

**SCHOOLS CROQUET**  
**Support your local school league!**

From Chris Hudson



Croquet players at St Mary's C. of E. Primary School, Ashford, Kent.

I am delighted to announce that the Royal Bank of Scotland is to continue sponsoring our National Schools Competitions for the next 3 years. More information about this will appear in our next issue.

Over the past 5 years some 200 schools have been in contact with the Croquet Association about playing croquet. Many of these schools have taken part in our national competitions, and we have reached a point where we have enough school contacts to try and set up local school leagues.

If we are successful in this, those schools who are knocked out of the national competition in the early

rounds will have a chance to play more matches during the summer term, without having to travel long distances.

The 200 contacts break down fairly naturally into some 32 groups, and over the last month or so, a number of CA members and teachers have volunteered to act as 'Schools Liaison Officers'. They will liaise with schools and help them get local leagues started. These Liaison Officers live relatively close to their group of schools, and will be on the spot to provide advice as necessary.

There are still some areas without Liaison Officers, and if any club or individual would like to take on this

role, please contact me as soon as possible. All 200 contacts are now listed in a 'Schools Directory' and I am pleased to say that we have already had to add two more schools to the list within the past month.

In the longer term, help from clubs and federations would be most welcome; first, in providing coaching for local schools, and second, in staging annual tournament weekends for local school children,

with events to suit all levels of ability.

The CA has been able to buy some inexpensive equipment which can be hired by schools to help them get off the ground. Fortunately most schools seem able to make their own equipment, apart from balls, by creating the necessary projects for their wood-working and metal-working departments. However, if any school needs to hire equipment, please contact me.



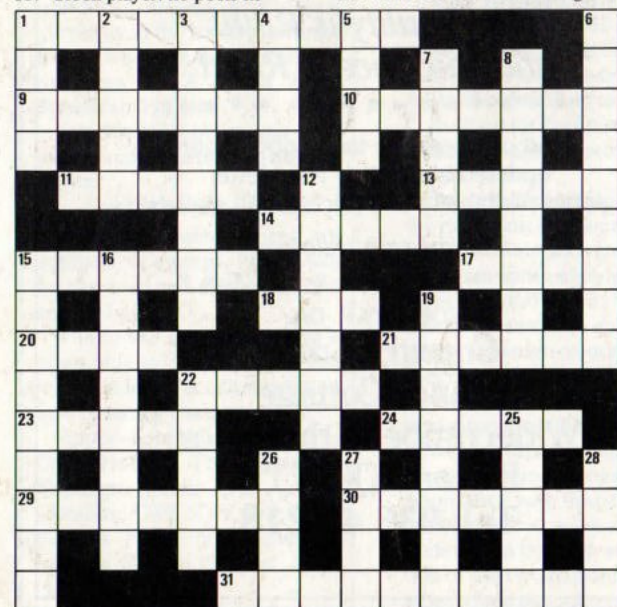
The Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School team from Blackburn that won the Royal Bank of Scotland National Schools Championship last year.

**WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP CROSSWORD**

Answers to clues across are all competitors in the recent World Championships, and are otherwise undefined. Down answers have standard cryptic clues. Special knowledge of the players, or of croquet is not needed.

**ACROSS**

- 1. Need to sort out player? Use ramage! (10)
- 9. Good man with 50-50 chance. (7)
- 10. Dreadfully duff roll loses Landor's lead. (7)
- 11. Said to be canny. (5)
- 13. 29 misses double ... (5)
- 14. ... 29's partner is generous. (5)
- 15. Sleek player: no peels in
- 17. Premium commitment. (4)
- 18. e.g. Prince's first triple. (3)
- 20. A shy newt at heart. (4)
- 21. Unusual backwards-pointing shaft. (6)
- 22. First-class heavyweight. (5)
- 23. Vocally intimidates. (5)
- 24. Man on TV loses weight and



- break. (6)
- 29. Price for painter. (7)
- 30. The French couple in peace movement. (7)
- 31. On wire without partner, miss first shot at yellow. (10)

**DOWN**

- 1. Cut rush becomes half-cut after start of game. (4)
- 2. Poor English deny confusion. (5)
- 3. Lose girl's heart in imprecise break at Northerns, for example. (8)
- 4. French has fine roquet to smack in the jaws. (4)
- 5. Break right round if ... (4)
- 6. ... joined up? Yes, and break down (in middle of week tournament). (9)
- 7. Nasty one-back? Not dead yet! (5)
- 8. Cross-word upon croquet's no fun in this weather. (8)
- 12. Wise President. (7)
- 15. These tend to make things stick: have sides adjusted. (9)
- 16. Big film star. (4,4)
- 19. Maybe French half-rolled blue onto wire at one. (8)
- 22. Test series remains. (5)
- 25. Avery misses final triple, sounds bitter, yields advantage. (5)
- 26. Perversely opts for very rare manoeuvre. (4)
- 27. Unable to hit return, faced with first loss. (4)
- 28. Go round, sound as a Bell! (4)

**PUZZLE CORNER**

The answers to the Photo Quiz in our last issue (page 13): Top: Carmen Bazley at Cheltenham; Bottom (left) George Latham, Australia v. GB at Compton; (right) John Walters at Nottingham.

**THE CROQUET CLASSIC**  
**4th Year!**

If your club is going to run a recruitment drive this year, why not enter your beginners for the Croquet Classic, and provide them with some enjoyable competition? Anyone who has never had a handicap of 18 or less can enter.

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

By adding a supplement to your charge for beginners' coaching, you can easily cover the £25 Group Entry fee (minimum 4 players).

