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January 1989

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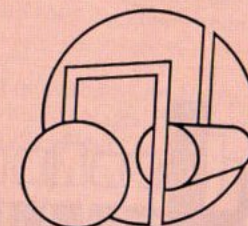
# CROQUET



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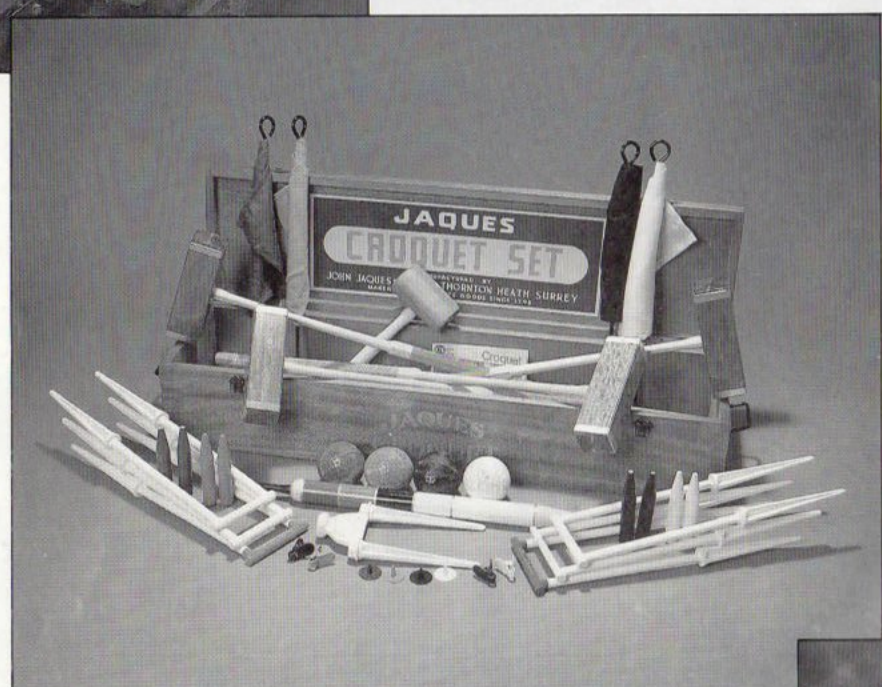


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'CROQUET'

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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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THANK YOU!

The Christmas issue always gives the Editor a chance to reflect and an opportunity to thank all those responsible for the production of the magazine.

This time I would particularly like to thank the editorial team and all those who have contributed articles and photographs during the past year. Thank you also to DDS Colour Printers, whose help in printing and publishing our magazine has been invaluable since we first started the new format over three years ago, and to our advertising manager, Brian Bucknall, whose efforts have helped to increase our advertising income for the third year in succession.



Surbiton won this year's Inter-Club Championship. Pictured here with the trophy are Steve Mulliner (left) and Edward Wright, Marketing Director of the club's sponsors, Hambro Legal Protection Ltd.

The pages of recent issues of 'Croquet' reflect the growing popularity of the game and the ever-rising standards of play. Noteworthy has been the increasing number of Championship tournaments and Invitation events which have been reported in our pages.

However, I would like to see greater coverage given to national events like the Longman Cup, the Inter-Club competition and the All-England Handicap, events which up to now seem to fail to capture the imagination of a reporter on the spot. All these CA events deserve more coverage in our Association's magazine, and I would welcome reports of individual matches or regional/national finals, with photographs of players wherever possible.

I have tried to include more articles of general interest in past issues, and inevitably much has had to be omitted, particularly in the reporting of club tournament results. Happily the recent introduction of the Townsend Croquet Almanack will provide lists of tournament results for all those statisticians amongst us. As in previous years, the quality of writing has varied from report to report, but we have published a number of reports of real merit which I hope have given readers as much pleasure as myself.

So, as another year comes to an end, I would welcome comments from readers about our magazine, and of course, stand ready to receive your contributions!

CHRIS HUDSON

1989 RECRUITMENT DRIVE Preliminary Announcement

In 1989, there will be two schemes for encouraging players to join the Croquet Association.

Scheme 1

For every 3 new CA members recruited by a club during the period 1st January to 31st December 1989, the CA will provide a £12 voucher that can be used towards a membership subscription for the year 1990. This can be awarded as a prize for a club competition, or however the club sees fit.

To qualify for the scheme, the club must notify the CA of its intention to take part by applying to Chris Hudson for an entry form. The date of application will determine the date from which new memberships are counted for the scheme.

Scheme 2

If a club so wishes, the CA will send anyone who joins the club during 1989 a copy of the May and July issues of 'Croquet' free, in return for £1.00 to cover the cost of postage and packing.

Clubs that would like to take advantage of this scheme could simply include an additional £1 in their coaching fee and forward the relevant names and addresses to the CA Office before 1st July, together with the total money required.

THE 1989 CROQUET CLASSIC

If your club is going to run a recruitment drive next year, why not enter your beginners for the Croquet Classic, and provide them with some enjoyable competition?

Beginners group competitions can be organised in any way to suit the players, provided the winner plays at least three games to win the competition. The winner then goes through to the relevant round of the national competition.

By adding a supplement to your charge for beginners' coaching, you can easily cover the £25 Group Entry fee (minimum 8 players with handicaps greater than 18).

Group Entry Forms, which should be returned no later than 31st May, can be obtained from Chris Hudson. Tel: 0270-820296.

A competition works wonders in maintaining the enthusiasm of new members. Try it and see!

**Photographs in this issue by:** Peter Alvey, Andrew Bennet, Guernsey Evening Press & Star, Sarah Hampson, Peter Howell, Chris Hudson, Deborah Latham, John McCullough, Margaret Newman, Diana Perry, Alan Sutcliffe, Libby Weir-Breen, Dab Wheeler and Brian Macmillan.

**Front Cover:** Cheltenham's Bo Harris (right) shares a joke with Pat Hague (Ellesmere). Bo won the 1988 Ladies Field Cup.



## Championships

### Carrickmines: 1-6 August CHAMPIONSHIP OF IRELAND

New faces and old mixed (and more so late in the evenings) at this year's Irish Championships. There was a sad shortage of foreign visitors, and only David Appleton, George Anderson and the newcomer Kevin Carter deigned to share our little week of simple fun. Other newcomers included Paul Costello, Graeme de Renzi, Ray Flood from Herbert Park, Stephen Jackson and Shirley Kavenagh.

Monday started with lively attempts from outsiders to topple Big Gerard and Carl 'the Dude' von Schmieder. Simon Williams gained revenge over Fred Rogerson for his defeat in last year's final, losing the first game but then digging out two triples. The 'X' was being run as a modified Swiss this year, so there was lots of fun for everybody. Terence Read was about to beat Jane Shorten, when, instead of running Rover, he only just tapped the ball! The ribald mirth from the bar window at this and other minor disasters was not found agreeable by everybody! Once again, some new doubles pairings (joint handicaps 6 to 28) attracted some interest. Terence Read and Graeme de Renzi seemed especially impressive; the more so because Graeme had been playing only one week. They surged through to the semi-finals, while the holders,

Williams & Michael O'Shaughnessy had a somewhat tighter squeeze - Michael running Rover to win after time against Gerard and his partner-from-the-office, Shirley Kavenagh.

Big Gerard had another tense ending in his Championship match against David Appleton. David won the first game, and in the third was laid up to finish from 3-back and Peg - Gerard having failed a triple - when Gerard characteristically lifted his backward ball and hit to finish himself. Gerard then beat Terence Read in a similar match, going through to the final to meet Simon, who had beaten the Manager Carl Von Schmieder, with two more Triples.

The tournament was not without its share of Banditry. Charles von Schmieder, who had been lying low during the season, burst upon us with his 9 bisques. The reporter had an interesting encounter with him in the first game of the week, hitting and progressing on a delightful Martin Murray-style break, gaining control after 6th and promptly cross-wiring himself. Charles finished with 7 bisques standing, and was immediately cut to 6, and later to 4½ after winning the Green Cup (6 bisques and over; Level Play) and losing only to another Bandit, Jane Shorten, in

the Semi-final of the big Handicap. Jane herself took a dive from 12 to 10.

In the semi-finals of the Doubles, Fred Rogerson and another newcomer, Stephen Jackson, picked up some real form to beat Read and de Renzi by 22. The holders beat David Appleton and Reggie Leonard by 13. In the final Simon and Michael got a shock when Stephen quickly reached 6th without using any bisques. There followed a small conflagration of bisques and Michael went to 4-back with incredible precision. Stephen now made some more progress, Simon went round, stopping at 4-back with no Peels done, Michael went to Stick, and Fred was forced to take the last bisque, going round, and peeling Stephen through 2-back and 3-back. With only five minutes left, there was some splitting and laying up until Fred, hearing 'Time' called, laid up right beside 4-back with oppo's separated by almost the whole width of the court near the South boundary. Stephen could not fail to make 4-back after time if Simon missed, so he decided to hit and finish for the non-timed result.

During this game, Simon hit his shin heavily against the sharp bit at the top of a hoop; and, as the bruise ripened, his play became slower and ever dourer. The final of the Championship is not for me to describe in any detail. It went on and on, delaying the splendid Tournament Dinner until nearly 9.00pm, and there were two remarkable sequences of missed short roquets. Gerard hit a last shot to save the second game, but at other times his usual knack of hitting every short lift deserted him.

The Reggie Leonard Novice Trophy was won by Ray Flood,

whom it was discovered had been mistakenly playing off 16 during the week. He beat Ronan McInerney - at 10, the youngest competitor - by the traditional +1 O.T., and the Handicapper had great pleasure in confirming his unofficial handicap.

You may be wondering whether Carrickmines's famous lunches and teas have survived the recent change of personnel at the Club. Well, the news is that they are better than ever. Cries of delight hailed the floury potatoes, and there was still plenty of tea for everyone, even after the depredations of Adrian Brown. Congratulations, not merely thanks, to Carmel Edwards! Carmel's husband John also pulls as fine a pint of Guinness as you could wish for.

#### RESULTS

##### Championship of Ireland (12 entries)

##### 1st Round

G. Anderson bt G. Reynolds Jr (wo); Carl von Schmieder bt K.J. Carter +13, +15; G.P.N. Healy bt A. Brown +17, +14; D.R. Appleton bt J. McAuley +24TP; +11.

##### 2nd Round

S. Williams bt F.J. Rogerson -5, +17TP, +16TP; Carl von Schmieder bt Anderson +21, +22; Healy bt Appleton -4, +12TP, +6; T.O. Read bt Charles von Schmieder +9, -5, +21.

##### Semi-Finals

Williams bt Carl von Schmieder +17TP, +25TP; Healy bt Read +12, -5, +14.

##### Final

Williams bt Healy +26TP, -4, +19.

##### Green Cup (Level Play)

##### Semi-Finals

M.B. McWeeney bt P. Thornton +7; Charles von Schmieder bt R. Barklie (wo).

##### Final

Charles von Schmieder bt McWeeney +7.

##### New Cup (Handicap play, 9 bisques or over)

##### Semi-Finals

Charles von Schmieder bt S. McAuley +4; M. O'Shaughnessy bt P. Northover +16.

##### Final

O'Shaughnessy bt von Schmieder +18.

##### Founders' Cup (Handicap play)

##### Semi-Finals

Miss J. Shorten (12) bt Charles von Schmieder (6); M. O'Shaughnessy (10) bt F.J. Rogerson (0).

##### Final

O'Shaughnessy bt Miss Shorten.

##### Stonebrook Cups (Handicap doubles)

##### Final

S. Williams & M. O'Shaughnessy bt F.J. Rogerson & S. Jackson +5.



Congratulations and best wishes to John McCullough and Janet Norman who were married at All Hallows Church, Bardsey, near Leeds, on 17th September, after which they honeymooned in St Vincent.

Janet is a GP in Leeds and met John when she attended a beginners' course he ran at Harrogate CC. Since then, she has played in tournaments at Hull and Beverley.

Seen here with the bride and groom are Phil Cordingley (left) and Susan and Stephen Mulliner.

### 1988 LONGMAN CUP Ellesmere Ladies Set Record Report by Alan Sutcliffe

In 1969 four ladies from Ellesmere became joint winners of the Longman Cup. 19 years later four ladies of Ellesmere went one better and became out-right winners - a feat never before accomplished in the history of the competition.

Led by their captain, Barbara Sutcliffe, the ladies Dee Dennett, Sheila Meadows and Joan Walker bravely fought through five rounds of a keenly fought competition to meet Roehampton represented by Paul and Pat Macdonald, Tim Russell and Douglas Gurney at Harrow Oak on 18th September.



Ellesmere's winning team (L to R): Dee Dennett, Barbara Sutcliffe, Joan Walker and Sheila Meadows.

The trip to the final had been tough battling for wins against last years winners Glasgow, the swiftly improving team of Pendle, a strong team from Southport, an ever competitive team from East Riding and several time winners - Thomas Cook.

The morning doubles resulted in a win for Barbara and Sheila against Pat and Tim by +8 in a hard fought game in which tactical defensive play was the controlling factor. Meanwhile Paul and Douglas overcame similar tactics to beat John and Dee by +1 on time.

The afternoon doubles match saw Barbara and Joan overcome a determined challenge by Tim and Paul to win by +2 on time.

In the singles Sheila found her form to defeat Pat by +18 with time to spare and Dee rounded off a successful day for Ellesmere by a last minute win of +2 with time expired.

The whole match was ably refereed by Ian Maugham who had travelled from Cheltenham for the purpose and the cup was elegantly presented to the winning captain, Barbara, by Nigel Aspinall.

A bottle of champagne brought by John Leach, an obviously confident supporter from Ellesmere, was consumed by all present to round off an excellent days competition.

## National Events

### 1988 SECRETARY'S SHIELD Teesside's Success Report by John Davis

Little did we realise, when we won the Northern Federation League in 1987, what delights were in store for us in 1988. Teesside playing away at Ramsgate may be one of the CA's long distance fixtures but for us, Charles Waterfield, Jon Banford, Carolyn Hay and John Davis, it was one of the highlights of the season.

The semi-final took place early in September and the hospitality of Len Hawkins, Terry Ballard and the Ramsgate club made us almost feel guilty as we sneaked away with a 4-3 win. However, it set us up for a final against Ipswich which was played at Nottingham on October 1st.

The lawns were in immaculate condition, the weather superb and the squirrels were gathering conkers as Martin French set the hoops so tightly that the larger nuts wouldn't go through.

Cathy French, Robert Jones, and Andrew Schonbeck made up a strong Ipswich Team. Teesside had drafted in a youthful Reg Forth (82 years young) to replace Carolyn Hay who was running in the Glasgow half marathon (I think!). The three games in the morning saw Jon Banford take a long time using 10½ bisques to

beat Robert Jones +25, giving Teesside a 1-0 lead. The other two games went to time, Charles Waterfield beating Andrew Schonbeck +8, and John Davis and Reg Forth coming from well behind to beat Martin and Cathy French +1 (I'd just read Don Gaunts book!). So off to lunch at the Priory with an almost unassailable 3-0 lead to Teesside.

The afternoon started in some confusion with three of the lawns occupied by club members unable to understand who had put the hoops out! However, Martin, by now well practised in the art, set up the hoops on lawns 4 and 5 and off we went. At one stage it looked like Ipswich would win all four singles before John Davis and Reg Forth came through to break Martin French and Andrew Schonbeck respectively. Robert Jones and Cathy French saved the Ipswich honour by beating Charles Waterfield and Jon Banford, giving the final victory to Teesside 5-2.

Our thanks to Nottingham for allowing us to use the lawns and to the Secretary for inventing the competition. Our first ever game against Ramsgate and Ipswich were very enjoyable (winning helped of course!). Now it only remains for Don Gaunt to find the trophy!

## "Matchplay"

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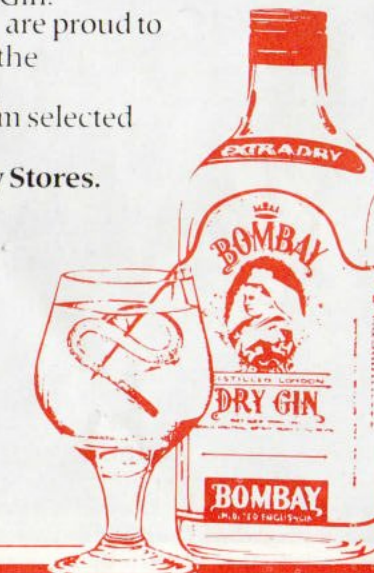
  
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## Pilgrim's Progress in BC Croquet

Report from Harold Sisson (Director, Croquet BC.)

Two Irish ducks were crossing the road. The first Irish duck said 'Quack! Quack!' The second Irish duck said, 'Begorra, and I'm goin' as quack as I can!'

And that is the way we are progressing in regard to croquet in British Columbia - as quack as possible.

A small group of Vancouver Island croquet enthusiasts in Victoria began to talk provincial organisation in the fall of 1987, and to that end started to gather information pertaining to all aspects of the sport from all available sources. We began with the grand-daddy and Valhalla of the game, namely the Croquet Association of the United Kingdom at the Hurlingham Club in Ranelagh Gardens, London, England; and then to the United States Croquet Association of Palm Beach Gardens, Florida.

From both these sources we learned of the new 'Croquet Canada' recently formed in Toronto to co-ordinate the sport across Canada; and all three of these organisations have proven very co-operative and helpful in their advice.

What were the main problems in the path of organised BC Croquet, as we envisaged them?

First there was the lack of any adequate courts, other than what are usually 'indifferent playing surfaces'. Certainly such surfaces are the same for all players, but one would prefer to play on something bigger and better than moose pasture. Some of the terrain our black and blue balls were traversing would gag a goat.

Secondly, there were the many versions of the game and the respective rules of same, all of which should be accommodated;

and we thought, brought under the aegis of one administration and co-ordinated by one Provincial BC body, who would then affiliate with both Croquet Canada and the USCA (of which latter, more later).

This is certainly not to imply that there is anything out of line with the tournament known locally as the 'World Croquet Championship', played annually at Parksville, BC (the name was long ago registered with the Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs in Ottawa, so that no other organisation - in Canada - can claim the World croquet championship); as it may well be just that, if you are playing a Canadian backyard version of nine hoop, two peg, six ball rules, a game certainly not played at many locales within the World Croquet Federation. Nor is there anything intrinsically wrong with the very pleasant but confined atmosphere of Simon Dean's Stonehouse Pub near Schwartz Bay Ferry Terminal, where you can quaff a pint of ale while playing USCA six wicket rules. You are playing croquet and that's okay. I am even tempted to go to the 1988 All-Terrain Croquet National Championships played under 'Guerilla Croquet Rules', July 1-4, at Fort Mason in San Francisco. We will write for the rules - it sounds both dangerous and exciting.

But one eventually wants to play on a 28 x 35 yard, perfectly flat, grass court with yard lines and corner pegs, four balls, six hoops and a centre peg, using large standard mallets and International Association Croquet rules. How else will either an individual, or BC, or Canada, be able to play on the high-end proficient level with England, Australia, New Zealand,

Japan and the USA. So we work toward that end, but in the interim, before reaching such a goal, are willing to play ten wicket, eight ball, three peg, Inner Mongolian, one-eyed Jacks and players wild, clan-chowder-every-Tuesday Croquet, if necessary. In the meantime we pledged ourselves to get the vehicle in motion and heading for the hills like a big-assed bird, hoping not to drive it to destruction.

Thirdly, we need membership, but are confident that with the reviving popularity of the sport, and the number of old and young, male and female, ex and potential players, who are we hope lurking out there in the weeds, that Croquet in BC can obtain the 100 to 300 members in up to five provincial zones, which constitute the eligibility criteria for some government funding.

We have therefore formed 'Croquet BC', and proffer the suggestion that each Canadian Province should form a similar body, which in turn encourages the formation of local or branch croquet clubs throughout the province, these clubs becoming entitled to representation on the parent provincial organisation, which in turn has representation on Croquet Canada. It seems the only route to eventual success, but one which will require the co-operation and good will of the three existing BC local croquet clubs, situated in Oak Bay, Vancouver and Campbell River (all we could find by checking the Provincial BC Companies and Society's Branch), all of whom we are approaching in this regard.

Our attention was next drawn to Lawn Bowling Clubs, of which there are about half a dozen in each of Victoria and Vancouver. The West Coast is the one place in Canada where the climate is conducive to play for the greater part of the year, and it seemed that these private facilities were underutilised and that they might welcome an increased dual membership, grist for their own mill as it were. If even one of these clubs in each city could be persuaded that use of their lawns for croquet was both feasible and would not damage their expensive lawns, then we might be onto something which would be both advantageous to both lawn bowling and croquet.

For the benefit of those who may have the same problem, here is what the Croquet Association of England, in the person of Chris Hudson, their National Development Officer, says in relation to the use of bowling greens by croquet players, and I quote verbatim from

his letter of Dec 13, 1987.

'It is becoming quite common in this country for flat bowling greens to be shared between croquet and bowls.

Although bowls players initially had reservations about dual use, experience has shown that the holes made by the croquet hoops have no effect on games of bowls played over the same area. In fact, with the new Jaques hoops that have a star-shaped carrot, the only evidence that a hoop has been inserted in the ground when it is taken out is a small cross in the turf, measuring about one inch across.

Over here (and no doubt in Canada as well), croquet players, like bowls players, wear flat-soled shoes, and whilst I have heard of croquet lawns having to be top-dressed to bring up the level where bowls players have continually stood at the ends, I have never heard of a bowling green having to be similarly treated because of croquet players. Generally there are far fewer croquet players on the green at any one time, and they move all over the surface, not restricting their play mainly to the ends.

Given that bowls players until recently have always had sole use of their greens, I can understand their concern about the greens being used for another sport. However, experience here indicates that there is no need for such concern and that if it is present, it is likely to be psychological rather than based on fact.

When we asked the USCA for their opinion on this same matter, Ian Gillespie, their Administrative Director, stated, in a letter dated Feb 18, 1988 -

'As to croquet on lawn bowling greens, the New York Croquet Club has for many years shared the usage of two lawn bowling greens with a bowling club. In various parts of the world, lawn bowling greens are regularly used to promote extra courts during tournaments. Some clubs use special hoops for bowling greens but in fact this is not necessary because the hoop holes do not cause any damage or interfere with the lawn bowls. A happy relationship often exists between the two sports.'

With such testimonials hopefully some of the estimable BC lawn bowling bodies will decide to give croquet a deserved trial. The writer will report our progress in that endeavour. Success would give a big and immediate boost to the sport of croquet in the Province.

'Croquet BC' held its first small tournament at the Stonehouse Pub on April 23rd 1988, using USCA six hoop rules adjusted to meet the

## Scotland Opens National Croquet Centre

Report by Martin Murray

Ever since 1980, when the Home Internationals between Scotland, England and Wales were first staged, a small band of Anglo-Scots has flown the flag for Scotland in the annual matches, joined sometimes by a single representative of the 'true' Scots living north of the border. Three of the team had never, until this year, struck a single croquet ball in Scotland, but the idea of bringing these players to Scotland was first raised at Nottingham in 1980 when Scotland achieved victory over England in the first competition.

Until now, croquet in Scotland has suffered from a shortage of suitable facilities for staging major

exigencies of the two small courts, which will handle approximately 12 double teams. Partners were chosen by lot, with players such as Reid Fleming, a Croquet BC Director and 1986 US National Champion playing. Primarily intended as an introduction to the game and part of a membership drive, training and promotional videos were on view throughout the tournament. We obtained these from the Croquet Association in London. Mr. Fleming from Vancouver has developed the prototype of a hoop which has a long but very slim carrot or post appendage for insertion in the ground, which makes an even smaller hole than the Jaques star-shaped carrot for demonstration to the lawn bowls players who were invited to participate.

The USCA has a number of affiliated clubs in Canada, (four to date) and the advantages of doing so are that it enables members of these Canadian affiliated Clubs to participate in USCA tournaments and schools, thus giving valuable experience. At the same time it assists 'Croquet Canada' in building up an indigenous body to develop the sport in Canada; as Canada is just getting started and is new to the International Association game, whereas the USA lists sixty-seven tournaments and three croquet schools in their 1988 National Croquet Calendar.

