WE ARE PLEASED
TO BE SPONSORING THE

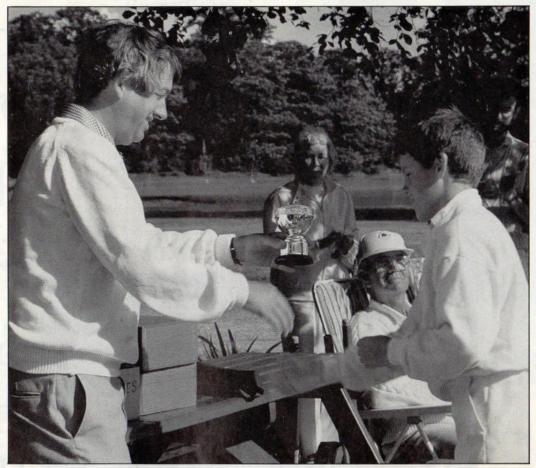
BRITISH OPEN

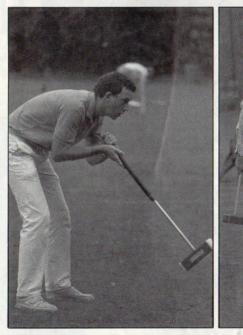
CROQUET CHAMPIONSHIP





November 1989





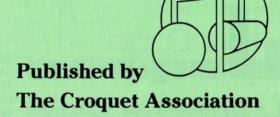


Issue No. 206

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

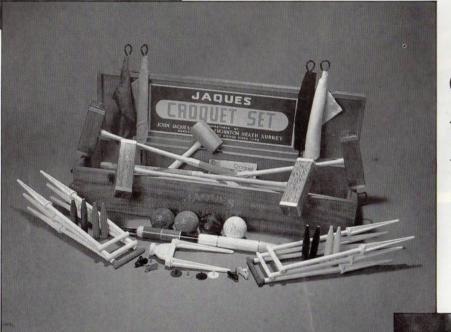
....and lots more

£2.00





JAQUES craftsmanship and style has provided the finest equipment for over 100 years

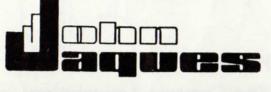


Still leading the way

Selected for the 1989 World Championship

SETS from £75 to £700 Custom Made MALLETS, HOOPS, BALLS etc from £25 to £110

Send for Coloured Brochure and Price List from: -



361 WHITEHORSE ROAD, THORNTON HEATH.

LEADERS IN SPORT PHONE: 01-684 4242

	Page
Championships	
Northerns	
Schools	20,21
Coaches Corner	
Features:	
Early Days	11
Garden Croquet News	
International News	
Invitation Events:	
Chairman's Salver	28,29
Ladies Field	5
Longman Bowl	29
President's Cup	4, 5
Letters	
Obituaries	
Official Business	
Short Story	
Tournaments	6, 7, 8,12
	24.25

CROQUET

Contact Addresses

CA Secretary: Brian Macmillan, The Croquet Association, The Hurlingham Club, Ranelagh Gardens, London SW6 3PR. Tel: 01-736-3148.

Editor: Chris Hudson, The Oaklands, Englesea Brook, Near Crewe, Cheshire CW2 5QW. Tel: 0270-820296.

Advertising: Brian Bucknall, Moonrakers, Goring Road, Woodcote, Reading, Berks. RG8 0QE, Tel: 0491-681746.

Publication Details

'Croquet' is published on the first day of every second month. Copy should reach the Editor on the 20th of the month, two months before the month of issue (i.e. on 20th May for the issue being published on 1st July).

Contributions (except tournament reports and results) and photographs (preferably black and white) should be sent to the Editor. They will be much welcome and acknowledged.

Tournament results and reports to be sent direct, within 7 days of completion of the tournament, to the Secretary of the CA.' All correspondence about non-delivery of 'Croquet', changes of address, telephone numbers, handicaps or officials should be sent to the CA Secretary and not to the Editor.

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	Chris Hudson
Coaching	Bill Lamb
Features	Allen Parker
Pictures	Chris Hudson
Advertising	Brian Bucknall

Annual Subscription Rate £12.00

Editorial

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

A THOUGHT

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



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

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

The programme will be as follows:

11.00-11.15 Introduction 11.15-12.00 Progress to date & future

opportunities 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

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

'Croquet', incorporating the Croquet Gazette, is published by The Croquet Association, The Hurlingham Club, Ranelagh Gardens, London, SW6 3PR. Tel: 01-736-3148 Printed by DDS Colour Printers, 9/10 Worle Industrial Centre, Weston-super-Mare. Tel: 0934 516902

Invitation Events

Hurlingham: 5-9 September THE 1989 PRESIDENT'S CUP Robert Fulford shoots to success

Report by Stephen Mulliner

The 1990 Test Tour began to loom on the horizon before the 1988 President's Cup and this year, with only three places already decided (Avery, Mulliner, Openshaw with Aspinall unavailable), selection concerns were paramount. The needle G.B. v. Under-21 G.B. match held the previous weekend at Colchester had given the selectors evidence of fast court performances and attention now turned to the much easier-paced conditions at Hurlingham, where good shooting and successful peeling are the prime requisites for success.

The week culiminated in a splendid win for Robert Fulford, 20, in the first play-off since 1974 after he had been relentlessly pursued by Stephen Mulliner and finally caught in Round 14. The play and the off-court atmosphere were interesting and revealing. One quadruple, one STP, three TPOs and 22 TPs represented a peel rate of almost 50% and set a new record for the event. However this owed much to the state of the courts and, despite such interesting conditions, the surprising frequency with which unforced errors were committed by all except the leaders. Tuesday.

In the morning, Mulliner and Aspinall took advantage of errors from Saurin and Clarke to produce routine TPs. Fulford did not get his TP but still finished in under 90 minutes. Aiton could not resist the chance to TPO Irwin and had reached 4-back and peg against 5 alone when he unaccountably chose to peg out his forward ball. Mulliner immediately made Irwin the narrow favourite to win and was soon vindicated. Round 2 saw unremarkable victories for Fulford, Mulliner and Cordingley while Aspinall escaped with a straight triple against Saurin. The day ended with Aspinall, Mulliner and Fulford drawing away to form an unbeaten group and Clarke avoiding a defender's whitewash with a late TP after Irwin unexpectedly failed at penult when finishing



Stephen Mulliner-runner-up, despite a strong rally.

Wednesday.

The juniors had been comparing notes about when they had their 'difficult' days and Fulford now faced the apparently awesome task of confronting three President's Cup winners. Admittedly, the day did not start too well as Mulliner had a delayed TP under control at hoop 6. However, an accident at a notorious Lawn 3 1-back let Fulford in. He reached 3-back, the lift was hit but Mulliner could make no immediate progress. Fulford then hit from 25 vards and completed a smooth quadruple. Aspinall did not take croquet against him (26TP) and Clarke blew up at hoop 3 (24TP). Not a bad day at the office!



Robert Fulford - from Junior Champion to President's Cup in 3

While Fulford was getting into his stride. Aspinall had survived a very narrow squeak against Irwin (+2) and ended the day on 5/6 by defeating Cordingley. Mulliner also maintained his challenge with a late TP against the luckless Irwin and an uneventful defeat of Aiton. This trio had now opened up a three-game cushion and the only development of note among the goats was Saurin's brave recovery from a blank Tuesday with wins against Cordingley and

Thursday.

Irwin began the day by attempting a quadruple against Fulford but disaster struck at penult. Mulliner hit a 20 yarder early against Aspinall

and did not allow him to take croquet again. These three thus ended the first series with 7, 6 and 5 wins respectively. Next came Saurin with 3 after a close needle victory against Clarke who was having a miserable time as defender with one win. Aiton, Cordingley and Irwin split the difference with two wins each.

The second series began rather dramatically. Clarke edged out Aspinall by 2 in a tense pegged-out finish and it looked for a time as if Mulliner had a chance to catch Fulford who seemed to be in trouble against a grimly determined Cordingley. However, Saurin executed an excellent triple and Cordingley failed at 4-back when set to finish. Fulford now led Mulliner by two with 8/8 and ended another successful day by defeating Aspinall by 24TP, including an astute POP through hoop 2 to impede his opponent's potential triple.

Cordingley started well against Mulliner but missed his rush after hoop 2 and never got in again. Irwin edged further up the board with his fourth win at the expense of Clarke. Aiton dashed Saurin's hopes of a 3-win day in one of those games where the trick is to stop playing badly first.

Friday.

The wiseacres opined that Fulford would 'take the gas' after 9 straight wins. However, any hopes Mulliner had of catching him before their crucial Round 11 clash disappeared in less than 40 minutes as the leader sidelined Saurin with a fifth-turn TP. Round 10 became a peel-fest with TPs from Cordingley and Mulliner against Clarke and Irwin and a collector's item in the form of a wholly successful TPO from Aiton against Aspinall. Nigel had his chances but was not running long hoops with sufficient confidence.

The statisticians noted that this was Nigel's first 4-game losing run in the event. The reply from Aspinall in Round 11 was thoroughly predictable, namely +26TP with Cordingley as victim. Irwin survived narrowly against Saurin and Clarke recorded his only +26 of the week against Aiton The main focus was naturally

on the Fulford/Mulliner game which in the event was won rather easily by the latter after Fulford unexpectedly failed to approach hoop 3.

Round 12 produced three more TPs as Mulliner, Irwin and Saurin finished strongly against Aiton, Aspinall and Cordingley respectively. It looked as if Clarke might have a chance of pulling Fulford back but he made too many errors and the leader eventually won without difficulty.

Saturday.

Fulford reached 12/13 by flattening Aiton +26TP in under an hour while Irwin and Saurin continued their recoveries at the expense of Cordingley and Aspinall. Clarke tried a TPO on Mulliner but became delayed and, in trying to finish a combination pegout with a half-jump, pegged his own rover instead of his opponent's! Although Mulliner was unable to finish immediately, he never gave Clarke a safe shot and did not concede another point. The position was now quite simple. Mulliner had to beat Aspinall, and Irwin had to beat Fulford in order to force a play-

Test selection discussion delayed Mulliner and Aspinall and they arrived to start their game just in time to see Fulford complete the third peel of a standard triple against Irwin. It looked as if Fulford had clinched his first major title but, quite unexpectedly, he over-approached 3-back from nowhere and had to abandon the innings. Irwin now seized his chance with determination. He made no error and Fulford could not hit, so it was all down to Mulliner who was by then immersed in a TPO against Aspinall.

Nigel rolled up to hoop 1 from corner 4 from the contact but, after much thought, elected to take position rather than gamble on running the hoop from 3 yards to obtain a 3-ball break. This proved to be his only real opportunity as Mulliner imposed an iron grip on the game thereafter and never hesitated to retreat with the backward ball to a wired position if his plans went awry. Aspinall finally risked shooting from 25 vards into the guarded corner 3 area and Mulliner finished

		COLUMN T	100		A THE RESERVE				Games Won		1	
President's Cup: 1989 RIF 5	SNM	CJI	MAS	GNA	КМА	CDC	PC	1st Series	2nd Series	Final Total	Order	
R.I. Fulford		+10QP -24	+5TP -5	+25 +26TP	+26TP +24TP	+17 +26TP	+24TP +21	+16	7	5	12	1=
S.N. Mulliner	-10QP +24		+4TP +24TP	+24TP -17TP	+26 +10TP	+17 +26TP	+23 +12	+15TP +16	6	6	12	1=
C.J. Irwin	-5TP +5	-4TP -24TP	THE REAL PROPERTY.	+26TP +5	-2 +17TP	+2TP +25	-5TP +17	-24 +5TP	2	6	8	3
M.A. Saurin	-25 -26TP	-24TP +17TP	-26TP -5		-5ST +15	+15 -7	+6 +16	+14 +17TP	3	4	7	4
G.N. Aspinall	-26TP -24TP	-26 -10TP	+2 -17TP	+5ST -15		+16 -4TP	+17TP -2	+16 +26TP	5	1	6	5
K.M.H. Aiton	-17 -26TP	-17 -26TP	-2TP -25	-15 +7	-16 +4TP		+14 -26	+6TP +9TP	2	3	5	6
C.D. Clarke	-24TP -21	-23 -12	+5TP -17	-6 -16	-17TP +2	-14 +26		-3 -25TP	1	2	3	7=
P. Cordingley	-16 -4	-15TP -16	+24 -5TP	-14 -17TP	-16 -26TP	-6TP -9TP	+3 +25TP		2	1	3	7=

PLAY-OFF: Fulford bt Mulliner +26TP, +15

from 4-back.

In the remaining games, Saurin completed the double over the hapless Clarke, and Aiton gained some satisfaction from a TP against Cordingley.

Sunday.

The last two play-offs (1970 and 1974) suggested that the pursued was at a disadvantage. Obviously no-one had bothered to tell Fulford, who went to 4-back on the 4th turn. The long lift was missed almost into corner 4 but Fulford did not hesitate to set up a



Chris Clarke - disappointment, but he'll be back!

standard triple. He efficiently solved the hoop 5 pioneer problem by approaching hoop 4 with a stop-shot from the side and completed the triple in 32 minutes.

Nothing daunted, Mulliner hit on the 4th turn, laid up and then reached 4-back with a corner 2 based leave. The lift was missed but Mulliner could not get a good enough pioneer for hoop 2. Fulford hit from 20 yards and went to 4-back with an aggressive leave including a ball placed in 2-back. Mulliner accepted the challenge but missed and 'all' Fulford had to do was a standard triple. How the pressure mounts when ultimate victory is in sight! Things began to go wrong at hoop 6 but he kept his head and completed the three peels before hitting partner when running rover. Fulford elected to peg-out one ball leaving the other by the peg. Mulliner gave his last shot plenty of time but just missed and Fulford completed the formality of the peg-out to gain a very deserved victory.

Review.

Fulford's win capped a splendid 3 weeks in which he won the Northern Championship and performed impressively as the Under-21 top string at Colchester. He has always seemed to possess the stoic temperament (not to be confused with nervelessness) necessary for success and all that was missing was a major win. His outstanding shooting and safe peeling never faltered and he should prove a

great asset to the Test team. Mulliner did not shoot as well as Fulford but he extracted breaks from almost anywhere and punished mistakes ruthlessly while making very few himself. These two were in a class of their own and fully justified their 4-game margin over the rest of the field.

Irwin started badly but fought back so effectively that he won 6/7 in the second series. His confidence has returned in full measure since the World Championship and his determination has never been in doubt. Saurin can also look back on the President's with a degree of satisfaction. He won 7 of his last 11 games and generally played with a maturity that belied his years. When he is playing well he makes the game look

very easy indeed.

Aspinall reached 5/6 by Wednesday evening but could only add one more victory. An uncertainty has crept into his execution which will hopefully prove to be temporary. Aiton always inspires admiration for his precision - not for him the unsubtle clubbing of an angled hoop following a bad approach - but he was too often left as mystified as the spectators by failures in apparently innocuous positions. He has devoted much time and energy to his role as Under-21 coach and the presence of Clarke, Fulford and Saurin is a compliment to his abilities. Hopefully, he will learn to love the President's Cup and enjoy a measure of the success he has had in other major events. Cordingley could not repeat his impressive play of a year ago and this time always seemed vulnerable to a random error. Nonetheless, he never surrenders and will remember two good wins against Clarke.

