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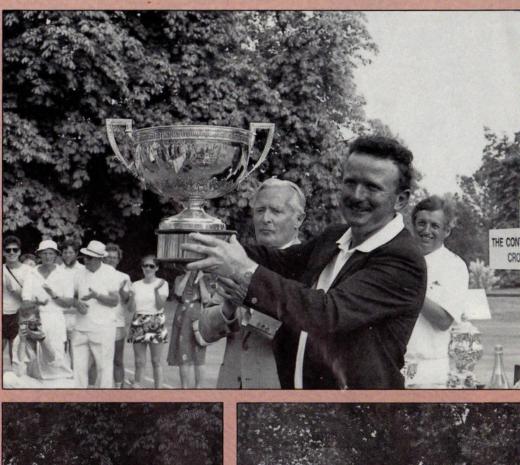


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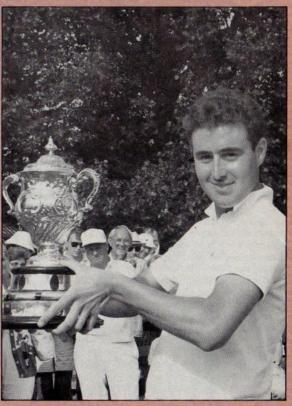








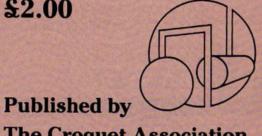




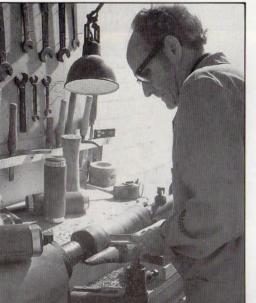
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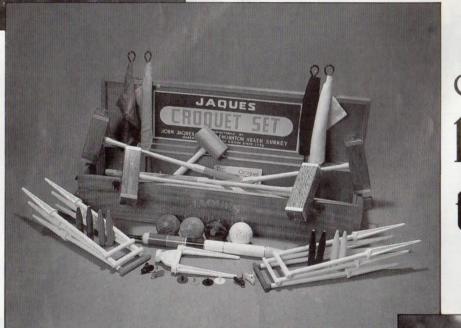
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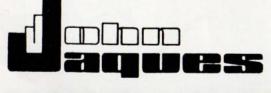


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Front Cover: A clutch of trophy holders at the World Championship. Top: Joe Hogan with the Wimbledon Cup. Bottom: (Left) Jerry Stark with the 'Fun Cup'; (Right) Mark Avery with the Ayres Cup.

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Annual Subscription Rate

Editorial

Comment

The World Croquet Championship 1989

Now that this event is over, one can look back and assess various aspects of its organisation, and consider how successful it was.

While I would not pretend that everything was perfectly done, I think that the many CA members who put so much work into the arrangements can feel very pleased at the achievement that it represents. At the closing ceremony I tried to thank everybody who had contributed to the success of the event, and I would like to repeat those thanks here, where they will reach a wider audience.

First on the list is of course Continental Airlines, whose sponsorship made the whole event possible



Alan Stockwell and his wife Pauline manning the CA's bookstall at the World Championship.

Then come the Hurlingham Club, who provided excellent fast lawns, the All-England Club, who presented the magnificent trophy, to be known in future as the Wimbledon Cup, Jaques, who again provided free sets of new balls for the event, and Harrow Oak and Colchester who staged preliminary

Many CA members helped in so many ways, none more so than Brian Macmillan, Chris Hudson, Bernard Neal, and Stephen Mulliner who between them were largely responsible for all the administration that was needed. Bernard also acted as Referee and organised accommodation for the visitors. Publicity was handled by Charles Townsend, so well that press coverage, including daily reports written by David Peterson, was better than ever. Internal CA publicity led to large numbers of members coming to Hurlingham to watch, many for the first time, and Alan and Pauline Stockwell at their sales stand found a ready market for literature and equipment. Their record sales could have been much greater if more stock, especially of mallets, had been available

All the publicity and media attention always cause additional problems for the manager of a tournament like this, but Tim Haste was completely in control at all times. When one considers that this was probably the largest event ever held in Britain, if not the world, it was impressive how Tim always seemed to know exactly what was happening, despite having eighty players and two venues to manage. The hot weather, which slowed up the games considerably, and the large entry, made the event almost impossible to finish on time, so it was not Tim's fault that, with Joe Hogan having reached both finals, the Doubles Final had to be held over to the Monday. Despite the hot weather, all the players seemed to enjoy the event, and were very cooperative in often playing till very late in the

The size of entry that was accepted was a victory for those who argued in favour of the largest possible entry, but this view is not universally held. It does have the advantage of lessening difficulties of deciding which players should qualify for places in the event,



Charles Randall, Daily Telegraph, interviews Joe Hogan after the final.

and also of increasing the entry fees collected by the CA, but the necessity of using multiple venues, with the resulting dispersion of players, the different qualities of the lawns used, and some loss of atmosphere, leads many to oppose such a large entry.

Along with the size of entry goes the question of the format of the World Championship. The combination of the event with the British Open inevitably led to the adoption of the best-of-three knockout format, but future World Championships may well be separate from national Open Championships, and the possibility of providing visiting players, who may well be playing out of season, with more than one match as a guarantee will have to be considered. An American block format, with four blocks of perhaps 6 or 8 players, followed by a best-of-three play-off between the best 2 or 4 in each block, would answer many of the criticisms levelled at the simple knock-out format, but this inevitably leads to a much lower total entry, and arguments about the distribution of the available places can be anticipated.

In assessing the play provided by the tournament, several performances stand out. Joe Hogan was once again the supreme player, and if his play lacked some of the excitement we remember from 1986, this can probably be assigned to the faster lawns, the overall slightly weaker opposition he had to face, and his own success in getting to the Doubles Final, which made the event a real test of endurance for him. As a complete performance, his ranks with anything I have seen in over 25 years of watching top-class croquet. Among the other players, all of whom rank as also-rans compared to Joe, notable performances came from Mark Avery and Colin Irwin amongst the more established British players, and Steven Comish, Duncan Reeve, Russell Collighan, and David Maugham among the younger players. But for me the play I most enjoyed watching was from the old master John Prince, when he came back from game down to beat Robert Fulford. There may be players around who can hit the ball better than John, but none whose grasp of tactics and psychology produce such interesting situations and entertainment for the discerning

How soon we shall see another World Championship remains to be seen. Negotiations with Continental for a repeat next year are at a critical stage as I write, and both New Zealand and Scotland are also bidding to stage the event. Although the problems of gaining suitable sponsorship still make the continuance of the championships questionable, few, after this year's experience, will dispute that they enrich the game both here and abroad.

MARTIN MURRAY

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Tournament Round-Up

Atco's Sponsorship Puts Croquet a Cut Ahead

1990 will be an important year for Atco Ltd and the Croquet Association following the announcement that Atco, the premier British manufacturer of quality garden machinery, are to become the new sponsors of the British Open Croquet Champion-

Atco Ltd are based at Stowmarket in Suffolk and employ 500 people with an annual turnover in excess of \$25 million. The company is a member of the Birmid Qualcast division of Blue Circle Industries.

Atco pioneered the development of petrol powered cylinder mowers during the 1920's and, although still best known for its quality cylinder lanwmowers which have been awarded several Royal Warrants, the company today uses the latest technologies to manufacture a wide range of modern garden machinery.

Atco's History

As late as the 1920's, large private domestic lawns were cut by means of donkey-drawn mowers.

In 1921 Charles H. Pugh called upon the expertise of his engineering company to combine a cylinder mower with a small petrol engine to create a new type of mower.

The result was the first powered cylinder mower for domestic use, and this was given the name Atco after the first and last letters of another of Pugh's companies, the Atlas Chain Co.

Some 900 mowers were sold in the first year and from the original design mowers were developed which



The Atco Imperial features a tenbladed cutting cylinder to achieve the exceptionally close cut required for croquet lawns.

gained the Royal Seal of Approval of King George V in 1920, King George VI in 1940 and Queen Elizabeth II in

In 1968, Charles H. Pugh Ltd. merged with Suffolk Iron Foundry, manufacturer of the highly successful 'Suffolk Punch' range of mowers, to become Suffolk Lawn Mowers Ltd. a member of the Birmid Qualcast parent group. All production was consolidated at Stowmarket in Suffolk, and a programme of reorganisation and modernisation was initiated. The company name was officially changed to Atco ltd. in 1988 and Atco became part of Blue Circle Industries.

The company's continuing philosophy is to combine its traditional attention to engineering excellence and craftsmanship with the adoption of the latest technological advances to meet the needs and demands of an ever-changing market.



Martin Douglas, Sales & Marketing Director, Atco Ltd.

Atco's Market

This approach has led to Atco products establishing a specific market niche - satisfying the requirements of discerning gardeners with larger than average gardens. In general, Atvo users tend to be gentlemen aged 45 or over, but the stylish Garden Tractor has introduced the benefits of the company's machinery to a younger audience.

Atco's clearly defined marketing strategy and the excellence of its products has led to its sales continuing to increase in a market that is generally saturated. Since 1982 the UK market has fluctuated around 1.3 million units per year and within this, Atco machinery accounts for over 35% of petrol powered cylinder mower sales and 15% of lawn tractor sales.

A nationwide network of more than 270 'appointed' stockists distributes Atco products in the UK and the company exports to over 70 countries worldwide.

Atco feel that the sponsorship arrangement is ideal for both parties. Top class croquet can only be played on a perfectly mown lawn and it is in the manufacture of top quality cylinder mowers to achieve this that Atco excel.

Further details on the sponsorship announcement will follow in the next issue of 'Croquet' For further details contact Miss Joe Kramers, Ass't Product Manager, Atco Ltd, Suffolk Works, Stowmarket, Suffolk, IP14 1EY. Tel: 0449-612183.

Tournament Weekends

Oxford: 7-9 July 'Another hue unto the rainbow' (King John) Report by Robert Prichard

Various old traditions (dating back to 1986) were re-established or maintained in the fourth Oxford tournament of the modern era. As usual, much of the work before, during, and after the tournament was done by lan Plummer, helped and hindered by a small team of Oxonians. He had arranged, slightly to his surprise, for six lawns to be laid out on the cricket field, so again the remoter Observatory lawns were needed for only three games out of ninety-one to keep all twenty-six players in fairly constant play for as much as they wanted.

Emma Carlisle made a welcome return to feed us and Robert Prichard, after a year off, returned to manage, yet again with an experimental format. A 'Rainbow Swiss' divided the players (by handicap) into two blocks, reds and violets, who played separate Swisses. Reds who lost a game were shaded orange while violets who won became blue. After a few rounds, the worst oranges and best blues were put in to a third, green Swiss. Thereafter two consecutive wins moved you up a block whereas two consecutive losses earned a demotion. This enabled some lapsed reds and violets to reassume their original colours.

The intention of these chromatic shifts was to provide advanced play across a -1 to 7 handicap range, to provide the peer grouping of a Swiss while avoiding its inflexibility, and to provide the incentive to win (and a penalty for losing) two consecutive games that is a feature of best of three

The main beneficiary was the manager, who ended up as a red and with the highest number of games, 9. Also on 9 games was James Carlisle, despite having leave for the Friday evening game. He played rather poorly to end as a green, but seemed a different hue when his entire family gathered to watch him win +26TP against the manager. The highest percentage of wins was 6 out of 8 by John Ross who therefore won the tournament. His scalps included four entrants to the following week's World Championship: Carlisle, Vincent, Harrison and Charles Jones. He did lose however to Michael Cowan, who won the other prize as the best original violet.

Of the local players, Dayal Gunasekera, hot favourite after his performance at the Men's, played rather wanly apart from a TP against Mark Wormald. Peter Turner narrowly escaped remaining a virginal violet by scraping home in his last game. Tony Whyte had the most unsuitable name for the tournament.

Some old traditions were broken. Mike Stevens did not have to

withdraw. Despite this the beer did not run out as it always has. Some past stalwarts were excluded by clashes with a Surbiton handicap weekend and the Pamplona Bull festival, which explains this, although Alan Bogle made a valiant effort to compensate. The weather was atypically damp, perhaps as punishment for being 13 at the tournament dinner arranged by Nigel Williams. Perhaps the highest ever number of female entrants, 4, was also a factor.

Maybe the Oxford tournament is becoming sensible in its old age. Please come to restore insanity next

Leading Scores

J. Ross (75%); M. Cowan, C. Shilling, L. Vincent (71%): R. Prichard (67%): J. McMordie, A. Bogle (63%); T. Harrison, F. McCoig (57%).



Les Chapman at the Bristol May Weekend

Harrow: 17-18 June A Splendid Weekend Report by Strat Liddiard

Bright sunshine and fast lawns attracted 5 locals and 5 visitors to battle for Harrow's renowned prizes.

Tim Harrison set an early pace, completing his first game in the same time it took his opponent to do the Saturday Telegraph crossword, and by midday on Sunday had completed 5 out of 5 wins to reach an unassailable position. All credit to Martin Kolbuszewski for preventing him making it 6 out of 6. No triples were completed, many were attempted: Arthur Reed coming closest when he roqueted his peeled ball at rover by accident.

Great news on the catering front at Harrow - they have a new knife - a splendid metal affair. I'm told this greatly improved the efficiency of the self-catering provided by Richard Hilditch, who was once again manager, groundsman and R.O.T.

This is a splendid weekend of friendly competitive croquet. Mark it down for next year - you won't regret it.

RESULTS Swiss play

(6 games, advanced play, 10 entries) Winner: T.D. Harrison (5 wins). Runner-up: R.J. Hilditch (5 wins).

THE VETERANS' TOURNAMENT Compton: 19-24 June A Happy Occasion

Report by David Higgs

Rumours had been circulating that the tournament was over-subscribed, so it was unlikely that entries would be accepted. These rumours were very effective, as only 15 were eager and waiting on Monday morning for battle. The two advantages with so few, were that double banking was minimal, and each participant had more games to play with most events run as American ones.

As elsewhere, the sun shone atypically all week, and having already outlasted its average for summer, the lawns not surprisingly were extremely fast and unpredictable. It depended on whether the ball found a small area of clover or the browner patches whether it stopped or not. Fortunately there was always some breeze to moderate the heat, and the shade of the trees formed a refuge from the heat on the lawns. After the first day, everyone came to grips to some extent with the conditions, although roll-ups to hoops were almost impossible.

Many games went to time, and quite a few of them were decided after time by a margin of 1 or 2. The semi-finals and final of the doubles provided some of these nail-biting finishes. For instance, in the final, Dennis and Eileen Shaw were two points ahead at time, thanks to an unprecedented break of 4 hoops by Eileen. Smokey Eades made a superb long hit in and made the points to take the trophy for his partner.

Marital strife was avoided in the class handicap event. Betty beat Eric Salmon in the draw semi-final. On the marriage of draw and process, Eric again played Betty, and this time won, to be beaten by Douglas Goolden in the final.

The open advanced play event between Smokey Eades, Paul Macdonald and Dennis Shaw was

East Riding: 8-9 July Six Lawns in use at Hull Report by John Davis

Do you remember the glorious summer of '89? Well it wasn't at Hull! Two croquet lawns, two bowling greens and two lawns on converted tennis courts created variable conditions which tested all the players. This plus the risk of hypothermia and severe exposure made it a normal weekend in Yorkshire.

There was the usual mixture of minus, plus and plus plus players. Northerners, Southerners and Ian Maugham represented a good spread(!) of experience. The most encouraging aspect of the croquet played during the weekend was the success of several high bisquers. Norman Best (15) Bruce Rannie (14), Walter Sanders (15) and Alan Scott (16) all suffered handicap reductions as a result. Colin Irwin won the prize

for playing in games with the most bisques standing at the end. Ross Gillespie had 9 (of 11) left beating him +26 and Pauline Best unfortunately had 12 left standing when Colin beat

played as an American best of three.

After the first game, each had one

win. Paul beat Smokey in the next,

with the other matches going to

three games and decided on time by

the smallest margins. Dennis Shaw

Pat Macdonald after several days in

pain, had to withdraw from the tour-

nament on Friday. Everyone hopes

she will be back on the lawn soon

moving with ease and comfort. This

left the result of the open handicap

event, run as three American blocks,

in doubt until the last games. Even-

tually Dennis Shaw beat Bevis

Sanford, to lose to Douglas Goolden

Bevis seemed to be in complete

control of the lawns, and won all of

his games in the American level class

The success of any tournament

depends on the organisation. This

was a success. Dennis Shaw man-

aged with ease to keep everyone

happy. The behind the scenes

organisation of lunches, teas, coffees

by the unsung and too rarely seen

ladies of Compton added that extra

touch to make each day memorable.

Open Singles Veteran's Championship

(All-play-all, Level. H'cap 31/2+. 5 entries)

Handicap Singles. Draw & Process

Block Winners: C.B. Sanford, D.W. Shaw,

(Combined H'cap 6+. 8 pairs entered)

Final: Dr L. Greenbury & R.S. Eades bt Mr

Play-Off: Shaw bt Sanford +1;

Final: Goolden bt Shaw +5.

Thanks to all of them.

Winner: D.W. Shaw.

Winner: C.B. Sanford.

H'cap 7+. 7 entries)

Winner: D.C. Goolden

3 blocks. 15 entries)

Handicap Doubles

& Mrs DW Shaw +1(T).

Open Handicap

D.C. Goolden.

Felixstowe Cup

(All-play-all, Adv. Play. 3 entries)

RESULTS

in the final

event.

narrowly took the trophy.

The highlight of the weekend was the tournament dinner held on the Saturday night at the long suffering (Oh! It's not that time of year again!) Franco's. Pat Hague was in excellent form as we discussed everything from Paris (Le Lido), through snoring croquet players to why was John Davis's hand up Ian Maugham's back! The weekend was excellently managed by Chris (look, I'm in charge) Irwin. The catering gets better every year and the trick was to finish your game just before meal times in order to have the best choice.

Well done East Riding and see you next year.

Surbiton: 1-2 June Irish CA trounce the CA

The annual match between the CA and the Irish CA took place at Surbiton at the beginning of June. Our visitors brought a strong team which was reflected in the result.

The end of the first day saw the Irish in the lead by 2 matches to 1 at the end of the doubles. On the second day we were beginning to get used to the lawns, and several close matches were played. The rain did not come but a chilly wind kept us all on the move.

The strength of the Irish team showed, and they won the match by 61/2 to 21/2.

We all enjoyed the facilities of Surbiton's new Clubhouse and our thanks to them for looking after us.

RESULTS (CA names first)

Ian Maugham & Graham Brightwell lost to Fred Rogerson & Gerard Healey -2(T), +5. -9: David Croker & John Haslam lost to Simon Williams & Carl Von Schmeider -14, +11, -8; Alan Sutcliffe & Carol Lewis beat Miles McWeeney & Michael O'Shaunessy -4(T), +5(T), +12(T).

Singles

David Croker lost to Simon Williams +10, -13, -8; Ian Maugham v. Gerard Healey unfinished; Alan Sutcliffe lost to Fred Rogerson -8, +10, -13; Graham Brightwell lost to Carl Von Schmeider -14, -1(T): Carol Lewis bt Miles McWeeney +7(T), +19; John Haslam lost to Michael O'Shaunessy -12. +16. -2.

Match Result

Irish CA beat CA by 61/2 matches to 21/2.

Harrow Oak: 8-9 July **High Wycombe triumphant!** Report by David Drazin

Sad to say, this turned out to be a stag

event. Why the fair sex should have given it a miss we may never know: there were none to say. But what a lot they missed! This was the weekend that marked the hiccup in our glorious mid-

summer heat wave. Though we had taken heed of the weathermen's dire prognostications and were equipped to brave any meteorological phenomenon, mercifully most of us contrived to finish our Saturday evening games before the heavens opened. Not so our excellent manager, Martin Kolbuszewski, and his hapless opponent, Ted Mathews. But, rising to the occasion, they treated those of us who were fortunate enough to be able to gloat over our ice-cool beer and the pavilion rail to a scintillating display of croquet fireworks. Tantalisingly we were kept guessing as to how Martin, who had earlier pegged Ted out, could win and escape drowning. Progressing now with three balls and now with two, eventually the penny dropped; it was to be a two-ball game. But the denouement was far from a quick-fire hoop-walk. Before the luckless players were able to find sanctuary in the clubhouse, Martin's ball was repeatedly stuck in a black hole which had opened beneath the jaws of rover, caused perhaps by some passing meteorite, and lifts

were conceded by the bundle. The weekend belonged to the pair from High Wycombe - Roger 'Yogi' Jackman and John 'Boo-Boo' Bone. Roger won everything on the board - all his games, including his play-off against John, the envy of his fellows, the pot (presented according to hallowed custom in the Harrow Oak plastic mug), entitlement to a silver award for making a 12-hoop break in his game with John, and an encouraging word from Martin as to how the handicapper might view his triumph. To Roger, congratulations; to John,

the suggestion that he might reflect on the wisdom of hunting in pairs.

Some may recall that this time last year the Harrow Oak knife went missing. Just as mysteriously it now reappeared and, when ritually purged by David Ruscombe-King in the holy turf, it did service at the Brasserie Herse-Chene. This was Harrow catering at its best-the finest selection of sandwichable delicacies, bread in an infinite variety of shapes, sizes and colours, and huge quantities of liquor presented in perfect cellar condition under massive bags of Tesco ice.

The weather let us off lightly enough on Sunday and I guess that most of us have already pencilled in a retake in our 1990 diaries. I wonder whether anything I have said or left unsaid will cause this to be a mixed event!

Winner: R.Jackman (8) (6 wins).



Mary Robinson, winner of the Hutton Cup at Ryde.

Tournament Weekends

Southport: 27-29 May **Juniors Overpowered by Elders!**

Report by Andrew Saurin

This year the tournament saw (again) a change of management. Don and Diana Williamson managed with skill and efficiency.

There was a large range of handicaps, the lowest being Colin Irwin at -2, who conceded 371/2 bisques in his block in the first two days, won two games out of five with a gross points score of +63 and a net score of -63.

There were many exciting moments. Dan McCormick pegged out Don Williamson's ball and accidentally his own when his other was for 4 and Don's for 6. After a great one-ball ending, Dan beat Don +1.



Runner-Up, Brian Lewis.

On Saturday many players found the hoops impossible (literally) after Mark Saurin had set them in the morning. He was called on many times to run on with 'the Bucket' to reset them. Come Sunday and Monday he never showed his face for fear of being murdered with a bisque by one of his victims.

The final on Monday was between Don Williamson and Brian Lewis. It was rather long but never dull, and Don 'managed' to win the Jubilee Tankard by 8. The thirdand fourth-place playoff was a family feud between John and Barbara Haslam, Barbara winning +3 on time.