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

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

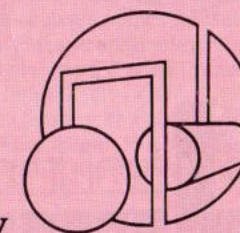
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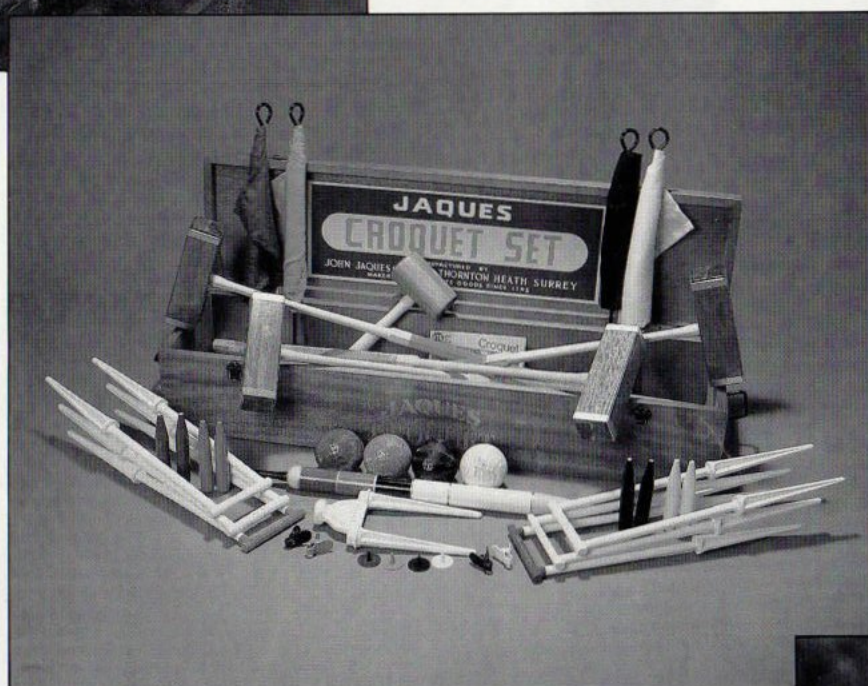
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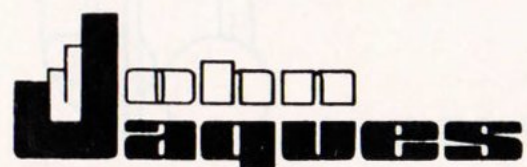
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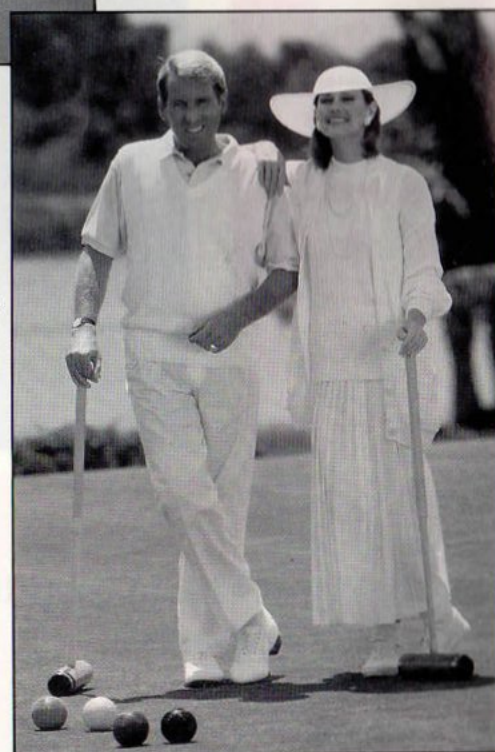
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**CROQUET**

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**Tournament results and reports** to be sent direct, within 7 days of completion of the tournament, to the Secretary of the CA.

All correspondence about non-delivery of 'Croquet', changes of address, telephone numbers, handicaps or officials should be sent to the CA Secretary and **not** to the Editor.

**Photographs in this issue by:** Andrew Bennet, Jeff Bowden, Brian Hallam, Eastbourne Herald, Chris Hudson, John Lindars, Fraser MacKenzie, Gary Norman, Richard Rothwell, Arthur Rowlands, Charles Townsend, Brian Waite (Eastern Daily Press), and Michael Ward (Times Newspapers).

**Front Cover:** Dan McCormick looking pleased with his Gold Award card and one of the many Handicap cards he received during the season.

**Editorial Team**

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

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**Editorial**

**HOME AGAIN!**

Congratulations to our team, returned triumphant from New Zealand with the MacRobertson Shield! It was a close run thing, and New Zealand must have felt the Shield was in their grasp when they won the 3 doubles matches on Day 3 of the Final Test. However, our team came fighting back on the last three days, and pulled off a notable victory. Details of the matches are given on pages 12, 13 and 14 of this issue.

We are currently working with the Sports Council to draw up our Development Plan for 1991-1994. Regional Federations and CA Committees are being fully involved in the discussions, and we hope to have the final plan accepted by the Sports Council by the end of May.

The major emphasis over the next four years will be on the establishment of a national network of 4-lawn clubs with security of tenure. A 'club census' is being carried out and we are grateful to the great majority of Club Secretaries who have found time to complete the form and return it. The information we have received will enable us to make provision

for the development plans of individual clubs in our National Plan and provide them with appropriate support.

On page 7 of this issue, John McCullough's article outlines a scheme we have set up to enable the CA to channel funds to clubs who have the opportunity to develop 4-lawn facilities. Any contributions to this 4-lawn fund will be most gratefully received and will be of major assistance to our development programme.

This month sees the separate launch of our sister magazine 'Croquet News'. Edited by Charles Townsend, this four page magazine in the style of 'Garden Croquet News' is aimed at those who would like to have an abbreviated version of 'Croquet' more suited to their needs. It will be published 4 times this year, at an annual subscription of £2, and will concentrate on news and advice for beginners and social players. It can be ordered through the CA.

CHRIS HUDSON.



Play in progress in the 1989 World Championship. Continental Airlines are sponsoring the World Championship again in 1990, from 2nd to 9th September, at Hurlingham.

