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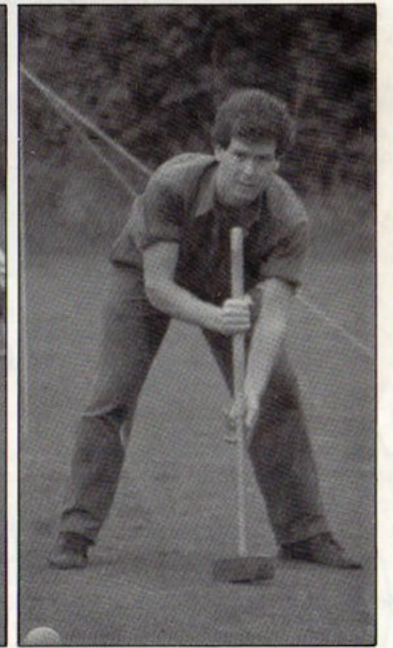
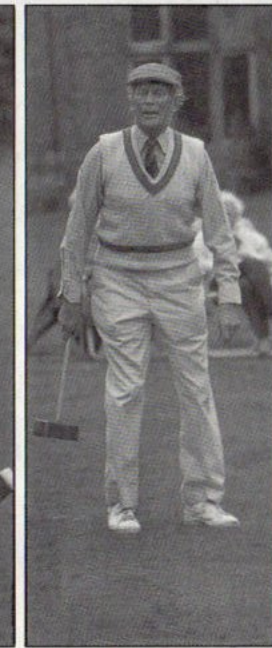
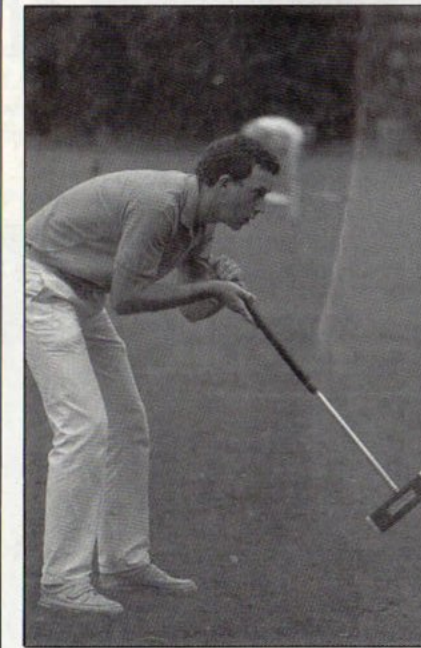


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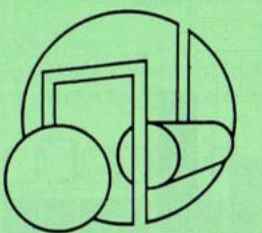
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Inside:
 News & Views
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 Tournament Reports
 Garden Croquet News
 Your Letters

....and lots more

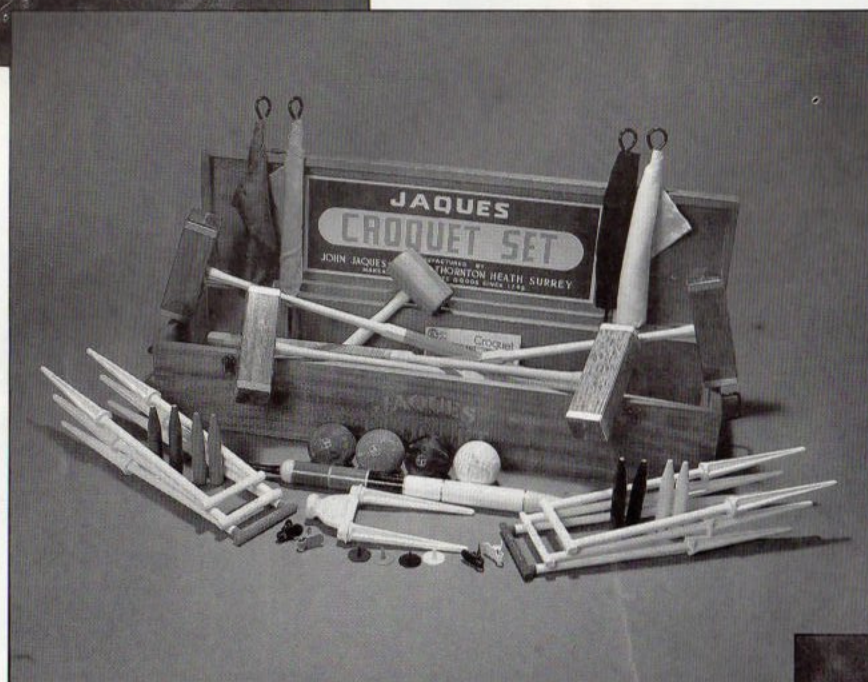
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CROQUET

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Photographs in this issue by: Evening Argus (Brighton), Peter Alvey, Pat Asa-Thomas, Andrew Bennet, W.J. Cusack, Sally Green, Chris Hudson, David Isgrove, Dr D.R. Laney, Deborah Latham, John McCullough, Derek Rowe (Photos) Ltd., Pat Shine, and Charles Townsend.

Front Cover: The 1989 Croquet Classic. Top: Ben Green receives his Regional Final Trophy from Martin Murray, CA Chairman, at Tracey Park. Bottom (L to R): Tim Masterton, Rodney Ward, and David Franklin, playing in the National Final at St Mary's College, Twickenham.

Editorial Team

Editor

Annual Subscription Rate **£12.00**

A THOUGHT

In many sports, the active life of the participant is short. In gymnastics, for example, a sixteen-year old is considered almost too old to compete. Participants in boxing and football probably begin to wonder if their sporting days are over by the time they reach 35. Athletes prolong their sporting life a little longer by racing over longer distances. But croquet must be almost unique in providing those of us who play the game a chance to compete until we are ninety, on more or less level terms with everyone else, regardless of age.

This is one of the great advantages of the game, but it means that croquet is unlike other sports, where those too old to play turn towards

administration. We currently seem to accept as a matter of course that all our administrators are still active players, with the drawback that they cannot play and administer at the same time.

Is this a necessary fact of life? The Italian Croquet Association seems to have differentiated since its inception between those who administer and those who play. Perhaps we ought to encourage some non-active players to turn to administration - perhaps former members of the CA. Or is there something peculiar about croquet that prevents those who no longer play from organising our affairs for us?

CHRIS HUDSON

XMAS FAREWELL MATCH

Great Britain plays East Anglia at Soham:
16th/17th December

Soham Sports Centre will once again be at the forefront of croquet development this December, when it plays host to an indoor match between Great Britain and East Anglia. This will be your chance to wish our team well before they leave for New Zealand on 27th December in their quest to regain the MacRobertson Shield from its Kiwi holders.

The exciting Chess Clock Croquet, which left members of the audience on the edge of their seats at an earlier event this January will again be used. Indoor croquet pushes the top players to their limits - the lightning fast surface, stubborn hoops and relentless ticking of a clock are the greatest test for a croquet player. Thrills come thick and fast when players have just half the time of a conventional game. The East Anglia team will be no push-over for Great Britain. Led by Chris Clarke (who now has so much to prove - not least to the Selection Committee!), with Martin French (so nearly winner of the Chairman's Salver), top woman Debbie Cornelius, 'Aspinall basher' Steve Comish, Eastern Champion Duncan Reeve, and ex-President's Cup & England player, John Walters. A win could set GB on course for the MacRobertson itself; defeat would be a blow requiring much soul-searching.

Spectators will again be able to take advantage of indoor carpet croquet in the second arena. Food is available, and there is limited room for those indicating their wish beforehand to join the players for meals on both days. The match will take place between 11am and 11pm on Saturday 16th, and 10am and 6pm on Sunday 17th December. Soham is a short drive from Ely; why not take an ideal Xmas break in the heart of Cambridgeshire? Suggestions for accommodation can be provided; to book your place, contact: John Walters, 17 Wroxham Road, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP3 0PH. (Tel: 0473-253950). Casual spectators will also be welcome on either day.

SEE YOU THERE!

ATTENTION!

Please turn to Page 30, which contains a number of important notices.

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Editorial



Joyce Taylor and Chris Haslam at Southport's Long-Bisquers' Weekend.

CLUB CONFERENCE

Hurlingham: Saturday 25th November, 1989.

We hope all registered Clubs will be represented at this Bi-Annual Conference postponed from last year.

The CA is halfway through its second 3-year plan and is beginning to prepare its plan for 1991-1993. The object of this year's Club Conference is to review progress to date and to make suggestions for the future.

The programme will be as follows:

11.00-11.15	Introduction
11.15-12.00	Progress to date & future opportunities
12.00-12.30	Discussion & feedback
12.30- 2.00	Lunch
2.00- 3.00	Brainstorming sessions
3.00- 4.00	Brainstorming sessions
4.00- 4.30	Summing up

For the brainstorming sessions, the Conference will split up into small groups to discuss topics such as: Rule variations: Advanced Handicap Singles, and the full bisque game.

Promoting the Garden Croquet Classic. Prize money for Croquet tournaments. Recruiting and retaining new members at club level.

Local sponsorship and media coverage. Croquet in the 90's and beyond. Development of Indoor Croquet. CA retailing and other new sources of income for the CA.

CA membership incentives.

There is still time to add other topics, so please let me know if you have other subjects you would like discussed.

Derek Caporn
Conference Organiser.

Weekend Tournaments

Woking: September Woking Short Lawn Tournament

Report by Gina Pellegrini

Tony Backhouse - a surprise late entry (and described by a rival or two as a 'bandit' on a handicap of fourteen), romped to success in the singles of the Woking Short Lawn Tournament on September 23rd and 24th - unbeaten in his six matches.

The manager of the tournament, Derek Caporn, did a splendid job in arranging for perfect late September weather, and Woking's resident computer whizz kid, Geoffrey Cuttle, with the aid of his lap-top gadgetry, selected and arranged mixes and matches with indisputable accuracy, and provided a print-out of the results too!

Woking were pleased to welcome eight visitors, who joined in the fun and games, as well as the competitive spirit - one lady from Cheltenham bringing with her her personal traffic cone which substituted for the peg in a late Sunday afternoon 'lower division' doubles final. The lady herself coned-out with great precision and to loud applause. (She'd obviously been secretly practising this manoeuvre for sometime.) Meanwhile, in the 'top division' doubles final, Woking duo Roger Hayes (last year's bandit) and Geoffrey Cuttle quickly finished their match in the more conventional manner of pegging-out, anxious to get back to the bar.

Obituary

ALBERT LAWRENCE, MSc, FIMA. Albert Lawrence was a remarkable man. A retired headmaster, he had the inspiration and leadership to 'make things happen'.

We were very fortunate in East Anglia that, after being runner-up in the first Garden Croquet Classic, he was prepared to put all his energy into coaching croquet and setting up the nucleus of clubs at Bottisham and Soham in Cambridgeshire.

When he played on the Indoor Carpet at Clacton he decided that a similar weekend would be a great idea to attract local people to form a club at his home town of Soham. So he pulled strings and used his local influence to obtain the Sports Hall (and the side halls) and transport for the carpet (local 'agricultural' associates). He had been one of those instrumental in building the Sports Hall. He was really delighted to have 16 top players accepting the invitation to compete in the Soham Weekend. He loved playing Croquet.

Not only had he a lawn of his own, but he also enjoyed particularly his trips with Harry Green to Hunstanton. He came to support us at the National Trust Final at Ickworth only 3 weeks before he died.

It was a privilege to have known him, and our sympathy goes to his wife June and daughter Gay.

T. & J.A.

Cheltenham: 22-24 September A Scramble for CA Awards

Report by Deborah Latham

There is a school of thought which holds that if you take a pessimistic view of life you can only be pleasantly surprised. If this is so, the weather forecasters' predictions at the beginning of the week ('changeable' was a word I seem to recall being employed) caused all of us who played in the Cheltenham September weekend to be very pleasantly surprised. Indeed, Richard Brand was able to improve his already impressive tan by a few more shades! The lawns, too, were very good (hence a lively debate between Steve Thomas and Dennis Moorcraft on whether Nottingham or Cheltenham had the best lawns), with all due recognition awarded to Wilf Handley and his associates.

The standard of the playing surfaces no doubt helped to account for the fact that only a very minor percentage of games went to time.



The old clubhouse at Bristol (top) in 1985, with the first part of the extension on the right. Below, the completed project. A major achievement by the club and its members, helped by a grant from the CA.

The players were organized into three Swiss blocks, each assigned a different identifying colour, which led to several variations on the following exchange when the victors came to report their results: 'And what colour are you?' 'Green!'

This doubtless helps confirm certain people in their belief that croquet players come from a different planet.... Les Chapman (and his braces) hurtled through the Brown Block to a handicap reduction, hotly pursued by head Worcester 'bandit' David Coates; the latter was accompanied by his understudy 'bandit' Malcolm Shepherd, who earned himself a Silver award. A Silver award was also acquired by another extremely promising

young man, Alan Bowers from Kingston Maurward, in the Red Block, but Ron Selmes fended off even his considerable challenge to emerge at the head of the field.