For some reason, no juniors got into the semi-finals. Probably it was because there were only three of us. So come on, juniors, get an entry in next year and I'll meet you in the final!

As usual the catering was excellent: unusually, so was the weather, apart from the temperature at the end. After the presentations, the Committee threw us out of the clubhouse and the only words audible through the keyhole were 'lawns' and 'tournaments next year'. What is happening?

Cheltenham: 27-29 May prelude to his unfortunately un-Six out of Six Report by Alan Bogle The May bank holiday weekend at up with five wins was Philip Lewis

Cheltenham was a scorcher in from Dyffryn who played solidly, many ways. Fifty eight competitors losing only to Terry Burge. arrived to do battle in some of the hottest weather of the year. From the evidence of tanned legs which appeared below both shorts and skirts, many players had been busy on the lawns during the early season. This practice combined with fast(ish) lawns saw some fine play over the weekend. The management team, consis-

ting of the Wheelers, had arranged three large swiss blocks with six games in total for everyone. No time limits were imposed generally, and only a few games had to be limited subsequently, proving that the sun is a strong factor in determining the length of the

All three blocks threw up outright winners, each winning all six games. This performance did not go unrewarded and handicaps were pruned accordingly.

In Block A, Terry Burge from Surbiton walked through the field in a swashbuckling fashion. With a 12 handicap, it was some surprise to see him win two games with a rover peel, but this was only a

successful attempt at the triple. However, it truly reflected the boldness of his play. Clear runner

In Block B, a fellow Dyffryn player, Chris Williams scorched through the field, winning his final game convincingly by 26 against Andrew Symons. Andrew was joint second with several other players. Alan Bogle could have finished clear with five wins but lost a close match to Kismet Whittall in last round. Both finished with four wins as did Sally Watson, Margaret Cotterell and Charles Edmonds.

Block C was won by Gill Bogle. This included two 26-point wins. John Evans finished second with five wins, and showed that he is recapturing his previous form. A notable performance came from newcomer Alex O'Connor who won four and received due reward from the handicapper. Unluckiest player in the block was Peter Darby who lost both to Gill Bogle by 26 and John Evans by 24 on the last day and played only a total of seventeen strokes.

It was top marks all round, for the winners, for the management team, for the super lawns and not least for the weather.

Ramsgate: 14-16 July Ramsgate Lawns Settling Down

Report by Gordon Drake

I won't give too many secrets away to those who haven't yet experienced a tournament at Ramsgate; what I can say, however, is that you will be made most welcome by Eileen and Dennis Shaw and their jolly band of helpers who appear to have an endless supply of an excellent variety of refreshments at any time of the day. As the club on its present site is only three years old, the lawns are still 'settling' - some parts more than others, or could it be that other parts are rising? Whatever, to play on them is a distinct challenge and for the stout hearted I would recommend that a diploma in Land Survey would be a useful asset.

As for the tournament, this was ably managed by Dr Terry Ballard, everyone having at least five matches. The relentless sunshine throughout each day enhanced this beautiful setting above the cliffs on this East coast of Kent. Gordon Drake and Mrs Susan Wiggins headed the 'A' block, and

Ron Atkinson, a rapidly improving 'new boy' from Colchester and Dennis Shaw the 'B' block. It is worthy of note that during the matches Shaw, having only five shots during the game with Atkinson, never took croquet!! In the play-offs, Drake beat Shaw and Atkinson beat Mrs Wiggins, who did manage one hoop. The final turned out to be quite a thriller in the end. Atkinson turned on the heat using his bisques and with none left had reached the peg and rover. Drake hit in and took his ball from 3 to the peg and pegged out Atkinson's ball; he then succeeded in advancing his other ball from 2-back to penult but let an easy wiring opportunity go begging in the middle of the north boundary which Atkinson promptly hit and won the game by four. His weekend efforts earned him a reduction of two from his handicap.

Thank you, Ramsgate, for a most enjoyable time.

Bristol: 24-25 June Dry testing conditions

Report by Hamish Hall

Mutterings on the condition of the lawns were distinctly audible from most players as rush lines evaporated and take-offs wandered off course. What or who was the culprit? The baking sun, the absence of rain, or possibly the over zealous member who rolled the lawn at the wrong time. Whatever the reason, it made little difference to the resulting gravitational discontinuity so readily apparent. The challenge was who had the temperament as well as the skill to master the freakish conditions.

Don Gaunt assiduously gathered grass beyond the boundary to assist in preventing his balls from separating in an approach shot. He may as well have saved himself the bother, as he rattled the wire. Alan Bogle had an 8-inch backward take-off, and having obtained perfect position, was powerless as the ball slowly retreated to 3 inches beyond its original spot. Roger Jenkins ran his hoop, agreed the point, and whilst enquiring whether his opponent wished his next roquet shot to be watched, found the ball had rolled back into the jaws. Never mind, Roger. Beef up on the laws next winter.

But enough of the disappointments: Ray Ransom, perhaps not unsurprisingly, was the first to master the conditions and actually demolished his opponent in under

2 hours in his first game. But that was 1 of only 4 games that were completed in time on the first day. By Sunday the conditions were being mastered, with 4 players tieing for the highest break of 9 points, Peter Dorke managing a peel in his big turn. But it was Alan Bogle who displayed the most consistent form, winning 4 games in the A block with David Goacher the runner up also with 4 wins. The continual changing of his shooting and his rushing mallets did not help him in his vital game against Alan. In the B block, Kevin Carter had an excellent tournament, winning all his 5 games. Young Alex Leggate from Nailsea was in contention all the way, losing only 1 game.

Martin Murrary's newly acquired parental responsibilities left a void in the office of Manager, and gave Alvar Bray his baptism of fire. Like the soucerer's apprentice, he rapidly realised that the smooth running of even a small tournament requires more than just a little magic. He had his problems with so many games going to time, but the need for an 8.45am start on Sunday really tested his metal - and his feeble will to give up smoking. Never mind Alvar. It was a brave attempt and with any luck, the Magician will perform next year!

opponent (if there is not a tautology **A Himley Diary** here), was observed to smile and to Report by Peter Dorke beseech the Manager to register a win by default. These antics did Up betimes and to Himley Hall for take place in the A class, where Mr the croquet, where I was to be Aiton, in contention with Mr referee of the Abnalls Tournament. Weaver, commenced the proceed-It had been much noised that Mr ings with a failed sextuple, con-Aiton was to make an appearance verting it smoothly into a failed in the A class and that Mr Hilditch quintuple, thus failing to be first was including Himley in his Grand player in the tournament to affix a Tour of England. This news atclip to the peg, the honour falling tracted such a horde of scallywags instead to myself. I was, at that and ne'er-do-wells that I feared for time, at odds with Mr Christopher the well-being of such noble and Gordon (sic) Bennett of Edgbaston, delicate ladies as are normally to whose mobility of purpose must be seen at this tournament and perforce be remarked in this arranged for a ravening Alsation to Journal. Though lofty of handicap patrol the vicinity of the Hall. This and severly hampered by the happy action did forfend all trouble selection of fine wines and ales and even the squeals of the Rat contained within his travelling Pack were muted and restrained chest, Mr Bennett gave a good under the baleful gaze of the account of himself and withstood canine sentinel. bravely defeat after defeat, rising Arriving in the roseate light of with indomitable spirit on Sunday dawn I set about driving in the evening, to present the trophies hoops and was much disconcerted and monies to the winners. One of at the variety of their shape and the latter might well have been the size. Mr Potter, who was managing, author of this unworthy Journal, did pronounce upon my frustration had not Mr Aiton recovered from thus: 'Yes, well, it's the hoops', the effects of his extended Sunday which did comfort me greatly. The luncheon in time to snatch a trials of Mr Potter in this week-end's narrow win from the very jaws of enterprise were manifold but he defeat. In this he was in no wise laboured ceaselessly to please us abetted by the performance by Mr all, being particularly careful of the Hilditch at the lawnside of his happiness of the C class, wherein celebrated and amazing strangua joyful confusion reigned. Witness

Himley: 1-2 July

the following exchange between

Mrs X and Mr Y on the occasion of

a hampered shot, Mrs X's ball being

a scarce 4 inches from the wire:

this?'

'That's fine'.

for his pains.

Mrs X: 'Would you like to watch

Mr Y: (from the safety of his

Then did Mrs X, with a bold.

raking action of her mallet, drag

her ball into contact with another

nearby, performing such a rat-tat-

tat-tat as may be heard during the

Changing of the Guard at the

Palace. At this Mr Y, waving

cheerfully, gave forth as follows:

I will not forbear to mention here

the stout performance in this class

of Mrs Townsend of Wolverhamp-

ton who, though in no small dis-

comfort, did strike the ball with

great verve and straightness. For all

her efforts, however, and those of

the other ladies, many of whom

had travelled from far Southport,

the winner to emerge from this

company was a gentleman, Mr

Fennell, who suffered a great cut

Greater pain yet was inflicted

upon himself by Mr Hyne. This

gentleman, while leaping upon the

court, did smite his own ankle

skilfully and to great effect, namely

his temporary withdrawal from the

combat, in search of a poultice. At

chair) 'I am watching it.'

This latter gentleman was in some choler at having waited a long two hours while his opponent quaffed a leisurely lunch at a neighbouring alehouse, this causing also much bile in the Manager, Mr Potter, who did rightly scold the miscreant for his tardiness.

lated chicken imitation, no doubt

in celebration of his win over the

unlucky Mr Richard Brand.

this Mr Bogle, his crafty scottish

During the proceedings of this tournament I had conversation with Mr Ivor Brand, brother of Richard, on medical and other matters, this being a tournament where much noise was made of the healing arts and there being, moreover, a quack in attendance in the person of Dr Bogle. Great was my surprise to discover that both these gentlemen are presently seeking fresh employment, though I hardly expect them to experience great pains in the search, being well-set-up young bravos of impeccable qualifications.

Of Dr Bogle I would say more, for she is a lady to glut the senses with her powerful play and keen aptitude for the game. I must aver that I had expected this most athletic of women to triumph easily in the B class but I had reckoned without the fearsome presence of Mr Stanley, who pulverized all oppo-

Southport: 8-9 July **Beside the Seaside**

Report by Andrew Bennet

What a wonderful sense of tact and timing is possessed by Peter Dorke. The July magazine arrived just in time for us to read, in his report on our April weekend, that if only we were there an hour before play with 'the simplest equipment' then our flooding would not delay play.

Those of us who spent the whole of Saturday using scoops and buckets (please explain, Peter, what is simpler) were not amused by his criticisms. Perhaps he has some simple suggestions for preventing torrential rain.

In the end, I found myself trying to manage a competition of 20 entrants on two playable lawns. The players were good humoured all weekend and the locals were not at all put out by my decision to make all the visitors play first, abandoning my original order of

The young players made little impression, as is traditional in this event, with the exception of Chris Clarke in 1985. They get bored too

Because some players had one round more than others, the winner was determined by a playoff between the three who had no losses: it was no surprise that Alan Pidcock was the one to lose his qualification as a long-bisquer, having been runner-up last year.



Alan Pidcock.

sition with his scandalously oversized mallet. His immense frame, surmounted by an enormous travelling bag, attached to his shoulders by an ingenious arrangement of thongs, and decked about in a kind of scarlet cloak, struck such terror into his opponents that none could check his progress. The trophy was his and I did hear tell that fierce cuts were made upon him by the Handicapper, Mr Storey of a certain Northern Club, who did himself perform a notable triple.

I had the pleasure, during luncheon on the Sunday, of viewing Mr Weaver's latest art works, which he displayed to considerable effect at the rear of his carriage. I doubt that I have seen such a painter as Mr Weaver for many a year, so well does he portray the protagonists of our beloved game and so keenly does he observe and convey the effect of light upon his subjects. I was put in mind of Mr Hockney and wondered why he does not offer his paintings to a wider public.

Returning to the croquet I had the pleasure of Mr Bennett's peel and attempted peg-out of a ball which had already been for peg, much mirth being occasioned amongst the assembled cognoscenti. It had been Mr Bennett's only peel of the season. Thus with much laughter and good fellowship was this tournament conducted and the weather was likewise fair. The ancient Hall was a fine setting for such a contest and it was a churlish fellow indeed who, as the silver was finally apportioned, still harboured a grudge against the unpredictable lawns.

So home to supper and to bed, fancying myself to play again with Mr Aiton, this time with a more satisfactory result.

Wrest Park: 7-9 July All Good Practice for the Open's

After the prolonged dry spell, a day of almost continual rain on the first day tested ALL the players' abilities to adjust to the conditions.

This, followed by a return to warm dry conditions, caused a number of games to go to time, even one involving the manager!

The weekend winner was Bill Aldridge, David Openshaw coming a close second. Both only lost one game but Bill beat David - c'est la vie.

The prize for the most improved player was won by Duncan Hector from Letchworth.

The main event - the World Championship Snooker - was won by John Rose with the generous assistance of Greene King. But where was David Openshaw, when the beer and fish and chips were flowing; practising for another lesser event?

World Championship

CONTINENTAL AIRLINES WORLD CROQUET CHAMPIONSHIP

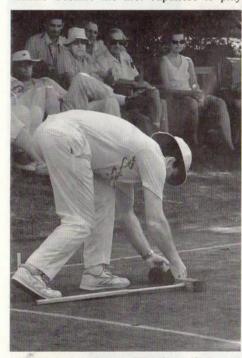
Hurlingham & Surbiton: 15-23 July

Hogan takes World title in a week of incident and top class croquet

Report by David Peterson

The Open Championships transformed itself this year into the World Championships, sponsored by Continental Airlines.

All of the top sixteen British players competed, as well as four New Zealanders as famous as it is possible to be in the croquet world (Hogan, Jackson, Prince and Skinley). Also there were two thirds of the Australian Test team (Cleland, Herington, Latham and Pickering). Five representatives from the fragmented world of American croquet were present, and Toru Takano became the first Japanese to play



competitively in Britain. With Keith Wylie and Michael Heap appearing, it was a pity that Bernard Neal's withdrawal broke a chain of champions stretching back to 1969.

The cosmopolitan flavour of the event was enhanced on the Saturday morning when, with the hoi polloi dispatched to first round matches in Surbiton, Harrow and Colchester, the powerful met to launch and then lunch the World Croquet Federation. The two most colourful results of this meeting were the 'Fun Cup' donated by the Italian delegation and to be presented to the 'McEnroe of the Tournament', and two French delegates from La Rochelle who, immaculate in their green blazers, remained as spectators for the whole week.

The qualifying/first round saw a new look Keith Wylie with a Skinley style swing and sporting shorts for the first time in 25 years play, but with a now sadly familiar scoreline. Richard Hilditch dealt with Toru Takano nippily, but more significant for Croquet's developing nations were victories by three Americans (Arkley, Collins and Ballenger). Peyton Ballenger's game against Brian Sykes was the most remarkable in that, despite a 4-hour time limit for the first game it lasted four and three-quarter hours as the result of a deputy-managerial error. This was at

Surbiton, and was the first indication of how difficult the lawns at both main venues would become during a scorching week.





Hogan on the attack as Avery watches his chances recede. 'So near, yet so far..'

On Sunday the tournament started in earnest with the first round of the British Open Doubles. Aspinall and Mulliner (the champions) were struggling against Cornelius and French, and dropped the second game. Aspinall's poor hooping was largely responsible, but he responded with a triple in the third. Clarke and Fulford, each a losing doubles finalist in the last two years, joined forces this time. They blended well and inflicted a heavy defeat on Neal and Solomon, conceding only three points and finishing the match before noon with a Fulford triple.

None of the other matches were so managerfriendly. Fittingly Heap and Irwin against Skinley and Prince was played on the slowest lawn (No 2) for when Irwin stuck in Rover he launched Skinley into a game-saving break from fifth to the peg for a +1(T) win. The New Zealanders moved out of neutral and up to cruising speed with a delayed TP by Prince in the second. Not one to be overshadowed is Jerry Stark who seems to use ultra-violet shoe laces

fourth corner to win the All-American doubles match +1(T) and ultimately won the 'Fun Cup' for his impact on the tournament. The second round of the singles proved a

to guide the mallet-head. He pegged out from

disaster for the Australians; all four of them lost at Surbiton. Chief perpetrator of this inhospitality was Tom Coles. His indifference to the distances travelled by his opponents had already accounted for the much fancied New Zealander Chris Shilling when he knocked-out the topseeded Australian Alan Cleland. His able accomplices Alan Sutcliffe and Duncan Reeve then disposed of Latham and Herington, none of the matches going to three games. Sorry Surbiton, but the parable of sowing seeds on stony ground does rather spring to mind. The most resistance was put up by Colin Pickering who should have beaten Paul Skinley when he lost the second by one point.

Back at HQ, Aspinall was put on the cricket pitch against the debutant Steve Comish from Ipswich who has only been playing 24 months. Comish, who has an Irish grip and a French style, had impressed the previous evening when he

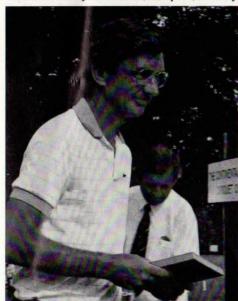


and Reeve put Avery and an out-of-touch Openshaw out of the doubles in straight games. Against Aspinall, Comish built up an early lead but then had his forward ball pegged out. Aspinall joined up and Comish hit the lift and finished from 3-back. Aspinallic authority was quickly reasserted in the second, but surprisingly in the third Comish's long shooting and Aspinall's nervous single ball strokes culminated in a marvellous win for the youngster.

At this stage the managerial strategy became less clear. Tim Haste ruffed furiously between singles and doubles but on a couple of occasions seemed to get trapped in the wrong hand, resulting in longish between-match delays for some of the players.

Avery hit top form on Wednesday and became the first singles quarter-finalist when in less than three hours play he won two best of three matches, thrashing Fleming of Canada and Collighan of Blackburn, without conceding a hoop and completing three triple peels. No one else could match such alacrity or form. Hogan

and Jackson both dropped games at Surbiton, to Bell and Gunasekera respectively, Jackson slowing his game down to combat the difficult conditions. He took two hours to beat Gunasekera +26, and later in the week Bond and Noble played an entire plate game during one of his turns. Meanwhile Comish had lost to a bullish Murray to become, I suspect, the only



Semi-Finalists: David Openshaw ...

player ever to have beaten Aspinall in the Opens and still qualify for the plate.

The seeds began to meet in the last 16. Hogan defeated Clarke fairly comfortably after a TPO in the first game in what should have been one of the best matches. Tremaine Arkley, the only 'qualifier' to reach this stage, could put up little resistance to Jackson except for one remarkable shot approaching second hoop from its corner and achieving perfect position by passing through the hoop from behind.

The best match of the round was between Fulford and Prince. The first game ended with a seventh turn triple by Fulford, Prince not scoring. In the second, Prince went to 1-back on the fourth turn leaving the delayed (or standard, depending on your viewpoint) sextuple leave. Attempting the sextuple he reached 4-back and peg conceding contact to which Fulford, after a leave, responded with a break to 4-back. Prince hit the lift and finished after one mistake by each player, the only mistakes of the match, for in the third Prince won +26TP on the ninth turn.

The only setback to this ominous New Zealand progression was Openshaw's straight games defeat of Skinley. Observers experienced in Openshaw's slow build-up routine were not fooled by his shaky form ealier in the week. Finally on Wednesday evening, with all play finished on the front lawns, a gallery of eighty players and hangers-on gathered by lawn 5 to watch Mulliner struggle aginst Aiton. With the first lost, Mulliner barely scraped home in the second by 3 after hitting what should have been his last shot at a ball in the jaws of penultimate. The next morning Aiton extended a record of never having taken croquet in a resumed match. thanks to a bloodless TP by Mulliner.

Two surprise quarter-finalists, and the only non-seeds, were Lewis and Irwin, both from Bowdon. Arguably Lewis was not a surprise as he performs well at the Opens every year. His gritty concentration had already seen off Hilditch and William Prichard, and outlasted Heap. Against Hogan he looked like winning the first but broke down on his triple peel at 3-back. Hogan showed him how it should be done, and then allowed him no chances in the second.

Irwin was playing his best croquet for some time, and despite losing the first to Prince, he recovered to win the next two. Prince was visibly



.. and Colin Irwin.

tired by the end of this match. He had played superbly in the morning to recover from game down overnight to Fulford, but the heat was oppressive (90°+) and the lawns increasingly difficult. Nobody wants to win a match because of the opponent's fatigue, and yet such scheduling is inevitable in a tournament of this size.

The other two quarter-finals were marvellous matches. Openshaw and Mulliner were on lawn 4 where the area between rover and first corner had become quite treacherous because the surrounding trees, although they shelter the crowd, drain the lawn of all moisture. Openshaw should have won the first, rather scrappy game, but he missed a four-yard peg out with few minutes remaining. Mulliner scampered round with a three-ball break after time had been called that included a wonderful long gentle rush to 2-back to steal victory by 2. The second game was by far the most exciting of the week. It was not of high quality until, with about twenty minutes left, Mulliner was left with only one ball for the peg and next to it, with Openshaw separated in first and fourth corners. Openshaw hit his partner ball and split it to third, obtaining a rush to second (his other clip being on 4-back). With the minutes slipping away, Openshaw played a seemingly unhurried three-ball break (itself an achievment on a lawn so difficult). Slowly the gallery regained its interest, lost when an easy victory for Mulliner has seemed inevitable, but nobody knew exactly how much time remained. Openshaw needed to reach peg before time was called to give his other ball a chance to score the remaining points after time. The time-keeper began to call out at 2-back '7 minutes', at 4-back '4 minutes', after rover '11/2 minutes' - still time for a leave. He rushed the enemy ball to first corner and danced nervously waiting for it to stop, then he went trotting up to third corner to lay up behind 4-back. He finished with 25 seconds to spare to the most applause I have heard for a non-finishing turn.

Mulliner immediately cornered to give himself another shot.

World Championship

Time was called, and now Openshaw had all the time he wanted. A two-ball break from 4-back to the peg was necessary. He went to wipe his glasses and hands. He rushed badly to 4-back and ran a longish hoop, only to have to split to penultimate from six yards to the side which resulted in another one. This time he could only grovel through and left himself hampered from his partner six yards distant. He hit it, approached rover well, but still had a nervous five yard roquet after the hoop. For the peg-out from eight yards he called on a referee. He rolled gently and the front ball seemed to deflect as it passed the peg, Openshaw thought it had hit, but the referee said not. He pegged out his backward ball to level the scores. Mulliner missed from the fourth and Openshaw pegged out. The deciding game had to wait until Saturday morning and proved something of an anti-climax, as Openshaw exploited the psychological advantage won the previous evening.