Chris Clarke deserves special mention. In the last two years he has personally and excitingly demonstrated that the emergence of talented youth into the highest reaches of the game will query many accepted canons. It is also clear that youthful form can be volatile and progress may well involve a series of stops and starts. In this writer's opinion, Clarke moved from top to bottom of the President's mainly because he did not modify his tactics to suit his current standard of execution, particularly his shooting. His talent is prodigious and, if things go well next season, it would be no surprise if he set another record by becoming the first man to go top-bottom-top!

Roehampton: 11-15 September THE 1989 LADIES FIELD CUP Two Peeps for Bo

Report by Paul Macdonald

Roehampton was greatly pleased to host the Ladies Field after a break of nearly 10 years. There are those who say that this event is not what it used to be and that the standard of play is not as high as it was. It is true that one or two of the highest ranking ladies were unavailable this year but I found it interesting to compare the Field at Roehampton in 1980 with this year's competition; one lady played on both occasions and won exactly the same number of matches, so perhaps things haven't changed all that much.

So far as weather and other

As to the play itself. Bo Harris went off into an early lead (4 out of 4) which she managed to retain throughout. though caught first by Corla van Griethuysen and later by Frances Ransom. The tussle between these three continued until the final afternoon, when the prospect of a 3 way tie loomed large; however, this managerial nightmare was avoided by Bo's conclusive win over Frances into 3rd place behind Corla.

How different the whole placings might have been, if Frances's tendency to go on a Goolagong type walkabout



The players in this year's Ladies Field: (Left to right), Pat Asa-Thomas, Corla van Griethuysen, Judy Anderson, Frances Ransom, Bo Harris, and Liz Taylor-

conditions are concerned, the ladies may well have wished to be playing in 1980 rather than 1989. The report for that year read 'After a long rain-soaked summer...... the lawns were in excellent condition, no bare patches and completely covered by lush grass'. After one of the hottest and driest summers on record, and with severe watering restrictions, Roehampton's lawns this year were not in as good a shape as we would have liked them to be.

All six ladies bore this stoically and are to be congratulated on obeying the Manager's injunction 'to regard them as a subject for challenge rather than censure'. No doubt the condition of the lawns accounted for the length of the games - nightly communication with Cheltenham indicated that the average time taken by the Longman Bowl ladies there was less than that taken at Roehampton. Here again, however, times don't seem to have changed according to the 1980 report' a few male visitors turned up and and made few sarcastic remarks about the length of the games...2 The Roehampton males who turned up this year were, I am pleased to say, not so ungallant.

when in sight of victory had not cost her a couple of games, or if Corla's vociferous loss of concentration had not let her down. Bo, however, it was who kept her cool and is to be congratulated on retaining the Barlow Bowl and thus completing a noteworthy double after her victory in the Men's and Women's Championship earlier this year.

I must not fail to mention the close struggle between the other three ladies, whose determination in a number of close and hard fought games was effectively masked by a nice combination of charm, wit and sense of humour. Their mutual efforts resulted in a three way tie in 4th place and therefore no wooden spoon.

All in all this was a very pleasant occasion. All the ladies said they wanted the event to be played at Roehampton again and I hope they won't be disappointed.

			WRR	TWA	EA-T	ET-W	Game	es Won	Final Total	
Ladies Field: 1989	DHH	CvG					1st Series	2nd Series		Order
Mrs D.H. Harris		+13	-16 +13	+8 -1(T)	+9 +9	+13 +2	4	4	8	1
Dr. C van Griethuysen	-13 -11		+10 +7	+10 +20	+8 +7	+6 -2	4	3	7	2
Mrs W.R. Ransom	+16 -13	-10 -7		+15(T) -1(T)	+22 +18	+11 +4	4	2	6	3
Mrs T.W. Anderson	-8 +1(T)	-10 -20	-15(T) +1(T)		-2 -4(T)	+7 -l(T)	1	2	3	4=
Mrs E. Asa-Thomas	-9 -9	-8 -7	-22 -18	+2 +4(T)		-6 +14	1	2	3	4=
Mrs E. Taylor-Webb	-13 -2	-6 +2	-11 -4	-7 +1(T)	+6 -14		1	2	3	4=

Weekend Tournaments

Woking: 24 June - 2 July

Report by Derek Caporn

A full entry of 24 players enjoyed a good weekend of competitive croquet. We were delighted that it attracted 11 visitors, producing one of the strongest entries for years. Both events were played as a swiss. The holder of the 'Challenge Cup', Terry Wood, was just defeated by our John Rose, 5 wins each but Terry lost to John. Richard Barnes won the 'Caporn Casket' over Simon Tuke with 5 wins each, the former beating the latter.



John Greenwood, who won Woking's Handicap Doubles (the Coleman Pots) with Chrissie Osmond.

Southport: 14-16 July Report by Martin Kolbuszewski The World Championship seemed

too difficult a target this year, because it would have involved getting beaten hollow by people like Joe Hogan and Bob Jackson. So I packed my bags and went North to Southport for the B-levels, and got beaten hollow by Joe

Jackson instead.

As usual at Southport, the informal and friendly atmosphere contrasted with the impressive level of activity on the lawns, managed by Andrew Bennet on the first day and thereafter by Mark Saurin. Among the footnotes to the order of play posted by Andrew in overcast conditions on the first day was an edict to the effect that 'The weather will improve and we shall not be flooded'. The weather did what it was told and we were deprived of the sight of the club's flood control measures. I am told that these constitute a heroic struggle against overwhelming odds, contrary to a recent tournament report in these pages. This is something to do with the recent rise in sea level caused by the greenhouse effect, which is of course more severe at the Southport Club because there is a large greenhouse at the side of the lawns. Anyway, the hot summer sunshine caused the tournament to be drunk dry by Saturday afternoon, necessitating a hasty trip for further supplies of beer and Madeira.

Woking Triples

This '3 in one' Tournament followed the above weekend tournament. The winner of the open was our Steve Battison, after a one ball play off, with 4 wins. The 'B' class was won by Anthony Miller and in the open doubles, played also as a swiss, Frank Newman and James Wankling with 3 wins just succeeded in beating Bob Smith and Gill McDiarmid with the same number of victories - again the former beat the latter pair.

The one day Handicap doubles on the Thursday was won by John Greenwood and Chrissie Osmond who claimed the Coleman Pots. The final Handicap weekend was the usual American, the 3 winners being Les Chapman, Annabel McDiarmid and Terry Wood.

Sights of the week: John Haigh assisted by Bob Smith refereeing a shot by lying in a puddle. And The Doubles Hat Parade! Shot of the week: Ian McDiarmid glanced off 6th hoop to run his next hoop in order - 4 back! Triple peels: two by Steve Battison and one by John

Among the local players were a

troupe of Bennet's bandits from

Blackburn, including the third

Saurin brother, Adrian, playing in

the B-levels as his first tournament.

His match against John Haslam

probably displayed the greatest

range of players' heights ever seen

in a tournament game. Another

record may have been set when

Chris Haslam played a take-off of

some sixty yards from B baulk on

the greenhouse lawn into the left-

hand flowerbed in front of the club-

The visitors included a contin-

gent from Tyneside who provided

some of the most entertaining

croquet when John Portwood

came from a long way behind to

beat Gail Curry in a pegged-out

finish. This was the only time Gail

faltered in a triumphant march to

the final where she played steadily

and confidently to beat Carol

Lewis, who was also in good form

and had several creditable wins.

Mike Wilkins was the only male

player to make it to the last four, but

he lost the play-off to Pat Hague,

who according to my notes threat-

ened to murder the writer of the

tournament report if he referred to

her as Nora. I don't understand this,

but if I understood everything

about croquet I'd be out there

getting beaten by Bob Hogan, or

whatever his name is. I think I

prefer going to Southport.

Greenwood. Weather: bright and sunny except for rain on doubles

RESULTS Challenge Cup (Swiss, advanced play: 12 entries) Winner: J. Rose

Caporn Casket (Swiss, advanced play: 12 entries) Winner: R.T.H. Barnes

Runner-Up: S.M. Tuke **Woking Triples** 'A' Block Goblet

Runner-Up: T. Wood

(All-play-all, advanced play: 6 entries) Winner: J.S.H. Battison

'B' Block Goblet (All-play-all, advanced play: 6 entries) Winner: A.R.K. Miller

Doubles Chalices (All-play-all, advanced play. 5 pairs) Winners: F.H. Newman & J.L. Wankling

Coleman Pots

(Handicap Doubles, knock-out: 8 pairs) Winners: J.D. Greenwood & Miss C.A. Osmond

Handicap Singles (3 American blocks: 24 entries) Block Winners: L.J. Chapman: Miss A. McDiarmid; T.I. Wood.



Gail Curry, winner of Southport's 'B-Level' weekend.

RESULTS

(American blocks, advanced play: 28 entries

Block Winners: Miss G. Curry; M. Wilkins: Mrs C. Lewis; Mrs P. Hague. Semi-Final Play-Off

Miss Curry bt Wilkins; Mrs Lewis bt Mrs Hague.

Miss Curry bt Mrs Lewis +14. Play-Off for 3rd Place Mrs Hague bt Wilkins +7.

Edgbaston: 14-16 July Ouragan Henri le fait encore a Edgbastille.

Report by Peter Dorke

In achieving his second consecutive tournament win at Edgbaston, 'Hurricane' Henry Fellows, much loved local member and Cuban Cigar Manufacturer's Man of the Year 1989, stormed a veritable Bastille of low bisquers. Such was the verve and revolutionary spirit of Henry's play that only half of his games went to time. It is not recorded how many cigars were consumed during the 20 hours that Henry dominated the lawns but it is averred that when he had used up the 31 bisques his opponents so gladly donated, he started on cigar butts. So, just when we were saying that there'd never be another 'Swifty' Goacher, along comes our Enery to claim the crown.

Or perhaps I fail to give credit where it is due - for what of our doughty manager, Ray Jones, who won his first three games 'plus one on time' and only then took Henry Fellows all the way to a 'minus five on time. A clash of Titans indeed. And blow me if the good Dr Jones didn't come second in the tournament. John Reeve chipped in, too, with a brave effort, three games going to time, two of them, admittedly, against the aforementioned sans culottes.

It looks, then, very much as though the secret of success at Edgbaston was 'nice-and-easydoes-it'. The impetuous, the impatient, the flashy did not thrive here and serves them right! Let it be said at once that the

lawns were pretty mixed: lawn three was a joy, lawn one a pig and lawn two a nightmare of tight hoops. There were, indeed, complaints from all lawns about the tightness of hoops but what, pray, is this game all about? When I heard that the club President, Martin Granger-Brown, was to play, well, naturally I set hoops of presidential narrowness. The President himself was none too pleased about this and ended the tournament 65 hoops adrift, probably a British record. Mind you, you couldn't have asked for more freshly-cut lawns: the groundsman put the mower away bare seconds before the first ball was struck in anger and the tournament referee played his first game with right arm still-a-throbbing from his efforts with the hoop smasher.

That first evening was to be a long one, with Ray Jones finishing off his game at 10.30, one whole hour after time. (Could this, too, be a record? Where's my Townsend's Croquet Almanack?) By then even would be likely to print, as they combine blashpemy with sexism, sado-masochism and abuse of the equipment. Devotees of the McClelland Dictionary of Abuse will, however, be saddened to learn that his sting has been drawn by one Rosemary Flutter, a gentle lady of Edgbaston, whose mere glance of disapproval would remove paint from a battleship.

One who does enjoy his croquet and must not be put off by his lack of success at this tournament is Jo Hyames-Mernant, the only Frenchman present at this quatorze juillet event. He played much better than his zero score would suggest and rounded off his weekend with a fine win against Ken Jones in a post tournament All-England match. Oh damn! I've gone and mentioned Ken Jones and I really did mean to leave him out this time. Breaking in a new mallet is Ken and it's done his game no favours. Seems to have straightened out his swing a bit and that can't be good,

I was delighted to see Jim 'Chief Dan' Davey at Edgbaston. He lends dignity to any tournament as, pipe of peace clenched between his teeth, he waits for his opponent to break down under his impassive Apache warrior's gaze, then steps smoothly on to the lawn, disdaining to stalk his ball (curious that, isn't it - one thing you'd expect an Apache warrior to do is stalk!) and, aiming well to the right of the object ball, hits it smack in the middle. Eat your hearts out all ye scribblers of coaching manuals, Chief Dan has a stronger magic by

can it?

Alan Girling, present this time

merely as a spectator, had gone

home to bed. (Perhaps I might

digress a moment here to thank the

many hundreds of people who, in

answer to my plea, wrote to Alan

urging him not to give up croquet.

They will all be pleased to learn

that he has decided to compromise

and has only given up enjoying it.)

John Reeve opined that the report should mention how wonderful the weather was and then broke down and admitted that he didn't really like the heat all that much. Not bad from a man whose deep chocolate tan rivalled that of Chief Dan himself. But suntans are tena-penny in this baking summer and none, in any case, can match that of Christopher Gordon (sic) Bennett, who, as his friend lan McClelland was heard to mutter. turns black if the sun comes out in February. Which is just my way of dragging in the McClelland himself, one of six players who achieved four wins and a very solid performer off a handicap of 4. I look forward to this travesty of a handicap falling by at least 2 so that I might once again stand a faint chance against him. As usual, lan was the source of some excellent quotes, none of which the Editor

Talking of stings, spare a thought for the unfortunate Ivor Brand, here again with brother Richard, who suffered cruelly at the hands (hands?) of the animal kingdom. Having attempted, somewhat foolishly, to enter a police car occupied only by an angry Alsatian (no, no don't even ask why!) and having escaped from same by the skin of his teeth - or perhaps of another part of his anatomy - he later succumbed to a vicious attack by a bumble bee which objected to being wrapped in Ivor's pullover. Both the Alsatian and the bee are recovering nicely, thank you.

Another of the Brand clan, their brother-in-law, David 'Cookie' Prescott, laid aside his mallet to produce a fine Sunday lunch. As a vegetarian I took no part in this meal but the air was thick with cries of congratulations as the gorgeous grub hit the vital spot in a dozen duodena. This in no way dulled the memory of Jessica's Saturday offering which - save for the pork - was received with acclamation.

Among the other delights of the tourney were: Ivor 'Coach' Meredith's demonstration of how not to take bisques; President Granger-Brown's travelling campsite; Jo Hyames-Mernant's cycling outfit; David Coates' hat; and James Hawkins' four-ball breaks.

But the enduring memory must be of 'Hurricane' Henry Fellows pondering the execution of a short roquet. Auguste Rodin, you should be living now.

RESULTS The Symons Cup (Swiss, handicap play: 16 entries) 5 wins: H. Fellows (Winner). 4 wins: Dr R.C. Jones (Runner-Up); C.G. Bennett; I. Brand; I. McClelland.