In the Green Block, Ken Bright proved to be the only block winner who achieved the maximum possible number of wins, despite the best efforts of Chris Williams, who had to settle for being runner-up. All these successes were at the expense of some very reputable names; for example, you don't exactly expect to find Ivor and Richard Brand lurking at the bottom of their respective blocks, even on the first day! Some higher power must have decreed that they'd been so successful at the Budleigh Salterton week it was time to let some other dogs see the rabbit.

This phraseology prompts me to

on display for the time of year; Les Chapman's braces (of course); Laurence Latham looking exactly like Bo Harris for the first morning's game, causing comment upon the implications for the marital status of the Latham household; the tragedy of the beer barrel being emptied by Sunday lunchtime (the number of serious drinkers attending the tournament had clearly been dramatically underestimated!); and certain hats which were in evidence.

I must say I thought Margaret Selmes' straw stetson most becoming, particularly with the addition of a rather jaunty feather in the band; Dab Wheeler's cap put me somewhat in mind of Casey Jones. The clear winner, however, was the headgear being sported by Bob Race; conjecture as to its origin was rife, with a paddy field being the most popular candidate. On the other hand, one observer said it reminded him of a beehive, and spoke of 'a buzz of excitement as Race steps onto the lawn....!'

In the midst of all this frivolity, some rather good croquet was being achieved by a large number of contestants. The merit award scheme was certainly proving an incentive to some of the slightly higher bisquers; there seemed to be no holding Leslie James, who in addition to three other very good results, beat me by +26 and got his Bronze award in the process. If you see Cloud Nine going past, I think there's a fairly good chance he may still be on it!

The weather was excellent; the lawns were excellent; the players gave the manager (Dennis) minimum hassle; I echo his sentiments that the tournament was a relaxed and happy one, and therefore a pleasure to attend.

RESULTS

Block A
(6-round Swiss, handicap play: 14 entries)

Winner: L. Chapman (2) (5 wins).

Runner-up: D. Coates (6) (5 wins).

Block B

(6-round Swiss, handicap play: 14 entries)

Winner: R. Selmes (6) (5 wins).

Runner-up: A. Bowers (8) (4 wins).

Block C

(6-round Swiss, handicap play: 16 entries)

Winner: K. Bright (8) (6 wins).

Runner-up: C. Williams (3½).

remark upon the stir - not to say consternation - caused on Court 4 when the 'club' vixen was seen to be taking her ease in the vegetable garden at the far end of the premises. Since she and her family are responsible for no small disruption of the club's grounds, there was an enquiry as to why someone didn't shoot her with something more decisive than a camera. I can only assume we had all been most remiss in neglecting to bring our shotguns to the tournament.... On the last day she bounced on to the court and started playing (so to speak) with Marjorie Warren's black ball; Marjorie was forced to admit to being slightly foxed!

Other topics for conversation included the number of bare legs

GARDEN CROQUET NEWS

No. 3

(Published by the Croquet Association)

Nov. 1989.



Inside:
Coaching Tips
How to play 'Pirates'
The Croquet Classic
News & Views

ROBERT FULFORD TAKES HIS FIRST MAJOR TITLE

Robert Fulford (20) captured his first major croquet title by winning the President's Cup this year. It was played from 5th to 9th September at Hurlingham.



Robert Fulford in play during this year's President's Cup at Hurlingham.

Fulford came to this tournament fresh from his win at the Northern Championships, where he beat twice winner Colin Irwin to become North of England Champion.

Fulford led throughout the President's Cup, in which each player plays each other twice, with Stephen Mulliner hot on his tail.

By the final day, if Stephen was to tie with Robert, he had to win his final match against Nigel Aspinall, who has himself won the President's Cup a record 11 times. Robert had to lose his match against Colin Irwin. It happened, and the tournament went to a play-off. In the play-off, a 'best of three games' match, Robert came through the winner, beating Stephen 2-0.

Robert is one of a growing band of superb young croquet players who have developed in the last few years. He won the British Junior Championship in 1986 and 1987 but was beaten in the final in 1988 by Chris Clarke. At 20 he is surprisingly not the youngest winner of the President's Cup. Last year Chris Clarke won it, aged only 17.

The President's Cup, in which the 8 best players available are invited to compete, ranks as one of the two most important tournaments in British Croquet. The other is the British Open Championship.

STOP PRESS

Two weeks after the President's Cup, Fulford and Mulliner met again, this time in the final of the South of England Championship. In a repeat of the 1988 final, Mulliner won, to become Southern Champion for the third successive year.

GREAT BRITAIN TEAM NAMED FOR MacROBERTSON SHIELD

The Great Britain & Ireland team to go to New Zealand to compete in The MacRobertson Shield in January has been named.

The team is David Openshaw, Stephen Mulliner, Mark Avery, Colin Irwin, Robert Fulford, William Prichard and Mark Saurin.

The MacRobertson Shield, Croquet's Premier International Competition, started in 1925. It is contested by Great Britain & Ireland, Australia and New Zealand, the current holders.

The team is a blend of youth and experience. Four of the players, David Openshaw, Stephen Mulliner, Mark Avery and Colin Irwin competed in the last series, held in England in 1986.

The youngest player in the team is Mark Saurin, aged 18. However he is not the youngest player ever to compete in the MacRobertson Shield. That record is held by John Prince, the

present New Zealand Captain, who first represented New Zealand when only 17.

The MacRobertson Shield matches will take place in New Zealand in January next year.

INDOOR CROQUET

Great Britain is playing a practice match against East Anglia at Soham Sports Centre, Soham, near Ely, Cambs, on Saturday/Sunday, 16th/17th December, 1989.

The match will be played on the Croquet Association's indoor carpet. It will be a final warm-up for Great Britain's team before they leave for New Zealand to compete for the MacRobertson Shield in January.

Two of East Anglia's top players, Robert Fulford and Mark Avery, are members of the GB team, but even without them East Anglia can raise a very strong side and the match should be close and exciting.

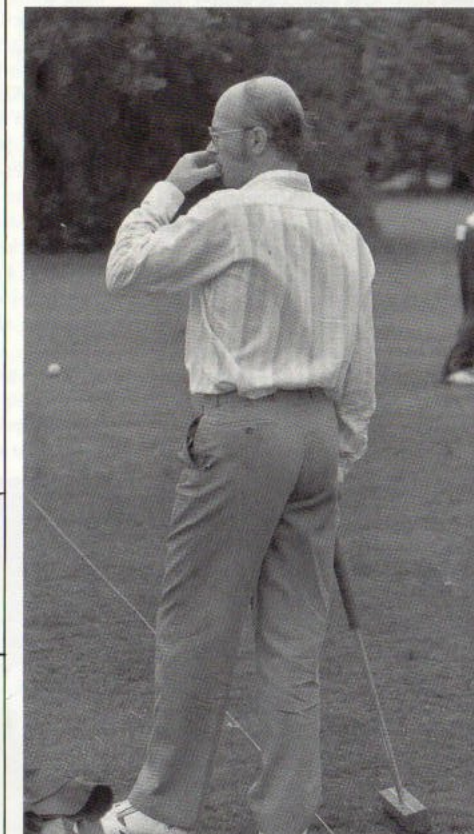
ENGLAND TO HOST 1990 WORLD CROQUET CHAMPIONSHIP

It has been announced that the 1990 World Croquet Championship will be held once again at The Hurlingham Club in London. Continental Airlines will be sponsoring the Championship which will run from 2-9 September.

All the world's top players will be there. The competition will be arranged in four blocks, the winner and runner up from each block going through to the quarter finals which will be played as a knockout.

If you join the Croquet Association you not only receive copies of 'Croquet', but also get free entry to the World Championship at Hurlingham. See 'Endpiece' for full details.

CROQUET CLASSIC WINNER



Roger Huyshe, from Handforth, Cheshire, who won this year's Classic (see report inside).

PIRATES Enjoy the thrills and spills of alternative croquet!

If anyone wants to play croquet viciously, pirates is the version of croquet they should play.

The rules are very simple and can be learned in a few minutes.

The Rules of 'Pirates'

- 'Pirates' can be played by up to eight people, each using one of the primary or secondary colour balls.
- Players shoot at the peg from either baulk (starting line) and the nearest to the peg plays first - also from a baulk. Play then proceeds in sequence, either in an order agreed by the players, or according to the distance from the peg.
- The winner is the first player to score 19 points.
- When you run any hoop, in any order, in any direction, you gain one extra stroke and score one point. Exception: no point or extra stroke is gained for immediately re-running the same hoop backwards.
- When you hit another ball, you gain one extra stroke and also collect (or 'pirate') the units of the points

owned by the other ball. So, if you hit another ball that has scored 9 points, your score goes up 9 points and the other ball's score goes down to zero. If you hit a ball that has scored 13 points, your score goes up only 3 points (the units) and the other player's score goes down to 10. If you hit a ball that has scored 10 points, you gain no extra points, as the units are at zero, but you do gain one extra stroke. When you hit another ball your extra stroke is taken from where your ball lies; you do not take croquet as in Association Croquet.

6. If you have hit all the other balls in one turn, you must make a hoop before you can gain extra shots from them again in that turn. Remember, any hoop will do.

Tactical hint

Even if a ball has no units left for you to 'pirate' it may still make sense for you to hit it. You can then use your extra shot to score off another ball, or to earn another hoop point.

Coaching Corner: The Grip

When people first pick up a croquet mallet, probably the first question they ask is: 'How do I hold it?' The most important thing about how you hold the mallet is that it should feel comfortable and natural. There are three grips in common use among the top players. Probably the most common is the standard grip.

With the standard grip, a right-handed player grips the mallet at the top of the shaft with his left hand, with the knuckles facing forward. His right hand grips the shaft lower down with the palm of the hand facing forward and the forefinger down the back of the shaft.

The second most common grip is the Irish grip, so called because it was used by a group of Irish players at the beginning of the century.

In the Irish grip the mallet is held

with both the palms facing forward. Often a shorter mallet shaft is used since if an Irish grip is used with a long shaft, the wrists have to bend over backwards. A disadvantage of the Irish grip is that it is not easy to get very much backswing.

The third common grip, the 'Solomon' grip, is named after John Solomon who used it with remarkable effect during the '50s and '60s.

With the 'Solomon' grip, the hands grip the mallet close together with the knuckles on both hands facing forwards. Players using this grip often like very long shafts and if they wish they are able to use a large backswing.

In choosing a grip it is worth hitting a few shots with each and seeing which feels the most comfortable and natural.



Grips (Left to Right): Bill Aldridge (standard grip); Bob Jackson (Irish grip); and Steve Lewis (Solomon grip).

CROQUET CLASSIC

Report by Chris Hudson

This year's final was held at St Mary's College, Twickenham. This is normally a teacher training college, with some 1200 students, but as it was out of term time, we were able to use accommodation at the college to house those of us who had to travel some distance to take part.

David Higgs and myself spent Friday afternoon setting up 9 short small lawns (24yds by 16yds), which fitted beautifully into the area available by the Chapel. The lawns were flat, but somewhat parched in places as a result of the long dry summer. The weather forecast for Saturday was 'heavy rain' so we were



Ben Green (left) watches his opponent (Rodney Ward) in play.

delighted to complete the lawn setting in dry weather.

The sixteen finalists all arrived on time, keen for the fray, and were drawn in 4 blocks of 4, all-play-all. In block A, Tim Masterton lost narrowly on time to Edward Dymock in his first game, but then produced two convincing wins against Jonathan Cullis (a finalist in 1987) and Richard Neville from Cumbria to win the block.

In block B, Hugh Williams was a clear winner, winning all his games. The first, against Derek Reed, went to time, but having got his eye in, he beat Chris Wood and Nigel Hind convincingly well before the bell. Chris Wood did particularly well to come second in the block, as he

played with only one hand but, even so, achieved some marvellous split rolls.

Block C was a very close affair. Ben Green, the youngest player to appear so far in the national final, hit in with some beautiful long shots, but his approach work left him uncomfortably far from the hoops on many occasions, causing him to break down. Although he failed to win a game, I am sure we shall see a lot more of him in future, and his turnout was immaculate. Ben's bad fortune meant that the other three players, Roger Huyshe, Magnus Spence, and Rodney Ward, all won two games, with Roger taking the block on net points.

Neil Goodyear won all his games in Block D, although all three were closely contested, and had he lost his third game against Mike Haymes, then Mike would have won the block. As it was, Neil pulled through by 6 points to 5 on time in this critical game. In the same round, David Franklin beat John Bramhall +1(T) to take third place in the block.

My impression after the first three rounds was that the standard of play had gone up in this third year of the competition, and perhaps this is because so many of the sixteen players had joined clubs during the course of the year. Certainly, many more were playing good four-ball breaks, and some of the leaves at the end of turns were very good indeed.

So we came to the semi-finals; Tim Masterton v. Roger Huyshe, and Hugh Williams v. Neil Goodyear. In the first of these matches, Roger made a 5-hoop break to hoop 6, and then laid up in corner 4 with a rush to hoop 1. Tim shot with his ball at hoop 3 at his partner ball at hoop 2, leaving Roger an excellent chance of a second large break. This did not materialise, but it was basically better tactics that eventually gave Roger the game by 14 points to 2.

In the other semi-final, Hugh Williams set up the first 4-ball break, but stuck in hoop 1, giving the opportunity to Neil Goodyear. Goodyear took advantage of this to reach hoop 3, where he also stuck. Hugh remained behind for the rest of the game, but he always looked threatening with his better leaves. However, time ran out for him, and Neil won 10-8 on time.