**CA WHITE WEATHERSUITS**

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

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

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

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

The garments are not unisex but are individually

tailored to fit both the gents or ladies shape. They can be handwashed and wiped clean. Jackets have a detachable hood, with semi-elasticated wristbands for ease of movement.

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

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

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## Short Story

### The Exploding General

By John Griffin

The bronze Ford Sierra swung into the drive of the Nether Wittering Croquet Club, narrowly missing the gatepost. It had a dented front wing and a rear window sticker which read 'Croquet players do it with four balls.' The General, who was also turning into the drive, but on foot, regarded the Sierra with a suspicion which became fury when he read the message. By the time he reached the Clubhouse, muttering to himself, the car had stopped and the driver had emerged.

'Morning, Squire,' said a cheerful voice.

'This is private property and I'll trouble you to move that vehicle,' snapped the General. The newcomer's ingenuous countenance clouded slightly.

'This the Croquet Club? Geezer called Rupert invited me. We was in the queue at the Tandoori Takeaway and got talking about this and that. So we got round to croquet, and he says he plays, and I says I play...'

'You play croquet?' roared the General.

At this moment Rupert the Stockbroker arrived, accompanied by his henchman Julian the Merchant Banker. They were trailed at a distance by two young females known to the club at large as the Camp Followers. Both blonde, both dressed in baggy garments of black and khaki, they were called Caroline-and-Annunziata. Nobody had ever succeeded in distinguishing which was which, still less which was attached to Rupert and which to Julian. But they were amiable (at least they giggled when spoken to) and obligingly ready to help with tea and sandwiches or retrieving pegs at the end of the day.

The General rounded on Rupert. 'Fella here says you invited him. Whatcha think you're doing, young Rupert? Don't look like a croquet player to me.' Rupert looked

embarrassed. The General's voice was stentorian and the newcomer was listening with evident and apparently perfectly equable interest.

'He's moved to the Development,' he hissed. 'He's from Swinebridge. You know, the London Borough of Swinebridge.'

'Oh. Ah. Well, that explains it.'

It did indeed. The London Borough of Swinebridge, governed by a radical left wing council, was unique among its fellow London Boroughs in its provision of extensive and well-maintained croquet facilities.

This had come about because the son of the Recreation, Allotments and Cemeteries Committee Chairman was a croquet player, and his father had had little difficulty in obtaining the necessary funds from the plethora of grants to Gay Support Groups, Multi-ethnic Associations, Afro-Caribbean Dance Co-operatives and Bangladeshi Women's Consciousness Raising Circles.

The newcomer decided to enter the conversation.

'The name's Fallow,' he said. 'Reg Fallow. Started playing in Swinebridge, like Rupert here says. See, I used to work for Acme Printing and we was next door to the park. Took me sandwiches there sometimes and watched these guys playing croquet. Then this Harriet in Graphics - a high class bit of stuff, Oxford an' all that - she brings her sandwiches down too and says do you fancy a game, Reg? So I says, why not? Never looked back. Joined the local club an' everything. Then we get moved down here. So when I hears Rupert here talking about croquet I butts in, don't I?' The General grunted. Rupert hastened to make introductions.

'This is General Sir Lumley Sproatte. And this is Jools and this is Caroline-and-Annunziata'. The General grunted again and Caroline-

and-Annunziata giggled. 'Come and meet the other members.' And Reg was introduced to the Doctor, the Vicar, Miss Tankerton the Secretary, Mrs Pierce-Horsley and, as an afterthought, the General's wife Mavis.

'I say, Reg,' said Jools, 'I like your window sticker.'

'Just say the word, Jools. Kevin in Printing does 'em for me. Got plenty of others.' Faint simmering sounds were coming from the military. Rupert and Jools, experienced General-watchers, stepped in to avert disaster.

'How about a game, then, Reg?' 'Suits me.'

But their hopes were vain. The General regarded it his duty to lasso newcomers and put them through their paces, thus enabling him to judge and duly pronounce upon their acceptability. No mean ordeal. The long-standing members were used to the General's little foibles but more than one would-be applicant had retired in confusion never to return. Mind you, as the Vicar was wont to remark to the Doctor, things could have been worse. The General's father had often taken croquet with his foot firmly planted on the ball, and the General had been heard to express regret that this little ornament to the game had been outlawed. There were other things, though...

'All right, young Rupert. I'll be playin' your friend. Ready, Mr Fallow?'

The 'Mr' was a subtle indicator of how the General regarded Reg. Had he come to clean the drains or deliver a crate of soda water he would have been 'Fallow'. Were he to be totally accepted as One of Us he would have been 'Fallow' again. But meanwhile, as neither proletarian fish nor socially OK fowl he remained Mr Fallow.

The preliminaries were soon dis-

posed of. There weren't any. The General immediately collared red and yellow and shaped up on the baulk. This wasn't so much due to his other obsession - the glorification of the Marylebone Cricket Club at every possible opportunity - as strict adherence to a 'bit of science' he had chanced upon. Blue and black, he maintained, swell like melons on a hot day. This intelligence he rated ahead of the splitting of the atom or even a reliable cure, if one could be found, for greenfly. The club understanding now was always permit the General his 'rhubarb and custard.'

Reg's brow furrowed slightly but he made no comment. Not yet. He was not easily intimidated, but he was a peaceable chap and only caused bother, as the Father of the Chapel at the Acme Works could have testified, when there was absolutely no other course available to a man of honour. The General's play had more than a hint of chilli about it. A shot at Reg's tice thundered away towards the horizon and watching him take croquet was an eye watering business. However Reg, clearly no slouch at the game, soon hit in and was off on a break. Then he missed a long roquet and it was the General's turn once more. Not for the first time Reg noticed a certain awkwardness - coyness even - in his opponent's play close to the hoops. Actually it was about all he could notice as the General's amply tweeded posterior always seemed in the way.