Roehampton: 12-13 August 'All strange and terrible events are welcome' (Antony and Cleopatra)

Report by Robert Prichard

The strongest ever entry for the Rowlock contained 11 players in this year's Eights: 5 President's (Mulliner, Clarke, Aiton, Fulford, Cordingley), 4 Chairman's (French, Comish, Cornelius, Guest), 2 Spencer Ell (Lamb, Dawson). The 16 were made up by 3 past Eights players not available (Noble, Hyne, R. Prichard), first reserve for the E11 (Landor), and the Open's seedbeating Coles.

The drought had deherbated the southern third of the three usual lawns, so that for the first time in five years we were allowed to use the putting green, a welcome sign of the new more constructive attitude to croquet of the club management. This proved popular as it was lush, flat, flattering and closer to the bar. The new manager (me) kept

roughly to the old Mullineric formula of a Swiss with four seeds. the four unbeaten after two rounds playing best-of-three semi-finals and finals. However the workings of a Swiss were represented as a Snakes and Ladders board, which led to some lofty ladders and squiggly snakes in later rounds. The losing semi-finalists did not play off for a (rather pointless) third place but joined the two leaders in the Swiss (who had by then reached orange squares, denoting only one loss) in an Orange Block, in which all played all. The main consolation prize went to the winner of this block, not to the losing finalist.

The other ten players played as many games as possible in a Green Block. With only games against other Green Block players counting, the second consolation prize went to the player in this block with the highest proportion of wins. The point of all this was to give as many players as possible 'something to play for' for as long as possible, to minimise the perceived futility of many late Swiss games.

The holder, Cordingley, vindicated his unseededness by losing the first round to Debbie Cornelius, but then reached Orange status by three wins, including an STP in which penult and rover were peeled in the same stroke. More worrying form by a Test hopeful was shown by another past winner. Aiton, who was seeded but eventually slithered to no wins from six games, all against Green Block players.

The losing semi-finalists were his rival Fulford (who started with



Phil Cordingley - peeled penult and rover in the same stroke at Roehampton.

slender wins over Prichard and Dawson) and Noble (who started with two TPs and then the first game off Clarke). The fourth Orange was Hyne, despite his despondency that Peterson's withdrawal would rob him of his only prey. Fulford won the block undefeated, as did Cornelius the Green Block.

As an experiment, Green Block matches could be played best-ofthree 14-point games, with lifts after hoops 3 and 5. Only two matches (both involving Guest) chose this option. The (lift-free) quadruple proved elusive, but Guest was helped to one of his DPs by peeling through 5 and 6 in one stroke. Yes, we were using pegs.

Clarke's form was as variable as it has been all season; a shaky +5 win over Guest, smooth TP against Cornelius, convincing second two games against Noble, panicky in the final. Mulliner had a tense +6 win over Comish in the second round, but then switched into killer mode: +26, +26TP against Fulford (on the 'easy' lawn) and +21TP, +26 in the final on the much tougher lawn 2.

Although the start of the final was delayed till 10.30 by church leave and strict resetting of all the hoops, it was over as usual by lunch. Perhaps a best-of-five 14-point games would have provided a better match. In the years when the present laws of croquet were evolving some events were set aside to experiment with variations. The Rowlock comes just after Eights selection, so might be a good tournament to introduce trials in both new Laws and formats. Suggestions, however radical, will be welcome. RESULTS

Roehampton Rowlock (Modified Swiss, advanced play: 15 entries) Winner: S.N. Mulliner

Runner-up: C.D. Clarke

Championships

NOMINATIONS FOR 1989 AWARDS

The TOWNSEND AWARD is a trophy

kindly donated to the CA by Townsend

Croquet Ltd. It is awarded each year to the

club, less than 3 years old, that has made

the greatest advancement in its develop-

ment during the season. All new clubs

formed in or since 1987 are thus eligible

The APPS-HELEY AWARD, made each

year to the club that has done most for

Croquet and made the most progress

during the year, is restricted to clubs more

than 3 years old. All clubs formed prior to

Nominations are invited for both

awards. As a member of a club itself is

often the only person who can report on

what the club and its members have

achieved, please do not feel inhibited

about putting your own club forward for

Please write for nomination forms to

Nominations are also required for the

most improved players (men and women)

John McCullough, 3, St. Nicholas Croft,

Askham Bryan, York YO2 3RJ.

1987 are therefore eligible.

the relevant award.

for this award.

Surbiton: 8-9 July Almost full at Surbiton

Report by Julian Straw

A record entry of 26 competed in the annual handicap weekend at the Surbiton Club. This enabled good use to be made of the 7 lawns available, and 5 rounds of a Swiss style event were played during the 2 days.

It being the final weekend of Wimbledon a certain amount of rain had to be endured, although play was of course continuous in our case. Monitoring of play 'up the road' during the weekend established Surbiton's potential as a weather outstation and a substantial contract will be sought next year.

The damp weather made the lawns easy to play, and minus players using the weekend to limber up for the World Championship (?) were generally out-bisqued.

The tournament was won by Robert Harvey, who, despite having a handicap reduction during play, still managed to win all his games.

Now that the substantial new clubhouse is fully operational, providing excellent beer and cuisine, tournaments at the Surbiton Club are becoming increasingly popular, and we anticipate that next year will produce our first waiting lists!

RESULTS

5 wins: R. Harvey (9, reduced to 7 during

4 wins: J. Death (7); G. Brightwell (3); J. Straw (3); and M. Cooperman (7).

3 wins: A.R.K. Miller (4); A. Robillard (14); Thornhill (9); A. Thomas (6); M. Haggerston (11/2); L. Chapman (21/2); . Osmond (11); G. Yonge (10).

wins: D. Caporn (3); R. Gosden (5); Gosden (71/2); M. Hutchison (5); J. Gosden (4); I. Bond (-1/2); M. Game (8); . Nelson (20).

1 win: T. Burge (8); W. Jones (9); G. Noble (-11/2); R. Noble (16).

0 wins: Mrs M. Haggerston (18).

Hunstanton: 28-31 August A Wolf in Lamb's Clothing?

Report by Ken & Margaret Cotterell



Betty Camroux, winner of a CA Bronze

Do you enjoy games with close finishes, good breaks but a reasonable number of changes of innings. and lots of fun for both players? If so, you would have thoroughly enjoyed the August tournament at Hunstanton.

The four days were preceded by an evening of Nightlight Golf Croquet but the scribes arrived too late to partake; in torrential rain we gather the candles all blew out! We have no doubt that a good evening was had by all, especially if the excellent catering for the rest of the week was anything to go by - thank you, ladies.

Happily, the weather improved by Monday when the Draw of the three classes took place. In the top (AB) class, the ROT was seen having another turn after the end of his game with another referee: clearly both were unaware of the laws concerning time! Bill Lamb subsequently went on to win the Draw in the AB. Meanwhile Duncan Hector had played impressively to win the B and Steve Thomas the C.

The second day was the Swiss (later a Swizz) as Sarah Hampson promised that nobody should meet a previous class opponent. This she managed, using a complicated system in which an elusive 4-tone

runners up and that trophy stays at

and sunny Wednesday but even a

severe outbreak of knees failed to

stop the march of progress of Bill and

Duncan, both making their class final

unnecessary by being undefeated,

despite the efforts of Nick Harris and

Susan Davies. By now, Bill Ward had

begun to cultivate a reputation for

invincibility in the C, winning a

Bronze award on the way, a feat

emulated to everyone's delight by

Betty Camroux (on the adjacent

The last day saw the final of the C

class. Bill Ward had improved so

much over the week in his first

tournament that he clearly had too

many bisques for Steve. Later, on a

reduced handicap, he still had about

seven left for his second break in a

Swiss; he finished much wiser as Bill

Lamb conned him out of what should

have been a certain victory. How?

Let us keep some secrets! We might

need them ourselves but it does

emphasise why the Laws specifically

forbid discussion with a player during

saw a minus member from the

The final shot of the tournament

lawn).

The Process took place on a hot

pen played a vital part. It proved a highly successful event, especially as everyone in the know was going for the second prize, the aesthetically pleasing Rothwell Casket. In the event, this proved a mistake as several players were left as joint

Hugh Williams and Duncan Hector hinged on time games. Eric, two hoops down against Duncan as time was called, made 3 back, but had no rush to 2nd corner green. Take-offs achieved 4 back but a miss left Duncan the opportunity to make penultimate and win. Unfortunately the approach was not successful and

Norwich Team entry (???) attempting

RESULTS Norfolk Challenge Cup (D&P, advanced play: 8 entries) Outright winner: W.E. Lamb. **Challenge Bowl**

Outright winner: D. Hector. Silver Rose Bowl (D&P, handicap play: 8 entries)

Wrest Park: 22-24 September Four Newcomers at Wrest Park

Report by Howard Bottomley & Kevin Wells

Good weather greeted the players in what could have been a 5 team tournament. Wrest Park being supported by players from Letchworth, Ancell Trust (Stony Stratford), Ipswich (we're only coming if there is cider) and

Two supporters from Ancell Trust found themselves part of the catering contingency on Friday and thanks goes to Pauline, Esther, Pam, Barbara and Enid for all their efforts.

The difficulty of the lawns led to scrappy games where even 18 point games were going to time. Long hitins being more successful than short shots resulted in tired legs, with the only real breaks being to crockery and a flask, despite keen displays of slip fielding.

Eric 'The Manager', was suitably tasked following 5 pegged down games on the first day, 'Lift' confusion with Ipswich and computer failure in processing 'C' block.

Celia Steward would have compensated for holding up one lawn for 5 minutes, using both sets of colours to assess a lift, by running hoops 5 & 6 in one stroke. Unfortunately for the manager, time had been called and the shot served only to increase her

Referee John Wheeler may well have been bemused by the intention, as James Hawkins ball was all but through hoop 6. On taking up the stance for 1 back however, all became clear. The approach was good, 1 back made but unfortunately the pick up from corner 1 was

The block position began to take

Block A between Eric Audsley,

to peg out all four balls just to confirm the spirit of the whole week. And talking of spirits, Bill Ward introduced a nice touch by filling the cup with champagne for the assembled warriors and spectators alike. Maybe an innovation we shall see repeated at more elevated but no more enjoyable tournaments.

(D&P, advanced play: 8 entries)

Final: W.Heaton-Ward (14*) bt J.F.S. Thomas (11).

he elected to lay up two feet in front. Eric for the same hoop shoots from the middle of the east boundary, misses, runs the hoop from behind and hits gently to achieve an easy win.

Duncan's follow-up game against Kevin Wells again finished level on time with all clips on penultimate. After ten minutes of 'tactical' play, the approach to the hoop was better but the hoop shot failed. Kevin shot at the croqueted ball by the hoop, missed, hit the hooped ball and peeled it, for Duncan to win the block.

Block B went to the last with the result dependent on the last game between 'Two breakfast' Trevor Wilkins and Steve Jones to determine the winner between Derek Powell and James Hawkins. Inevitably, the game went to time with Trevor victorious, making Derek the winner.

The Letchworth hold on the tournament was denied in block C. 'Swinging' Terry Burge built a commanding lead and it took Tom Anderson all his powers on lawn 6 to snatch a win, predictably +1 on time.

Four newcomers, Mike Watt and Cliff Jones in their first tournament, all achieved wins and had handicaps confirmed. Indeed Mike Watt is trying to set up a new club in Cambridge. Please forward any interest to him on 02205 3214.

The RAF World War 2 fly past on Sunday was not organised by the manager, yet signalled another successful tournament.

RESULTS

Block A (All-play-all, handicap play: 8 entries) 6 wins: D. Hector (4).

5 wins: H. Williams (9) (runner-up); E. Audsley (1). Block B

(All-play-all, handicap play: 8 entries) 6 wins: D Powell (15)

5 wins: J. Hawkins (9) (runner-up); T Wilkins Block C

(7 round Swiss, 11 entries) 6 wins: T. Burge; A. Parry.

PRESS OFFICER

The Croquet Association is seeking a person to act as Press Officer for 1990.

The work will involve dissemination of information to the media about major championships in 1990, and liaison with the press at these events.

Subject to budget considerations, it is expected that the Press Officer will be paid a four-figure honorarium inclusive of expenses.

For further information, please contact Martin Murray, CA Chairman on 0272-260990 (H) or 0272-303675

NORTHERN CHAMPIONSHIPS **Bowdon: 19-28 August** New faces, but more needed!

Report by Mark Saurin

The traditional people turned up for another ten days of hectic croquet and fun accompanied by the new faces of Roger Huyshe and a couple of Eastern Counties' juniors.

The first two days saw Open doubles and the Reed Cup handicap competition being played in glorious sunshine which was to be maintained until the main event started on Friday. Surprisingly all the low bisquers were winning their handicap games - with the notable exception of Roger Huyshe, who turned out to be the winning high bisque bandit of the tournament (possibly due to the fact that the lawns were getting

Double-banking was also here in full force with the memory of a double-banker marking a ball,



Northern Champion, Robert Fulford.

placing the marked ball in the hoop, and then taking off into the hoop and ball with his shot.

On Monday, the other competitions began, including the all important golf croquet. This was also the day that modern day crime came to Bowdon with the theft of Dan Kelly's bike, but fortunately he had a car to get home. Fortune was also on the side of Robert Fulford playing in the A-class; Chris Haslam missed a two foot peg out to beat him, accidentally pegging out the backward ball in his attempt. Not only that, but he managed to hit in again and then take off into the back of a hoop and finally lose by one. Tuesday and Wednesday passed again with sunshine and finally for some the tournament's last day arrived, Thursday.

Clarke beat Haslam and then Fulford to win the A-class vet again. David 'The Exocet' Lendrum won the B-class beating Colin Wild and

also completed his first triple in competition. Adrian Saurin won the C-class convincingly and equally impressive was the victory of Ken Cooper in the D-class.

The two handicap finals featured two minus players, David Maugham and Mark Saurin playing two middle bisquers Alan Pidcock and Roger Huyshe. Both games were similar. In each case, the minus player hit in after his opponent had taken one ball round to the peg, then went round and pegged out two balls, making it a two ball game to lessen the effect of any bisques which were standing. Both minus players won +2, with both Alan and Roger clanging rover with victory in sight.

Handicap doubles was again its barrel of laughs with the partnership of Chris Clarke and Roger Huyshe beating Fulford and Ernest Dalley +19TP in the final. Robert had done well during the week, having destroyed his mallet on Tuesday but Ernest gave him his old Walker mallet in time for the main event. Russell Collighan won the Golf Croquet with Robert and Adrian Saurin completing two 'shots of the century' in previous rounds.

Many thanks to the hoop setters and caterers but mainly to Chris Irwin who manages this competition tremendously well each year. Next year let us have more newcomers following this year's success RESULTS

'A' Class (Draw & Process, advanced play: 11 entries)

Marriage Semi-Final C.D. Clarke bt C. Haslam +14. Final Clarke bt R.I. Fulford +23.