The last quarter-final to finish was Avery against Jackson. It was not as exciting as the above match, but the quality of Avery's play was the best seen during the week. Despite losing the first game by 3 late on Friday evening, he outclassed Jackson in a brilliant display on Saturday morning. In both games Jackson was first to 4-back, but on each occasion Avery hit, went round, and left a very aggressive leave. Jackson's shooting was not at its best and Avery won the match with two triple peels, playing very quickly and confidently. At one point Jackson, unable to risk shooting, attempted to intimidate Avery out of playing with his backward ball by playing onto the 'rush-line' of a six yard rush. Uninhibited, Avery took the rush right to Jackson's ball and so produced one of his triples.

Avery and Openshaw both then suffered in the semi-finals for their heroics. Hogan won the first against Openshaw with a seventh turn triple, and then the British Captain couldn't regain enough form or concentration to take the second. Avery playing Irwin on lawn 4, immediately after



Joe Hogan (left) and Bob Jackson, winners of the British Open Doubles Championship.

Inevitably the doubles were progressing slowly. Clarke and Fulford were already in the final, having conceded only one point in their semi-final against Cleland and Latham. Fulford played particularly well, completing three triple peels during their run, and both have done their test prospects a lot of good.

The other semi-final between Hogan-Jackson and Aspinall-Mulliner was the cause of all the manager's blocking headaches. The first two games were shared and the third was started on Sunday morning. Mulliner hared round to 4-back, and Hogan started to TPO him but was fouled on a hammer shot at third hoop after carelessly having hampered himself after the 4-back peel. But Aspinall missed from two yards and so Hogan was allowed to complete the job.

The endgame was very defensive and the manager more and more restless in his desire to put on the singles final. At 11.30 he felt forced to peg-down the doubles (foregoing the chance of simultaneous finals if Aspinall and Mulliner had won) to allow the singles to commence. Here I shall sacrifice chronological order for the sake of narrative continuity to relate that eventually the New Zealanders won. Nigel hit in at one point and split brilliantly to fifth, ran a difficult hoop but then missed his longish cut rush to sixth.

And so on Sunday July 23rd the first World Croquet Championship was decided. About 250 people watched, grouped in whatever shade could be found, and at times flouting club bye-law 23. The finalists were the favourites selected by Chris Clarke's book at the start of the week 'panache versus precision, brilliance versus tenacity' (C.G. 1974, Test Tour Results).

Avery won the early jostling. His play was remarkable relaxed, almost casual. He soon reached 4-back and had done two peels of his triple when he unaccountably stuck in 2-back. Hogan pegged out Avery's rover ball and then followed a period of unfathomable tactics as Avery eschewed in turn safe and shortish shots. Eventually, when all thought he should have taken position, he shot and hit from 3-back into the first corner. A

memorable split gained a rush on the ball half-way up the East boundary, but he played that badly and, after a poor approach, failed to make the hoop. Hogan asserted control and won by 3.

Avery emerged from lunch eager to make amends and again produced a winning position but this time stuck at 4-back after concentrating on the delayed it was an unspectacular affair. There was very little hitting-in, and even less breaking-down. Three times Clarke and Fulford surrendered the innings by taking or splitting off the lawn, and that was enough advantage for Hogan and Jackson. Suffice to say that three games were played but only 78 points were scored and that the winners were not British, Hogan



Martin Murray (left) makes his closing speech prior to the presentation of the trophies, with Brian Macmillan in attendance. The cups were presented by Buzzer Haddingham, Chairman of the All-England Lawn Tennis & Croquet Club, Leslie Pincott, Chairman of the Hurlingham Club, and Peter Yarranton, Chairman of the Sports Council.

penultimate peel. Hogan came back but then handed away the innings after a disasterous cannon which left his partner-ball stranded in centre lawn. Avery however stuck in rover and Hogan finished the match with a well controlled TP. But for his hooping errors, Mark had looked the better player for most of the match, but Joe's concentration and psychological dominance (stopping bisques) are formidable weapons. Hopefully we will see this pair play again in January in New Zealand.

There were three more matches to be finished. The Plate was played mainly at Surbiton, a delightful venue to which carloads of spectators were known to disappear for the lunches and the beer. However this meant that the participants were unable to watch the latter stages of the Championship, and so some players opted for the more relaxed alternative.

The Final was between Guest and French, hardy perennials in this kind of event. It lasted a tedious 5¾ hours, a testament to the difficulty of the lawns, before French scraped home by 2. Then there was the resumed doubles semi-final described above, during which Mulliner, already pegged out, remained in his 'civvies' much to the interest of various referees.

The doubles final had to be held over until the Monday, and for the few loyal spectators who stayed on completing a triple in the first.

My apologies to all those worthies I have not mentioned, but it was a vast tournament to cover, and thanks to all those who described games to me that I missed while I was having a harrowing time in play.

The Continental Airlines World Croquet

Held in conjunction with the British Open

D.R. Appleton (E) bt D.N.S. Peterson (E) +16, +9; S.T. Arkley (USA) bt J. Rose (I) +25, +14; E.W. Solomon (E) bt P.L. Smith (E) -1, +17, +10; J.P. Dawson (E) bt R.W. Ransom (E) -3(T), +4(T), +4(T); M.J. Stevens (E) bt R.W. Williams (S) +2, +3; J.O. Walters (E) bt T.W. Anderson (E) +22, +19; J.W.H. Carlisle (E) bt C. Southern (E) +14, +19; D. Collins (USA) bt D.L. Gaunt (E) +6, +21; A.J. Mrozinski (E) bt K.F. Wylie (E) -8, +24, +14; D.C.D. Wiggins (E) bt R.J. Smith (E) +17, +14; W.T. Coles (E) (E) bt R.J. Smith (E) +17, +14; W.J. Coles (E) bt C. Shilling (NZ) +16, +9; J.R. Hiddith (W) bt T. Takano (J) +23, +21; Miss P. Ballenger (USA) bt B.C. Sykes (E) +2, +11; C.E. Jones (NZ) bt N.G. Hyne (E) +16, +3; E.J. Davis (E) bt G.C. Roy (S) +13, -7, +23; S.J.H. Wright (S) bt G.A. Vince (E) +18, +11.

Round 2

D.L. Gunasekera (W) bt R.D.C. Prichard (W) D.L. Gunasekera (W) bt R.D.C. Prichard (W)
-2, +2, +18; R.V. Jackson* (NZ) bt Appleton
+22TP, +25TP; A.F. Sutcliffe (E) bt G.
Latham* (A) +10, +26; Arkley bt A.
Burchfield (USA) +13, -4, +6; M.N. Avery* (E)
bt D.B. Maugham (E) +16, +11; R. Fleming (C)
bt Solomon +22, +3; D.C. Reeve (E) bt L.
Herington* (A) +17, +25; R.J. Collighan (E) bt Dawson -9. +7. +18: S. Comish (E) bt G.N. Aspinall* (E) +6, -24, +24; M. Murray (S) b Stevens +25TP, +26TP; J. Stark* (USA) bt M.R. French (E) +1, +12; C.J. Irwin (I) bt Walters +12, +26TP; J.G. Prince* (NZ) bt G.W. Noble (E) +2, +17; W.E. Lamb (E) bt Carlisle +4, +16; R.I. Fulford* (E) bt D.R. Foulser (E) +6, +22; P. Cordingley (E) bt Collins +23, +16; J.K. Hogan* (NZ) bt E. Bell (E)-15, +25, +23; I.G. Vincent (I) bt Mrozinski +12, -5,

+21; C.D. Clarke* (E) bt C.M. von Schmieder (I) +17TP, +6; I.D. Bond (S) bt Wiggins +18, -25, +13; M.E.W. Heap (E) bt S. Williams (I) +19; Coles bt A. Cleland* (A) +9, +8 W.de B. Prichard* (W) bt A.K. Gregory (E) +13, +25; S.E. Lewis (E) bt Hilditch +8, +8, S.N. Mulliner* (E) bt D.J. Goacher (E) +24, +5; W.O. Aldridge (E) bt Ballenger +18, -2, +25; Miss D.A. Cornelius (E) bt A.B. Hope (S) +25, +17; K.M.H. Aiton* (S) bt Jones +25, +22STP; P.J. Skinley* (NZ) bt C. Pickering (A) -25, +1, +14; J.E. Guest (E) bt Davis +16, +9; D.K. Openshaw* (E) bt T.D. Harrison (E) +17, -16TP, +24; Wright bt F.J.R. Landor (E) +9,

Jackson bt Gunasekera +26, -1, +18; Arkley bt Sutcliffe +21, +10; Avery bt Fleming +26TP, +26TP; Collighan bt Reeve -20, +18, +11; Murray bt Comish +15, +15; Irwin bt Stark +26, +19; Prince bt Lamb +24, +21; Fulford bt Cordingley +7, -20, +23; Hogan bt Vincent +21TP, +18; Clarke bt Bond +4, +26; Heap bt Coles +24, +14; Lewis bt W. Prichard +13, +9; Mulliner bt Aldridge +16, +14; Aiton bt Miss Cornelius +14, +18 Skinley bt Guest +19, +17TP; Openshaw bt Wright +1(T), +8.

Round 4 Jackson bt Arkley +26TP, +22; Avery bt Collighan +26, +26TP; Irwin bt Murray +22, +13; Prince bt Fulford -26TP, +17, +26TP; Hogan bt Clarke +12TPO, +26; Lewis bt Heap +2, -12, +8; Mulliner bt Aiton -5, +3, +26TP; Openshaw bt Skinley +19,

Quarter-Finals Avery bt Jackson-3, +17TP, +17TP; Irwin bt Prince -17, +25, +13; Hogan bt Lewis +8TP, +25; Openshaw bt Mulliner -2, +1, +14.

Semi-Finals Avery bt Irwin +26, -12, +14; Hogan bt Openshaw +26TP, +6.

Hogan bt Avery +3, +3TP.

* = Seeded Players. (A) = Australia; (C) = Canada; (E) = England; (I) = Ireland; (J) = Japan; (NZ) = New Zealand; (S) = Scotland; (USA) = United

British Open Doubles Championship Round 1

Round 1
G.N. Aspinall & S.N. Mulliner* bt Miss D.A.
Cornelius & M.R. French +21, -2, +23TP; A.
Burchfield & J. Stark bt Miss P. Ballenger &
D. Collins +1(T), +17; L.D. Bond & B.C. Sykes
th P. Cordingley & S. Williams -7, +17, +18;
G.W. Noble & I.G. Vincent bt E. Bell & J. Rose
+15, -18, +1(T); R.J. Collighan & D.B.
Magadhers H. M.H. Carlisle & I. E. Creet & R. Maugham bt J.W.H. Carlisle & J.E. Guest +8, -16, +3; L. Herington & C. Pickering bt E.J. Davis & W.E. Lamb +14, -18(T), +10; J.R. Hilditch & N.G. Hyne bt J.O. Walters & K.F. Hilditch & N.J. Hyne of J.O. Walters & K.F. Wylie +4, -2(T), J.K. Hogan & K.F. Ujackson* bt A.J. Mrozinski & D.C.D. Wiggins +9, +15; M.N. Avery & D.K. Openshaw* bt D.R. Foulser & P.L. Smith +7, +24; S. Comish & D.C. Reeve bt W.O. Aldridge & S.E. Lewis +8, +20; K.M.H. Aiton & W. deB. Prichard bt D.L. Gunasekera & R.D.C. Prichard +12, +26; C.D. Clarke & R.I. Fulford bt B.G. Neal & E.W. Solomon +23, +26TP; S.T. Arkley & J.P. Dawson bt D.L. Gaunt & F.J.R. Landor +2(T), +16; A. Cleland & G. Latham bt D.J. Goacher & R.W. Ransom -2, +2, +20; A.B. Hope & M. Murray bt R. Fleming & C.M. von Schmieder +10, -6, +22; J.G. Prince & P.J. Skinley* bt M.E.W. Heap & C.J. Irwin +1(T),

Round 2 Aspinall & Mulliner bt Burchfield & Stark +9, +17; Noble & Vincent bt Bond & Sykes +3, +3; Collighan & Maugham bt Herington & Pickering -2, +24, +5; Hogan & Jackson bt Hilditch & Hyne +22TP, +26TP; Comish & Reeve bt Avery & Openshaw +14, +5 Clarke & Fulford bt Aiton & W. Prichard +19, -7, +25; Cleland & Latham bt Arkley & Dawson +3(T), +8(T); Hope & Murray bt Prince & Skinley +17, -2, +12.

Ouarter-Finals Aspinall & Mulliner bt Noble & Vincent +17, +25; Hogan & Jackson bt Collighan & Maugham-12, +19, +20; Clarke & Fulford bt Comish & Reeve +26, -24, +25TP; Cleland & Latham bt Hope & Murray -16, +4, +7(T).

Semi-Finals Hogan & Jackson bt Aspinall & Mulliner -26TP, +24, +8; Clarke & Fulford bt Cleland & Latham +25TP, +26.

Hogan & Jackson bt Clarke & Fulford

New Pavilion Opened at Wellington

Report from Miss E.M.A. Sutton

Mrs Iris Dwerryhouse, the South West Federation tournament secretary, cut the tape early in April to open the new pavilion at the Wellington Croquet Club, Somerset. The wind blew, the sun shone, it rained - the organisation fell apart. the official photographer failed to turn up in time, we forgot to present on to your hat?

We have since made up for the rain and enjoyed the use of our new pavilion, placed as it is in the idyllic surroundings of Nynehead Court, where by kind permission of the management committee we have two courts, one full size and another three-quarter size. Our playing



Iris Dwerryhouse cuts the tape to open the new pavilion at Wellington Croquet Club, Somerset

the flowers. But the tea was magnificent.

Yes, there were some spectators, they were ejected to stand in a pitiful huddle; have you ever tried to clap whilst clutching a brolly and hanging record doesn't vet match our surroundings, but we are working on it.

Newport's Opening Day

Report by Donald Cornelius

Saturday 20th May was brilliantly sunny at Newport, Essex, with a light breeze from the northeast. Idyllic conditions for the official Opening Day of the Newport Club.

The lawns were tightly mown, hard and very fast, and received enthusiastic praise from all who played on them.

Sixteen players were there by 10am to take part in a special one day, three round, handican doubles tournament. The handicaps ranged from 14 down to -2 and the players were paired partly randomly and partly by selection to give fairly equal joint levels. Like the first rounds of a Swiss Tournament, winners played winners and losers played losers, and this left one pair only with three wins - Richard Hilditch and John Hobbs, the Secretary of the Newport Club, who beat Michael Heap and John Farley in the final. The winners each received a pair of cut-glass brandy glasses - a useful memento of a pleasant day's croquet.

The Newport Club sincerely thanks the guest players for helping to start things off with such a swing and for being so helpful in explaining croquet to the many visitors - and yes, folks, I do mean many! A few even called in before lunch, but most came

Roy Newnham, our Chairman,

organised the week and worked out a

programme which I assisted him in

running and we were supported by

in the afternoon, and a large crowd had assembled, with some people already playing on the two shortcroquet lawns that had been set out on lawn 1, by the time Newport chairman, John Gordon, introduced John Solomon, President of the Croquet Association, to formally open the club. The tape, tied between the handles of two mallets, was duly cut, and shortly afterwards, during the tea-break, John Solomon gave a public commentary on an exhibition match, played on one of the shortcroquet lawns, between Richard Hilditch and Ron Atkinson - the man who takes a lot of the credit for the lovely lawns. The three rows of seated visitors, and others standing found this most helpful in their understanding of the game, and over 40 people gave in their names as being interested in joining the club. So, allowing for some obvious slippage, there should be an influx of new members over coming weeks.

Overall, it was a very pleasant and very successful day, which it is hoped has set this new club, with its three excellent, purpose-built lawns, on its

Guernsey hosts second 'Med-Am' Competition

Report by Andrew Lampert

The Croquet Club of Guernsey formed six years ago now has 27 members and hosted the second Media - Amateur Competition on Saturday 17th June, 1989 in brilliant

sunshine, at Sausmarez Manor. Our Club members were paired with 6 media beginners representing the Guernsey Press, Channel TV, Radio Guernsey and Freestyle Magazine.

Each pair played every other pair (i.e. 5 games) during the day, with the winners being the pair scoring the most hoops in games lasting 45 minutes each. A total of 338 hoop points were scored during the day.



Andrew Lampert and Carolyn Petit, winners of the 'Med-Am' tournament at Sausmarez Manor.

North American Stockbrokers Dean Witter Reynolds (Canada) Inc. sponsored the buffet lunch and for the privilege had fixed small brass plates with their company name inscribed on them above each hoop!

The Old Government House (OGH) Hotel had a Cocktail Party for players and spectators after the match on the lawn at Sausmarez Manor and presented the Med-Am Shield to the winners, Andrew Lampert (Club) and Carolyn Petit (Radio Guernsey).

Ryde run Croquet Week for Saga Holidays

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Report by Mary Robinson

The over-55's got a boost when Saga Holidays ran their first-ever croquet week.

I was approached by Saga last October to see if the Ryde Club would be willing to organise the week. I put it to our Committee who were in favour of it if Saga were willing to remunerate us in some way. It was decided to ask them for a set of balls and they agreed to this.

The week was held at The Rocklands Hotel, St. Laurence, a beautiful Victorian house overlooking the sea, and a perfect setting for Croquet. The weather was perfect - hot and sunny the whole time

They had one lawn approximately three-quarter size and their equipment consisted of a set of garden hoops - 7 mallets and a set of primary and a set of secondary coloured balls. As they had booked in 20 people this hardly seemed adequate, so the club lent them a set of hoops and extra mallets and

The 20 guests were all very enthusiastic beginners or near beginners; one or two belonged to various clubs but had very little experience of the game.

several club members. The week was from Wednesday to Wednesday but unfortunately owing to the rail strike on British Rail, the week had to be cut short by one day. The guests arrived on Wednesday evening and Roy and I were invited to

a sherry reception and dinner to meet them and afterwards to explain the programme to them. Each day we divided them into two

groups of ten - beginners and more experienced. These again were divided into 2 groups of five. The day started at 10.30 a.m. From

10.30 to 11.30, we took the beginners - Roy at one end of the lawn with five, and me the other end with five. From 11.30 to 12.30, we repeated this with the more advanced.

Lunch was from 12.30 to 1.30, and in the afternoon, we repeated the arrangements-2 groups, one from 1.30 to 3.00 and one from 3.00 to 4.30. Each evening they played a game (3 heats) of Pirates or Golf Croquet for which Saga provided a prize each day of a bottle of

The last day was spent at the Ryde Club-Saga providing taxis to ferry them in. There they were able to attempt a proper game on full sized lawns.

Everyone enjoyed the week tremendously, so much so that Saga want to repeat it next year and all 20 guests say that they will return.

Let's hope that this will be the forerunner of many such holidays, not only on the Isle of Wight but all over the

Ryde: 5-10 June Laurence Latham wins again

Report by Deborah Latham

Though perhaps not quite as well supported as in previous years, the week's tournament at Ryde was every whit as enjoyable and was played in the welcoming and warm atmosphere visitors can always expect at this small but friendly club

From the outset mention must be made of the sterling efforts of manager Roy Newnham to accommodate a sudden and excessive flood of requests for leave while keeping everyone in all events they originally entered for. It is unusual for so many people to take leave and still stay in the competition, but Roy very heroically succeeded in both meeting all the requests and keeping to schedule, and he certainly deserves to be 'mentioned in despatches'!

It must be said that the club suffered a rather unusual downpour on one occasion during the week - showers of quite long grass came wafting down onto the courts! This drew forth the whimsical observation from one of the players that the weather forecast must have been 'light to moderate grass in places'!

The first two days, taken up with the contest for the handicap event,

were not very warm in temperature, but there was some heated activity on the courts. Bill Platt, who together with Phil Kennerly the eventual winner of the Y-is in some danger of having the repu-

very fine croquet thereafter, and Mick and Val Tompkinson, ditto. As is beginning to be traditional, Deborah Latham lost -1 to Harry Brownsdon - on this occasion at the semi-final stage - which was slightly disappointing since Laurence beat Frank Newman to proceed to the final, and it is the nearest yet that the Lathams have come to



The winners at Ryde (L to R): Val Tompkinson (Doubles), Mary Robinson (C Class), Mick Tompkinson (Doubles), Laurence Latham (A Class), Phillip Kennerley (Swiss Handicap), and Deborah Latham (B Class).

tation of being the local 'bandit', only narrowly lost his first round match, and both gentlemen show every sign of becoming 'formidable' (in the nicest possible way, of course!).

There were some unexpected early departures into the Y Swiss event, such as William Broad-Thomas, who went on to play some

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playing each other in a competition.

The decision to play the final as the best of three matches meant that the event could not be played to a conclusion by the end of the second day, particularly because, fulfilling the ominous promise of rumbles of thunder on the Monday, Tuesday suffered a downpour in the afternoon to the extent that lying water on the courts caused the first game of the final to be pegged down and all but one of the Swiss matches to be abandoned. The single exception was the match between Frank Newman and Deborah Latham, both of whom decided they didn't mind playing 'under water'. Indeed, it seemed to positively suit Deborah, who gingerly danced among the puddles to qualify for a Silver Award.

The resumption of the X final in kinder climes saw a close result in the first game, +6 in Laurence's favour. Harry came sweeping majestically back into contention in the second game with a convincing +25, so the result hung on the outcome of the third game, in which Laurence only permitted his opponent eight hoops and performed a combination peg-out to leave him with two bisques still standing! So the Dibley Goblet went to Laurance, but as the Benest Cup was assigned to the X runnerup, Harry didn't come out of it too badly.

The doubles was something of an organizational challenge, as only six pairs were entered. It was played as a Swiss, and Diana Erith and Doris Cox garnered a couple of notable 'scalps' in the course of the competition by defeating Roy

Newnham and Harry Brownsdon, an achievement with which they may rightly feel pleased. Among the remaining pairings the family partnerships all came out with two wins each, thereby causing a oneball croquet tie-back with partners playing alternate turns, but both time and circumstances conspired to force William and Jennie Broad-Thomas to withdraw.

Fresh from just having been beaten by the Lathams, the Tompkinsons promptly won the tie-break +2 against them and took the Birch Cups home for the third time. The entire match caused intense interest among the 'gallery', most of whom had not seen this form of tie-break before.