The final thus turned out to be between two players from Barclays Bank at Radbroke Hall, who had entered two groups in the competition. Roger demonstrated some excellent rushing during the course of the game, which was very cat and mouse, with Roger having a slight edge all the time. Nervousness reared its ugly head, and some short shots were missed, but Roger eventually won a somewhat uneventful game by 13-5 on time. Hugh Williams beat Tim Masterton 11-9 on time for



The Finalists (Back row, L to R): Rodney Ward, Magnus Spence, Edward Dymock, Chris Ward, Tim Masterton, Richard Neville, Neil Goodyear, David Franklin, Nigel Hind, and Jonathan Cullis. (Front row): Roger Huyshe, Derek Reed, Hugh Williams, Ben Green, John Bramhall, and Mike Haymes.

third place.

The staging of this tournament began in February and finally reached its climax in September. In closing, I would like to thank all those clubs and CA members who have helped me organise the Croquet Classic this year, and without whom it would have been difficult, if not impossible, to run the tournament. The CA now has nearly 100 members who have joined the Association as a direct result of contact made through the Croquet Classic, and there must be many more who have joined their local clubs. Next year, when the 4th Classic takes place, let's hope that even more players will take part, and that at least some of the finalists will be ladies!

RESULTS

Block A
Winner: T. Masterton (2 wins) bt R. Neville +6(T), and J. Cullis +7.

Runner-Up: R. Neville (2 wins) bt J. Cullis +10, and E. Dymock +2(T).

3rd place: J. Cullis (1 win) bt E. Dymock +10.

Block B
Winner: H. Williams (3 wins) bt C. Wood +14, N. Hind +12, and D. Reed +4(T).

Runner-Up: C. Wood (2 wins) bt N. Hind +1(T), and D. Reed +11.

3rd place: N. Hind (1 win) bt D. Reed +1(T).

Block C
Winner: Roger Huyshe (2 wins) bt R. Ward +11, and B. Green +13.

Runner-Up: M. Spence (2 wins) bt B. Green +5(T), and R. Huyshe +2(T).

3rd place: R. Ward (2 wins) bt M. Spence +1(T), and B. Green +10(T).

Block D
Winner: N. Goodyear (3 wins) bt J. Bramhall +4, D. Franklin +4(T), and M. Haymes +1(T).

Runner-Up: M. Haymes (2 wins) bt J. Bramhall +8, and D. Franklin +3(T).

3rd place: D. Franklin (1 win) bt J. Bramhall +1(T).

Semi-Finals
R. Huyshe bt T. Masterton +12; N. Goodyear bt H. Williams +2(T).

Final
R. Huyshe bt N. Goodyear +8(T).

3rd place play-off
H. Williams bt T. Masterton +2(T).

JOHN BRAMHALL, aged 27, is a solicitor, and first played croquet at Oxford University. He currently captains Reigate Priory Cricket Club in the 1st Division of the Surrey Championship. In the winter, he plays Rugby. Last year he reached the Regional Final of the Croquet Classic. He joined Reigate Croquet Club this summer.

JONATHAN CULLIS, aged 28, is a medical doctor at Southampton General Hospital. Played garden croquet with his parents for many years before becoming interested in Association Croquet at Cambridge University, where he won the Trinity Hall doubles in 1981. This was his third Croquet Classic. In 1987 he reached the national final, to be beaten in the preliminary rounds by the eventual winner.

EDWARD DYMOCK, aged 53, works as an accountant in London. He played Golf Croquet for two years at Sydenham before taking up Association Croquet this year. Now a member of the Eden Park Club, he has played in tournaments this year at Southwick and Cheltenham. His hobby is horse racing, and he has become an expert punter.

DAVID FRANKLIN, aged 25, comes from Market Drayton in Shropshire and is Sales Director for a ceramics firm. Played garden croquet for several years before meeting Association Croquet for the first time at the 1988 Loughborough Summer School. Since then, he has gone from strength to strength, and he recently joined the Shrewsbury Club. His first child, a son, was born whilst he was competing in this year's Regional Final.

NEIL GOODYEAR, aged 32, is a computer systems analyst with Barclays Bank at Knutsford. First played croquet in 1976, but has only recently taken it up again. Plays in a lunch-time croquet league at work, with 1-hour time limits. Has played village cricket for Bollington and currently plays 5-a-side football for a local team.

BEN GREEN, had his 12th birthday in August this year, and is a pupil at Bristol Grammar School. He joined

WI CROQUET: East Sussex

Report by Vera Devlin

On three afternoons at the end of August nearly 100 WI members enjoyed themselves learning about croquet. They played in the gardens of two members (21st and 23rd August at Waldron and 22nd August at Westfield). They were advised and helped by Mrs Eugenie Jackson and Miss Anne Whitehead (both WI members and both members of Preston Croquet Club), Mrs Jean Coppack and Miss Vera Devlin (both of Rottingdean Croquet Club, the latter also WI member).

Some of the participants had never even handled a mallet before and

others had never played seriously. The afternoon had been advertised as a 'fun' event but it was hoped that out of it would come some more serious interest in the game of croquet and this was achieved, because a number of members have asked for a series of lessons/coaching next year and one or two for names of local croquet clubs.

Other members are obviously intending to hold their own croquet afternoons in members' gardens and this, too, should help to foster a greater interest in croquet.

THE 1989 FINALISTS

Bristol Croquet Club last year, and besides playing croquet, plays rugger for his school. His parents and sister, Naomi, aged 8, are also members of the Bristol Club.

MIKE HAYMES, aged 39, is in private practice as a Chartered Surveyor. He has played garden croquet for 3 years, and has just moved to a new home where he plans to install a half-size lawn. In last year's Classic, he won the Cumbria group competition, but narrowly lost in the Regional Final.

NIGEL HIND, aged 40, is a computer project manager with the Friends Provident in Salisbury. He has played garden croquet for most of his life, but only started the 'four-ball' game 3 years ago when he built his own three-quarter size lawn. Nowadays he plays regularly in his garden with three other local players. A keen sportsman, he plays village cricket in the summer, hockey and fives in the winter.

ROGER HUYSHE, aged 41, is from Handforth, Cheshire. He is a computer cryptologist with Barclays Bank, protecting their computers from 'hackers'. He played croquet at University many years ago, but did not play again until 1984, and only discovered 4-ball breaks two years ago. This was his first appearance in the Croquet Classic, but already he has made a successful debut in the Northern Championships.

TIM MASTERTON, aged 28, is a chartered engineer working in the electronics development field with Racal. He has played croquet at work with a group of some 20 colleagues for 2 years or so. A croquet set from his wife for his birthday provided the impetus to enter the Croquet Classic. He is a keen badminton player.

CHRIS WOOD, aged 26, is an investment analyst who works in the City. He played croquet at Oxford, but has not played much since then, although he practises occasionally using nails instead of hoops - to boost his confidence. Plays local league football on Saturdays and Sundays. Sings in a local band, and has made some trial recordings. He broke short a skiing holiday to play in the Final.

DEREK REED, aged 43, is a solicitor and comes from Devon. Played 'social croquet' whilst at University. Has been playing garden croquet for 12 months. His appearance in this year's Regional Final at Tracey Park resulted in a lot of local press coverage, and he is now actively involved in trying to form a new croquet club in the Newton Abbot area. He is a keen sportsman, with a single figure golf handicap, and plays tennis and squash.

MAGNUS SPENCE, aged 30, comes from London, and is in the magazine distribution business. This is his second attempt at the Croquet Classic. Has played garden croquet since he was a child, but the Classic has encouraged him to play more seriously and he joined Vine Road Croquet Club this year. He is a keen touring cyclist.

RODNEY WARD, in his 60s, comes from Lillingstone Lovell, Bucks, and is a Company Director in a family business supplying the equestrian trade. He breeds show jumpers, and also finds time to run a small farm. He has had his own half-size garden lawn for some 40 years and plays regularly with his neighbours. This was his second Classic, and he has recently joined the West Park club. A former Master of Foxhounds, at one time he was a 4-handicap golfer.

HUGH WILLIAMS, comes from Davenport. Aged 32, he is a Composite Distribution Manager with TESCO. Took up croquet after watching a tournament at Hunstanton last year whilst on holiday in the area. Joined the Ancell Trust Club on returning home, and this year joined West Park. Qualified as a Referee in September. A former squash and badminton player.

RICHARD NEVILLE, aged 43, is a quantity surveyor with Cumbria County Council. In his spare time, he runs his own wine business. Three years ago, he found a croquet mallet in his garden shed and started playing at his home at Skirsgill Park, near Penrith, overlooking the Solway Firth. He plays tennis and coaches at his local tennis club.

The Cans Awards

Some years ago at the end of the Southern Championships it was found that there was a small mountain of drink cans left by spectators and players. Someone thought it might be fun to award these to deserving croquet players. So the annual 'cans' ceremony was born.

Among this year's winners Keith Aiton was voted 'Spectator of the Year', and Toru Takano of Japan was voted 'Rookie of the Year'. Toru Takano was Japan's representative in the Continental Airlines World Croquet Championships, where he made a great impression on everyone.

The 'Player of the Year' was inevitably Joe Hogan, who confirmed his World No. 1 Rating by winning the World Championship. Runner-up in 'Player of the Year' was Robert Fulford (20) who improved throughout the season, ending by winning the President's Cup and starting to take on an aura of invincibility.

One astonishing game in the World Championship won not only the 'Game of the Year' but the 'Turn of the Year' and the 'Stroke of the Year' awards.

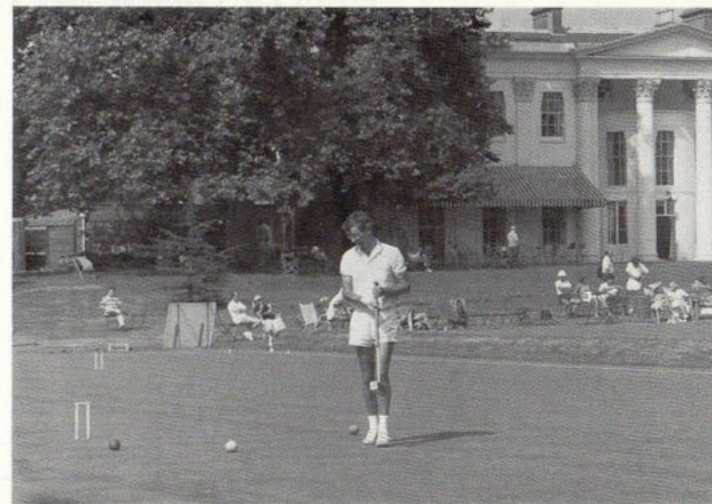
This was the second game of David Openshaw's quarter final match against Stephen Mulliner in the World Championship. Stephen

Mulliner had won a very exciting first game by the tiny margin of 2 points. In the second game time and again David Openshaw got into positions where he had to hit a long shot which, if he missed, should have been his last.

It was the final one of these 'last shots' that began the 'Turn of the Year'. Stephen Mulliner seemed to have the game won. One of his balls was already pegged out and the other was only 3 feet from the peg. David Openshaw's balls were in opposite corners. If David Openshaw missed, all Stephen Mulliner had to do was to peg out his second ball from 3 feet.

David Openshaw fired and hit centre ball, but he still had a huge amount to make up. One of his balls had only gone through a single hoop, the other had three hoops still to go and time was running out. David started off on a three ball break, running the first two hoops. However his approach to the next hoop was bad. He was so far to one side the hoop seemed impossible to run.

For almost 5 minutes, with the time running out, he examined the hoop and all his options. Eventually to everyone's astonishment he decided to try the impossible. He hit the shot as a jump shot, so it struck the far upright of the hoop, dropped down between the jaws,



Toru Takano (right) 'Rookie of the Year' and (above) David Openshaw, awarded 'Cans' for the Game, Turn, and 'Stroke of the Year'.

and ran through with the top spin it had generated. The 'Shot of the Year'. Now he still had to get his ball through its remaining eight hoops to the peg before time ran out.

When time is called, the player in play completes his turn, then the other player gets one more turn. So to have another turn to have any chance of getting his second ball round, David had to complete his turn before time. This he did with just 25 seconds remaining. Stephen Mulliner hit his ball into the corner so that David could not use it, and now David had to get his second ball round in his final turn.

This he did, but he missed the peg out on one ball. The scores



were level. Each player had only to peg their last ball out to win. After Stephen Mulliner had missed, David Openshaw finally pegged out to win the 'Game of the Year' and he went on to win the third game and the match.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

'Garden Croquet News'
Heading for its 2nd Year

When 'Garden Croquet News' was started in July, it was produced as an experimental three issues to see whether there was a demand for a magazine for garden croquet players.

The Croquet Association has now decided to continue it. In 1990, there will be four issues. These will be published in February, May, July, and October to concentrate coverage on the main croquet playing season.

The next issue will therefore be coming out in February and in it you will be able to find out how the Great Britain & Ireland team fared in the MacRobertson Shield Competition taking place in New Zealand in January.

The MacRobertson Shield is croquet's premier team event. Great Britain & Ireland are competing against Australia and the holders, New Zealand. The February issue will also contain details of next year's fixtures,

coaching courses, and everything else that will be happening in 1990. There will be full details of how to enter the Garden Croquet Classic, as well as all the usual items.