'B' Class (Draw & Process, advanced play: 9 entries)

D. Lendrum bt C.H. Wild +19. 'C' Class (All-play-all, level play: 3 entries)

Winner: A.T.Saurin 'D' Class (All-play-all, level play, 18pts: 7 entries)

Winner: K.B. Cooper **Bowdon Handicap** (Knockout: 13 entries)

& Prof A. Pidcock (71/2) +1.

Final

Final

D.J. McCormick bt R.J. Collighan +14. **Bowdon Doubles** (Knockout, handicap play: 15 pairs)

Semi-Finals R.I. Fulford & E. Dalley (8) bt Mrs M.C. Dalley & C. Haslam (111/2) +15; C.D. Clarke & R. Huyshe (10) bt D.L. Gaunt



Colin Irwin, runner-up.

Clarke & Huyshe bt Fulford & Dalley +19TP

The Reed Cup (Knockout, handicap play: 31 entries) Semi-Finals

M.A. Saurin (-11/2) bt D.J. McCormick (3) +2; R. Huyshe (12) bt Rev P. Hallett (2) +26.

and these should be sent to Brian Macmillan by 1st February 1990 to enable the Handicap Committee to recommend the award of the Apps Trophy and the Steele Bowl for the most improved man and lady respectively. Persons nominated must be CA members and information about their improvements (including full details of handicap reductions) should relate only to that part of the season during which they were CA members (in respect of players who joined the CA mid-

way through the season).

The North of England Championship **Fulford scores major success**

Report by Mark Saurin

Saurin bt Huyshe +2.

Miserable conditions on the Friday upset many players, especially those sent to Denzell Gardens where favourites crashed out to much lesser opponents. Debbie Cornelius beat Clarke and then later pulled out due to the effect of the dreaded influenza allowing 12-year old Adrian Saurin into the Swiss.

Colin Irwin stayed in both draw and process with many +3's and +4's. Saturday saw Irwin complete a quadruple peel in a psychological match against Ian Burridge, and Clarke crash out to Chris Haslam. Meanwhile Phil Cordingley and Robert Fulford stayed in both parts of the competition, quietly making their ways to semi-final places.

Saturday night was tournament dinner night, a Chinese, at a local restaurant. At this, 29 croquet players showed how much they could actually eat and drink after a hard days play - approximately \$550 of food and 'booze'. Incredible was the length of Robert Fulford's birthday speech, unbelievable was Nick Hyne's desire and ability to eat more food and drink more alcohol. So at 1 o'clock 30 players trundled out of the restaurant to prepare for the next day's play with a wellearned sleep.

Sunday saw Cordingley go out to Fulford and Irwin. Irwin himself then went out of one half to Fulford, and Burridge beat Haslam for a place in the final of the process. So the final of the draw was Fulford/Irwin and the final of the process Fulford/Burridge. A marriage was decided upon by all players with a best-of-three final.

Monday and a +4 for Colin against Ian meant he was to play Robert in the final. The first game went to Robert +2 in a pegged out ending with both fortune and hard work favouring the two players. In the second game, Robert got round first, Colin hit the lift and went to four-back, Robert hit his lift and eventually got started on a triple peel, failing to finish it because of a hamper after rover. Colin had one last lift shot which he must have missed by the narrowest visible margin to allow Robert Fulford his first championship, and congratulations from everyone.

Mark Saurin beat Phil Cordingley to send the Swiss to a 3-way shoot out between the latter two and David Maugham. Good gallery entertainment which Saurin won with 2 out of 5. Thanks to Chris Irwin for her top class management and the Bowdon members for wheelbarrowing in the refresh-

Results overleaf

Championships

The Northern Championship DRAW Round 1

I.J. Burridge bt D.L. Gaunt +14; J.R McCullough bt F.I. Maugham +19; J.P. Dawson bt N.G. Hyne +26; C.J. Irwin bt A.F. Sutcliffe +3: E. Bell bt P.L. Smith +26; D.B. Maugham bt C. Haslam +7; D. Lendrum bt W.O. Aldridge +11; D.J. McCormick bt C.H. Wild +9; R. Harding bt R.J. Collighan +10: P. Cordingley bt J.O. Walters +26TP: F.J. Landor bt B.J. Storey +18: Miss D.A. Cornelius bt C.D. Clarke +7; A. Bennet bt M.A. Saurin +5: S.E. Lewis bt Ms D.E. Prentis +21: R.I. Fulford bt M.H. Sandler +19; J.R. Hilditch bt C. Southern +15TP.

Round 2

Burridge bt McCullough +4; Irwin bt Dawson +4; D.B. Maugham bt Bell +7; Lendrum bt McCormick +15TP Cordingley bt Harding +14; Landor bt Miss Cornelius +21; Lewis bt Bennet +12: Fulford bt Hilditch +24TP. Round 3

Maugham +17; Cordingley bt Landor +13; Fulford bt Lewis +24TP. Semi-Finals

Irwin bt Lendrum +17; Fulford bt Cordingley +7.

Irwin bt Burridge +24QP; Lendrum bt

PROCESS Round 1

Gaunt bt Collighan +4; Saurin bt Smith +17; Hyne bt Landor +19; Fulford bt Aldridge +10; Cordingley bt F.I. Maugham +17; D.B. Maugham bt Ms D.F. Prentis +23TP; Irwin bt Miss Cornelius +17; Hilditch bt Wild +1; Burridge bt Harding +4; Bell bt Bennet +14; Storey bt Dawson +26; Lendrum bt Sandler +17TP; Walters bt McCullough +8; Haslam bt Lewis +23; Clarke bt Sutcliffe +15; McCormick bt Southern +16.

Round 2 Gaunt bt Saurin +12; Fulford bt Hyne +3; Cordingley bt D.B. Maugham +17; Irwin bt Hilditch +8; Burridge bt Bell +17; Lendrum bt Storey +13; Haslam bt Walters +2; Clarke bt McCullough

Round 3

Fulford bt Gaunt +7; Irwin bt Cordingley +26TP; Burridge bt Lendrum +16: Haslam bt Clarke +7. Semi-Finals

Fulford bt Irwin +10TP; Burridge bt Haslam +2.

Marriage Semi-Final Irwin bt Burridge +4.

Final Fulford bt Irwin +2, +17.

Doubles Championship Round 1

I.J. Burridge & D.L. Gaunt bt Mrs C. Lewis & J. Haslam +7: M.A. Saurin & R.J. Collighan bt W.O. Aldridge & D. Lendrum +24: S.E. Lewis & D.B. Maugham bt C. Haslam & A.F. Sutcliffe

Semi-Finals

Saurin & Collighan bt Burridge & Gaunt +26; Lewis & Maugham bt C.J. & Mrs C.E. Irwin +20.

Final

Lewis & Maugham bt Saurin & Collighan +2.

Golf Croquet Championship of the North of England

(20 entries) Semi-Finals

D.B. Maugham bt I.J. Burridge 7-3; R.J. Collighan bt D. Lendrum 7-2 Final

Collighan bt Maugham 7-3.

Short Story

The Clips of Death

By Dorothy Rush The amazing thing about that

game was not that I went to 4-back in the second turn but that it was so effortless. Everything went without a hitch and I hardly seemed to have to think about the shots. After every hoop I found a perfect rush to the next, just lying there waiting to be played. And play them I did - perfectly: no undesired cuts, no silly misses of two-foot roquets; smack in the middle every time, with perfect weight.

Until I'd run 3-back, that is, and then I found myself with a rush to the centre of the lawn.

Although I tried to cut red to 4-back, intending to go all the way to the peg (after all, how often do you get the chance of an all-round 2-ball break? Worth giving a contact, I thought), the darn blue struck red plumb in the middle and drove it straight at the stick. Even then I didn't give up hope but tried to roll up - and I'm good at the old Wolverhampton roll. Not this time, though: made a terrible mess of it, red squirting about a vard towards penult and blue going off the East boundary.

Nice while it lasted, I thought, but damn me if I didn't hit in on the fourth turn and fall effortlessly into another break, with 4 balls instead of 2 this time. Now, with things apparently going my way, you'd expect me to have a go at the triple, wouldn't you? After all, I'd never yet done one in a tournament and they're offering gold medals for it nowadays, as though anyone needed that kind of incentive. But no, it simply did not occur to me that it was on. Never gave it a thought, just played the break.

Or did I? I was going through the motions; my mallet was striking the balls; but was I playing the break? I know you get into a groove sometimes, when the ends of your fingers seem to sense the precise strength needed to put every ball exactly where you want it - but this wasn't one of those times. Indeed neither felt the weight of the mallet nor registered the blows as it distributed the balls about the

by German TV.

WORLD GAMES: Karlsruhe, 1989.

John McCullough (right) being interviewed at the Karlsruhe World Games

court. And this on a damp and heavy court.

Mind you, I didn't fight it but just let it happen, revelling in my newfound mastery of the game, hoping there was a handicapper lurking nearby, biro poised to chop me down to scratch - or below.

Until I reached 1-back, where I got perfect position, six inches from the hoop, bang in front - and missed. Not the hoop but the ball. An air shot: just floated over the top with the same sense of being out of control that I'd experienced when playing all those elegant roquets. croquets and hoop shots that had got me through the previous six

It must have been a full thirty seconds before I 'quit my stance under control' and walked slowly, numbly, back to the lawnside bench, where my opponent still sat, grinning like a Cheshire cat and clearly bursting to give me the benefit of his wisdom. I looked down at him, irritably.

'Alright, Terry, what is it? Tell me the worst.' His grin widened and became more sinister.

'You've got the clips of death, me old mate. Bad omen, that. You might lose this game, after all'.

'Clips of death? What the hell are they?'

Terry gestured towards the lawn. 'You're for 1-back and 4-back. Whatever you do, you can't run a hoop without conceding a lift. Them's the clips of death, old love. Fatal to croquet players, them are.'

And, cackling wildly, he strode purposefully onto the lawn, where a crisp roquet on my forlorn black led to a neat break to 4-back. I missed the short lift and that was that: gold medal time for Terry and the manager wrote '11' against my

That was about half-an-hour ago. I left the club soon after, refusing the traditional offer of a drink and not even bothering to change out of my whites Somehow nothing mattered but climbing into my car and getting home as quickly as I could. The day, which had been

warm and humid, had given place to a chill and clammy evening. The sensation of unease which the game with Terry had aroused in me had become a sick, frightened feeling in my stomach. Irrational but real: I had to get away.

The car started first time, with no sign of the ignition trouble that has baffled the garage for weeks now. For the first 20 miles I drove rather better than usual. Faster too. But it wasn't until I'd passed through Leicester without a hitch that I realised something was up: all through the city the lights had been at green; I never even had to brake or ease off the throttle, just steamed through at a steady thirty - right through the city of Leicester, as though it were a tiny, deserted village.

When the car reached the outskirts and began to accelerate away, without my depressing the pedal, I knew that, as with my unexpected break-building, the control of my destiny was in hands other than my own. Unable, even so, to believe what was happening I tried to brake but my foot would not leave the accelerator. As the car's speed rose through the sixties, the seventies, the eighties, as it approached a velocity of which I knew it to be quite incapable and left that mark far behind, my mind passed rapidly through incredulous horror and abject terror until it reached the state of numb acceptance on my fate which I am now experiencing.

I now find myself strangely unafraid, resigned, intrigued even, watching the panic in the faces of the oncoming drivers, as we weave in and out of the traffic at breakneck speed.

My guardian angel and I My angel of death.

We have just passed a 'road narrows' sign. I could make out the very spot where the two lanes become one, were it not for a couple of container lorries which are racing each other at tortoise pace, each trying sluggishly to gain the lead before overtaking is rendered impossible by the narrowing road. The huge rear-view mirrors project from their sides like clips on the sides of a pair of hoops. Clips of death. There is no room to pass and we are hurtling at well over 100mph towards their great, elevated backsides, perched on gigantic wheels, great hoops of space below. Nearer and nearer. Shall we run the hoop and concede the lift? Or give up the innings?

Clips of death. Clips of death. Clips of.....

by Allen Parker (Parkstone)

Correspondence to the Gazette in its early years was prolific, and the fact that replies could appear within a week or two (The Gazette being published every week during the season) kept interest in controversial topics alive. The following series of letters from the year 1910, though rather more sarcastic than usual, are otherwise typical of longrunning disputes.

Controversial Correspondence 1910

To the Editor:

The County Championship **Qualifications**

With reference to this Championship we now have what seems to be a satisfactory definition of the birth qualification, and we can also understand fairly well what the residence qualification means; but we are still left in hopeless darkness as to what is meant by 'ownership of property'. Cannot you, Sir, or someone else interested in the competition, kindly enlighten those amongst us who are thirsting for knowledge on this subject, and who are under the impression that there is a certain difference between the ownership of a scrap heap and the ownership of a thousand acres?

Yours truly O.R. Coote, March 17th. 1910.

There exists in the Croquet world

To the Editor:

a class of person, curious and unique, for there is no analogy to them in any other form of game with which I have come in contact. These people seem to pass their time and squander their intelligence in evolving what are called 'hard cases', in propounding possible and impossible conundrums, in seeking to know what would happen under circumstances which have never arisen, in submitting for the decision of the Editor or Committee causistical and metaphysical points, or in seeking for definitions, generally with the object that they may pick them to pieces. Your correspondent 'O.R.Coote', apparently belongs to this category.

I do not quite gather from his letter whether he is the lordly possessor of a thousand acres or only the humble owner of a scrap heap but he is obviously in 'hopeless darkness, thirsting for knowledge'. His misfortune is that he cannot understand what is meant by 'ownership of property'. Surely the term is sufficiently explicit to be understood by the ordinary lay mind, and sufficiently general for the purpose for which it was framed. It is an expression used in

cricket, and I believe in almost all qualifications for competitions in other games. Why is it inadequate for the needs of a croquet player? It is not sufficiently precise, I admit, for a lawyer or for an Act of Parliament. But croquet is a game and not a statute.

Does Mr Coote suppose that we are going to elaborately define, in legal phraseology, the particular nature of the property to be owned, the tenure by which it is held, the terms of the leases under which it is occupied, whether it is freehold, leasehold, copyhold or what not? If he does he is much mistaken.

What then is his grievance or his object in writing? If he is seeking for enlightenment or assistance as to some individual case, he has only to submit it to me, and I will gladly assist him; if, on the other hand he is only desiring a definition for the purpose of picking holes in it, I, and those acting with me in this tournament, are too old birds to be caught with this chaff. Yours faithfully

Arthur Capell, Chorley Wood. Editor's Note. Without Mr Coote's sanction, willingly accorded, we should not have inserted this letter.

To the Editor:

The letter which appears in your issue of today from a member of the Gazette Sub-Committee is of such a nature that I have no alternative but to leave it unanswered. Yours faithfully,

O.R. Coote, May 5th, 1910.

To the Editor:

Permit me to thank Mr Coote for his courtesy in allowing the publication of a letter from a member of the Croquet Association Gazette Committee in the columns of that paper. He sought information on a matter connected with the County Championship, and as the person mainly instrumental in the institution of this tournament, he received it from me, and he must have been as surprised that his sanction was required for an answer, as I was myself. I was unaware and have yet to learn, that such a course is usual in journalistic correspondence.