In the 'C' class, Robert and Faith Fewtrell, newly come to croquet, acquitted themselves honourably against the greater experience of Diana Erith and Edward Carleton. Doris Cox was also playing well, but all had to accede to the display of ability which awarded Mary Robinson the Hutton Cup, her first singles trophy

Notwithstanding Arthur Rowlands' absence from the 'B' class (and he is usually a force to be reckoned with!), strong challenges were put in by Val Tompkinson and Phil Kennerly at the expense of Jennie Broad-Thomas, Margaret Newman and Bill Platt. However, Deborah Latham was playing consistently well and took the Chapman Cup with a clean sweep of wins; a performance that contributed to her being awarded a handicap reduction at the end of the tournament. Phil also experienced an abatement of his handicap, after he had obtained second place in the block. In spite of an authoritative

victory over Laurence Latham at the outset of the 'A' competition, Roy Newnham's challenge sadly faded along with that of Frank Newman and Harry Brownsdon. Mick Tompkinson's form improved gradually during the week, but it looked until the last games of the block as if William Broad-Thomas was going to be the one to have something to take home with him and polish. However, at the last moment arithmetic forced him into second place behind Laurence, against whom he suffered his only defeat, the Championship of the Isle of Wight thus being resident in Taunton once more for the next

Sea air, wonderful hospitality and superb atmosphere - why don't more people avail themselves of the opportunity to play at Ryde? In the words of the King of Siam as per Rodgers and Hammerstein-'Is a puzzlement!'.

MEN'S & WOMEN'S Aiton regains Men's title Cheltenham: 12-17 June

Report by Alan Bogle

The 1989 Men's and Women's Championship was a strange event. For a start it was subjected to the hottest weather of the year, indeed the hottest day since 1976. Forecasters blamed it on increased sunspot activity, and perhaps this was the cause of several other odd happenings and behaviours.

To start with, the appointed manager Barry Keen defected to the USSR and Ian Maugham was coerced to fill in at the last minute. Martin Murray was attending the birth of his daughter, Hannah. Bernard Neal's back prevented his participation as a player, but not as a referee, and nobody wanted to write the report for the gazette.

However, having refused once, I cracked at the second asking. My task was made more difficult by Ian's desire for me to play on distant lawns (actually lawn 5) when all the excitement took place at the same time elsewhere. What follows therefore is based on second hand accounts which may or may not reflect the whole truth.

There were few surprises on the opening day in terms of results, the exception being the defeat of David Foulser at the hands of Jerry Guest. Mention should be made of Francis Landor, who completed his first competitive triple, and this proved the only triple of the round. Indeed triples were a scarce commodity. Only seven were scored in the event, Landor (1), Fulford (1), Gunasekera (1) and Aiton (4). This didn't reflect a low standard of play; rather it highlights that the lawns were faster than for some years at Cheltenham.

Bill Lamb, who had a bye in round one, arrived in the evening on the first day when not due until day two. Since his opponent had already won through, the manager refused to allow Bill to practice if he was not prepared to play. Bill compromised and settled for refereeing. John Walters also turned up on the first evening four hours late. The manager had his revenge by getting John to arrive four hours early on day three thanks to a late change in the order of play.

of the first with results reflecting the players relative ranking. The exception this time was Francis Landor's fine win over Jerry Guest. Francis was later rewarded with a scratch handicap. The closest match saw Phil Cordingley beat John Walters after losing the first

there were a number of close wins

Fulford's shooting gave him a comfortable win over Ian Bond. Dayal Gunasekera staged a great comeback against Phil Cordingley after losing the first game from peg and peg. Colin Irwin finally mastered the lawn to beat Bill Aldridge in three games, and Keith Aiton ended Francis Landor's progress.

in the lower half of the draw. Liz Taylor-Webb progressed to the semi-finals with a +1 win on time in the third game against Carmen Bazley. And in matching circumstances, Dab Wheeler beat Veronica Carlisle. In the semi-final Dab only needed two games to beat Liz.

In the top half of the draw, Bo Harris beat Francis Ransom and then Betty Weitz in the semi-final, needing only two games in each match. The final was slightly disappointing. Bo Harris played very well to win in two games,

participate in a croquet film being made for Nippon TV (possibility of stardom in Japan?). Most thanks must go to Juliet Povey who kept all the competitors well watered from the bar.

Championships

RESULTS

Men's Championship

Round 1

R. Fulford bt C. Jones +24, +12; D.L. Gaunt bt F.I. Maugham +8, -8, +3; I.D. Bond bt B.G. Weitz -6, +11, +17; P.W. Hands bt P.L. Smith -3, +17, +19; D. Gunasekera bt D.J. Goacher +24, +15; I.R. Plummer bt M. Murray (wo); P. Cordingley bt B.G. Neal (wo); D. Kelly bt A. Bogle +6, +5; W.O. Aldridge bt D. Cairns +22, +3; C.J. Irwin bt R.W. Ransom +21, +10; F.J.R. Landor bt D. Moorcraft +22, +23TP; J. Guest bt D. Foulser -4, +2, +22; K.M.H. Aiton bt A. Hope -17, +13, +21.

Round 2

Fulford bt Gaunt +16, +26TP; Bond bt Hands +6, +14; Gunasekera bt Plummer +26TP, +15; Cordingley bt J.O. Walters -7, +4, +26; Aldridge bt Kelly +19, +13; Irwin bt W.E. Lamb +12, +10; Landor bt Guest +4, +26; Aiton bt B.C. Sykes +13TP, +4.

Round 3 Fulford bt Bond +8, +13; Gunasekera

bt Cordingley -2, +6, +6; Irwin bt Aldridge +18, -25, +17; Aiton bt Landor +24. +24. Semi-Finals

Gunasekera bt Fulford +10, +3; Aiton bt Irwin -3, +2TP, +16TP.

Final Aiton bt Gunasekera +26, -9, +2.

Women's Championship

Round 1

Mrs E. Weitz bt Mrs C. Smith +10, +3; Mrs G.D. Harris bt Mrs F. Ransom +14, +19; Mrs E. Taylor-Webb bt Lady Bazley +15, -19, +1; Mrs D.A. Wheeler bt Mrs V. Carlisle -25, +2, +1.

Semi-Finals

Mrs Harris bt Mrs Weitz +13, +11; Mrs Wheeler bt Mrs Taylor-Webb +11, +13. Final Mrs Harris bt Mrs Wheeler +13, +14.

Mixed Doubles Championship

Round 1

I.D. Bond & Mrs V. Carlisle bt P.L. Smith & Lady Bazley +6.

Round 2

Bond & Mrs Carlisle bt D.J. Goacher & Mrs K. Whittall +19; D.L. Gaunt & Miss A. McDiarmid bt D.A. Moorcraft & Mrs D. Wheeler +15; F.I. Maugham & Mrs G.D. Harris bt Dr & Mrs B.G. Weitz +4: R. Race & Mrs K. Yeoman bt Mr & Mrs R.W. Ransom +3.

Semi-Finals

Bond & Mrs Carlisle bt Gaunt & Miss McDiarmid +14; Maugham & Mrs Harris bt Race & Mrs Yeoman +25.

Maugham & Mrs Harris bt Bond & Mrs

Du Pre Cup

(Draw & Process) Semi-Finals

Draw: W.E. Lamb bt P. Cordingley +15; Process: D.J. Foulser bt B.C. Sykes +20. Final (Play-Off)
Foulser bt Lamb +3.

Edgar Jackson presents Keith Aiton with his Trophy.

Fulford's shooting failed him in the semi-final against Dayal, who won in two games. The interesting match was between Keith and Colin. Playing elsewhere, I missed this match. However, by all accounts Colin should have won the match in the second game, having scraped the first game from Keith by 3. Somehow, he contrived to lose it from peg and peg, and Keith won the third game with a fine triple.

The final was another close affair

with Keith again steeling the

makes rover but fails the long peg

out, going off the lawn on the south

boundary. Keith goes to peg in-

cluding three peels but fails to peg

out front ball. Sadly Dayal missed

the lift and Keith was the new Men's

In the Women's Championship,

match, this time in the third game. In the first game Dayal won by 26 with a fine triple, Keith failing to take croquet. I actually saw the second game but this was a rather scrappy affair which Keith won by 9. John Walters fell asleep during this game, only to be woken by Keith hitting a lift. At which point John nodded off again. The third game (which I saw only from afar) was worthy of the final. Keith started by blobbing hoop one and Dayal went to 4-back. Keith missed the lift and Dayal completed two peels in going to peg, only bad luck preventing the triple. Keith then gets the innings and goes to 4-back out of nothing. Dayal hits lift,

Champion.

Round two followed the pattern

In the quarter-finals, Robert

helped to some extent by Dab's failure to find the form which had taken her to the final. Bo added to the entertainment value of the second game by accidentally pegging out her forward ball while she was for penult. However, good shooting allowed her to go on to win. Thus Bo took the Women's Championship to go with her Ladies Field victory last year.

Nine pairs entered the Mixed Doubles. As this reporter was not present at any of this event, I can do little other than to note that the event was won by Ian Maugham and Bo Harris. In the final, they defeated Ian Bond and Veronica Carlisle who had earlier knocked out last year's champions Paul Smith and Carmen Bazley.

The Du-Pre was played as a draw and process for both men and women. Bill Lamb and Brian Sykes caused managerial problems because of their successful advance in both halves, finally meeting in each. The score was one all, with Bill going on to beat Phil Cordingley in the final of the draw. Brian Sykes meanwhile lost to David Foulser in the process. In a very close final David just pipped Bill by 3.

A good time was had by all who attended. As for other strange antics, there was Ian Plummer's 'hippy' shirt which he claimed was a relic of Woodstock(?). There was the manager's desire to play nobody other than Don Gaunt (4 games, honours even). This reporter was even persuaded to

Schools

ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND INTERSCHOOLS CHAMPIONSHIP

Edgbaston: 5 July Which school is best?

Report by Andrew Bennet

Since the inception of the Inter-Schools competition the conditions of play have been controversial. The Royal Bank of Scotland this year sponsored a new level-play championship to show which school really has the best players.

The lawns at Edgbaston were very fast and when we arrived the hoops were the widest I have ever seen, so the start was delayed while adjustments were made. Hoop 3 on Lawn 1 caused the most difficulty; we lost count of the number of times Dan McCormick went skating past it. In fact the young players adapted quickly. Alex Leggate from Nailsea and Adam Jarvis from Bishop Vesey's soon found the delicate touch needed to put the balls in the right place, while Queen Elizabeth's top player, Russell Collighan, revelled in these conditions, managing a couple of peels in his first game.

Only one game went to time and most were finished quickly. Special mention must go to Alex Leggate who had a good controlled break when Russell Collighan was poised for his inevitable pegout, and to Adam Jarvis for his win against Dan McCormick, who in a handicap competition would have given him six bisques. Andrew Saurin played immaculately as usual.

Even without Chris Clarke and Mark Saurin, Queen Elizabeth's won the new championship convincingly, and Bishop Vesey's played with spirit to be runners-up. It was a most pleasant and friendly day, rounded off by the

presentation of the cup and medals by Mr Barry Williams from the Royal Bank

Queen Elizabeth's will be without



Oueen Elizabeth's Grammar School, winners of the Royal Bank of Scotland Level-Play Schools Championship. (L to R): Russell Collighan, Dan McCormick, and Andrew Saurin.

their three minus players next year, so we hope that more schools will feel able to enter this competition.

Royal Bank of Scotland Interschools Championship (Level Play)

R. Collighan (OUEGS) bt G. Pearson (Bishor Vesey's) + 24. A. Griffiths (Bishop Vesey's) bt D. Lily (Nailsea) +4(T). D. McCormick (QUEGS) bt R. Atwell (Nailsea) +19.

A. Leggate (Nailsea) bt Pearson (Bishop Vesey's) +14. A.Saurin (QUEGS) bt Lilly (Nailsea) +16. A.Jarvis (Bishop Vesey's) bt McCormick (QUEGS) +12.



Antoine Ravez (centre), President of the French Croquet Association, and Jean-Baptiste Grochain, discuss a ball gauge with Bernard Neal at the World

Croquet Demonstrated at World Games

Report by Chris Hudson

The International World Games Association (IWGA) is a group of international sports federations whose sports are not represented in the Olympic Games. Amongst the mem-

Collighan (QUEGS) bt Leggate (Nailsea) +12. Saurin (QUEGS) bt Griffiths (Bishop Vesey's) +25. Jarvis (Bishop Vesey's) v Atwell

TEAM RESULT

Queen Elizabeth's Bishop Vesey's

IWGA provided a microphone and public address system which John used to great effect when giving a running commentary in German whilst he was not playing. Available for spectators we had leaflets explaining the game in

World Croquet Federation

The World Croquet Federation met at Hurlingham on 15th July, prior to the

New Zealand, Scotland, and England

gave notice of their intention to bid to

stage the next World Championships in

1990, and these Associations are now

The delegates elected the following

Management Committee for the years

President: Mr A.D.J. Heenan, OBE.

Secretary-General: Mr C. Hudson.

Other members: Mr R.E. Carter.

Brig. C.J. Miles. (Australia).

Mr F.J. Rogerson. (Ireland).

Prof. M. Ikeda. (Japan).

putting together formal applications.

appoints Management

Committee

1990 to 1993.

(New Zealand).

United States)

(England)

World Championship.



John McCullough (centre, back to camera) commentates whilst Colin Irwin is in

bers of the IWGA are Netball, Karate-Do. Baseball, Petanque, Minigolf, Archery, Tug-of-War, and many other minor' sports.

The World Games are held every 4 years (the next one is in The Hague in 1993) and we were invited by the IWGA to demonstrate Croquet at this year's World Games in Karlsruhe.

Karlsruhe is near Stuttgart, and it was arranged that John McCullough and Colin Irwin should play a demonstration match on Thursday afternoon, 27th July. Having no idea what to expect, we arrived in Karlsruhe by various means to find ourselves allocated space for the demonstration on a piece of land normally used for hockey.

The IWGA officials were most helpful and mowed the grass as short as possible. Having looked at the conditions, we decided to play a 'best-ofthree' match on a half-size court, roped off to enable spectators to get as close as possible to the action.

To help the demonstration along, the

French, German and English, kindly supplied by Townsend Croquet Ltd. During the course of the afternoon.

we handed out some 200 of these leaflets to spectators, and discovered several people who had already played a little croquet in England or elsewhere.

The event was filmed for German television. They even provided an actor to play the part of a butler, handing John his mallet and a cup of tea at the appropriate moments. Later, we discovered that the TV producer had also played croquet in England, and had absorbed many of the myths perpetrated by Lewis

After the demonstration, we met Rolf Noess, Secretary General of the IWGA, and were able to discuss arrangements for the 1993 Games.

Holding the demonstration has proved to be a useful step on the way to having croquet accepted as a participating sport by the IWGA. I hope it has also helped to encourage more people in Germany to take up the game.

GARDEN

CROQUET

NEWS



Inside: **Coaching Tips Hosting a Croquet Party** The Croquet Classic **News & Views**

No. 2.

Published by the Croquet Association

Sept. 1989. **DUNCAN REEVE WINS**

In the Eastern Championships held at Colchester on 8-10 July, Duncan Reeve beat David Maugham 3-2 to take the title in a closely fought best of 5 games final.

EASTERN CHAMPIONSHIP

THE NATIONAL JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP

Mark Saurin won the National Junior Championship beating Russell Collighan in the final.

The tremendous strength of the present Junior players was demonstrated by Chris Clarke, last year's Junior Champion and winner of the President's Cup, only managing to come fourth.

PRESIDENT'S CUP SELECTIONS

The President's Cup is a competition in which the best eight or ten available players are invited to take part. It ranks on a par with the Open Championship as the most prestigious tournament in British Croquet. The players selected to compete this vear are:-

> Nigel Aspinall Stephen Mulliner Robert Fulford Chris Clarke Keith Aiton Colin Irwin Phil Cordingley Mark Saurin

JOE HOGAN IS WORLD CROQUET CHAMPION

Joe Hogan (31) of New Zealand beat Mark Avery (24) of England to become the first ever World Croquet Champion in the Continental Airlines World Croquet Championship.

The final, played in blistering temperatures at the Hurlingham Club, London, was a battle of the building trades. Joe Hogan is a carpenter while Mark Avery is a builder.

In the first of the best of three games, Mark Avery got his first ball to the four-back hoop. (Championship croquet uses the laws of advanced play. These laws are slightly different to those normally used and allow your opponent to start his next turn with an advantage if you hit your ball through the four-back hoop. Consequently top class players usually stop before running that

Mark Avery then got into a break with his second ball and started a triple peel. (In a triple peel you not only hit the ball you are striking through its hoops but also use it to hit your other ball through its last three hoops. If you stop at the four-back hoop, that ball has three hoops left to run). The triple peel was going perfectly, and Mark had completed the first two peels when he stuck in the jaws of the two-back hoop from a distance of only six inches.

Joe Hogan took the opportunity this presented. In his next turn he took his ball right the way round and



Joe Hogan lines up a corner cannon.



pegged it out. With only one ball left, Mark and Joe had a long cat and mouse game with Joe eventually winning by +3. The second game was very similar. Again Mark got his first ball to the four-back hoop, then got another break going, and started on a triple peel. This time he stuck in the four-

back hoop, but Joe failed to get in and

Mark Avery was able to get one ball to the peg and the other to the rover hoop. However, Joe finally got in again and completed a perfect triple peel to win +3TP. The match was an interesting

contrast of styles, Mark Avery going for and hitting long difficult shots to get his breaks going. Joe Hogan was less spectacular, but needed only half a chance from a single error to get into the game and eventually win.

Earlier in the week there was some spectacular croquet, and some surprising upsets. The quickest win was Mark Avery's demolition of Reid Fleming, the world's top money winner in croquet tournaments in 1988, and the current North American Champion. Mark Avery won in one hour 5 minutes, completing two triple peels and not allowing Reid Fleming to run a single hoop.

Two young unseeded East Anglian players, Duncan Reeve and Steve Comish, had an astonishing run. Firstly, in the doubles, they knocked out top seed Mark Avery and David Openshaw. Steve Comish then

next round. In the doubles, New Zealanders Joe Hogan and Bob Jackson beat the young English pair of Chris Clarke (18) and Robert Fulford (19) +26, +26 to become the doubles champions. The Continental Airlines World

singles. Duncan Reeve followed this

by beating Leigh Herrington, former

Australian Champion. In three days

they had together knocked out three

seeds. Their run however was short-

lived. They were both beaten in the

Croquet Championship was held at The Hurlingham Club, London from 16-23 July. There were 80 competitors taking part who came from 9 different countries.

THE CROQUET CLASSIC: Players reach the last 16

Denzell Gardens, Bowdon, Cheshire.

This Regional Final was won by David Franklin who lives in Market Drayton, Shropshire.

The whole event was dominated by Mrs David Franklin, who spent the day in labour at Shrewsbury hospital, but we had a radio telephone at court side, where prospective Godfather John Franklin and prospective Uncle Richard Franklin were in the crowd.

Congratulations to David and Mrs Franklin on their achievements! Denzell Gardens are a delight at the moment

Regional Finalists

David Franklin (3 wins); Roger

Huyshe (2 wins); Paul Humphries (1 win); Colin Abrahams (0 wins).

Wrest Park, Nr Silsoe, Beds.

The lawns were very fast at Wrest Park, due to the hot weather, and competitors had a short practice before the start to get used to the conditions

All showed good stroke play, but Rodney Ward had the edge because he knew more about tactics.

Regional Finalists Rodney Ward (3 wins); John Trainor (2 wins); John Rusted (1 win); Peter

Hardy (0 wins). Tracy Park, Near Bristol

It was a very pleasant afternoon, the (continued overleaf)

The meeting of the World Croquet Federation on 15th July was the culmination of three years hard work in bringing the various National Croquet Associations together to form a World Federation. Present at the meeting were representatives from the Croquet Associations of England, Scotland, Wales, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, USA, Japan, France, and Italy, Among the topics discussed were who would host the 1990 World Croquet Championship. Bids for the championships were made by New Zealand, Scotland and England.

In future years we may well look back on this July as the start of a new golden age of croquet. Certainly Croquet is burgeoning all over the World. This was emphasised at the World Championship, where there were TV crews filming from 5 different countries.

Amidst all this, the first issue of Garden Croquet News came out. Garden Croquet News was started by The Croquet Association since they felt too little was being done for Garden Croquet players. This autumn The Croquet Association will be deciding how to proceed. Whether to continue

with Garden Croquet News and whether to develop it into a special category of Membership of the Croquet Association with its own tournaments and coaching.

It is important that your views as Garden Croquet players are taken into account. Please write to us and tell us what you want from The Croquet Association. Do you want tournaments, coaching, free tickets to top croquet matches, a magazine? If you want a magazine, what type of articles would you like to see? The reactions we have had so far to Garden Croquet News have all been excellent. If you have not already let us know your opinion on Garden Croquet News and what the Croquet Association can do for you, please write to us. It is only if we hear your views that we can provide you with what you want.

This issue of Garden Croquet News, as promised, is twice the size of the first. This has given us more space to expand the articles and features. If you wish to continue receiving Garden Croquet News you must write to us with your subscription if you have not already done so. The subscription for the next issue is \$2.00 which includes your registration with The Croquet Association. Cheques or Postal Orders made payable to 'The Croquet Association' should be sent to: Brian Macmillan. The Croquet Association. The Hurlingham Club, Ranelagh Gardens London SW6 3PR. CHARLES TOWNSEND

The Croquet Classic (Cont'd from previous page)



Neil Goodyear, one of this year's National finalists, playing in his group competition at Radbroke Hall.

lawns were fast but had benefitted from some overnight rain. There was a good 'gallery', including Ray Ransom (Chairman of the South West Croquet Federation) and others from the Bristol Club.

Martin Murray (Chairman of the Croquet Association) came with Mrs Murray and their very new daughter. The winner was 11-year old Ben Green, whom Martin Murray presented with his Rosebowl Trophy.

Martin mentioned that, only a week ago, he had participated in a somewhat different presentation at the Hurlingham Club, but he had no doubt that the present occasion was just as important to the four finalists as it was to the participants in the World Championship.

The Bristol Evening Post sent a photographer, and we look forward to Ben's progress in the national final.

Regional Finalists

Ben Green (3 wins); Derek Reed (2 wins); Ellis Hughes (1 win); Beryl Owen (0 wins)

Himley Hall, Near Dudley, West Midlands

Despite the weather alternating between heavy showers and hot sunshine, making the lawn conditions vary considerably throughout the afternoon, everyone enjoyed being part of the Regional Final.

This was especially true of Hugh

Coming Events



St Mary's College, Twickenham

The President's Cup 5-9 Sept.

The Hurlingham Club, Ranelagh Gardens, London, SW6 3PR. (2 minutes walk from Putney Bridge Tube Station.) Entry is free to Croquet Association members. The entry fee for nonmembers is \$5.00. Tickets are obtainable from The Croquet Association.

The President's Cup is an event in which the 8 or 10 players are invited to compete. Everyone plays everyone else twice. Winning the President's Cup rates with the Open Championship as the two top competitions.