The 1990 annual subscription for 'Garden Croquet News' will be just £2.00. Hurry and send your subscription so that you don't miss an issue. Subscriptions should be sent to Brian Macmillan, The Croquet Association, The Hurlingham Club, Ranelagh Gardens, London, SW6 3PR.

We would also like to hear from you if you have any opinions on croquet or any contributions you would like to submit for the magazine. Letters and contributions should be sent to The Editor, 'Garden Croquet News', Townsend Croquet Ltd., Claire Road, Kirby Cross, Frinton-on-Sea, Essex, CO13 0LX.

Japanese Team Visits England

Report by Bernard Neal

The Croquet Association of Japan (CAJ) sent a team to England for a short tour immediately following the World Championship. The team consisted of Professor Masaru Ikeda, who is the Executive Secretary of the CAJ; Professor Atsuo Tanaka, the Chairman of the Tozanso Croquet Club; Mr Katsumi Kagawa, Chairman, Gumma-Izumi Croquet Club; and Mr Toru Takano, the Head Instructor of the CAJ.

The tour programme started at Southwick with 'warm-up' games on Monday and Tuesday, July 24 and 25. Then the Japanese travelled to Hurlingham for two matches; against Scotland on Thursday July 27, and against England on Friday, July 28.

Croquet has only been played in Japan since 1983, when Bernard and Liz Neal visited Tokyo to demonstrate the Association game. Teddy Prentis, the American professional, was also there to extol the virtues of the US Rules version, but the newly-formed Croquet Association of Japan wisely, as we think, adopted Association Croquet. In the succeeding 6 years, some 10 clubs have been formed, an excellent achievement in a country where space is at a premium.

This was the first visit of an official CAJ team, although a small CAJ party had visited England in 1986 to see Great Britain play Australia in a Test Match at Colchester. Six players were expected, but sadly the President, Mr Takuro Kanki, was unable to travel, due to illness, and another team member dropped out at the last minute for business reasons. Worse was to follow, for two of the remaining four were recalled to Tokyo for an urgent meeting and therefore missed the two fixtures at Hurlingham and the third day of play planned at Southwick on July 26. However, Martin Selman, an Australian who had spent several years in Japan and was a member of the CAJ, was available for the two fixtures at Hurlingham.

Masaru Ikeda and Toru Takano arrived in time for Toru, the Japanese Champion, to compete in the World Championship. Despite his lack of experience of play at this level, Toru performed most creditably against Richard Hilditch, who had the advantage of playing at his home club, Harrow Oak. Atsuo Tanaka and Katsumi Kagawa joined their colleagues halfway through the World Championship.

The trip to Southwick which followed Joe Hogan's victory in the final of the World Championship was a fine advertisement for the carrying capacity of a Volvo estate car. Bernard Neal, the driver, had ample room, but the four CAJ team members, plus all their luggage, filled the remaining space to bursting point. Fortunately, Masaru Ikeda is a

dog-lover, as he had to travel with the Neal's Collie dog Domo on his lap. Domo, by the way, is the word used by Japanese ladies when they are being excessively polite, and this choice of name amused our Japanese friends.

The Matches at Southwick

The proceedings at Southwick got off to a good start on the Monday morning, the visitors showing obvious pleasure at the sight of their national flag flying over the clubhouse. They were later very interested to meet and congratulate Edith Tucker, a club life member, who had made the flag.

The original plan had been to have a two day Swiss Tournament, with a mixed entry of Japanese and as many Southwick players as could be fitted in, followed by a match between the CAJ and Southwick. In the event, because of the reduced numbers and time, a more informal series of singles and doubles games were played; in the singles with a Japanese player matched against a Southwick player and in the doubles with a Japanese player partnering a Southwick player.

There was a relaxed and friendly air on the lawns, and it was rather unfortunate that the visitors, who it must be said were a good deal less practised than the Southwick members on the extremely hard and fast lawns, were only able to record one win, this for Toru Tankano in a doubles. The whole programme was made the more interesting, for Southwick and Japanese players alike, by two instructive demonstrations by Bernard Neal of particular croquet strokes and of some of the principal faults which can be committed in various single ball and croquet strokes.

Sponsorship for the visit was arranged by a club member, Jonathan Isaacs, who is marketing a flavoured milk product Yazoo, and there was excellent coverage in the local press and television.

The visit to Southwick was not all about playing. On the first evening there was a grand reception for the visitors, attended by more than 60 club members, which was held on the lawn outside the clubhouse on a beautiful summer evening. The club is of course famous for its cuisine, but on this occasion Enid Ross and her many helpers surpassed themselves by providing a superb buffet supper.

This was a delightful occasion, with the Japanese mingling well, and even the one member of their party with a very limited knowledge of English had very little difficulty in communicating. The guests were welcomed by Freddie Reynolds, the club Chairman, and John Solomon, President of both the club and the CA, and Masaru Ikeda replied in style

to round off the proceedings. At the end of play on Tuesday the visitors and several Southwick members who had worked hard to ensure the success of these two days were entertained to a pub dinner by Bernard Neal at the Spar at Slindon, near the famous strand of beeches which was virtually destroyed in the October 1987 storm.

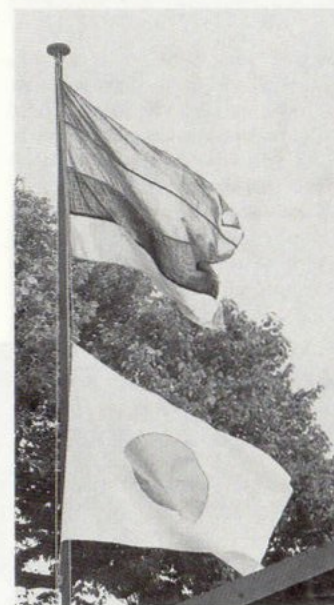
Japan v. Scotland

Report by Simon Jones

On Thursday a Scottish Select team played a one day event against a CAJ team at Hurlingham. Atsuo Tanaka, Katsumi Kagawa and Martin Selman formed the core of the CAJ side, and were joined by Jerry Guest of the Hurlingham Club. Scotland was represented by Rod Williams, Corla van Griethuysen, Mona Wright and Simon Jones.

The weather was tropical (what else should we have expected from London in July?), and a most enjoyable day was spent by one and all, on and off the closely mown lawns. Trees and a small tent along the south boundary line provided welcome shelter when the going got too hot!

During the day everyone played three games - giving plenty of opportunity for ringing the changes on team mates and opponents. All games were played between roughly balanced sides, and were played without bisques and, in addition, to



The Japanese flag flying over the Southwick clubhouse.

advanced rules. The overall result was Scotland 5, CAJ 2.

Before lunch there were two doubles matches in which Rod Williams & Mona Wright beat Jerry Guest & Atsuo Tanaka, and Corla van Griethuysen & Simon Jones beat Martin Selman & Katsumi Kagawa. We took lunch on the patio of Hurlingham House, the club's

It's all in the head!

The normal length of a croquet mallet head is nine inches, but over the last two years some experiments have been going on. Several players now play with longer headed mallets; Stephen Mulliner and Peter Turner both currently use a 12 inch head, whilst John Walters' mallet head measures a full 14 inches.

The Southern Championships in September saw some success for the long mallet heads. Stephen Mulliner won the main competition, the South of England Championship, while John Walters won the Y Handicap and Peter Turner the X Handicap competitions.

In an effort to find out how long a mallet head can be before it becomes unplayable, two even longer mallets have been made; one of 16 inches and one of 21 inches. This is even longer than a 20 inch mallet head that Arthur Lillie experimented with at the turn of the century.

The 21 inch head was found to be difficult to play with but the long slim head did have a unique feature. When the first ball was struck with it, there was an extraordinary boinging noise. The ball



Stephen Mulliner with his long headed mallet.

was examined to see if that was causing it, but the ball was alright. After a few more shots and other extraordinary sounds it was found that the long mallet head was acting like a xylophone key. The world's first musical mallet.

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International News

modest home; buffet, beer and congenial chat engendered a suitably relaxed start to the afternoon's events.

The afternoon started with a doubles match and two singles matches, in which the Japanese had the opportunity to show their individual mettle. Rod Williams & Corla van Griethuysen beat Jerry Guest & Martin Selman, Mona Wright lost to Katsumi Kagawa, and Simon Jones beat Atsuo Tanaka. Afternoon tea on the veranda was a necessary interlude to revive thirsty players. To finish off the day we again



Tea on the lawns at Southwick during the Japanese visit.

played two doubles matches. Rod Williams & Simon Jones lost to Jerry Guest & Katsumi Kagawa, and Corla van Griethuysen & Mona Wright beat Martin Selman & Atsuo Tanaka.

Play continued quite late; then a quick change of clothing and dinner in the club. We lingered over dinner, exchanging thoughts about croquet in our respective countries, and exchanging invitations for further international croquet visits.

As will be evident, the day was well spent, both in playing croquet and in forging social and sporting links. Many thanks to our hosts in London, and to our new Japanese friends.

England v Japan

Report by Bernard Neal

For the match against England the

CAJ were reinforced by John Solomon, Bernard Neal and Dennis Shaw. The format was ad hoc, but each genuine CAJ team member played one single. All games were on handicap.

It soon became apparent that the visitors had profited from their previous day's experience of the Hurlingham lawns, after the bewilderingly fast conditions at Southwick. Breaks were compiled with the aid of bisques, and there was a notable performance by Katsumi Kagawa, who completed an all-round break against Peter Danks and Alan

Oldham using only 3 bisques, and in so doing displayed a complete range of strokes and an excellent temperament.

At the end of a close contest the visitors had won by 5-3, and as on the previous day the proceedings concluded with a leisurely meal in the Rose Garden.

Overall, the CAJ tour was very successful, although it was evident that the visitors would have benefited much more if their stay had been one or two weeks longer. Friendships were renewed and fresh ones made. Above all, the lasting impression was of the great enthusiasm displayed by each team member, and this will surely result in further growth of the game in Japan.



Ian Burrige, Colchester Grammar School.

Schools

Nottingham: 12 July THE ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND NATIONAL SCHOOLS HANDICAP CHAMPIONSHIP

Wrekin take Schools Title

Report by David Isgrove

(late of Bishop Vesey's GS; now at Queen Mary's GS, Walsall)

Despite murky weather with threatening clouds to the east, the Nottingham Club's lawns looked immaculate against the green backdrop of tree and laurel with the darkened lake listlessly moving beside lawn one.

Here, Alan Griffiths (6), (BVGS), was playing Dulwich College's Richard Suffern (20). He appeared rather complacent as he slowly but surely forged ahead whilst Richard took three turns to bring his red round to 4-back. Meanwhile, double banking on this lawn after arriving 20 minutes late due to traffic problems (remember the Wednesday rail strikes?), Wrekin's Robert Probyn (9) took 2 bisques to set up a 4 ball break, and then rapidly warmed up by taking brown round to penult with lan's balls nicely split in opposite corners. However when Robert's green stuck in hoop 3 with his last bisque used, his opponent Ian Burrige (3) from Colchester GS hit in, but to no avail. After a lot of cat and mouse play, the game went to time with a win for Robert +10. Whilst this was going on, Alan Griffiths played a 9 hoop break in the other game to take yellow to rover, quickening his pace to win 26-5.

On lawn 2, Dulwich's Tom Gillie (20) playing BVGS Kev Cooper (15) used his 5 bisques to get round to 1 and 2 back - tactical play improving by leaps and bounds (as always in these competitions). Peeling at 2 back and preventing Kev from ever getting back into the game, he took them round to penult and rover, and half an hour later had won convincingly +16. Doublebanking, Wrekin's John Simon (10) played consistently, also improving after the first hour although only managing at most a 5 hoop break to get to 4 and 2 back. Despite getting stuck in rover after peeling through penult, he just managed to peg out both balls after time had been called to win 26-5. Jonathan Carruthers-Jones (18) from Colchester had hardly had a look in.

Lawn 3 saw piecemeal play with no player getting into their stride for some time. Making intermittent hoops Nicholas Bowden (Wrekin 16) just managed to stay ahead of Robin Harbord (18) by +3 on time. Justin Marks (15) for BVGS beat Dulwich's Peter Battley (20) +5 on time with both players never managing more than 2 or 3 hoop breaks at the most.

Summary:

BVGS beat Dulwich 2-1.

Wrekin beat Colchester 3-0.

Round 2 began with lunch.... LUNCH?

The School meals service sandwiches (promising much but giving little), sausage roll, sticky bun and yoghurt - healthy for school children? Most players were near or over 18 and, for the National Finals, dry sandwiches for both lunch AND tea was VERY poor service, especially when compared to last year's delectable salad - plus the fact that some players had been travelling since 4.30am.

Is it because school's play is still regarded in some circles as second class and to be treated as 'school-outing-ish'? Witness the lack of any food at all at the National Schools Level Championship at Edgbaston. The blame lies not at the door of the Royal Bank of Scotland. Would this be acceptable at any other National Event? No! Attitudes and service must be changed in order to give schools croquet its due, otherwise it will never rise to the level it should. At the moment, clubs do little to promote it in their local schools and this parochial selfish attitude (schools can't afford decent equipment) could cause school croquet to wither.