Yours faithfully, Arthur Capell, Chorley Wood.

Editor's Note

It is we believe more unusual for an Editor to insert in the Journal edited by him, an attack mainly directed against himself. In submitting, for once, to this attack we nevertheless claim the right to reply. And our reply is, that since we felt that the insertion of such a

letter as that which appeared over Mr Capell's signature on May 5th needed some explanation, we mentioned the only excuse which Associates would be likely to accept, namely the full consent of the gentleman therein attacked. We considered that that excuse was more likely to be held valid than the fact that the letter in question was written by a member of the Gazette Sub-Committee. We may add that there are equally good grounds for the insertion of the letter which appears below.

To the Editor:

A Protest

May I express in the invaluable Gazette how tedious I find Mr Capell's contumelious letters? Can't you persuade him to adopt a more amusing style?

Yours faithfully, J.W. Hawtrey, May 5th, 1910.

To the Editor:

A Reply

As a member of the Croquet Association, Mr Hawtrey by name, is suffering from boredom. So profoundly interesting a fact he naturally hastens to make known to his fellow Associates.

As the tediousness of my letters has unwittingly produced this unhappy condition in Mr Hawtrey, may I offer him my sincere sympathy, a sentiment which I feel he will readily extend to myself, when I tell him that I too, have similarly suffered every week, after a perusal of most of the letters in the Croquet Gazette.

Hither to with a modesty that now appears excessive I have abstained from 'uttering a protest', and have endeavoured to think with a tolerance for others which Mr Hawtrey might strive to emulate, that many of these communications (particularly those on the instructive stroke) are deeply interesting to your readers.

I fear, however, that I can hold out but slight hopes to Mr Hawtrey that his critiscism will in any way alter the wording or character of my letters. His remedy, however, is simple. Let him study the signatures of your correspondents before he reads the letters, and those to which my name is appended let him pass by unread.

Mr Hawtrey is so bold as to suggest I should attempt to be amusing. Heaven forbid! for I should then be violating the most solemn traditions of this worthy journal. It would require the satire of a 'Junius' and the wit of a Sheridan to raise its pages from the 'damnable dullness' into which they have fallen.

Yours faithfully, Arthur Capell, Chorleywood.

Editor's Note, Compare Peter Bell the Third, Part VII, Stanzas 9-17; a clear warning that this correspondence must now cease.

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE RIGHT CLOTHING

Kington Langley Croquet Club, new Chippenham, is to consider a new rule on members' dress....'nappies must be worn on all occasions!'



Fifteen month old Elizabeth, daughter of Tony Treglown who won this year's Kington Langley Club Championship, is suitably attired and ready to set up a break with her mini mallet.

W.J. Cusack, President, Kington Langley C.C.

Tournament Weeks

Tournament Weeks

Cheltenham: 24-29 July Dr Bogle Excels

Report by David Ruscombe-King

This tournament is big. There were something like fifty competitors in the handicap event. There were also class events, and two doubles handicaps. Everyone was guaranteed two games a day till Friday. The management had to be tight. Ian Maugham provided it. The demand that I play games made it difficult to watch other people's. On the first day I started my first game at 9.45am and pegged down my third at 9.45pm.

But there were some things it was hard not to notice. One of these was the conspicuous success of Dr Bogle in everything in which she played. She won the Daniels Cup, beating



Dave Foulser, winner of the 'A' Class at Cheltenham.

Toye in the final. I watched her later playing with her husband in the final of the family doubles. As time approached their opponents, the Paddons, were well ahead. Dr Bogle was for Rover - her husband for hoop six. The Paddons were for peg and Rover. Time was called as Bogle got a break going and went to peg, peeling his partner through Rover after running it himself. The Paddons final shot missed.

Dr Bogle had another success in the Asa-Thomas Trophy, winning the final from Magee. Mrs Hague won the Money Salver from Jacks; Cornelius beat Clay in the final of the 4th class; and Edmunds beat James in the final of the Calthrop Cup. The other Doubles Event was won by Toye & Harrison who beat Maugham & Mrs Walker in the final.

So far the weather had been fine. But now the trophies were distributed, many of the competitors departed, and the rest of us settled down to watch the A Class Final between Foulser and Toye, in steadily increasing rain.

Foulser got the first break, with blue, but he got hampered after the sixth hoop and had to shoot at the yellow pioneer at one back. He hit, but failed to approach one back off the red ball he had left at hoop six. He tried a scatter shot on red but only sent it close to the black ball at hoop one. Toye roqueted black, but went off in the croquet stroke going to yellow on the west boundary. Foulser got in with black which he took to two back where he failed to run the hoop.

Toye got in with red and went to four back, leaving black SE of the peg, blue between hoop two and the west boundary, and yellow near the fourth corner with a rush on red down the east boundary. Foulser lifted blue and shot at black, missing and going into the third corner. Toye then failed to get a rush to hoop one for yellow and joined up with red near hoop two. Foulser missed again and Toye laid up between first corner and first hoop. Foulser hit in with blue from the third corner, went to four back, but failed to get in front of it. He made a wide join with black near the west boundary.

After some desultory play in the steadily falling rain, Foulser took black to four back; then he took blue to penult and missed a short roquet. Toye hit in with yellow and missed a roquet. Foulser got black through four back. Eventually Toye got in with vellow (black and blue were for penult, and red for four back). He failed a long second hoop. Foulser shot at black in the fourth corner and missed. Toye got a break going with yellow and went to the peg, cross pegging black and blue and laying up on the east boundary near the fourth corner.

Foulser shot at blue from B baulk and hit, taking black to the peg. Toye made a wide join on the east boundary. Foulser got a rush on yellow, but left it short and failed to get position for the hoop. He left himself a rush for penult. Toye shot at black and blue, but missed. Foulser rushed back to penult, made the hoop, took off to yellow, rushed yellow to near the fourth hoop from where he got position, ran rover, and joined up. Toye hit in with yellow. He laid up in the third corner, with blue near the second corner, and black in the fourth corner. Foulser hit the peg with black. Toye went to peg with red but failed to peg out yellow. He pegged out red. Yellow was three yards east of the peg; blue between second hoop and the west boundary. If Foulser hit he could not lose. If he missed he could not win. He hit.

RESULTS
Class Events
'A' Class: Challenge Cup
(2. blocks. all-play-all. a)

'A' Class: Challenge Cup (2 blocks, all-play-all, advanced play: 10 entries)

Block Play-Off Semi-finals

Semi-finals

D. Foulser bt P. Dorke +19; J. Toye bt J.

Wurmli +6.

Wins: Mrs E. Asa-Thomas & L. Chapman;

A. Girling & Dr R. Jones; Mrs P. Hague & Mrs

K. Whittall: Fl. Maugham & Mrs J. Walker.

Hurlingham: 29 July - 5 August 'You sunburned sicklemen of August weary' (The Tempest)

This report should be read by those who by August have grown tired of one-event weekend tournaments, good for minimising absence from work but offering little variety.

Report by Robert Prichard

good for minimising absence from work but offering little variety. Hurlingham provides three unusual doubles, a truly 'Big' Handicap (with an appropriately sized cup), and four class events.

Some players in the Opens may like to note that here is a tournament where all the games are guaranteed to be at Hurlingham. It can last eight days if you enter every event, but most of the singles events are now arranged to give everyone several games before anyone starts to be eliminated, so there is ample play. Moreover, careful choice of which events to enter restricts the holiday needed to two or three days. The most difficult thing about the tournament is managing it. Jean and Michael Henderson and Bevis Sanford were ably supported by Paul Macdonald in a task complicated by the punishing fastness of the lawns.

This did not prevent Paul coming within 3 points of wining the B class Turner Cup. A trickled peg-out from the corner gave the Cup to Tom Browne. Last year Tom had won the C class Younger Cup, whose final this

Final
Foulser bt Toye +1.

'C' Class: Asa-Thomas Trophy
(2 blocks, all-play-all, advanced play - Law
53: 10 entries)
Block Play-Off

Final
Dr G. Bogle bt D. Magee +2(T).

'D' Class:
(2 blocks, all-play-all, level play, 22pts:

10 entries)
Block Play-Off
Final
D. Cornelius bt D. Clay +15.

'E' Class: Calthrop Cup (2 blocks, all-play-all, handicap play, 18pts: 10 entries) Block Play-Off

Final C. Edmunds (13) bt L. James (10) +14(T). The Daniels Cup

The Daniels Cup (10 blocks, all-play-all, handicap play: 50 entries) Block Play-Off

2nd Round Dr G. Bogle (6) bt Mrs K. Yeoman (5) +18; A.J. Bogle (1½) bt Mrs P. Hague (2½); D. Harrison (9) bt Mrs E. Weitz (5) +11; J. Toye (0) bt D. Gaunt (-½) +26. Semi-Finals

Dr Bogle bt A.J. Bogle +25; Toye bt Harrison +23. Final Dr G. Bogle bt Toye +26.

Secretary's Spoon

(Family Handicap Doubles, 22pt Swiss: 10 pairs)
4 wins: A. & Dr G. Bogle.
3 wins: Mr & Mrs D. Moorcraft; Mr & Mrs

Barwell Salvers (Handicap Doubles, 22pt, Swiss: 16 pairs) 4 wins: J. Toye & D. Harrison 3 wins: Mrs E. Asa-Thomas & L. Chapman; year saw Matthew Coles (penultimate of the five brothers) lose his only game of the week, to another soaring local, Alan Chance. The following evening Alan helped devise a six-ball game where the two sides play partly simultaneously, so he may yet be a master at two games.

The D class Longworth Cup had an all Ipswich final, in which Celia Pearce beat Jill Waters by 8. The closest match in this event had been between Wyn Jones and Joanna Prescot, who needed to score one point to win their timed game. Each had one ball for the peg, so neither could score with that ball (under Handicap Laws), but both of them were tempted to try, despite the intervention of a Spectator Referee under Reg. 8. In the Candlesticks, the country's only women's doubles event, Joanna retained her title, playing with Veronica Carlisle. This was rather lucky because until the final she had been playing off her singles handicap and one victory was a retirement-on-the-peg by the two Celias from Ipswich (Pearce and Steward) who had double-banked themselves with a tournament at Colchester. Veronica also won the mixed doubles, including crushing internationals Nigel Aspinall and Debbie Prentis by 23 in the first round. Her partner, nipper James, did the only two triples of the week in this event.

Sadly, pressure of work-experience forced him to scratch from the Hurlingham Cup. The last chairman of the CA Tournament Committee, Aiton, also withdrew, while the present one, Aspinall, was allowed in after the tournament had started but then scratched with a twisted knee. Jerry Guest's sudden 'crash' in each half (his mind was on an impending car-rally) thus left the way clear for Robert Prichard, Andrew Symons and Steve Comish to reach the semifinals of both sides.

Dayal Gunaskera's last bid for a place in the President's Cup wrecked his normal fluency and he was twice beaten by Steve Comish, the eventual winner, the second time by 4 in deep evening gloom. Despite losing his shooting, Steve then beat Robert (the defender) to win both halves. He also had a good run in the Silver Jubilee big handicap. In the knockout stage he had two swingeing +25s, followed by a +6 over Bob Stephens. Bob is a rapidly improving dentist, from whom the handicappers later rightly extracted several bisques, but Steve's ploy worked when he went to rover on the fourth turn, leaving all four balls inches from the corners.

Matthew Coles, though, was his opponent in the final, which proved to be the game of the week (and a rewarding substitute as game of the

year for those who missed Openshaw's win over Mulliner in the Opens). Matthew used all his seven bisques to reach 2-back with his first ball and thus looked beaten, especially when Steve went round to rover and was approaching Hoop 1 with the second ball

That approach was perilously glassy, however, and a failure let Matthew in with his forward ball. He went to rover, where he was faced with a 4 yard roll up at worse than 45 degrees. The crowd was amazed to see him attempt a peel but even more so to see the peelee lodge in the jaws and be cannoned through. He was left two inches from the wire and to one side. He jumped through the impossible hoop and told the referee he was going to peg BOTH balls out. which he did. He argued that he had rotten tactics in a three ball game. His tactics in the two-baller from the first hoop proved as unorthodox as his feet-together crouching side-style, but a 30 yard hit in at rover gave him victory by 2 in a game which swung back and forth as often as Comish aiming.

The most useful of the prizes are the Wine Coolers. These are for the men's doubles, unique among handicap doubles in that there is no lower limit to combined handicap. The lowest pair for the fourth year running, David Peterson and Robert Prichard, lost as usual in the first round, which also saw a remarkable win for Bernard Neal and David Godfree by 22 over the winners for the last two years, Aspinall and Nevill Lisle.

The greatest excitement was provided by the second youngest player, 24 year old Matthew, and the second oldest, Bob Ponsonby, who celebrated his 78th birthday on the lawns. Their path to victory included two consecutive wins +1 (not on time), when Matthew may have formed his opinion on his tactics with three balls.

RESULTS
Hurlingham Cup
(Draw & Process, advanced play: 13 entries)
Winner: S. Comish
Runner-Up: A. Symons
Turner Cup
(2 blocks, advanced play: 7 entries)
Block Play-Off
Final:
T. Browne bt I.P.M. Macdonald +3.

Younger Cup 3 blocks, level play:12 entries) Block Play-Off Final: A. Chance bt M. Coles +19. Longworth Cup

(3 blocks, handicap play: 10 entries)
Block Play-Off
Final:
Miss J. Waters (10) bt Miss C. Pearce (12) +8.

Hurlingham Doubles (Knockout, advanced play: 7 pairs) Budleigh Salterton: 7-12 August A Brand Final

Report by Dr D.R. Laney

By deferring the Summer tournament until August the Club attracted more entries and in particular this meant that schoolboys, masters and College lecturers were able to enter; as things turned out the schoolboy beat the master, but the College lecturer overcame the schoolboy in the end.

The deferment also meant that the lawns had had longer to exist under drought conditions and at the time of the tournament all watering had been banned. But in spite of this the manager, Dennis Moorcraft, was able to keep to his tight schedule; with extensive double-banking at the beginning of the week 60 games were played on the first day and 40 on the second. The weather was kind to us and not with standing the difficult lawns all the competitions were decided in good time.

In the final of the South West Championship David Croker beat Christopher Haslam by 26 - in the morning Christopher had beaten John Toye in a game in which he seemed to miss nothing - but he missed two vital shots in the afternoon and David did two well controlled breaks to clinch the title.

The big handicap event was won by Richard Brand who defeated his brother, Ivor in the final. Richard went on after lunch to take the doubles title with his partner, David Prescott, when they overcame what appeared at the start of the game to be more than enough bisques to see Barbara Haslam and Ernest Dalley through. Meanwhile, John Haslam was winning the Longman Cup for middle bisquers from Sally Watson.

The Stone Cup was won by Michael Davis who beat Ernest Dalley in the

There were three balls in the evening

during the week but if you weary

sicklemen want to have a ball in

August next year, I suggest you come

J. & Mrs V. Carlisle bt A.V. Camroux & Mrs

Mrs Carlisle & Mrs Prescot (12) bt Mrs Healy

Lt Cdr R.M.D. Ponsonby & M. Coles (11) bt M.

