final was much more decisive, with Laurence unable to produce the form he had shown earlier, while Terry's play was positive and fluent and led to his third victory in succession in this event, Laurence having to settle for the Ashton Trophy.

Not content with the Halse Salver, Derek Wood was meanwhile proceeding through the 'Z' to meet Bill Scarr in the final. This pitted the oldest competitor against the youngest, with a gap of something over sixty years between them. Unfortunately for Bill, Derek was in his usual determined mood, but it was nice to see such a contrasting combination of players.

HONOURS BOARD

Bournemouth Bowl T.I. Wood

Deshon Cup Miss P.E. Parker

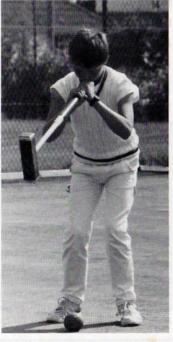
Halse Salver D.M. Wood

Bishop Cup D.H. Moorcraft

Autumn Doubles Cups J. Collis & G.E. Budd



Joan and Allen Parker, losing finalists in the Autumn Doubles



Derek Wood, who won the Halse Salver.

As for the 'X' handicap for the Bishop Cup, the final of which was extremely close and exciting game that swung back and forth between Frank Shergold and Dennis Moorcraft, I shall say only this - have you ever noticed that whenever a manager wins an event, there's always someone who can't resist suggesting it was 'fixed' . . .?!

There were some potentially very strong pairings in the doubles - for example, the Moorcrafts (husband and wife), the Woods (father and son), Jules Eden and Deborah Latham, Bob Bailey and Beryl Saunders, Dennis Shaw and Pat Parker, and others 'too numerous to mention' (you know, the sort of things they say at awards ceremonies), but one by one they 'bit the dust'. While Allen and Joan Parker were producing three consecutive + 10(T) wins, including their semifinal against Les Butler and Charles Moon, many were watching with interest the progress of Jonathan Collis and Graham Budd, who achieved sizeable wins over Frank Shergold and Key Yeoman, the Woods, and Martin Murray and Alvar Bray - fearsome combinations all. In the final the two young men had the spectators in a positive tizzy of anticipation; that one and a half bisques had been taken many times in other people's imaginations long before they were finally used in the last few minutes of the game! But they did carry the day despite some marvellous hitting-in and canny play from Allen and Joan. An exciting end to a most pleasant and enjoyable week.

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Tournament Reports

Level Singles

4 wins: J. Haigh

C. Southern & D.C.D. Wiggins

bt R.J. Smith & J. Haigh.

One-Day Goblets

(4 pairs entered)

Coleman Pots

Open Doubles

(6 entries)

Final

Woking: 26 June - 5 July Woking's Irish Week

Report by Derek Caporn

What a wonderful 10 days of summer in which to play croquet. We have fun (all parade in hats before one day doubles and what a marvellous collection James Wankling and others produced). We have more fun - in one 5th hoop game in the American final Weekend, a competitor made hoops 5 & 6, then Penultimate and Rover, then hoop 1 and then made an all round break - and put it down to the very hot weather! - referees what would you do? We have sun, we have a surfeit of croquet, we have a well patronised bar, good food, good company - what more can you want? Sun, fun, so next year, why not come?

RESULTS Open Challenge Cup

4 wins: G. Southern (winner), A.J. Mrozinski, G. Vince.

Caporn Caskets

(8 entries)

4 wins:

J. Wankling (winner), G. Cuttle.

Open Doubles Chalices

(4 pairs entered)

3 wins: C. Southern & J. Haigh

Open Singles (6 entries)

4 wins: M.G. Tompkinson (winner), D.C.D. Wiggins.

Handicap Doubles 3 wins: J. Haigh & J.L. Wankling

Handicap Singles (27 entries) **Block Winners**

A. Lindley (2½) (5/6 wins); M.G. Tompkinson (2) (5/6 wins); D. Goulding (3) (5/5 wins); R.T.H. Barnes (8) (6/6 wins)

Block Runners-Up

G. Cuttle (8) (5/6 wins); M.D. Town (12) (5/6 wins); Dr P.A. Watson (5) (4/5 wins); G. Vince (21/2) (5/6 wins)



'The Joy of Croquet', Annabel McDiarmid at Woking's Irish Week.

Wrest Park: 15-16 August An 'Irregulars' Tournament

Report by Jon Watson

The Committee of Wrest Park in its wisdom decided to experiment with a two day open weekend, which was also to be the managerial debut of Jon Watson. About this your author feels duty bound not to comment! A widely mixed field of nine assembled in blazing sunshine for two days of intensive croquet. The lawns were running fast, and when the manager erected a parasol in the middle of the lawns, the mirth very rapidly became appreci-

The first round began with the manager setting a good example, by winning in well under the time. In fact only four games went to time all weekend. Last to finish was Peter West (who shrugged off a lack of practice to win the event) playing the dark horse, Jonn Bevington. Although John had easily the highest handicap, he did not see this as a reason to be beaten, and played well throughout the day. He received a white

card as a reward! In the afternoon, Howard Bottomley produced a near perfect performance to beat Jon Watson by 25 in the thirteenth turn, and then went on to lose narrowly to Peter West. The managers jinx on lawn one continued when he lost to John Bevington by 17. Peter West managed the best leave of the tournament when he carefully laid up with a rush to what he thought was an opponent ball, only to realise that he had laid the rush for his opponent!

Sunday saw good wins for Jon and Howard. The former had a triple laid out when a miss from only 18 inches brought this to a rapid conclusion. Howard fared rather better when he approached the first hoop from the boundary. He peeled the front ball through first, ran it, and proceeded to make all three peels of a triple only to fall behind and be unable to peg out. This was as near as we got to a complete triple, though Lewis Palmer had

several tries, and John Wheeler threw caution to the wind by trying a quadruple. John was also less fortunate when three referees gathered to watch one of his shots (he fouled!).

Mark Hutchinson played steadily throughout, never seeming to do anything spectacular, but amassing four wins in six games. This won him a reduction from 6 to 5. He took second place from Lewis who also had four wins, but had taken seven games to do it.

The whole weekend was friendly and informal and we intend to repeat the formula next year. The mixing in of middle bisquers proved very successful and they all held their own. Those of the lower handicaps who thought that liberties could be taken were soon disillusioned!

RESULTS

6/6 wins: P.D.B. West (11/2) 4/6 wins: M. Hutchinson (6)

4/7 wins: L. Palmer (31/2)

Roehampton: 15-16 August

Roaster at the Rowlock Report by Richard Hilditch

The continuing trend of unfull tournaments was maintained with Roehampton suffering 10 withdrawals to leave an entry of 131/2. With Mulliner having borrowed some Presidents Cup hoops and having set them in fresh holes, conditions were nice and testing, with plenty of games going to time (although the time limits were not too generous possibly the influence of Sonoma-Coutrer).

The seeds got through to the semi-finals although Solomon needed to take advantage of his best of three match, losing the first to Reed. In the first semi-final Fulford (still reeling from his selection into the Presidents) lost the first game to Noble, this contest being a repeat of the Opens Plate play-off. However the effect of an overnight party was pretty severe and Fulford did not return on Sunday to complete the match. The second semi-final brought a TP from Eric Solomon against Steve Mulliner, but this was not enough to keep the holder out of the final.

The first game of the final saw Mulliner round to 3-back and peg before Noble had really got going (suffering from waiting around all day perhaps). George got in and went round with the Riggall, his leave however was careless (to quote the style of Solomon's book), he left one ball as a short tice and the other in corner 2. Steve split the ball at corner 2 towards 4-back and rolled off 3-back to finish. George's only excuse could be that he was afraid of missing 3rd corner. Steve took the second to take the Rowlock for the 3rd successive year, finally laying to rest the bad results of many years ago at the event.

Meanwhile the rest of us scraped about in the burning desert-like conditions in the SWIZ. Debbie Cornelius managed to win the event beating Reed comfortably in the last round. Reed looked like the heat was getting to him, and who can blame him. Surely unfortunate weather conditions for a club that bans 'the juice' and with the water fountain broken.

Edinburgh: 17-22 August Themes at Edinburgh

Report by Charles Waterfield

Included among the countless invaders who make their annual pilgrimage to the Edinburgh Festival is a small band of Croquet players who choose to join battle with members of Scottish clubs in an event omitted from the Festival brochures and guidebooks. They know full well that this is not just a splendid sporting occasion, but that it can display echoes of cultural happenings elsewhere in the City.

The cast which assembled at the al fresco venue of Fettes College, on five smooth but testing lawns, was drawn from six Scottish and four English Clubs. Neither age nor youth were barriers to performing, as Jean Morrison has played for over 80 years and Fiona Hunter (aged 11) this year joined her sister Hazel in separate partnerships.

Audiences were naturally a little sparse for a six-day Mime with mallet & ball, excepting of course Malcolm Smith's faithful dog Shadow. Any theatre critic passing by would have appreciated certain familiar themes, nonetheless.

Tragedy. In the Open Singles, Peter Thompson achieved peg & 4-back, but life is cruel - Rod Williams hit in, pegged out Peter and emerged the eventual winner by +3.

Drama. The Doubles final again saw Rod sweep round, peel his partner Corla van Griethuysen through penult & rover, pegging out his ball, but not Corla's, and leaving Charles Waterfield and Peter Thompson on 5 & 6. After many twists and turns of the plot the latter pair snatched defeat out of the jaws of victory: Charles finally pegged out leaving Peter 5 feet from the peg - and Corla hit in from the boundary!