Canada tends to play with the States, and it's a long long way to Tipperary, or Hurlingham, much farther than Seattle, Phoenix, Minnesota or Palm Beach, particularly for players from Victoria and Vancouver. So, as I said at the beginning, we are working at it and going as quack as we can in the CBC.

events. None of the clubs has even three good lawns, and the occasional borrowing of other facilities (eg bowling greens) is no substitute for dedicated lawns for croquet. This lack of facilities made the idea of a visit by the Anglo-Scots difficult to realise, but at last, after many years of planning and hard work, a National Croquet Centre has been provided at the Bush club, south of Edinburgh. The Bush is a complex of agricultural institutes, similar in many ways to Wrest Park in England. To the club's one lawn (good turf, but not very level) have been added two new lawns on levelled ground, thanks to the financial support of the Scottish Sports Council and much hard work by members of the Bush club and the Scottish Croquet Association.

For the opening of this facility, invitations were sent to five members of the Scottish Home International team, Keith Aiton, Ian Bond, Andrew Hope, Martin Murray, and Stephen Wright, and also to Michael Heap, who, though not qualified for the team, played for the Scottish CA in the annual match against the English. Fortunately a date was found in June when all these players could make the trip, and Ian Wright, secretary of the Scottish CA, arranged a doubles tournament, pairing each of the visitors with one of the best of the local players, played as a block (five rounds) over Saturday and Sunday.

The Saturday came at the end of a week of excellent weather in Scotland, and two of the visitors had enjoyed this to the full by

arriving in Scotland a few days earlier. Unfortunately the official opening saw a change in the weather, and low cloud, accompanied by a fine drizzle, persisted throughout Saturday. The two new lawns were the focus of interest, proving to be basically flat and reasonably paced after the week's fine weather, but with odd patches of poor grass growth probably due to problems with soil compaction. With good attention they should however improve to become excellent lawns. The hoops had been very firmly set, but seemed to give fewer problems than expected, at least to the visitors.

The first round saw wins for Martin Murray and Corla van Griethuysen, Keith Aiton and George Anderson, and Ian Bond and Rod Williams. The latter pair, with their more equal standard of play, looked likely to do well, and indeed they won all three games on Saturday. The visitors produced some good play, the highlights being a triple peel by Keith Aiton on an opponent's ball, which proved a winning tactic (for once), and a straight double peel by Martin Murray which gave his pair victory over Aiton/Anderson.

By Sunday morning the three pairs who had won in the first round had established themselves as likely to provide the winners and the critical match was between Bond/Williams and Aiton/Anderson. Despite the much better weather, Ian Bond suffered a sudden loss of form, possibly brought on by the previous evening's Scottish hospitality, so that Aiton/Anderson were able to snatch a close win and

level the scores at three wins each for each of the top three pairs. This meant that if Murray/van Griethuysen could win their final game against Wright/Surgenor they were assured of victory, as their net points record was so much better than those of the other two pairs. In the event the game turned out to be a tense affair; Stephen Wright accidentally(!) peeled Corla van Griethuysen's ball through rover, so pegged it out, but Martin Murray, despite displaying nerves on gentle shots, just scraped victory by hitting a series of long roquets at the end.

This ending brought the tournament to a conclusion in time for a brief ceremony when all the players were awarded small mementoes, before the visitors had to set off on their long journeys home. All the visitors felt that the trip had been very worthwhile, and with the Bush club now providing suitable facilities for top-class play, it would appear likely that they will be back again before too long. Certainly the hospitality provided by the SCA was first rate, the highlight being a most enjoyable dinner on Saturday night at the house of Alastair Hunter, Chairman of the Bush Club. To him and his wife, to all the members of the SCA who worked so hard to make the event such a success, a warm thank you from the six visitors.



Tea-time at Bowdon during their Northern League match against Southport.



John Walters supervises the Men's and Women's Champions weigh-in at Cheltenham last season.



## A Reciprocal Visit

By Margaret Green

I wrote to America last year hoping to find someone who would like to exchange a reciprocal croquet holiday. My husband John and I are in our mid-sixties and are members of the Rottingdean Croquet Club which opened officially on 26th May 1988. Here we play on two small courts in what was once Rudyard Kipling's private garden. It is a beautiful setting and we already have fifty members.

Mr John Taylor, a member of the San Francisco Croquet Club, responded to our advert which was placed in the American Croquet Association's News Letter in February 1988. He called himself a 'Croquet Fanatic'; written on the licence on the front of his car was 'Croquet is OK', and on the back was written 'Croquet is a wicket sport'. (Hoops are called wickets in America). Hanging on our bedroom wall were two mallets with winner labels and displayed in large coloured letters was the slogan 'Colour your day, Play Croquet'. He possessed a wealth of books on croquet written in England, Australia and America, and could play both the American and the CA versions of croquet.

Our names were submitted for the 4th Annual San Francisco Open Tournament for 'B' players. This meant that we only had a couple of days to learn the American game. Apart from roquet, croquet and continuation shot it is a vastly different game to the CA rules. Balls are played in strict colour sequence. Balls once hit are dead to the striker's ball until the striker has made a hoop, regardless of how many turns that may require. To assist players and spectators a deadness board displays those balls that are dead to each other and to each striker. Only by making a hoop, and when the opponent makes one back, can one ball be cleared. The term 'three ball dead' is now in general use, meaning that you are unable to do anything! The yard line is the distance of a mallet head. You may not roquet a ball out of bounds, so the yard (or 9 inches) line becomes a haven of defensive play. The game is started not at a baulk line but a mallet's length in front of the first hoop. Jump shots are common as some players place their balls in the jaws of the hoop on purpose so that they can execute their strategy.

The two full sized courts at the San Francisco Club were easily adapted to four small-sized courts for the tournament Round Robin preliminaries. The golf-putting greens in Stern Grove was also used for the occasion, the holes for put-

ting being temporarily filled with sand. The Final Open Championships were played in the beautiful Golden Gate Park on the San Francisco Lawn Bowling Club's two greens.

Apart from ourselves, also participating in the San Francisco Open Championships were four young men from different parts of Canada, one of whom was an International player. There were competitors from as far away as Palm Beach Florida, Seattle Washington, Cambridge Massachusetts, Bellvue Washington and one who piloted his own four seater private plane from Lander Wyoming.



Union Pacific College students at their croquet tournament held at Meadowood Inn & Country Club.

The matches commenced at 7.30am closing at dusk and covered four days. A cocktail party was held on the first day of the tournament in a picture gallery. At the end of the tournament, a dinner was held at the San Francisco Yacht Club in view of the island of Alcatraz and on the attractive San Francisco Bay, where seals play and bark, and anemones and star fish decorate the stones and boulders.

Considering that we had only one day with our own mallets (they were lost on the journey from England) and a couple of days to practise and learn the American game, we did reasonably well. John, my husband, was partnering a Canadian youth while I was partnering a lovely lady about my own age who had travelled 260 miles with her husband in their motor-caravan. They lived in it at the side of the park for the duration of the tournament. John won two doubles and I won one double in the Round Robin preliminaries.

There are about three-hundred clubs of various sizes (one a family) in the USA. Ellery McClatchy from Palm Beach Florida is a member of 18 of them! He is reputed to be one of the wealthiest persons in USA.

From this can we assume San Francisco to be one of the foremost clubs in America?

Another character was Bob Alman known as 'Baba Bob' in his regular articles in the American Croquet Magazine. He is always full of fun but a serious lecturer and writer on Swami! From Studio City, Beverley Hills, California was Maurice Marsac, a French actor and film star, a member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. George Sanders, Louis B. Mayer, Harpo Marx and Tyrone Power were all croquet players. I wonder what well known personalities of today indulge in

of 80 acres in 1972. The croquet courts were really a public relations enterprise to make use of the beautiful settings where the winery stands. The pursuit of excellence is reflected in the croquet courts and the wine. Brice Jones was introduced to croquet at the San Francisco CC. He says 'there is great similarity between good wine and croquet. They are both competitive. There are lots of strategies you can have to win, at wine or croquet, and you've got to have an entrepreneurial spirit to undertake either one of them and succeed. It is a steady shifting, planning process with an orderly execution'. Neal Spooner is the Director of Croquet at Sonoma-Cutrer. He, like Damon Bidencope, is a native Australian champion. Here we watched the opening matches of the third annual World Singles Championships. It was a privilege to meet these excellent players representing their different countries, and to be invited to their barbecue celebration. Among the competitors was young Mark Avery who is turned professional during the year. The referee was Keith Wylie who informed me that he is about to join us at the Southwick Club. It was also a pleasure to meet Andrew Hope, Chairman of the CA, and the San Francisco Club presented us with 'The World of Croquet' book in which Andrew had written the forward. I shall treasure the signatures I collected in this book and appreciate the kind gesture of the Club in making this presentation. I approached San Francisco CC and asked them if they would like to twin with Rottingdean Croquet Club and so exchange news and maybe visits etc. We both play in public parks and our problems and achievements would be interesting to compare. Rottingdean's Publicity Officer will be writing to San Francisco Club to propagate the arrangement.

Now John and I look forward very much to our host John Taylor staying with us at Rottingdean on a reciprocal holiday this coming year.

the game of croquet? From Santa Monica California came CB Smith, our host's perennial partner. He sported a very short mallet about a foot in length, but discarded it for the tournament, and used one hand to hold his mallet when making a hoop and making short shots.

We visited Meadowood Inn and Country Club in the wine valley of Napa. Meadowood is a beautiful place with about five-hundred members (they were all hidden from view when we were there!). Meadowood offers guests lodging, dining, golf, croquet and a golf/croquet shop, golf, tennis, swimming, walking trails and a wine school. The croquet courts here are designed and run by Damon Bidencope who is Resident Teaching Professional. Both John and I watched and helped our host John Taylor take a clinic (coaching lesson) and a tournament of students from the Union Pacific College. John Taylor frequently helps Damon in this heavenly place.

Our other croquet trip was to Sonoma-Cutrer, a winery in the Sonoma Valley, which has perfect lawns laid for international play. Brice Jones founded the vineyards

## Surbiton: 15-18 September 1988 LADIES FIELD CUP Bo beats Pattie in Play-Off

Report by Jerry Guest

After the rainy season the Ladies Field gathered at sunny Surbiton for four days' play for the cup won last year by Pattie Hague.

The selectors had decided on eight players this time, but had not left any clues as to how it might best be played. Fourteen games each seemed a bit optimistic, so it was left to Surbiton's management committee who also set the scene with lawn and hoop conditions appropriate to this prestigious event.

The aforesaid management committee believes that the game is far more interesting and a more true test of skill if the grass is short and the hoops tight and firm. With the dry conditions it did indeed turn out to be quite difficult, the four days being sufficient for

seven games had not the manager given leave to one player (for a funeral) which proved difficult to make up.

Although Surbiton's new clubhouse had been promised by the Contractors it was still far from complete, so facilities were still a little basic. The only available ladies' loo was outside the club and some fifty yards away towards the bowling club. Attempts to establish an impromptu alternative spot in the abundant natural vegetation were frustrated by a wasps' nest, but one could not blame the wasps - they were there first. However, compensation was provided by the glorious weather conditions and by the high standard of lunches provided by Hazel Kittermaster at her home.

Time limits were to be avoided if possible, and were for the first two days. Most games of this first half were fairly close, especially one second round game, crucial as it turned out, in which Bo Harris just got home +1 against Pattie Hague. Corla van Griethuysen, generally playing very positive croquet,

Ladies' Field Cup 1988	JA	PA-T	CB	CvG	PH	GDH	ETW	DW	Wins	Final Position
Mrs. J. Anderson		+5	+5T	-13	+3	-6	+3T	-5T	4	3=
Mrs P. Asa-Thomas	-5		-18	+1T	-15	-9	+10	+7	3	5=
Lady C. Bazley	-5T	+18		+4	-12	-14	+10	-8	3	5=
Dr. C. Van Griethuysen	+13	-1T	-4		-5	+12	+10	+17	4	3=
Mrs. P. Hague	-3	+15	+12	+5		-1	+6	+15	5	2
Mrs. G.D. Harris	+6	+9	+14	-12	+1		+7	-17	5	1
Mrs. E. Taylor-Webb	-3T	-10	-10	-10	-6	-7		+12	1	8
Mrs. D. Wheeler	+5T	-7	+8	-17	-15	+17	-12		3	5=

Play-Off for 1st place: Mrs Harris beat Mrs Hague +10.

## Southport: 9-11 September SELECTORS' WEEKEND Gregory Surge Too Late

Report by Tim Haste

This year saw the Selectors' Weekend move north for the first time from its traditional Harrow venue. With the unannounced absence of some of the expected competitors, the management took the opportunity to arrange proceedings in the unusual format of an 'all-play-all' Swiss event.

From the outset it was clear that Brian Hallam would be the man to beat, with some convincing wins in the early rounds, in particular against his nearest rivals Andrew Gregory and Don Gaunt, who were also showing good form. In the second round, David Appleton and Francis Landor produced an exciting finish, with David eventually triumphing by one point after both players had missed chances for peg-outs.

By the end of the sixth round Brian had consolidated his early lead, and it looked as though the concluding stages would turn into a formality. However local player Carol Lewis came to the rescue with a well-deserved +16 win, and in the next round Francis Landor

inflicted a second defeat on the leader, enabling Andrew Gregory to draw level with only the final round to play.

In his last game Brian needed to beat Carmen Bazley to win the event, and this he eventually did, although Carmen put up a spirited defence. Although Andrew Gregory finished strongly with a +25 win over Don Gaunt to stay level on games, under the tie-break rule his early -23 defeat against Brian was decisive. Francis Landor, with his fluent style, recaptured much of his old form in the closing stages of the event, to finish equal third with Don Gaunt, Robert Jones and David Appleton.

In concluding the event, Brian thanked the Southport Club for their hospitality in hosting the tournament, and Barry Keen congratulated the winner and runner-up on behalf of the CA.

### RESULTS

#### Winner:

B. Hallam (7 wins) beat Palmer +11, Jones +16, Gaunt +16, Gregory +23, Appleton +17, Storey +9, and Bazley +10.

#### Runner-Up:

A. Gregory (7 wins) beat Bazley +15, Lewis +2, Storey +20, Landor +8, Appleton +22, Palmer +7, Gaunt +23.



The Ladies who took part (L to R): (Back) Judy Anderson (Colworth), Bo Harris (Cheltenham), Pat Asa-Thomas (Winchester), Corla van Griethuysen (Glasgow). (Front) Carmen Bazley (Cheltenham), Dab Wheeler (Cheltenham), Pat Hague (Ellesmere), and Liz Taylor-Webb (Bowdon).

won some games by decisive margins but narrowly lost enough to keep her out of the running.

Liz Taylor-Webb often set out to create and make breaks, but this laudable attitude did not pay off until the last day. Also playing positively was Dab Wheeler, but with mixed results which included a +17 win against the eventual winner.

On the last day Pattie Hague and Bo Harris were each on five wins with Pattie needing to beat Judy Anderson to clinch the title for the second year running. In a close finish Pattie was laid up with a rush to rover, but Judy hit a longish lift shot with her remaining ball to win the game. So now there was a tie for first place but with Judy Anderson still in with a chance with a game and

a half still to play.

Judy resumed her pegged-down game against Dab Wheeler, whilst Bo Harris and Pattie Hague commenced a play-off. Dab won, then Corla and Judy played a last game restricted to a two-hour time limit which was completed in fine style by Corla in the last turn after time was called, +13. Meanwhile, Bo Harris had won the play-off against Pattie Hague +10 and thus won the Ladies Field. After a quick presentation everybody departed as darkness closed in at the end of a demanding four days' croquet.

### 5 wins:

D. Appleton beat Landor +1, Bazley +20, Palmer +2, Storey +3, Lewis +5. D. Gaunt beat Appleton +20, Storey +3, Jones +14, Palmer +2, Bazley +14. R. Jones beat Landor +19, Appleton +13, Gregory +2, Palmer +26, Lewis +12. F. Landor beat Lewis +17, Gaunt +6, Palmer +19, Hallam +9, Storey +2.

### 4 wins:

B. Storey beat Lewis +19, Palmer +3, Jones +25, Bazley +12.

### 2 wins:

Mrs C. Lewis beat Bazley +11, Hallam +16

L. Palmer beat Bazley +3, Lewis +14.

### 1 win:

Lady Bazley beat Landor +11.

## THE 1988 SPENCER ELL PLAYERS



Players in this year's Spencer Ell Cup: Back row (L to R) Alan Sutcliffe (Ellesmere), Russell Collighan (QEGS), Bill Lamb (East Riding), David Goacher (Bristol), and Jerry Guest (Surbiton); Front row Jeff Dawson (Woking), Debbie Cornelius (Colchester) and David Maugham (Bowdon).



## Edinburgh: 15-20 August On The Fringe

Report by Norman Hicks (Pendle)

The Edinburgh Tournament has several advantages, not least of which is the attractive setting in the grounds of Fettes College, with the added benefit of access to the swimming pool for those with time to spare between games. The tournament could also be classed as a fringe event in the Edinburgh International Festival, which takes place at the same time; and the Manager very kindly gives dispensations to those players wishing to attend Festival events.

The tournament this year broke several records. More competitors than ever before ventured over the border, coming from places as far flung as Ireland and the South of England. A wide spectrum of ages was represented, the youngest being Keith Coull (14) and the oldest Mrs Jean Morrison (89). To emphasise the unfailing attraction of croquet, the prizes were presented by Mr J C McCulloch, an active member of the Edinburgh club who during the week celebrated his 94th birthday. One less welcome record was provided by the weather, which was much wet-

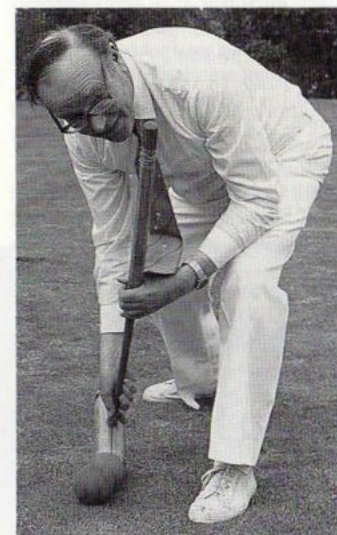
ter than usual. Players took to the lawns in wellingtons (or bare feet) and the courts were swept periodically to remove standing water. Fortunately the final day of the tournament provided a break from the showers, and the closing matches, though played on damp lawns, were unrestricted by water-proofs.

The tournament was admirably managed by Malcolm Smith, who with remarkable fortitude coped with the vagaries of the weather and succeeded in scheduling matches so that all rounds of the competition were completed on time. Prize-giving was scheduled for 6 o'clock on the final day and took place as planned, with only one game still in progress. Other aspects of the tournament were equally well organised and all helpers, particularly the catering ladies, are to be commended.

The tournament provided some exciting competition and for those players participating in their first event there was the opportunity to experience challenging and competitive croquet. Players were also

reminded of the hazards of being a referee: Rod Williams received a blow to the head and was presented with a crash helmet for future use.

Edinburgh provided excellent croquet and proved to be a memorable and friendly week. The Pendle contingent extend our thanks to all who took part and organised, and look forward to 1989 in the Festival City.



Fred Mann, winner of the 4-7½ handicap 'Y' event at Edinburgh, seen here at the opening of the new Croquet Club at Nivingston House and Restaurant, Cleish.

In the Open Event Rod Williams won all his matches, though closely run in one or two. The Unrestricted Handicap Singles saw a good finish between Hamish Hall of Bristol and Malcolm O'Connell, one of the Edinburgh Club's rapid improvers. Hamish quickly established a 3-ball break but failed to appreciate the slope at 4 and went off in attempting to pick up the fourth ball. Malcolm, receiving two bisques, took both balls through 1 before laying up in corner 2. The game proceeded nip and tuck for three hours so that all four clips were on 1-back. Then Hamish made too fine a cut-rush, leaving Malcolm able to establish a 4-ball break to take a ball to 4-back. Hamish, having put a pioneer at 2-back, laid up a rush to 1-back; alas, he had overlooked that Malcolm was also for 1-back and still had a bisque. Malcolm took it and carried on to peg. Hamish crashed into 1-back but moments later, with 5 minutes to go, ran the hoop. He proceeded to the South boundary to pick up Malcolm's balls and go to rover: with only 15 seconds to go he laid a final rush for his second ball. With time called, Malcolm was 4 ahead but showed his sportsmanship by firing at Hamish rather than cornering. However, the rush was not good enough and Malcolm won his first tournament trophy.

The final of the doubles was a titanic struggle of a few co-ordinated breaks but many gallant 'hits' and 'scoops'. Peter Thomson and Ralph Pirrie's judicious use of bisques forced Philip Simpson (playing with Dave Arnot) to spend most of the game in a variety of wired positions around 1-back but he compensated by hitting everything from everywhere. Ralph and Peter eventually won +10 after a nail-biting last hour.

In Event 3, the 8-11 Handicap Singles, the final was played in a good spirit, with Vincent George and Niall Smith both enjoying short breaks and laying up well. Vincent hoarded his bisques carefully but was finally forced to use both in quick succession to run his ball to rover. Despite the uneven surface of the lawn, both players had some good long roquets which kept the game alive and exciting. Vincent established a marginal lead early in the game but a late break by Niall almost brought him victory. As time was called, however, Vincent's lead remained and he won by 4.

After a slow start in the 12-18 final, Ray Ottley had a smart break to 1-back and 4 with young Keith Coull on 2 and 4. Later Keith broke away to 1-back and 5 but Ray moved on to peg and penultimate. Keith rallied brilliantly to get to rover and 1-back, but in the process peeled Ray through penult. Both had three stabs at rover but Ray finally slipped through and pegged out 9 ahead after many nail-biting interruptions from Keith.

The final of the singles for 4-7½ bisques was a marathon, and most of the other competitors had departed, probably expecting to see the final stages in 1989, before Richard Barnes finally triumphed +4 over Alastair Hunter well after 8pm.

### RESULTS

#### Open Singles

(All-play-all: 6 entries)  
Winner: R.A.W. Williams (5 wins).

#### Advanced Singles

(4-7½ bisques: 9 entries)  
Knockout Final: R. Barnes bt A.G.M. Hunter +6.

#### Handicap Singles

(8-11 bisques: 9 entries)  
Knockout Final: V. George bt N. Smith +4.

#### Handicap Singles

(Over 11 bisques: 13 entries)  
Knockout Final: R.F. Ottley bt K. Coull +9.

#### Handicap Doubles

(Over 5 bisques combined handicap: 18 pairs)  
Knockout Final: P.W. Thompson & R. Pirrie bt D. Arnot & P. Simpson +10.

#### Handicap Singles

(34 entries)

#### Semi-Finals

H. Hall (11) bt A. Brown (3½) +23; M. O'Connell (13) bt N. Smith (9) +7T.

#### Final

O'Connell bt Hall +4T.

## Southwick: 15-20 August International Flavour at Southwick

Report by Peter Howell

This has been a tournament to remember, not only for the quality of play and the organisation, both of which were of commendable standard, but also for the participation of a member from the Santa Clara Croquet Club in Jerez de la Frontera, Spain - Senor Fernando de Ansorena.

It was a great pleasure to welcome such a likeable and gregarious player to Southwick, the first Spaniard, as far as we know, to play in a CA Tournament in the UK. His knowledge of English was limited, as ours was of Spanish, but abilities increased and vocabularies widened each day as Fernando mixed good-humouredly with all those in attendance.

In 1981, Senor Enrique (Henry) de Bobadilla, the owner and founder of the Santa Clara Croquet Club, invited two experienced players, Richard Rothwell and Robin Godby, to visit Spain to give advice and coaching, and it was interesting for us to see the photographic record that Fernando had brought with him, particularly as Richard's brother George Rothwell was playing

in the tournament.

Since 1981 the Spanish players have had little chance of assessing their skills in a strong competitive way and this tournament provided a real opportunity for Fernando to compare his standard of play. In fact he did very well indeed by reaching the final of the 'Y' Open Singles Handicap and also the Mixed Doubles Handicap, in both cases losing by a very small margin.

His doubles partner was Carmen Bazley and her fluency in Spanish, while discussing tactics, gave flavour to the atmosphere for players and spectators alike. At the end of the week, Fernando's handicap was reduced from 8 to 6.



Senor Fernando de Ansorena with Pat Shine at Southwick.

## Parkstone: 29 Aug-3 Sept Strat Liddiard Shines

Report by Phil Dwerryhouse

The scene is the car park of the East Dorset Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club, a line of twenty six opulent gas guzzling limosines stand glittering in the early morning sunshine.