The Garden Croquet Classic: National Final. Saturday, 16th Sept. St. Mary's College, Strawberry Hill, Twickenham TW1 4SX. (Less than half a mile from Strawberry Hill S.R. Station.)

The winners from the regional finals will be competing to find the 1989 National Champion.

Williams who, after just defeating Andrew Yates in his first game, went from strength to strength and was well deserving of his runaway success.

Regional Finalists

Hugh Williams (3 wins); Andrew Yates (2 wins); John Riddington (1 win); Diane Dunn (0 wins).

Wellcome Research, Beckenham,

In the morning, the four finalists were fairly evenly matched and Julian Sheraton-Davis was unlucky not to win any games. However, John Bramhall was a clear winner - and went straight back to Reigate to captain a cricket team! Simon Jacot was runner-up after a hoop count.

The draw between these two players occurred because both players insisted that they did not know the rule about playing on after time until the deciding hoop was scored; and they would not have left the balls in that position if they had known; and would much rather leave the result as a draw, if the manager didn't mind!

Regional Finalists

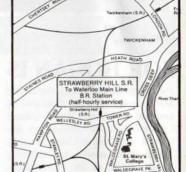
John Bramhall (3 wins); Simon Jacot (11/2 wins); Peter Cross (11/2 wins); Julian Sheraton-Davis (0 wins).

In the afternoon final, it was what managers dread - A beats B, B beats C, C beats A!

However, Edward Dymock eventually emerged as the winner on hoop count, after some very impressive hitting-in by Alec Bell. Sean Briggs found the standard rather high, but let's hope he'll have another go next

Regional Finalists

Edward Dymock (2 wins); Alec Bell (2 wins); Robert Alexander (2 wins); Shaun Briggs (0 wins).



Your Letters

Dear Sir.

Thank you for sending me 'Garden Croquet News'. At last, a magazine for Garden Croquet Players!

I am writing because I was hoping you can help me with a problem. The way we have always played croquet is you can choose which of your balls you want to play each turn. However we played against some friends recently and they play differently. They say you must play both balls in the order on the peg and you can't choose which one you want to play. Could you tell us which is right. Frank Green.

Clifton.

You are right. At the start of each turn, you can choose which of your two balls you wish to play. Playing the balls in the order on the peg, sometimes referred to as the 'sequence game,' was the way croquet was played up until 1913.

The laws of croquet are often passed on from father to son, so old laws sometimes persist long after they have been changed. One example of this is that some people still believe you can place your foot on the ball when you play the croquet stroke. This was banned as long ago as 1870! - Ed.

Subscribe to 'Garden Croquet News' and ensure it continues! (details in Column 2 above)

Hosting a Croquet Party

All of us have an image of a perfect summer's day. The sun beating down while the ice clinks in the glasses and the croquet mallets click on the balls. This is the feeling that the perfect croquet party should conjure up. It should be informal and relaxed, with the food and drink complementing the play to leave everyone with an afternoon to remember.

What are the ingredients of perfect croquet party?

The Lawn and Garden

The most important thing in arranging the party is the lawn on which the croquet will be played. The first question you need to ask is what size of court you will be using. The two things you should take into account are the speed and smoothness of the grass, and the experience of the guests.

The court should be of a size whereby the players can strike a ball without straining from end to end of the court. Guests who have not played croquet before will find this more difficult than experienced players. So if you have guests who are new to croquet, the court should be scaled down. As a rough rule, if there are people who have never played before, the court should be between 10yds by 15yds and 16yds by 24yds. (It should only be the largest of these sizes if the grass is absolutely smooth and very fast). If the players are all experienced and the court is very smooth and fast, then a bigger court can be used, up to 28yds by 35yds. It should be noted that a court of this size is not suitable for beginners (or for anyone else for that matter!) if the grass is long or rough.

Having decided on the size of the court, the boundary should be marked out. There should also be an area close by in the shade where chairs for the guests wanting to play can be placed together with tables for the food and drink.

How Many Guests?

The number of guests at a croquet party is very important. You don't want to have people waiting around all day to get a game. You should allow 40 minutes for a 14-point game (this is a game in which you hit your balls through all the hoops only once before hitting them onto the winning peg). If you play doubles, which is highly recommended for a croquet party, then a total of eight people is the ideal number. This means you have four people in play while the other four sit in the shade and watch. You can also organise a simple knockout competition, with the winners of the first game playing the winners of the second game in a 'final'.

If you want more than eight people at the party you will need to organise more court time. There are two ways to do this. You can either have a second court if you have the space, or you can have two games going on at once on a single court. This is



Baron!

called double banking and the second game uses balls of different colours to the first so they don't get muddled up. These different coloured balls are called 'second colour balls'. They are green, brown, pink, and white, and can be purchased through your sports shop.

Showing Beginners how to play If some of your guests have never played croquet before, it is worth having simple leaflets available explaining how to play. Most croquet sets contain these and they can be photocopied at your local library. Alternatively leaflets can be obtained from The Croquet Association, The Hurlingham Club, Ranelagh Gardens, London SW6

Clothing

The most important item of clothing is the footwear. You should ask your guests to wear tennis or other flat soled shoes. This is so that you don't finish the party with a lawn pitted by high heels. Other clothing should be casual summer wear, white if possible. If people wear white they will take the game more seriously and so should enjoy it more. It is mistake to suggest guests wear fancy dress from the Victorian or Edwardian age. This devalues the croquet and the party becomes more of a fashion show than a proper croquet party.

In the Garden

Food and Drink

Most croquet parties are held in the afternoon, so the food should be light and the equivalent of an afternoon tea. The ideal food should complement the croquet. Cocktail sausages can be put on wooden skewers to look like croquet mallets. Cheese straws can be made in the shape of croquet hoops, cheese balls can be put out like croquet balls. If this is backed with cucumber sandwiches, which are very refreshing on a hot sunny day, it will be a tea to remember.

It is essential to have long cool drinks available, as it can get very hot out in the sun. Homemade lemonade always goes down well. Alternatively Pimms is a particularly pleasant drink to have while playing croquet.

The most important thing in holding a croquet party is to relax and enjoy it. Croquet parties are easy to organise and provide a truly memorable afternoon for everyone there.

Hit down on the ball

and follow through

Coaching Corner: The Croquet Stroke

The croquet shot is the shot played after placing the balls together. Both balls must move when playing the croquet shot, but how do you control how far they move?

If the balls are placed in line and the rear ball is hit straight with the mallet, the front ball will go about three times as far as the back (or striker's) ball. This is fine for some situations, but in others you may want the back ball to go further than the front ball or maybe to move hardly at all. The distance the back ball travels can be controlled by the use of spin.

If you want the back ball to travel further, you hit it with more

top spin. This is called a roll shot. To play a roll shot you stand

further forward and hit down on the ball, following through

ball you need to stand so far forward it is difficult using the

You therefore stand sideways on and hold the mallet much

lower down, with the bottom hand just above the head.

Hitting the ball like this you can make the back ball travel

further than the ball at the front. This is called a pass roll.

The photographs show Lee Herington of Australia before

conventional 'between the legs' stance.



Ground the heel of the mallet on impact

Roll-Shot

The Stop Shot

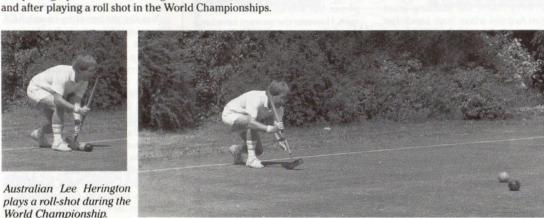
Stop-Shot.

If you want the back ball to move as little as possible, you put back spin on it. This is called a 'stop shot'. A stop shot is played by standing further back from the ball. As the as you strike it. See diagram. To put a lot of top spin on the mallet hits the ball, the heel of the mallet should be grounded so that the mallet does not follow through. So by varying the amount of top and back spin, it is possible to control exactly how far the back ball goes and get it exactly



The Roll Shot

Australian Lee Herington plays a roll-shot during the World Championship.



Universities



Jerry Stark, winner of the 'Fun Cup'.

The Italian Croquet Association donated a 'Fun Cup' to be awarded to the player in the World Championship who provided the most pleasure and entertainment. The cup was won by Jerry Stark, the amazing giant from Arizona whose huge handlebar moustache and brightly coloured braces left an indelible impression.

During the World Championship Chris Clarke (18), who last year became the youngest player ever to win The President's Cup, overheard a children's programme on Channel 4. The presenter was saying "If schoolboy Chris Clarke wins the World Croquet Championships this week he will win enough money to keep him in sweets and comics for the rest of his life!"

One of the most impressive features of the two top New Zealand players in the World Championship was their total unflapability. Both Joe Hogan and Bob Jackson concentrated on the task of winning and let nothing disturb them. On their way to winning the doubles championship there was a good example of this. In the second round they were due to play Richard Hilditch and Nick Hyne, two of the great characters of croquet. Richard Hilditch and Nick Hyne have started a tradition that when they play together, one of them wears a pair of antennae. However they were now drawn against the world's best players in the world's most important



Richard Hilditch and Nick Hyne (left foreground) prepare to challenge Bob Jackson and Joe Hogan.

doubles tournament. Richard Hilditch decided he should ask the New Zealanders if they minded before he donned the antennae. Bob Jackson's reply was simple. 'I don't care if you play in your underants' and he and Hogan went on to win with two triple peels, allowing Hilditch and Hyne to run only a total of 4 hoops in the game.

* * * * *

Three out of the four New Zealanders at the World Championships were celebrating on finals day. Joe Hogan was celebrating because he had won. Bob Jackson and John Prince were both celebrating because it was their birthday. Bob Jackson was 57 John

One of Croquet's perennial questions is 'Who is the best woman player in the world. In the 1930's Miss D.D. Steel was not only the best woman player, but was also better than the men. However the women have been declining since then.

The President's Cup is a competition for the best 8 or 10 players available. The players invited to compete represent the leading players of the year. Until 1964 at least one woman had competed every year (except the War years) since 1922. However since then only one woman has been selected, a New Zealander in 1970. Britain's present top woman player is Debbie Cornelius and her progress is such that she may well soon compete in the President's Cup.

However, the question remains, is she the best woman player in the World? The other contenders are Madeline Hadwin of New Zealand, Carolyne Spooner and Creina Dawson of Australia. When Bob Jackson of New Zealand, who has seen all four play, was asked who was the best, he believed it was between Madeline Hadwin and Debbie Cornelius.



Debbie Cornelius in play.

Bob Jackson is the only player in Croquet ever to complete an Octuple peel. An Octuple peel is a turn in which the player not only gets the ball he is striking through all twelve hoops but also uses it to hit his other ball through its last eight hoops, and then pegs both balls out.

When asked if he was now contemplating a nonuple (9) peel, Bob replied he thought the next one should be a dectuple peel - a turn in which the ball he is striking is hit through all twelve hoops and his other ball through ten before pegging both out. He has already worked out the leave to set it up. He would leave his opponents balls either side of hoop one (so they can't get at each other), one of his balls in the jaws of hoop three, and the other in the third corner. His opponent shoots at the ball in the corner, misses, and off Bob



Bob Jackson.

It is often said that power is the finest aphrodisiac. This certainly seems to be the case in the world of croquet. The wives of both croquet's current Chairman Martin Murray and Vice-Chairman Stephen Mulliner have just had babies. Andrew Hope, croquet's last Chairman, also became a father while he was Chairman, Who, I wonder, will the next Chairman be?

End piece THE CROQUET ASSOCIATION Garden Croquet News is published by the Croquet Association.

The Croquet Association is the governing body of Croquet. The annual membership subscription is \$18 for tournament members (\$14 if you just subscribe to the CA's magazine 'Croquet').

As a full tournament member, you receive six issues of 'Croquet' each year, and the CA's Fixtures Book, which contains a whole range of Croquet Association and other tournaments you can enter.

You also get free entry to watch CA Championships at Hurlingham, as well as discounts on equipment, clothing, and coaching course fees. Membership entitles you to wear the CA tie and vote at the Croquet Association's AGM

If you would like to join the Croquet Association, please write to Brian Macmillan, The Croquet Association, The Hurlingham Club, Ranelagh Gardens, London SW6 3PR, enclosing your subscription.

'Garden Croquet News' is edited by Charles Townsend, Contributions or letters to the Editor should be sent to 'Garden Croquet News', Townsend Croquet Ltd, Claire Road, Kirby Cross, Frinton-on-Sea, Essex, CO13 OLX, Tel. 0255-674404.

THE REGISTER OF **GARDEN CROQUET PLAYERS**

The Register of Garden Croquet Players contains names and addresses of garden croquet players arranged by area. In it, you can find other garden croquet players living near you.

When you feel like further challenges or want to meet other garden croquet players you can invite them for a game. The Register is published in November as part of Townsend's 'Croquet Almanack'.

Entry on the Register is free of charge. If you would like to be included, write to: Townsend Croquet Ltd, Claire Road, Kirby Cross, Frinton-on-Sea, Essex. CO13

Hurlingham: June The 'Varsity Match Huge Ouivering Bulk seen at Hurlingham

Report by Ian Plummer

Twelve bright young things from Oxbridge met on a sunny June day at the Hurlingham Club little knowing what was lurking in the bushes. The nervous Cambridge Captain, James Carlisle, denying that he was receiving sponsorship for the cigarettes he was chain smoking, paced, waiting for half of his team to arrive. Richard Hilditch, stalwart of many 'Varsity Matches, was engaged as referee and got what games could be played underway. It was about an hour later that a black London taxi disgorged the remainder of the Cambridge team on the steps of Hurlingham.

We were not alone at the Hurlingham Club, a large contingent of women had taken over the ballroom and appeared to be holding a jumble sale! It was rumoured that Terry Wogan was about but fortunately nothing was seen of him. A loud roar and rumbling was however heard from the bushes by lawn 6.

The morning started with six singles played level advanced. The first game to finish was the sixth pair, with Tony Whyte of Oxford beating Alex Lever. Michael Sutcliffe of Cambridge smoothly pulled ahead of Tim Marr to leave the score one game a piece. This was answered by Oxford's Paul Harbord who failed to peg out his opponent, Mike Bithell, and eventually ended up trying a 9 yard peg out on his partner ball. The sages amongst the spectators were shaking their heads only, to see a clean peg out of both balls; Oxford 2, Cambridge 1.

Again Cambridge came back; this time Cambridge's Jonathan Collis in a close game, pegged out Peter Turner's forward ball with the two backward balls on penult. Peter failed to get the innings and Jonathan won plus 3. The to and fro continued.

For the first time in recent history only four lawns had been made available and some of the singles had to be double banked. The two top seed games were sharing lawn 6. Fiona McCoig was not playing to her usual form but unfortunately her Oxford opponent, Nigel Williams was (i.e. abysmally). Some of the tactics would not be believed hardened Aunt Emmas would have sucked their teeth in disbelief. 3-2 to Cambridge

The singles result thus depended on the top seeds from the Universities - James Carlisle from Cambridge versus Mike Ainley-Walker. In front of a growing crowd the end of the game approached. Ainley-Walker for peg and rover was pegged out by Carlisle whose backward ball was on two back. Ainley-Walker missed the shot and James two-balled through two and three back only to get hoop bound on his rush for four-back.

The huge quivering bulk was now seen in its full glory when Richard Hilditch ambled on to the lawn to referee James' hampered shot. A large blue shimmering hot air balloon lurched above the trees and bushes. Like a manic blancmange it quivered and bobbed amongst the trees as tension mounted in the final single. It looked poor for Oxford. After a bit of cat and mouse manouevring, the 'Nipper' layed up a rush for penult, leaving Ainley-Walker a 28 yard hit in. This suicidal shot was taken, hit, and the game finished. 3 games each.

University honour was left to the doubles after lunch, when Cambridge's top pair of Fiona and James played Mike and Peter. The mutual respect that the Cambridge players had for each other was further enhanced when Fifi heard that James was supplementing his nicotine intake with alcohol. There is some dispute over what she actually said.

Oxford's non-playing Captain, Ian Plummer, decided to use a tactic used in previous years by Cambridge, and substituted Robin Brown into the Oxford team. This generated a successful pair with Paul Harbord. who beat Collis and Lever. Cambridge retaliated with the Cambridge Michaels - Bithell and Sutcliffe - never giving Williams and Whyte much of an opportunity. Oxford 4, Cambridge 4.

The crowd moved to the final double where Fiona and James had a comfortable lead over Mike and Peter. Fiona had trundled around to 4-back and left James to do his stuff. There was more waiting than doing though. Cambridge however took advantage of their lead and went on to win the game and the match. Cambridge now enjoy the fruits of Oxford's hard work at raising sponsorship - a prize team meal at Brown's restaurant - happily an establishment with branches at both Oxford and Cambridge

We would like to extend our thanks to the Hurlingham Club, Brown's Restaurant and Richard Hilditch - all respectable eating establishments.

RESULTS Singles

(Level Advanced Play) (Oxford names first)

M. Ainley-Walker bt J.W.H. Carlisle +4; N. Williams lost to Miss F. McCoig -5; P. Turner lost to J. Collis -3: P. Harbord bt M. Bithell +3: T. Marr lost to M. Sutcliffe -23: T. Whyte bt A. Lever +10.

Doubles

Ainley-Walker & Turner lost to Carlisle & Miss McCoig -25; Williams & Whyte lost to Bithell & Sutcliffe -19; Harbord & Brown bt Collis & Lever +17.

MATCH RESULT

The Oxford University side (Back row, L to R): Nigel Williams, Tony Whyte, Mike Ainley-Walker, Tim Marr, and Robin Brown. (Front) Peter Turner & Paul Harbord.

INVITATION EVENTS

Congratulations to the following players who have been invited to take part in this year's 'Eights'. Spencer-Ell A.K. Gregory C.M. von Schmieder President's Cup

G.N. Aspinall C.D. Clarke R.I. Fulford C.J. Irwin S.N. Mulliner

M.A. Saurin Reserves D.C. Reeve S.E. Lewis M.E.W. Heap M.D. Gunasekera

Chairman's Salver D.B. Maugham R.J. Collighan

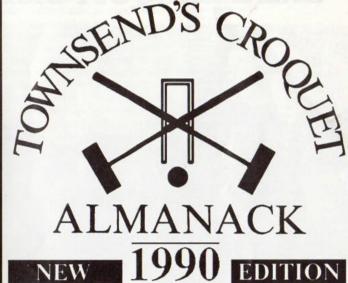
M.R. French D.J. Goacher Miss D.A. Cornelius D.R. Foulser

Reserves W.O. Aldridge A.B. Hope

A.F. Sutcliffe W.E. Lamb D.C.D. Wiggins J.P. Dawson Reserves F.J.R. Landor J.R. Hilditch

I.G. Vincent

To be Published in November 1989



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THE GOLF CROQUET CUPS Phyllis Court: 10-11 June A Change of Champion!

Report by Smokey Eades

The Brand twins came to defend their cups but went away empty-

Ian Maugham won the singles and Stephen Wright and Geoff Roy the

The weather - after a poor start was croquet friendly, the Thames setting, as always, was memorable, and Phyllis Court Club immaculate. On singles day (Saturday) Ivor Brand, Stephen Wright and David Croker all had five wins (from six games); Ian Maugham four. It was, however, Brand and Maugham who survived the semi-finals and Maugham who demolished Brand 7-3, 7-4 to win the Ascot Challenge Cup.

On doubles day (Sunday), Geoff Roy and Stephen Wright beat the Brand brothers in the semi-finals, whilst Smokey Eades and Leonard Greenbury beat Maugham and Croker. It was Roy and Wright, however, who won the Delves Broughton Challenge Cup 7-6, 7-5 in a hard fought, hard hitting and exciting final.

The undoubted shot of the weekend was that of Ted Mathews running two-back from the North Boundary.

The most bizarre performance was that of Eades who, playing Roy, twice approached the wrong hoop in order and, to add lunacy to stupidity, decided to treat hoop 13 as four-back and not three! Alcohol was suspected but a breath test confirmed senility as the most likely explanation!

Throughout the tournament there was a greater evidence of strategic play - calculated cannons, controlled in-offs, stop shots and purposeful blocking. Perhaps Chris Hudson's article on Crowther-Smith's booklet 'The Art of Golf Croquet' is beginning to bear fruit!

(Singles: 14 entries)

L Brand bt D.J. Croker 7-4. F.I. Maugham bt S. Wright 7-6.

Maugham bt Brand 7-3, 7-4. **Delves Broughton Challenge Cup**

Semi-Finals

G.C. Roy & S. Wright bt I. & R. Brand 7-3; R.S. Eades & L. Greenbury bt F.I. Maugham & D.J.

Roy & Wright bt Eades & Greenbury 7-6, 7-5.



Ivor & Richard Brand in play at Phyllis Court during the Golf Croquet Cups tournament

NATIONAL **COMPETITIONS**

Review by Don Gaunt

I have been very pleased with the promptness of clubs in reporting their results. The granting of extra time to play the early rounds seems to have been successful. It also seems to have reduced the number of teams who have scratched, only 2 out of 93 entries, both of them for good reason. Well done everyone!

John Mann is reported as having played well for Bristol against Bowdon, and in the Pendle-Walsall Longman match the scores were 2-all with everything resting on the final doubles match. Pendle were 7 hoops behind on their last turn before time. They made exactly 7 hoops, leaving Walsall only a long shot which was missed. Pendle then made the single hoop to win 'Plus One On Time'!

I wonder why I find that score interesting!

P.S. If anything interesting happens in your match, please let me know. The National Results - see page 21

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NATIONAL JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP Was it really Keith? Report by Chris Clarke

This years NJC was the strongest ever by far. Kevin Cooper was the only Dclass player in the tournament and he was certainly better than his handicap of 15. The conditions at Nottingham were easy (lan Burridge from Colchester described them as very slow whilst Chris Haslam from Southport described them as very fast!). Despite the groundsman setting the hoops to sub-presidential width, after a couple of hours each day the juniors had clubbed them into submission

The pre-tournament pundits predicted a win for Collighan, but with Clarke fresh from a successful World's and Saurin determined to play himself into a good eight, it looked like being a close tournament

The first round saw Saurin beating Collighan with a TP on the trickiest of the lawns. Elsewhere, there was good play with Chris Haslam and Dan McCormick both looking good and Rick Harding worrying Mark Saurin for a while. Chris Clarke came close to bringing off a delayed sextuple - finishing on rover & rover. Play ended with the 3 favourites and Chris Haslam still in both halves. The best of 5 shoot-out at the peg between Collighan, Saurin, and Clarke to decide who slept on the floor was lost by Saurin who unfortunately was lucky enough to have a bed after all.