Comedy. On the one extremely wet day (perforce using the Lauriston lawn), Alisdair Adam chose to remove his waterproofs only moments before being drenched by a David Warhurst rush; revenge later taking the form of an Alisdair jump shot, over a puddle, hitting a double far in the distance.

Apart from the Music-of-the-Spheres (to roquet makers), the only intrusions, one day, were bursts of bagpipe music(?) from nearby woodland - precisely when certain Sassenachs needed maximum concentration! This underhand tactic had less effect on Fiona McCoig, seen to be restoring her customary calm

with the aid of headphones and Pink Floyd.

Stars of the show were of course additionally 'rewarded' by handicap reductions; R.Williams $(1\frac{1}{2} \text{ to } 1)$, P.Thompson $(4 \text{ to } 3\frac{1}{2})$, C.van Griethuysen (5 to 41/2), D.Warhurst (4 to 31/2), F.Mann (8 to 61/2), N.Smith (11 to 10), B.Murdoch (13 to 11), and Ann Rutter (18 to 16).



David Warburst, winner of the Cramond Cup.

The highly professional Production Team who ran this Tournament included George Anderson (manager), Rod Williams (Andy Capper) and Fred Mann (secretary). Of the many others Backstage, applause was given to Fettes groundstaff, to those who set out the lawns and to all who furnished delicious food (not forgetting the annual party at Carol & Jimmy Rowe's).

RESULTS **Cramond Cup** (5 entries)

American: Advanced Play 4 wins: D. Warhurst

Silver Jubilee Salver (5 entries)

American: Level Play 4 wins: Dr C. van Griethuysen

Event 3 (11 entries) Level Singles: 8 bisques or over Semi-Finals F. Mann bt A. Nisbet +18; A.D. Lamont bt Mrs C. Rowe +6(T)

Final Mann bt Lamont +12

Event 3: 'Y'

Final

C. Waterfield bt C. McArthur +22 Walter B. Laing Cup

(9 entries) Handicap Play: 11 bisques or over Semi-Finals Mrs M. Wright (12) bt N. Smith (11) +1(T); B. Murdoch (13) bt R. Ottley

(12) + 18Final Murdoch bt Mrs Wright +13

Event 4: 'Y' Final

Ms A. Rutter (16) bt A.J.S. Mann (16)

Norton Wright Trophies (8 pairs entered)

Handicap Doubles

R. Williams & Dr C. van Griethuysen (61/2) bt P. Thompson & C. Waterfield (12) + 1

Edinburgh Cup (23 entries) Handicap Play

3rd Round

R. Williams (11/2) bt R. Forth (10) +23: R. Hissett (7) bt A.G.M Hunter (5½) +16; P.W. Thompson (4) bt C. Waterfield (8) +12; F. Mann (8) bt A.H.M. Adam (4) +23

Semi-Finals

Williams bt Hissett +9; Thompson bt Mann +12

Final

Thompson bt Williams +26

(Event 6: 'Y') Semi-Finals N. Smith (11) bt P. Campion (5) +17;

D. Warhurst (41/2) bt Mrs M. Wright (12) + 19

Final

Warhurst bt N. Smith

Tournament Reports

The Milne Trophy

HONOURS BOARD

Cramond Cup

D. Warhurst

Silver Jubilee Salver

Dr C. van Griethuysen Level Singles

F. Mann

Walter B. Laing Cup

B. Murdoch

Norton Wright Trophies

Williams & Dr C van Griethuyser Edinburgh Cup P.W. Thompse

Cheltenham: 29-31 August Some Good Performances

Report by Kevin Carter

The fifty players that contested this year's event included 29 visitors from 14 clubs. There was a good spread of handicaps, with 8 players between 16 and 18 mostly participating in their first tournament. After overcoming their Saturday morning nerves (grown men have been known to weep over a Round 1 draw against Edgar Jackson), they all contributed to a successful weekend which they found an enriching experience.

With the notable exception of Paddy Paddon, the 'cracks' fared less well on the easy courts. However, the fast improvers soon became apparent towards the top of the three Swiss Blocks: Mike O'Flynn and Mike Kay, the Brand twins, Tim Nock - yet another of Peter Dorke's Ludlow College proteges - and Richard Barnes. Richard works at the Met.

Office and programmed the computer for an area of high pressure to remain stationary over Cheltenham. He also produced an astonishing performance for a 7-bisquer in one of his games. On the fourth turn he took a 3-ball break to 3-back, then continued to Rover via a bisque. He completed the game on his next turn, with the aid of just one more bisque, comfortably peeling partner ball through Rover while travelling between 2-back and 3-back. (The tournament handicapper noted this performance).

The hot sun proved too much on Sunday afternoon for Carmen Bazley who played the wrong ball

through four hoops before she or her opponent noticed, and for Tommy Vale, who played the right ball through four wrong hoops before remembering!

The fast improvers duly won their share of prizes: Ivor and Richard Brand 1st and 2nd, Richard Barnes and Mike Kay each occupying minor places. But consistency paid too; for Paddy Paddon, unbeaten in 6 tough games, and for Colin Snowdon, another deserving

NOTE - A notable feature of the Tournament was the emergence of Kevin Carter in the role of player-manager. In this bis first Tournament in that capacity, be distinguished himself, smoothing all difficulties with urbanity, and completing a taxing programme in good

A welcome innovation was bis mid-tournament newsbeet, the Leckhampton Bugle, much appreciated by competitors.

C. Snowdon (3) (winner);

RESULTS

(American Blocks: Handicap Play) Block A

I. Brand (41/2) 6 wins: R. Brand (5) 5 wins:

G.E.P. Jackson (11/2) Block B

Mrs D.A.B. Wheeler

P. Darby (41/2) 4 wins:

Block C

M.T. Paddon (2) 6 wins: 5 wins: M. Kay (11)

R. Barnes (7) 4 wins:

National Finals (1)

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

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.

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!"



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 them to their stable. Here some Eskimos were waiting to give them a good feed and rub

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

His chiefwarehouseman, who was a person who never panicked, thought for a moment. He then went to the computer terminal and tapped some keys. He looked at the computer screen and said 'Sir, there were 25 children who were to have croquet sets and here are all their addresses. The computer says that all these presents were loaded into the sack before you left, so they must have been delivered. Now let's check the loading schedule!'. He tapped some more keys and he suddenly smiled, 'Ah, this report says we

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 croquetrelated short story published in 'Croquet' in 1988.

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

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

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.

Bowdon: 20 Sept

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

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 direc-

tions. 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

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

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,

a field before battle.

exhausted.

through the lanes in vain?

THE LONGMAN CUP

Glasgow triumph over Cheltenham

Partners Dab Wheeler and Chris 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.

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.

lousy. What am I doing here? Will

Suddenly, the weather changes for the better. The sun



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

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 41/2 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 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 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 Jack Norton prowls the boundary. 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 Continued on Page 10.



National Finals (3)

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 (171/2) beat Dab Wheeler and Leslie James $(13\frac{1}{2}) + 1(T)$.

Jack Norton and Corla van Griethuysen (81/2) beat Kevin Carter and Chris Ross (81/2) +13.

David Warhurst and Jack Norton (71/2) lost to Dab Wheeler and Chris Ross (71/2) -10.

Corla van Griethuysen (41/2) beat Kevin Carter $(4\frac{1}{2}) + 3(T)$.

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



Corla van Grietbuysen 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 semifinal. 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 graffito 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 erraically: 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 deliiously 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

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 fiveround Swiss, the eventual winner, Bristol's David Goacher (1/2) 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 endgame 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-anhour 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 Wilkinsbeat Jeff Dawson +12; Haste lost to Dawson -9; Wilkins lost to Wiggins -1: Keen beat Smith + 7: Aldridge heat Mrozinski +3

winning every game within the allotted three hours, despite giving away a total of 411/2 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 nailbiting final, with fortune changing time and time again, Taggart finally succeeded and carried off the trophy back to Tyneside. All four participants

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) (1/2) 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

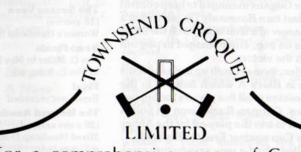
Goacher bt Haslam +9; Trickey bt Ansell +15(T); Power bt Williams +8; Taggart bt O'Flynn +25.

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 Trickey, D. Power, -up). A. J. Haslam

2 wins: M. Ansell 1 win: D. Williams 0 wins: M. O'Flynn



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Club Tournaments

Southwick: 17-22 August

A Busy Time at Southwick

Report by Frank & Margaret Newman

Real summer weather came as a wonderfully pleasant bonus to the fifty contestants who assembled at Southwick for the Autumn (sic) Tournament. A bonus because everything else - management, catering and full time enjoyment - was superlative too.

First sight of the hordes of competitors was staggering and only outnumbered by equally active hordes of flying ants. What with them and the unusually hot humid weather and the Sahara dust which besmirched every car within sight, one began to wonder what further phenonema were likely to occur.

In the event, the only hiccup of the week was a torrential storm during Friday night which seemed certain to jeopardize Finals Day - but in fact didn't - and even the lawns most severely affected were ready for use by

Visitors came from far and wide and outnumbered Southwick members. Derek Trotman (with others) came from Newcastle, and the Gugans from Bristol - all to defend their titles - with some success as it turned out! Michael and Nita Quin from the Cern Club in Geneva made their mark and lots of new friends. Competitors and spectators are beginning to appear from the new Worthing Club.