Something was up, but what? Then Reg spotted it. With more a puree stroke than a crush, the General was adroitly shepherding balls through their hoops from up to a foot away. This was too much for Reg. Losing the toss - or, rather, not having any toss to lose - was bad enough. Fetching his opponent's balls from distant flower beds didn't help either, but to have to watch the guy fiddling his hoops! It was clear the time had

## Short Story

come for the man of honour to speak up, and Reg spoke accordingly. His tone was mild but firm.

'Now Squire, that's just not on.' There were sharp intakes of breath from the members who had gradually collected to witness the General in action. The Camp Followers giggled. The General's reaction was one of disbelief.

'What did you say?'

'Look, I don't want to cause no trouble, Squire, but that's out of order, innit? You can't do that, taking your balls for walkies, can you?'

The General looked around him. The members waited with bated breath for the inevitable explosion. He seemed to be struggling for words. Only Reg remained unmoved. At last General Sir Lumley Sproatte found his voice.

'Didger hear what he said? I've been shepherdin' balls for the last forty years in this club, and I've been waitin' forty years in this club for someone to have the guts to tell me you can't do it. Think you've got to humour the old buffer, do you?'

The Camp Followers giggled. Miss Tankerton moaned softly. Rupert and Julian made faint gobbling sounds. Only Reg retained the power of speech.

'Well, you can't say fairer than that, Squire. Shall we get on, then? And no malarkey.' The long-awaited explosion finally came. The General was laughing.

'No malarkey it is. And Fallow - Dog and Ferret afterwards. First round's mine, win or lose. Fair enough?'

'Fair enough, General.'

Next day, the General's venerable Morris Minor bore on its rear window the legend 'Croquet players do it with a long stalk.'

## PRIZES

Keystone Camera (Issue 203, page 28) for best photo by CA member in Issues 204 to 207 inclusive: Sally Green, who receives a Keystone Regency Allweather 35mm camera. Top photo on cover of Issue 206.

Short Story (Issue 203, page 3) for the best Short Story published in Issues 202 to 207 inclusive: 'Reginald Baunt' for his story 'Born to it?' in Issue 203. Reginald receives a cheque for £25.

Another Short Story Prize of £25 will be awarded for the best Short Story published in Issues 208 to 213 inclusive. Stories already received become eligible for a prize when published.

Once more the Editor would like to thank all those who have submitted photographs and short stories for the pleasure they have given. Thank you also to the judges for sparing time to judge the competition.

## Review

### BOOK REVIEW

#### 'Croquet: How to Play the Perfect Game'

by Robert Kroeger

Reviewed by John McCullough

This publication, about U.S. Rules Croquet, will be of interest to anyone intending to visit and play Croquet in North America. However, the author makes the assumption that the student is familiar with the terminology and rules of the USCA Six-wicket game, so it needs to be studied with the aid of a U.S. rules lawbook or a basic handbook on U.S. Croquet. It has a unique format. It consists of a loosely bound book and a cassette tape.

The book contains only three sides of text: a two-side introduction and short articles on pull and practice. Its main components are three series of court diagrams with occasional associated deadness board displays: Game One (Nos. 1 to 140), Game Two (Nos. 1 to 135) and Game Two Alternate (Nos. 25A to 49A). The diagrams are clear and uncluttered, most consisting of only the four ball positions: these and the deadness board displays are coloured.

The tape provides a commentary by the author which refers to the diagrams and describes how games of U.S. Six-wicket Croquet can be won by perfect play, giving two examples of full games with a variation to the second. At the heart of each game is a description of how to play three and four ball breaks, bearing in mind the limitations of a nine-inch yard line and the fact that your turn ends if a ball is rushed off court. For British players the most interesting sections will be about how to set up these breaks and how to prepare for and lay leaves, also bearing in mind deadness criteria. The author's voice



Eric Solomon in play at Hurlingham under the watchful eye of Keith Wylie.

is pleasant to listen to but the delivery is somewhat monotone.

Bob Kroeger is well qualified to have produced this work. He is the resident professional coach at the Newport Casino Club in Rhode Island, he is a US international player and he won the first US National tournament played according to CA (International) Rules, as well as many US Rules tournaments.

Although, because of its subject matter, it will have limited appeal on

this side of the Atlantic, it is a welcome addition to the growing collection of modern publications about the game and it is certainly innovative in its construction.

Copies of this publication can be obtained from: The Croquet Foundation of America, 500 Avenue of Champions, Palm Beach Gardens, Florida 33418. Tel (International Prefix) 407 627 3999. I do not have any information about the price.

## Obituary

### GRAHAM MARTIN

Graham died earlier this year after some years of illness which had unfortunately kept him away from croquet.

Together with Ken Schofield Graham had helped to form the Harrow Oak Croquet Club in 1969. It is due to Graham's continued enthusiasm that the club is still flourishing today. Besides developing the Harrow Club, Graham was an active member of the CA Council from 1975 to 1982, managed a number of tournaments including the Opens, and through his excellent coaching helped many young players at Harrow to develop their croquet.

In the early days at Harrow no-one was better than 3 handicap and a number of us progressed (slowly by today's standards) under Graham's coaching, including Graham himself. When he retired in 1973 he was then able to play in some outside tournaments and this led to an increased

rate of improvement in both Graham's play and that of his proteges.