M. Coles (6) bt C. Southern (scr); S. Comish

and join us on the lawns.

Ladies Field Candlesticks

& Mrs Osmond (17) +4(T).

The Wine Coolers

Block Play-Off

Semi-Finals

Final

(Ladies handicap doubles: 7 pairs)

(Mens handicap doubles: 15 pairs)

(8 blocks, handicap play: 33 entries)

Pearson & J. Tennant (11) +14.

The Silver Jubilee Cup

(1/2) bt R. Stephens (8) +6.

Coles bt Comish +2.

Mansfield +13.

Final:

Prize winners at Budleigh Salterton (L to R): Christine Bagnall (Budleigh's Chairman); Richard Brand (winner of Oliver Bowl); John Haslam (winner of Longman Cup); David Croker (winner of Colman Cup); Mick Tompkinson (winner of Y event); Michael Davis (winner of Stone Cup); and Dennis Moorcraft (Manager).

play-off and the 'Y' was won by Mick Tompkinson.

The prizes were presented by Myrtle Stevens after Christine Bagnall had thanked all who made RESULTS

Colman Cup (3 blocks, advanced play: 13 entries) Final: D.J. Croker bt C. Haslam +26.

(Knockout, advanced play: 6 entries)
Final: J.H. Haslam bt Mrs P. Watson +8.

Stone Challenge Cup (4 blocks, handicap play: 20 entries) Block Play-Off Semi-Finals

Semi-Finals

E. Dalley (15) bt Mrs M. Dalley (16) +8; M. McF
Davis bt Mrs B.L. Haslam (12) + 5.
Final:

M. McF. Davis bt E. Dalley +8.

Oliver Bowl
(X & Y knockout, handicap play: 48 entries)

4th Round
L.V. Latham (0) bt J.C. Hatherley (4) +12; I.
Brand (1) bt Mrs C. Bagnall (7) +14; R. Brand
(2½) bt L.J. Chapman (2½) +2(T); D.J. Croker

the lady-members and bar-staff who had dealt with the needs of the inner man so well.

the week so successful, in particular

(-1) bt J.S. Toye (-½) +11. Semi-Finals I. Brand bt Latham +18; R. Brand bt Croker

+26. Final

R. Brand bt I. Brand +12. 'Y' Semi-Finals R.W. Newnham (4) bt A.J. Betts (7½) +1(T);

M. Tompkinson (1½) bt Miss A. Dawson (7) +9.

Tompkinson bt Newnham +8.

Le Mesurier Cups

(22pts, handicap doubles: 27 pairs)
Semi-finals
R. Brand & D. Prescott (11½) bt Rev S. Scarr
& M. Davis (13) +5: E. Dalley & Mrs Haslam

(23) bt Dr & Mrs P. Watson (8) +2(T). Final Brand & Prescott bt Dalley & Mrs Haslam

Brand & Prescott bt Dalley & Mrs Haslam +2(T).

PUZZLE SOLUTION

In our last issue, we published on page 23 a puzzle compiled by Jim Townsend. The solution is given below.

scored 8 points in his other four games, his game against Ferdinand must have been the 4-5 one, in order to fit his total of 12 points.

From the information supplied, it can be deduced that there are only 15 possible scores, ranging up to 5-5, the result of the game between Brian and Chris. Ferdinand's three draws must accordingly have been 2-2, 3-3 and 4-4, while to reach his aggregate of 18 points, his two one-point victories must have been 5-4 and 4-3, these two games being against Alan and David, both of whom had no drawn games.

Since Alan can be found to have

games, his game against Ferdinand must have been the 4-5 one, in order to fit his total of 12 points. Likewise, in his game against David, he must have conceded 4 points to fit the 12 against total. Ferdinand's 4-3 victory must accordingly have been against David.

The remainder of the grid can be completed by trial and error, concentrating on the correct places for Ferdinand's three draws, by eliminating the possibilities which do not satisfy the various pieces of information supplied.

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 peggingout, anxious to get back to the bar.

Obituary ALBERT LAWRANCE, MSc, FIMA.

Albert Lawrance 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.

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. 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 runnerup. 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

This phraseology prompts me to





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

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

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

Winner: R. Selmes (6) (5 wins). Runner-up: A. Bowers (8) (4 wins). Block C (6-round Swiss, handicap play: 16

Winner: K. Bright (8) (6 wins). Runner-up: C. Williams (3½).





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

No. 3

(Published by the Croquet Association)

INCEREST MA LOD TITLE

Nov. 1989.

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.

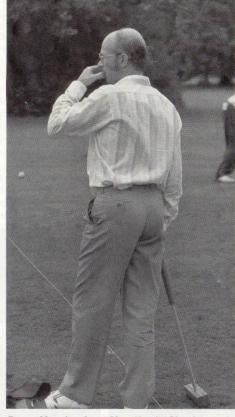
ENGLAND TO HOST 1990 WORLD CROQUET CHAMPIONSHIP

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).

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.

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'

- 1. 'Pirates' can be played by up to eight people, each using one of the primary or secondary colour balls.
- 2. 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.
- 3. The winner is the first player to score 19 points.
- 4. 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.
- 5. 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.

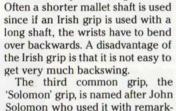
Coaching Corner: The Grip

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 righthanded 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.

able 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 back-In choosing a grip it is worth hitting a few shots with each and seeing which feels the most comfortable

and natural

CROOUET CLASSIC

Report by Chris Hudson

Croquet Classic

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

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

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

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

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.

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

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

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

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

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

BEN GREEN, had his 12th birthday

in August this year, and is a pupil at

Bristol Grammar School. He joined

local team.

become an expert punter.

the eventual winner.

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!

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

Semi-Finals

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

R. Huyshe bt N. Goodyear +8(T). 3rd place play-off

H. Williams bt T. Masterton +2(T).

Preston Croquet Club), Mrs Jean Coppack and Miss Vera Devlin (both of Rottingdean Croquet Club, the

latter also WI member).

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

Some of the participants had never

even handled a mallet before and

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

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.

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

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.

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.

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

the Bristol Club.

NIGEL HIND, aged 40, is a computer

ROGER HUYSHE, aged 41, is from

RICHARD NEVILLE, aged 43, is a

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.

DEREK REED, aged 43, is a solicitor

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 Wrest Park club. A former Master of Foxhounds, at one time he was a 4-handicap golfer.

HUGH WILLIAMS, comes from Daventry. 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 Wrest Park. Qualified as a Referee in September. A former squash and 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.

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.

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.

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 OLX

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 newlyformed 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 advertisment 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

Report by Ron Smith

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

"Matchplay"

Bespoke Croquet Mallets

The Quality is Right and the Price is Right

Send or telephone for a copy of our updated bi-monthly Newsletter giving availability and prices of all mallets.

Evening calls welcome.

GEOFFREY H. DAY
Country Crafts
Manor Cottage
Widecombe in the Moor
Devon TQ13 7TB
Tel: 036 42 218

Schools

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

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



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

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 benefitted 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 Burridge, 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 Ian's balls nicely split in opposite corners. However when Robert's green stuck in hoop 3 with his last bisque used, his opponent Ian Burridge (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 voghurt - 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 'schoolouting-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. Ian 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

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.

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 seeemed to be

sudenly 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 vellow 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 Ian 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

+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

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 manhoops 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

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

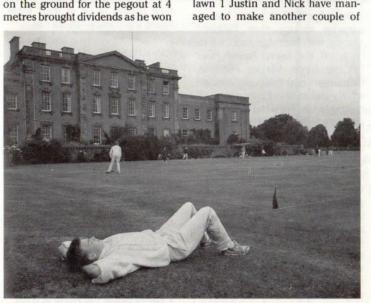


Peter Dorke, who managed the Schools Finals at Nottingham, takes a bite to eat at Himley.

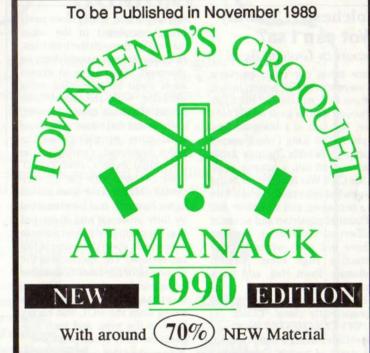
him out of trouble.... and Nottingham for the loan of their excellent lawns'.

Perhaps this years 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 worth-

Next year - could it be your local school - with your help? NB final round score: Wrekin beat Bishop Veseys 3-0. Colchester beat Dulwich 2-1.



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



First Computer World Rankings More detailed 1989 Worldwide Player Statistics Townsend Croquet Almanack Medals New more easily readable typeface

Olde Borke's Almanack

£9.90 in Hardback £5.90 in Paperback Townsend Croquet Ltd, Claire Rd, Kirby X, Frinton, Essex CO13 0LX. Tel (0255) 674404 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

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

Colchester: 3-7 July Wot can i sa?

Report by Graham Budd

Once more our pulse quickens as we return to Colchester; home. we are told, not only of the Club, although that in itself would be a lure, but also of several nursery rhymes (Old King Cole, Humpty Dumpty, Twinkle Twinkle Little Star, and so on), a famous siege in the Civil War (Colchester being somewhat reluctantly Royalist on this occasion), and a more or less influential physician and scientist (Gilbert of Colchester). And yet I have not even written of the attractive High street, elegant Italianate Town Hall, and fascinating museums.

By now, my motives should be transparently clear - COME TO SUNNY COLCHESTER With only Nigel Gale having a slight claim to the status of 'visitor', Colchester's already slightly provincial feel can only have been enhanced, a matter of some regret to both us and you, the Great Croquet Public (GCP).

But enough of the sales drive - on with the game! The lawns were up to their old wickedness, as told in days of yore and all that, viz. of murderous speed. The 'A' class were particularly embarrassed, with 'On Time's coming thick and fast, and, until the Great Deluge at

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 wrested 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 crisscross 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.

the end of the week, more peels being 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 infringe-

ment of Law 32, and after a clear

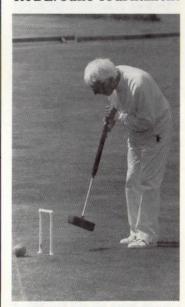
ruling from the ROT, was hardly

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

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,

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 teethgnashing from the other gallant 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?

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)

J.D. Greenwood & Mrs Osmond (12) bt

Mr & Mrs P. Macdonald (7) +6.

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...

PERSONAL COLUMN

20p per word. Min £5. (Please add 15%

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

STAMP OUT ART!!! PICTURE DESIGNS RUBBER STAMPS. Personalise your stationery, announcements. Beautifully detailed. Ideal Gifts. Fantastic 1,400 design catalogue, .99p. Or SAE details. CALEDESIGN, (Dept. C72), Millstreet, Co. Cork, Ireland.

Weekend Tournaments

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 is was a close thing though, +3 to Rosemary on

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 eleveninch-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 enthusiastic 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 (1/2) bt C.F. Moon (61/2) +17; D.M. Wood (6) bt D.W. Trotman (5) +18.

(91/2) bt F.L. Shergold & Mrs B.R. Saunders (7) +14.

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 (141/2) +4; T.I. Wood & Mrs M. Green

Wood & Mays bt Wood & Mrs Green +9.



David Cairns lining up a peel.

GREAT BRITAIN'S MACROBERTSON SHIELD TEAM

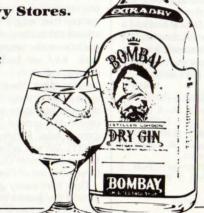
The following players will represent Great Britain in the MacRobertson Shield Series in New Zealand next

M. Avery · R.I. Fulford C.J. Irwin · S.N. Mulliner · D.K. Openshaw W. de B. Prichard · M.A. Saurin GOOD LUCK!

The game of croquet is a great English tradition, played throughout the world on some of the finest lawns and enjoyed by many. Like Bombay Gin for some people, nothing else will do.

Bombay Gin has the flavour of a fine English dry Gin, and is the ideal base for the perfect cocktail to relax with when your match is over. The flavour is acquired by distilling from eight 'botanicals,' and the unhurried distillation process ensures that there is only one world's finest - Bombay Gin.

Bombay Gin are proud to be associated with Croquet. Available from selected branches of Army and Navy Stores. Harrods. Selfridges. **Peter Dominic** and good Off Licences.



Report by 'the Ro(e)man fool' (Macbeth, Act V scene 7)

Roehampton's decision to stage a 'B' class weekend was very welcome, providing, as it did, a rare opportunity for 'B' players to meet at advanced level in tournament play; staged at the same time as the opening weekend of the World Championships at Hurlingham, it also provided a small consolation for any whose aspirations to take part in the Championships had been denied.

The well-worn format of knockout and progressive Swiss was judged to be successful, although there was some dissatisfaction that the final had to be played as a single game after the semi-finals had been played as best of 3. The decision of the Manager, Paul Macdonald, to play best of 3 at semi-final level could thus be judged as over-ambitious, but he could (and did) excuse himself by

pointing to the general slowness of the games (due, most said, to the fast and tricky lawns) and in particular to one long drawn out and exciting semi-final



Kevin Carter, who lost in the final at Roehampton to Les Chapman

home against Robert Pennant-Jones (Roehampton), winning both the first and third game by +1 on time; had Robert's red ball not rolled back into 3 back after what had seemed to be a succesful running, the result might have been very different, for Les went on to beat Kevin Carter (Cheltenham) in the final - again by one point, though this time not on time. This was another exciting game in which Kevin missed his pegout with his front ball and Les missed with his back ball. Les thus won the Philpot Cup which was having its first airing in an open tournament since the demise of the old Roehampton evening tournament several years

In this, Les Chapman from

Winchester just managed to scrape

Robert Pennant-Jones won the

play-off for third place, some compensation for his acute disappointment in the semi-final. The result of the Swiss was a narrow win for Simon Tuke (Southwick) who won his last four games after losing the first two, a satisfying justification of the Swiss system, although galling to Tom Browne (Hurlingham) who was leading the field only to fall to Simon at the last hurdle.

All-in-all a successful innovatory tournament which hopefully is here to stay.

Philpot Cup

(Knockout, advanced play: 16 entries) Semi-Finals

K. Carter bt A.R.K. Miller +8, +7; L.J. Chapman bt R. Pennant-Jones +1(T), -11(T),

Chapman bt Carter +1.

Colchester: 4-6 August Wrest Park: 19-20 August

Report by Pat Hetherington

With Colchester's sun-drenched courts in their most glacial challenging condition, the 24 participants in the August handicap seven-round Swiss tournament managed to set at least two new records.

First, out of 84 matches played, no less than 63 went to time (a generous 31/4 hours on 26-point games for the first 4 rounds and 21/2 hours on 18-point games for the last 3 rounds). Of the 21 games that did not go to time, no less than 10 took place on the immaculate but considerably slower lawn at Wivenhoe. Incidentally, only two of the 24 players did not get a game a Wivenhoe.