The Mixed Handicap Doubles event was the one the Gugans managed to keep control of. In the last turn Rosemary Gugan ended a real cliff-hanger of a final when, with the other three balls on peg, she managed to peg out and clinch the victory.

A lot of excitement built up in class events especially in Block A which finished in the unusual position of all five players having two wins apiece. Carmen Bazley won on points and went on to win the play-off for the Abbey Challenge Cup against Freddie Reynolds.

Betty Weitz had a very satisfactory week by winning her block and going on to win the play-off for the Scott Cup against Derek Bull. She also reached the final of the Sussex Vase (Women's Handicap Singles), but there succumbed to Dorothy Miller who already had had a most exciting one-ball finish against Edna Cox to reach the final.

The Daldy Cup for the third level blocks stayed securely in the hands of Derek Trotman who beat Alan Oldham in the play-off.

Michael Quin adopted the unusual ploy of letting his wife win his block for him. If she could manage to beat Ron Selmes then he, Michael, would win the block and this Nita, in a most exciting battle with Ron, nobly did. The Monteith Bowl still eluded him - Roger Jackman clinched that in the play-off.

By Friday, just in case anyone was hanging around with time on their hands (and in that temperature, time on your hands was the very best thing to have), John Haigh was seconded by management to organise a Swiss event. Such sticklers for punishment are we croquet players that it became a highly successful and BUSY affair and was won to everyone's delight by Nita Quin.

Thank you, Southwick, and in particular Betty Weitz, Pat Shine, and Margaret Wilson.

RESULTS The Abbey Challenge Cup

American Blocks: Advanced Play Block winners Lady Bazley; F. Reynold.

Play-Off Lady Bazley bt Reynold +23

The Scott Cup

(10 entries) American Blocks: Advanced Play

Block winners D. Bull; Mrs B.G.F. Weitz Play-Off Mrs Weitz bt Bull +1

The Daldy Cup (10 entries)

American Blocks: Level Play **Block winners**

D. Trotman; A.J. Oldham Play-Off

Trotman bt Oldham +18 The Monteith Bowl

(11 entries) American Blocks: Level Play

Block winners T.M. Quin; R. Jackman

Play-Off Jackman bt Quin +7

The Douglas Jones Cup Men's Handicap Singles

Semi-Finals

M.J.B. Haggerston bt R.A.G. Rogers +13; D.R. Appleton bt P. Howell +7.

Result not recorded The Sussex Vase

(16 entries) Women's Handicap Singles

Semi-Finals

Mrs D. Miller bt Mrs E. Cox +3; Mrs B.G.F. Weitz bt Mrs E. Ross +5

Final

Result not recorded

The Howard Austin Cups

(20 pairs entered) Mixed Handicap Doubles

Semi-Finals

Dr & Mrs D. Gugan bt Lady Bazley & R.H. Selmes +11; D. Trotman & Mrs Langley bt Mrs Weitz & G. Rothwell +1(T)

Dr & Mrs Gugan bt Trotman & Mrs Langley

HONOURS BOARD

The Abbey Challenge Cup Lady Bazley

The Scott Cup Mrs B.G.F. Weitz The Daldy Cup

D. Trotman The Monteith Bowl R. Jackman

The Howard **Austin Cups** Dr & Mrs D. Gugan

NOMINATIONS FOR COUNCIL

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

Nominations should be proposed and seconded by members of the Croquet Association. Candidates are invited to sumit not more than 200 words stating brief biographical details and their objectives in standing for

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

Hunstanton: 31 Aug-5 Sept One of the Friendliest **Tournaments**

Report by Peter Death

We arrived at this friendliest of tournaments on that rarest of occasions, a fine Bank Holiday weekend, to find the Hunstanton members still coming to terms with the death the previous week of Jane Neville Rolfe.

She had been an integral part of Norfolk croquet for over 25 years, and all players who have made the trip will have their own memories of Jane's welcoming and lively spirit. The tournament was suspended after lunch on the Wednesday for her funeral, and most of the players joined Hunstanton club members in the congregation at Heacham parish church; at the request of the family, croquet whites were worn. It was not a surprise to learn from the family that Jane, knowing that she was about to die, had arranged the details of her own funeral service, with hymns of praise, and the words made famous by King George VI in his Christmas broadcast of 1939: I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year, 'Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown'. And he replied: 'Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way'.

Requiescat in pace.

And so to the croquet. The week began with doubles and several tight games. Martin Kolbusewski found himself alone after James Carlisle peeled out his partner Ron Gosden, who eventually persuaded James to peg himself out with Pat Hampson on rover and Martin for 1. Alas, the erstwhile one-ball champion of Southport only reached hoop 5 before Pat finished. A mixed peg-out cost Vincent and Betty Camroux the game against Bill Lamb and Beryl Gosden, while Duncan Reeve hit a last shot to deny Bernard Neal and David Hopkins.

The finals on Saturday afternoon saw another such finish when James Carlisle, seeking to complete the double peel, hit an indifferent rush after rover and tried to peg out from 9 yards. His firmly hit shot sent partner Pat Hampson off the lawn while his own ball collided with the peg. Pat had several shots but was unable to connect either with peg or with opposition despite the encouragement of the gallery, and when John Reeve finally negotiated 2-back assisted by a cry of

'Remember the hill' from Duncan, the Reeves sneaked in +1. In the Y Robert Jones and Lewis Palmer beat Liz Neal and Veronica

The Class events departed from the knockout formula this year in the interest of giving everybody a full week's play. The Open was a 10 player Swiss with 7 rounds, while the

B and C classes were played as Americans.

Carlisle by 17.

John Walters began the Swiss with 4 wins, the closest being against Peter Death when he pegged out his one remaining ball from the third corner with the opponent laid to go out from rover and peg. Later in the week he faltered and Duncan Reeve, who had made the sound tactical ploy of losing his first game, came through in increasingly confident style to win with 6/7. Bill Lamb hit lots of long shots and missed some very short roquets: 'I tend to shank when my knees go stiff he explained, as he finished joint second with James Carlisle, whose shadow has grown no less since his trip to the USA. Martin Kolbuszewski was observed preparing a 1st corner cannon going to 3-back and 4-back on a sluggish lawn. He removed his hat, a signal that violence was intended, employed a golf swing, and watched nonplussed as all 3 balls left the

In the B class Robert Jones and Joe Jackson finished with 5 wins each and a points tally of +58, Jones being the victor by virtue of having beaten Jackson.

lawn at high speed.

The C class too saw a tie at the top with no fewer than 4 players on 3 wins. Steve Thomas came out on top of the point count with David Hopkins in second place. Steve was photographed lying prostrate while lining up his peg out against Val Tompkinson, his pipe upended on top of the peg. The peg out alas missed, and there was plenty more play before Thomas +1 was entered on manager Bernard Neal's charts.

In the big handicap Duncan Reeve again appeared to be well in command against Lewis Palmer, pegging out his opponent and later coming down to a 2-ball ending when for 4-back against 4. Palmer however kept hitting in, and eventually found himself with a difficult penult with Reeve stuck in rover. He ran penult, finishing level with the peg, then hit Duncan's ball, peeling it to a position about 3 inches behind rover. The gallery predicted the Irish peel, but the player took off to an angled position, jumped through rover, landed on top of the other ball and finished with ease. Bill Lamb beat David Hopkins in the Y final.

Bernard Neal managed with great skill, and largely without time limits, and wrapped the tournament up by tea time on Saturday despite the earlier interruption; players and spectators were well fed and watered; and the weather was kind, a welcome change for those of us who played (and camped) through Hurricane Charlie in 1986.

Forget the debate about TV coverage, sponsorship and professionalism; come to Hunstanton and enjoy your croquet.

RESULTS

Norfolk Challenge Cup

(Swiss: Advanced Play. 10 entries) Winner: D.C. Reeve (6 wins)

Hunstanton Challenge Bowl (American Block: Advanced Play. 7 entries)

Winner: R.P. Jones (5 wins)

Silver Rose Bowl

(American: Handicap Play. 6 entries)

Winner: J.F.S. Thomas (10) (3 wins) **Ingleby Challenge Cup**

(Handicap Play. 25 entries)

Semi-Finals L.J. Palmer (31/2) bt B.G. Neal (-1) + 21; D.C. Reeve (2) bt J.W.H. Carlisle (0) +10

Final

L.J. Palmer bt D.C. Reeve +1 **Rothwell Casket**

(Handicap Play: 'Y' Event)

Final

W.E. Lamb (11/2) bt D.T. Hopkins (8) +19 Hope Cups

(Handicap Doubles)

Semi-Finals

D.C. & J.E. Reeve (14) bt W. Lamb & Mrs Gosden (10) +7; J.W.H. Carlisle & Miss P. Hampson (8) bt J.F.S. Thomas & P. Death (91/2) +19

D.C. & J.E. Reeve bt Carlisle & Miss P. Hampson +2



Three of the winners at Hunstanton (left to right): Robert Jones (B Class), Duncan Reeve (A Class), and Lewis Palmer (X event).

Cheltenham: 5-9 Sept Wheeler Doubles: A New Variation

Report by Edgar Jackson

My father used to say that September was the only month you could trust! He was of course thinking of the weather. Though we woke up to a frightful dawn on the first morning Croquet starts so early these days - it relented and turned out to be sunny and warm with that soft autumn light, for almost all the five days. My father was more often right than not!

The tournament offered handicap doubles in the mornings followed by class singles after lunch: all in blocks. All therefore got two games a day.