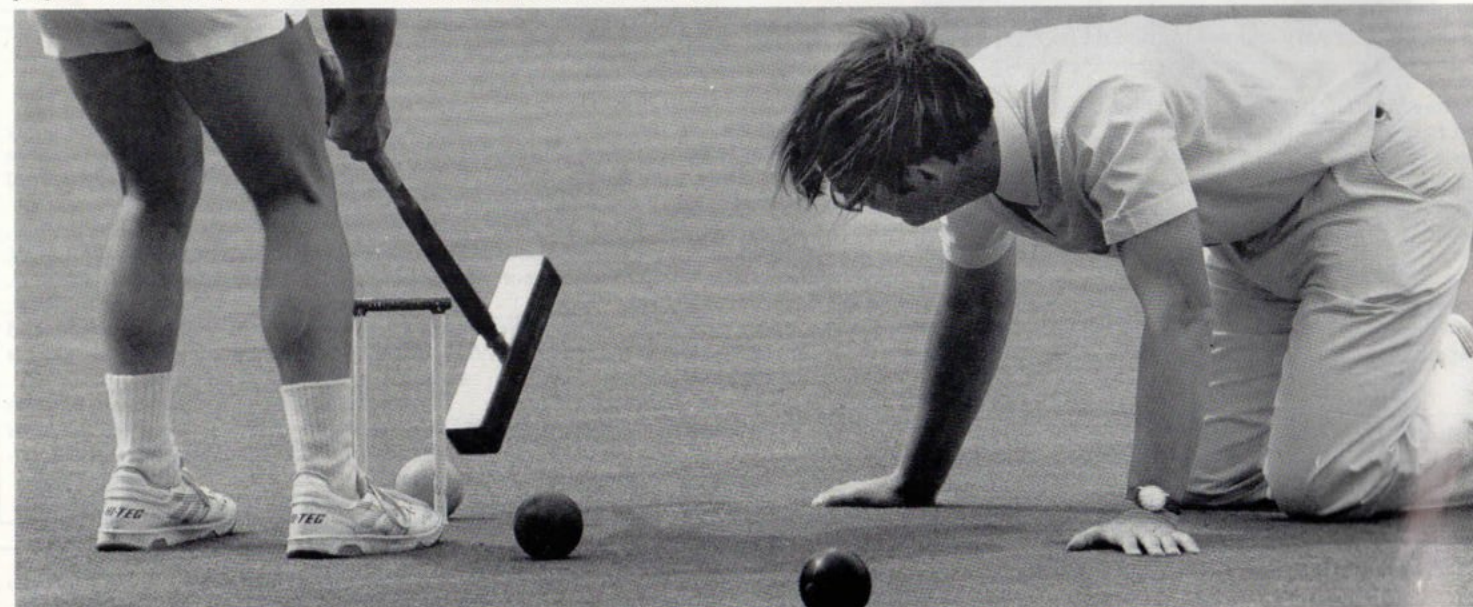
I well remember Graham coming back to Harrow having played in his first Cheltenham Tournament. Paul Hands had spotted him as a good handicap doubles partner and they had won the tournament. Graham enthralled us all with tales of peeling finishes of which we at that time knew very little.

Graham reached a handicap of 2 and would undoubtedly have become a minus player had he taken the game up earlier in life. During the 70's many young players were brought on by Graham. Three reached President Cup standard - David Openshaw, Eric Solomon, and Phil Cordingley. I know Graham was particularly proud in 1979 when the Opens, the President's Cup, and the Chairman's Salver were all won by 'his' players from Harrow.

It was a fitting tribute to Graham that Harrow this year won the Inter Club Championship.

Without Graham there would be no Harrow club and many of today's players may well not have continued an initial interest but for Graham's keen and persistent encouragement. He has been sorely missed at Harrow since his illness and the club members have recently decided to hold their annual major open weekend tournament as a memorial to his contribution to the club.

David Openshaw



Robert Prichard referees Stephen Mulliner

## Great Britain v. The Rest A bit of a struggle!

Report by Chris Clarke

This year's match, played at Colchester at the end of October, was the first test for the G.B. team since



Mark Saurin preparing for New Zealand.

selection for the MacRobertson Shield. The Rest comprised Aiton and Clarke, both anxious to prove points, Cordingley, Murray, Maugham and G.B. reserve William Prichard.

Saturday was to be devoted to best-of-3 doubles matches. Openshaw decided to let the new boys Fulford and Saurin play together, whilst maintaining the one established pairing of Openshaw and Avery. All three pairings were weak and reflected the captains remark after selection of 'Oh, we haven't thought about doubles pairings yet'.

Mulliner and Irwin were soon in trouble against Murray and Clarke after a 4th turn ball round by Clarke. Mulliner missed three consecutive 10 yarders and, in my opinion, the 2-0 win for Murray and Clarke was partly caused by Mulliner's failure to adapt his tactics to his current level of execution.

Openshaw and Avery vs Prichard and Aiton took a long time. The first game went to G.B. after Prichard missed a cut-rush whilst finishing. The second saw a catalogue of errors and a 2-0 win for G.B. The third doubles dragged on even longer. Eventually, it was pegged down and the following morning, Fulford

managed to drag Saurin through for a win on time in the third game.

All the remaining games were played as single games and all were won by G.B. The play was generally very poor with two exceptions. Fulford, suffering from a heavy cold, produced an excellent last gasp triple against Prichard whilst Openshaw was in superb form, making no mistakes in virtually a whole day's play.

The end result may appear to be a comfortable win for G.B., but in reality, it was a close scrape against a Rest team, most of whom were playing very poorly. In the light of this weekend, the Selectors' decision to choose a team on 'current form' after the President's looks even more dubious. There are few players in the country at the moment who perform consistently, Mulliner, Fulford and Openshaw being exceptions. The rest of us vary from week to week.

On this form, G.B. would be crushed in N.Z. However, with more confident doubles pairings and an Avery on form, our team may well be able to give N.Z. a run for their money. Only time will tell, and we all await news of their progress with interest.

## Townsend's Croquet Almanack - Into the 1990s.

By John Walters

Yes, it's back - but with a new look. The second edition of Townsend's Croquet Almanack is available either as a hardback or paperback book, but that is not the biggest change!

Of course the listings of croquet history have all been updated, and the records section packed with all kinds of new feats and anecdotes. But the major change is obvious as soon as the Almanack is opened; gone are pages of bare tournament results, stretching into the distance. Turn instead to the extended player statistics section, where your performance through the year and in individual tournaments is listed side-by-side with the 'Hogans' and 'Jacksens'!