This can only mean one thing; the September Croquet Tournament is about to begin.

With no dramatic fluctuation in the number of entries, play commenced promptly at 9.45am on six well manicured lawns, all games being double banked throughout.

Thanks to British Rail's investment in line electrification and welded track, the sleek streamlined Inter City Specials now glide quietly by, causing no disruption to the concentration of the croquet players. Play proceeded to an exacting schedule for three days, without the slightest hitch or expression of discontent.

There was one leisurely singles match which, whilst not outstanding in the quality of play, produced an aura of distinguished elegance by the fragrance of cigar smoke drifting lazily across the sun-drenched lawn. Who else but the Treasurer of the CA could introduce such luxury into the game?

During the hours of darkness on the last day of August, Dorset was struck by gale force wind and torrential rain; although the worst was over by 9.30am on Sept 1st commencement of play was delayed on some lawns. This situation introduced a new feature; 'Starlight

Croquet'. In an attempt to make up for lost time, three 3 hr singles games started at 5.30pm. With lighting-up time at 7.30pm the games ended in complete darkness. One player faced with the problem of hitting the peg that was invisible at the distance of shot, received a number of light hearted pieces of advice, one of which was 'Why don't you take the peg out of the ground and hit the ball with it!'

By Friday morning everything was once more on schedule and all events proceeded smoothly.

Play was dominated in a number of events by the expertise of Terry Wood and Son. With the prospect of yet another junior member of this talented family coming into the game, an adult player was heard to remark 'Goodness! it will be years before we are out of the wood!'

Another outstanding performance came from Strat Liddiard; in only his second season of croquet he has achieved a steady reduction in handicap and at the end of the tournament he had won the Bishop Cup for the handicap singles and the Deshon Cup for the B level singles. Such a performance could not be overlooked by the Club Handicapper who promptly introduced a reduction from 5 to 4.

The final of the Y Doubles reached a critical stage when Dennis Shaw partnered by Alan Oldham needed only three points to win.

The cry went up 'Alan you're on'; Alan leapt to obey the command only to find his mallet was missing. A frantic search of the hut and immediate vicinity failed to produce this essential piece of equip-

ment. Carefully analysing his movements, Alan remembered he had taken it with him on a surreptitious visit to the pavilion, and after a quick jog there and back, he somewhat breathlessly took careful aim, ran rover, and pegged out.

Management of the tournament was masterminded by the super efficient duo of Dennis Moorcroft and Margaret McMordie. In her capacity of Chief Catering Officer Eunice Wilton, with a competent staff of helpers, upheld Parkstone's reputation for five star fare at two star prices.

The presentation ceremony was well attended; the Chairman of the Club Les Butler paid tribute to all members who had worked hard for the success of the tournament. The trophies were presented by Mrs John Exell in celebration of her birthday, but I will not disclose which one.

### RESULTS

**Bournemouth Bowl**  
(3 blocks of 4; advanced play)

**Block winners:**  
L.S. Butler, T.I. Wood, R.F. Bailey.

**Play-Off:**  
Final: T.I. Wood bt R.F. Bailey.

**Deshon Cup**  
(2 blocks of 5; advanced play)

**Block winners:**  
Dr G.S. Liddiard, D.M. Wood.

**Play-Off:**  
Final: Liddiard bt Wood +6.

**Halse Salver**  
(Swiss Handicap: 9 entries)  
Winner: Mrs D.H. Moorcraft (10) (4 wins).

**Handicap Singles**  
(30 entries)

Our very best wishes go to all at Santa Clara and we hope to welcome Fernando and other club members to Southwick in 1989.

### RESULTS

#### Event 1

(American Blocks)  
**Abbey Challenge Cup**  
Winner: A. Symons. Runner-Up: R.A.G. Rogers.

#### Scott Cup

Winner: I.P.M. Macdonald.  
Runner-Up Mrs G. McDiarmid.

#### Daldy Cup

Winner: A.J. Oldham. Runner-Up: Mrs D. Miller.

#### Monteith Bowl

Winner: M. Cooperman. Runner-Up: Mrs B. Lemetis.

#### Event 2

(Mens Handicap Singles)

**Douglas Jones Cup**  
Winner: R.A.G. Rogers. Runner-Up: B.G.F. Weitz.

#### Event 3

(Womens Handicap Singles)

Winner: Mrs G. McDiarmid. Runner-Up: C. Smith.

#### Event 4

(Mixed Doubles)

**Howard Austin Cup**

Winners: Miss P. Shine & B.G.F. Weitz. Runners-Up: Lady Bazley & F. de Ansorena.

### Semi-Finals

W. Broad-Thomas (2½) bt F.L. Shergold (1) +24; Dr G.S. Liddiard (5) bt D.W. Shaw (2½) +17.

### Final

Liddiard bt Broad-Thomas +13.

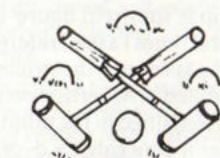
### Handicap Doubles

(Knockout: 14 pairs)

### Final

T.I. & D.M. Wood (7½) bt Mr & Mrs D.H. Moorcraft +13.

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## Ban The Heavy Roller

By Eric Solomon

Those with Croquet aspirations usually go through a phase of stroke research and development. Is it possible to produce swerves, bouncers, ninety two degree splits, and so on?

One stroke interested me particularly mainly because it seemed feasible. This was the giant pass roll. In such a stroke the striker's ball, moving in the same general direction as the croqueted ball, travels a great deal further than the latter. How large a ratio of distances can be achieved? Armed with such a stroke one could surely expect to win the Opens and the President's Cup, to say nothing of the Phyllis Court Open Weekend!

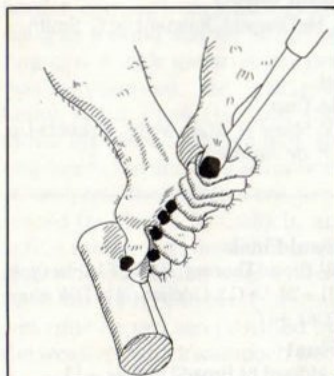


Fig 1. Grip for the 'Quasimodo roll'.

I reasoned that since the standard roll stroke required one hand to be lowered down the shaft of the mallet - in effect to add weight to the head - lowering two hands might produce more startling results. It does, and in view of the inelegant legs-apart posture demanded for its execution I named this stroke the 'Quasimodo roll'. The grip is shown in figure 1.

Several times I asked referees to judge the fairness of the stroke, and none faulted it. Nevertheless some doubts remained in my mind as to whether it concealed a degree of 'push'. Now law 32 does not outlaw prolonged contact between mallet and striker's ball after the two balls have parted provided that such contact is not 'appreciable'. In other words 'push' is alright provided it cannot be observed! But one might fail to 'appreciate' a push whilst the stroke is being made, and then 'appreciate' it very clearly when the unbelievable results of the stroke become evident.

In this article I shall propose that pass rolls which cause the striker's ball to travel more than twice the distance of the croqueted ball must have incorporated an 'appreciable' degree of push. The Quasimodo can produce roll ratios of two to one quite easily and so should be used with caution.

Let us apply the simple Newton-

ian laws of motion to determine what happens to the balls in a pass roll stroke. We use the following notation:-

- m - mass of a croquet ball
- r - radius of croquet ball
- I - moment of inertia of ball about a diameter
- g - acceleration due to gravity
- $\mu$  - a coefficient of sliding friction (unknown)
- x - distance travelled horizontally
- $\theta$  - rotation angle
- t - time
- S - time at which full rolling commences
- T - time at which a ball comes to rest

We use the dot notation derivatives with respect to time. Thus,  $\dot{x}(t)$  is the velocity of a ball at time t,  $\dot{\theta}(t)$  is the angular velocity of a ball at time t. Under this notation accelerations employ two dots. Thus the acceleration of a ball at time t is denoted  $\ddot{x}(t)$ .

Consider first a single ball with initial velocities  $\dot{x}(0)$  and  $\dot{\theta}(0)$ , the angle being measured in an anti-clockwise sense. The vertical forces acting on the ball are its weight mg and a reaction -mg. These balance at all times and may be ignored for the present purposes. The horizontal forces are those due to friction, wind resistance, and flexural reaction from the grass.

Sliding friction creates a force only when sliding is present and is generally treated as independent of velocity. When there is sliding its magnitude is  $\mu mg$ . Air resistance and lawn resistance are unknown but it is reasonable to assume they are constant on the basis that the energy lost by the ball is proportional to the amount of grass bent and air moved in unit time. Such a constant force will give rise to a constant (negative) acceleration for a fully rolling ball and this has been confirmed by experiments conducted at Harrow. When sliding friction is present we neglect the small constant force from other sources of resistance.

We want to find an expression for the time S at which the frictional force 'damps out' all sliding. When fully rolling the point in contact with the lawn has zero velocity. Thus:

$$\dot{x}(t) + r\dot{\theta}(t) = 0$$

when  $t \geq S$ . We can treat the point of contact as an 'object' in its own right having a velocity equal to the expression on the left, and an acceleration obtained by taking the time derivative. Thus the acceleration of the point of contact, at any time t is:

$$\ddot{x}(t) + r\ddot{\theta}(t)$$

However, from the basic force/

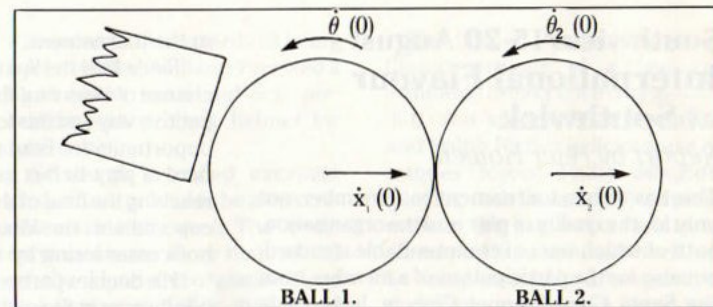


Fig 2. Roll stroke at time  $t=0$ .

acceleration relationships we know:-

$$m\ddot{x}(t) = -\mu mg$$

and

$$I\ddot{\theta}(t) = -\mu mgr$$

For a sphere the moment of inertia I is given by:-

$$I = 2mr^2/5$$

Performing the substitutions we find that the acceleration of the point of contact is given by  $-7\mu g/2$ . Hence the time at which full rolling starts is given by:-

$$S = 2(\dot{x}(0) + r\dot{\theta}(0))/7\mu g$$

The trouble with this relation is that we do not have a clue what value  $\mu$  takes. However, if we proceed to calculate the velocity of the ball at the moment full rolling starts - from the definition of acceleration - we find that  $\mu$  cancels out. In fact we obtain:-

$$\dot{x}(S) = 5\dot{x}(0)/7 - 2r\dot{\theta}(0)/7$$

In words this says that the velocity of the ball at the onset of full rolling is five sevenths of the initial velocity minus two sevenths of the initial velocity of a point on the exterior of the ball measured relative to the ball's centre of gravity.

Consider the simple case of a ball struck horizontally. The ball is not 'held' against the lawn by striking downwards as for a roll stroke and therefore there is zero initial angular velocity. Hence the velocity of the ball when all sliding ceases is simply five sevenths of its initial velocity independent of the type of surface over which the ball travels, and independent of how hard it was struck!

Now we are ready to think about the pass roll. Figure 2 shows two balls labelled 1 and 2. Ball 1 is the striker's ball and the figure represents the moment when the mallet has parted from it but, as there is no 'push', balls 1 and 2 are still in effective contact. Denoting which quantities relate to which balls by subscripts we obviously have:-

$$\dot{x}_1(0) \leq \dot{x}_2(0)$$

for otherwise ball 1 would have to penetrate ball 2. As we are interested in maximal pass rolls let us assume that the velocity of ball 1 is as high as allowed - namely equal to that of ball 2. To achieve such a maximal pass roll we want ball 1 to be fully rolling as early as possible.

If it is fully rolling at time zero we have:-

$$\dot{\theta}_1(0) = -\dot{x}_1(0)/r$$

Note that with an ordinary mallet there is no way to impart a higher angular velocity than that necessary for full rolling. The story might be different if one was allowed to employ bevel shots and rubber-faced mallets. Perish the thought!

Now what about ball 2? Here we have a genuinely unknown factor. To what extent does the fully rolling ball 1 impart backspin to ball 2? My feeling is that there is very little 'cog-wheel' effect so that  $\dot{\theta}_2(0)$  is effectively zero. Let us proceed on this assumption.

In a short time compared to the total time during which balls are moving ball 2 will attain the state of full rolling with, as we have seen, a velocity equal to five sevenths of its initial velocity. How far do the balls travel? We do not know the actual deceleration (negative acceleration) caused by forms of resistance other than sliding friction so we cannot calculate this. However, both balls suffer the same deceleration so we can calculate the ratio of the distances. Each of the two balls yields one equation:-

$$0 = \dot{x}_1(0) + 2kx_1(T)$$

$$0 = \dot{x}_2(0) + 2kx_2(T)$$

where k is the unknown acceleration. Since we ignore the time and distance during which ball 2 slides in the context of the full travel of the ball we can say:-

$$\dot{x}_1(0) = 5\dot{x}_2(0)/7$$

Substituting and dividing the ball 1 equation by the ball 2 equation we obtain the ratio of the distances travelled as:-

$$x_1(T)/x_2(T) = 49/25$$

which is approximately 2.

On the basis of the foregoing I would argue that pass rolls which achieve a ratio greater than two to one be regarded with the utmost suspicion. The question of whether a cog-wheel effect is capable of reducing the distance travelled by the croqueted ball must wait for the evidence of high speed photography, as must other questions such as the author's contention that all split croquet strokes are double or multiple taps. Material for another article perhaps.

## STRAIGHT RUSH

By Dorothy Rush

As the 1988 croquet season was drawing to a close in England, enthusiasts of the game in the States were mourning the death of a very ordinary player whose contribution to the sport he loved was that of poet and scholar. C.O. Jones, Professor of Oriental Studies at Golden West College in California, never completed a triple peel in serious competition but his sure touch with a croquet image brought to croquet writing a new and much needed status. He set the standards for lesser writers like D. Rush, who might not match his word power but might at least strive to do honour to the game.

Cellan Owen Jones was born in Pennsylvania at the turn of the century, the seventh - and last - child of an immigrant Welsh miner. He always referred to himself as 'an afterthought', for he was twelve years younger than his nearest sibling. Cellan's father, Rhys Jones, had left Rhyd-y-felin in 1871, hoping to find fortune in the New World but finding instead another seam of coal to cut. Rhys vowed his sons would never go down the mine, a vow which he kept spectacularly, for three of his children became university professors, two

were dollar millionaires, one achieved high rank in government service and one - the youngest girl - became a star of the silver - and silent - screen.

Of the three professors, Cellan was the most notable, serving his country not only as an academic but also as an adviser to Presidents Roosevelt and Truman and a succession of governors of California, where he made his home for fifty years. Here he played his croquet as a long-time member of the Santa Barbara club. Here he wrote the stories which appeared regularly in magazines from 'Atlantic Monthly', through 'The Kansas Quarterly' to 'Playboy'. The anthologist Martha Foley said that his tales were 'an indispensable part of any collection'.

Little known in Great Britain, C.O. Jones' poems reflected not only his passion for croquet but also his deep involvement with the ancient cultures of the East and his conversion in middle age to Islam. The influence of such as Ibn Hazam is seen clearly in the brief 'Celestial Croqueteer':

*The yellow ball of the sun is  
through the hoop of night;  
The world's turn renews;*

## OBITUARY: W.A. Scarr

The death of Bill Scarr, aged 86, will have greatly saddened those who remember his pioneer work for Bath Croquet Club in the mid-70s.

The club had been soundly established by Joyce Brash-Smith, but the initial intake knew little of Association Croquet; indeed experienced players were then rather thin on the ground throughout Avon and Somerset.

In this context, Bath were lucky to have Bill Scarr, willing to commute regularly from Weston-super-Mare and galvanise the fledgling club with an infectious enthusiasm that would have been impressive in a man half his age.

Bill served the club well as Chairman, but probably made his greatest impact as an inspiring coach - so much so that he was able to lead Bath to the Longman Final at the first attempt. The writer recalls many palpitating doubles, in which only the steadier nerve of his septuagenarian partner secured yet another +1 O.T.

In his prime, Bill Scarr was a neat and effective player, adept at building breaks with well-timed splits - a touch player who cheerfully endured Bath's sluggish lawns. He was a master of the Ross Cut, a

stroke much admired but seldom emulated by his team mates. He took up croquet somewhat late in the course of a very full life, otherwise he would surely have achieved a lower handicap than 6.

Bill and his wife Sheila were popular figures (and a much-feared doubles team) at many tournaments, especially on the South Coast circuit. They began their croquet careers at Bristol where, in 1974-75, they laid the foundations for the spectacular transformation later achieved by John McCullough and others. When Sheila was ordained and became a minister of the United Reform Church at Seaton, they joined the Sidmouth Club, where they played regularly for three seasons. Bill, in spite of his advancing years, steadfastly resisted a handicap increase and was still able to provide strong opposition to younger players by his controlled stroke play and wily tactical manoeuvres. He will be sadly missed at many croquet clubs, but those who were privileged to play with him at Bath will remember Bill Scarr as a crucial figure in the revival of croquet in the West.

S.J.G.

*The break goes on.*

*The mallet of Allah swings firm and straight.*

*His touch is sure.*

*He has a straight rush towards the hoop of tomorrow,*

*Over the unblemished lawn of today.*

The last verses of C.O. Jones were published in October 1987 under the general title of 'Autumn Leaves'. Publication was marked by a small reunion of his croquet-playing friends at his home in Huntington Beach. I had the good fortune to be there and to hear him recite, in his harsh Yankee tones, the poem which must be his epitaph:

*Breaking Down.*

*My turn is ending:*

*Now I must prepare to quit the court.*

*I have but a few strokes left*

*With which to construct my leave.*

*Give me the luck. Oh Lord,*

*For I think I have the wit and courage still,*

*To make a bold leave*

*That may confound my adversary death.*

*And let me one more time upon the lawn*

*To make one final all-round break.*

Even at the end he saw life as a game of croquet. And what, you ask, has all this to do with 'Straight Rush'? It's not the Obituary Column, after all, so what message have you got for us this time?

Well, it's not so much a message, more a plea, a cri de coeur: where are the croquet writers of our country, of today? With all the brainpower displayed upon the lawns of England, one might expect something more literary than the puny efforts seen so far in the tournament reports and so-called short stories of our 'Croquet' magazine. Messrs. Bucknall, Dorke, Holland, Sisson and yours-ever-so-truly have had a go - give credit where due - but thus far their contributions have hardly reached a standard suitable for inclusion in your average school magazine. Still, they have tried, so let's not have a go at them.

It's the rest of you I'm complaining about: is there no-one out there who can turn out a first-class story or poem with a croquet theme or background? Must the art shrivel and die with C.O. Jones? Will no-one seize the torch before it splutters out?

Perhaps Chris Hudson could draw you out by offering a more substantial prize next year. Or by paying fees for contributions. What about it, Mr. Editor?!

## SHOT 'N PIC



*They're just like children. Why couldn't he have gone before the game started? (Cartoon by Jack Shotton).*

## WHITE CA WEATHERSUITS

Sport & Country's white weathersuits are now available, complete with CA logo. They are made from Dartex Sport laminated polyurethane fabric manufactured by Courtaulds.

This is ideal material for a garment that needs to be comfortable, practical and 100% waterproof. All seams are stitched and welded.

The suits are vapour permeable, to minimise condensation. Ultra lightweight, strong and supple in all weathers. Pleasant and soft to handle.

The fabric is treated with Actifresh to prevent unpleasant odours or deterioration of the garment even after years of use.

The garments are not UNISEX but are individually tailored to fit both the gents or ladies shape. They can be handwashed and wiped clean. Jackets have a detachable hood, with semi-elasticated wristbands for ease of movement.

Order from Chris Hudson, The Oaklands, Englesea Brook, Nr. Crewe, Cheshire, CW2 5QW, enclosing details of size required. For gents, chest, waist and inside leg measurements. For ladies, bust, waist and outside leg measurements (waist to end of trouser), or if preferred, a wrap-round skirt is available in two lengths, 25" or 27".

Please enclose cheque with order, made out to 'The Croquet Association'. Price (jacket with trousers/skirt) £39.50 (CA members), £46.00 (non-members).



## Event Round-Up

### REPRESENTATIVE MATCH CA v. IRISH CA Irish Sea A1

Report by David Appleton

In August this year, near the town of Dun Laoghaire, in a couple of days that were friendly and cheery, the CA just lost to a strong Irish side with young Simon Williams their joy and their pride. Though the singles were halved on a rather wet Monday the Irish had led in the doubles on Sunday. The critical point was when Williams and Brown won +1 on time to do Bell and Hague down. So it's 'well done' to Adrian, Simon and Fred who left Pattie and Eddie and Francis for dead, and it's 'well done' to Terence

and Miles and Gerrard who made David and Peter and Ian fight hard. In the 20 games played only one triple peel (by Simon of course) might incline one to feel that, though standards were never depressingly poor, the matches were sometimes a tiny bit dour. Your reporter had been there for several days and had got to know some of the lawns' little ways, but the Irish alone understand Carrickmines; their take-offs inside the boundary lines. There's one final thing I must do in this rhyme, and that's thank everyone for a wonderful time. If you've been there yourself you'll appreciate why I look forward to playing the CA of I.



The Irish team that won the 1988 Home Internationals at Budleigh Salterton. L to R (back) Simon Williams and Colin Irwin; (front) John McCullough, Fred Rogerson and Gerard Healy.

### Woking: 24-25 September SHORT CROQUET Computer & Chivalry at Woking

Report by Sally Watson

Thirty-two eyes were glued to the screen in anticipation. The tension mounted, the machine was switched on, and Geoff Cuttle unveiled for the first time his top secret computer programme. The first Woking all-computerized Swiss Tournament had begun.

The programme not only worked out the pairings for each round but guaranteed good weather, excellent company and plenty of laughs!

Despite the high technology, the players struggled to cope with the intricacies of the rules of Short Croquet. In his first game Derek Caporn, the manager, thought he had all but beaten Paul Watson, when he pegged out his forward ball when his other ball was for Rover, forgetting it was a handicap game. Later William Dennison took great care cross-pegging his opponent only to concede a lift.

The special cross-wiring laws of Short Croquet kept the referees

busy. It appears that if a player jams in a hoop he will get a lift if the opponent then uses either of his balls. Also, one can deliberately contrive to get a lift by playing one ball into a wired position when the opponent is responsible for the position of the other ball.

Despite all of this it was refreshing to find that even in the heart of Surrey the age of chivalry is not dead. After a heavy downpour a lady competitor was in a dilemma about whether to adopt her traditional horizontal peg-out position when to the rescue came 'Sir' Ian McDiarmid laying down his coat to assist the Peg-out. (Did he know who was writing the report?)

The Tournament proved to be a relaxing and enjoyable end to the season with Roger Hayes winning the overall event. With six singles and three doubles in the two days this event certainly provided plenty of play. Be sure to book early next year!

### Bath: 3-4 September ALL ENGLAND AREA FINAL Chris Williams wins at Bath

On a chill September morn, Bath greeted a new breed of tourist, fifteen of them, without cameras but with mallets, all set to fight it out for a certain coveted shield.

Geographical spread was Budleigh to Cardiff, handicap spread 2½ to 14, and, with only three full-sized lawns, some felt hostilities might spread over the whole weekend.

Not so. The draw produced many bisques, which usually accelerate matters, and six of the seven first-round games finished inside time. In the seventh, play was prolonged by Janet Butler's ill-advised advance to the peg, allowing Frances Ransom to peg out the enemy Rover and snatch the game +3 OT against ten bisques.

But Chris Williams, the eventual winner, was fast carving his way through the top half, reaching the final with three good wins by Saturday sundown (and earning himself a late start on Sunday while the bottom half caught up with him). Chris bore an astonishing resemblance to one of the same name who opposed Bath last year in the SW

Federation (minimum handicap 16).

The final saw Chris receiving 5½ bisques from Peter Darby. Peter had disposed of Bath's only representative, Maurice Boardman, in the classic match of the tournament, featuring superbly-controlled long breaks from both players. The final was something else. Chris went about his work so fast and efficiently that your diletary correspondent saw only the last rites, when Peter hit the last shot and, in a couple of gallant efforts to pick up three-ball breaks, managed to cut the margin to -19. Usually reliable sources state that Chris's break-building and execution were just as impeccable as in his earlier games.