Secondly, a club, and possibly a national record, was set for length of time taken to produce a result after time had been called when Judy Anderson and Peter Turner, level when time was called, managed to play for a further 38 minutes (watched by all the other players who were enjoying their lunch) before Judy managed to run the deciding

With a handicap range from -11/2 to +16 (one player arrived as a 17, was promptly reduced by one and had a further one removed at close of play) Robert Fulford did extremely well to win all his games and was only once taken to time - by Bill Lamb.

RESULTS

7 wins: R.I.Fulford (Winner). 5 wins: Mrs J. Anderson; Mrs R. Gugan; P.Harbord; R. Best.

4 wins: P. Allnutt; T.R. Burge; A.R.K.Miller; D. Dugan; W. Lamb; J. Williams; Mrs C. Steward.

3 wins: G.Hallett; J.Plummer; C.Pearce; Mrs B. Carter; R. Hall; J. Wheeler; P. Turner; T. Anderson.

2 wins: J. Waters; N. Carter. 1 win: F.H. Butler.

0 wins: N. Gray.

Report by John Bevington

When John Coutts' blue ball stuck fast in the hoop, he might well have been forgiven for thinking that manager Jon Watson had adopted the Mikado's mantle, condemning players to 'a cloth untrue, with a twisted cue, and elliptical billiard balls!

The cloth, close-mown and parched, was only true to itself. Long shots occasionaly jumped for joy as they raced towards their targets. Finely judged take-offs took full advantage of any slopes and perplexed the striker by their ability to coast across the grassy places and then pick up speed as they encountered a bare patch. Gentle hoop approaches had strong men reaching for their pacemakers as the hoop ball set off, turning this way and that, thinking all the time in which direction to roll over when it finally came to rest. The really spiteful balls only expended their dying momentum after the striker had mopped his brow and taken his stance.

Twisted cues were harder to spot, but when disaster struck, several players were seen to be indulging in strokes that might possibly have altered either the geometry of their mallets or the topography of the Park. And we had at least one ellipsoidal ball.

As manager, Jon also doubled up as Ko-Ko by virtue of his 'little list'. He dealt out summary justice to everyone in the second block (11/2 - 4) except John Ruddock, who won +10(T). Jon was followed by Adrian Kirby and George Collin, each with three wins out of five.

Time bore many games away -33% of the games in Block 1 (-1/2 -1½), 53% in Block 2 and 87% in Block 3 (4-8), and this with three hour time limits with an extra quarter hour if double banking. If the Almanack's statistician is interested, we can supply further data on request. The top block was won by Brian

Hallam, the runner-up being John Coutts. Each had four wins from five. John had actually beaten Brian +9(T)!, but the Mikado had decided that total points would decide, and Brian was 32 points ahead. Wrest Park's only representative in the top block was Tom Anderson, who finished with two wins. Maybe he had not fully recovered from the previous Thursday's club night, where he was seen to dispatch a rabbit with a crush stroke (without stalking the target from all angles, and with commendable speed).

The third block was dominated by the Letchworth duo of Tony Parry and Duncan Hector, who each had four wins, Tony winning with an aggregate of +49. Your reporter managed to contribute nearly half this total, and played his most memorable shot when losing to Duncan. A take-off from the vicinity of corner four to Duncan's balls laid up outside the second corner with a rush to the second hoop. The ball glides past hoop four, past the peg, and then begins to swing to the left as lawn 1 dictates. Length good, fine line. And then stuck fast in the jaws of hoop two. Proving that to travel hopefully is better than to arrive.

Innocent merriment? Pooh (and

1990 **CROOUET IN EUROPE**

Two croquet tours will be arranged next season - to France and to Italy/Switzerland. Four places are available on each tour, which will combine coaching sessions and competitive play.

European croquet courts at present can best be described as 'sporting', but enthusiasm for the game is tremendous. Those who are happy to play their croquet on 'les terrains europeens' might welcome a chance to combine croquet with a European holiday.

Italy & Switzerland

A 6-day tour to play croquet in Italy and Switzerland is planned as follows:

21-22 June 23-24 June Geneva 25-26 June Turin

A 5-day tour to play croquet in France is planned as follows:

8-9 July Fontenay le Comte 10 July Foussais Peray 11-12 July Les Peintures (Bordeaux)

The dates for both tours may be subject to minor changes.

Players will pay their own way to the various venues but in some instances the cost of travelling may be defrayed in part by coaching fees. Local players will offer accommodation to the visitors on relevant days.

Arrangements will be finalised when those taking part are known. Players who speak Italian or French will be given preference. CA coaches would be particularly welcome. Handicap immaterial. Enquiries to Chris Hudson.

Ipswich & Felixstowe: 19-20 August

Report by Peter Turner

The beautiful, tranquil setting which surrounds the Ipswich club belies the events which occurred during the weekend. The tournament was run as a five round swiss, with Lewis Palmer running out a clear winner with five out of five wins. There was a larger than average female contingent, which was extremely pleasant, with six of the 16 players being of the fairer sex.

The surprise of the tournament came even before a ball had been struck with the diminutive Debbie Cornelius helping out Robert Fulford by finishing off his treacle tart on the Friday evening, much to the surprise of the rest of us!

During the first day's play we were graced by a couple of wits passing by the lawns whilst Annabel McDiarmid played a rather 'beefy' shot across the lawn. This prompted one of the onlookers to say 'I bet she drinks Carling Black Label' - it almost seemed funny at the time.

Those experienced at social inter-

course with Celia Pearce will know that her cigarettes are the least likely aspect of her to merit a Government health warning. John Walters managed to incur her wrath by his refereeing decisions. In my game against Celia, he twice faulted her for crushing the ball whilst attempting to run the hoop to the boundary (to add to the insult he allowed a similar shot of mine in between Celia's faults). The second time he uttered the word 'fault' he made sure he had put a fair distance between Celia and himself!

A rather friendly moggie at the Felixstowe lawn provided entertainment for those waiting for their opponents to go round. It would engage in a tug-of-war using a piece of grass, and drink out of cans. Barny Butler even managed to stroke it, which persuaded it to guard his red ball.

Towards the end of a sultry second day, Nick Carter was foolish enough to cast aspersions on the mechanical ability of women in hearing range of Celia Pearce and Jill Waters. They restrained him while Cathy French demonstrated her mechanical ability by proceeding to empty the contents of an aerosol can of cream on Nick's head.

Thanks must go to Martin 'Brenda' French and his team for the excellent catering, to Celia Steward (the manager) and to Bob and Carol Sutherland for providing the tournament dinner which was truly superb.

Finally my apologies to all those insulted and abused in this report, but since I was nominated because 'he looks sweet and innocent', honour had to be satisfied.

Southport: 4-6 August Murder in the Sandhills

Report by Mark Saurin

Recent hot dry weather had made the lawns as fast as they had been for a good few years, and in such firm ground the hoops could be set extremely tight.

The first day's play was notable only for the hammering of Peter Death by Hilary Turner with four bisques left. Saturday again saw hot weather which was crippling to



both players and spectators. Many found their play wilting in the heat.

As the day progressed blockwinners were becoming apparent, with Hilary continuing her good form, and Dan McCormick not just catching but ripping out the eyes of the handicappers present. (What a disgrace that there had been no handicapper present at the Junior Championships the previous weekend, comments A. Bennet.)

the sands nearby - and why hadn't Colin come to watch again? Anyway, Hilary, Dan and James Hawkins had won their blocks by lunchtime, but in the other block the deciding game was between Barbara Haslam and Mark Saurin. Barbara used six of her thirteen

Sunday arrived and the local

police had found a dead body on



Dan McCormick (left) and Hilary Turner, block winners at Southport.

The other two blocks were much closer. Mid-afternoon saw Colin Irwin, only spectator, finding the heat intolerable, drifting into deep sleep between lawns 3 and 5. The loud Irish snoring prompted questions such as: could players be charged with murder in the event of an 'accident'?

bisques to get to peg, Mark hit and went round, peeling his other ball through hoops 1, 2 and 3 and pegging out two balls. Barbara won +1 even though bisques ran out at hoop 5. This meant that Simon Rea won the block convincingly.

We thank the caterers and hoopsetters, and especially Peter Death for managing. The handicappers had the last laugh, with many reductions: after all, how else can one get a handicap reduction after this year's strange and absurd exclusion of results in open play?

(4 blocks, handicap play: 28 entries) **Block Winners**

D. McCormick (5); J. Hawkins (9); H. Turner (14); S. Rea (6).

Guildford & Godalming: 19-20 August Glorious C & G

Report by Richard Hilditch

On arriving at C&G, some of the players thought that the celebrations of World War 2 had started early with a trench dug across the middle of the lawns. This turned out to be the ditch for a new bowling green which occupies part of the previous lawn area. It is good to see that the conversion of bowling greens to croquet lawns can go both ways. Despite the new bowling section, there were still 4 fast lawns with a fifth soon to be available.

The event was played as a variable Swiss, with players having on average 7 games. The first round saw what turned out to be a key

game, with Hilditch beating Aiton fairly convincingly. With these two undefeated for the rest of the event, there was little excitement for the crowd except for the stoolball game on Sunday.

The tent, used in previous years to protect against thunderstorms, proved invalubale in protection against the relentless sun. As usual the key thanks go to Tony Mrozinski who seemingly runs the club single-handedly.

RESULTS

(Swiss, advanced play: 15 entries) 7 wins: R.J. Hilditch. 6 wins: K.M.H. Aiton.

Compton: 7-10 August Report by David Higgs

The corresponding event last year had been cancelled due to lack of visitors. A different format was used this year, consisting of 3-day handicap events, one day handicap doubles, and a 3-day level play tournament. The latter was cancelled through lack of support.

As elsewhere, the abnormal British summer had had its effect on the lawns and showed up the slight hollows around hoops, into which the balls were attracted. In spite of the unusual pace, breaks were made. After the handicap events, there was mercifully some light rain overnight, which made the lawns for the handicap doubles event just a little nearer normal.

The two handicap events (unrestricted and 8 and over) run as draw and process were dominated by the raiding party from Newport, Essex, of Ron Atkinson, John Hobbs, and John Farley. Ron reached the final by beating Gordon Drake who had earlier beaten him in Process, and then beat John Hobbs, who had emerged from both draw and

In the 8 and over handicap event, John Farley prevented Rodney Hick (Preston) from taking the trophy in the final of the marriage, with Compton members, Ted Robinson and Joan Chittenden, being their victims respectively in the semi-finals.

Visitors - this time from Preston, Brighton-also managed to take the trophies for the handicap doubles, Rodney and Christine Hick beat Fran Erichsen and David Higgs (yet another visitor) in the final.

One of the special joys of visiting Compton is the excellent lunches and teas provided by the ladies of the club. The lunches matched the hot weather perfectly, with cooling sandwiches and fruit. Well done,

Event 1 (H'cap 8 & over) (Draw & Process, handicap play) J. Farley (11) bt R. Hick (10) +20. **Event 2** (Draw & Process, handicap play)

Final R. Atkinson (8) bt J. Hobbs (8).

Event 3 (Handicap play,22pts: 8 pairs)

Final Mr & Mrs C. Hick (22) bt Mrs Erichsen

& Dr D. Higgs (23) +3.

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 handicappping 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 toothere 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 de-

crying 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 overconcerned 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 enthusisam 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 ones 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

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

noted.

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 occurences 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 contempories 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.

Hurlingham.

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

Philip Joseph,

THE 1990 CROQUET CLASSIC 4th Year

Would your Company like to Sponsor a Regional Final? Opportunities exist for local, regional, and national publicity plus client entertainment

and hospitality at a venue of your choice.

Contact Chris Hudson for further details.



ACS DESIGNS offer the Definitive Croquet Clock in an original and attractive design, printed in pleasing pastel colours.

The handsome circular frame is 7" in diameter, craftsman-turned in finest English Ash, combines Brass Bezel and Hands to make this a truly delightful gift at £17.95 each, postage and packing £2.00. Please send SAE for Order Form with coloured illustration to:

ACS DESIGNS
7 Ashby Road, Northchurch
Berkhamsted, Herts HP4 3SJ
Telephone: (0442) 862944

A.C.S Designs Clockmakers to the Promotional Trade i

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 hosepipe 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, Daivd 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

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

Cornelius v. French, 1st series -On lawn 4, the worst of the four used, it took 31/2 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 vard shot at Debbie's ball by peg which 'hilled' off to lose

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 overstatement...

Collighan - poorly is an overstatement - 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	ALC: NO		sc	DAC	DRF	DCR	JEG	RJC	Games Won			
	DM	MRF							1st Series	2nd Series	Final Total	Order
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	-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	+13	+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
D.C. 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		+17 -10	2	3	5	6=
R.J. Collighan	-11 -11	-8 -5	-19 -17	-5 -12	+2	-16 -3	-17 +10		1	1	2	8

Invitation Events

times, except when oppos 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

absolutely certain he had hit, given

the importance and state of the

game. He disregarded such com-

ments 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 pro-

ceeded 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 proabability of

breakdown by French in tough con-

ditions, and the comfort of a play-off

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

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 con-

tinued 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.

To close I should mention that lawn

causing him anxious moments.

even if that game had been lost.

lawn 4 - cause of most of the pegged down games. If French won they were into a play-ff, 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 vards 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

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

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 334 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

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 21/2 hours.

Only 5 matches took more than 3 hours and the fastest game, between Pat Macdonald and Kay Yeoman, was finished in 11/4 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.

	KW	111		PM		100	Game	s Won	Final Total	Order
ongman Bowl: 1989		BW	ку		JC	LN	1st Series	2nd Series		
frs K. Whittall	ata la	+14	+3 +10	+14 +5	+14 +20	+24 +18	5	4	9	1
frs B. Weitz	-14 +7		-15 +6	+9 +7	-5 +20	+15 +17	2	5	7	2
Irs K. Yeoman	-3 -10	+15 -6	100	-8 +22	+13 +7	+14 +20	3	3	6	3
frs P. MacDonald	-14 -5	-9 -7	+8 -22		+18 +3	+17 +17	3	2	5	4
frs J. Cima	-14 -20	+5 -20	-13 -7	-18 -3		-1 +18	1	1	2	5
frs L. Neal	+24 -18	-15 -17	-14 -20	-17 -17	+1 -18	Fish	1	0	1	6

WALKER CROQUET **EQUIPMENT**

TOURNAMENT MALLETS

Made to your choice of weight and length

TOURNAMENT BALLS

Croquet Association Approved for Tournament use. 2-year Guarantee

THE ASSOCIATION CROQUET MALLET

(Formerly the Bernard Neal Croquet Mallet) We now manufacture and market this range

also

COMPLETE SETS - FULL RANGE OF EQUIPMENT

Send for Brochure to:

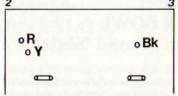
WALKER CROQUET EQUIPMENT 82 Queens Crescent, Chippenham, Wilts. SN14 0NP Telephone Chippenham 654319

By Bill Lamb

Official Business

'I am going to be really aggressive in this game and shoot at everything, a double-banker announced to me at the start of the game. So he did, and

It is quite easy to play against this type of player by setting a trap, so that every missed shot is expensive. At the end of your turn, don't retire with both balls to the boundary; instead, leave one ball about six yards and the other about three yards in from the line, being careful, of course, not to leave a double. The actual distances you choose will depend upon your opponents shooting ability and the distance of his shot. Then, if your opponent shoots at you and misses, you can turn around, roquet his ball on the boundary, stop shot it out into court, and leave a rush on your partner ball. You may even be able to get his ball as a pioneer at your



mmediate 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.

croquet but shooting at everything against a sensible opponent is not aggressive; it is suicidal.