At a glance, all the information you could want on the success of the world's players during 1989. For the high-fliers, the Almanack provides the first ever world computer rankings, listing 100 players. For those who can't sustain the brilliance of one shot over an entire season, never fear - that one shot could still have earned you one of the new 'Townsend Croquet Almanack Medals'.

These tributes will be handed out not only to the world No. 1 and the 'top triple peelers' in the world, but also for the most remarkable incident of 1989! There's a break this year from the entire list of 'international match' results (back next year - after the 1990 MacRobertson Shield); expanding the commitment to a 'world view' of croquet, in-depth reviews of 1989 in New Zealand, Australia, America and Great Britain fill in the pages.

Graham Beale, Carolyn Spooner and Tremaine Arkley have excelled themselves in capturing the spirit of their respective countries, following on from their introductions last year; together with John Walter's retrospective, around 30 pages are devoted to the international scene in 1989. But a new name has his say this year - new to the Almanack, not to readers of 'Croquet'; 'Olde Dorke's Alamanack' is Peter Dorke's irreverent look at the croquet scene.

You can still find the updated register of Garden Croquet Players, dates in croquet history and Guide to Croquet. Responding to comments on the first edition, design is improved including a more easily readable typeface for all text portions and over 20 photographs. Entertaining, informative and a piece of history you can keep forever - **Townsend's Croquet Almanack 1990.** Hardback: £9.90; Paperback £5.90. Obtainable from *Townsend Croquet or the CA Office.* Please include 70p for P&P.



Tariq Sa'id approaching Rover under the watchful eye of his adversary.

winner and runner up with handsome cups.

Despite the uneven weather, 30 or so spectators enjoyed the match and the Jebel Ali Hotel's legendary hospitality. Those among them who were not yet past beginner stage appreciated the perceptive

broadcast commentary on the match. This added enormously to spectators' understanding of the strategy of the game, but it has to be done carefully so that it neither puts off the players, nor gives them inadvertent hints on how to play a difficult leave.

## Help Build the Future

From John McCullough  
(Chairman, C.A. Development Committee)

The Croquet Association (CA) have established a 'Four Lawn Fund' (the Fund) to help establish new clubs with four full-size courts or to help the expansion of existing clubs to that size. The CA have allocated £1,250 to launch the Fund but donations are sought to boost it to a level at which real assistance can be offered to ambitious clubs.

The number of clubs and tournament players increased rapidly during the '80's. Nearly all the new clubs have only one or two full-size courts. An increase in the numbers of clubs with four or more full-size courts is desperately needed to meet the rising demand for tournament play, coaching courses and venues for play-offs of regional and national tournaments. The CA's Development Committee sees the establishment of new clubs of this size as the main development priority for the 1990's.

Financial packages in excess of £20,000 need to be arranged to make such projects feasible. If the CA could provide grants of the order of £5,000, these could be used to attract Local Authority and Sports Council funding. Add on local sponsorship and fund raising by the club itself, and such projects will be feasible for ambitious clubs with good local backing.

The initial aim is to boost the Fund to £10,000, which would enable two new regional Croquet centres to be created. Can you help? Donations, payable to 'The Croquet Association', should be sent to: 'Four Lawn Fund' The Secretary,



John McCullough.

The Croquet Association,  
The Hurlingham Club,  
Ranelagh Gardens,  
London SW6 3PR.

All donations of £10 or more will be acknowledged in 'Croquet'. All donations of £100 or more will be recorded on a plaque at one of the new centres created with help from the fund. All donations of £1,000 or more will be recorded by the naming of a court at one of the new centres, in accordance with the wishes of the donor. Requests for anonymity will, of course be respected.

## Obituary GERALD WILLIAMS

Senior Vice-President, Gerald Williams, who died recently, will be remembered by only a small number of Associates. Less than a handful of Members of Parliament have over the years taken up croquet competitively, and Gerald who represented the constituency of Tonbridge for a period following World War 2 could arguably be regarded as the best player of that select body.

His playing days spanned World War 2 and for most of the time he was in the A Class without however winning any major championship. His favourite tournament was at Devonshire Park, when it was the venue for the South of England Championship events.

A major contribution to croquet was his encouragement of the game

in the Tunbridge Wells area, and his private lawn at Trant often served as a meeting place for social occasions.

He served on the Council for many years, becoming a Vice-President in 1967. His main participation was when financial matters were under discussion, when his comments were invariably constructive, and he could usually be relied upon to inject a cogent observation during the Treasurer's presentation of his annual report to the Council. For a number of years prior to his death, ailing health was a barrier to his attendance at Council meetings.

He was one of a team of four led by Ian Baillieu which visited the USA in 1967 and paved the way for the now firmly established contacts with our American cousins.

S.S.T.

## AGM AGENDA

(Meeting to be held at Hurlingham on  
Saturday, 21st April, at 11.00am.)

### 1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 22nd April 1989 were published in 'Croquet' (Page 21, Issue 204).

### 2. PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

### 3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

### 4. TREASURER'S REPORT

Copies of the Audited Accounts for the year ending 31st December 1989 will be available at the meeting. Copies will be sent to Associates resident in the United Kingdom on request to the Secretary when available.

**5. ELECTION OF TREASURER**  
The retiring Treasurer, Mr A.J. Oldham, offers himself for re-election.

### 6. ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

In accordance with Rule VI the closing date for the receipt of nominations was 1st February 1990.

The following retire by rotation by Rule 2 and seek re-election: Mr K.M.H. Aiton; Mr G.N. Aspinall; Mr A.B. Hope; Mr C.J. Irwin; Professor B.G. Neal; and Mr D.W. Shaw.

Mr T.P. Greenwood and Miss P.

Shine also retire by rotation but do not seek re-election.

Mr I.B. Brand, Mr P. Danks, and Mr J.R. McCullough wish to retire from Council.

The following seek election under Rule VII(a)(ii): Mrs A. Croker, Dr T.J. Haste, and Mr S.O. Jones.