The effects of this 'lunch' were seen on lawn 3 with Alan (BVGS) laying up the balls for a 4 ball break for the wrong hoop, whilst lan (C) muffed up his rushes. lan - round to 2 back... Alan 1 back and the fight was on. lan a 10 hoop break yet missing the first peel of a triple 3 times. Then the sun came out, the lawn dried rapidly and momentary over-hitting began to occur. Shorts suddenly appeared in profusion. In desperate straights with his pink still on 1, Alan took his white from 3 back, peeled green through rover to manage a long peg out. However lan ran penult from the North boundary at 50 degrees straight through to the South boundary... then hit a 10 yarder by hoop 4, rushed to rover and finished 26-15! Excellent play. Meanwhile Tom (Dulwich, now down to 18) trotted ahead in short breaks until he experienced a bogey hoop halfway through. While trying 8 attempts to run it, Robert (W) swept past to win by +9.

On lawn 2, Peter (D) had now begun to realise what to do with his shots and by halfway had to slowly but steadily build up a commanding lead of 12-3 which he never lost, despite a valiant effort by Nick (W) winning +2. A closer game saw Justin (BVGS) win +1 on time despite a late inspired break by Robin from Colchester.

Lawn 1 saw Jonathan Simon (W-10) race round with 4, 7 and then 9 hoop

breaks to win 26-1, hardly giving Richard a hit at a ball. Jonathan Carruthers-Jones (C) looked a transformed player against Kev Cooper (BVGS) rushing round to 3 back and 3 with Kev's still on 1 unable to get a look in. His handicap was reduced midgame to 17. Timewasting by an over meticulous style by Jonathan was given a warning by the referee. At last but too late, Kev managed to hit in and get his game together: moving from 16 down, Kevin fought back, running between shots to make up for time wasted and his anger. When time was called 15 minutes later, he was still 8 behind yet he still made up another valiant 4 hoops to lose by 15-19.

Summary:

Colchester beat BVGS 2-1.

Wrekin beat Dulwich 2-1.

So with the final round to come, BVGS needed to win 3 games against Wrekin to win the Championship for the 3rd successive year. If Wrekin won they would be school champions. If they won 3-0 then Colchester could push BVGS into 3rd place. The scene was set for an exciting finish.

Round 3. Dulwich seemed to be suddenly playing in all colours and shoes (even Doc Martins and Jeans) or barefooted. Despite this 'supposed advantage', this round did not auger well for them. On lawn 2, Tom hadn't a clue how to use his bisques but with very unorthodox tactics and good hitting he moved relentlessly on to two on penult having squandered the remainder of his bisques. lan (C) then brought his yellow round to rover with much power and accuracy followed by the traditional split that Tom (D) could do little about. Slowly but surely the lead was whittled away as lan brought his skill into play - red swept round... attempted peel through rover left yellow in its jaws with the croquet shot - but both were carried through on red's spin to meet the awaiting blue. Prostrating himself on the ground for the pegout at 4 metres brought dividends as he won



And Justin just goes on and on... Nick Ford (BVGS) reviewing his tactics at Himley at one of the Schools Regional Finals.

+5. In Colchester's other 2 games, Jonathan beat Richard +12 on time even though, to quote Richard 'I was just about to make a brilliant come back as well!', and Robin lost to Peter by 11 on time. Colchester had won by 2-1.

Wrekin or Vesey? They had met many times over the last 2-3 years with Vesey always winning..... could the tide turn?

On lawn 2 Robert (W) moved steadily ahead until Alan pulled back with an 8 hoop break to 8-12. At this point two Wrekin players both got stuck in 4 back at the same moment on lawns 2 and 3. However, Robert relentlessly moves on to green on rover, keeping Alan split and fuming quietly to himself. Then, after hitting in, Alan peels Robert's brown through 3 and 4 back. Was this a mistake?... Leaving Alan another impossible shot to hit in, Robert then ran rover and pegs out to win 26-9 at 6.14pm.

On lawn 3, Kevin (BVGS) played steadily, conserving bisques while Jon, tense under the pressure of his opponent's unused bisques, made a series of mistakes, finding it difficult to keep his breaks going - fairly even at 8-10 to Jon Simon. Then came the turning point - Kev used his last bisque and Jon visibly relaxed - hit in and made a 6 hoop break... by 6pm, he was jammed in penult.

Vesey began to see their title slowly slipping out of their grasp in the waning sunlight as on lawn 1 Justin and Nick played very very slowly, hoop by hoop in the slanting shadows of the afternoon sun. 6.07pm. The sensible spectators are now sitting in the shade. Robert and Jon both holding the initiative despite the latter breaking down at 3 back in the middle of a decent break.

6.25pm. Continually leaving Kevin split up, Jon makes one or two hoops between times. Having gone ahead in both remaining games, defensive play seemed to take over. 6.35pm. On lawn 1 Justin and Nick have managed to make another couple of

hoops over the past 45 minutes, Nick still keeping the lead as the sun creeps lower. Without a time limit this one could go on all night.

6.45pm. Wrekin take the title as Jon in a sudden burst of energy sweeps through to win 26-12.

6.50pm. The epic ultra defensive match goes on.

7.00pm. The University bell tolls. A 4 hoop break by Nick! Gosh! Oh dear, more indecisive splitting and sticking.

7.20pm. A Russian Orthodox Priest went by, pushing a push chair with a child!!! The most exciting thing for sometime.... In desperation time is called at 7.33pm. Nick winning.

And so Wrekin College win for the first time, Colchester scrape into 2nd place, pushing last year's winner's Bishop Vesey's into 3rd place.

To quote the representative from our sponsors, The Royal Bank of Scotland.

'A very pleasant evening... a mystery to me... but we are delighted to continue supporting this event for the next 3 years. We thank them very much.

However as Peter Dorke, the manager said, 'We need to pick up both in standard of play and the number of teams entered.... and we thank David for reporting - it kept



Peter Dorke, who managed the Schools Finals at Nottingham, takes a bite to eat at Himley.

him out of trouble.... and Nottingham for the loan of their excellent lawns!'

Perhaps this year's finals were at times like the sandwiches - promising much but giving little - yet there was the thrill of the occasion, the battles and improvements, the experiences and the fun - that made it all worthwhile.

Next year - could it be your local school - with your help?

NB final round score:
Wrekin beat Bishop Vesey's 3-0.
Colchester beat Dulwich 2-1.

To be Published in November 1989

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Schools

Tournament Weeks

Roehampton: 5-10 June P.G. Tops in South West London

Report by 'an antique Ro(e)man' (Hamlet Act V, scene 2)

An enthusiastic manager and good weather are two important ingredients of an enjoyable tournament, and at Roehampton this June we had one in full measure, the other in part.

Paul Macdonald ensured that every entrant had lots of play (perhaps too much for some!). He was, however, too busy making sure that we all had plenty of games to give his full attention to the weather. On the first day the lawns were very dry and fast, with many games going to time. The deluge overnight caused more difficulty and two of the three lawns were flooded when play was due to start on Tuesday morning. Thanks to a willing team of sweepers and the use of two very effective squeegees borrowed from the Roehampton Club golf course (plus a brief spell of triple banking) the games were soon back on schedule.

How did we manage to get so much croquet? All the singles events were played as American blocks, with play-offs (criss-cross where appropriate or possible) which gave a minimum of 8 games

for players who had entered for all three events (2 singles and one double) and a maximum of 14.

In the premier event, John Greenwood from Parsons Green wrestled the Ranelagh Gold Cup from the hands of Jerry Guest who had held it for the last two years. The event was played as 2 blocks with criss-cross play-offs; Jerry won his block but lost in the play-off to the runner up of the other block, the popular Kiwi, Charles Jones. In the final John beat Charles for the second time but on this occasion by a much smaller margin.

The 'B' class event, the Brooke Cup, also played as 2 blocks, was won by Pauline Healy from Parsons Green who beat Pat Macdonald (Roehampton) in the play-off (time did not permit criss-cross on this occasion). The 'C' class event, the Thorpe Cup, was played as a single American Block, with Jeremy Glyn and Richard Hoskyns, two Hurlingham players playing at Roehampton for the first time (and how good it was to see a number of Hurlingham players at Roehampton!), finishing first and second respectively.

at the end of the week, more peels completed in the other classes. Yet through the heat haze, fascinating cameos could dimly be glimpsed; one comes to expect angst about hoop running being exhibited with the Elliot/Collis school of setting being followed, and this was duly observed. Somewhat more surprising was the Rules Argument, coming not as one might expect, from the 'D' class, merged with the 'C', incidentally, but from our great leaders again. Naturally one feels humbled by their presence and so on, but may I be permitted to pass a simple observation upon the course of this sad episode? The spectacle of the Chairman of the Laws Committee being telephoned after an infringement of Law 32, and after a clear ruling from the ROT, was hardly balm to the eyes, and such incidents can only be discouraged.

Enough of this petty moralising though. I hear the cries of the GCP demanding some solid fact, some inkling of what actually transpired in the games. Well, as Molesworth would have it, wot can i sa? The most significant shock must surely have been the ruthless dismissal of the gallant duo Budd/Collis in the doubles by a newly resurrected Hetherington/Hetherington team. I was so looking forward to the trophies too...

The big handicap (the Trevelyan Bowl) was played according to the Bray Formula, with 18-point games played as 1st and 3-back, and 22-point games played as a 1st and 5th hoop (the latter was a novelty to the author and generally seemed to be popular). American blocks again, four this time, with a big criss-cross play-off.

The result was particularly interesting. The runner-up of one of the blocks, Alex Thomas from Surbiton, fought his way to the final where he met, and beat, the person who had won his block. Surely a justification for those who believe in criss-cross play-offs and just as surely a condemnation of it for those who don't (including perhaps the winner of the block in question,

John Greenwood who had beaten Alex quite easily on the first occasion).

The Doubles event (the Creyke Cups) had a conventional single life knock out format, resulting in a third title for P.G., in the persons of John Greenwood and Christine Osmond, against Pat and Paul Macdonald from Roehampton.

Roehampton tournaments are always good fun, and this early summer week fulfilled its promise of congenial company (enhanced this year by visitors from the Channel Islands and New Zealand), good catering, warm weather and some wonderful croquet. What more could we have wished for?

RESULTS

Ranelagh Gold Cup

(2 blocks, advanced play: 8 entries)

Block Play-Off

J.D. Greenwood bt C.E. Jones +8.

Brooke Cup

(2 blocks, advanced play: 8 entries)

Block Play-Off

Mrs Healy bt Mrs Macdonald +3(T).

Thorpe Cup

(All-play-all, handicap play: 6 entries)

Winner: J. Glyn.

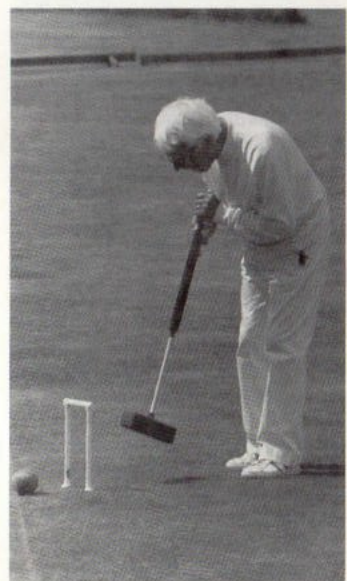
Creyke Cups

(Handicap play: 8 pairs)

Final

J.D. Greenwood & Mrs Osmond (12) bt Mr & Mrs P. Macdonald (7) +6.

RYDE: June Tournament



William Broad-Thomas, runner-up in the 'A' class.

Burridge/Hallett also had a surprise victory over Fulford/Clarke; with Burridge and Fulford both off the lawn, Hallett was left on three, Clarke on four. Connoisseurs at this point nodded wisely and went in for a quick G&T before lunch, yet what do we see? Gerald whisked round and finished before Clarke had even begun to think of four-back. I chuckled with the rest of them, only to find myself Gerald's next victim in his stunning one-ball display, this time in the last game of the 'C' class. Yet I digress... the various books that were being kept on the outcome of the various events were hurriedly adjusted, but all in vain; waiting in the wings were Elliott/Cornelius who finally snatched the Clark and Cork trophies amidst a storm of teeth-grashing from the other gallant competitors.

Considering the testing conditions, it was not too much of a surprise not to see any runaway winners in the classes, with Fulford, Paul Hetherington and Budd coming up top in the lucky dip, and Jonathan Collis and Ian Burridge being successful in the X and Y. I realise that John Walters will be disappointed not to get a mention in this report, but that's the way the cookie crumbles. Thanks to all who helped run the week - but be on your guard; next year there is now bound to be at least three times the number of entries....

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Parkstone: 28 August - 2 September A Family Weekend

Report by Rosemary & Donald Gugan

Arrivals at Parkstone were greeted by a new world record of 126 hours continuous play. No, not a handicap doubles match (they often seem longer), nor notice of the manager's expectations, only a sponsored tennis event.

Most of the week was glorious, shorts and sunhats weather, though short evenings and a nip in the air reminded us that autumn was near. The lawns were green - being able to water from one's own spring helps - but very variable; reading them was important and the relatively small number of long breaks suggests that most of us were backward readers. Mercifully, the hoops were fair-to-generous so that not too many games went to time. For this relief much thanks.