1990 COACHING COURSES

Loughborough

The Summer School at Loughborough will be held next year from Monday 30th

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.

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

dividual coaching on particular difficulties a handicap at the end of the course. Short lawns (24yds by 16yds) will be used

Summer School Brochure, obtainable from: Mrs Shirley Sandover, Loughborough Summer School, University of Technology, Loughborough, LE11 3TU.

you can apply for your copy now.

be made through Mrs Sandover, but please apply early to make sure of your place -

available during the Xmas holiday (16th December to 2nd January) at the Sports Hall at Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School, Blackburn, Lancs.

coached, or organise matches, should contact Andrew Bennet, tel: 0254-678969

Soham Weekend (16/17 Dec). See page 3 for details!

EARLY BIRD BARGAINS Subscriptions for 1990

next hoop but one, leaving a rush to your next hoop, and so pick up an

Aggressive play has its part in

July to Friday 3rd August

The course is only open to CA members.

There will be opportunities for inand successful performers will be awarded throughout.

Full details will be published in the (Tel: 0509-222773).

The Brochure is issued in January, but

Bookings for the Summer School should for the past four years, the Summer School has been over-subscribed.

INDOOR CROQUET

One of the CA's Indoor Carpets will be

Those who would like to play, be

And, of course, don't forget the

Course Fee (including accommodation

Bisham Abbey

The Bisham Abbey Summer School for

middle bisquers will be held from Monday

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

Coaching will be interspersed with

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

s limited to 8 places which will be

The course is residential and is open

only to CA members. The fee includes all

Applications should be sent to Chris

accommodation and coaching charges.

Hudson, The Oaklands, Englesea Brook,

Near Crewe, Cheshire, CW2 5QW. Tel:

0270-820296. Please make cheques

payable to 'The Croquet Association'.

allocated on a first-come first served basis.

competitive play on full size lawns.

21st to Friday 25th May

handicap 3 or less).



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

Obituary

his middle eighties.

at his club Phyllis Court, and at Cheltenham, Compton and Southwick in particular where he often played in tournaments, will be saddened to learn of the death of Guy Betts on 2nd August in

His parents were undecided how to name him, and as he was born on 5th November he got lumbered with the name of Guy. He came to Newnham Manor near Wallingford some 40 years ago when he bought out his elder brother's poultry business there (specialising in day-old chicks) after a

anking career in West Africa.

He was a natural games player with a good eye, above average at tennis, squash, golf, billiards, shooting and fishing as well as bridge and chess. As a croquet player he never reached A class, but with a handicap of 3 was always difficult to beat. Perhaps he tended to take risky shots, but as he so often hit maybe he felt such risks were justified. I have never met a player more enthusiastic or one who enjoyed a game more, win or lose.

I introduced him to croquet over 30

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

Official Business

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

entitled to a discount.

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 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.

GUY BETTS His many friends in the world of croquet, years ago, and this became his saviour in

later years when he had to give up more active sports as his hip trouble increased. Latterly croquet became his life. In his last few months he was unable to play a full game but on the day of his death he was persuaded to play a game of golf croquet, which he won. Those who played at Newnham will always remember the excellence of the lawn in its wonderful surroundings. I know the age of the present mansion as it was built in 1842 as

a wedding present for my great grandfather. It is now a Class 2 Listed Building. Some years ago the BBC filmed there a pro-celebrity match for Nationwide in which Peter Alliss and Roy Castle took part. There was no 'closed' season at Newnham. It took about six inches of snow, many degrees of frost or lack of an opponent to prevent play on any day of the

One who played a lot at Newnham was a fellow member of Phyllis Court Dr Leonard Greenbury who sadly died the day after Guy after a short illness. Like Guy he too will be missed in the croquet world. Richard Rothwell.

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 Calender

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.

R.N. Owen H.A. Garrett Surbiton Miss A.B. Phillips Surbitor Miss E.J. Adams Tunbridge R. Busby Mrs G. Lewis Vine Road Vine Road J.D. Reed Miss S. Rider Vine Road Vine Road K.R. Milner R.H. Forster York J.R. Tonks Mrs C. Benghey A.J. Burns Ms S. Clarke Miss J.J. Con L. Edwards D. Emerson A.L. Gibson Mrs A.L. Gibson

New Associates

I. Wastrall

Dr G. Green Mrs S.J. Green

B.G. Green Mrs S.M. Jefferson

Mrs W. Everatt

J.F. Hughes G.R. Moore M.J. Matthews

P. Pristayec

C.J. Thursfield

A.D.S. Griffiths

C.O. Herford

G.E. Boyce D. Harrison-Wood

Miss J.M. Norman

Mrs C.M. Bourne

D. Carpenter J.M. Eardley-Si

Miss I. Lewis

A. Bowers

J.B. Bourne

Mrs R.A. Matthews

Mrs A.J. Thursfield

Bath

Bowdon

Bristol

Bristol

Bristol

Compton

Downham

Downham

Dulwich

Dyffryn

Dyffryn Dyffryn

Dyffryn Dyffryn

Esher

Fast Dorset

East Dorset

Edgbastor

Hurlingham

on Maurward

Nottingham

Preston Lawns

South Derbyshire

Parkstone

Ramsgate

Southwick

Southwick

G. Liley W.A. Moir Mrs W.A. Moir I. Morrison P.A. Murfin R Oulton Mrs R. Oulton A.S. Peattie Mrs A.D. Stephenson

A.M. Maclean Australia Deaths With great regret we record the following

> 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 as soon as possible for details of the scheme and a form to claim your \$12 prize

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

Himley Hall: 1-2 July	
H.R. Stanley	6½ to 6
K.M. Fennell	13 to 11
E. Dalley	17 to 15D14
Dr G. Bogle	7 to 6
Hurlingham: 29 July - 5 A	ugust
S. Comish	1/2 to -1/2
M. Coles	6 to 41/2
A. Chance	6 to 41/2
R.T. Stephens	8 to 6
Miss J. Waters	10 to 8
Miss C. Pearce	12 to 10
Mrs A.V. Camroux	15 to 13
Harwell: 4 August	
M.J. Dick	5½ to 6½
S. Daddo-Langlois	14D12 to 13D11
Cheltenham: 4-13 August	
Dr G. Bogle	4 to 31/2

Miss A. O'Connor 13D11 to 12D10 T.J. Golesworthy 16D14 to 12D10 M.J. Rangeley Mrs K. Whittall 3 to 21/2 Colchester: 4-6 Augus P.C. Allnutt 17 to 15 N. Gray R.I. Fulford 16 to 17 11/2 to -2 Southport: 4-6 August Ms G. Curry 5 to 31/2 C. Haslam 1 to 1/2 9 to 8 3 to 12 J. Hawkins B. Lewis 5 to 3 9 to 8 D. McCormick Prof A. Pidcock S. Rea M. Saurin 6 to 5 -1 to -11/2 Ms H. Turner 4 to 12 Harrow Oak: 5-6 August N.G. Hyne M. Kolbuszewski A. McDiarmid T.D. Harrison



Compton: 7-10 August	10 to 7
Hobbs	
Farley	13 to 10 8 to 7
. Atkinson	19 to 17
liss M.J. Chitterden	
Sudleigh Salterton: 7-1	7½ to 6½
. Brand	2½ to 1½
Della	15 to 12D10
. Dally	16 to 13D11
frs M. Dally f. McF. Davis	8 to 7½
H. Haslam	6 to 41/2
rr. Hasiam Irs B.L. Haslam	12 to 10D9
A. Prescott	9 to 8
Irs S. Watson	4 to 31/2
L.J. Haslam	½ to -½
Voking: 9 August	72 10 - 72
S.M. Huxley	9
Ashton	14
. Ashton Irs G. Pellegrini	18
L Haves	8 to 7
Irs M.A. Nalder	11D9 to 9
larwell: 14 August	1109 10 9
). Lloyd-Thomas	14D13 to 13D11
outhwick: 14-19 Augu	
f. Cooperman	7 to 51/2
. Dourthe	14* to 12D10
Irs M. Dourthe	14* to 16
. Nash	12D10 to 11D10
liss A. O'Connor	12 to 9
frs S. Watson	3½ to 3
or P. Watson	4 to 31/2
r F. Watson	19 to 18
). Pond	11 to 9
ottingham: 14-19 Aug	

D. Lloyd-I homas	14D13 to 13D11
Southwick: 14-19 August	
M. Cooperman	7 to 51/2
R. Dourthe	14* to 12D10
Mrs M. Dourthe	14* to 16
L. Nash	12D10 to 11D10
Miss A. O'Connor	12 to 9
Mrs S. Watson	3½ to 3
Dr P. Watson	4 to 31/2
R. Fewtrell	19 to 18
D. Pond	11 to 9
Nottingham: 14-19 August	
R. Blackburn	9 to 11
Mrs M. Boyd	20 to 18
Mrs E. Chamberlain	13 to 15
J.J. Death	7 to 5
J.D. Lowe	16* to 18
B. Melody	12 to 10
D. Reeve	-½ to -1
I.B. Smith	14 to 16
Dr T.W. Smith	5 to 6
J.F.S. Thomas	9 to 11
Ipswich: 19-20 August	
L. Palmer	1½ to 1
M. Hammeler	16* to 15
M. Firth	16* to 18
B. Hunt	15 to 14
Bowdon: 19-28 August	
K.B. Cooper	10 to 8
D.G. Lendrum	3½ to 1½
R. Huyshe	12 to 7
I. Burridge	3 to 2
C.J. Haslam	½ to 0
J.D. Hawkins	8 to 9
Mrs C. Lewis	4½ to 5
D. McCormick	3 to 2
	100 7500

D.B. Maugham	-½ to -1
Prof A. Pidcock	8 to 61/2
A.T. Saurin	8 to 7
M.A. Saurin	-1½ to -2
Edinburgh: 20 August	
P. George	14 to 12
J. Beech	6½ to 6
P. Thompson	3 to 21/2
M. O'Connell	5 to 4
Cheltenham: 26-28 Au	gust
R. Barnes	3½ to 3
R. Brand	1½ to 1
J. Evans	2½ to 2
J. Jackson	2½ to 2
A. Symons	1 to ½
C. Williams	4 to 31/2
Hunstanton: 28-31 Aug	gust
J. Hughes	9* to 12
J. Toye	19* to 16
W. Ward	14* to 10
N. Grimwood	18 to 16
N. Harris	4 to 31/2
Mrs M.J. Haworth	16 to 18
W.E. Lamb	-½ to -1
Parkstone: 28 August-	
E. Duckworth	4½ to 3½
J. Green	10 to 9
C.I. Moon	6½ to 6
Rev C.M. Scarr	5 to 41/2
D.M. Wood	6 to 5
Budleigh Salterton: 15	
Mrs M.D. Backway	19D17 to 17D15
Mrs M.E. Scaddan	18D16 to 17D15

20 to 19

12D10 to 11D9

W. Ward
N. Grimwood
N. Harris
Mrs M.J. Haworth
W.E. Lamb
Parkstone: 28 August-4 Se
E. Duckworth
J. Green
C.I. Moon
Rev C.M. Scarr
D.M. Wood
Budleigh Salterton: 1 Sept
Mrs M.D. Backway
Mrs M.E. Scaddan
Ryde: 1 September
Mrs F. Fewtrell
Hunstanton: 2 September
A. Judge
Cheltenham: 6-20 Septem
R. Barnes
Mrs M. Evans
Mrs M. James
N. Leech
Mrs J. Paddon
T.J. Golesworthy
Ryde: 8-10 September
P. Kennerley
K. Bright
Mrs S. Davies

MIS M. James	12010 to 1109
N. Leech	6 to 7
Mrs J. Paddon	8 to 7
T.J. Golesworthy	12D10 to 10D9
Ryde: 8-10 September	
P. Kennerley	8 to 7
K. Bright	8 to 71/2
Mrs S. Davies	8 to 7
Mrs C. Osmond	11 to 10
Ipswich: 10 September	8 to 7
J. Williams	
Southwick: 12-15 Septe	
Mrs P. Allanson	4 to 13
Mrs E. Cox	7 to 6
E. Dymock	9 to 8
R. Fewtrell	18 to 14
Mrs F. Fewtrell	19 to 17
J. Green	9 to 8
J. Jackson	2 to 11/2
Mrs J. Nash	14 to 13
A. Nelson	18 to 16
Budleigh Salterton: 15	-17 September
Mrs G. Yonge	19 to 16D14
G.W.R. Goodman	8 to 7½
Miss M. Harman	9 to 71/2
J.C. Hatherley	4 to 31/2
Mrs A.C. Mead	16D14 to 14D12
Dr G. Yonge	8 to 71/2
Guildford & Godalming	
L.J. Chapman	2½ to 2
Compton: 16-22 Septer	
P. Howell	2 to 1½
	3½ to 2½
Dr G.S. Liddiyard P.F. Gill	
	11 to 10D9
R. Fewtrell	14 to 12
Mrs F. Fewtrell	17 to 16
P. Turner	6 to 5
J. Walters	-1 to -11/2
Mrs D.L. Gaunt	20 to 18D16
Southport: 17 Septemb	
D. McCormick	2 to 1
Prof A. Pidcock	6½ to 5½
A.T. Saurin	7 to 5
Cheltenham: 22-24 Sep	otember
D. Booth	17D15 to 14D12
Miss A. Hausser	20D17 to 19D17
Mrs R. Underwood	18D16 to 16D14
T.J. Golesworthy	12D10 to 10D9
L. Chapman	2 to 11/2
D. Coates	6 to 5
R. Selmes	6 to 5
G. Henshaw	7 to 9
	7½ to 6
K. Bright	7½ to 9
G.W.R. Goodwin	
A. Bowers	8 to 7
Wrest Park: 22-24 Sept	
D. Hector	4 to 31/2

T. Parry T. Burge

C. Jones

M. Watt

J. Hawkins

D. Regan M. Ransha

Colchester: 23-24 September

Edgbaston: 24 September	
A. Griffiths	5 to 4
JH. Fellows	6 to 5
J. Green	20D16 to 18D14
I. McClelland	4 to 31/2
Leicester: 27 September	
R. White	18
J. Riddington	20 to 18
R.S. Whiting	12 to 11
Budleigh Salterton: 1 Octo	ber
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 LITERAT New Price L	
	277 - Carrier Course

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

Price: \$3.00 (\$5.00) P&p 24p.

Basic Laws A summary o 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 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

Ties (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

5 to 41/2

8 to 7 9* to 9

18* to 18

10 to 8

11 to 10

Price: \$23.00 (\$23.00) (inclusive of VAT).