There are thus only three candidates for 5 vacancies and an election will not therefore be necessary.

### 7. MOTION

By Mr K.M.H. Aiton (on behalf of the CA Council), seconded by Mr A.B. Hope.

'That Rule 2 of the CA be amended by the insertion of the word 'Wales' after the word 'Domain'.

A voting paper is enclosed with this magazine to enable you to vote by post if you so wish.

**8. ELECTION OF AUDITORS**  
Messrs. Nicholas Ames & Co offer themselves for re-election.

**9. BENEFACTORS BOOK**  
The names of the benefactors will be read.

**10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**  
**11. PRESIDENT'S CLOSING ADDRESS**

WE ARE PLEASED  
TO BE SPONSORING THE  
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**CROQUET CHAMPIONSHIP**



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## The Strait and Narrow Way

By John Lindars

This article is about hoops really, but to set the scene Fig. 1 shows what I like to think is the smallest lawn in Somerset on which croquet is taken really seriously. The mallets are leaning against hoop 1, and the distance between hoops 1 and 2 is seven yards. By having only one hoop in the middle and placing the stick as shown, one gets the correct cornering effects before 1-back and after Rover.

You will notice that the hoops are forbiddingly rectangular - an important feature when the rest of the lawn is over-forgiving of misjudged distances. This is achieved by the device depicted in Figs. 2 and 3. The hoop is clamped as shown in Fig. 2, placed in position and driven into the lawn through the clamp. This ensures that it is perfectly upright and there is no splaying as the hoop goes in.

Fig. 3 makes the construction of the device clear. The holes, which must provide a snug fit for the hoop without clamping it too tight, are drilled with the device assembled, and must of course be upright and have their centres on the dividing line. To achieve this you need a bench-mounted drill-stand, and it is best to put pilot holes through first to ensure accuracy. The steel cramps are of course general purpose tools, and very useful they are too. The wide/narrow option wouldn't be there if I had drilled the first lot of holes correctly.

Because there is no spreading when the hoops

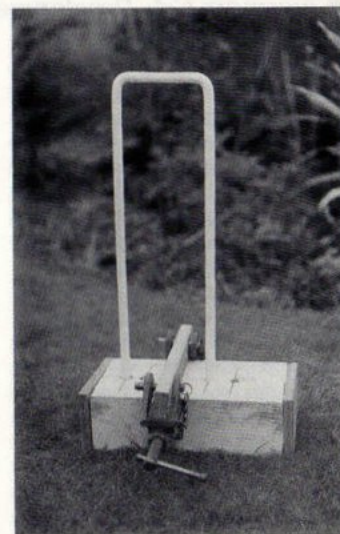
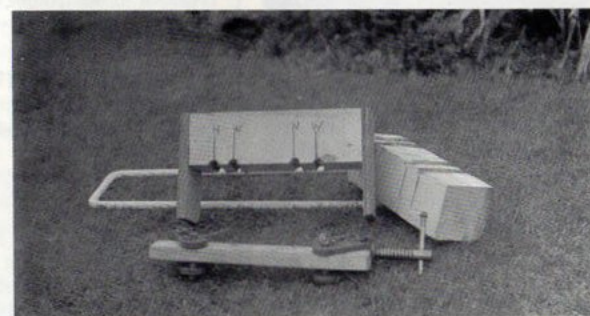


Fig. 1 (top left): The lawn layout.

Fig. 2 (above): Hoop assembled for insertion.

Fig. 3 (left): The insertion tool.

are driven in, they stand a lot of pulling out for lawn-mowing without working loose, and don't need hammering down much when they are replaced, so the tendency for hoops to get shorter as the season wears on is much reduced.

A word of warning; though basically simple, a device of this nature is not all that easy to make unless you are used to working to close tolerances.

The ends of the two main blocks must be perfectly squared off, and the drilling of the holes is really an engineering job as they have to be upright and central. A local garage could do it for you, probably better than the local woodworking craftsman who would probably express his contempt for the whole concept by charging you a fancy price.

## Assessing your own handicap

By Chris Hudson

Players who only play infrequently in tournaments are often concerned about the accuracy of their handicaps.

Some years ago, there was an interesting article in the Gazette about how to assess your own handicap, and this might help players in the above situation.

Unfortunately I have been unable to track down the article, despite several recent attempts, and consequently cannot give credit to the author for the ideas he or she expressed. However, if you recognise your own work and let me know, I will publish an acknowledgment!

The gist of the article was as follows:

If your handicap is accurate, then in playing a number of handicap games you should win as many games as you lose. This would apply even if some of your opponents' handicaps were a little adrift themselves because, given sufficient games, some of your opponents would be over-handicapped and some would be under-handicapped.

In playing opponents level, then the author of the article suggested the use of the following table:

| Diff'n in H'cap | Normal Result | Abnormal Result |
|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|
| 0               | 1.0           | 1.0             |
| ½               | 0.7           | 1.3             |
| 1               | 0.5           | 1.5             |
| 1½              | 0.4           | 1.6             |
| 2 or 2½         | 0.3           | 1.7             |
| 3 or 3½         | 0.2           | 1.8             |
| 4 or more       | 0.1           | 1.9             |

To use the system, keep a record of your games and total up your score as follows:

+1.0 point for every win in a handicap game.  
-1.0 point for every loss in a handicap game.

For every game played level, then calculate your points from the above table. For example, if you lost to a player whose handicap was 3 less than yours, you would subtract 0.2 points from your running total. If you had won that game, then you would have added 1.8 points to your total.

If after 10 games you find your total is 3 or more either side of zero, then your handicap probably needs adjustment. Seek out a handicapper and resolve the matter without delay!

## Club Handicaps

By Donald Cornelius

An important requirement in any new, and hopefully expanding, club is to give all the members a realistic club handicap.