It was good to see someone from a newish club doing so well and no surprise that his handicap was reduced to 7 by Margaret Langley, who also managed the tournament with her customary unobtrusive efficiency. No surprise, either, to see the refreshments side so well handled by Yvonne Arnold - locals and previous visitors had expected nothing less.

### Milton Keynes: 14-16 October INDOOR CROQUET North East Win National Title

Report by Chris Hudson

The indoor carpet had its first outing this winter when it went to Stantonbury Leisure Centre at Milton Keynes. The weekend was organised by Kevin Wells of the Ancell Trust Club, and financed by the Milton Keynes Development Corporation.

Saturday was devoted to a club competition and a public 'Come & try it' session. Sunday morning's 'Come & try it session' was followed by the National Indoor Final between teams from the North East and the Southern Region who had won their blocks during the previous winter.

It turned out to be a very close match. In the first doubles game, (Scott & Sanders for the North East against Ruscombe-King & Drazin for the South), Ted Scott played the third turn, made a long hit in of 14yds, played a perfect take-off across the carpet to get a rush on hoop 1, and made the hoop. It looked as though the game would soon be over, but 20 minutes later all four players had only got as far as hoop 2. David Ruscombe-King made a break from hoop 2 to hoop 5, but then missed a short roquet. This however was enough to clinch

the game for the South, who ran out winners by 8 points to 5 on time.

In the second doubles, Cordingley went round to penultimate in a well-constructed break, after which John Davis replied by going round to the peg. Towards the end, Bill Lamb looked set to go all round and finish the game, but he failed to get a good position and stuck in rover.

Ted Scott made an all-round break in his singles against David Ruscombe-King and ran out the winner +4. David Drazin brought the game score level again by beating Walter Sanders +1 on time, having got one ball round to the peg within half an hour. Walter, one behind, tried a peel at hoop 3, but failed to get the front ball through. His cannon on the second stroke failed to move the ball through the hoop.

So we came to the final round; the last two singles (Cordingley against Davis and Hilditch against Lamb). Bill soon despatched Richard +17, but the other game was a most exciting affair. Phil went round with Blue. John then got a break going but hit 1-back on a

### Hurlingham: July OXFORD V CAMBRIDGE Cambridge Honour Restored

Report by Jonathan Collis

A series of traditions is a quality often associated in the public mind with Oxford and Cambridge, though hitherto journalists, historians and the like have contented themselves with examining the academic, intellectual, or ridiculous continuities and changes of the two Universities. The Croquet Varsity Match has as yet escaped all but the Daily Telegraph's eye.

For the first time ever one of the sides was captained by a woman (Cambridge) and for the first time for some years the match was a cliff-hanger all the way through, even down to the last match. A tradition was, in its own small way, furthered by the return of Richard Hilditch to act as referee for the match.

Once the tardy half of the Cambridge side had arrived, the match began on Hurlingham's fine lawns at a very civilised mid-morning hour, the sky auguring the hot sunshine that was to scald unprotected knees later on in the day. Fiona McCoig, the Cambridge cap-

tain, lost to David Orchard -21 in storming style in about an hour, followed not too long afterwards by the defeat of Cambridge's No 3, Jonathan Collis to Michael Ainley-Walker -12.

The time seemed ripe for another Oxford Whitewash, but up on courts 5 and 6 hard battles were being fought, while meanwhile Cambridge's No 4, Mike Bithell, previously speculatively handicapped at 10, completed a triple peel; it is perhaps fortunate that the Varsity Match is played level advanced and the scope for guile and cunning both of which are honed to a fine edge by the examination season, is greatly reduced.

On the lower lawns the games ended with the same scores (+5), but to different parties: Mike Wormald, had worked up a useful lead, but in a superb flurry of break-making James completed a triple peel to win by 6.

While the Oxford team sloped off with Richard Hilditch to an elusive catering enterprise, the rather more extravagant Cambridge side, with their Colcestrian supporters, invested in the Hurlingham cuisine. When play resumed, after the

### Obituary 'THE PROF'

Professor Kenneth Campbell who died on October 22, 1988, came late to croquet at the Hunstanton Croquet Club, some years after retirement. His knowledge of the game derived from the 1920's, but he soon got to grips with the modern game, albeit exhibiting a penchant for tactics which were peculiarly his own. The tice laid some 8 yards out of corner 3, but put there by a long shot taken from A baulk, to test the speed of the lawn. His pride and joy, however, was his skill at peeling his partner ball through as many hoops as possible in the course of the game. The opponent's balls were merely the props for this display of peeling virtuosity. In one game at Roehampton in the early 1980's he completed 9 peels of his partner ball, cheered on by a vociferous

### RESULTS

#### Doubles

D. Ruscombe-King & D. Drazin (18) bt E.E. Scott & W. Sanders (17) +3(T).  
P. Cordingley & R.J. Hilditch lost to W.E. Lamb & J. Davis -9(T).

#### Singles

D. Ruscombe-King lost to E.E. Scott -4(T).  
D. Drazin bt W. Sanders +1(T).  
P. Cordingley bt J. Davis +1(T).  
R.J. Hilditch lost to W.E. Lamb -17.

## Event Round-Up

strategically late arrival by the Oxford team, and after some strategic pairing and ordering of the doubles, the atmosphere was rather tenuous than in previous years, when the doubles were irrelevant to the outcome of the match.

The two quickest Cambridge losers in the morning, the Colcestrians Collis and McCoig, lost speedily as partners in the afternoon, falling victim -15 to Orchard and Colthurst. However the pressure and the sight of a somewhat on edge captain failed to upset the pairing of Magee and Sutcliffe, who reproduced their Cambridge Cup cups success by defeating Heyes and Ainley-Walker by the same margin.

Thus all hung on the final doubles on No 1 lawn, between Carlisle & Bithell and Wormald & Williams. A strong Oxford lead had the spectators (or at least the Cambridge-biased ones) fearful, but the Carlisle chain-smoking pulled an all-round break out of the hat and some very careful play by Bithell wrapped the match up, albeit only after some nerve-wrackingly close shaves, by 2.

A new generation of Cambridge players had retrieved the title by the closest of margins, after a run of defeats by the gentlemen of Oxford under their captain Ian Plummer. All those involved are most grateful to the Hurlingham Club for the use of their facilities, to Richard Hilditch not only for his time and expertise but also for being an entertaining and visible link with the past, and to Frank Cooper for their sponsorship of the event.

gallery of Cambridge under-grads. Kenneth always maintained that such a feat should receive recognition as a triple triple.

He was a quiet, serious man with a pawky sense of humour and a great lover for the game of croquet. He was always generous in his appreciation of an opponent's game.

Unfortunately, as his health declined, he became a spectator rather than a participant, and latterly, he was to be seen sitting in a shelter beside the lawns during our tournaments, keenly following the fluctuating fortunes of each player. He enjoyed the tactical discussions which followed the game, and are so much a part of the social fabric of the croquet scene.

He will be sadly missed by all those players who were privileged to know him.

R.A.G.

## Menton Cup

### A Gift to the CA

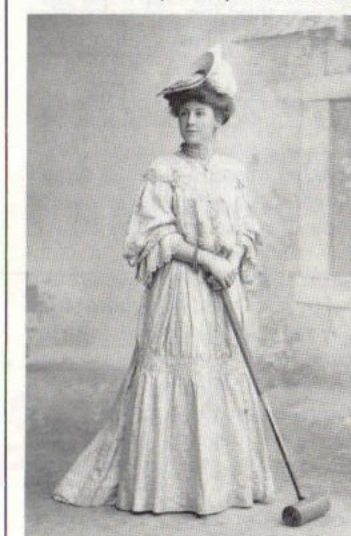
Mr J. Britcher has recently generously donated to the CA some cups and medals that he was left by Miss Ruth Weightman.

They are the 1912 Menton Rose Bowl, the 1913 Ranelagh Club Championship Cup, two 1913 Ranelagh Doubles Cups, and the 1914 Ranelagh Handicap Singles Cup, together with two Croquet Association Silver Medals, dated 1913 and 1919.

Also with the cups and medals were some old photographs of Miss Weightman, one of which is shown here, together with a photo of the Cups themselves.

The late Colonel Prichard's 'History of Croquet' contains a relevant paragraph:

*One of the more pettifoggish economies actually adopted was the suspension for a year or two of the medals presented by the CA for tournaments in the South of France. Ever since 1903 the Championship of the Riviera*



Miss Ruth Weightman.

had been held at Menton and from about 1910 tournaments had been held at Cannes, Costobelle, Hyeres and even at Pau. Wintering on the Riviera, combined with croquet, became the established habit of many croquet players. Habitués included the Beatons, JA McMordie, Col CE Wilson, Lt-Col Du Pre, Cyril Corbally, Duff Matheus, CF Barry, Miss Weightman, Mrs AE Madge and many other first class players including CL O'Callaghan when he could spare the time off hunting. It was a little England beyond the seas, there being no question of any foreigners being admitted to their closed circle. The same people staying at the same hotels every year were insulated from 'the lesser breeds without the law'.



Miss Weightman's Cups.



## Invitation Events

### Budleigh: 5-9 September THE 1988 SPENCER ELL CUP Debbie Cornelius Shows How

Report by Bill Lamb

#### Monday

The sun was shining brightly as the players, a mixture of age and experience with youth and promise, assembled to find a local member determinedly packing the hoops with layer after layer of corrugated cardboard in an attempt to tighten them from normal Budleigh standard to something approaching that required for an invitation eight. A Tournament Referee was selected from those available and was very politely told that we would be very late in starting if we wanted them any tighter.

The schedule was beautifully laid out, first round 10am, second 12 noon, third 2pm, so we departed to the various lawns full of hope and expectation. As might have been expected, the first day produced some tense as well as tidy play. In the first round David Goacher missed a one-foot roquet allowing Alan Sutcliffe to scrape home. In the second Russell Collighan stuck penult when in command against David Goacher and lost by six. David Maugham stuck in-rover from a few inches with the game at his mercy against Alan Sutcliffe with Alan way back; Alan doggedly fought back and won by two after pegging out one of David's balls. The tidy play came mainly from Jeff Dawson and Debbie Cornelius: Jeff had a clinical +26 against Jerry Guest in the first round and followed this with a +26TP against Bill Lamb in the second; Debbie hit the long shot after Jerry Guest laid up for a 1-back leave and went on to complete a nicely controlled triple, prompting some sexist speculation as to when was the last occasion that a woman had a triple in an eight.

In spite of the excellent lunches and teas and the well-stocked bar, the schedule was completed by 5 o'clock, leading to some speculation about slipping in an extra round one day and leaving early on Friday. There was also some concern that the conditions were too easy with smooth easy-paced lawns and seemingly generous hoops.

Bill Lamb and Alan Sutcliffe had discovered the Salterton Arms the previous evening, where good pub grub was served at a very reasonable price and this became the customary evening watering hole. Three wins on the first day had left Alan bubbling over with enthusiasm, Debbie radiantly happy and

Jeff quietly satisfied; the rest of us were quietly licking our wounds and hoping for better things to follow.

Cornelius 3, Dawson 3, Sutcliffe 3, Collighan 1, Goacher 1, Lamb 1, Guest 0, Maugham 0.



Russell Collighan - failed to reach a 12-inch roquet, but recovered with a fluent triple.

#### Tuesday

With another fine day forecast nobody was dismayed by the early mist and heavy dew but, alas, the forecast failed to materialise and the lawns remained wet all day. However, the mutterings of the previous day about hoop settings had obviously been taken to heart, for Peter Danks had reset the hoops with some glee, to such effect that ROT's hoop gauge would scarcely enter the hoop, let alone reach President's Cup standard.

In the morning round Russell Collighan seemed about to beat Debbie Cornelius, needing only a cut rush to somewhere near the peg after running rover but the cut failed to materialise and an attempted split peg-out left a sweaty seven yard shot at Debbie's joined up balls. This he hit without apparent concern and pegged out one ball. However Debbie hit the 'last shot' and went on to win by one.

Jeff Dawson playing against Alan Sutcliffe had his first tournament STP, a feat which was repeated by Debbie Cornelius in the next round against the same opponent. Bill Lamb was tempted to go for the hat-trick of STP's against Alan but

the 4-back peel was too angled and he rejected the opportunity; perhaps he should have tried, for Alan came back to win after Bill, for 4-back, inadvertently ran penult from 3rd corner when shooting at Alan's joined-up balls by penult, leaving an easy break.

So once more to the Salterton Arms, where David Maugham displayed an awesome capacity for the local cider.

Cornelius 6, Dawson 6, Sutcliffe 4, Goacher 3, Collighan 2, Guest 1,



David Maugham - an awesome capacity for the local cider, and his first tournament triple.

Lamb 1, Maugham 1.

#### Wednesday

The previous day's mist had disappeared but the wet lawns had had their effect on Bill Lamb's mallet; the bottom three laminations had split off on one side as far as the shaft. Bill rapidly bound it with insulation tape only to have a local vandal pick it up and smack it against another mallet with a resounding thwack.

As 10 o'clock approached, we suddenly realised that there were only seven of us; David Maugham was missing. David Goacher went to rouse him from his nearby tent with some trepidation. A half-awake Maugham hit his own tice but clanged hoop 1. Nevertheless he took a big lead before being pegged-out by Goacher and lost by 3. He promptly retired to the bar and discovered a liking for the generous double Martinis.

Jerry Guest became the only victim of an over-tight hoop when his black became wedged in hoop 3.

As luck would have it, the two leaders were playing each other in the morning round to complete the first series. This battle ebbed and

fro before Debbie emerged on top to win by 6.

Jeff put this defeat behind him very quickly in the next round when he completed a delayed triple against Jerry after his speculative shot at his own ball in the jaws of 4-back from the far side of 2 had hit the wire, bounced away and spun round to nudge the target gently.

Meanwhile, David Maugham quickly took a ball to 4-back but Russell Collighan hit the lift and completed a smooth TPO. Perhaps misled by David's unsteady gait he also pegged out his own ball to leave a one-ball game from 1 and 1. David swiftly downed his fifth double Martini, hit everything and converted Russell's TPO to an OTP (opponent totally plastered) winning by 6!

David Goacher, for peg and 4-back against Alan Sutcliffe's 2 and 4-back, took off across the lawn with his rover and hit the peg. At first he seemed quite unconcerned; the realisation that he had pegged himself out took some time to dawn. Alan eventually struggled round to peg with his backward ball and, unaware at the time that he was no longer conceding a lift under Law 36, left his balls in corners 2 and 4 with David's ball by the peg. David took position at 4-back, Alan joined up in corner 4. David ran 4-back, hit in and finished. Is there perhaps a case for the 'eights' to be restricted to the best available players who know the laws?

Russell Collighan, going for a 1-back leave against Bill Lamb, failed to reach a 12-inch roquet, but nevertheless recovered with a fluent triple.

Alan Sutcliffe, going through a bad patch and bemoaning the loss of his swing on lawn 1 in the morning took a set of balls to lawn 6 to practise missing twelve yard shots whilst the decision was taken to abandon the local hostelry in favour of Exmouth and a Chinese meal. Russell trying his first 'Chinese', rapidly abandoned the chopsticks only to discover that eating from a rice bowl with a knife and fork is not much easier. Alan, chuckling at Russell's plight, had declined the chopsticks and rice bowl in favour of plate, knife and fork at the start and was duly rewarded the next day with stomach ache.

Cornelius 9, Dawson 8, Goacher 5, Collighan 4, Sutcliffe 4, Guest 2, Lamb 2, Maugham 2.

#### Thursday

With the sun already beating down at 10 o'clock on the hottest day of the week, Jerry Guest discovered

that he had left his shorts and flannels behind and at first wanted to play in white waterproofs over every day clothes. It was only with some difficulty that he was persuaded that nobody would mind if he didn't play in whites.

But Thursday really belonged to David Maugham. Whether it was the 'Chinese' or the absence of cider the previous evening we shall never know but David began to show what a fine player he can be. In his morning game against Debbie his first tournament triple looked to be there for the taking, but some careless play after 4-back left him with a long rover peel, which just struggled through, followed by a long rover hoop and roquet. An ambitious combination peg-out failed but David pegged out one ball and finished a few turns later with a fine shot from close to 3rd corner. (Meanwhile on an adjacent lawn David Goacher was struggling through 3 hoops and missing a roquet in roughly the same time that David took to run 10 hoops with 3 peels). However, Maugham did not have long to wait for that first tournament triple. No doubt inspired by his morning victory, he swiftly returned from his game with Jeff Dawson with fist in the air and went on to complete a hat trick of wins in the evening in a fine game with Bill Lamb.

Jerry Guest also returned to more normal form with a good +26TP over Russell Collighan.

At the Salterton Arms that evening, talk turned to less serious matters than croquet. Jerry Guest's proposition that a man should marry a woman half his age plus seven produced some hilarious combinations of croquet players before disaster struck: David Maugham had drunk the Arms out of cider.

Cornelius 11, Dawson 9, Goacher 6, Collighan 5, Maugham 5, Sutcliffe 5, Guest 4, Lamb 3.

#### Friday

With yet another glorious day in prospect, the outcome of the cup was yet to be decided. Although Debbie had a two game cushion over Jeff they had to play each other in the final round and a play-off was still a possibility.

Both got off to bad starts. Jerry Guest with accurate and careful play reached peg and 4-back against Debbie's 3 and 4-back. Bill Lamb with accurate careless play had reached the same position against Jeff's 'clips of death'. Debbie, to great applause, finally pegged out but Jeff could only get to peg with his forward ball, pegging out Bill's forward ball in the process and leaving his own balls in corners 2 and 4. Bill took position at penult and in the next turn ran penult to a couple of yards past the peg, ran rover and hit the peg.

With the issue decided Debbie and Jeff were able to have a relaxed final game with Jeff gaining some consolation with a narrow win. Interest then turned to the bottom of the table struggle. Before a packed audience of one window cleaner, two seagulls and a stray brown goose, Bill gave Jerry little chance with a +26 win. Russell Collighan completed another fine triple against Alan Sutcliffe.

On the Thursday evening everyone was asked to write a hundred words on why they had not won the Spencer Ell. None responded, although all could have done so in two words; Debbie Cornelius. Debbie played well throughout and was a worthy and charming winner; her straight and simple swing enables her to hit accurately and rush the ball well to build a break,

Spencer-Ell Cup 1988	DAC	JPD	DJG	AFS	RJC	DBM	WEL	JEG	Games Won		Final Total	Order
									1st Series	2nd Series		
Miss D. Cornelius		+6 -6	+15 +7	+20STP +25	+1 +5	+17 -12	+9 +9	+20TP +4	7	5	12	1
J.P. Dawson	-6 +6		+18 +15	+16STP +3	+23 -23	+4 -26TP	+26TP -8	+26 +26TP	6	4	10	2
D.J. Goacher	-15 -7	-18 -15		-4 +5	+6 +1	+3 -1	+10 -22	+23 +26	4	3	7	3
A.F. Sutcliffe	-20STP -25	+16STP -3	+4 -5		-26 -13TP	+2 +23	+5 +10	+12 -3	4	2	6	4=
R.J. Collighan	-1 -5	-23 +23	-6 -1	+26 +13TP		+4 -60TP	-15 +5TP	+4 -26TP	3	3	6	4=
D.B. Maugham	-17 +12	-4 +26TP	-3 +1	-2 -23	-4 +60TP		+5 +4	-8 -20	1	5	6	4=
W.E. Lamb	-9 -9	-26TP +8	-10 +22	-5 -10	+15 -5TP	-5 -4		+17 +26	2	3	5	7
J.E. Guest	-20TP -4	-26 -26TP	-23 +3	-12 +26TP	-4 +20	+8 -26	-17 -26		1	3	4	8

## Invitation Events



Debbie Cornelius - a triple in the second round, good play throughout, and a worthy and charming winner.

given half a chance. Jeff Dawson shares many of Debbie's qualities with a simple swing that stands up well in any situation. Success often depends upon how well people play against you and Jeff was unfortunate to find both Russell Collighan and David Maugham in sparkling form on Thursday.

To some extent, these two younger players were the wild cards in the pack. At their best both play with a fluency which is admirable, but they tend not to win as often as they should. If they can add consistency to their talent, they will be a force to be reckoned with. Russell accepts his reverses gracefully and one suspects that he is more interested in playing well than in winning.

David Goacher seems to have lost the consistency which stood him in good stead last year, although he is playing as carefully as ever. Perhaps a long mid-season break did not help. Alan Sutcliffe capitalised on opponent's mistakes on the first day and got off to a flying start, but lost confidence in his swing subsequently. However, Alan never gives up and his pleasure at being selected was patently obvious.

Bill Lamb and Jerry Guest, both experimenting with new styles, were too much out of form ever to be in contention. Overall the standard was high, as may be judged by the ten triples which were completed with very tight hoops, albeit on easy-paced lawns.

Budleigh has an aura of its own. The beautiful lawns, gracious clubhouse and fine weather, coupled with the efficient management of Mrs Perry, made this an experience which all of us will remember with affection.

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## COLOUR BLIND?

Dear Sir,  
Recently starting a double banked game after tea it became increasingly difficult to see the green and brown balls as dusk descended. The player with the blue and black in the other game was also having difficulty. Those playing with the lighter colours had a distinct advantage.

This set me wondering why in a country that has the type of summer evenings that we do dark colours were chosen for 2 of the balls? Especially the green ball which in some cases is so dark it merges into the grass. How were the colours originally decided? What about having Red and Yellow v Light Blue and Pale Grey. Pink and White v Pale Green and Cream or Mushroom.

Some manufactures make matters even more difficult by making dark pink clips which are difficult to distinguish from Red or Brown even in the best light.

If the colours can't be changed why do the light colours play together? Why not Yellow and Black v Red and Blue?  
Roger Jackman,  
High Wycombe C.C.

## CROQUET IS FUN?

Dear Sir,  
How good to see on the cover of Issue 198 the attractive action photo of Mark Avery, British Open Champion, quietly concentrating on perhaps his four-ball break.

I have much disliked the slogan on the plastic envelope in which the magazine is despatched, 'Croquet is Fun', which I consider belittles this fine national, century old, worldwide game, which includes the MacRobertson Cup.

The elderly and now our young men are most attracted to this game, which has in it the element of billiards and chess, and are thrilled with its potential. So both generations gain health and happiness.

D. Locks Latham,  
Dartmouth.

## SHORT CROQUET

Dear Sir,  
Having now played twice in Derek Caporn's splendid Short Croquet Tournament at Woking, there is one amendment to the rules which I would suggest, concerning the placing of the red rover hoop. The rules dictate that it should stay in the same position as for a standard lawn. However as short croquet is always played as a 14-point game it would make sense to have the red hoop in the standard hoop 6 position.

It has been suggested that this would create confusion for new players moving from short croquet to the full game and to the usual hoop placement. However, they have to learn the 26-point game anyway, and the principle holds good that the red hoop is the last one you go through. I should declare an interest, as during the tournament I took off beautifully from in front of rover to behind it, thinking it was hoop 5!

There has been some correspondence about providing more tournament competition for busy people. Short croquet enables more games to go on at once, time limits can be well under 1½ hours, and it provides for exciting play as 'Aunt Emma' tactics are impossible. Indeed evening as well as one-day tournaments are not an impossibility.

Simon Tuke  
Southwick and Parsons Green.

## AUTHOR! AUTHOR!

Dear Sir,  
With respect to the report on the Eastern Championship, may I preempt any indignant denial from John Walters by confessing that the authorship was mine, not his.

I am flattered that my humble prose could be mistaken for that of a professional croquet writer.

Andrew Gregory,  
Worcester.

Sorry! Ed.

## HAVE YOU LOST SOMETHING

Dear Sir,  
Over the years of running tournaments at Wrest Park, many things have been left behind. Many are claimed shortly afterwards by their forgetful owners. Some however are never claimed. Before we give them to a local 'nearly new' sale, we would like to give their owners one last chance. Do you recognise any of these?