The doubles were played in a quite new way: under Wheeler's Rules. These, the epitome of fairness, pair first the most skilled with the highest bisquer; then the most successful with the least. Initially the company, 32 as it happened, were divided by handicap into the 16 lowest and the 16 highest bisquers. The latter list was inverted and so the first pairings were formed. Thereafter the two 16s were listed according to Swiss ideas; by success subject to the previous order. Again the inversion and the making of pairs. By the time we got to the fifth round each pair had a total score of 4. Could equality be more honoured?

Peter Darby (5) won all his 5 games, partnered by Marjory Warren (7), Andrew Potter (12), Maureen Evans (16), Fay Townsend (9), and John Exell (61/2). John McLaren alone of the lower handicaps won 4 games. At the other end Potter, Pat Shine (8), Nancy Lenfesty (6), and Kathie Turtle (9) all had a score of 4; so a one ball game play-off produced the latter two as finalists, with Kathie taking the prize. There was a general vote that the Wheelers had hit the jackpot of ideas once again.

Club Tournaments

The singles were a bit tame after that. The company had been divided into American or Swiss blocks by handicap. The lowest entrants played Advance Play for the Gladstone Salver. The next group, the 3s and 4s, also played AP. Law 53 was used for the block containing the 5s. Handicap play in a full game came next for the 7s to 10s, while a 22-point full bisque game was required for the 11(9)s to 18(16)s. As the entry was lighter than usual all had a 4 hour time limit, but as expected it was hardly needed. An interesting point was that though we could have got through with little or no double banking, people preferred that play rather than hang around.

A good tournament; better than that perhaps as three people, in saying goodbye, claimed that it was the best they had ever been to! It was those doubles that did it.

RESULTS **Handicap Doubles**

Low Bisquers

Winner: P. Darby. Runner-up: J. McLaren. **High Bisquers**

Winner: Mrs K. Turtle. Runner-up: Mrs N. Lenfestey. **American Blocks**

Block A: Gladstone Salver

Winner: Dr I.R. Plummer. Runner-up: G.E.P. Jackson

Block B

Winner: D.B. Maugham. Runner-up: Mrs R.F.

Block C

Winner: Mrs K. Whittall, Runner-up: R.F.A. Crane. Winner: A. Potter. Runner-up: Mrs P.L. Leach.

HONOURS BOARD

Norfolk Challenge Cup D.C. Reeve

Hunstanton Challenge Bowl

> R.P. Jones Silver Rose Bowl

J.F.S. Thomas Ingleby Challenge Cup L.J. Palmer

Rothwell Casket W.E. Lamb

Hope Cups D.C. & J.E. Reeve

Invitation Events (1)

Bowdon: 7-11 Sept THE SPENCER ELL CUP Goacher wins Aldridge Play-Off

Report by John Davis

The Eights usually provide an opportunity to play a lot of croquet, develop camaradery and sample varied cuisine. This year was no exception with the special involvement of hoop 6 on Lawn 1 adding extra spice to the proceedings. But more of that

The players gathering on Monday morning showed the usual range of experience. John Rose and John Walters having played in the President's Cup, Dayal Gunasekera and John Davis with Chairman's Salver experience and Martin French, last year's Ell winner were the players who had been selected on at least one previous occasion. For David Goacher, Bill Aldridge (on home ground) and the young pretender, Chris Clarke, it was all

Day 1

With hindsight, the 1st-round match between Bill Aldridge and David Goacher had a significant effect on the final outcome, David coming from well behind to win +1, but at the time it just made us late for lunch. The weather was marvellous and the slime on lawn 4 was making life dangerous for the slow-moving as it attempted to crawl up the mallets. In round 3 David Goacher completed the first and, as it turned out, the only triple peel of the week, against Martin French, and Day 1 finished with David the deserved leader on 3 wins, Bill Aldridge and John Walters on 2, and everyone else with 1.

Day 2

Cup 1987

D.J. Goache

W.O. Aldridge

J. Davis

I. Rose

M. French

C.D. Clarke

David and Bill started to pull away from the rest of the field, but of more interest to the reader will

DJG

-12

-15

-18

15TP

-19

-24

WOA

-7 -26

-2

+14

-13

-26

-5

-4

JD

+22

-15

-17

+16

-26

-3

-8

+21

CDC

-20

-17

-20 -15

+7

be the sort of things that began to happen around hoop 6 on lawn 1. In Bill Aldridge's game with John Davis, John had worked his way back into the match when he approached his pioneer at 6 from 1-back, only to roll gently into the wire and be unable to hit anything. He didn't take croquet again. More later! The day ended with David on 6 wins, Bill on 5, and everyone else with 3 or 2.

Day 3

David Goacher was finally beaten, by Bill Aldridge, whose shooting was proving amazingly good. This put them level on 7 wins out of 8. However, Bill promptly lost the joint leadership when defeated by John Davis whilst David was beaten by Martin French. Bill's game with John again hinged on action around hoop 6 on lawn 1. They both stuck in it. John rushed his 1-back pioneer into it; Bill took off into it and generally all the things that 'good' players are supposed to avoid were happening. Sadly, the end of the day saw John Walters retiring with a wrist injury. He had struggled through the first series but was finding shooting more and more painful The only positive thing to come from his retirement was that we were able to leave the slime on lawn 4 to its own devices. David on 8 wins, Bill on 7 and John Davis on 5 were the only players left in the battle for the Cup.

Day 4

DG

+12

+15

+2 -14

+15

+20

-3 -8

+9

JR

+20

+18

+13+26

-16 +26

-14 +17

+26+12

-2

The day's first 3 games typified the week, Bill Aldridge easily beating a sadly off-form John Rose, Chris Clarke beating Martin French in a game where the first ball to 4-back took very little further voluntary action, and David Goacher taking a long

MF

+15TP

+19

+14

+3+8

+20

+15

-3

JOW

+24

-21

1st

3

2

time to beat Dayal Gunasekera. The next round saw both the leaders struggling. Martin French very nearly beat Bill on lawn 1 despite sticking in hoop 6, taking-off into hoop 6, etc. He finally lost by 5 when playing the wrong ball (from somewhere near hoop 6?) when in a position to finish.

Meanwhile John Davis was determined to beat David Goacher. An epic 4-hour struggle saw John on 4 and Rover with David on Penult and Peg when David carelessly left a double for the Rover ball. John hit, made rover and laid up with a rush from 2nd corner for the ball at 4, wired by the peg from the ball left at 4 with the other ball near the peg. Unfortunately for David, he hit the peg when shooting through, leaving both balls in the middle. Despite lots of knee trembling and an 'impossible' hoop 5 John managed to finish to win +4.

The 3rd round saw Daval. regaining his form, play very well to beat Bill Aldridge, who thus went one win behind David Goacher again. The other two games had to be pegged down.

Games Won

2nd

5

4

4

0

Total

10

10

8

6

6

3

3

An early start for the pegged down games saw David finish off John Rose and Chris Clarke, whose form was returning, beat John Davis. Chris Clarke then determined that there was going to be a play-off by first beating David Goacher and then losing to Bill Aldridge, leaving them both on 10 wins.

The play-off, as one would expect, saw both players losing form, David sticking in hoops and Bill's shooting beginning to let him down. Both players had a chance before David finally took the cup +10.

In summary, the weather was marvellous, the two local hostelries provided excellent

Orde

3

4=

4=

6 =

6 =

Z			
	-	1	
1		4	
1			
5			

David Goacher, winner of the

Spencer Ell.

lunches, the manager was never seen and the lawns got quicker as the week went on. David Goacher deserved to

win the cup because he took more care and made fewer mistakes than anyone else. Bill Aldridge played very well throughout the week and will regret not winning that first game on Monday morning. John Davis, Chris Clarke and Dayal Gunasekera played well towards the end of the week, but left too much to do. Martin French and John Rose will be disappointed with their form, although Martin in particular should be pleased with a very successful year. John Walters' wrist injury stopped him displaying the sort of form which we were all anticipating. Finally hoop 6 on lawn 1 will be remembered for a long time by most of

	De
Play Off:	us
Goacher be	eat
Aldridge +	9.
Walters retin	red
injured af	ter
the first eig	ght

Invitation Events (2)

							G	ames Wo	n	
Ladies' Field Cup 1987	PH	JA	EA-T	СВ	DABW	FR	1st Series	2nd Series	Total	Order
Mrs P. Hague		+9+10	-5 +15T	+4 -10	+7 -3	-5 +1T	3	3	6	1
Mrs J. Anderson	-9 -10		+5 -4T	-3 +10	+5 -14	+9T ++23	3	2	5	2=
Mrs E. Asa-Thomas	+5 -15	-5 +4T		+3	-1 -2T	+13 -16T	3	2	5	2=
Lady Bazley	-4 +10	+3 -10	-3 -19		+5 +18	-3 +7T	2	3	5	2=
Mrs D. Wheeler	-7 +3	-5 +14	+1 +2T	-5 -18		-16 +10T	1	4	5	2=
Mrs F. Ransom	+5 -1T	-9T -23	-13 +16T	+3 -7T	-16 -10T		3	1	4	6

Southport: 14-18 Sept THE 1987 LADIES FIELD CUP Pat Hague Wins in a Close Finish

Report by Tim Haste

This year the Ladies Field returned to Southport with three of last season's entry and three newcomers, including Judy Anderson and Frances Ransom graduating from last year's Longman Bowl.