There were several family successes. John Green won the C class handicap Swiss 4/4, while wife Margaret was a runner-up (with Terry Wood) in the X handicap doubles. Rosemary Gugan had a clean sweep 5/5 in the B class level Swiss, while husband Donald won the Y handicap Swiss after Frank Shergold, near time, bravely tried an all-or-nothing peel of his balls at 2-back while accompanied by his opponents ball, also for 2-back.

In the A class, Terry Wood has his name on the massive Bournemouth Bowl for something like the sixth time, having won what proved to be the crucial first game against runner-up David Cairns +26TP; David's rueful consolation was that at least he didn't make any errors. Derek Wood had the temerity not only to knock his father out of the X handicap singles, but also with the assistance of James Mays to beat him in the final of the X handicap doubles. 'Watch it, son', as they say.

A three way tie was narrowly avoided in the B class, to the managers' manifest relief. Rosemary on 4 wins was playing Sheila Scarr on 3, with Edward Duckworth already with his maximum of 4 wins rooting hard for Sheila. Edward, despite a grumble that he might as well be playing with a railway sleeper, had built up a formidable points score which he hoped would compensate for his loss to Rosemary. On this occasion the managers' prayers prevailed; it was a close thing though, +3 to Rosemary on time.

About a third of us were visitors to Parkstone, the furthest travellers being Carole Knox and Nelson Leech from South Africa; fellow-officers of the CA there, they formed an ad-hoc doubles pair here. Carole took delivery of her eleven-inch-head mallet during the tournament. It was promptly christened 'Big Bertha', but unlike that notorious weapon proved remarkably accurate for long shots: was it because they suspected an offensive weapon to be in use on the lawns that the police visited early on Thursday morning, or were they looking for a missing railway sleeper? Who knows?

Thanks are due to Dennis Moorcraft who managed a busy week with quiet efficiency, and to Margaret McMordie who gave him great assistance. Thanks too to the ladies who produced the excellent lunches, and also coffee and teas, with engaging good humour, not to mention all the willing hands in the bar. We had a splendid week: one first-timer admitted to having felt apprehension beforehand, but this rapidly changed to enjoyment and she is enthu-

siastic about returning next year. That must be a sign that it was a good tournament.

RESULTS

Bournemouth Bowl

(Swiss, advanced play: 10 entries)

Winner: T.I. Wood (4 wins).

Deshon Cup

(Swiss, advanced play: 13 entries)

Winner: Mrs R. Gugan (5 wins).

Halse Salver

(Swiss, handicap play: 8 entries)

Winner: J. Green (10) (4 wins).

Bishop Cup

(Knockout, handicap play: 32 entries)

Semi-Finals

R.F. Bailey (½) bt C.F. Moon (6½) +17; D.M. Wood (6)

bt D.W. Trotman (5) +18.

Final

Bailey bt Wood +14.

Autumn Doubles Cups

(Knockout, handicap play: 16 pairs)

Semi-Finals

D.M. Wood & J.O. Mays (14) bt D. Charsley-Thomas

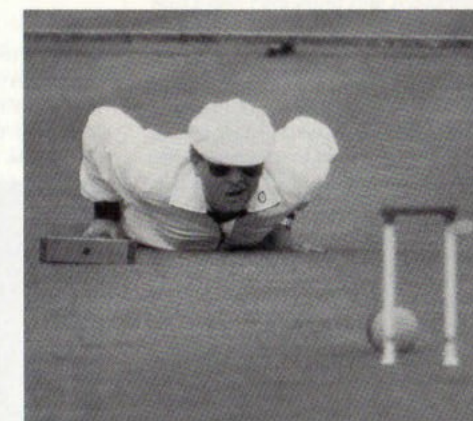
& Mrs E.B. Wilton (14½) +4; T.I. Wood & Mrs M. Green

(9½) bt F.L. Shergold & Mrs B.R. Saunders (7) +14.

Final

Wood & Mays bt Wood & Mrs Green +9.

Weekend Tournaments



David Cairns lining up a peel.

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Your Letters

Full-Bisque Play

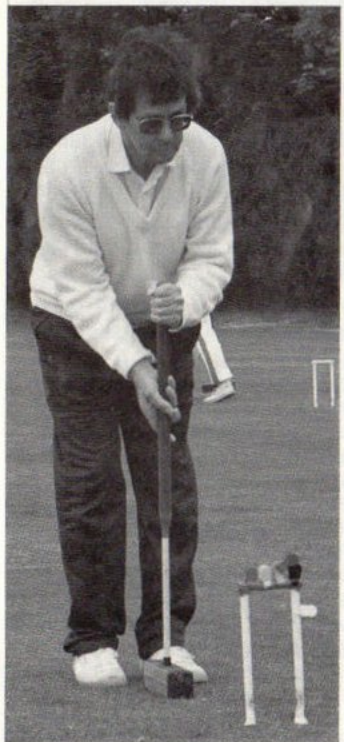
Dear Sir,
Edgar Jackson pointed out in his letter published in your September issue that, as usual, Cheltenham is in the forefront of experimentation. He goes on to put the case for full-bisque play in handicap games.

Indeed, Cheltenham is as innovative and bold as ever and this is just one of the reasons why I am proud to be one of its members. However, Edgar omits to mention that this particular experiment is not successful and is met with near universal unpopularity among members.

It is especially unfortunate that this experiment was made in the club's premier handicap tournament, the Mackay Bowl, an event with a long history and great tradition. However, this is a matter for the club, not for readers of 'Croquet'.

Edgar puts forward two reasons for supporting full-bisque handicap play: firstly to shorten games and secondly because of inadequacies in our present handicapping system.

The first of these reasons is hollow. To artificially shorten the game does not add to its attraction. The effect of both opponents having bisques is, we have found in the Mackay, to turn each game into a 'who can get and keep a long break first' type of lottery that one sees too much in A-Class. It must be acknowledged that B and C-Class players enjoy the cut and thrust, the scramble of the present game.



Paul Stoker, now domiciled in the Lake District where he hopes to develop some local croquet facilities.

If the aim is simply to shorten games there are other well-tested devices such as time limits, 18-point games between C-Class or 'Short Croquet'. If we are going to experiment further, what next: smaller balls or fewer hoops?

Edgar's second point is very real. The current handicap system does not work ideally. It is quite true that the higher the handicap, the lower the proportion of wins. In theory everyone should stand a 50% chance of winning every match. The only possible flaw in this argument is that improvement brings with it greater consistency. It is not unusual in any handicapped sport to see a slight bias in results towards the better performer. This is certainly true of golf and horse racing.

However, it cannot be disputed that croquet handicapping does not work especially well in this country just now and an overhaul would be justified. I should like to see less subjectivity and more formula applied. For instance, any player that wins/loses 75%/25% of his last 12 handicap games automatically goes up/down a step. (I would stress the need to rigorously increase handicaps too - there is an unnecessary 'status attitude' attached to low handicaps).

The replacement of differenced handicap games by full-bisque play is not the answer. Edgar, please think again.

Kevin Carter,
Beenham, Berks.

Some Replies

Dear Sir,
Having received my copy of 'Croquet' this morning, I would like to reply to some of your other correspondents. First, to Leslie Riggall, whose rather Draconian interpretation of Law 49 is fortunately inaccurate.

A player's right to ask the Adversary for information relating to the state of the game is indeed Law 44; the Adversary's obligation to give it is lower down the page at Law 45(b). Examples of details of the state of the game in Law 44 include, 'whether an error has been committed', which - in the case of playing the wrong ball, playing when not entitled to, etc. - does indeed 'involve a penalty', and makes Mr. Riggall's distinction between different errors irrelevant.

Some time ago, I asked for a definition of 'about to play the wrong ball' or 'about to run the wrong hoop'. It was not forthcoming, and therefore it is at the discretion of the Adversary, as a referee of the game, to decide when such a state of affairs obtains.

However, when the Striker has ceased to play, and is in the act of requesting information, no sophist in the World could argue that he was 'about to play' the wrong ball - how does the Adversary know which ball the Striker is about to play, if the Striker himself does not know? He is clearly NOT about to play the wrong ball, and Law 49(b) does not apply. The Adversary MUST (Law 45(b)) now tell him not which ball to play (advice and unsolicited), but which ball he is entitled to play (information and SOLICITED). If the Adversary is Mr Rignall, and he refuses to do so, the Striker must not consult the spectators (vide Law 45(f)) but he may, and ought to, call a referee.

Sarah Hampson is right in decrying the Ranking System. Not only does it encourage stupid behaviour among the ambitious but unconfident, but my continued high ranking after my performance up to the end of July has convinced me of the system's uselessness in assessing any player's form. Other figures confirm this. Luckily, the Selectors, whatever the merits of their current practices, seem to ignore these figures entirely. But is Miss Hampson a trifle over-concerned that other players are not having fun? I can say that I have immense fun, and play Croquet for no other reason. I cannot share her enthusiasm for missing short roquets, although I experience vicarious pleasure when another player is involved! I can only hope, as I believe, that the ambitious (who may have their own problems, poor dears) derive enough pleasure from winning to compensate for the distress of taking part. I think that the feature of the Rankings that is most misleading is the weighting of games in different competitions. A trivial plate game in the depths of some weekend Swiss is worth 2/3 of a World Championship game, and it is possible to ruin one's record simply by having a bit of fun in events which have been designed to provide just that. I suggest that consolation events (excepting the du Pre Cup and the Association Plate) should not be considered in calculating the National and World Rankings. I also hope that Miss Hampson's point about the length of tournament reports is well noted.

I also agree with Richard Danby, that a cash prize ought to be a respectable figure, or else that an original memento should be presented. Mr Danby has forgotten to mention the most galling current practice of all. I refer to the habit of many clubs, of insisting that the miserable sum presented is not in

fact a prize, but a consideration to cover the player's expenses in having the trophy engraved! Oh...What! Let clubs look after their own property, please: let them allow for the expense in the tournament budget, and award what other prizes they think fit, but cease this pitiful fostering.

Fostering is also out of place when dealing with the Laws of the game. I take this opportunity to plead for the restoration of the previous forms of Law 15(d) and Regulation 5(h), which deal respectively with whether a ball pegged out, though still a ball in play, may cause other balls to score points, and with the new powers of a Referee in Charge to alter the court setting at any time.

Both these rules were simpler and more logical in their earlier forms; onto the former there has now been grafted a gratuitous exception to the established principle that a ball pegged out remains in play until the end of the stroke in which it is pegged out, and this exception deals with a situation which is so rare that I have never encountered an instance. In any case, how is it fairer that such a ball, if it subsequently strikes another ball and peels it, **prevents** that ball from subsequently scoring, than if it **causes** it to score? Both occurrences are equally flukes, and so the established principle should continue.

The established principle that has been tampered with in the Regulation is that nobody should fool about with the position of items of court equipment when the position is critical. Surely, if the players are satisfied to play on a court that has been badly set, they must expect that this circumstance will affect their game from time to time. Such situations as hoops being smaller than balls, which I imagine it was the purpose of this Regulation to correct, simply should not arise, and their enshrinement in the Laws will in no wise cause them to arise less often, but on the contrary, will help to establish them as common hazards like those dealt with in Law 24. The Laws are long and complicated enough already: adding further refinements and exceptions will not improve them but it will make them more prolix and difficult to understand. Leave such matters to the structure of precedents and rulings under Law 51, as conducted by the Goodly Fellowship (or is it the Noble Army?) of referees.

Simon Williams,
Shankhill, Eire.

World Championship

Dear Sir,
The one disappointing aspect of an otherwise enthralling visit to Hurlingham for World Championships was the total absence of any of the equipment makers. I gather there had been a few mallets on one stall selling knick-knacks, but they had all gone by the time I arrived on the Thursday.

It is quite difficult to find a variety of mallets to test for weight, length of handle, shape and texture of grip etc and I had been sure there would be a selection of stands with Jaques, Matchplay, Townsend, Walker etc, anxious to advertise and sell their products. Would it not be worth encouraging them, for the general benefit of the game and as a service to members, to be represented at, say, one outstanding meeting each year, announcing beforehand who will be there and on which days?

Tony Backhouse,
Ascot.

Dear Sir,
I read with great interest Martin Murray's 'Comment' on page 3 of the September 1989 edition of 'Croquet', detailing the unparalleled success of the Continental Airlines World Championship at Hurlingham.

However, in his fulsome praise of all concerned, he seems to have made an important omission by not mentioning either the Financial Times or Country Life.

Both these worthy publications gave considerably more space to croquet this season than either The Times or Daily Telegraph (which both received careful mention). The Financial Times produced a good two thousand words - some one thousand five hundred more than the combined coverage of the other two organs, and Country Life ran a series of five, seven hundred word articles which documented every 'major' tournament this year.

Both publications run short on 'space' for sports. Country Life is predominantly an Arts magazine and the FT carries only two articles on sport per week - on the back page of the Saturday paper. Even so, the Sports Editor found room for Croquet on the day of the World Championship finals. Quite an achievement for the game but still not enough, it seems, to warrant a word of acknowledgement in your magazine.

Nicky Smith,
London.

Having carefully re-read Martin's article, I can find no mention of The Times or The Daily Telegraph. Be that as it may, I would be very reluctant to enter into a debate about the precise number of words on croquet published by any particular newspaper.