1. White sleeveless jumper by Olympus. Size 40'.
2. Grey, grey hooped, lined shirt or jacket with button up neck by St. Michael. Size 16. (Sept 88)
3. Grey short sleeved cotton sweatshirt by St. Michael. Chest size 38-40'.
4. Mateus Rose (inter-counties) sweater. Size 42'. (May or July

88)

5. Cream (fawn?) Shetland wool jumper. (Looks extremely warm) chest size 41'. (May or July 88)
6. White cotton sweater with red crossed mallets and hoop motif. Size X Large (my wife thinks this is an XL lady!) (Sept. 87?)
7. Black folding umbrella which we have had for about 5 years. Useful for emergencies!

If any of these are yours drop me a line with the postage and I'll send you the garment. If you want to save the postage I'll keep it for when you come to our May tournament.  
Eric Audsley,  
Wrest Park Tournament Secretary.  
The Lawns, Greenacres,  
Lilley, Luton, Beds LU2 8LS.

## PROFESSIONALISM

Dear Sir,  
Jon Watson's letter in the latest gazette (number 200), prompts me to raise a pen in reply. The essence of Jon's point seems to be that if an amateur player can find time to play a large number of games then he becomes effectively a professional and should be separated competitively from the remaining amateur players. I feel that I am eminently qualified to reply since I am the player with the 90 Open singles games played by 31st July referred to (93 in fact; games are often lost in the system) and I have been regularly at or near the top of this 'league' ever since I started work 5 seasons ago.

Jon implies that I am a full time croquet player, but I hardly need defend myself against such libel. I am one of the staunchest opponents of professionalism, being honoured to be connected to the informal WACA (Welsh Amateur Croquet Association) and having previously submitted a paper to the CA Council arguing against our sport being ruined by professionalism.

Although I cannot claim to be one of our top players, I can claim some experience of the game at the top. I have found that our sport is by no means as dependent on the amount of play or practice as many others. An important element in playing successfully is in knowing one's ability (at a given moment in time) and in playing up to but not beyond that ability. It is not uncommon for players to turn up at events after several months away from the lawns and play to their top form; it's somewhat like riding the proverbial bike for many players. Indeed more careful examination of the ranking list will show that many of the players with very high game counts are hackers like myself who have reached a level and are not expecting top honours,

whereas some of our top players perform excellently on far fewer match games. The point is that we choose to play our croquet not in practice or friendlies at our own club but to enter into the social tournament 'circuit'.

Jon refers to the 31st of July as 'mid-season', and I assume he is implying 50% of the way through the season. In fact this date is over 60% of the way through the calendar both datewise and 'circuit'wise. This is reflected in that for me my season tally was 137 games so making the quoted figure nearly 70% of my season.

The days of the gentleman player inherited from the Victorian 'season' are long gone, with most of our good players in full time employ. The weekend event (particularly the 2-day event) is becoming the staple diet for the tournament player. The 93 games that I played accounted for only 13 days of my annual leave, and 49 of these were at tournaments played entirely during weekends and bank holidays.

Jon's closing remarks about silverware betray an overly competitive drive. In my opinion, the sooner that such insurance liabilities are phased out of our sport the better.

I'm sure that our top players would laugh at the idea of players like me trying to catch up to them by our extra play; in fact deterioration in play has been detected by several players showing up as various forms of 'wrist'. It is the sheer pleasure of the game that leads us to dedicate so much of our free time to it.

With the recent trend of many of our open weekend events not being full, there is no excuse for improving players not joining the 'circuit' whether for social or competitive gain.

Richard Hilditch,  
Harrow.

## PRIZE MONEY

Dear Sir,  
Sadly after eight years Coles the Estate Agents have decided not to continue sponsorship of the Cheltenham Open Championship. Coles were one of the first sponsors of croquet in this country and the Cheltenham Club are very grateful for their support.

Happily the Cheltenham Club are pleased to announce that this event will be sponsored by Dunnett Ward & Co., a firm of investment advisers.

This is not the only change to this tournament. We have decided to make the main event the best of three for all five rounds, with a 6-hour time limit (3,5,6). We expect this to be possible without any double banking in the main event.

Perhaps the most radical feature of the new tournament will be the financing and the prize money. We expect to be able to offer £530 in total, with the winner receiving £200, runner-up £100, third place and Swiz £50 each, fourth £30, and the losing quarter-finalists will get their entry fee of £25 back. We suspect that this level of prize money and entry fees does not vary much in real terms from those prevailing in the nineteen twenties and thirties.

We are attempting to make the financing of this event independent of the sponsors so that we will be able to run a tournament under similar conditions in future years even if we fail to obtain commercial support.

We hope this event will continue to attract the very high standard of entry that the 'Coles' did. We are planning to organise some social events in the evenings and we will do our best to ensure that all the players, win or lose, will want to come back to the 'Dunnett Ward' in 1990.

The club committee is very conscious that the lawns are its most important fixed asset, and therefore the majority of the Club's turnover is spent on their maintenance. Accordingly all of Dunnett Ward's generous sponsorship will go towards our Lawn Mower Fund (we are saving up for a new 'Ransome Green Keeper' mower which will cost about £13,000).

If you have any comments on the way we have decided to finance this tournament, please write to Bo Harris, our Club Secretary. We are interested in the views of all players, not only the 'A' Class. We believe that tournament play is too cheap in this country and that entry fees, prizes and, of course, profit to the clubs, should all increase substantially if Croquet is to have a healthy future.

## INTRODUCING BEGINNERS

Dear Sir,  
My beginners have reached the stage where they can, and do, make criticisms and suggestions, and there are two in particular which I think should make us think afresh.

Regarding advance publicity for beginners' courses and for croquet generally, some of them think that it is all made to seem too easy. 'All you need is a pair of flat-soled shoes and a handful of bisesques and you will be able to take on the best player in the club and beat him'.

No mention is made of the time and physical energy you have to put in, the continual practice the concentration, the set-backs and disappointment, and the feeling of dedication that is necessary if a newcomer is going to last out the first few weeks of the course. I always do my best to put newcomers off at the very beginning of the course by saying 'Go away while you still have time: if you

don't you will become a croquet addict and never be able to give it up' but so far no-one has paid any attention to my advice. Maybe I should change my tactics.

The other problem is how to fit beginners into the club. For most of the course they form their own little group and do not usually have much to do with the older members-often because courses tend to be held at a time when the courts are not being otherwise used. At the end of the course a session is usually arranged where they can play with club members. And then what? Most members have other commitments which restrict them to perhaps a match on Sunday and a game at the club on another day, and very naturally they want on that day to play with players of equal ability. And beginners are diffident about ringing up more experienced players and asking them to play. So beginners tend to be left to play among themselves and feel that they are being re-

jected by the club, and some of them just disappear.

Two suggestions have been made. One is that for the first month or six weeks after the end of the course each beginner should be 'fostered' by one or perhaps two of the club members. They would be responsible for keeping an eye on him, arranging games, perhaps contacting him on the phone if he doesn't turn up at the club. It was felt that six weeks would be long enough to saddle anyone with a beginner who should by that time have made contacts with other club members and should probably have improved sufficiently not to be a liability. The other suggestion is that a club member should be made responsible for all beginners who would then know who to look to if they needed help.

Most clubs must be faced with this problem in one form or another, and perhaps some clubs have found a better solution. I should welcome your advice.

Ross Gillespie,  
Beverly CC.

## A RECORD?

Dear Sir,  
Please forgive a proud father. Reginald completed six consecutive triple peels in winning all seven of his games in the Riggall Gold Trophy held at Rondebosch CC at the end of September.

As this tournament is played with hoops of President's Cup width, would not this be something of a record?

Brian Bamford,  
Rondebosch, SA.



Members of Guernsey Croquet Club.

## LAW 36

Dear Sir,  
I read the report of the Hurlingham Championships with much interest. I see that the penny seems to have dropped, and in the whole tournament there were only two TPOs. Both of them failed to achieve a win.

However, it is another matter which I wish to discuss. In the Open Singles, which represents the highest level of play, there were no less than 27 games which were won by +26.

In the semi-finals and final, where the opponents must have been very evenly matched, Nigel Aspinall beat Chris Clarke +26 +26. Since Clarke never took croquet in the whole match, it cannot truly be said that he played two games of croquet. In the final Aspinall was the victim and was beaten +26 +26.

It is no wonder that croquet has always suffered from the reputation of being a 'vicious' game, with the out-player not having a fair chance to get on terms with an opponent

who gets the first break. Since the players are certainly not vicious, it must be the laws of the game which cause this ridiculously unfair situation.

This unhappy state of affairs could easily be remedied by a simple alteration to Law 36, which would read:-

- (a) If the striker's ball scored 1-back in the preceding turn the adversary may start his turn, subject to (b) below,
  - (i) by playing as the balls lie; or
  - (ii) by lifting either of his balls, even if it is in contact with one or more balls, and playing it from any point on either baulk-line; or
  - (iii) by lifting either of his balls, even if it is in contact with one or more balls, placing it in contact with any ball and taking croquet forthwith.

(c) and (d) of Law 36 could remain, as (b) and (c).

Thus the adversary would be certain of gaining at least one innings, to which he is certainly entitled, except in the unlikely

event (between players of equal standard) of the striker attempting and completing that entertaining but decidedly risky manoeuvre, the sextuple peel.

It seems reasonable to me to leave that possibility open, but if it was felt that even this should be eliminated, '1-Back' could be changed to 'Hoop 6'.

The effects of this change would be much more varied games, more sextuples attempted, while some players would take the first ball to the peg, and some to penultimate. Dudley Hamilton-Miller always used to go to penultimate and give contact in his first break. Others would play more conservatively and rely on a subsequent triple peel when they regain the innings with a hit in or a contact lift.

It is time for something positive to be done about the plethora of unfair +26 games, a situation which would never be tolerated in any other sport.

Leslie Riggall,  
Kloof, SA.



Cartoon by R.E. Wallis, Tenerife.



### Compton: 17-22 September A Good Week for Don at Compton

The tournament this year was memorable for two reasons. First, this year was the 90th anniversary of the Compton Club, and second, it was the 80th birthday of one of the club's well-loved members, Ralph Chappel. This actually gave rise to some problems for the manager because six of the participants in the tournament were absent for the whole of the first day celebrating at Ralph's birthday party.

An unusual excuse for being late was noted on Tuesday. Graham Budd and doubles partner Peter Turner were staying at a farm, and their friend at the farm was due to give them a lift to the club. They pleaded that their friend had been up all night because one of the cows had chosen that night to calve.

As to the croquet - it was a busy week. Busy, because the relatively small entry (26 in the 'X') allowed the manager to play all the classes as blocks, and in addition, he decided to run a 'Y' Doubles as well. Almost every game was double-banked, and apart from its regular five lawns, the club was able to take over part of the out-field of the cricket ground for two extra lawns. These lawns were - well, what one might expect of the out-field of a cricket ground - but they did help the manager to get through the large number of games, or almost. There was in fact another record created at the Compton club - for the first time the club had thirteen games simultaneously in progress

### Cheltenham: 7-11 September Crown Darby does it again!

Report by Edgar Jackson

This year, not content just to take the long bisque partners spiritually through all their hoops and so to win the Wheelers' Rules Doubles as he had done last year, Peter Darby trounced the field in the Advanced Play event and so took the Gladstone Salver as well.

Of the high bisquers in the Doubles, four players won all but one of their matches: Ursula Finn, Derek Harrison, and Millicent and Leslie James. In the one-ball play-off between them the prize was earned by Derek.

Five warm sunlit days encouraged a good entry to this September tournament. The tremendously popular change-partners handicap doubles took place each morning, followed by singles in the afternoon. Seven low-bisquers competed in an American block

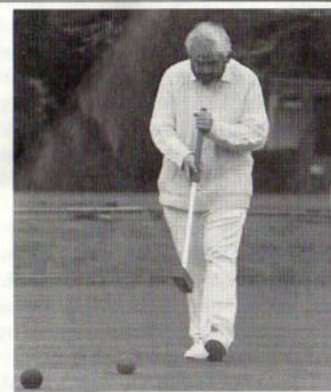
Several rapidly improving players demonstrated how to use a large number of bisques. Annabel McDiamid, with 8½ bisques against Allen Parker, gave him only one chance when she was for Rover and Peg, and won +26, having just consumed all 8½ bisques. Against Don Gaunt she had 11½ to start with and ended the game with 3½ left. However she gave him two chances. At the start, Don shot at her ball in corner 4. Annabel then proceeded to lay a Tice (!) which Don hit and went round to penult. The second chance came after Annabel's first break, when she left him a 13-yard shot which he only just missed. Annabel also did well to reach the final of the doubles, piloted by Lionel Wharrad, but this pair were beaten by Graham Budd and Peter Turner. Both young men played well all week. Graham won the C-Class but was beaten in the final of the 'X' by Annabel with her 4 bisques. Both young men lost one bisque apiece, and Annabel lost two.

The tournament was graced by the presence of Richard and Mireille Sowerby from the Millbrook Club on Jersey in the Channel Islands. This is the sixth year of the club's existence. It now has twenty members and 2 lawns, and will have 2 more lawns next year. Richard cordially invites any croquet players visiting Jersey to go along to the club for some games, and he will even assist with arranging accommodation if desired.

(His address is Bouais'sie d'Orme, St. Mary, 0534 83566). We have seen some unusual croquet hats in our time, but Richard's special 'Finals Day Hat' must take first prize. It consists of a bright red cap with affixed to the top a miniature mallet (actually not SO miniature), a hoop, and a ball stuck in the hoop! Richard won all his games in the D-Class block to become the winner of the Trevor Williams Cup, and his handicap was reduced from 9 to 7. Guided by partner Derek Caporn, he also won the Y Doubles. Mireille also played well and had her handicap reduced from 18 to 14. Other handicap reductions in the D class were Joan Parker, 11 to 10, and Jean Wraith, 14 to 13.

The B Class block ('Devonshire Park Salver') ran to a nail-biting finish with the possibility of three competitors having won 4 games out of 5. In the event Peter Howell and Allen Parker each won 4 games, but Peter won on points, and lost half a bisque. Dennis Shaw, who just failed to get 4 wins, played a remarkable end game against Allen Parker. With his opponent both on the peg, and a ball in each baulk, he started at hoop 6, got both balls out of baulk and laid up for Rover. His opponent missed both remaining shots and Dennis won by 2, going on to win the final of the 'Y' against James Kellaway in a late evening finish on the last day.

Don Gaunt made a grand slam in the A Class, winning all 6 games in his block, in which each player played the others twice. The runner-up was Steve Battison who completed a copy book TPO



Peter Darby in cracking form at Cheltenham.

for the Gladstone Salver and the other 24 players played in three Swiss blocks arranged by handicap. All play was level but for the high bisquer block.

Peter Leach managed us expertly and painlessly through it all while, to complete the proceedings, Kathy Gladstone gave away her husband's salver and the other prizes.

#### RESULTS

**Gladstone Salver**  
(7 entries; all-play-all level play)  
Winner: P. Darby (5 wins).

**Runner-Up:** P. Paddon (5 wins).

**Handicap Doubles**  
(Wheeler Rules, Swiss; 32 entries)

**Low-Bisquers:** P. Darby (5), Mrs E. Weitz (4).

**High-Bisquers:** Mrs U. Finn (4), Mrs M. James (4), L. James, D. Harrison.

against Ewan Mackenzie-Bowie, and the subsequent 3-ball game with both protagonists starting at the first hoop was well worth watching, Ewan managing to get his single ball round to penult before Steve managed to peg out. Don Gaunt also won the Open Doubles in partnership with Alvar Bray, best of 3 against Steve and Ewan.

Among the most notable parts of the week were the lunch and tea times. The lunches were delicious, with a choice of hot or cold available every day, and the teas were equally good. All participants were unanimous in thanking Truda Tom and all her lady helpers. Thanks are also due to all the Compton Club members who made the visitors so welcome and gave up their courts for 6 days, to the Manager Derek Caporn for keeping us all busy, and to the groundman Tom Hewett. Altogether a most enjoyable tournament (as always).

#### RESULTS

**Ionides Challenge Trophy**  
(Block of 4: Two-life Advanced play)  
Winner: D.L. Gaunt (6 wins).

**Devonshire Park Salver**  
(Block of 6: Advanced play)

Winner: P. Howell (4 wins).

**The Luard Cup**  
(Block of 7: Level play)

Winner: G.E. Budd (6 wins).

**The Trevor Williams Cup**  
(Block of 8: 18 pts, level play)

Winner: R. Sowerby (7 wins).

**The Victor Vases**  
(2 entries: Advanced play)

Winners: D.L. Gaunt & Dr C.A. Bray.

**The Anna Milns Salvors**  
(13 pairs: Handicap doubles)

Final

G.E. Budd & P. Turner (15) bt L. Wharrad & Miss A. McDiamid +23.

**The Devonshire Park Cup**  
(26 entries: Handicap play)

Semi-Finals

G.E. Budd (7) bt R. Sowerby (9); Miss A. McDiamid (12) bt P. Turner (8) +6.

Final

Miss McDiamid bt Budd +23.

### 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 1989.

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

**Low-Bisquers**  
(Advanced Play)  
Winner: Paul Macdonald (5 wins).

**Middle-Bisquers**  
(Law 53)  
Winner: C. Williams (5 wins).

**High-Bisquers**  
(18pt handicap)  
Miss E. Cheverton (4 wins).

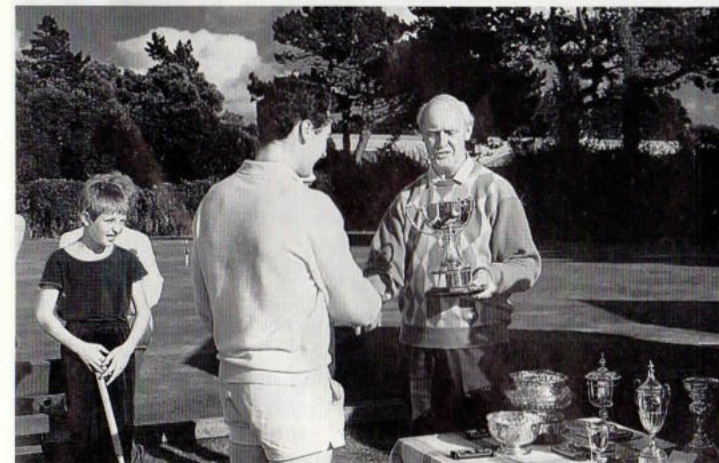
### Hunstanton: 29 Aug - 3 Sept 'You've lost a few lawns since I was last here'

Report by Cathy and Martin French.

So pronounced Bill Scarr, who this year returned to Hunstanton with his wife, the Reverend Scarr. This perplexed the local club members, till he revealed that he had last visited Hunstanton some seventy years earlier, as a schoolboy!

This was a most enjoyable week's croquet - many regular visitors declaring it the most friendly event in the calendar, with some justification. The most noticeable feature

Experienced and championship referees were called in to adjudicate on the validity of some 'local rules'. The most notable incident of this premier event was when the ROT (John Davis) was not allowed to extinguish the candle attached to the peg. It was ruled to be part of the furniture and so he was obliged to take a tricky shot which was hampered by this candle's proximity. We are glad to be able



Duncan Reeve receives the Norfolk Challenge Cup from Hunstanton's Chairman, Ron Gosden, at the end of another successful tournament.

was the number of pairs. Apart from a reasonable number of Mr and Mrs pairings in the doubles, there were pairs of Celias, Jonathans, Yorkshiresmen, Hampsons, etc. etc. The promise by the Tourist Boards that 'The sun always shines in Hunstanton' was absolutely true, if you can forget Wednesday and Thursday (there were rumours that this was because Nick Carter's prayer mat has broken down).

The Ipswich Hit Squad was out in force, with seven CPs (Croquet Players) competing. Indeed, Ipswich members won and/or ran-up in every event, including the candle-lit golf croquet! We know that Robert Prichard will be sad to have missed such an entry.

Bill Lamb did a commendable job as manager, cramming some thirty more games into the week than the previous year. Nonetheless the pace was not too hectic, witness the game that broke for tea when on peg and peg against peg and penult. Managing obviously affected Bill's form, which became quite erratic; scrappy play one day suddenly gave way to his first quadruple peel.

There were the inevitable law book wrangles that always seem to occur in handicap play, but none more violently contested than those during the candle-lit golf!

to report that only a light toasting resulted as he showed commendable expedition in play...!

And so to the croquet... all the class events were played as blocks, with 'A' and 'B' blocks playing advanced play, while the 'C' and 'D' played shortened handicap games. The 'D' class also played with half a full-bisque allowance. This revealed the very different levels and styles of coaching at CPs' home clubs. Those who had been taught how to take bisques constructively had a big advantage over those who had not. A plug for Don Gaunt's book is required here, because there is really no excuse now for not knowing what to do with a fistful of bisques!

The 'A' class Norfolk Challenge Cup was retained by an unbeaten Duncan Reeve. However, Martin French (second) and Bill Lamb (third) had some better games, managing three and two triples respectively. The 'B' class Hunstanton Challenge Bowl was won by this year's Ipswich Bandit, Steve Comish. He was unbeaten and had a massive net points score, leading to further slashing of his handicap.

The 'C' class Silver Rose Bowl went to local member Bill Barnett on points, although both Celia Steward and Pat Hampson also had

lost only one game each. The 'D' class went to Celia 'I've got the loudest sneeze in the Universe' Pearce, with Jill Waters running-up.

The Big Handicap (the 'X') was played according to the 'Lamb System' - a modified 'Bray System', where the games were shortened according only to the lower-bisqued player's handicap. This was generally well received, although the 22-point hoop 3 start did catch out a few unwary CPs. The semi-final between Cathy French and Steve Comish saw one side's clips on 4 and 1 for some time, much to the enjoyment of the spectators. Only when the partner ball ran 4 then 1 and approached 2 did either player realise anything was wrong!

Cathy met Duncan Reeve in the 'X' final. Although not really squandering her 15½ bisques, fewer than half were left after reaching peg in the fourth turn. Duncan missed the 28 yard shot, and Cathy soon started 'spending' again. A stick in 5 left her with only 2 bisques left; the crowd thought she was done for! Her best turn to date saw her finish with no further bisques taken. When one of the audience sympathised with Duncan for being duffed up by a high-bisquer, others pointed out it was only returning the treatment he had been dishing out a year or two back.

The 'Y' Handicap has lost its status as the premier event, now that the Brat Pack no longer travel

down from the Northerns on Monday night, missing the start of the 'X'. This year saw the final between John 'Eric' Davis and Lewis Palmer. John went off with the rather nice silver cigarette case trophy.

So to the doubles. In the 'X' Doubles final, the Tomkinsons played Lewis Palmer and Steve Comish. For the Ipswich duo, the familiar story unfolded, of the weaker player nipping round to penult followed by the stronger player having trouble making progress. Eventually, Val Tomkinson pegged her ball out (Mick also being for stick) against penult and 3-back. Steve hit 'the last shot', but Lewis advanced only one hoop before Mick hit and finished. The 'Y' Doubles went to Celia Steward and Jill Waters.

All in all, an excellent week's entertainment: Hunstanton providing good atmosphere, a friendly welcome and reasonable lawns. There are thoughts of reducing this lovely week tournament to 4 days next year. John Davis spoke for many at the prize-giving, past and present, when he asked Hunstanton to reconsider and stage the event for a ninetieth time next year.

*Editor's Note: Sadly Bill Scarr died shortly after this tournament and his obituary appears on Page 10. However, I felt it appropriate to leave the above article unaltered as a tribute to someone who achieved so much for croquet.*

#### RESULTS

**Norfolk Challenge Cup**  
(Block 8: Advanced play)  
Winner: D.C. Reeve (7 wins).  
Runner-Up: M. French (6 wins).

**Hunstanton Challenge Bowl**  
(Block of 8: Advanced play)  
Winner: S. Comish (7 wins).  
Runner-Up: J. Collis (5 wins).

**Silver Rose Bowl**  
(Block of 7: 22pt handicap games)  
Winner: H.F. Barnett (7) (5 wins).  
Runner-Up: Mrs C. Steward (8) (5 wins).

**Event 3B**  
(Block of 6: Full bisque 18pt handicap games)  
Winner: Miss C. Pearce (15) (4 wins).  
Runner-Up: Miss J. Waters (14) (4 wins).

**Ingleby Challenge Cup**  
(31 entries: handicap knockout)  
Semi-Finals  
D.C. Reeve (-½) bt M.G. Tompkinson (2) +9; Mrs C. French (16) bt S. Comish (5½) +10T.  
Final  
Mrs French bt Reeve +26.