Frances soon showed early form with a quick win over Dab Wheeler on a fine but blustery first morning. Pat Hague, last year's runner-up, was however playing steadily and by lunchtime on the second day had established a slender one game lead. This was not to last long, for in the next game Pat Asa-Thomas produced a spectacular finish after having been pegged out, by running penultimate, a long rover hoop and then pegging out in successive shots with her remaining ball. The day ended with three players tied on three wins apiece.

It was at this point that the weather intervened. Following a torrential downpour overnight the players returned the following day to the dismal sight of lawns under water. This was eventually cleared thanks to great efforts from the players and local Southport members so that play started near midday. Following some close games in the fifth round which left four players now tying for the lead, three hour time limits were reluctantly imposed for the second series on account of the loss of time.

The next day opened with further lawn clearing operations following yet more overnight rain, but fortunately only one hour was lost. At one point Dab Wheeler was seen photographing pegging down discs in position

under two inches of water! The next three rounds passed fairly uneventfully, though Dab Wheeler produced a neat peeling finish against Judy Anderson including a half-jump shot through rover. Unlike last year no one was able to establish a commanding lead, and by lunchtime on the final day the manager was faced with the spectre of a six-way tie, since each of the players on five wins was playing one on four in the final round of the competition.

The possibility of this historic event occuring increased as Judy Anderson beat Carmen Bazley, then Dab Wheeler beat Pat Asa-Thomas narrowly on time to leave four players on five wins each. For a long time it looked as though Frances Ransom, having established a big lead, would beat Pat Hague to level the competition. Pat however began a long break as time approached to finish on the peg, leaving her one behind, her other ball being for 2-back. She laid up behind hoop 4 with a rush for her backward ball. Frances, taking her lift shot after time had been called, narrowly missed and Pat rushed to 2-back. made the hoop, then rushed to 3-back and made the winning point. The event finished with Patwinning by one game, with four players dividing for second place.

In accepting the Barlow Bowl Pat Hague thanked the Southport and Birkdale Club for hosting the fixture, members of the club for their help in clearing the lawns, and the high standard of meals provided, in what had been one of the most closely fought events for many

ongman Bowl 987				AF THE	LABOR	DE ONE	G	ames Wo	n	
	FCMcG	WJB	CEI	CvG	KY	PM	1st Series	2nd Series	Total	Final Order
Ars F.C. McCoig		-2 +26	+9 +23	+18	+18	+23	4	4	8	1
Ars W.J. Browne	+2 -26		-6 +6	+12	+8 +10	+20 +20	4	3	7	2
Ars C.E. Irwin	-9 -23	+6 -6		+3	-9 +21	+7 +12	3	2	5	3=
Irs Van Griethuysen	-18 +11	-12 +11	-3 +8		+1 -4	-2(T) +22	1	n principal	5	3=
Ars K. Yeoman	-18 -9	-8 -10	+9	-1 +4		+14 +19	2	2	4	5
Ars P MacDonald	-23 -10	-20 -20	-7 -12	+2(T) -22	-14 -19		1	0	1	6



Pat Hague, Ladies Field Champion (front) with, left to right, Manager Tim Haste, Dab Wheeler and Pat Asa-Thomas

Roehampton: 14-18 Sept Fiona McCoig wins the **Longman Bowl**

Report by Corla van Grietbuysen

Roehampton, venue for this year's Longman Bowl (the Ladies' second six), has only three croquet lawns now, compared with 14 when the club started in 1903.

GAll the competitors played each other twice, level (not advanced, which most would have preferred). Handicaps ranged from 41/2 to 61/2, indicating that games might be tight and exciting and so they were.

The first day saw some very close scores. Chris Irwin beat Corla van Griethuysen by +3, hitting her only long shot of the game right at the end when Corla was for peg and rover and had left herself a dolly rush. On the other lawn Winifred Brown had a long and hard battle with Fiona McCoig and managed to win by +2 close to time. In the afternoon Fiona had the only fast and convincing win, beating Pat MacDonald +23.

On Tuesday Pat hit every long shot towards the end of her game with Corla. Time and again Corla failed to approach penult properly and each time Pat hit in only to lose the innings again shortly after. In between hitting in, Pat managed to get to peg and rover, and since time was short she pegged her ball out. When time was called, Pat stuck in rover, but Corla failed to hit in and Pat won +2 in the only game which went to time.

Chris Irwin had a good win over Winifred Brown and Fiona McCoig had another fast win over Kay Yeoman. In the afternoon Corla put in a lot of hard work to steal a game from Kay Yeoman by one point. Fiona McCoig had a hard game against Chris Irwin and managed to win +9, with both playing very Continued Page 19

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 antepost 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 easypaced 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

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 bittersweet 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.

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 Mc-Cullough, 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 varder 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.

Runner-up Reg Bamford recieves 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 halfjump 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 bis next

Dates for Indoor Croquet

INDOOR CROQUET RESULTS TO DATE

Last	3/2	South E	ast				
East	1	South					
East Mids	41/2	West Mids					
East Mids	5	North W	est				
South West	31/2	South					
South West	3	East					
South East	3	South West					
Southern Lea	ague						
	P	W	L				
South West	3	2	1				
South	2	1	1				
C . I F .	•						

									G	ames We	on	
President's Cup: 1987	SNM	RLB	EWS	PC	RIF	CJI	јі кмна	JRMcC	The state of the s	t 2nd Total	Total	Final Order
S.N. Mulliner		-17 -12	+26TP -13OTP	+15TP +7TP	+26 +17TP	+11	+70TP +60TP	+260TP +24	6	5	11	1
R.L. Bamford	+17 +12		+3TP +25	-26 -17TP	-1 -26	+7 -19	+13 +18	+17 +80TP	5	4	9	2=
E.W. Solomon	-26TP +13OTP			+26 -16	+17	+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		-26TP -17	-11TPO +5OTP	100000000000000000000000000000000000000	3	3	6	5=
C.J. Irwin	-11 -3	-7 +19	-4TP -23	+24 +13	+26TP +17		+11	-26 -3	3	3	6	5=
K.M.H. Aiton	- 7OTP - 6OTP	-13 -18	+17	-26 -23	+11TPO -5OTP	-11 +14		-14 +25	2	2	4	7
JR McCullough	- 26STP	-17 -80TP	-26TP	-4 -16	-22	+26	+14		2	1	3	8

Invitation Events (5)

	1997	HID N			and-S	te lin	F Dich	1525 (G	ames We	on	
Chairman's Salver: 1987	GWN	NGH	DRF	JEG	sw	MS	JWHC	PLS	1st Series	2nd Series	Total	Final Order
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	3.	1 10	26 6	4TP 2	14 2	26TP 16	6	2	8	3
J.E. Guest	5 17	+23	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	5 2	26 16	18 14	11 5	2 7	7		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.

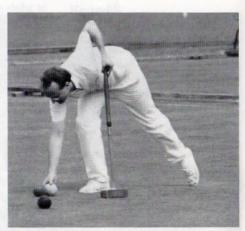
cocktail. Thus fifty-six games produced only 6 triple peels, plus a stunning quadruple from Simon Williams.

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

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

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

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.

Invitation Events (6)

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-varder 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

David Peterson, winner of the Selectors' Weekend

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.

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

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

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.

Schools & Universities

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 timelimited to 11/2 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

Campbell Morrison and Garv 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 peelee 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.



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



The National Short Croquet Final in progress at Loughborough.

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



Photo No 203: Alex Leggate, Short Croquet Champion.

Bowdon at the beginning of October to contest the national

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

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 consider-

RESULTS 4 wins:

A. Leggate B. Melody 3 wins: W. Sanders Mrs H. Perren 0 wins: Mrs A. Rutter

SHORT CROQUET TEAM EVENT RESULTS: Final

Block 1

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

(Reading)

Block 2

2 wins: D. Thatcher (12) (Nailsea); K. Hillier (18)

(Ashby) J. Dyer (9) (Pendle); M. Kay (9) (Reading)

Block 3

2 wins: P. Spiring (13) (Nailsea); Donald (10) (Pendle)

R. Wildblood (18) (Ashby); R. Tillcock (12) Block 4 (Reading)

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;

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

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.

lawn 5, away from the crowds on

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

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.

Normal CA	Short	Croquet
Handicap	Bisques	Mandatory Peels
-5 to -1		3
-1/2 to 1/2		2
1 to 2		1
21/2 to 31/2	0	
4 to 41/2	1/2	
5 to 6	1	
6½ to 8	2	
9 to 11	3	
12 to 14	4	
15 to 16	5	
17 to 18	6	
Over 18	7	

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

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.

Match Result Oxford 6 Cambridge 3

News

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 yachtsmen. 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



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

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 vrs 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 nexr 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 . . .

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.

Winners

Cambridge

Colchester

Newport

Runners Up

Werrington

Beechams

Colworth

Thos Cook

Havering

RESULTS

Venue

Anglesey

Oxburgh

Ickworth

(Final)

Wimpole (1)

Wimpole (2)



& 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.

Also Played

Wrest Park

Hunstanton

Colchester

Cambridge

Bury St Edmunds

Felixstowe

SE Essex

Watford

Bentley

Marcus Westerby, Director of Moel

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.

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 enjoved the heated pool and the superb view, and in the evenings were entertained by the Opera Group who were fellow holidaymakers in the house.

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

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.