Most of the competitors returned to Kenlo Guest House for the evening, but due to new management guests were thrown out at 11pm. Which prevented Dan from celebrating his birthday to quite the extent we had anticipated.

Saturday morning brought the



Dan McCormick, winner of the Swiss.

Saurin/Clarke clash. Mark was soon round to 4-back but Chris hit the incredibly short lift shot and made a 1-back leave. Mark missed the 30-varder and Chris had the TPO and double riggall. A 2-back clang gave Mark a 6 hoop 2-ball break which stopped at 2-back. Chris' second disaster came at 4-back, when, after Mark stuck, Chris' shot hit centrewire and bounced back to give Mark a handy rush to penult. After some nervous play by Mark and a succession of missed 15-yarders by Chris, Mark finished.

Meanwhile, Chris Haslam had completed his first tournament TP and a few hours later, Rick finished his first TP in any sort of play. We had broken the record of 6TPs already and the final tally was about a dozen.

Mark had progressed to both finals and decided to marry the competition off. This gave Russell a chance to play Chris Clarke in a best of three. Russell took the first by 9 with a good TP. Chris had the first ball round in game 2, but Russell hit and deliberated for a long time about whether to go for TPO. Eventually, he decided against it and doured the escape ball into the middle. Having done this, he promptly rush-peeled 4-back and was forced to complete the TPO and go on to win the match.

Far more interesting than the actual play in this game were the antics of a squirrel who seemed to be very keen on croquet. On Friday, he had made a triple target of Dan's into a quadruple and now it was the red corner flag that took his fancy. After this was removed, the red ball and black flag were both attacked. There were rumours that this squirrel was in fact Keith Aiton (our real manager) in fancy dress, possibly trying to semaphore some tactical comment on Russells TPO, but this was never

fully established. Saturday night gave Clarke his biggest success of the weekend when he managed to exchange 17 King Prawn balls for 16, plus a portion of sweet and sour sauce. The evening's entertainment split the juniors into two groups - the mindless Schwarzenegger watchers and the bridge players. But even junior bridge players have to be different and so the game was played in the back of Rick's car. With the film over, the traditional poker evening began, with Ian Burridge proving his generosity by distributing his money between the rest of us (two miles away, Chris Haslam was just giving his straight to

Sunday morning came with the manager (Mark) threatening to report Clarke to the CA if he refused to play a 3/4 place play-off against Haslam, despite the fact that Clarke was already 3rd. Although nobody except the manager thought this game should be played, Clarke was forced to play. Haslam took the first comfortably but Clarke had a good come-back in the second to win 5TP. Haslam pounced on a Clarke error in the 3rd to produce his second triple of the weekend, from which Wylie would have extracted much amusement had he been watching.

Meanwhile Mark had won the first game in the final, in which Russell had difficulty getting nearer than two feet on any of his lift shots, or even not taking a divot. (Russell's excuse



RESULTS
DRAW
Round 1
R.J. Collighan bt M. Saurin +19TP; C. Haslam bt C.
Ross +19; D. Thatcher bt A. Leggate +9; A. Griffiths
bt K. Cooper +14; D. McCormick bt R. Harding +15;
I. Burridge bt E. Duckworth +11.
Round 2
M. Saurin bt Pearson +17: Haslam bt Thatcher +11:

M. Saurin bt Pearson +17; Haslam bt Thatcher +11

+26TP.
Semi-Finals
Saurin bt Haslam +26TP; Clarke bt McCormick

PROCESS

Round 1
Pearson bt Cooper +26; Haslam bt Burridge +17TP
Collighan bt McCormick +16TP; Duckworth bt Ros



Chris Haslam (left) and Graham Pearson, two rapidly improving Juniors

was that he was lower to the ground because he had taken the insoles out of his trainers). Mark looked to be having the second with a TP, but missed a 4-yard Mulliner return after refusing to Irish-peel rover. However, Russell failed to take an easy break opportunity and Mark became the National Junior Champion. Mark benefitted from solid play and should be congratulated on what was in the end a comfortable victory after very little competitive play this year.

Dan McCormick won the Swiss

comfortably with an excellent win over Ian Burridge that was not only stylish but artistic. Dan has great potential and if he continues to play seriously should be vying for a place in the President's in a couple of years. Ian Burridge is also improving quickly while Edward Duckworth has looked impressive since I first saw him play two years ago. Alan Griffiths played stylishly but was over-ambitious and Pearson has also improved greatly. Chris Ross and David Thatcher both failed to produce their true form. Alex Leggate has a good style and probably needs more real A-class play to bring out his full potential. Chris Haslam has improved rapidly and is an infuriating opponent. His stroke play, except for rolls, isn't very good and his tactics are awful. However, he won a lot of games and it will be interesting to see how he fairs under more testing conditions. Thanks to the Nottingham club for

their hospitality and for providing excellent lunches. Thanks to May Ollett, who put up two of the players, and to Steve Thomas without whom Nottingham would be much worse off. Finally, thanks to Keith whose management was so good that most of us didn't even notice that he was

+7; Saurin bt Harding +8; Clarke bt Leggate +14. Round 2 Haslam bt Pearson +10; Collighan bt Thatcher +20; Griffiths bt Duckworth +9; Saurin bt Clarke +5(OTP). Semi-Finals

Collighan bt Haslam +17TP; Saurin bt Griffiths +14. PLAY-OFF (Marriage) Collighan bt Clarke +9TP, +12TPO.

Saurin bt Collighan +13, +18.

Play-Off for 3rd place
Haslam bt Clarke +20, -5TP, +20TP.
Handicap Swiss

Winner: D. McCormick - 7/7 wins

RESULTS (continued from page 20) LONGMAN CUP Round 1 Bishop Veseys King. Maurward Reading Compton Parkstone Oxford Univ Letchworth

Ramsgate Parsons Green Harrow Oak Nailsea Crawley Woking Ellesmere Wolverhamp Worcester Nottingham Hunstanton Wrest Park Himley Ipswich Colchester Newport Round 2

Surbiton Caterham East Riding Walsall Edinburgh Ormesby Hall Leicester Dyffryn

Edgbaston Bear of Rodbo SECRETARY'S SHIELD MARY ROSE

INTER-CLUB

lpswich Culworth Parkstone Nottingham Bowdon Wrest Park

Club News

Fun on the Lawns

Report by Colin Chandler

On Sunday May 14th a unique occasion was organised by the Southwick and Worthing Clubs, along with Littlehampton, Hove Lawns, Preston Lawns and Rottingdean, who combined to present a fund raising - cum membership drive entitled 'Fun on the Lawns'.

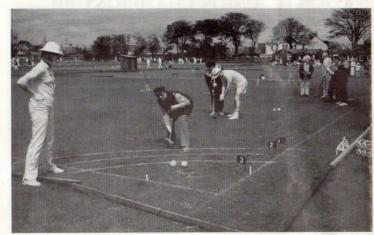
The main entertainment was a croquet gymkhana in which 12 very varied and apparently easy games cunningly concealed unbelievable difficulties. This was evident from the fact that only 6 players scored more than 36 points out of a possible 80. The winner being Martyn Cooperman with a total of 40.

After a spell of cold weather, the day fortunately dawned bright, and there were spells of sunshine,

although it was never possible to shed much clothing and the 200 taking part were glad to keep

Apart from the fun of the games themselves, the gymkhana was used as a membership drive, for on the back of every admission card to the games was an invitation to return the following weekend to learn something about Association Croquet and to receive free tuition. On the fund-raising side there were stalls, a treasure hunt and of course a splendid tea.

The event was planned and superbly organised by Pat Shine who, by gathering together about 60 helpers, was able to have all the Competitions manned at all times, by 4 overseers (2 on duty, 2 taking



Contestants trying their skill at 'semi-circle shooting.

part or thankfully having tea!) and so keep the rhythm going and ensure a finish on time. Scorecards were printed by kindness of the London and Edinburgh Insurance POSTSCRIPT: As a result of the above event, 12 people turned up for tuition at Southwick and expressed interest in becoming members.

Short Story

Croquet Short Story

By Andrew Beck

When I awoke, the sun was shining and the daffodils were dead. This was a good sign, as the start of the season could not be far away.

It had not been a good hibernation, partly because He had torn me from my slumbers - I guess it must have been late autumn because the trees were golden brown. We went into this building, and then suddenly we were on a croquet court! It was all very strange - lawns usually chatter on incessantly but this one never uttered a word.

Now I must say I rather enjoy a gentle preseason rubdown and varnish, but I nearly died when I saw Him get out the paint-stripper. I itched for days afterwards, to say nothing of the embarrassment I knew I'd feel at being seen in such a hastily slapped on coat of varnish. I began to think that something must be amiss.

Come to think of it, I remember overhearing something He said at the funny lawn last autumn - something about 'getting a Spaminal for next season'. Of course I'd heard of this legendary player - could it be that we would be his doubles partner during the coming season?

I found out the awful truth at the first session of the season. I played a few strokes then was thrown into the back of someone else's Travelling Machine, to hear the words 'It's fine for a spare' to which He replied 'Is a tenner all right?'. What a cheek - my handicap is 7 and He knows it! For the rest of the evening I had to watch Him playing with his accursed new Spaminal.

And that was that for three miserable weeks until the first tournament. My new owner brought me down to the Club, but watching others play did nothing to raise my steamrollered spirits. The fine spring weather had predictably given way to a tournament deluge; the court resembled a battlefield with heavily clad figures furtively emerging from the huts, taking a hasty shot and, with a look of relief accompanying the hopeless miss, diving back under cover of the

After a while the rain eased off and people began to attempt breaks, slugging their pioneers across the sodden turf and watching their takeoffs squelch to a halt yards short. The look of despair slowly lifted from the face of the manager, who had given up hope of any games finishing before lunch.

My new owner had doggedly worked round to rover and two-back, but having got the pace of the lawn his opponent made an all-round break and, with the help of a chancy peel, Riggalled. From then on my owner's hitting got progressively more desperate as his opponent played a series of disposable 3-ball breaks to reach penultimate. Things were looking pretty desperate when he managed to hit in, giving a cannon in corner 3.

The wafer cannon would give him a pioneer at 3-back with a long scoop to 2-back, but on a lawn this slow? I could hardly bear to watch as grimly he positioned the balls and calculated the angles. As he took stance I could sense that he was going to give it every ounce of stength, and I could only wince in sympathy as the mallet head crashed into the balls and the shaft splintered.

Muttering profanities, he came and fetched me. As you can imagine I was desperately hoping that he would not try a repeat performance! The lawns were chattering away excitedly to each other about how much more fun it all was with a bit of rain - a view not shared by mallets, or anything with more than a splinter of intelligence for that matter. Whether my new owner belonged in that category was distinctly questionable at this point.

The opponent had very sportingly dismissed the possibility of a foul stroke and our turn continued (the lawns were discussing this and attempted to draw me into the debate, but their interpretation of the laws is so basic as to be contemptible). A big roll separated the opponent and got us near 2-back, but a duff continuation stroke left us badly angled on the hoop. Opponent joined up.

I sized up the chances for running the hoop - roughly nil. He was going to have a go at it though, and I did my best but it clanged hopelessly off the wire. He dragged me off the court and the next thing I knew I was propelled through the air to land in a carefully pruned privet hedge. I had to make polite conversation with said hedge for a good five minutes before he retrieved me.

After that, the lawn and I had some fun. We let him hit in, then sent the rush in completely the wrong direction. We let his hoop approaches trickle gently onto the wire. His perfectly aimed long shots we hilled at the last minute. It wasn't long before his opponent, wearing a satisfied if slightly perplexed grin, was clearing the lawn.

As we returned to the clubhouse, a curious figure approached. Defeated by the rain, it had presumably reduced its attire to shorts and bare feet but it might have been completely naked beneath its bright orange cagoule. As it drew nearer, I recognised that it was He. 'Hey!' he shouted 'Any chance of borrowing my old mallet back? I've been hitting so hard, I've knocked both faces off my new Spaminal!'

'Borrow it? You can have it!'



Cartoon by Jack Shotton.

One Crowded Hour

By Jim Townsend

The following short story is an elaboration of a puzzle which I constructed, and which appeared in CROQUET, over 30 years ago.

000000

Surely not another Selection Event! This was my first bemused reaction when I read that the Treasurer's Trophy was yet another Invitation Event being introduced in the Calendar Fixture List. When I became an Associate forty years ago there were just two Selection Events, the President's Cup and the Ladies Field Cup, but since then we have witnessed the birth of the Chairman's Salver, the Spencer Ell Cup, the Longman Bowl (for Ladies) and the Selectors' Weekend. Perhaps the next in line will be the Secretary's Saucer!

My qualms however proved to be unfounded, as on reading the Conditions I found that 'entry was confined to the six best players under the age of 21 who would be invited to compete', recognition of the welcome burgeoning talent of the younger generation. I was relieved that I was no longer on the Selection Committee as, in addition to their extra work load, the determining of a Form Book was obviously going to present more problems than those for the other Selection Events where Tournament results together with personal experience provide a ready guide to the panel. Be that as it may, the Selectors came up with six eminently worthy contestants and the inaugural competition got under way under the experienced management of Edgar Laxson.

What unfortunately marred the proceedings was the unprecedently bad weather throughout. Heavy rain, gale force winds and subnormal temperatures led to a number of interruptions of play during the tournament, and Edgar was no doubt relieved that he had been able to maintain the scheduled sequence of games at the end of the penultimate day.

His patience was however sorely tried on the final day, Saturday. Play had been in progress for only an hour when a torrential downpour flooded the lawns. After a long wait and with no prospect of a speedy resumption, the players were told to take an early lunch in the hope that play would be possible soon after one o'clock. These hopes were set at naught by further heavy rain, and it was not until four o'clock that with the appearance of the sun the waters began to subside.

It was becoming increasingly obvious that there would not be time to complete the remaining rounds, and the only solution available, that of finishing on Sunday, had to be ruled out because one player, a joint leader at that stage, was booked to travel abroad on business on that day, while the other joint leader, a strict Sabbatarian, firmly declined to play.

Edgar nevertheless, mindful of his long established reputation of keeping players' noses to the grindstone, announced that he would devise some way of keeping all six occupied in the likely time available, and when the lawns proved to be playable soon after half past five he summoned the players to his tent and described his plan.

There was to be a series of five rounds of oneball games, each lasting precisely ten minutes. In order to secure rigid adherence to the time limit, Edgar would ring a starting bell, and a finishing bell when play was to cease immediately. Two points would be awarded for a win and one for a draw. Edgar had already completed all the preliminaries, which stipulated the draw for each round, the lawn allocations, which player should have the blue and which the red ball, and which player was to start each game.

The players showed varying degrees of enthusiasm but all co-operated to the full and the Event was completed in just an hour, the gaps between the rounds being kept to a minimum by the players' expedition in moving between lawns at the end of each round.

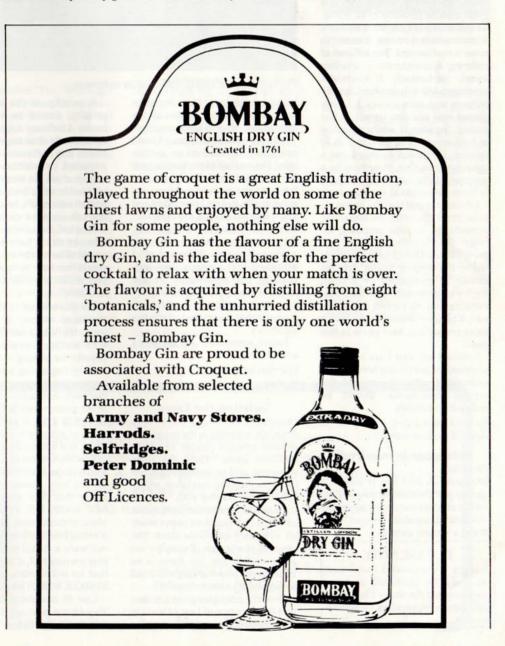
After the players had retired to the bar I found Edgar poring over the results. On seeing me he remarked that they showed a number of unusual features. In the first place the score was different in every game. Strange to say, Alan, Brian, Chris and David each had the same number of hoops scored against as for, 12, 14, 18 and 15 respectively. No player had advanced beyond the sixth hoop in any game and there was only

one game where a player had failed to score, the one in which Alan beat Brian by 3-0. The only other game where less than 4 points were scored was Eric's win over Alan by 2-1.

The highest number of points scored in any game was when Brian and Chris met. Ferdinand's games were all evenly contested, drawing three and winning the other two by a margin of one point, scoring 18 points in all 5 games. Alan beat Chris by two points, making the third hoop a split second before the bell, but he only made one hoop against David. David beat Eric by 5-2, and both he and Alan had no drawn games.

'Very interesting. May I see the complete table?' I said. 'That's not necessary' replied Edgar. 'From what I have told you, you can construct the whole thing for yourself, even though as an actuarial octogenarian your mental prowess may be not what it was'.

Readers may wish to verify his assertion, and so by completing the table discover who won. The solution will appear in our next issue.



Your Letters

Correction

Dear Sir,

May I correct two printer's errors in 'Wildlife on the Croquet Lawn: Part 2, as they completely alter the sense of what I wrote.

The Gymnogene is not the strongest but the strangest raptor here. It hunts weaker prey and its long thin legs, specially evolved to reach into rock crevices and tree holes, do not compare with the powerful legs and terrible talons of those mighty hunters the Crowned Eagle and the Black Eagle.

The spider which disappears unless one knows precisely where it is, is the bark spider, not the black spider. Its camouflage would be ineffective if it were black.

Leslie Riggall Kloof, South Africa.

Prize Money

Dear Sir,

As an occasional tournament player, perhaps I could express my views on the subject of Prize Money.

I enter two or three handicap weekends each year, and derive a great deal of pleasure in so doing. The existence of cash prizes for block winners offers me no inducement to enter a tournament. The full cost of entering a tournament - including travel, particularly if overnight accommodation is involved, totally eclipses any prize money. If I have played well and find myself 'in the money', the amount involved must be as embarrassing to give as it is to receive. If monetary reward was a consideration, then there must be a more profitable way of spending two or three days of blood, sweat and toll.

I do not suggest that the answer is to increase the entry fee and purse accordingly, as was proposed recently. On the contrary, I think that prize money should be taken right out of the amateur game. Success should be recognised by a small trophy or momento. This need cost no more that the current cash prize and, I believe, winners may find it more rewarding. Am I alone in this

I should say that I am not 'antiprofessional' but the line between the enthusiastic club player and the serious professional should be realised and drawn.

Richard Danby Bear Of Rodborough C.C.

Shin-guards required?

Dear Sir.

We have all met her. It was at a garden party where the possibility of on-site croquet was under discussion. 'Are you talking about Croquet? Ooh, that's a vicious game!'

PLEASE NOTE

Readers are reminded that letters can only be published under a pseudonym if the writer's full name and address are supplied for authentication.

She was a senior secretary with a law firm, quite attractive, and I felt that I should appraise her of the truth of the matter. On the prior advice of our President I suggested that the game was no more vicious than Tennis. 'Oh no,' she replied, 'It is much worse than that! I suggested that possibly we were talking about different games, and added that I quite often entered Croquet Association tournaments in which I had yet to see any injuries of consequence. 'Well,' she said, 'I have two

help of the adversary or the spectators, but only to clarify the state of the game, mainly at the time when a player commences a turn. A player may walk onto the court and find a clip missing, or one of his balls in a hoop, and if he is for that hoop he needs to know from which side it entered the hoop, as he might prefer to run the hoop instead of lifting the ball. Obviously the adversary should give information on request if he is responsible for the ball, or kept the missing clip in his pocket.



The new lawn at QEGS, following its extension.

friends who go in for those 'sociation tournaments and you should see their ankles - they're black and blue!'

It should have been a case of 'tread softly, for you tread on my shibboleths'. She was not about to relinquish her treasured view of our game, and I should have realised that I was not going to win. But no, I pressed on and asked why her friends were on court when the opponent was playing. Perhaps they were exponents of the 'ankle self-roquet'. 'What's that?' I explained that perhaps they accidentally tap themselves on the ankles when they swing the mallet it is quite easy. 'Don't be ridiculous.' And with that she stalked off into the shrubbery.

People sometimes ask me why I am still single! Eric Solomon,

Twisting the Laws

A strange anomaly in the behaviour of some croquet players has crept into the game. They ask their opponent, or if he is unwilling to tell them, they ask the spectators, which ball they are playing with.

If asked to explain this, they quote Law 44, which enables a player to ask his adversary questions about 'the state of the game. Examples are given in this law, but there is no mention of a player asking which ball he is playing with.

From the examples given it is clear that the intention of Law 44 is not to assist a player to win, by enlisting the

A penalty, or the absence of a penalty, should be the deciding factor. A ball may roquet one of two distant balls close together, and the striker may not be sure which ball he roqueted, or whether he made a roquet at all. He would be morally entitled to ask if he made a roquet. and on which ball, because if he did not ask, and took croquet from the wrong ball, or failed to take croquet when he should have done, the balls would all have to be replaced, and he would then have to make the correct play WITHOUT PENALTY (Law 30(b) and 30(c))

But this is totally different from a situation where a player has forgotten which ball he is playing with, and seeks to avoid the severe penalty for playing with the wrong ball, by requesting advice from his opponent or the spectators. This is a complete contradiction of the spirit of the game, which is a battle of wits as well as a test of skill.

It is an attempt to circumvent Law 28(b), and is also a flagrant violation of Law 49, which states categorically that 'A player is not entitled to receive advice from anyone'. Law 49 also states that 'The adversary MUST NOT WARN THE STRIKER if he is about to run a wrong hoop or to play a wrong ball'. It follows that if he must not warn a striker who is about to play a wrong ball, it must be implied that he is forbidden to TELL THE STRIKER WHICH BALL TO STRIKE.

Law 49 also states that a player. 'should not take advantage of unsolicited information or advice'. Although stated so clearly, this law is never observed. I have witnessed a number of incidents where a spectator has warned a player who was about to run a wrong hoop or play a wrong ball, occasionally speaking directly to him, but usually by exclaiming loudly enough to be heard. On every occasion the player hesitated, and then refrained from making the clearly intended stroke. Such is the frailty of human nature.

Playing the wrong ball can confer a great advantage upon the striker. For example, if the blue clip is on rover and the black clip on hoop 1, and the player roquets black with blue, it would be very profitable to switch the balls and take croquet with black instead of blue. This can happen unconsciously as a result of wishful thinking, to which all human beings are prone. Thus Law 28(b) is very important as a deterrent against players playing the wrong ball.

In view of the situation which has arisen, referred to in my first paragraph, and the ill-feeling that disputes would cause, I feel that the Laws Committee should be requested to consider this matter and express an opinion for the guidance of referees and managers of tournaments.