**Hope Cups**  
(14 pairs: Handicap doubles)  
Final  
Mr & Mrs M.G. Tompkinson (8) bt S. Comish & L. Palmer (8½) +7.

#### PERSONAL COLUMN

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

**SOUTH DEVON:** Farmhouse B&B with optional Evening Meal overlooking River Dart. Full-size croquet lawn, heated swimming pool, horses, boats and tennis court. Tel: 0804-23278 Claire Grimshaw.

**THINKING OF RETIRING?**  
Delightful 4-bedroomed house with attractive manageable garden with gate into Croquet and Bridge Club. Sale particulars from Peter Danks, Budleigh Salterton, Devon, EX9 6SX.

#### 1988 CROQUET CLASSIC Prize Winners

The Croquet Association offered two prizes of £25 each; one for the best photograph related to the event, and the other for the best report on an individual match or tournament.

The prize for the best photograph has been won by W/Cdr Bryn Lewis (issue 200, page 21), and for the best article the prize has been awarded to Rev Canon Gervase Markham (Issue 199, page 29).

A cheque for £25 has been sent to both winners with our congratulations.



## Short Story

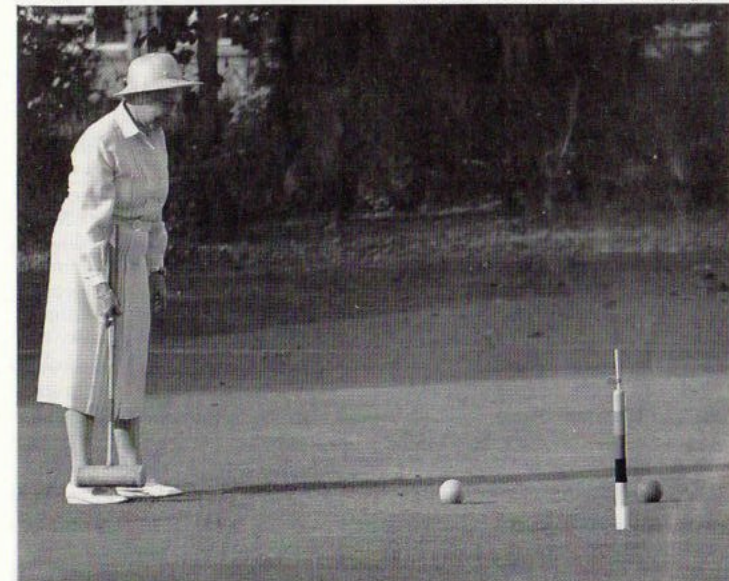
### The Perfect Croquet Club

By Dorothy Rush

It was, everybody agreed, the perfect croquet club. It had precisely the right number of members, though no one can remember now exactly how many that was; precisely the right number of courts spread out below the magnificent club-house, though arguments still rage as to whether there ever was a lawn beyond the great cedar tree. Even the clubhouse itself has become something of a land-bound Marie Celeste: did it really have a clock-tower as some insist or did the last secretary make that up; did it really have six - six! - flush toilets?

The President, everyone remembers him well, was a tall, ramrod-straight General, whose word was law and whose decisions were wiser than those of Solomon (that's the King, not the croquet player. Though I dare say the latter could turn out the odd song or two at a pinch). Except that there are those who know for certain that he - the President that is - spent a lifetime in insurance and had a fearsome appetite for youngish widows. Plus, of course, the opportunity frequently to indulge that appetite.

Or was that the Curator of Lawns? Now there was a giant amongst men: made the club what it was; transformed a paddock into a clutch of championship courts and dedicated a lifetime to their care.



'She taught me to play when I was 13 and she's never beaten me since...'

Oh yes... championship courts! Don't you remember the Chairman's Salver of 19? Or was it 19? It is so hard to pin point events but I know for a fact it was the year Great Britain lost the last Test against Japan on these very courts and David Peterson threw his mallet into the River Inch, having lost all his games, in spite of those perfect lawns. Such flatness we

shall never see again, though a few of the older malletmen aver that an approach to Rover on lawn 5 veered gently Westwards in a dry spell. Personally, I don't believe it, preferring to trust those immortal lines of croquet's only real poet, Cellan Owen Jones:

*'Did ever billiard ball run truer,  
nor from the pocket flinch,  
than red or blue or black  
or yellow run their hoops,  
down by the River Inch.'*

And, Oh, the Catering Committee! Was there ever such a gathering of culinary talent? Molly's salads, Rosemary's lasagne, Judith's fruit cake, Brian's home-made bread and Peter's pork-pie. Yes indeed, Brian and Peter - no sexism at this club, no division of labour. Men and Women laboured they equally and while minor players applied for Handicap Weekends purely on account of Peter's pies, it was Wendy Brickmann's setting of the hoops that made the croquet worthwhile.

Good food, then and superlative croquet on those table-top lawns. Trees all round but nary a one so close to a court as to shed its twigs and leaves all over it. High walls on the perimeter and low hedges between the lawns. Comfortable benches, weather proof shelters and a long verandah before the clubhouse, where in the evening the President would take a drink and watch the lovely girls

croquet was the only topic discussed - never a word about politics, religion or, perish the thought, work. And only the best in croquet was discussed. Only the finest example cited, humour there was and gentle mockery but never a hurtful jibe or a bitter complaint.

What happened, then, to this centre of excellence, this hive of activity, this font of all things bright and beautiful? Why did the name of Inchford abruptly disappear from the CA Calendar, leaving a great void in the lives of the 2 score players whose entries had always been accepted immediately and causing 2 score spouses to wonder why their mates were prowling around the house in the middle of July when they should have been wasting their time chasing croquet balls, down by the River Inch?

I had long been intrigued by the mystery, not only because of occasional appearances at the club's famous 'Goulashes' but as a long time resident of -shire. Our place was barely 20 miles from Inchford and we drove by there every weekend on our way to the shops at Chipping Marcle. There cannot have been more than a month or two between my last match at the club, resplendent as it was in the sunshine, with new mown lawns and freshly painted pavilion and the sad day when I stood in what had become a cow-pasture, hardly able to look at the wreckage of that famous clubhouse.

Fire had gutted the building finally but not before the lead had been stripped from the roof, the doors unhinged, every pane of glass shattered and even those celebrated porcelain pedestals torn out and smashed upon the pavilion steps. As I wandered through the foot-high grass, I kept tripping over hoops, some of which still stood firmly in their positions, while others had been used to play horse-shoes and lay around the base of a peeling centre-peg with a yellow clip and a blue attached to its extension. I asked myself whether this had been a pegged-out game or whether the red and black clips were lying somewhere in the grass, tightly gripping their now defunct hoops, waiting for the point that would never, now, be scored. Balls lying about in profusion, as every lawn had seemingly been double-banked when the catastrophe struck.

For sudden and catastrophic the end had surely been: perhaps I would find corpses among the cow-parsley, bodies amongst the buttercups, or necropolis amongst the nettles. But there were no human remains - and no mallets, not a single one amongst that ghostly

wreckage of a croquet club. I did not stop long to wonder but drove quickly home.

During the weeks that followed I sometimes met up with former members of the Inchford Club, never at croquet tournaments but often in Chipping Marcle, in a pub or in the market, and while they were all as friendly as before, not one would speak about the club or tell what had happened. They all simply ignored my questions and changed the subject. The crew of this particular Marie Celeste, then, had not disappeared, just run ashore and put a clove-hitch on their tongues. If I was ever so rash as to invite one of them over to the house for a game of croquet, his eyes would fill with pain and, to put it bluntly, he would make an excuse and leave.

It soon became second nature to avoid the topic of croquet altogether and I think perhaps the whole affair might have slipped quietly from my mind if I had not met Harrison Fredericks at a buyers' conference in Bournemouth.

I wouldn't have known him from Adam but he sat down next to me at lunch without so much as a 'May I?' - spread the contents of his tray generously over the small table, then poked his face towards mine.

'You're Dolly Rush, the croquet player, aren't you?' It was more an accusation than a question.

'I am Dorothy Rush, yes, and I do play croquet occasionally but I don't believe I know you.' There were icicles on my teeth.

'Oh, we've met. Only once, but we've met. At Inchford, the first time I was there. At the croquet club, I mean. Mind you, I only went twice.'

'Really? Well, I'm sorry Mr. er... but I simply do not remember you. Should I know your name?'

'It's Fredericks, Harrison Fredericks, and I doubt whether you ever heard it in full. They call me Harry mostly.'

'And you're a croquet player?' I thought I had better show some interest.

'Hell, no! Tried it once, that's all. Didn't much like it and when I went back to give it a second chance, the bloody club folded up before my very eyes.'

Until this moment I had been searching for a way to get rid of the aggressive Mr Fredericks, but now I could not suppress a gasp of surprise and interest.

'You mean, you were there when the Inchford Croquet Club went down... er... I mean closed?' My imagination had dwelt too long on the Marie Celestial aspects of the affair.

'Indeed I was. Right there when it happened.'

'What did happen Mr Fredericks,' I asked carefully.

For a moment it seemed that he too, would clam up but he was only shovelling a huge forkful of salad into the gaping hole in his gingery beard. Gingery teeth closed upon the greenery and within seconds Harrison Fredericks was ready to answer my tentative question.

'Nothing happened, my dear, nothing at all. Nothing worth all the fuss, anyway. I'd been there for about half-an-hour, watching the



'Would you like a game?..'

action - if you can call it that - on lawn 1 and trying to understand what the hell was going on. I'd more or less decided already that croquet was not for me but the bar was open and I thought it might be worth hanging on for a while. The old bird they called Florence was doing her best to explain something called a four-ball break and I was nodding politely while keeping one eye on a nice bit of skirt on lawn 3. I'd rather like to meet her again - you wouldn't happen to know who she might have been, would you, red-headed girl with long brown legs?'

'I'm afraid not, Mr Fredericks. I have no idea who that was.' And I wouldn't tell you if I did, I thought unkindly. 'But you were telling me how the croquet club came to close down.'

'Yes, well, there was Florried giving me the true gen on four ball breaks when this young lad rides through the gates on a Harley Davidson. I recognised it at once. Know a bit about bikes and you can't miss one of those beauties...'

My lunch lay untouched as Harrison Fredericks told his story. When it was over I skipped the boring lecture planned for the afternoon and went straight to my room, where I wrote the whole thing down in what appeared to be the most appropriate form - a television script:

*The scene is a suburban croquet club. There are many courts; a player or two on each court and opponents waiting on the benches. On the court that interests us, a lady in her 70s, Aunt Jessica, is playing. She makes a good stroke and moves towards her next stroke. On the bench are her opponent, her niece Doreen (about 18) and a friend, Trish (about 19).*

**TRISH:** Have you ever beaten her?

**DOREEN:** All the time. She taught me to play when I was 13 and she's never beaten me since. Except one

time when she was probably sober.

**TRISH:** Drink affects her game does it?

**DOREEN:** Not Aunt Jessica. It's the only thing that's keeping her alive. *The peace is broken by the roar of a Harley Davidson motorbike. The two girls pay no attention, they are used to bikers and their flamboyant ways, but Aunt Jessica looks up in annoyance, as do all the players on all the courts.*

*The motorbike draws up at the clubhouse. A young man, about 17, helmet, leather jacket, jeans, zip-up boots, gets off the bike. His name is Darren. He is a messenger boy with a package for the club. (The next few speeches are over shots of the boy)*

**TRISH:** It's your friend...

**DOREEN:** That greaser... he's no friend of mine; just a grubby messenger boy.

**TRISH:** Well, suit yourself, dear; I wish he'd look at me like that. I'd give a lot to find out what's inside his package.

*Aunt Jessica plays another shot. Close-up of balls.*

**AUNT JESSICA (waving):** I'm giving up dear, can't do a thing today. Thanks for the game.

*Time mix to Doreen and Trish on the bench. The young man approaches from behind.*

**TRISH:** Ouch! Here, stop that, you

uncouth lout.

**DARREN:** Sorry love. I thought you fancied me.

*From now on the exchanges between Doreen and Darren are conducted on the basis of open flirtation - a double-entendre in every sentence.*

**DOREEN:** Would you like a game?

**DARREN:** (leering) Yeah, I would. But not croquet. That's an old fogey's game.

**DOREEN:** Huh! It's much harder than you think. I doubt if you could understand it.

**DARREN:** Not understand it? Me? I could beat a bleedin' girl any day. And as for that old cow...

*He makes a gesture towards Aunt Jessica, who gasps and begins to wade purposefully towards lawn 7 where the Club Chairman is playing. She clearly intends to have Darren thrown out.*

**DOREEN:** Right, let's play. Ladies first. (Hits her red away to the right, Darren looks scornful).

**DARREN:** The hoops there, you wally!

**DOREEN:** The basic rules are: One, if you hit any ball on the court you get two extra shots, if you get one of your balls through the hoop you get one extra shot. I'll explain as we go along.

**DARREN:** There's no need, darlin'. I've watched you play before and I know exactly what to do. This is child's play. *(He roquets red with blue, rolls up to hoop one; makes the hoop; rushes red to hoop two; makes that with a perfect rush to three; makes three and rushes to four. By now the members of Inchford Croquet Club are beginning to leave their games in order to watch his progress. Aunt Jessica has stopped in her tracks and is following his every move with her mouth agape.)*

*In a series of perfect rushes, Darren goes round to the stick, leaves red in the jaws of Rover and pegs out blue.*

**DOREEN** (shocked but still on her feet): I get a contact I think. *(Picks up yellow and takes croquet from red, taking off to hoop one, which she blobs.)* Oh! Sugar!

*As Darren picks up black, a low moan rises from the other members, who have now gathered silently at the lawnside. There are about 30 in all, as it is a well-attended club night. They are of all ages but with a preponderance of older folk.*

**DARREN:** Game on, sweetheart! *(Roquets yellow with black and goes round in another two-ball break, completely ignoring red which remains uselessly in the*

*middle of the lawn. He pegs out black and throws down his mallet with a sneer.)* There - told you. This game's too bloody easy.

*As the members remain rooted to their respective position around the court, Darren gives Doreen a long and passionate kiss, slaps Trish firmly on the backside and returning to his motorbike, roars back through the gates, via lawns 6, 4 and 2, on which he leaves deeply imbedded tyre marks. Without a word, the President of the Club, an erect, military figure, turns and walks directly across the lawns to the river, where he throws his mallet far out into the stream. Then dry-eyed, but clearly in the grip of a strong emotion, he climbs into his BMW and drives off.*

*One by one the other members follow suit, until the shallow water is filled with mallets and the car park is bare of vehicles.*

*Only Aunt Jessica remains, a bowed figure in the centre of the lawns, not far from the old cedar tree. Her lips are moving. As the camera zooms in, we hear what she is saying.*

**AUNT JESSICA** (as if repeating a lesson): But... it's a game that requires considerable skill and tactical ability. The idea is to get two balls through six hoops in the correct order and in the right direction and hit the peg in the centre. The game started in about 1850 and Wimbledon was formed... Picture fades.

## PRIZE COMPETITION

### Write a Short Story

A prize of £25.00 will be awarded to the author of the best croquet-related short story published in this magazine in 1989 (Issues 202-207 inclusive).

The Judges Panel will be ten readers selected by the Editor. Their identity will be revealed when the result is announced!

Entries, which should be no longer than 2000 words, should be sent to the Editor as soon as possible - not later than 20th March if they are to be included in the next issue.

## Short Story



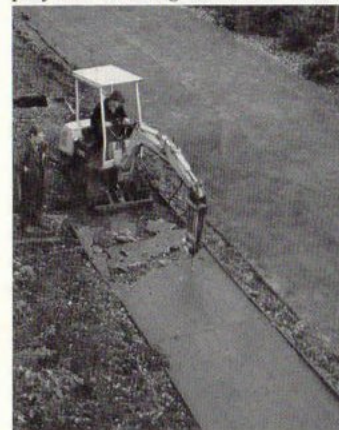
## Weekend Tournaments

### Southport: 5-7 August They're Getting Younger!

Report by Andrew Bennet

This was everything a handicap tournament ought to be: sunny, jolly and evenly matched, unless your name was Mark Saurin, conceding 60½ bisques and ending with minus 108 points. The other minus player, Paul Smith, won four out of six with a positive points score.

The average age of the block winners was 16. Block B went to a four-way points count, with 15-year old Dan McCormick, the latest star to shoot from the Blackburn intergalactic lawnless training centre, maintaining a tradition of QEGS players winning at this tourna-



The QEGS seed-bed. The original lawn measured 20yds by 5yds but is now being enlarged to 14yds wide by removing the concrete path, and turfing over the flower beds on the other side.

### Wrest Park: 13-14 August The Shortest Miss?

Twelve players assembled into two blocks of 6 for this new Open weekend. The weather was mostly dry, though the wind did cause some problems. In Block 1, Martin Coward looked the likely winner on paper, and though not playing to his best, seemed able to raise his game when necessary. In Round 1, with one ball for 6 and one for first, his opponent (Tom Anderson) made the serious error of reaching 4-back. Martin played the backward ball, and after the TPO pegged both out to win eventually by 5. Tom went on to finish 3rd with 2 wins and played very accurately, if in a rather unorthodox manner. Jon Watson found the speed of the lawns very much to his taste, and finished with 4 wins, losing only to Coward, and getting ½ lopped off for his pains. The Northern contingent (Alan Sutcliffe and Peter West) were mostly out of luck.

In Block 2, Peter Elliot won all his

ment. Andrew Saurin celebrated the anniversary of doing that at his debut by doing it again convincingly in his block. Handicappers have just kept up with 14-year-old Chris Haslam; as a result of winning his block he has, like Andrew, ten fewer bisques than at the start of the season. The senior block winner, James Hawkins, an old man of 20, still tends to send bisques flying in all directions but knows what to do when they are down.

There were many memorable moments, of which two must not pass unrecorded. Mark Saurin peeled out Chris Haslam to create a two-ball game and minimise the devastating effect of the remaining SEVEN bisques. Russell Collighan finished with a triple peel, leaving Jack Shotton with five bisques standing. The manager thoughtfully put these spectacles on lawn 1. I would not fancy managing 28 competitors with no time limits, but Peter Death needed to impose very few timed endings. I found this a great advantage when up against slow long-bisqued opponents and double-bankers.

In one game, I always seemed to be in the same place as the double-bankers. Playing a break, I came to a hoop with the 'occupied' sign up and the player at the other end of the lawn. I sat on the lawn in the waiting-for-them-again pose. A couple of minutes later, there was a call from the other end: 'Would you mind marking the mallet, please?'

Book early for next year, double-bankers, teenagers and all!

games, and was reduced from 3½ to 3 - not so much for winning as for steam-rolling the opposition - he averaged +16 per game! George Collin finally overcame his lack of mallet to win his last game against the old gunfighter himself, John 'oops' Wheeler. John is showing signs of a return to form and his break construction is a joy to watch. Runner up was David Ruscombe-King.

The club also staged a local handicap tournament to encourage new players, though not as part of the weekend. This, as expected, produced mostly results on time, in contrast to the Open blocks where only 2 games per block went to time. Many of the high bisquers were pleased to see the A class missing shots. Miss of the weekend has to go to Jon Watson. Against Tom he missed a roquet from ¼ inch! Fortunately this was during his construction of a leave so was not too serious. The game eventually went to time with Jon finishing just ahead, by hitting a lift shot, and

### Roehampton: 13-14 August The Longest Hoop?

Report by John Walters

The result of this tournament always seemed quite inevitable; coming as it did, shortly after the selectors had failed to pick Phil Cordingly for the President's Cup (a decision, incidentally, which cost your reporter a pound in a bet with Mr Cordingly!) for the second year running. Phil didn't drop a game; beating Aiton (26TP) and Mulliner en route. The first triple against Aiton was remarkable in ending with an attempted combination peg-out (straight, with 2ft between ball and peg, 2 yds between ball and croquet stroke) which was completely missed - the croqueted ball staying on the lawn only by inches - but left a straight half-jump peg-out, which was successful!

After the sad demise of Hurlingham's delicious chocolate crunch cake, players eagerly took the chance of sampling Roehampton's 'Mississippi Mud Pie'. Once synonymous with descriptions of their lawns, there is no longer any chance of confusing the culinary delicacy with those patchy specimens on display this weekend! The item steered clear of by most players was pilchard; generally regarded as obnoxious and invariably found pickled, it is always sour and leaves a bad taste in the mouth.

Most sniggers were elicited by Cathy French, during a lengthy discourse by Robert Prichard on 'why he doesn't wear white'. But I'm sure the aspersions cast by Cathy in questioning his eligibility, were totally unfounded.

The most remarkable event of the weekend was the success of all four seeds in reaching the semi-finals. Next was David Peterson's running of 2-back from just outside

splitting Tom up. As time was called Jon took off to the peg and pegged out, leaving Tom joined wide, who then missed. The only other timed game was the Mancunian Derby between West and Sutcliffe - Peter won +1!

Thanks to Howard Bottomley who catered, despite his very recent family addition, Jack. We even made a slot on Anglia TV!

#### RESULTS

##### Block 1

Winner: M. Coward; Runner-Up: J. Watson.

##### Block 2

Winner: P. Elliot; Runner-Up: D. Ruscombe-King.

third corner, having just declared to the Editor of the Croquet Almanack that he intended to claim the 'longest hoop' record by so doing!

Despite the fact that Richard Hilditch seemed heading for a comprehensive victory throughout, a falter in the final round brought a 'best of 10' shoot out at the peg, to decide the Swiss. This was won by David Wiggins, despite Robert Jones' early lead and Richard Hilditch's late surge. The third place play-off between Aiton and Walters saw Walters take the first game with a 7th turn triple, after Aiton hit his 6th turn lift and failed a TPO leaving Walters an 8-yard shot. The next two games both went to Aiton, with some impressive hitting of vital shots but, uncharacteristically, no triples.

The final itself was a scrappy affair, especially compared to the brilliance both players demonstrated in their semi-finals. The second game gave Steve an opportunity for some 'air punching' after successfully completing a very difficult jump shot through an angled sixth hoop, whilst on a quadruple peel. Sadly the quadruple gave less reason for elation, breaking down at penult and penult - just as it was looking under control - by Steve leaving himself just a sliver to hit of the peel ball in its hoop.

So 'congratulations' to Phil. To Steve 'must do better' - as a probationary selector, that is!

### Colchester: 5-7 August Comish Wins Handicap Swiss

Report by Pat Hetherington

What began as an event with no time limits on the first day and a half ended with ¾ hour limits imposed as the intense heat and very speedy lawns made play more difficult. No fewer than 16 games went to time. Noticeably the only triples were completed on the first day, the first by Robert Fulford and the second (a straight triple) by Richard Hilditch.

Steve Comish won the Swiss with 7 wins from 7 games. There were 24 entries.

### Nothing Changes!

By Chris Hudson

Even though the two items below were published 83 and 90 years ago respectively, they could have been written today with a few minor changes.

The first item is taken from an advertisement in the 1905 Gazette, where Mr F.H. Ayres, the croquet equipment manufacturer, is fighting back against criticism of his croquet balls by quoting a report from a previous Gazette....

Extract from the Croquet Association Gazette.

#### The Association Tournament ROEHAMPTON CHALLENGE CUPS: 21-25 August.

'On the first day of the Meeting several of the players expressed certain doubts as to the character of the balls used, and their weight and quality; so much so, in fact, that the Referee sent a communication to Mr Ayres, who dispatched one of his representatives with a weighing machine, in which a number of the balls were weighed, and found to be without exception of the legal weight, all, in fact, weighing within a drachm of sixteen ounces. This, however, was not sufficient for the more sceptical minds, and consequently a number of balls were sawn asunder, and into quarters, and some split into pieces with wedges, the result being to show that in every case the balls were composed of thoroughly good boxwood. Apart from the waste of sound material, the tests applied will be found to have served a very useful purpose, since it is well known that boxwood loses a portion of its weight in course of time, so that people who practise with balls of a previous season are likely to notice a considerable difference in weight when starting to play in a Tournament at which balls complying strictly with the Laws in every respect are provided.'

\*\*\*\*\*

The second item is contained in Walter Peel's book 'How to Play Croquet', which was published by John Jaques and Son, 102 Hatton Garden, London, EC in 1898. Today he would no doubt have referred to Short Croquet....