The important fact is that this year many major national newspapers and magazines have given extended coverage to croquet, both during the World Championship and throughout the season.

The help of Nicky Smith and other journalists in promoting croquet is much appreciated, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for all their efforts on our behalf. - Ed.

Split Rolls

Dear Sir,
I apologise if my reply to Mr Purdon's letter seemed patronising, but it was intended only to convey a mildly admonitory tone because he implied that I overlooked the matter of split angle when in fact it was made clear that I was concerned with zero split angle.

Like croquet balls, we who play the game and expose our views in 'Croquet' need rather thick skins. After all, I have had to 'endure' a succession of articles, letters, and cartoons trivialising the topic of my original submission. Do I mind? Not at all - they have been rather

good and very enjoyable.

Anyway I will answer Mr Purdon's main question. If one accepts that a roll ratio of 2-1 is the maximum permissible in a straight roll stroke, and that the striker's ball travels further as the split angle increases from zero, then a ratio greater than 2-1 may be legally achieved the instant any split is introduced. The finite size of croquet balls, and the fact that the ratio 2-1 is actually an approximation for 49-25, introduce small corrections. However, I do not think anyone is interested in such 'second-order' effects in a game so beset by other sources of inaccuracy.

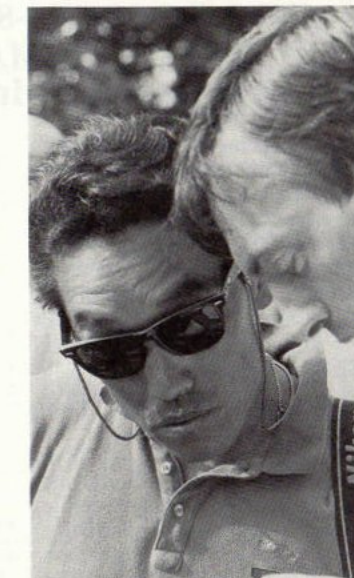
Eric Solomon,
London.

Twisting the Laws

Dear Sir,
Leslie Riggall writing from the clear heights of Natal is, of course, absolutely right. It is not good form to ask anyone at all which colours one is playing with, let alone which ball.

Alas, with growing age and our smog ridden climate, one's memory is not always what it was. Indeed, I believe that some of my contemporaries walk on court knowing they only have a 3-1 chance of striking the right ball.

More interesting, however, is an incident that happened recently. Whilst sitting out enduring the agony of watching my opponent going right the way round, I took the opportunity of chatting up a particularly charming lady standing at the first corner, contiguous to another court. Eventually she indicated my opponent had finished his mayhem. At that particular moment there was no-one on either court. Without more ado, I inadvertently strode on to the wrong court and shot my correct colour, in this instance, with such gusto that it went clean off court and roqueted a ball in the correct



Charles Randall of the Daily Telegraph interviews Japanese Champion Toru Takano at the World Championship.

court.

Sir, apart from being expelled from the club, should any other penalty have been inflicted and if so under which law?

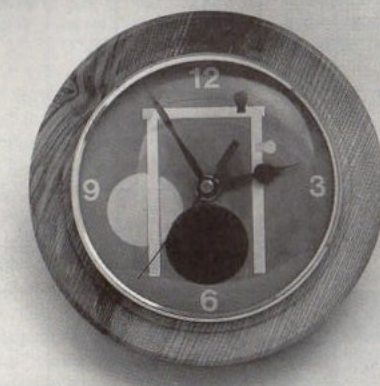
Philip Joseph,
Hurlingham.

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Your Letters

Invitation Events

Budleigh Salterton: 4-8 September THE 1989 CHAIRMAN'S SALVER David Maugham wins Salver

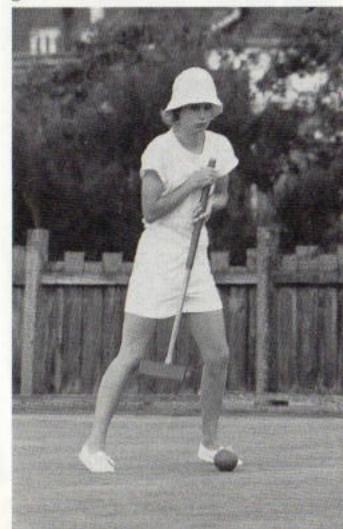
The 8 challengers arrived to learn that Budleigh had had no rain since late May and having suffered hose-pipe bans for a couple of months beforehand resulting in one lawn closed, 7 others so fast as to be virtually unplayable with the remaining 3 a little better but still fairly fast (they had been watered a little by bucket).

On the first morning, Martin French set the President's Cup hoops imported from London to sub-Presidential width, very tight in the ground due to the conditions which resulted in hoop running becoming a much more specialised art which some found harder to acquire than others. It is a pity that the President's Cup cannot be played under such intensely difficult conditions and to give that event the variety it deserves, in place of innumerable triple peels etc. The Chairman's saw only one TP completed, appropriately by French, and in the conditions it was inevitable that it started by a rush peel through 4-back and ended with an 8-yard peg-out.

Your reporter only agreed to do so on the last day, so this report consists only of highlights of games written by the players.

Comish v. Reeve, 2nd series. - Nothing of note till Comish peg and peg with Reeve 6 and 4-back, but Comish laid up with a rush to peg. The crowd consisted mainly of those black-pudding eating Northerners, David Maugham and Russell Collighan. Having noticed that Reeve had hit no shots longer than 4 yards in the game (and missed one much shorter) they thought it a safe bet to offer Duncan a pint if he hit the 'last shot' from 20 yards. With this stimulation, he hit centre ball amid cries of 'Ecky Thump' from the boundary. Having made a hoop and broken down, he hit the next long shot. Nevertheless he stuck in 4-back and Comish finished next turn.

Guest v. Reeve, 2nd series - this game resumed 30 minutes before



Debbie Cornelius, a lone lady in the Eights.

dark on Thursday evening after a wretched game the previous day pegged down when Reeve was peg and rover against peg and 3. Reeve soon made rover with no rush to peg so rolled to peg and pegged out 1 ball. Guest hit from 2nd corner, got going but missed a cut rush from a foot after making penult. Several times Reeve prevented from distant shots at peg due to Guest guarding the opposite boundary. Near finish Guest laid up on east boundary with rush to rover but opponent hit peg from west boundary in almost darkness.

Foulser v. French, 1st series - Game became interesting early on when Foulser lived up to his promise of playing with gay abandon, as he had lost all 3 games on the opening day by playing carefully but finding the 'French' hoops very difficult. He was quickly to 4-back followed by French hitting in but sticking in fourth. Foulser picked up a splendidly difficult break and tried a spectacular delayed TP with huge 'Murray rolls' all over the lawn giving French heart attack at almost every shot. Two peels were achieved till Rover was failed but French missed and lost next turn.

Cornelius v. French, 1st series - On lawn 4, the worst of the four used, it took 3½ hours for French to be 4 and 4-back and Debbie 6 and 2-back when it was pegged down on Monday and resumed on Friday prior to the last round. If French won, he had only to beat Maugham in the 14th round to win the event, but if he lost, he played for a tie-break. Debbie got in first and went to 2-back with backward ball. French hit in and went to peg and penult before giving away the innings. Debbie went to peg and pegged out an oppo ball. Lots of careful play followed until eventually Debbie scrambled round but only managed to peg out one ball. Martin made penult and rover whilst Debbie kept missing. After making rover, French had a 14 yard shot at Debbie's ball by peg which 'hilled' off to lose the game.

Collighan v. French, 1st series - Game became marvellous for the large tea time crowd after Foulser



David Maugham, Chairman's Salver winner.

pegged out an oppo ball, leaving Collighan on penult with his other ball on 4-back. Russell was prevented from shooting for a long time by wonderfully classic wiring which saw the last hoops made in the process, Russell then hit two long shots and made the penultimate hoop. However, Foulser then hit partner ball from a distance and laid up with a 2 inch rush to the peg behind hoop 4 wired from enemy ball on the west boundary by 4th and 5th hoops. Collighan pondered what to do for what seemed an eternity as there seemed nothing he could do. Finally he decided to shoot even though he conceded there was nothing showing. Amazingly he went between the two hoops and somehow hit and then finished in that turn to annoy and frustrate his opponent whom he agreed had left a perfect leave.

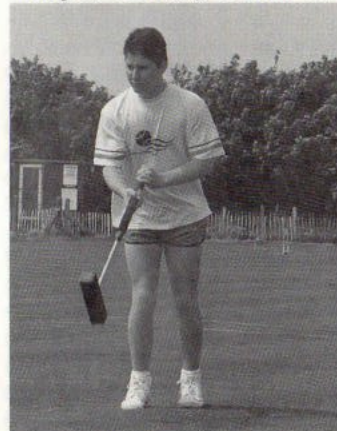
Comish v. French, 2nd series - After a dour tactical battle with lots of cornering French ended up on rover and peg with Comish for 1 and 4. The latter chose that moment for his first long roquet and went to 4-back with tight control. The lift was hit but rover stuck in from a foot. After a few more turns Comish succeeded in getting backward ball to peg giving French much cause for anxiety with several long angled hoops. French missed the final lift resulting in Comish managing to finish and win +3 with a desperate turn including approaching penult from the north boundary.

Other notable incidents during the week were Maugham hitting peg

from 3rd corner to win when Foulser was set to finish next turn. Guest and Collighan started a game with the hoops set the wrong way round so play halted whilst hoops were adjusted. Play commenced at 9.00 every morning and finished at dusk with several games having to be pegged down. The exception was on Wednesday when Foulser locked himself out of his car with mallet in boot with over an hour of play lost whilst a local locksmith member from Exmouth was called out.

Because the conditions were so tricky, much hoop running was hard to the boundary. Such conditions and/or narrow hoops very often produce such tactics and most of the players agreed that a rule change to advanced rules was desirable to cause a turn to end if a hoop is run off the lawn. This would stop bonking the ball through the hoop at full speed on the basis that brute strength overcomes long and/or angled hoops, requiring players to aim accurately with just enough top spin to achieve success. Ones imagines the innings would also change hands more as a result.

Players' summary of their own



Russell Collighan: 'poorly is an over-statement...'

play:

Collighan - poorly is an over-statement - I'm half Irish.

Comish - not exactly precise - hitting in reasonably.

Reeve - unsure of hitting 8-footers. Maugham - better than everybody else.

Cornelius - well, until Thursday, when paralytically bad.

French - lacking motivation at

Chairman's Salver: 1989	DM	MRF	SC	DAC	DRF	DCR	JEG	RJC	Games Won		Final Total	Order
									1st Series	2nd Series		
D. Maugham		-15 +8	+13 +5	+8 -17	+13 +3	+18 +4	+14 +24	+11 +11	6	6	12	1
M.R. French	+15 -8		+8 -3	-1 +6	-14 +12	+3 +3	+10 +25TP	+8 +5	5	5	10	2
S. Comish	-13 -5	-8 +3		+24 +17	+16 +4	-4 +8	+9 -6	+19 +17	4	5	9	3
Miss D.A. Cornelius	-8 +17	+1 -6	-24 -17		+24 -4	+13 -22	+5 -4	+5 +12	5	2	7	4
D.R. Foulser	-13 -3	+14 -12	-16 -4	-24 +4		+13 +23	+14 -11	-2 +7	3	3	6	5
DC. Reeve	-18 -4	-3 -3	+4 -8	-13 +22	-13 -23		-15 +3	+16 +3	2	3	5	6=
J.E. Guest	-14 -24	-16 -25TP	-9 +6	-5 +4	-14 +11	+15 -3		+17 -10	2	3	5	6=
R.J. Collighan	-11 -11	-8 -5	-19 -17	-5 -12	+2 -7	-16 -3	-17 +10		1	1	2	8

times, except when oppo nearly round.

Guest - trying, very trying, but hit some roquets on the last day.

Foulser - shot very well, but hooped badly.

Regrettably, the event ended on a sour note, for the last round saw Martin French versus David Maugham on the amazingly difficult lawn 4 - cause of most of the pegged down games. If French won they were into a play-off, but if not, Maugham was the trophy winner. French pegged out Maugham leaving oppo for rover only but with French still for 1-back with the other ball. With all the other players watching and many other spectators Maugham shot from 2nd corner at 2 balls near 4th hoop and claimed a roquet to the absolute astonishment of French and virtually everyone else. Maugham hit the ball like a rocket and yet the ball 'roqueted' was not seen to move. Maugham claimed he heard a sound from 25 yards or so that no-one else had heard. One elderly spectator said he had seen the ball move, even though Maugham himself had previously agreed that it had not. Some of the other players intervened to advise Maugham that he should not claim the roquet unless he was absolutely certain he had hit, given the importance and state of the game. He disregarded such comments and took croquet because he said he could not be certain that he had not made the roquet. He made the short rush to rover, and proceeded to win the game and the Salver with no applause from the other players - largely repeated at the presentation. David Maugham's fantastic improvement this season saw him hit everything in sight all week, making him a worthy winner, but had he not claimed that roquet, it is almost inevitable that he would have ended victorious without this sad episode, given his lead, his brilliant shooting, the probability of breakdown by French in tough conditions, and the comfort of a play-off even if that game had been lost.