It must surely be an undesirable situation where the adversary or spectators aid a player to win, whether requested or not. I can remember an era when spectators spoke only in whispers, so as not to disturb the players' concentration, and to ensure that no player, including the player sitting out, would hear anything which might benefit

Leslie Riggall Kloof, South Africa.

Dear Sir,

Hurry Up!

One often hears the complaint that croquet takes too long. This is especially so when long bisquers play each other often with hardly any bisques to quicken things up. The truth is that 14/16s playing together need over four hours on average to reach a conclusion. On the other hand two players of about scratch need less than two hours, figures I have obtained from timing over 3000 games. Anything that can be done to reduce the time needed would improve the game and increase the

appeal of croquet. The idea of introducing Advanced Play (lifts and contact) into handicap singles is a very bad one if only because it would prolong all games except perhaps those between minus players. I have timed dozens of B Class and C Class handicap and level play games. The latter take a good half an hour longer. By observation this is because the forth-coming lift interrupts the play itself. Introduction of lifts in handicap play at these levels and above would certainly have the same result. However, all encouragement should be given to the full bisque game

As usual Cheltenham is in the forefront of experiments! This year we are playing the season long Big Handicap in blocks with full bisques without time limits. The handicap range involved is -2 to 18 reasonably well spread. Play is not yet completed but over half the games have been played and the majority timed. The indications are that this method of play will shorten the time needed by a significant amount - perhaps more than half an hour. If the full bisque method became general, think of the benefit to the ordinary handicap weekend. We could either give more games to each player or take in more people.

I have heard objections to the full bisque idea that it would entail recasting the current handicap practice. I fear that the answer to this is that the present system needs recasting anyway as it increasingly favours the better player. At present scratch players and lower win more than 65% of their games: players off 4 win about 55%: 8s win 45%, while players of 12 and above do not win as many as 30% of their games (see page 18, Croquet No. 184).

At one time it was held that if a player won 50% of his games his handicap was about right. From many reviews of results this has not been true for several years and as current practice is mostly to reduce handicaps and hardly ever put players up, the discrepancy constantly widens. In the current issue of Croquet No. 204 there are 109 handicap adjustments, 91 down and only 18 up!

On grounds of speed I hope the idea of lifts etc. in handicap games will be squashed and the full bisque practice developed, and on grounds of fairness, especially to the newer and less skilled player, the handicap system will be overhauled.

Croquet tends to be run by the better players, the low bisquers, though many seem seldom to play on handicap. Nevertheless it is surely up to the game's administrators to push forward any idea which may speed up the game for everyone and reorganise the present handicap system which so favours the better players.

Edgar Jackson. Cheltenham.

Roll Shots

Dear Sir,

If Eric Solomon had persevered with reading my letter as far as the final paragraph he would have encountered my reason for writing it. It would have been interesting to know at what angle of split a pass roll producing a ratio greater than two to one could be achieved without any degree of 'push'.

It seems pointless to pursue the matter, since I appear to be the only reader to respond to his article other than lightheartedly, and I have no wish to be subjected to a further patronising reply.

David Purdon, Budleigh Salterton.

The Good Old Days

Dear Sir

We used to play Croquet for fun, but obviously this is old fashioned and probably totally and completely out of date.

Having studied Tim Harrison's report of the Harrow Oak two day weekend, page 10, issue no. 204 (I understood that weekend tournament reports should be short, factual, and to the point) I find that now all that matters is 'Ranking Points'.

As at least 90% of Croquet players will never achieve a mention on this National Ranking list, it is all rather alarming. It seems one must be born in an era where one can attend an approved school - Q.E.G.S. if possible - take up Croquet by the mid-teens at the latest, rapidly achieve 'A' class skills with handicap to match, then select one's tournament with care. and play only to gain Ranking Points. What on earth does one do with the remaining 60 years of life??

Tim even has the effrontery to

suggest that in the Inter-Club Tournament the entry should be restricted, thus eliminating those teams that have no chance! Computer Rankings again? There was a year in the 70's (consult John Walters' Almanack), when Hunstanton fielding a team with the combined handicap of around +16, actually got to the final. What fun it was, no one took us seriously and we kept on winning. In the final Cheltenham did us the honour of fielding a President's Cup standard team and soundly beat us. I think Veronica Carlisle was the only member of Hunstanton who actually got as far as giving a lift, but we will never forget the fun we had getting

Having attended the final three days of the so called World Croquet Championship at Hurlingham, I was shattered to find my free programme bore on the cover a photograph of a banned player. Was this just a sick joke? Obviously Reggie is far better looking than most of the other contestants portrayed, but I cannot imagine that that was the reason for his inclusion. It is sad to find that one of the best young players in the world, who only three years ago was invited to Hurlingham to play in the President's Cup, where he fully justified his presence, should find himself banned from the World Championship. If New Zealand cannot play a South African, possibly we should manage without New Zealand?

It is fortunate that at club level, croquet is still a game that we actually enjoy, players actually laugh when a 2-vard roquet is missed - but of course it doesn't upset one's Ranking. Our peers should remember it is the unranked players who give up their weekend's croquet for these prestige tournaments, do most of the work including the catering, and dutifully applaud those B.O.T.P.S. Then a whole page in 'Croquet' is given to the blow by blow report. I often wonder if dear old Mrs XYZ actually won her D class by 1 on time. Sarah G. Hampson,

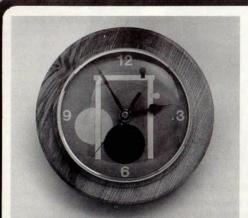
It is the World Croquet Federation, through its member bodies, that is ultimately responsible for the conduct of the World Championships. The CA, like the other members of the WCF, can express its views through



Adrian Saurin, following in his brothers' foot-steps and now down to a handicap of 8.

The CA Council discussed the question of South African participation at its meeting in April this year (see issue 204) to determine its current policy. The matter will be debated further in October, so if you have views on the subject, please pass them on to a Council member before the meeting.

The cover of the Souvenir Programme contained photos of several international players who did not take part in the Championships. No 'sick joke' or political message was intended when the original artwork was prepared - Ed.



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Early Days

The Crush Stroke in 1905

By Allen Parker (Parkstone)

The present laws no longer refer to a 'crush stroke', but there are three kinds of fault under Law 32 that can be committed when striking a ball when it is close to a wire or the peg. Two of these refer directly to the obstacle, viz:

(xi) Strikes the striker's ball so as to cause it to touch a hoop or (unless the striker's ball is pegged out in that stroke) the peg when still in contact with the mallet;

(xii) Strikes the striker's ball, when it lies in contact with a hoop or (unless the striker's ball is pegged out in the stroke) the peg, otherwise than in a direction away therefrom.

Although it does not specifically refer to hoop or peg, the first part of Sub-law (ix) (strikes the striker's ball audibly and distinctly twice in the same stroke or) is also relevant because the cause of the double tap may be due to the deflection of the ball by the wire or peg back on to the mallet. It is interesting to compare these laws with the proposals that appeared in letters published in the 1905 Gazette, which indicate that the problem was fully appreciated in those days by the umpires (i.e. referees) but apparently not by a large majority of the players.

Some Varieties of Crush Stroke Dear Sir.

The 'Crush Stroke proper', as we may call it, is familiar to every croquet player and consists in forcibly pressing a ball through a hoop from an impossible position by an obviously prolonged pressure of the mallet on the ball. There are however less noticeable varieties of crush stroke which are worthy of every croquet player's attention, and the simplest is that which may be unconsciously used in running a hoop from a difficult angle. Suppose that, looking along the line from the ball to hoop it is seen that running the hoop fairly is just possible. It is necessary to strike the far wire hard with what may be described as the centre of the ball, when properly applied spin or follow will carry it through the hoop.

But if the ball lie close to the hoop, the requisite strength cannot be given to the stroke without pressing, or allowing some of the rebound from the wire being transmitted to the mallet, thus constituting a foul stroke. It follows that there is some critical distance from the hoop (varying with the skill of the player) where the stroke may be legitimately attempted, but with its risk of being a foul. At this distance, moreover, no



An advertisement in the Gazette: July 6th, 1905.

one but the player himself may be able to say accurately whether or not the stroke is fair.

A second and more insidious danger of unconsciously using a crush stroke may arise from the striker's ball lying in close proximity to a wire or peg. The player wishes to roquet a ball lying some distance away. But on standing well behind the ball and looking along the proposed line of aim, it is clear that the ball cannot be roqueted without the striker's ball just grazing the wire or peg. Yet I have seen players, and good players too, effect such a roquet by a stroke that you could certainly not call a foul by the most careful use of eyes and ears. Of course an umpire could only decide the question by looking carefully at the position before the stroke was made; and if such inspection has not been made, no argument will convince the striker that the stroke was not a fair

A third and less common temptation to play a crush stroke may be added. The striker's ball is wired from all other balls by a hoop which could easily be run, but which is not the striker's hoop. Strategically it may be to the striker's advantage to reach the further boundary of the lawn through the hoop rather than retire to one of the other boundaries. It is easy to run the hoop, but impossible to do so with sufficient force to reach the desired spot. The player is perhaps temporarily suffering from an absence of the true philosophical spirit to which all players aspire, and it is well known that to strike a ball violently is some relief to this condition. He therefore bangs his ball through the hoop to the end of the ground. The stroke is obviously foul, but his opponent, partly from fear of adding fuel to the flame, and partly from generosity induced by his more favourable position, does not claim it.

E. Kave Le Fleming

Editorial note on Crush Stroke We sincerely hope that the new crusade against the crush stroke, which began so promisingly with Dr Edkins' letter on page 7, and was continued with Mr Le Fleming's excellent article on page 15, will not be allowed to come to nothing.

The very large quantity of tournament players - about 95% we should think - appear, from their habitual methods of playing a ball lying near a hoop or peg, to be either absolutely ignorant of what constitutes a crush stroke, or absolutely careless as to whether they play one or not. The manner in which some of our most prominent lady players (we regret our opinion that ladies are the worst offenders) simply shuffle the ball through a hoop whenever it is within 6 inches of it is a positive disgrace to a game which calls itself scientific.

Not only this, but nearly every habitual offender, when the nature of his error is pointed out to him, is totally unable to comprehend why or in what respect the stroke is unfair. 'But I made a perfectly clean hit,' he replies, 'and there was certainly no audible double tap.' Which of course has absolutely nothing to do with the case. It is hopeless to explain to him why. No definition of what constitutes a crush stroke can be given without the use of the word 'right angle'; and it appears that nearly every croquet player is so constituted that the mere mention of any word savouring of 'mathematics' is like a red rag to a bull. 'Oh, Croquet is a

game; it isn't Euclid.' A player whose ball is left against a wire bangs it through the hoop to the boundary, without paying the slightest regard to the fairness of the stroke. So widespread was, and still is, this evil that we suggested in our notes of last June that the only remedy lay in adopting the opinion of Mr 'Bolde' and legalising the crush stroke, provided that it were made with a 'clean hit'. The result would be in most cases a clumsy and unscientific stroke, but at any rate there would be no premium on unfairness, as there now is, or loss to the few conscientious players who will not attempt a crush stroke even when placed in a wire by the opponent.

The only alternative is for our leading players especially, and for all players who will, to have the moral courage to refuse to allow such strokes to pass unchallenged, and to the ball when the course of the ball claim them as fouls; above all, to call attention beforehand to the probability of a crush stroke when the in contact with the ball so that, when opponent is about to play; and to call the course of the ball is deflected by the opponent's attention, and ask for a wire of the hoop, the mallet is still an umpire, whenever the player himin contact'. self proposes to attempt any stroke which might result in a crush stroke.

We repeat once more that the feasi-

bility of such strokes can only be

judged before the stroke is made.

If only this course were pursued by

our leading players for a month or so,

we feel convinced that the majority

of their opponents, and eventually of

playing Associates, would learn at

any rate the necessity of being

careful, and might even, in time,

come to learn what a crush stroke is.

to realise that it is a foul, like other

fouls, and that it cannot any longer

like to see provided for is the one

dealing with crush strokes, which are

quite too common, and give a very

unfair advantage to the player using

them, as against an opponent who

does not indulge in them. Here,

again, the remedy should be made as

simple as possible. A player having

approached a hoop should in every

case before attempting to run it, be

able to insert the head of his mallet

sideways between his playing ball

and the nearest wire, and unless the

mallet be clear of both hoop and ball,

the player should be bound to ask the

opponent whether an umpire is

desired. Such a rule would be simple,

and some players would hesitate

about trying doubtful strokes if

players other than themselves were

to be judges of the fairness of the

Proposed Improvements 1905

When a ball is in position, good or

bad, to run a hoop, in a large number

of cases the stroke is made unfairly

if the ball happens to lie within an

inch or so of the hoop. In these cases

the mallet follows the ball, so that it

is a matter of impossibility to avoid

hitting the ball a second time after

the ball has touched a wire. A large

number of players rely on the

absence of an audible double-knock

to justify the fairness of the stroke.

Our organs of hearing are not

adapted to appreciate the double

knock which often exists in these

cases, and, therefore, this test must

be defined as altogether insufficient.

I think it would be greatly in the

interests of the game if a clearer

conception of what a crush stroke is

could be formulated. I therefore

venture to suggest the following

elaboration of the law: 'If in hitting a

Truly yours, T.B. Moffat.

...The only other reform I should

be made with impunity.

A Novel Suggestion

Dear Sir,

stroke....

Dear Sir,

Yours faithfully, J.S. Edkins.

ball, with the intention of causing the crushing can arise. The principle that said ball to run a hoop, the striker so follow the ball with his mallet that (1). The mallet must necessarily again hit is deflected by a wire of the hoop, or (2). The mallet remain continuously

is involved in all crush strokes is in reality a simple one. Whenever a ball strikes a hoop or

peg it is first checked and then rebounds along an altered path. The amount of check and deviation of course becoming greater the more fully the object is struck. If now, at the moment the ball strikes the peg or wire, the striker's mallet is also in contact with it, the check is to some extent smothered or neutralised and

The main objective of this article is to plead for an authoritative definition of the crush stroke in the Laws of Croquet. Presuming that nearly everyone would regret to see crushing legalised, the offence should surely be made more definite. The following is suggested as a basis for framing a clear and simplyworded definition to replace the present law:- 'To strike a ball so that it touch a wire or peg while still in contact with the mallet',..... and 'To strike a ball lying in contact with a wire or peg other than directly away from the wire or peg.'

E. Kaye Le Fleming.

Crush Stroke and Pass Roll

Dear Sir,Is the play of the stroke, the manner of its execution, any different, in the case of a crush-stroke partly round a peg or wire, from the play or execution of a pass-roll recognised as fair? Is not each stroke solely due to the sustained or prolonged pressure of the mallet on the striker's ball. Similarly, Dr Edkins' argument that an audible second impact occurs in many crush-strokes is surely equally applicable to the legitimate pass-roll. If the striker's action is the same in each case and the variation in result is merely due to the different resistances offered by a moveable croquet ball and a fixed wire respectively, why should this stroke be called skilful in one place and dubbed clumsy and unscientific in another? Thus this law in effect says that you may, in taking croquet, do that which you must not do in running a hoop. This seems regretable, but apparently must continue, unless either the crush-stroke is legalised or all follow-on strokes penalised. The latter procedure would injure the game, but why is it thought that the former would do so? Yours truly, T.H. Godfrey.

THE NEW CARPET CROQUET. Specially designed to play the tournament game as a society amusement for winter evenings Each set contains Hoops, with special arrangement for fixing into carpet, mallets, balls, boundary tapes, pegs, clips and rules. PRICE, COMPLETE IN WOOD BOX 12/6. JOHN JAQUES & SON Ltd., 102 Hatton Garden, London

Indoor Croquet advertised in the Gazette: November 16th, 1905. Nothing is new!

Dear Sir.

through a hoop from an obviously impossible position as a foul one.

gradations of crushing that are less easily understood, and the appreciation of which is often supposed to be bound up with some intricate mathematical problem and therefore beyond the grasp of ordinary mortals. To the minds of such it will never occur that where a ball is left close to a hoop and in such a position that it can run it without much difficulty the question of a foul stroke by

the natural line of deviation interfered with; and however much to the advantage or disadvantage of the striker the result may be, the stroke is none the less a foul one. This principle is perhaps not so easily understood where the ball, before the stroke is taken, lies in contact with a wire or peg. Then if the stroke is made so that the obstacle in the least degree checks the progress of the ball, the offence is committed; in other words the ball (i.e., every part of the ball) must be made to move directly away from the peg or wire.

It may perhaps be judged that all this bother about such a small matter is unnecessary; but since the crush stroke is illegal it should be the aim of all who play the game seriously to understand the principle underlying it. The player who really understands the crush stroke will be the first to call in a referee before attempting any stroke over which the question of crushing may arise.

This was followed by a note from the

We agree that the methods of playing crush-strokes and roll-strokes are very similar in many cases.

Conclusion:

E. Kave Le Fleming certainly had the right idea. The description of the various kinds of 'crush-stroke' in his two letters could well be read with advantage by to-day's novices, and his two proposals for revised laws are almost identical with our present sub-laws 32 (xi) and (xii). J.S. Edkins' letter gives another insight into what used to be called the 'crush stroke', and his proposed laws are to-day covered by our sub-law 32 (ix).

It is to be hoped that to-day's players are not so ignorant as the 95% referred to in the 'Editorial Note', but we have certainly watched some who could read this contribution with advantage.

Finally the last letter by T.B. Moffat raises the perennial question of when a roll stroke is legal, if ever.

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Although signs are not wanting that the crush stroke is beginning to be more generally understood and a less frequent source of dispute, it will, I think, be generally admitted that a large majority of croquet players look upon the law (if indeed they ever look upon it at all) as enveloped in a haze of mystery and beyond their comprehension, though nearly all will recognise a stroke that forces a ball

Generally speaking it is the finer

Coaches Corner

Coaching Comments By Bill Lamb

On two occasions this year I have seen players come to grief on a fourball break because they did not know the laws relating to hoop running.

On the first, an 'A' class player, who should have known better, approached hoop 3 from behind with a pass roll off an opponent ball; his own ball ran backwards through the hoop and came to rest in the jaws, as shown in diagram 1. Under the impression that his ball had not gone far enough through the hoop to allow him to run it on his next shot, he hit it hard through hoop 3 towards his partner ball at hoop 4. He was so bemused when the referee gave him his clip that he missed the subsequent roquet.

On the second, a player twice within one game roqueted a ball into the jaws of the hoop he was for (so that the roqueted ball was in the position shown in diagram 2). He then played an Irish peel backwards through the hoop to get position to run it. As a result, he had no easy ball to hit after running the hoop.

Now, although there are complicated situations in croquet, the law on when a ball starts to run a hoop is quite clear:

The front of the hoop as it is approached by a ball about to run it

Report by Chris Hudson

This course, held from 22nd-26th

May this year, was intended for

middle bisquers - those with a

handicap between 12 and 6. Two

courses were advertised: one

running from Monday to Friday, and

the other from Friday evening

through to Sunday tea-time. Both had

the same syllabus, but the weekday course included a series of competi-

tive games. Somewhat surprisingly,

there were no takers for the weekend

course, which I had expected to be

the more popular of the two options,

and we decided to run the pilot

Bisham Abbey is in Berkshire,

situated in a lovely location on the

bank of the Thames opposite

Marlow, about half way between

Maidenhead and Henley. The Abbey

itself existed at the time of the

Domesday Survey in 1086, and it has

Today it is attended full-time by a

Priority of use of the Centre is

given to excellence and National

Team training, and the training of

Coaches, Leaders and Officials. Once

these needs have been met, the

Centre is available for general

dozen promising youngsters.

course with eight players.

in order is known as the playing side and the back as the non-playing side.

A ball begins to run a hoop only when the front edge of the ball can be touched by a straight edge raised vertically against the non-playing

Thus, in the first case described above (see diagram 1), the ball had not started to run hoop 3 even though it had entered the hoop from the nonplaying side on the croquet stroke. It was therefore perfectly permissible to run the hoop with the continuation stroke and thus score the point.

In the second case, the striker's ball could have been placed for the croquet stroke in such a position that it had not started to run the hoop (See diagram 2). With an Irish peel or a little stop shot, both balls could then have been played to the non-playing side of the hoop, leaving an easy return roquet after running the hoop.

Incidentally, you should on no account test the position by running your mallet down the side of the hoop without the permission of your opponent. Better still, in a tournament call for a referee.

Every player should be familiar with the laws of the game. The latest edition of 'The Laws' is now available from the CA office, price \$3, post and

courses to improve personal perf-

ormance. Whilst we were there,

most interested to see the effect of this book on some of our promising young 'B' and 'C' players.

He presents his ideas under various headings, some of the later ones being 'Go!', 'The end game', 'Pegged out and one ball games', 'Hampered Shots', 'Helpful hints'.

I like this sort of advice:

'You are pegged out. Don't panic and say 'Oh I'll never win now'. This is simply not true. Let us however be realistic, the odds are often against you. Winning from this position.... requires skill...tactics...and a certain amount of luck. Skill you must acquire, the luck is outside your control and I discuss tactics here...There are three basic tactics when pegged out.

- * Shoot for a hoop or a ball.
- * Lurk near where you hope your opponent will break down.
- * Position in front of the hoop that you want ...

All this is then discussed in simple and direct terms. Mr Gaunt published the book himself and good luck to

Reprinted from the New Zealand Croquet Gazette

'Plus One on Time' can be obtained direct from the author at 5 Rosedale Avenue, Stonehouse, Glos., or from the CA Office. Price \$5.00 (\$6.00 to non-CA members), plus 50p p&p.



packing 20p. Why not buy a copy now and browse through it this winter. It may save you a bisque or two next season.

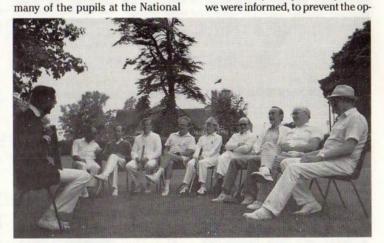
Book Review

By Ashley Heenan

Almost unheralded and unsung, there has appeared on the market a book by D.L. Gaunt titled 'Plus One On Time'. This is not aimed at the 'stars' super or otherwise, but rather at the medium to high handicap players. It is amply illustrated with diagrams on tactics AND the one thing we have not seen since the days of Arthur Ross's handy little book....useful discussion on the 'Attitude of Mind'. Mr Gaunt knows his medium to high bisque players and understands their fundamental psychology. His 'advice' is concise, sound and to the point. I would be

their arrival (to keep out the press, so

Successful Inaugural Course for Middle-Bisquers at Bisham Abbey Security was noticeably tightened for



Don Gaunt takes an off-lawn session at Bisham Abbey. Left to right: Don Gaunt, Chris Hudson, Chris Howlett, Duncan Hector, Allan Laidlaw, Margaret Green, Evelyn Callan, Alan Tunbridge, John Green, and Geoffrey Yonge.

a long and interesting history. Today it is one of six residential Tennis School were over in Holland National Sports Centres managed playing a representative match, and and financed wholly or partly by the Sports Council. In 1982 the National their rooms at Bisham had been Tennis Training Centre was estabtaken by members of tennis clubs lished there and the following year keen to improve. a National Tennis School was set up.