#### CROQUET AT GARDEN PARTIES

By W.H. Peel

Much injury is done to croquet by faddists who profess to admire the game and to have its interests at heart. It may not, therefore, be amiss to make some few remarks on the subject, and point out where these nurseries for tournament players may be made as useful as possible, besides being amusing to

many who are perfectly indifferent to its beauties or capabilities.

Faddists injure the game, because whenever they are any authority they insist on the tournament game being played in its entirety on private lawns, no matter what the class of players who may be desirous of playing a game.

That is, they insist on as big a ground as possible, four inches hoops and the most difficult setting.

The writer, on the other hand, who has the game quite as much at heart, is of quite a different opinion, and considers considerable latitude should be allowed to novices.

Let it not be thought, however, that he recommends a game where cheating is looked upon as clever and as a great joke; croquet is now being discussed, and not skittles.



A group photo of Miss Weightman (seated, 2nd right) and other croquet players (See page 15).

It is recommended that the game be played in accordance with 'the Revised Laws', with good implements (as the toy sets sold by inferior makers are abhorrent to all real croquet players), leaving the size of the ground, width of hoops, and the particular setting, to depend on the extent of lawns and the capabilities of the players.

For beginners it will be found that five-inch hoops, a small ground (25 yards by 20 yards), and an easier setting, ie. the seven-hoop setting, are quite difficult enough, and under such conditions the game will prove more interesting and less likely to be wearisome than if they were told off to a large ground with everything 'de rigueur'.

On very small lawns and of irregular shape, such as 20 yards square, the five-hoop setting, as figured, may be adopted. This setting is only a modification of the seven-hoop setting, and will be found convenient for small lawns, as the number of hoops is dimin-

ished. Its chief drawback is the frequency of going through the middle hoop, namely, four times.

If these particulars are not sufficient, anyone desirous of help in laying out of grounds, or management of private prize meetings, should write to the Hon. Sec. of the Croquet Association for information, and he will, we know, be always ready to give advice.

The management of a croquet party will depend very much on the extent of lawn available, and on the numbers of persons wishing to play and their merits as croquet players.

If any individual player be particularly strong, he should either be paired off with a weak partner, or should stand out altogether, and be kind enough to coach both sides in some four-handed game, where none of the players are good

drawn together.

Then another three weeks allotted to the next round, and when the number of those left in was reduced to eight, matches need only be played on those lawns best fitted for the purpose, either on account of their size or excellence of turf.

We have however, rather wandered from our subject, namely, how to make croquet parties as interesting as possible, and tend to the general improvement and cultivation of real croquet.

We will reiterate that it is absurd, as some seem to consider right, to lay down the hard-and-fast law that unless tournament croquet be played it is not croquet at all.

If our recommendations are attended to, it will be found that beginners are not discouraged at first by great difficulties, and it is a natural tendency that when by practice minor difficulties are overcome, further difficulties will be asked for, and in this way players who like the game will gradually aspire to bigger grounds and smaller hoops.

It is not that the players who begin as we recommend will have anything to unlearn, but merely that they will, as their croquet strength increases, have to accustom themselves to pass through slightly narrower hoops at a greater distance apart.

Several players, at the commencement of a tournament have expressed the opinion that the narrow hoops and large grounds would prove fatal to their chance, yet in a very few games they have come to quite the opposite conclusion, and say the difficulties they foresaw were quite imaginary.

From these remarks we deduce that the size of grounds are not of so much importance as might be thought, provided that croquet is played with good implements and under proper laws.

Those who merely take part in an occasional game of croquet without any desire of playing in public tournaments will, on easy grounds, a seven-hoop setting, and easy hoops, find a pastime which will neither prove wearisome nor too difficult.

Then with two grounds, with four hours to play, the three games could easily be finished.

Another plan, suitable for a croquet neighbourhood, where croquet parties are much in vogue, would be for a prize to be subscribed for (or given by some generous patron of the game), entries made and a draw to take place.

Then a month might be allowed for the playing off of the first round, at the convenience of the players

## Early Days



## Your Letters

### PUBLICITY

Dear Sir,  
Dorothy Rush's article in September's 'Croquet' gives me an opportunity to tell members about my dealings with the Media.

I became Chairman of the Publicity committee in April 1987 and decided that the best thing I could do would be to try to re-interest the Media in Croquet. In the last few years the reporting of sport has changed. Formerly the press accepted reports and results, even including handicap events. Now it is a great effort to get the Press to print anything. The reason is because far more varieties of sport are being reported, and Croquet is not always the flavour of the day, week or month. But that is no reason to do nothing, and nothing is not being done.

I take the view that most sport under county standard has little chance of being reported. I consider that Open Level Advanced play is akin to county Cricket, Golf, Tennis and so forth. I am therefore concentrating on that standard of play. At the end of the 1987 season I got the Daily Telegraph interested in reporting Croquet on a weekly basis. I and many others think the style of the reporting of Charles Randall is excellent.

During the winter I was in contact with all the reasonable national papers: I split events into

'national' which I would deal with, and 'local' which tournament Managers would deal with. I told the Press what the Managers would cover. I told the Managers what was required and gave them the appropriate 0800 telephone numbers.

As far as 'national' events are concerned I first obtained from the top 36 ranked players a CV on a proforma I designed. I sent copies of these to the Press so that if a top player was involved it had personal information it could use, including the player's telephone number. Incidentally I am told by the Press that only Cricket and Croquet provide CV's. I am trying to put some flesh on to the bare bones of names.

For most national events from the Coles (end of April) onwards I have issued Press Releases under the above heading. The Release gives a description of the event and identifies the best players involved. In the margin I include the telephone number of each player mentioned.

While all the reasonable national Press receive a copy I also send a copy to the local paper of each player mentioned. I do this so that people can read about Croquet in their local paper, and, if interested, can go to their local club. It has surprised me how much local in-

terest has been aroused, how many players have been spoken to locally and how many provincial papers have telephoned me.

If you look at the Guardian or Independent you will see that sports coverage is limited. Nevertheless on the 9th July the Guardian devoted 10" x 9" to a large photograph and article. The Independent similarly devoted 11½" x 7". Three days later the Daily Telegraph had a photograph 10½" x 5". On the 17th July Giles had a cartoon in the Sunday Express. On the 20th July the Times had a photograph 7" x 5". On the 24th July the Sunday Express devoted 9½" x 8". Just to mention a few. I realise it is a few and I hope by my persistence more Croquet will be reported. But that is not all. The Press Releases go to National TV and Radio Channels and also to local TV and Radio in the area of the venue of the event. I am still working on it. It is lucky that I am unemployed (by reason of age) and have an overworked word processor.

In mid-August when many were playing Croquet I was working on Press Releases for the GB v under 21 GB, the President's Cup, the Chairman's Salver and the Spencer E11 Cup. In all 380 sheets of paper went to 40 destinations. Maybe through my ignorance I am just wasting my time. Never mind - no one pays me for it. I am not, repeat not, complaining. After all I can always resign if I don't like doing it.

Dorothy Rush pontificates under an obvious pseudonym, but would not have written her article without a wide experience of how the Press works. I would welcome help from such an expert in carrying the burden I have adopted. So come out of your Shropshire/East Anglian hide-out, or where ever it is. Let the people see that you too are vigorous enough to stand on your back legs and holler 'Here I am. What can I do to help you?'

Peter Danks,  
Budleigh Salterton.

Dear Sir,  
With reference to Bill Bawden's letter in the November issue of 'Croquet', we at Taunton Deane send in regular reports of our home and away matches to the local paper.

Regretfully, I feel at times we are being gently mocked. Here are two recent examples of the 'imaginative' headlines made up by the paper.

### AT LAST!

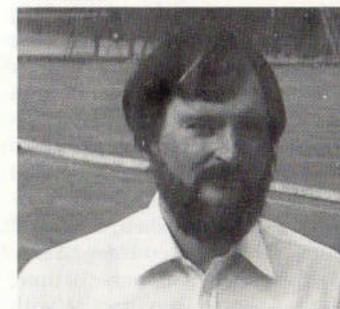
Dear Sir,

To many of us who have slowly worked our way towards a lower handicap over the years, the rise of so many new players into the rarified realms of the 'A' class and its apparently concomitant combinations of multiple peels within a space of time that can be measured in months rather than years seems little short of meteoric. Well, here is a note of reassurance for we lesser mortals....

Avid readers of 'Croquet' and its predecessor 'The Croquet Gazette' will have noticed the name of Laurence Latham occurring from time to time. It is in fact 25 years since Laurence first attempted croquet in any form; 20 years since he learned the Association game at the Bristol Club; and 11 years since he first became a 'scratch' player. In his final turn of the 1988 season, at the Cheltenham September Weekend, he at last completed a triple peel in competitive play. Everything comes to him who waits!

Laurence maintains that the CA's fortuitous timing of its new Award scheme was not the reason for his going for Gold during the Olympics!

Deborah Latham,  
Taunton.



Laurence Latham, success at last. Congratulations!

**1904 GAZETTES**  
If anyone knows the whereabouts of the bound volumes of 1904 Gazettes normally held in the CA office, please would they inform Brian Macmillan immediately.

'Deane Dip' (we lost, but sounds like a good cocktail party) and 'Hoop Hoop Hooray' (we won, perhaps on the hoop-la at the local fair?).

Besides which the sports editor does love cutting down the reports to a bare minimum and we consider ourselves lucky if we get a paragraph which isn't tucked away in some obscure corner.

Elizabeth White,  
Taunton.

## Edgbaston: 2-4 September Exits and Entrances at Edgbaston

### Girling Retirement Shock Horror Probe

Report by Peter Dorke

This might have been the tournament report which rehabilitated Ken Jones - left out entirely, faithful readers will remember, from the report of last year's Edgbaston Advanced Weekend - but the announcement by Alan Girling of his intention to retire from competitive croquet at the end of this season reduced to insignificance all other matters pertaining to this popular event.

Perhaps Richard Hilditch, in his first Edgbaston tournament, did win all six of his games, trouncing David 'Swifty' Gocher +25 in a final which took less than one hour - a new record, I'm told, for Swifty, who usually takes that long to line up his shot at the tice.

Perhaps the outgoing champion, 'Pubby' Packer, did delight a packed balcony with the world's most inept failed sextuple - and please note, gentle readers, our young friend's new sobriquet. Petulance is out, pubs are in. (A. Girling, this year's featured player, had other suggestions to make but C. Hudson would certainly not print them, so you'll just have to use your imaginations.)

Perhaps Ken Jones - anxious, perhaps, to feature more prominently in this year's report - did lose,

spectacularly, the Match of the Tournament (to Andrew Gregory, who is a very fine shot) and then went on, when all but the most faithful had crept wearily away, to lose, even more spectacularly, to your humble reporter. Who, on this occasion at least, was an extraordinarily fine shot.

Perhaps the afore-and-repeatedly-it-seems-mentioned Jones K. did, on Friday night peg out from a corner in pitch darkness, using Martin Granger-Brown's white legs as leading lights and initiating the decline into despair of one Gaunt, Don.

Perhaps this tournament was notable in that 20% of the entrants were surnamed Jones; in that 20% were, or had once been, members of Ipswich Croquet Club; in that 12½% were twins; in that 100% of 'Pubby' (see above) Packer's breaks foundered at 2-back; in that 33% of entrants had surnames beginning with G (Hi there, folks! This week's tournament is brought to you by the letter G).

Perhaps Alan 'Breaks not Brakes' Girling, our featured player, was stretching the truth a little when he claimed at 4pm that he had been waiting 'uncomplainingly' for a game since 11 o'clock and perhaps

## Wrest Park: 16-18 September Sociable and Sunny and (just a little bit) Smoky

As the sun sinks on DAY 1 and we tuck into a fish and chip supper in the Social Club bar, the speculation begins - who are the front runners, who is going to have their handicap reduced?

Kathleen Yonge (20) has been overcoming all comers with her multitude of bisques. John Wheeler has been making up for missing hoops from 6 inches by running them from the boundary.

When DAY 2 comes to a close and we sit down to a meal at a local pub, the debate continues with even more results to conjure with.

Duncan (the pipe) Hector is vying with Adrian Craxton for the leadership of block C. While in block B Steve Comish suddenly appears to be winning all his games. John (roll your own) Bevington is making a comeback after a slow start.

In a game in which he completed a good 9-hoop break, Ting To (16) pegged out one of Mark Hutchison's (9) balls when each of their other balls had some way to go. He then went on to win by only 4 in an exciting finish. Running 4-back

from some distance when Mark's ball was for that hoop and located not far away in corner 3, he then took the 6-yard shot at it rather than use his own ball. Luckily it hit and Mark was unable to make another hoop.

John Wheeler was seen to stick in the jaws of a hoop. Was it to be sure of running it next time?

Sitting outside in the warm sunshine sipping beer at the end of DAY 3, all the speculation has come to an end.

Adrina Judge emerged as the winner of block A, Steve Comish convincingly won block B, and Duncan Hector crept ahead of Adrian Craxton to win block C. In addition to receiving a paper-weight they each were given a friendly postcard!

John Wheeler maintained he was attempting a triple peel in his game against Kathleen Yonge, but somehow it ended up as a 13-9 win on time.

As Celia Stewart and Gill Waters staggered off home, they admitted to having just finished the last of the 6 bottles of cider they had

he was lucky to find a taker for his bet that he would fail to peg out - a punter, indeed, who duly coughed up when Alan duly missed the peg.

Perhaps a certain deaconess - I would name her but I'm determined not to mention Ken Jones this year, even, as it were by association - was a little shocked by the language some of these rough croquet players use.

Perhaps Messrs Packer and Jones (Robert of that ilk) did try, on Saturday morning, to play without chips, bacon without eggs, pilchards without ice-cream, band together to drag him kicking and screaming from the brink of the abyss?

Perhaps the food was magnificent and the weather glorious.

Perhaps the sanitary conditions were, as ever, frightful. As frightful, in truth, as the suggestion - another product of the febrile brain cells of our featured player and, mercifully, he's losing them at the rate of 20,000 a day - that your reporter's handicap ought, in future, to be reduced only if a commensurate reduction in weight be clearly perceived.

Perhaps the deeds of derring-do of the fiery Brands, of Brian 'the Hammer' Hallam, of the infuriatingly accurate Bob Sutherland, of the swash-buckling Andy Symons, do deserve elaboration in this report.

Perhaps...perhaps...perhaps... but all else pales before the enor-

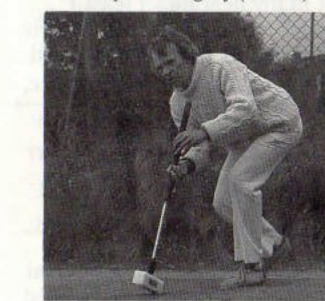
## Weekend Tournaments

my of the Great Man's fateful decision. I had hoped that Richard Hilditch's valedictory remarks - and a fine and gentle speech it was - would contain a plea for a change of heart, a softening of the iron in the soul, in the very fibre of the Girling being, but no - Richard was, no doubt, too choked to speak the words that were needed.

And there the matter lies. Shall we let it lie or shall we for whom croquet without Girling would be sausage without mash, fish without chips, bacon without eggs, pilchards without ice-cream, band together to drag him kicking and screaming from the brink of the abyss?

Write now, before it is too late, to A.J. Girling, 41, Copper Beech Close, Harborne, Birmingham 17, urging him to reconsider.

**RESULTS**  
(6-Round Swiss: 24 entries. Advanced Play)  
Winner: R.J. Hilditch (6 wins).  
Runner-Up: A. Gregory (4 wins).



Alan Girling contemplates his future.

purchased on day 1.

And so ended another season!

**RESULTS**  
(Handicap play, 3 blocks of 8)  
**Block A**  
Winner: A. Judge (9).  
Runner-Up: A. Schonebeck (9).

**RESULTS ROUND-UP**  
**Ryde: 9-11 September**  
(Handicap play, 3 blocks of (6))  
**Block Winners**  
R. Jackman (8); P. Kennerley (10); Dr C.J. Davey (6).  
**Southwick: 9-11 September**  
(Handicap blocks. 28 entries)

**Block Winners**  
S. Comish (4½); P. Howell; A.R.K. Miller (11); M. Cooperman (8).

**Play-Offs**  
Comish bt Howell +20; Miller bt Cooperman +12.

**Crawley: 10-11 September**  
(Block of 6. Advanced Play)  
Winner: N. Gale (5 wins).  
**Budleigh: 16-18 September**  
(Handicap play. 36 entries)

**Block B**  
Winner: S. Comish (3½).  
Runner-Up: M. Hutchison (5).  
**Block C**  
Winner: D. Hector (8).  
Runner-Up: A. Craxton (9).

**Block Winners**  
D.J. Croker (-1); R.C.G. Danby (7); Mrs D.M. Smith (11); B. Redford (2); W. Broad-Thomas (2); R.S. Brand (2½).  
**Nottingham: 16-18 September**  
(Handicap play. 21 entries)

**Block Winners**  
P.L. Webb (12); A.R.K. Miller (10); J.B. Portwood (3).

**Guildford & Godalming: 17-18 September**  
(Handicap play. 6-Round Swiss. 14 entries)

**Peel Memorial Weekend**  
Winner: L.J. Chapman (5½).  
Best Lady: Mrs M.E. Selmes (13).

## THE 'WHITE SPOT' MALLET

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- ★ Excellent Abrasive Properties
- ★ NIL Moisture Absorbent
- ★ Stress Free



## Weekend Tournaments

### Cheltenham: 23-25 September Heather's 2-Back Triple

Report by Deborah Latham

Steve Thomas maintained throughout this weekend that it was without doubt his worst tournament of the season; not only because of the weather (Friday - gale; Saturday - downpour; Sunday - indifferent!), but because he kept being despatched to play his croquet so far away from the beer...

Nonetheless he and the fifteen other visitors to Cheltenham contrived to join the local contingent in enjoying themselves under Kevin Carter's efficient management. The adjective is used sincerely - I call it efficient when the manager produces a personally high level of croquet and runs the proceedings smoothly without being grumbled at solo and chorus by the participants! (Not in my hearing, at least.)

Local member Derek Harris could be said to have had an interesting tournament; for instance,

he had used seven of his seven and a half bisques against Heather Pritchard before either of them realised he was only entitled to five in a shortened game! I am told (accurately, I hope) that it was he who concocted the combination of gin, cinzano, lemonade and white wine being dispensed from the Ladies' Field Cup, newly acquired by his accomplished wife, Bo. In addition it was he who, when 'rain stopped play' on courts three and six on Saturday, got out the broom and swept off the lying water so the players need not go paddling around the hoops. A busy man!

Other interesting situations arose; not least of these was drawn to my attention by Alan Bogle, who pointed out that he and John Haslam must have played the collectively tallest game - 13' 2" between them! If Derek Harrison and Kevin Carter had double-banked with them I think they'd

have all collapsed from vertigo!

The forty-eight competitors were divided into three Swiss blocks, and it was three of the visitors who emerged as clear winners; Les Chapman (Winchester) with 5 wins in Block A, John McMordie (Aldermaston) likewise in Block B - his one loss was conversely a magnificent win for John Willis after being peeled and pegged out with his other ball still on the first hoop - and Ivor Brand (Worcester) achieving a clean sweep of 6 wins in Block C. However, only Alan Bogle in Block B emerged clearly in second place so, with several people having the same number of wins in the various blocks, second and/or third places were determined by a 'shoot-out' at the peg. The format was that each person in turn had four shots, then single shots if necessary.

There were five contenders for the third place in Block B - John Haslam, John Willis, Paddy Padon, Millicent James, and Kismet Whittall. Out of a collective total of thirty shots, the only one to hit was

John Willis. The next Block determined was C, with myself, Kevin Carter, Ken Bright and David Magee involved. Being the only one to hit the peg in the first round, I was duly second, and David Magee shortly followed into third place (thus two hits out of nineteen shots).

For Block A, Carmen Bazley, Heather Pritchard, Maurice Boardman and Derek Harrison *all* hit, but unfortunately Dab Wheeler didn't... The collective success rate of hits that led up to Carmen gaining second place was seven out of thirty-six, but since it was beginning to get rather dark by this time the rules were changed so that, from the mid-point on the west boundary, the contenders had either to simply hit two-back for one point or run it for two points. Heather Pritchard promptly ran it three times, to the great delight of the gallery!

An unusual and entertaining end to an entertaining weekend - thank you, Cheltenham Club and Kevin Carter!

against Dab Wheeler but failed the pegout.

A few managed to win all their games - congratulations to Pat Hague, Roger Wheeler, and Colin Snowdon.

All in all an enjoyable weekend and a fitting end to the season.

PS - If you find a koala on your lawn when you next play at Cheltenham, it was not that last gin and tonic - please return it to Carmen.

PPS - If you find a kangaroo on your lawn when you next play anywhere - that's Carmen's too!

#### RESULTS

(Handicap play: 42 entries)

**Block A:** Winner: D. Willetts (4½); Runner-Up: P.L. Smith (-½).

**Block B:** Winner: D. Cairns (0); Runner-Up: Mrs F. Ransom (4).

**Block C:** Winner: Mrs P. Hague (2½); Runner-Up: F.I. Maugham (0).

**Block D:** Winner: Dr R.F. Wheeler (5); Runner-Up: Mrs P. Asa-Thomas (3).

**Block E:** Winner: C. Snowdon (2); Runner-Up: D.H. Moorcraft (½).

**Block F:** Winner: I. Brand (1½); Runner-Up: Mrs J. Anderson (4).

**Block G:** Winner: A. Potter (12); Runner-Up: J. Jackson (3½).

### Cheltenham: 7-9 October Happy End to Season

No TPO's, jump shots, or other advanced tactics. Just plenty of good food, sociable opponents, and reasonable weather for the time of year. What more could one ask for!

Though it was all singles there seemed to be a lot of similar pairs of names around - Anderson, Brand, Gosden, Ransom, Selmes, Tomkinson, Weitz, Wheeler. Was each half deliberately put in a different block?

The 7 blocks all had their exciting moments. Bob Adlard had a few close finishes. When playing Roger Wheeler, Roger used one bisque and a double peel to peg out one of Bob's balls when his other ball was still for hoop 3. Bob then tried to halt Roger's subsequent progress to the peg, but in vain.

When he played Pat Asa-Thomas, they got to only having two balls on the lawn - both for the peg. Unfortunately again for Bob, Pat got there first.

And how about this for being generous to your opponent: when Colin Snowdon stuck in hoop 1, John Sturdy's ball, which was for 2-back, was just the other side. John then hit Colin's ball only just back through the hoop. In order to get his ball in front of 2-back, John then rolled both balls through the hoop, thus peeling Colin through hoop 1. Both balls ended up in contact in line with the hoop and only a few inches from it. John could then only hit his ball away at right angles to its hoop, and nowhere near his partner ball.

In the Anderson x 2 versus Brand x 2 contest the result was one all. Paul Smith attempted a triple peel



David Cairns, block winner at Cheltenham.

### Southport: 24-25 September Irwin Shows His Class Again

Report by Chris Clarke

The tournament, like many this year at Southport, began with a concerted effort to clear the lawns of water. The start of some games was therefore slightly delayed and the East boundary of Lawn 1 was a popular place to lay up. Chris Irwin's shot at a ball 10 yards away went perfectly straight but stopped 4 yards short. Chris Clarke eventually got a break going by refusing a 25-yard take-off to the opposition, rolling up to 2 from second corner and making a 5-yard 'impossible' hoop.

Meanwhile, games were going on and on, with breaks being few and far between. David Maugham, now getting used to his longer mallet, disposed of both Mark Saurin and Chris Clarke. In the latter game, Chris had laid a wired rush to rover behind hoop 4 when David was for penult and box. He had forgotten that David was in perfect hoop-running position (north boundary). David ran it cleanly, hit the double target and finished. The day finished with David being beaten by Alan Sutcliffe in one half and Colin Irwin beating Andrew Bennet in the other with a 'make it up as you go along' triple peel.

Mark Saurin's mind was preoccupied by matters outside the croquet as a result of the latest influx of lower-sixth girls at school. When Russell Collighan said 'I've got someone's cold', Mark managed to contort this into 'I've got someone to hold'. In fact, with all the Bandits out of the main event, there were more excuses than these floating around. Andrew

Saurin was depressed by certain strictures enforced by his brother, who also managed the tournament well despite frequent light-hearted complaints from Colin Wild about being made to play in the dark.