April 1-4	Cheltenham W/end	н	15-17	Ramsgate W/end	!
14-17	Roehampton W/end	Н	15-17 15	Edgbaston W/end PRESIDENT'S MATCH:	
15-17 15-17	Southwick W/end Rvde W/end	A		Hurlingham	1
21-24	Cheltenham B Levels	w	16-23	OPEN CHAMPS:	
22-24	Woking W/end	н	23	Hurlingham 2nd Round:	
23-24 23-24	Southport W/end Grade III Coach:	A		Short Croquet Team	
	Parkstone	T	25-30 29-31	Cheltenham JUNIOR CHAMPS:	
29-2	Southwick W/end	H	27-31	Southport	(
30- 1 30- 2	Hunstanton W/end Hurlingham W/end	A	30-31	East Riding W/end	1
30-2	Western Champs		30-31 30-6	Harrow W/end Hurlingham	1
	& Coles: Cheltenham	C	30-31	Compton W/end	1
May 1-2	Grade II Coach:		Augus		
1-2	Budleigh	T	1-5	Summer School:	770
6-8	Bowdon W/end	Н	1.6	Loughborough	3
6-8 7-8	Compton W/end Colchester W/end	H	1-6	Irish Champs: Carrickmines	
7-8	Nat Junior Squad -21:	^	5-7	Southport W/end	1
	Nottingham	T	5-7 6-7	Colchester W/end Himley Hall W/end	
7-8	Grade II Coach: Cheltenham	Т	7-8	CA v. Irish CA:	
7-8	Nat Junior Squad -18:	and the same		Carrickmines	1
0.14	Budleigh	T	8-13 8-13	Nottingham Compton	
9-14 13-15	Budleigh Salterton Wrest Park W/end	W	13-14	Roehampton W/end	
14-15	Grade III Coach:	PERMIT	13-14	Wrest Park W/end	
	Nottingham	T	15-20 15-20	Southwick Edinburgh	-
14-15	Grade II Coach: Southport	Т	20-21	GB v. The Rest:	
14-15	Harrow W/end	A		Budleigh	1
14-15	Carrickuines W/end	Н	20-21 20-21	Ipswich W/end Guildford &	
14-15	Grade II Coach: Edinburgh	Т	-0	Godalming W/end	1
16-21	Cheltenham	w	20-29	Northern Champs:	
21-22	Bristol W/end INTER-COUNTIES:	Н	27-29	Bowdon Hurlingham W/end	
27-30	Southwick	R	27-29	Cheltenham (Level) W/end	1
28-30	Southport W/end	H	29-3	Parkstone	1
28-30	Cheltenham W/end	н	29-3	Hunstanton	
28-30 30-4	Colchester W/end Roehampton	H	Septe 2-4	Edgbaston W/end	
June	The state of the s	1775757	3-4	ALL-ENGLAND H'CAP	
3-5	Nottingham W/end	Н		AREA FINALS	
3-5	Ramsgate W/end	Н	3	National Short Croquet Team Final	
4-5	HOME INTERNATIONALS:		3-4	GB v. Under 21 GB	1
	Budleigh	R	5-9	CHAIRMAN'S SALVER:	
4-5	Ipswich W/end	A	5-9	Hunstanton SPENCER ELL CUP:	
6-11	Ryde Parkstone	w	3. 7	Budleigh	1
6-11	Carrickmines	W	6-10	PRESIDENT'S CUP:	
10-12	Compton W/end 1st Round:	Н	7-11	Hurlingham Cheltenham	
**	Short Croquet Team	S	9-11	SELECTORS' W/END:	
11-12	GOLF CROQUET CUPS:		0.11	Southport	
11-12	Phyllis Court Bowdon W/end	G A	9-11 9-11	Ryde W/end Southwick W/end	
13-19	MENS & WOMENS		10-11	CA SELECT v. GB -18:	
	CHAMPIONSHIPS		10-11	Bowdon Crawley W/end	1
17-19	Cheltenham Hunstanton W/end	С	12-16	LONGMAN BOWL	1
	(Over 50s)	Н	12-16	LADIES FIELD:	
18-19	Crawley W/end	H	16-18	Surbiton Nottingham W/end	
18-19 18-19	Surbiton W/end Harrow W/end	A	16-18	Budleigh Salterton	
20-22	British Student Champs			W/end	1
20-25	VETERANS: Compton Nottingham W/end	w	16-18 17	Wrest Park W/end Regional Short:	
25-26	Bristol W/end	A	1,	Bowdon	
25-26	CA v. Scottish CA:		17	MARY ROSE FINAL	
25-26	Wrest Park	R	17-18	PEEL MEMORIAL W/end: Guildford	1
23-20	Grade II Coach: Colchester	T	17-25	South of England Champs:	
25-26	Woking W/end	A		Compton	1
27-3 27-2	Woking	W	18 18	LONGMAN CUP FINAL INTER-CLUB FINAL	
30	Budleigh Salterton Golf Croquet:	W	23-25	Cheltenham W/end	1
	Colchester	G	24-25	Southport W/end	1
July			24-25 24-25	Woking W/end ALL-ENGLAND H'CAP	
1-3	Wrest Park W/end	A		FINAL: Colchester	1
2-3 3-11	Himley Hall W/end Eastern Champs:	A	24	Regional Short:	
0.11	Colchester	C		Nottingham	
4-9	Southwick	w	Octob 1-2	Carrickmines W/end	
5	Golf Croquet: Nottingham	G	2	NATIONAL SHORT	
5	Golf Croquet:			FINAL	1
7	Tyneside	G	7 - 9	Cheltenham W/end	
7	Golf Croquet: Himley	G	T	o of To	475
9-10	Harrow W/end	н	Ayp	e of Tournaments: Open Weekend	
9-13	SOLOMON TROPHY:		0 = 0	Championship	
9-10	Cheltenham Surbiton W/end	R		Golf Croquet	
9-10	East Riding W/end SCHOOLS CHAMPS:	н	H = H	landicap Weekend	
13			I = In	vitation Event	
14	Nottingham Golf Croquet:	С		National Event	
	Bowdon	G	K = F	Representative Match	

Sponsors

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

Short Croque

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.

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Proposed Alterations to the Laws

Report by Martin Murray (Chairman: Laws Committee)

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.

It is the duty of the Laws

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.

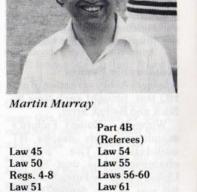
Referees will need to be aware of the renumberings of Laws contained in item 1. The reason for these renumberings is the decision to incorporate into the Laws those Regulations (currently Nos. 4-8) which deal with the powers and duties of referees. This decision was taken since Regulations are a matter 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 Laws 52-56 Part 4 (Customs of the Game)



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))

Regs. 4-17

Regs. 9-22

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.'

The introduction of this clause would necessitate the renumbering of clauses 55(a)-(d) to 55(b)-(e).

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.

Law 15(d) was felt to be unsatisfactory in that points could be scored by a peggedout 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.'

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; 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 guits the court in the belief that his turn has ended (see Law 55(d)(iii) for tournament and match play.)'

> New Law 55(d) (Old Law 50(c)): Insert new paragraph (iii) to read 'The start and end of a turn. Law 26(d) applies subject to any regulation governing time limits.

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.'

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.'

It was also suggested that the two 'Notes' after sublaws (v) and (viii) should be taken into the main body of sub-laws (v) and (vii) respectively.

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).

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 bee 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-

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'.

banked games are addition-

ally subject to any

regulations governing

double-banked games (See

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, eesside Airport, Middleton SI George Near Darlington, Co. Durham. 26/27 March: Southampton

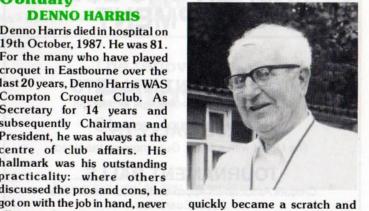
Calshot Activities Centre, Calshot Spit, Fawley, Southampton SO4 1BR.

kend Program e details availab from local Federations.

Obituary DENNO HARRIS

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



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

Obituary MARJORIE CAVE

This photograph of Gerald and Marjorie Cave was taken only a few weeks before she died last May. (Marjorie had presented the seat in memory of the Ashley family at Shalford by the River Wey). It will bring happy memories to many croquet players. Hurlingham, Cheltenham, Southwick, Devonshire Park welcomed them regularly for many years.

Marjorie was a consistent good B Class player until ill health made the game less enjoyable. Her administrative abilities (she was in the WAAF and reached the rank of Squadron Officer) made a big impression when she managed the Ladies Eight nothing was too much trouble for her. In Salterton (as the real locals call it) their many friends



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.

New Numbers Part 3E Laws 44-48

Part 4 (Conduct of the Game) Part 4A Customs of the

Laws 44,46-49 Laws 49-53

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

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 the lady because he was not a tight/too revealing shorts? Must players (so far male only) bare There is one power of the their torsos at the first sight of any

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.

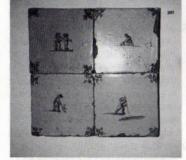
Call for Croquet Artists

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.



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.

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.

If we want to improve the

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

TOURNAMENT MALLETS

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EQUIPMENT

Made to your choice of weight and length

CLUB MALLETS

The Mallet with a 5-year Guarantee on the Head

TOURNAMENT BALLS

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Send for Brochure to:

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

Signals for Umpires

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

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

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

a letter on page 7.

volunteered and was rejected by

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 grove. 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

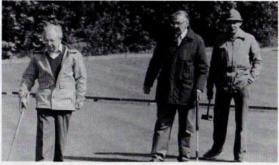
Five Seminars were held for potential Grade I (beginners') coaches. Instead of just being half-day, indoor seminars, they were extended to one-day courses with practical, outdoor, afternoon sessions. The outdoor element proved so popular that next year most of each Seminar will be held on court.