The Budleigh club were, as ever, splendid hosts in terms of catering, management, friendliness, hot sunny weather throughout and everything else, although manager Ray Stevens found the pegged down element causing him anxious moments. To close I should mention that lawn 7 was probably the most unusual the players have ever encountered. The interior of the lawn was moderately paced but about a yard in front of 4-back, the green grass instantly changed to bare ground which continued over the whole 3rd corner quarter of the lawn. It was virtually impossible to get a decent pioneer from the third, as it either stopped short by a yard or went to the boundary. If short, then even if rushed from very close it still rolled close to the boundary as the lawn was worse than a skating rink. Consequently, great plans had to be made to plan an assault on the 3rd hoop with an extremely high failure rate by all the players.

Southport: 11-15 September THE 1989 LONGMAN BOWL Kismet Whittall wins second 'Six'

Report by Bernard Neal

It proved to be more than usually difficult to assemble six ladies to compete at Cheltenham for the Longman Bowl (the second 'Six'). A variety of circumstances, including confusion over availabilities, led to a situation in which Liz Neal reluctantly agreed at the last minute to make up the numbers. It is clear that in future years the selection process should be begun much earlier.



Kismet Whittall, winner of the Longman Bowl.

The other competitors voted Kismet Whittall as the favourite to win the event. She justified this confidence by romping away with seven consecutive wins, finishing with 9 out of a possible 10. On the second day she registered a win against Better Weitz by +14, and this was to prove decisive in the light of later results. Kismet proved to be a little stronger than her rivals in all departments, and this, coupled with her good temperament, ensured success.

Betty Weitz, who came second, got off to a bad start, winning only one game in the first two days. Thereafter she was unbeaten, but could never recover from this handicap to challenge Kismet seriously, although she did beat her in the eighth round. Notable features of her game were her quickness of thought and play and also the accuracy of her single ball strokes.

Kay Yeoman finished third with 6 wins, largely as a result of her excellent shooting. The hoops were set firmly and were no wider than 3¼ inches, and this made some of Kay's long angled hoops even more remarkable.

Pat Macdonald, with 5 wins, played possibly the most enterprising croquet, but often failed to capitalise on the breaks which she constructed by fallibility on short roquets. She was blissfully unaware in her last match, against Betty Weitz, that if

she had won she would have tied for second place with Betty and also, as it turned out, Kay Yeoman.

Joan Cima and Liz Neal had limited success, but their third round encounter produced the most exciting finish, with Liz winning by +1.

Refereeing duties were shared between Roger and Dab Wheeler, Don Gaunt and Bernard Neal. The

event was managed very efficiently by Betty Weitz, who decided before play started that there would be a 4 hour time limit on all matches. In the event, none of the 30 games went to time, and the average duration of each match was just under 2½ hours.

Only 5 matches took more than 3 hours and the fastest game, between Pat Macdonald and Kay Yeoman, was finished in 1¼ hours. In view of the fact that wet conditions had made the lawns very slow, these timings reflect great credit on all those who took part, and dispelled the myth that Advanced Play at this level causes games to take too long.

Longman Bowl: 1989	KW	BW	KY	PM	JC	LN	Games Won		Final Total	Order
							1st Series	2nd Series		
Mrs K. Whittall		+14 -7	+3 +10	+14 +5	+14 +20	+24 +18	5	4	9	1
Mrs B. Weitz	-14 +7		-15 +6	+9 +7	-5 +20	+15 +17	2	5	7	2
Mrs K. Yeoman	-3 -10	+15 -6		-8 +22	+13 +20	+14 +20	3	3	6	3
Mrs P. MacDonald	-14 -5	-9 -7	+8 -22		+18 +3	+17 +17	3	2	5	4
Mrs J. Cima	-14 -20	+5 -20	-13 -7	-18 -3		-1 +18	1	1	2	5
Mrs L. Neal	+24 -18	-15 -17	-14 -20	-17 -17	+1 -18		1	0	1	6

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Invitation Events

Coaching Comment

By Bill Lamb

I am going to be really aggressive in this game and shoot at everything...

It is quite easy to play against this type of player by setting a trap, so that every missed shot is expensive.

1990 COACHING COURSES

Loughborough Summer School

The Summer School at Loughborough will be held next year from Monday 30th July to Friday 3rd August.

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

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

The course is only open to CA members. It will provide both coaching and competitive play. Major emphasis will be placed on good stroke production.

There will be opportunities for individual coaching on particular difficulties and successful performers will be awarded a handicap at the end of the course.

Full details will be published in the Summer School Brochure, obtainable from: Mrs Shirley Sandover, Loughborough Summer School, University of Technology, Loughborough, LE11 3TU.

The Brochure is issued in January, but you can apply for your copy now.

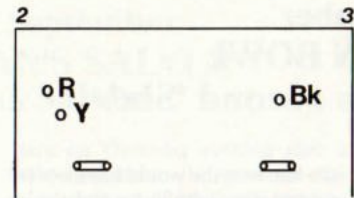
Bookings for the Summer School should be made through Mrs Sandover, but please apply early to make sure of your place - for the past four years, the Summer School has been over-subscribed.

INDOOR CROQUET

One of the CA's Indoor Carpets will be available during the Xmas holiday (16th December to 2nd January) at the Sports Hall at Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School, Blackburn, Lancs.

Those who would like to play, be coached, or organise matches, should contact Andrew Bennet, tel: 0254-678969.

And, of course, don't forget the Soham Weekend (16/17 Dec). See page 3 for details!



next hoop but one, leaving a rush to your next hoop, and so pick up an immediate three-ball break.

Consider the position in the diagram. Red is for hoop 2 and the trap has been set in the second corner. If black shoots and misses, the three-ball break is there for the taking; if he joins up with his partner ball, there is still the rush to hoop 2 for Red with the prospect of sorting the balls out for a break or a good leave afterwards.

Aggressive play has its part in croquet but shooting at everything against a sensible opponent is not aggressive; it is suicidal.

EARLY BIRD BARGAINS Subscriptions for 1990



The payment of subscriptions is due on 1st January 1990. It would greatly assist the Administration Secretary if these could be paid promptly as this not only saves the additional work but also the expense incurred in having to send out reminders.

If paid before the 1st February 1990 you would have the opportunity of being entitled to a discount.

Members who do not pay promptly will not receive the Fixtures Book until their subscription is received.

Last year we received a large number of Standing Orders for the incorrect amount. It would be greatly appreciated if Associates would check the amount with their Bank and alter if necessary, or apply to the Administration Secretary for a new Standing Order.

The 1990 subscription rates are given on column 4 of this page.

Thank you for your assistance.

Brian Macmillan, Administration Secretary.

Course Fee (including accommodation and tuition): £160.



John Jeffrey demonstrating practice routines at the 1989 Loughborough Summer School.

Bisham Abbey Summer School

The Bisham Abbey Summer School for middle bisquers will be held from Monday 21st to Friday 25th May.

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

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

Fee per player £187.50.

Single and double rooms are available, but early booking is advised if specific requirements are to be met. The course is limited to 8 places which will be allocated on a first-come first served basis.

The course is residential and is open only to CA members. The fee includes all accommodation and coaching charges.

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

SUBSCRIPTION RATES 1990

The amounts in brackets are the discounted rates which apply if payment is made before 1st February 1990.

1. THE STANDARD RATE of subscription is £18 (£15). A husband and wife may pay a composite rate of £30 (£24) and both will have all the privileges appertaining to the payment of the STANDARD RATE of subscription except that they will receive only one copy of 'Croquet' and of the Fixtures Book.

2. The VETERANS RATE of subscription is £14 (£12) and applies to those who have attained the age of 65 or over on 31st December 1989.

3. The JUNIOR RATE of subscription is £12 (£10) and applies to those who were under age 21 but not under age of 18 on 31st August 1989.

4. The YOUTH RATE of subscription is £8 (£6) and applies to those who were under the age of 18 on 31st August 1989.

Payment of the rates of subscriptions 1-4 confers full membership benefits.

5. The NON-TOURNAMENT RATE of subscription is £12 (£9) and is available to Golf Croquet players and others who do not intend to enter tournaments in the list of Calendar Fixtures. Associates in this category have full membership benefits except that they do not receive the Fixtures Book and may not enter tournaments (with certain exceptions).

A husband and wife may pay a composite rate of £18 (£15) and both will have all the privileges appertaining to the payment of the NON-TOURNAMENT RATE of subscription except that they will receive only one copy of 'Croquet'.

6. The OVERSEAS RATE of subscription is £35 which covers a period of three years. This rate applies to those who are habitually resident outside the U.K., Channel Isles, and the Isle of Man, and only entitles the subscriber to receive 'Croquet' and to enter tournaments in the list of Calendar Fixtures.

Overseas Associates are asked to remit in sterling or to include an additional sum (equivalent of £5) to cover the bank charges for conversion and collection of non-sterling cheques.

7. NEW MEMBERSHIP. A new member joining after 1st August in any year and paying the current full (i.e. undiscounted) rate of subscription of the appropriate category 1-5 will be entitled to the benefits of that category of membership until 31st December of the following year.

New Associates

Table listing names and addresses of new associates from various locations like Bath, Bowdon, Bristol, etc.

Table listing names and addresses of new associates from various locations like Miss A. O'Connor, T.J. Goleworthy, etc.



Diana Williamson (Southport) playing Short Croquet at Bowdon.

Table listing names and addresses of new associates from various locations like Compton, Budleigh Salterton, etc.

Deaths: With great regret we record the following deaths: G.H. Betts, A.E. Lawrance

1989 MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT DRIVE

The 1989 CA Membership Recruitment Drive will roll over to 1990, so if you would like to help, please contact Chris Hudson...

Recruiting three new members qualifies you for a prize, but any less than this recruited in 1989 will count towards prizes awarded in 1990.

If your club has not yet taken advantage of this offer, please alert your committee!

Handicap Alterations

Table listing names and handicap alteration amounts for various locations like Himley Hall, Ipswich, etc.

Table listing names and handicap alteration amounts for various locations like D.B. Maugham, Prof A. Pidcock, etc.

Table listing names and handicap alteration amounts for various locations like Parkstone, Budleigh Salterton, etc.

Table listing names and handicap alteration amounts for various locations like Compton, Ipswich, etc.

Table listing names and handicap alteration amounts for various locations like Southwick, Ipswich, etc.

Table listing names and handicap alteration amounts for various locations like Cheltenham, Bowdon, etc.

Table listing names and handicap alteration amounts for various locations like Cheltenham, Bowdon, etc.

Edgworth: 24 September A. Griffiths 5 to 4 J.H. Fellows 6 to 5 I. Green 20D16 to 18D14 I. McClelland 4 to 3 1/2

Leicester: 27 September R. White 18 J. Riddington 20 to 18 R.S. Whiting 12 to 11

Budleigh Salterton: 1 October I.B. Brand 1 to 0 Woking: 1 October R. Hayes 6 to 5 T. Backhouse 14 to 11 Mrs G. Pellegrini 18 to 16 Miss M.S. Catling 17 to 16

CA LITERATURE New Price List

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

Laws & Regulations The full Laws of Association and Golf Croquet, and the Regulations for tournament play. Price: £3.00 (\$5.00) P&P 24p.

Basic Laws A summary of the main Laws of the game. Price: 75p (£1.25) P&P 24p.

Croquet Handbook Gives the basic laws and tactics of Short Croquet. Recommended for beginners and garden croquet players. Price: 75p (£1.50) P&P 24p.

Twelve Hints for Beginners A useful booklet for beginners. Price: 75p (£1.25) P&P 24p.

Know the Game: Croquet One of the popular series of KTG booklets. Price: \$1.65 (£1.99) P&P 24p.

History of Croquet by Col Prichard. A well illustrated, complete and interesting book on the history of the game. Price: \$8.95 (£10.00) P&P £1.20.

Croquet by John Solomon. A paper-back edition of the book regarded by many players as essential to all who aspire to first-class play. Price: \$7.00 (£7.95) P&P 50p.

World of Croquet by John McCullough & Stephen Mulliner. Covers the history and development of the game, with chapters on how to play it. Price: \$14.95 (£14.95) P&P £2.00.

Plus One on Time by Don Gaunt. A book for the improving middle-bisquer. Price: \$5.00 (£6.00) P&P 50p.

Teach yourself Croquet By Peter Danks. A new primer for the game. Price: \$7.95 (£7.95) P&P 65p.

Simplified Croquet By Peter Danks. A companion volume to the above. Price: \$7.95 (£7.95) P&P 65p.

Townsend's Croquet Almanack A compendium of croquet records, results, and information. Price £9.90 (\$9.90) P&P 65p.

Play the Game: Croquet By Stephen Mulliner. A new book that introduces players to some of the subtleties of the game. Price £3.66 (\$3.99) P&P 42p.

How to Play: Croquet By Nigel Aspinall. A new introductory step by step guide to playing the game. Price: \$2.95 (\$2.95) P&P 34p.

Other Items (Associates only) Price: \$11.50 (inclusive of VAT). P&P 24p.

Brooches (Associates only) Price: \$3.45 (inclusive of VAT). P&P 24p.

Coaching Videos Price: \$25.00 (£30.00) (inclusive of VAT). P&P 60p.

Channel 4 Video Price: \$23.00 (\$23.00) (inclusive of VAT). P&P 60p.