We met 'Buster' Mottram who was at Bisham to coach the remaining youngsters of the National Squad. He seemed to know more about what was going on in the croquet world than we did! Also during our stay, England's National Soccer team was booked in to do some final practice before their match against Cuba.

position finding out about England's latest tactical plans), but in the end the team failed to materialise, having done 'all they needed to do' the day

Accommodation at Bisham was excellent, with single or double rooms as required. We had our meals in the old Great Hall of the Abbey. and used four full-size lawns marked out on the hockey pitch, which played surprisingly well. The hockey pitch was right next door to our accommodation and lecture room,

so transition from a practical session of the lawns to a tutorial indoors was very easy.

Don Gaunt designed and presented the course, based on his book 'Plus One On Time'. The approach was refreshingly different to that usually adopted, and proved to be very successful. Key points covered

Recap of basic shots.

Know your ability (and your

opponent's)

Hampered shots.

Playing a 4-ball break with precision. Picking up breaks with and without

bisques. Planning your game.

The three ball break.

Helpful hints. Tactics with and without bisques.

The end game. The pegged-out game.

All sessions included a lecture, followed by practical work on the lawns. Alan Tunbridge won the competition that ran throughout the course, beating Geoffrey Yonge in the

A similar course will be run again next year, and I hope that some of those who have attended Loughborough Summer School will find the Bisham Abbey course a natural successor.

Tips from the Top

Frank Taylor, Britain's mole-catcher extraordinaire, has been persuaded to give away his trade secrets.

Frank, whose skill at catching the little 'critters' was witnessed by millions on a recent television programme, has revealed all.

The famous mole-catcher, who only uses traps manufactured by Eliza Tinsley & Company Limited, has been encouraged to set down his tips for the benefit of everyone plagued by moles.

Tinsley have turned his tips into a cartoon to help make mole catching easier for beginners. The company is giving away a copy of the tips with every purchase of one of their mole traps.

And now you're armed with the mole truth, you too could become a successful mole catcher. Happy hunting!

NATIONAL RANKINGS (as at 31st July 1989)

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Townsend's Croquet Almanack Medals

From Charles Townsend

When a croquet player wins a championship, he is awarded a cup or trophy upon which his name is engraved. Some competitions even have replicas that the player can keep. Either way the player has something to record and remember his success. However there are some croquet achievements for which the player receives nothing. Some of these provide as much entertainment and interest as championship wins and are often more difficult to perform.

An example of this is Bob Jackson's unique octuple peel that has been a topic of discussion and astonishment ever since he started performing it. Townsend's Croquet Almanack is introducing medals to fill this gap and give players something to remind them of their most spectacular deeds. The medals will be called Townsend's Croquet Almanack Medals and will be awarded annually in recognition of unique croquet feats and achieve-

There will be two categories of Medal: National Medals and World Medals.

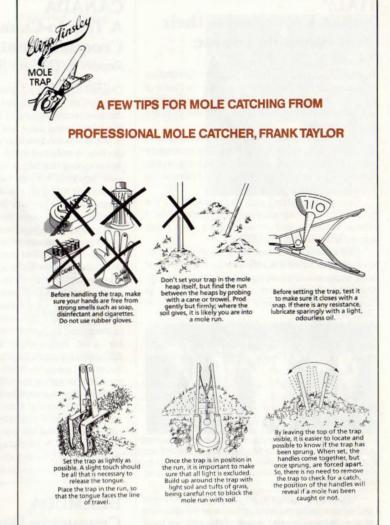
In each of the major croquet playing countries two Townsend's Croquet Almanack National Medals will be awarded. One will be awarded to the player who comes top of that country's national rankings. The other will be awarded to the player who scores most triple peels in that country's championship matches.

There will be six Townsend's Croquet Almanack World medals. One will be awarded to the player who is number one in the world rankings. The other five will be awarded to the five players who perform the most notable croquet feat during

In previous years possible candidates for these medals would have been Bob Jackson's octuple peels, Keith Aiton's third turn triple peel on the opponent, Chris Clarke becoming the youngest player to win the President's Cup, John Prince competing in his sixth McRobertson Shield Series, etc. The winners will be chosen by a panel of judges and their decision, which will be final, will be announced in Townsend's Croquet Almanack.

Nominations for these medals are invited from any person who has performed or seen performed any outstanding croquet feat or achievement. Nominations, giving as much detail as possible, should be sent to: Townsend's Croquet Almanack, Townsend Croquet Limited, Claire Road, Kirby Cross, Frinton-on-Sea, Essex CO13 OLX, England.

Townsend's Croquet Alamanack Medals will be unique reminders for croquet players of their greatest achievements.



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7 to 6

31/2 to 3

7 to 10

13D11 to 15D13

16D14 to 13D11

Norton Hall Club: 31 July

P.W. Thompson

WG Masterton

0 to -1/2

3 to 2

21/2 to 2

13D11 to 12D10

6 to 4

12 to 9

13D11 to 11D9

17D15 to 16D14

17D15 to 14D12

5 to 6

14D12 to 12D10

18D14 to 16D14

51/2 to 41/2

ITALY Italian CA organise their first coaching course

Report by Carlo Farioli

In March this year, the Italian Croquet Association organised its first Course to introduce the Game of Croquet. It was held at the 'Nizzolina' playing field in Marnate (Varese), near Milan, and ran from 9th to 11th March.

The Course was intended to provide a taste of the game for gymnastic teachers from secondary schools and to others interested in starting to play. It covered the basic rules of the game of Association Croquet and the playing techniques.

Everything turned out well, thanks to the sociability and experience of Mr Chris Hudson whose kindness and patience were very much appreciated during the course.

The course contained many highlights, with moments of utmost concentration interspersed with moments of relaxed gaiety, so that (thanks to the help given by our interpreter, Miss Sara Costantini) the time spent with our gentle guest went very quickly.



Carlo Farioli (right), President of the Italian Croquet Association, with Chris Hudson, interpreter Sara Costantini, and the eight course members prior to the start of the competition - the first ever to take place in Italy.

Availing ourselves of Mr Hudson's experience and advice we have also tried to frame the structure of the Italian Croquet Association and we have discussed the role which it will play within the World Croquet Federation.

Mr Hudson has also given us suggestions on how to promote Croquet in Italy and the way to improve and reach a good standard of playing.

At the end of the short coaching course there was a mini-tournament won by Mr Luigi Colombo and Mr Sebastiano Marchetta who beat Mr Sandro Vezzani and Mr Paolo De Petra in the final. We will not forget to mention the zeal showed by all the other players (Mr Claudio Polloni, Mr Andrea Landini, Mr Rodolfo Giannattasio and Miss Laura Lombardi) during the tournament.

On the night of Saturday 11th March, the sports event was brought to a worthy conclusion in the nice surroundings and pleasant atmosphere of the 'Mondodomani Sporting Club' where a dinner party was organized in honour of Mr Hudson.

All the members of the Executive Committee of the Italian Croquet Association were present, the President Mr Carlo Farioli and the Vice-Presidents Mr Aldo Crespi and Mr Carlo Landini, the Association Councillor and Public Relations Commissioner, Dr Benigno Bartoletti, the Official Representatives of the Movimento Sportivo Popolare-Italia (a Sports Organization recognised by the Italian Olympic Committee C.O.N.I.) Mr Nunzio Caleca and Mr Italo Meli, and the Sports Councillor responsible for the Council of Marnate, Mr Graziano Baschirotto.

A medal has been given to all the players as a memento of the event. We are hoping to organize a National Tournament in the foreseeable future and to create a good team to compete with the teams of other Countries belonging to the World Croquet Federation.

Thanks very much to Mr Hudson, whom we hope to see again soon in Italy.

CANADA A Trip to Canada's Premier **Croquet Event**

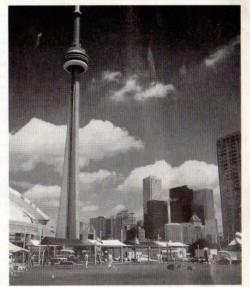
Report by Duncan Reeve

Croquet in Canada is a growing sport, and to prove it Croq-Can'89 was staged in June. The venue was the spectacular setting of Toronto's harbour front. the lawns being just a few feet from lake Ontario. In the landward direction was the striking Toronto skyline, dominated by the CN Tower - the tallest freestanding building in the world, and the brand new Skydome - a baseball stadium with a fully retractable roof and capable of seating over 50,000 spectators. The harbour front area itself has been developed as a leisure area by the Harbourfront Corporation, who together with Office Equipment generously sponsored the event.

Debbie Cornelius and Duncan Reeve were delighted to be invited to join the top United States and Canadian players in the first ever croquet tournament to be held here; the first of many I hope.

The format for the singles was four blocks of four, from which the winner and one 'wildcard' (determined by hoops scored) went through to a knockout. Both Debbie and Duncan had some difficulty in coming to grips with the tactics of the American game and won only one game each in their blocks, failing to go through to the knockout.

In the doubles, for which the format was similiar, Debbie and Duncan both benefited from playing with U.S. players experienced in the American rules. Debbie and her partner John Osborne (one of the top U.S. players) played very well to win the doubles event. This despite the fact that Debbie had to go to hospital minutes before the final because



The CN Tower dominating the croquet lawns. of a large swelling on her leg, thought to be caused by a spider bite.

The tournament was most enjoyable and memorable, not least because of the wonderful welcome given to all the visitors and the friendliness of everyone there. The British contingent got great pleasure from participating in this event, and helping to promote croquet in Canada

Debbie Cornelius (U.K.) & John Osborne (U.S.) beat Debbie

Singles Final Kiley Jones (U.S.) beat Ted Prentis (Canada)

Prentis (Canada) & Bob Kroeger (U.S.)

BERMUDA Croquet in Wonderland

Report by Liz Taylor-Webb

The Bermuda Croquet Association plays its croquet on three lawns, each one in the garden of a private house. The Island is twenty miles long and about one and a half miles wide, and it seems that there is one lawn at each end with one in the middle.

Rupert and I went to Bermuda in July for our daughter's wedding, and as we travelled all that way, she thoughtfully arranged for us to play croquet on one of the treasured lawns; the one belonging to Richard Pearman.

We arrived about 4pm - as it was supposed to be a little cooler then - and were shown around what I could only describe as an Alice in Wonderland setting. There were two imposing 10 foot bronze figures of a king and queen in one corner, and a wheelable garden seat, intricately made up of croquet mallets and balls - not to be used - in another corner. A beautiful open-sided gazebo faced us at the far end, full of deep cushioned sofas and lovely old croquet prints on the back wall. It hadn't rained for weeks, but the lawn was emerald green and perfectly manicured.

Bushes of hibiscus and bourgainvillea and one bush heavy with three huge frangipani blooms bordered one side of the lawn, while the whole area was enclosed by a neatly trimmed high privet hedge. To complete the picture, Mrs Pearman appeared, secateurs in hand, walked straight to the frangipani bush and vigorously snipped off the three blooms, then just as quickly disappeared. I couldn't help murmuring, 'off with their heads'!

The game itself was like Alice in Wonderland as far as we were concerned, as neither of us had played American Rules before. Then just as we were getting the hang of it, the game ended as abruptly as it had started. It was 6pm and the other



Rupert and Liz Taylor-Webb enjoying croquet in Bermuda

side had to leave. As it was so hot and people had other things to do, apparently they never played more than one and a half hours, then count up the hoops and the side with the most hoops wins.

At last I felt at home in one of my mad hats.

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.

Cathy & Martin French are pleased to announce the arrival of a new addition to the Ipswich squad, a son named Aston William French. He was born on 31st May 1989, weighing in at 7lbs 6oz, and will no doubt make himself heard at future croquet tournaments. •

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Sally and Peter Danks and the Office of the Shillingate Press have moved to 82 Highsett, Cambridge, CB2 1NZ. Tel: 0223-314014.

G.H. Betts (Phyllis Court)

Dr L. Greenbury (Phyllis Court)

following deaths:

Changes at the Clubs South East Essex C.C. New Secretary: Mr P. Bertorelli. New		Handicap Alterations East Midlands League		Wrest Park: 7-9 July A. Kirby	
				D. Hector	
telephone: 0702-52216		D.M. White	11 to 10	A. Parry Parkstone: 8 July	
New Associa		Ramsgate: 2-4 June		F.L. Shergold	
Mrs P.J. Sander	Ancell Trust Bentley	A.R.K. Miller	5 to 4	Southport: 8-9 July	
A.E. Trim R.B. Huyshe	Bowdon	B. Christmas M. Pinnock	10 to 8 12 to 9	Adrian Saurin	
M.V.C. Ablewhite	Compton	G.R. Goodwin	7 to 8	A. Giraud	
Mrs J. Bayly	Dulwich	T. Miller	10 to 12	B. Hunt	2
Mrs G.J. Ross	Ealing	Roehampton: 5-10 June		I. Jackman	
Mrs E.M. Cowdill	Ellesmere	J.D. Greenwood	1 to 0	A. Pidcock	
V. Heaney	Harrow Oak	A. Thomas	7 to 6	Mrs S. Stoker	
R. Cross	High Wycombe	P. Archer	8 to 7	D. Wright	
C.J. Wells	Hurlingham	Mrs W.G. Jones	8 to 9	Hurlingham: 12 July	4
S.N.H. Gray	Letchworth	Ryde: 5-10 June		A. Blok	
M.J. Beacham	Lloyds	R. Fewtrell	19	M.E. Henderson G. Wombwell	
A.P.T. Harker	Lloyds	Mrs A.F. Fewtrell	20	A. Chance	
Mrs M. Merrett	Lloyds	Mrs D. Latham	5½ to 5	J. Glyn	
C.J. Ford	Parkstone Dhyllia Court	P. Kennerley	9 to 8	R. Hoskyns	
E.V. Adams A. O'Dair	Phyllis Court Phyllis Court	Budleigh Salterton: 8 Ju		D.J. Power	
Mrs A. O'Dair	Phyllis Court	Miss J. Goodhart 14 J.H. Lindards	4D12 to 13D12 12D10 to 10	R. Stephens	
J.G. White	Phyllis Court	A.J. Wasdell	8 to 7	W. Thornhill	
Mrs E. Addis	Plymouth	Compton: 9-11 June	0101	Harrow Oak	
M. Pinnock	Ramsgate	R. Hick	10* to 10	V. Heaney	
G.B. Smith	Ramsgate	Mrs C. Hick	11* to 12	Edgbaston: 14-16 Ju	ıly
Miss H. Turner	Southport	Miss B.E. Dennant	7½ to 8	J. Hyames-Mernane	
Mrs P. Allanson	Southwick	Miss P.E. Kendall	7½ to 9	M. Granger-Brown	
Mrs C. Dutton	Southwick	Mrs M. Payton	18 to 16	H. Fellows	
Mrs D. Hamilton-Lunse	on Southwick	Miss A.H. O'Connor	14 to 13	Southport: 14-16 Jul	ly
D.L. Mears	Southwick	Bowdon: 10-11 June		Mrs C. Lewis	5
Mrs D.L. Mears	Southwick	A.C. Peterson	7½ to 6½	Adrian Saurin	
A.J. Rajotte	Southwick	C. Haslam	1½ to 1	Ramsgate: 14-16 Jul	y
L.P.N. Dugdale	Vine Road	Cheltenham: 10-17 June		R.F. Atkinson	
M.N.D. Elliot	Vine Road	K. Carter	2 to 21/2	Mrs W.R.D. Wiggins	
A.C. Robertson	Vine Road	Mrs M. Warren	8 to 7	Hurlingham: 15 July	
M. Spence	Vine Road		8D16 to 16D14	K.W. Prescot	120
D.K. Ashton Mrs O.L. Lyons	Woking Worthing	Mrs C. Smith	2 to 3	J. Latham	14D12 t
Miss P. Orme	Worthing	Ipswich: 11 June P. Alnutt	20 to 17	Mrs R. Stephens	18D14 t
Mrs P. Wain	Worthing	Mrs C. Steward	8 to 7	Swindon: 16 July	
F.W. Woodhead	Worthing	L. Palmer	2 to 1½	B. Hewitt	
W.K. Abbott	W. C. C.	S. Comish	1½.to 1	C. Cardis	
Mrs W.K. Abbott		M.R. French	-½ to -1	D. Royce	
Miss E.J. Adams		M. Sawyer	18 to 17	H. Ormerod	
S. Allen		Southwick: 13-18 June		Compton: 16 July	
G.W. Bloom		Mrs H. Boardman	17 to 16	E. Dymock	1
I.B. Campbell		Mrs R. Bright	16 to 14	G. Coker	
K.M. Cooper		Mrs D. Brothers	17 to 15	M. Keen	
Mrs I. Cranfield		H. Catten	11 to 10	Budleigh Salterton:	19 July
Miss C.M. Curd		J. Green	11 to 10	Mrs C. Bagnall	10011
E.R. Devereux		Mrs V. McClements	20 to 18	H.M. Glatston	13D11
E. Dymock R. Fewtrell		J. Papworth	16 to 14	Mrs H.M. Glatston R.A. Scaddan	17D15 t
Mrs F.A. Fewtrell		E. Robinson Hunstanton: 16-18 June	16 to 15		17D15
H. Fowler		D. Turner	6 to 5	Letchworth Club: 22	July
Mrs M. Gorman		L. Robinson	20* to 18	A. Harris	
J.A. Griffin		Mrs K. Yonge	20 to 19	D. Tutt Tyneside Club: 24 Ju	.le.
D.B. Hart		J. Sturdy	5 to 61/2	Miss G. Curry	шу
M.J. Heywood		Compton: 19-24 June	0.10.071		
D.R. Jones		D.C.A. Goolden	13 to 11	Cheltenham: 24-29 J	luly
Mrs D.R. Jones		C.B. Sanford	4 to 31/2	A. Bogle Dr C. Bogle	
A.C.G. Mackenzie		Ipswich: 20 June		P. Dorke	
Mrs D.P. Mansell		Miss J. Waters	12 to 10	C. Edmunds	13D11 t
A.G. Milne		Miss C. Pearce	14 to 12	A. Girling	13011 (
C.H. Mockett		Cheltenham: 14-18 June	e	Mrs P. Hague	
D.T. Reynolds		B.D. Hewitt	16 to 12	D. Harrison	
Air V-M B.L. Robinson		F.J.R. Landor	1½ to 0	D. Magee	
C.P. Rudland		W.E. Lamb	0 to -1/2	Mrs I. Moorcraft	
Mrs C.P. Rudland		D.L. Gunasekera	-½ to -1	D. Moorcraft	
T. Van Tijn		Scottish CA: 23 June		Mrs P. Asa-Thomas	
D.W. Welch Mrs A. Whitehead		I.H. Wright	2 to 4	J. Toye	
A.S. Witts		Scottish CA: 3 July		Miss J. Wraith	13D11 t
A.S. Witts Mrs A.S. Witts		J. Surgenor	1½ to -1½	Mrs J. Walker	
W. Marshall	Canada	Colchester: 3-10 July	and the second second	Mrs K. Yeoman	
W. Marshall P. Fossett	Germany	R. Fulford	-1 to -11/2	Cheltenham: 29 July	,
Mrs D.M.G. Moodie	Jersey	S. Comish	1 to ½	P. Watson	
C.B. Dean	New Zealand	Southwick: 3-8 July		Budleigh Salterton:	29 July
A. Burchfield	USA	R. Best	8 to 61/2	Mrs W. Broad-Thomas	
J.P. Stark	USA	A. Judge	8 to 61/2	B. Redford	
(Total: 77)		T. Marr	7 to 61/2	A.J. Wasdell	16014
Deaths		Mrs E. Cox	6 to 7	G.E. Webb	16D14 t
	rogard the	G. Pearse	1 to 10	Parkstone: 30 July J. de Winton	
With great regret we i	iccord the	Edghaston: 5 July		Norton Hall Club: 31	Luke

Edgbaston: 5 July

R.J. Collighan

A. Leggate

Brian Storey (right), recent winner of the CA's Gold Award.

1989 MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT DRIVE SUPPORTING CLUBS

The following clubs have been supporting us in our attempt to raise the CA membership figure above 2000 by the end of this year. The figures show the number of members they have recruited for the CA between joining the scheme and the end of July.

ANCELL TRUST	2	ORMESBY HALL	0
BEVERLEY	4	OXFORD UNIV	1
BOURNEMOUTH	1	PARKSTONE	1
BOWDON	2	RAMSGATE	2
BRISTOL	0	READING	0
CHELTENHAM	3	ROEHAMPTON	10
CHESTER	0	SIDMOUTH	0
COMPTON	3	S. DERBYSHIRE	0
EAST RIDING	0	SOUTHPORT	2
FYLDE	0	STAFFORD	0
HIMLEY	0	STOURBRIDGE	0
LANSDOWN	5	TRACY PARK	0
LLOYDS	3	VINE ROAD	5
NEWPORT	0	WORTHING	8
NORWICH	1	YORK	0

Subscriptions paid after 1st August cover 1990, so those who join the CA now effectively have the rest of 1989 free.

Given this additional incentive to become a CA member, there must be many more clubs out there who could take advantage of our recruiting scheme. For every three new members enrolled, you win a £12 prize voucher, redeemable against future subscriptions.

If you would like to help, please contact Chris Hudson as soon as possible for a form to enter the scheme (Tel: 0270-820296). Recruited members only count from your application date, so early application is

CA AWARDS

Congratulations to Brian Storey who won a Gold Award by completing his first triple peel in an Open Tournament at Himley Hall, Also to Roger Jackman on his Silver Award for completing a 12 hoop break without bisques at Harrow Oak's Weekend Handicap

New CA Handicappers A.V. Camroux

New Grade 1 Coaches Mrs B. Lewis (Southport) Mrs D. Williamson (Southport)

SECRETARY'S NOTES Missing Members

Contact has been lost with the following members. If you know their whereabouts please could you let Brian Macmillan know. (Tel: 01-736-348).

> M.P. Storey Croome Court J.P. Ames

Literature

Will all clubs who have literature on Sale or Return please ensure that these are paid for by the end of October 1989.

'Know the Game

The publishers have increased their price for this book to £1.99 per copy. Members of the CA will now pay \$1.65 plus 24p p&p.