Twenty seven new Grade I coaches were appointed during the year, 4 resigned and sadly 2 (Jane Neville-Rolfe 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

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 1 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

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

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.

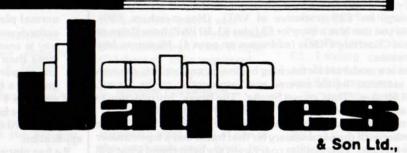


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Complete sets or single items, accessories, from all good sports shops and stores.

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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

1988 Coaching Courses

COURSES FOR PLAYERS HOW TO APPLY

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

GENERAL INFORMATION

- 4. All the courses last from 10am - 6pm each day, with a one hour break for lunch.
- 5. Unless you receive information to the contrary when your booking is confirmed, you should assume that teas will be provided but you will have to make your own lunch arrangements.
- 6. For information about accommodation please write direct to the Club Secretaries.
- 7. 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

The emphasis is on tactics, particularly how to construct and

period is 2 weeks.

particular group.



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

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

CA Video

The CA Video (VHS or Beta format), together with its accompanying

handbook, can be purchased by members from Brian Macmillan, the

CA Secretary, for £25 (inclusive of VAT). (Non-members £30).

Alternatively you can hire a copy for £3 (plus £1.50 P&P) from Brian or

any Regional Coaching Officer (addresses on page 4). Minimum hire

The Video is a useful aid for teaching beginners and consists of seven

15-minute sections. Topics covered are 'Introduction to the Game',

'Single-Ball Strokes', 'The Croquet Stroke', 'The Break', 'Introduction to

The accompanying handbook displays each still frame used in the

Video, together with the commentary for that frame and a tape counter

guide to the sections. This enables coaches to see beforehand what will

be shown and thus makes it easy to decide which section to show to a

Tactics', 'Handicap and Three-Ball Tactics' and 'Further Techniques'.

figure handicap. That letter must testify that the applicant has the potential to become a singlefigure 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:

- 1. In the normal way, as outlined above, in which case the full fee is payable and they will be given equal priority with full members.
- 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 PPLY EARLY - Places Lim

HANDICAP 6 or Below? Do you want to master the tactics of Advanced Play or maybe learn how to do a triple peel?

Grade II Coaching We 23/24 April at Parkstone 14/15 May at Nottingham

EES - £17.50 for CA Members £25 for Non-Members APPLY BY RETURN OF POST

TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT

CA JUNIOR MEMBER?

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

See this page for further information and bow 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

1988 Coaching Courses

COURSES FOR COACHES Grade I Programme

A. Qualifications required to become a Grade I Coach

Aspiring Grade I coaches should

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

B. 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 (CA Members)

Personal Performance Beginners: 1st - 5th August

Improvers: 1st - 5th August £60 Accommodation £65

> £75 (Non-Members)

CA 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.

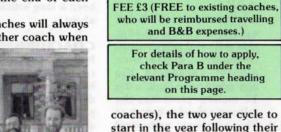
The courses may be taken by players who are not yet referees nor have the relevant handicap qualification, provided they reasonably expect to fulfil those qualifications in the near future.

B. 1988 Courses

The courses start at 8pm on the evening of the first day, with a Seminar that should last for 2-21/2 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

Aspirant coaches will always work with another coach when



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:

- 1. Referees
- 2. Of Handicap 1 or below, or have previously had such a handicap.
- 3. Members of the Croquet Association.
- 4. 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 2-21/2 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.

courses **GRADE II PROGRAMME**

A. Qualifications required to become a Grade II Coach

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 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

the Coaching committee.

D. Review Procedure

Aspiring coaches should be:

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

taking a group of 4 players. Existing coaches may be required to take a group on their

John Grimshaw (right), Dyffryn's Secretary, with members of a

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

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

C. Review Procedure

The Coaching committee have decided that each Grade II coach appointed must coach at one of the weekends once every two years (three years in the case of coaches who are also Grade III

14D13

31/2 to 3

9 to 8

9 to 8

8 to 6

16 to 14

16 to 14

16 to 15

18 to 16

12° to 12

14D12 to

12D10

61/2 to 6

15D13 to

14D12

3 to 21/2

4 to 5

15D13 to

41/2 to 61/2

16 to 15D13

2 to 11/2

5 to 41/2

10D9 to

11D9

10 to 9

9 to 8

1 to 1/2

1 to 1/2

14D12

2 to 11/2

5 to 4

51/2 to 5

Official Business

Harwell Club

D. Lloyd-Thomas

W. Broad-Thomas

J. McBurnie Wood

Roehampton Club

Mrs A.V. Camroux

S. Cross

M.D. Town

Mrs P.A. Watson

G.E.P. Jackson

B.G.F. Weitz

Cheltenham Club

Extract from Minutes of the COUNCIL MEETING on 24th October. 1987.

Eligibility to Compete in Calendar Fixtures.

Motion: Professionalism in Croquet - (to replace Regulation 2)

- (a) A professional croquet player (a professional) may not compete in a calendar fixture if notice has been given in the tournament programme in accordance with Reg. 19(a)(ii) that professionals are excluded therefrom.
- A professional is defined as a player who has received or retained total prize money (including appearance money) exceeding the aggregate prize limit in the 12 months preceding the relevent calendar fixture.
- will be determined from time to time by the Council and published in the Calendar. Delete 18(c) and insert in Reg. 19(a)(ii) after 'qualifications' the words 'or restrictions'.

This aggregate prize limit

That aggregate prize limit be set at £2000 but that players travelling abroad to compete be allowed to set off entry fees and legitimate travelling expenses (not subsistence) against any prize or appearance money. After a long discussion, including amendments to the original motion proposed by Dr Murray and seconded by Professor Neal, the above was passed unanimously. The original motion regarding prize money was £1000 but an amendment increasing it to £2000 was passed by 13 votes to 6.

COMMITTEE REPORTS DEVELOPMENT

Mr McCullough verbally reported to Council that Mr Charles Townsend had confirmed his wish to present to the CA a Trophy to be awarded to the club, less than 3 years old, that had made the greatest advancement in its development in the preceding season, plus £100 worth of croquet equipment to the 1987 winner. Council thanked him for his generous offer. Mr McCullough said that the Apps-Heley Award would now be restricted to clubs over 3 years old. This was agreed. He also reported on grants and

FINANCE AND **GENERAL PURPOSES** Mr Mulliner reported that as

he had only received two letters regarding the 30% levy it would proceed as proposed. Several Council members said their clubs had not received the circular letter following the Conference last year. Mr Mulliner said he would be happy to supply a copy to any club that had not received it. He pointed out that there had been a long article in 'Croquet' about it.

COACHING

Mr McCullough verbally reported on coaching courses held last season, that 12 demonstration boards had been produced by Mr T. Walker of which 11 had been sold, that video sales had increased from 7 in 1985 to approximately 30, and that a coaching wallchart had been produced, thanks to Mr Hudson and the sponsorship of Jaques.

SCHOOLS

Mr Hudson reported that next year's championship would be similar to this year. Following the resignation of Mr Dorke, Mr Ivor Brand was considering if he could take over as Schools Officer so that, if requested and elected, he could take over as Chairman. A letter of thanks for his efforts had been sent to Mr. Dorke.

PUBLICITY

Mr. Danks tabled a suggested 'Logo' which was acceptable in principle to Council.

Mr Hudson reported on the success of the Lassale Garden Croquet Tournament, that there had been 600 players, that he was hopeful of getting next year's event televised by Channel 4, that there would be a first round staged at any club who could produce 8 competitors with a handicap of over 18 and that he hoped there would be 3000 entries by 1989. He also pointed out that a player could continue in the competition even though his or her handicap was later reduced to 18 or less. In any case there is no handicap play. Some players had joined the CA and even more their local club. The media coverage had been extensive.

TOURNAMENTS

Miss MacLeod went through alterations in the Calendar Fixtures. Mr Mulliner pleaded that it seemed to him unsatisfactory to have a different Manager each year for the Opens just as a matter of principle. She replied that she had received several offers to manage it and therefore thought it should be spread around.

INTERNATIONAL

Neal proposed and it was agreed unanimously to join the World Croquet Federation, that our International team should be designated 'Great Britain & Ireland' with players from Ireland eligible for selection by the Council's Selection Committee and that the contests be open to professionals. Mr McCullough asked if the Committee had considered a World Croquet Championship to which Professor Neal replied that it was on the Agenda for a meeting after this Council meeting. He also asked about the World Games in Karlsruhe in 1989 and was told that it would be considered when the Federation had been established, that we were in touch with the organiser and had been invited to stage demonstration games.

DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

A report was given by Mr Hudson who tabled relevant sections of the next 3-year FORWARD PLAN which would be submitted to the National Sports Council and thence to the Grants Committee on the 26th November. The plan was agreed unanimously and Mr Hope thanked Mr Hudson for his hard work on it. Mr Hudson then presented a report on a computer for the CA which was accepted.

He also reported (inter alia) that Bombay Gin were pleased with the results of their sponsorship of the President's Cup, that other possible sponsorships were being investigated, that Carlsberg were doing a Croquet Promotion aimed at Hotels, and that one indoor carpet was in use. Amongst other places, it would be used at the Clacton Croquet Festival promoted by Mr Charles Townsend. He had delayed ordering the other carpet as the manufacturers were doing some further development work. The Granada International Indoor Championship was still under

ADMINISTRATION REPORT

discussion.