Back to croquet, and the final began in a predictably tense atmosphere. Alan had brought along his number one supporter, Barbara, and this tactic seemed to be working as he took the first game. However, Colin quickly established a large lead in the second. Despite chances in the rest of the match, Alan was unable to stop Colin becoming the first winner of the Sandiford Salver.

The Swiss was now producing some good play, with both Russell Collighan and John Portwood completing triple peels. Andrew Bennet had four wins, including a slow-and-furious battle against David Maugham, heard in adjoining counties. Andrew's worries about surplus beer were dispelled by somebody whilst the manager was in play. Mark Saurin won the Swiss with a TPO against Chris Clarke.

And so another successful season for Southport came to an end. Its players have made their mark throughout the country and the welcome to visitors is always warm.... just like the excellent food. Why not come North next year?

#### RESULTS

(Advanced play: 16 entries)

##### Semi-Finals

C.J. Irwin bt A. Bennet +22TP; A. Sutcliffe bt D. Maugham +20.

##### Final

Irwin bt Sutcliffe -12, +18, +12.

## National Rankings 1988

### NATIONAL RANKINGS 1988

Pos'n	Player	Grade	Games	Pos'n	Player	Grade	Games	Pos'n	Player	Grade	Games	Pos'n	Player	Grade	Games
1	Mulliner SN	170	83	27	Hilditch JR	126	134	52	Maugham DB	109	63	78	Williams RaW	95	17
2	Aspinall GN	167	44	28	Solomon EW	124	15	53	Hallam BG	109	48	79	Symons A	95	20
3	Cordingley P	162	88	29	Gunasekera D	124	50	54	Cairns DS	108	30	80	Jones RP	95	47
4	Openshaw DK	161	59	30	Schmieder	121	11	55	Jones KE	108	20	81	Kelly DJ	95	16
5	Clarke CD	161	117		CM von			56	Gaunt DL	107	68	82	Wormald M	94	17
6	Avery MN	155	46	31	Neal BG	121	16	57	Storey BJ	107	36	83	Wood R	93	11
7	Pritchard WdeB	147	23	32	Ransom RW	120	50	58	Smith PL	106	51	84	Carlisle V Mrs	92	18
8	Fulford RI	147	114	33	Dawson JP	120	56	59	Gregory AK	106	69	85	Battison JSH	90	20
9	Aiton KMH	144	83	34	Bond ID	118	55	60	Smith RJ	106	17	86	Gale NFC	89	15
10	Reeve DC	142	90	35	Pritchard RDC	118	88	61	Maugham FI	105	27	87	Wilkins MJ	89	17
11	Murray M	142	61	36	Aldridge WO	117	43	62	Mrozinski AJ	102	22	88	Meads JD	88	32
12	Williams S	137	64	37	Read TO	117	10	63	Sykes BC	102	16	89	Dorke PJ	88	37
13	Foulser DR	136	63	38	Goacher DJ	116	77	64	Harrison TD	102	60	90	Bennet A	88	24
14	Bell E	135	41	39	Davis EJ	116	33	65	Stevens MJ	101	33	91	Girling AJ	87	14
15	Lewis SE	135	49	40	Wiggins DCD	115	58	66	Suter MA	100	36	92	Haggerston	87	22
16	French MR	134	113	41	Palmer DG	115	44	67	Packer SW	99	18		MJB		
17	Saurin MA	131	79	42	Guest JE	115	87	68	Keen BA	99	18	93	Parker CA	87	16
18	Wood TI	131	12	43	Rogerson F	115	21	69	Mann JR	99	14	94	Moorcraft DH	85	24
19	Vincent IG	130	51	44	Sutcliffe AF	114	52	70	Reed AA	98	13	95	Jones RC	85	24
20	McCullough JR	129	20	45	Collin MP Mrs	114	10	71	Greenwood JD	98	10	96	Tompkinson	84	20
21	Healy GPN	129	15	46	Wright SJH	113	26	72	Bailey RF	98	11		MG		
22	Hope AB	128	24	47	Lamb WE	112	75	73	Death PJ	97	14	97	Weitz BGF	83	27
23	Cornelius DA	128	99	48	Collighan RJ	111	59	74	Landor FJR	96	30	98	Taylor GK	82	12
24	Irwin CJ	128	96	49	Wiggins S Mrs	111	13	75	Peterson DNS	96	81	99	Kolbuszewski M	82	13
25	Walters JO	127	116	50	Rose J	110	16	76	Appleton DR	96	43	100	Mackenzie-	81	16
26	Noble GW	127	71	51	Vince GA	110	25	77	Southern C	96	46		Bowie E		

### Croquet Mania' - a new game for winter evenings

By John Eastman

On the 11th August, Tracy Park entertained their neighbours, Lansdown, in a progressive Short Croquet competition.

All went well until lunchtime, when the heavens opened and dashed all hopes of play in the afternoon. However, after an excellent lunch in the Restaurant, our Secretary produced a dice game called 'Croquet Mania', and we spent the afternoon playing a 'Beetle Drive' type game with the format shown.

The game was thought up by Jan Butler, with another member producing the format. May be it would be of interest to other croquet players and the rules are listed below.

#### THE RULES

To play 'Croquet Mania' you need a card marked as shown, a dice and shaker (wine glass), and a pen/pencil to draw logos.

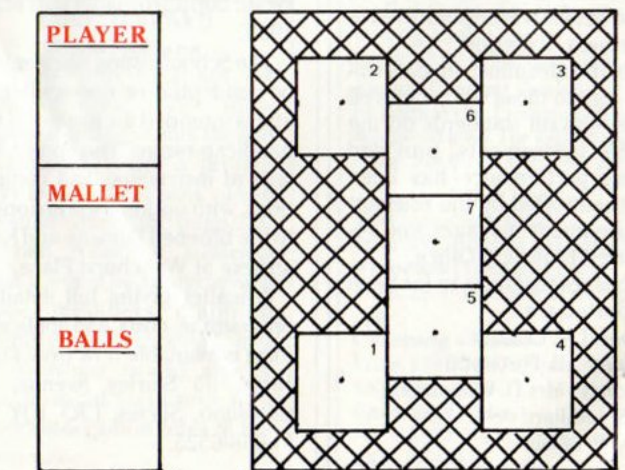
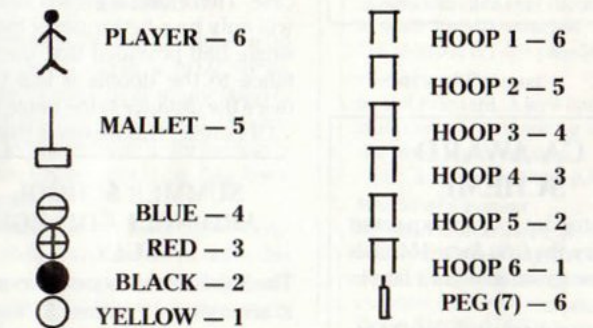
Two players can play singles, as in croquet, or four players can play doubles.

Decide who is to start by throwing the highest number, and allocate the ball colours.

Each player throws in turn (clockwise round the table). As soon as a player throws a 6, a 'player logo' is drawn in the relevant box of the player's card. In a subsequent turn, the player must then throw a 5 to obtain a mallet (draw mallet in box on card). In the next or later turn, the player then has to throw the relevant number to obtain the right colour ball.

After this, a player scores the hoops in sequence (6 or 12, as in croquet) by throwing the relevant number, until he 'pegs out' and wins the game. Every time a hoop is scored, the player has a second throw of the dice as a 'continuation stroke'.

## CROQUET MANIA



The score card for 'Croquet Mania'.



## 1989 Coaching Courses.

## Courses for Players

## Grade 2 Courses

Grade 2 courses are intended for players in the handicap range 6 to 14. Past experience has shown that most players attending these courses subsequently achieve substantial reductions in handicap.

Courses will take place at the following venues:

<b>Bristol</b>	29/30 April
<b>Budleigh Salterton</b>	30 April/1 May
<b>Hunstanton</b>	13/14 May
<b>Ormsby Hall</b>	13/14 May
<b>Southport</b>	13/14 May

## Course Fee:

£15 for CA Associates.  
£25 for non-Associates.

## Grade 3 Courses

Two courses have been arranged with a different emphasis at each.

The Bowdon course is intended for the player in the handicap range 2½ to 6.

The Colchester course is intended for the 'A' class player or near 'A' class player who has the desire and potential to become a 'minus' player.

Colchester	13/14 May
Bowdon	20/21 May

## Course Fee:

£20 for CA Associates.  
£30 for non-Associates.

## How to Apply

- Applications for Grade 2 and Grade 3 courses should be made to Bill Lamb, 5 Bondyke Close, Cottingham, N. Humberside, HU16 5ND, enclosing a cheque for the appropriate amount payable to 'The Croquet Association'.
- State your name, address, tel. no., club, handicap and your category of CA membership (standard, veteran, junior, youth or non-tournament).

## CA AWARD SCHEME

Due to later-than-expected delivery, the CA's Award Medals were not available until late in the season.

It is therefore proposed to re-launch the scheme next year, and details will be published in the next magazine.

In the meantime, medals will be sent to those who achieved the relevant standards during 1988 tournaments, provided their performance has been authenticated by the relevant tournament manager and reported to the CA Office.

Names that have so far been reported are:

**Gold:** L.V. Latham  
**Silver:** J.B. Portwood  
**Bronze:** Mrs D. Williamson  
G.S. Liddiard  
Mrs P. Lewis

## Coaching Comments

By Bill Lamb

When you are faced with a choice of target, for example whether to shoot at a ball or at a double or at the peg, it is important to be aware which is the better target.

In all cases where the distance to the target is much greater than the dimensions of target and the ball, the angle into which one can shoot for the target just to be hit is determined by the dimensions of the target and the ball divided by the distance from the ball to the target, as may be seen in diagram 1. (In both diagrams the dimensions of the balls are greatly exaggerated in comparison with the distance from ball to target).

The angle  $x$  is given by  $(d1 + d2)/D$ , where  $d1$  is the diameter of the ball,  $d2$  is the diameter of the target and  $D$  is the distance from the ball to the target.

In the case of the peg as target, the diameter of the peg is 1½', the diameter of the ball is 3¾'. The angle  $x$  is therefore 5¾/D. In the case of another ball as target, the angle  $x'$  is 7¼/D. The angle  $x'$  will be greater than the angle  $x$  (making the ball a better target than the peg) provided that the ratio  $D/D'$  is less than 7¼ / 5¾ or 58/41. This is approximately 1.5/1.

When shooting at a perfect double (diagram 2), the target has an effective diameter of three times that of a single ball, making  $d1 + d2$  twice as great as the single ball case. Therefore, a perfect double will only be a better target than a single ball provided that the distance to the double is less than twice the distance to the single ball.

Of course, this assumes that all

other things are equal; in practice, imperfections of the court's surface are likely to have a greater effect over the longer distances.

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Whilst watching many handicap games last season, I was struck by how well high-bisquers often played against 'A' class players in using bisques to set up a four ball break for their first ball. However, having continued with this break to the peg and used less than half their bisques, they then tried to set up a break for the second ball without using bisques. These tactics

often gave the 'A' class player many opportunities to hit in and get a break going. In several cases a ball was pegged out reducing the value of the remaining bisques.

It is quite correct to go the peg, if you have more than half your bisques left but you must not leave the balls in a position where the better player will have a good chance of a break, if he hits in at the end of your turn, and you must set up a break and try to finish on your next turn. Remember your bisques are there for both balls - not just the first.

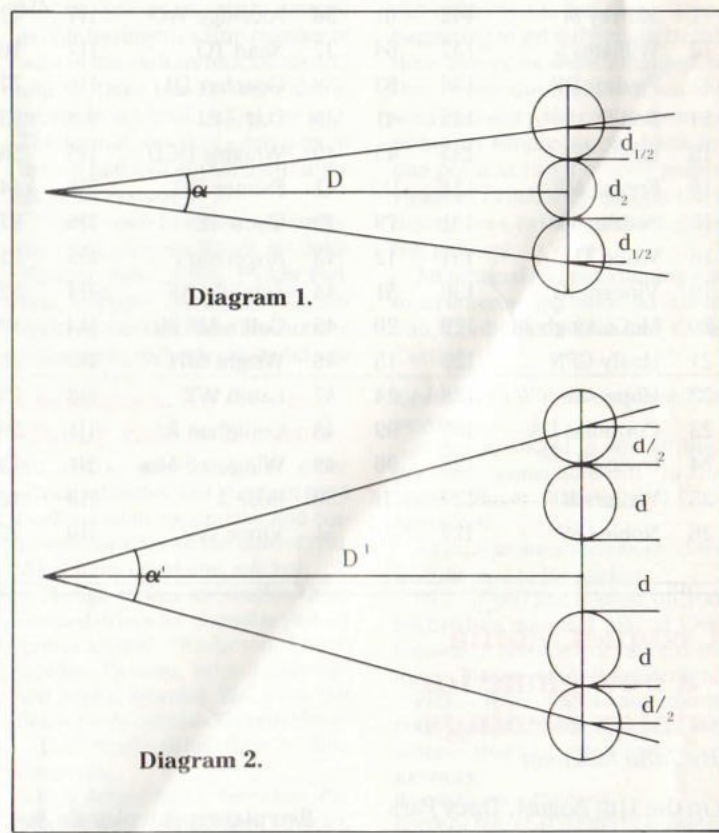


Diagram 1.

Diagram 2.

## SUMMER SCHOOL ARDINGLY COLLEGE JULY

The South East Croquet Federation is arranging a Summer School at Ardingly College, near Haywards Heath during the latter part of July 1989.

The School lasting one week can be residential or non-residential, and is intended for players of 6-20 handicap range. The course consists of instruction and competitions, with optional excursions, eg to the Bluebell Railway, and Kew's annexe at Wakehurst Place.

A leaflet giving full details of programme, costs, and application form is available now from David Higgs, 35 Shirley Avenue, Old Coulsdon, Surrey, CR3 1QY. Tel: 01-668-6525.

## LOUGHBOROUGH SUMMER SCHOOL 1989

Next year's Summer School at Loughborough will be held from 31st July to 4th August.

This course is aimed at improving the personal performance of 'beginners' - those players who have not yet obtained an official handicap, or those whose handicap is 12 or more.

Applicants will be sent a self-assessment form for completion on enrolment, and this will be used by the coaches, in conjunction with a series of practical tests on the first evening, to split the players into groups of equal ability.

The course will provide both coaching and competitive play. Major emphasis will be placed on good stroke production. As soon as groups have a good command of stroke technique, the emphasis will shift to tactical play. Players will be moved on to higher groups if they progress faster than expected.

There will be opportunities for

individual coaching on particular difficulties and successful performers will be awarded a handicap at the end of the course, existing handicaps being adjusted if necessary.

Short lawns (24yds by 16yds) will be used throughout the course.

Full details will be published 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 Summer School should be made through Mrs Sandover, but please apply early to make sure of your place - for the past three years, the Summer School has been over-subscribed.

## Course Fees (including accommodation and tuition):

£146 (CA members)  
£158 (Non-members)

## BISHAM ABBEY SUMMER SCHOOLS for Handicaps 6-12

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## Course 1

Monday 22nd May (after lunch) to Friday 26th May (finishing with lunch).

This course is designed to improve the performance of players currently in the handicap range 6 to 12 who have the potential to progress to 'A' class level (handicap 3 or less).

Coaching will be interspersed with competitive play on full size lawns.

Fee per player: £169.50

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## Course 2

Friday 26th May (evening) to Sunday 28th May (finishing about 4pm).

As for Course 1 above, but with no competitive play.

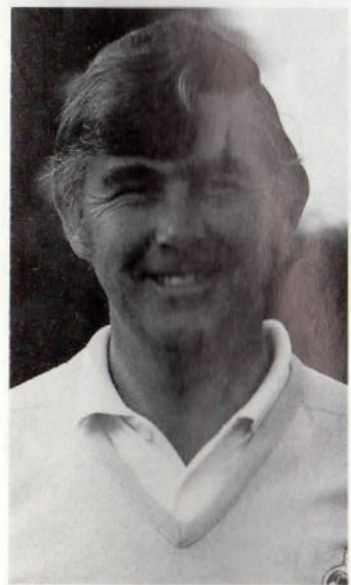
Fee per player: £89.50

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Single and double rooms are available, but early booking is advised if specific requirements are to be met. Each course is limited to 16 places which will be allocated on a first-come, first served basis.

Both courses are residential. The fees include all accommodation and coaching charges. CA members qualify for a 10% discount.

Applications should be sent to Chris Hudson, The Oaklands, Englesea Brook, Near Crewe, Cheshire, CW2 5QW. Tel 0270-820296. Please make cheques payable to 'The Croquet Association'.



David Croker, recently appointed Southern Region Coaching Officer.

## New Clubs Registered

Welcome to....

## Downham Croquet Club

Downham Market, Norfolk. Secretary: J. Toye, Inchnusa, Lynn Road, Downham Market, Norfolk. Tel: 0366-382-280

## Lym Valley Croquet Club

Lyme Regis. Secretary: W.L. Simpson, 15 Hays Close, Lyme Regis, Dorset, DT7 3NG. Tel: 02974-2769.

## Changes at the Clubs

## Ashby C.C.

New Secretary: Max Falconer, Chase End, Main Street, Snaresone, Leics, DE12 7DB. Tel: 0530-72392.

## Budleigh Salterton C.C.

New Secretary: David Purdon, Otter Holt, 37 Granary Lane, Budleigh Salterton, Devon, EX9 6EP.

## Cromer C.C.

New Secretary: L. Robinson, 2 St Andrews Close, Holt, Norfolk NR25 6EL

## Dulwich Sports Club Ltd.

New Croquet Secretary: Mrs L. Best, 75 Grove Lane, London SE5 8SP. Tel: 01-703-2014.

## Parsons Green C.C.

New Secretary: Mrs W. Jones, 3 Alder-ville Road, London, SW6. Tel: 01-736-6660.

## Southwick C.C.

New Secretary: Mrs D. Brothers, 14 Court Ord Road, Rottingdean, Brighton, BN1 7SD. Tel: 0273-304246.

## Swindon C.C.

New Secretary: C.B. Cardis, The Bungalow, 95 Avenue Road, Swindon, Wilts, SN1 4DB. Tel: 0793-35667.

## Tunbridge Wells C.C.

New Secretary: P. Howell, 10 Court Meadow, Rotherfield, E. Sussex, TN6 3LR. Tel: 089-285-3173.

## New Associates

Mrs A.M. Islam	Ancell Trust
Mrs S.L. Jameson	Ancell Trust
H.S. Williams	Ancell Trust
I.D. Birdseye	Budleigh Salterton
Mrs B. Vansittart	Bury St Edmunds
Mrs G.D. Bogle	Cheltenham
T.J. Golesworthy	Cheltenham
L. Robinson	Cromer
I.R. McClelland	Edgbaston
A.J. Betts	Exeter
H.T.F. Easterling	Harrow Oak
M.W. Bishop	Hurlingham
D.M. White	Leicester
Dr J. Banford	Norton Hall
M.R. Ainley-Walker	Oxford U.
Dr J.W. Sanders	Oxford U.
R. Hick	Preston Lawns
Mrs C.A. Hick	Preston Lawns
Dr G.G. Stringer	Roehampton
Mrs P. Sinicki	Sidcup
Mrs G. Dart	Sidmouth
J. Sheraton-Davis	Vine Road
B.M. Glaye	Walsall
R.J. Benson	
P.J. Robbins	
J.D. Watt	
A.M. Hornby	Australia
Mrs H. Marckwald	South Africa
(Total: 28)	

## Handicap Alterations

## Hunstanton: 29 Aug-4 Sept

Mrs V.Y. Tompkinson	6 to 7
S. Comish	5½ to 4½
J. Collis	5 to 4½
Mrs C. Pearce	15 to 14D12
Mrs C. French	15 to 13D12

## Budleigh Salterton: 11-18 Sept

R.C.G. Danby 7 to 6½  
Mrs D.M. Smith 11D9 to 10D9

## Sidmouth: 6 October

M. McF. Davis 9 to 8  
Dr E.C. Owen 14 to 13  
F.T. Moores 7 to 9  
R.A. Peirce 7 to 8  
Mrs W. Kennedy 20 to 19  
W. Kennedy 19 to 18  
J. Jeeves 16 to 15

## Colchester: 9 October

P. Elliott 3 to 2½

## Cheltenham: 7-9 October

Mrs J. Anderson 4 to 3½  
M. Boardman 5½ to 4½  
I. Brand 1½ to 1  
Mrs P. Hague 2½ to 2  
J. Jackson 3½ to 3  
A. Potter 12 to 10  
Dr C. Snowdon 2 to 1½  
Dr R.F. Wheeler 5 to 4  
D. Willetts 4½ to 4

## Glasgow: 8-9 October

R. Sparrow 13 to 11  
M. O'Connell 11 to 9

## Parkstone: 10 November

Dr G.B. Liddiard 4 to 3½  
C.F. Moon 7 to 6½  
J. Packer 8 to 7  
Miss A.R. Robertson 9 to 9D8

## 1988 MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT COMPETITION PRIZE WINNING CLUBS

Congratulations and thank you to the following Clubs who won prizes in this year's CA Recruitment Drive.

BUDLEIGH SALTERTON  
COMPTON  
KINGSTON MAURWARD  
SOUTHPORT  
VINE ROAD

There may be other clubs who have yet to claim a prize. If so, please forward your application to Brian Macmillan as soon as possible, giving details of the person to whom CA membership has been awarded.

Even if you were not able to support the CA's recruitment drive this year, we would welcome your support in 1989! (Details are given on Page 3.)

## TIME TO PAY!! Subscriptions

To those who have not yet remitted their 1989 subscriptions, you have until the end of January to get a prompt payment reduction (See 'Croquet', Issue 200, page 27).

When remitting subscriptions, it would be appreciated if those members claiming veteran rates or husband & wife memberships would specify this, to avoid confusion with other subscription rates of the same value.

## INDOOR CROQUET VENUES

## Indoor Invitational.

Soham, Nr Ely, Cambridgeshire.  
14th/15th January.  
See top players in action and enjoy a croquet weekend.  
(Details: Issue 200, page 30)  
Contact: John Walters (0473-53950)

## Ancell Trust Weekend

Stantonbury Leisure Centre  
Milton Keynes.  
18th/19th March.  
A croquet weekend organised by Ancell Trust CC.  
Details from Kevin Wells (0604-859581)

## CA LITERATURE New Price List

Publications available from the Croquet Association (Prices to non-members in brackets).

**Laws & Regulations**  
The full Laws of Association and Golf Croquet, and the Regulations for tournament play.  
Price: £3.00 (\$5.00) p&p 20p.

**Croquet Handbook**  
Gives the basic laws and tactics of Short Croquet. Recommended for beginners and garden croquet players.  
Price: 75p (\$1.50) p&p 20p.

**Twelve Hints for Beginners**  
A useful booklet for beginners.  
Price: 75p (\$1.25) p&p 20p.

**CA Coaching Handbook**  
As well as giving suggested coaching programmes for players at all levels, this 50-page booklet covers recruitment, practice routines, tips for improving play, and the rules of alternative croquet games. A mine of information, gleaned from many players and clubs over the years and a 'must' for club coaches.  
Price: £6.00 (\$7.00) p&p 50p.

**History of Croquet**  
by Col Prichard. A well illustrated, complete and interesting book on the history of the game.  
Price: £8.95 (\$15.00) p&p £1.20.

**World of Croquet**  
by John McCullough & Stephen Mulliner. Covers the history and development of the game, with chapters on how to play it.  
Price: £14.95 (\$24.95) p&p £2.00.

**Plus One on Time**  
by Don Gaunt. A book for the improving middle-bisquer.  
Price: £5.00 (\$6.00) p&p 50p.

**Expert Croquet Tactics**  
by Keith Wylie. Croquet at its most advanced level. For experts only!  
Price: £18.00 (\$24.00) p&p £2.00.

**Other Items**  
Ties (Associates only)  
Price: £11.50 (incl. of VAT), p&p 20p.  
Brooches (Associates only)  
Price: £3.45 (inclusive of VAT), p&p 20p.

**Coaching Videos**  
Price: £28.75 (\$34.50) (inclusive of VAT), P&p 60p.  
**Channel 4 Video**  
Price: £23.00 (\$23.00) (inclusive of VAT), P&p 60p.