Mr MacMillan reported that our membership now stood at 1523, with 226 new members since April. He also tabled a list of new clubs etc. and regretted to report the death of 4 members including Mrs Jane Rolfe and Mrs Kitty Wheeler.

DRUGS AND SPORT

Mr Charles Townsend presented a long written report and after discussion it was agreed that it should be tabled and that we write to the Sports Council asking for a report on its policies when the matter would then be further considered.

STOP PRESS ADVANCE NOTICE MARY ROSE

Alteration to **Eligibility of Players**

For 1988 no player with a handicap lower than 11/2 may play in the Mary Rose Trophy. Previously only minus players have not been eligible.

The restriction on playing in both the Mary Rose and the Inter-Club has also been lifted. Full details of these and other events will be in the 1988 Fixture Book which will be available in early February. Jan MacLeod,

Chairman, Tournaments Committee.

AN IDEAL **CHRISTMAS** PRESENT

'The World of Croquet' By John McCullough & Steve Mulliner

This new book on Croquet which covers all aspects of the game is now available from the CA Secretary, price £14.95, plus £2.00 postage. Overseas members in Australia, New Zealand and the USA should be able to purchase it from their local bookshop. If not, we can send it direct from this office. Please state if required Air Parcel or Sea Mail Also please pay in English Pounds. Brian Macmillan, Hurlingham.

New Clubs Registered Welcome to

Bury St Edmunds & District C.C. Secretary: Martin Peacock, 31 Plovers Way, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, IP33 2NJ. Tel: 0284-61536.

Eden Park C.C.

Co-op Sports Ground, Balmoral Avenue, Eden Park, Beckenham. Secretary: Susan J. Yonge, 298 Upper Elms End Road, Beckenham, BR3 3HF. Tel: 01-658-3589

Letchworth C.C.

Secretary: S.N.H. Gray, 7 Firs Close, Hitchin, Herts.

St Albans Croquet Club

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

Vine Road C.C.

Barnes. Secretary: A.A. Stockwell, 5 Westwood Gardens, Barnes, London, SW130LB. Tel: 01-876-3314.

Changes in Club Officials

NEW SECRETARIES Basingstoke C.C.

Martin Brandt, 12 Meon Road, Oakley, Basingstoke, Hants. Tel: 0256-780452.

Pirelli Sports Club P. Coker, 184 Mayfield Road,

Bassett, Southampton, SO2 3SZ. Tel: 0703-558021.

Plymouth C.C.

Miss M. Roberts, 10 Cranmere Road, Higher Compton, Plymouth, PL3 5JY.

New Referee

C. Ross

New Grade I Coaches

T. Ballard Mrs D.M. Miller R. Bateson G. Norman B.J. Bleach C.A. Parker T. Brand A.C. Peterson B. Christmas A.P. Sammons Miss G. Curry Mrs B.R. Saunders M.J. Falconer F.L. Shergold N. Harris Mrs F. Shotton L.A.D. Hawkins H. Wang Mrs C.J. Irwin C. Waterfield R.P. Jones R.A. Welch P.F. Leach F.L. Whittaker

New Grade III Coaches

D.J. Croker J.O. Walters D.L. Gaunt K.F. Wylie J.R. McCullough

W.G. Masterton

New Handicapper I.P.M. Macdonald

New Associates Rev N.M.S. Ardingly

Waters S. Munson Bath J. Papworth P.R. Donovan A.J. Bogle

Bath Bournemouth Cheltenham

C.N. Williams Duffrun M.J. Keen Eden Park S. Comish Ipswich Mrs M. French **Ipswich** Ms B. Kinsley Parsons Green T.J. Haywood St Albans D.L. Barwick Sidmouth Dr E.C. Owen Sidmouth Mrs B.J. Southwell Ackermann D. Brown Stockey Furzen Miss K. Gaunt Stockey Furzen Stockey Furzen Major E. Hempsall T. Ward Stockey Furzen J.A.F. Bruce Winchester Miss J.M. Worthing Highton Ms J. Bourvis G.H. Day A. Dunkley C.G. Grimshaw H.B. Hollington N.G. Jackson J.A.W. Jardine J.F. Lightower A.H. Maclean G. Mercer J.D. Porcas A.A. Robinson M. Welsh L. Geuten Belgium L. Sevnave Belgium R.R. Flood Eire Dr C. Farioli Italy K. Buholzer Switzerland A. Jaeger Switzerland J. Doughty USA Dr B. Rhodes USA W. Travelstead USA

Cheltenham

Crawley

Crawley

A. Tunbridge

Mrs M.C. Cotterell

Deaths

(Total: 45)

J.H. Willis

Mrs J.F. Nash

P.F. Gill

Regretfully we have to report the following deaths: Mrs K.M.O. Wheeler, Cheltenham D.A. (Denno) Harris, Compton

Handicap Alterations Short Croquet Regional Finals

W. Sanders 18 to 16 B. Melody 14 to 12 Selectors' W/end: 10-13 Sept M. Saurin Southwick: 11-13 Sept P.J. Elliott 4 to 31/2 M. Haggerston 4 to 31/2 F. Beard 61/2 to 51/2 P. Howell 41/2 to 4 Dr G. Yonge 15 to 14

Ryde: 11-12 Sept W. Lemmey 11 to 8 R.H. Selmes 10 to 9 Longman Bowl: 14-18 Sept Miss F.C. McCoig 41/2 to 4

Wrest Park: 18-20 Sept D. Reeve 16° to 14 D. Appleton 3 to 2 R. Atkinson 10° to 10 R. Jones 4 to 31/2 J. Coutts 2 to 11/2 A. Dumont 71/2 to 9

Nottingham: 18-20 Sept J.F.S. Thomas 10 to 9 R. Davis 6 to 41/2

N. Williams Cheltenham: 18-20 Sept **Budleigh Salterton Club** J.J. Jackson 41/2 to 3 Mrs M. James 15 to 14D12 16 to 15D13 W.G. Iredale Mrs M. Evans Miss H. Pritchard 14 to 12D10 Mrs W.G. Iredale Budleigh: 18-20 Sept D.C. Wallace T. Bower R. Brand R.F. Deacon 9 to 71/2 P.D. Hardyment Miss K. Holrovde 12 to 10 C.P. Diver D.J.F. Gurney C.G. Waterfield 8 to 61/2 Mary Rose Final: 19 Sept Mrs R.S. Wildy D.C.D. Wiggins Bristol Club: 20 Sept Clacton Indoor J.A. Hobbs E. Duckworth D.A. Cornelius Compton: 19-27 Sept **Parsons Green Club During play** C.S. Docherty 7 to 6 M. Donelan After play C.S. Docherty 6 to 41/2 Mrs P. Healy Mrs E.A. Mapletoft 5 to 6 Mrs A. Robillard Miss F.C. McCoig 4 to 31/2 Miss M.J. Loveus 10 to 9 **Parkstone Club** M.J.B. Haggerston 31/2 to 3 D. Charsley-Southwick Club: 22 Sept Thomas Mrs S. French 11 to 10 Air Cdre J.H. P.J. Mansfield 7 to 6 Greswell Bath Club: 23 Sept Miss J. Wraith 18D16 to Mrs J. Malcolm 16D14 **Phyllis Court Club** Mrs D. Sheppard 15D13 to B. Barnes 14D12 Dr C.J.C. Davey 9 to 8 Mrs M. Tope

10 to 9

4 to 31/2

G.H. Betts K. Cotterell 15 to 16D14 Mrs D.J. Croker **Bristol Club: 26 Sept** Woking Club Mrs P. Coopman 1/2 to 0 Mrs M.A. Nalder 3 to 2

Mrs B. Ashford R. Ransom R. Jenkins E. Duckworth 71/2 to 6 C. Pace 8 to 7 J. Phillips 16 to 17

All-England Final: 26-27 Sept J.H. Haslam D. Power

Nottingham: 26 Sept C. Davis A. Climpson S.W. Federation: 27 Sept I.B. Brand 3 to 2

C.F. Moon 8 to 7 Southport: 26-27 Sept R. Collighan 3 to 2 J.S. Dyer 9 to 7

Bristol Club: 28 Sept D.J. Goacher 1/2 to -1/2 Cheltenham Club: 30 Sept M. Strachan 3 to 21/2

Sidmouth Club Miss B. Brierley 18 Cheltenham: 2-4 Oct R. Adlard 3 to 2

P.A. Darby 41/2 to 4 Miss G. Holliday 15D13 to 14D12 G.E.P. Jackson 11/2 to 1 P.F. Leach 41/2 to 4

Miss H. Pritchard 12D10 to 1009 Mrs E. Taylor-Webb 8 to 7 P. Watson 5 to 41/2 B.F.G. Weitz 2 to 11/2

Mrs P.A. Wheeler 31/2 to 3 Cheltenham Club A. Bogle

6 to 4 K.J. Carter 41/2 to 4 L.W.R. James 14D12 to 13D11

handicaps of non-Associates.

We regret that we cannot list

WANTED URGENTLY

Members who have not yet paid their 1988 subscriptio

Now is the time to write out your cheque and post it off. Not only will you qualify for the discount, but Full Members will receive the Fixture Book when it comes out in early February. (Note that Membership Cards for Full Members will be sent with the Fixture Book.)

Until subscriptions are paid we regret we will be unable to send out the Fixture Book so hurry, hurry, hurry.

Brian Macmillan

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Many thanks to the members who assisted me in tracing members who have moved. I would like information or

A.G. Darby, M. Kolbuszewski G.J. Eddy Mrs G.S. Digby Brian Macmillan