At Newport last year we adopted a scheme which was quite successful. Since members of a handicap committee are not always around and/or in a position to watch other players, it is useful to have a simple method of recording how the players are doing. It also helps if members with a wide divergence of handicaps meeting casually at the club can have a friendly game but give it some meaning by recording the result as described below.

Consistent winners or losers will show up quite quickly and their club handicaps can be adjusted accordingly.

'Points Ratings' are given for each handicap. Starting from a handicap of -2, there is a 5 points difference for each handicap level as shown in the table below, so that at the other end of the scale, someone with a handicap of 18 or over has a 'Rating' of 50 points.

Credit for the idea must be given to Paul Hands who organised an interesting 'Egyptian Tournament' at Cheltenham in September 1988.

### HANDICAP AND POINTS RATINGS

| H'cap | Pts | H'cap | Pts | H'cap   | Pts |
|-------|-----|-------|-----|---------|-----|
| -2    | 200 | 3½    | 145 | 10      | 90  |
| -1½   | 195 | 4     | 140 | 11      | 85  |
| -1    | 190 | 4½    | 135 | 12      | 80  |
| -½    | 185 | 5     | 130 | 13      | 75  |
| 0     | 180 | 5½    | 125 | 14      | 70  |
| ½     | 175 | 6     | 120 | 15      | 65  |
| 1     | 170 | 6½    | 115 | 16      | 60  |
| 1½    | 165 | 7     | 110 | 17      | 55  |
| 2     | 160 | 7½    | 105 | 18      | 50  |
| 2½    | 155 | 8     | 100 | over 18 | 50  |
| 3     | 150 | 9     | 95  |         |     |

All club members are listed showing the C.A. or club handicap and then a column showing their Points Rating. Across the page against each member is noted the result of his games.

A winner scores 3% of the loser's points rating to the nearest decimal point, denoted as, say, +3.6.

A loser scores 3% of his own points rating, denoted as, say, -2.7.

A running plus (+) or minus (-) total can be noted at intervals.

**Example:**

7 Handicap (110 Points) plays 12 Handicap (80 Points)

If 7 wins, his score is +2.4 (3% of 80)

The losing 12 scores -2.4 (3% of 80)

If 12 wins, his score is +3.3 (3% of 110)

The losing 7 scores -3.3 (3% of 110)

There is a definite bonus if a high handicap player beats a player with a lower handicap.

At Newport in 1989 we adjusted the Points Rating each time but for 1990 we shall adopt the simpler procedure explained above. We found it extremely helpful as several local members played each other quite frequently and it soon became clear as to their relative ratings. When they played in tournaments against members with official C.A. handicaps, it was fairly easy to allocate them realistic club handicaps.

Members play off their C.A. or club handicaps at all times. If joint handicaps are 20 or less, a full 26 point game is played with a 3½ hour limit. If joint handicaps are over 20, a game of 18 points (hoop 1 and hoop 3 back) is played with a 3½ hour limit.

I trust this idea can be of use to other clubs, old or new, in the future.

## The End of the Triple Peel

By John Portwood

The triple peel and its variations, such as the TPO and the Straight Triple, have an unhealthy fascination for an aspiring 'A Class' player. Many hours are spent on the croquet lawn practising this dangerous and point-less break.

This article will demonstrate once and for all that the triple peel is not needed and its use should gradually diminish with time.

The triple peel is a development that arises 'naturally' from the rules of advanced play, whereby if a player runs both 1-back and 4-back in the same turn he concedes a 'contact', thus ensuring that the innings will change.

Hence most advanced games result in the foremost ball being taken to 4-back, conceding a lift, with the aim of ending the game by performing an all round break with the second ball whilst peeling the first ball through the last three hoops. In this manner only one lift shot is conceded.

The only reason why a triple is performed is to reduce the number of lift shots in a game to one.

In order to avoid conceding ANY lift shots it is necessary to stop the first break after hoop 6 and then perform a sextuple peel. The many attempts at this have resulted in the development of the delayed sextuple leave (Diagram A).

I now propose that variations on this can result in a win whereby the shortest shot that the opponent is offered is one of 17 yards and the only other shots are of approximately 35 yards!

Assuming that the first break is well established, then the way to win is:

**Turn 1:** Take the break to hoop 6 making the leave as in diagram A. The opponent has a 35 yard shot to regain the innings.

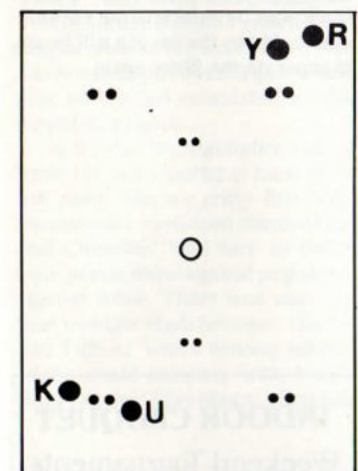


Diagram A: Red for 1; Yellow for 1-back.

**Turn 2:** Rush Yellow to hoop 2, pick up U or K and take your four ball break to 1 back, peeling Yellow at 2 and leaving Diagram B. Again the opponent has a 35 yard shot to regain the innings.

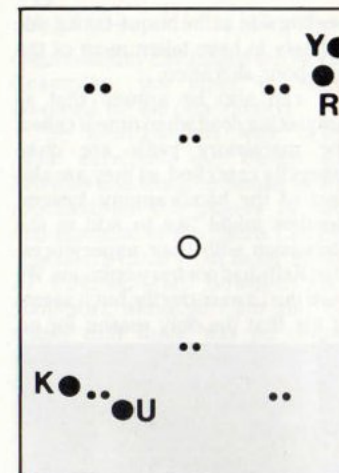


Diagram B: Red for 1-back; Yellow for 2-back.

**Turn 3:** Rush Red into the lawn, split to 3-back going to 2-back, and take Yellow to the Peg leaving Diagram C. Although not clear from the Diagram, it is possible to leave Black two yards in from the boundary and Blue in a position hampered from Red and Yellow by the Peg, wired from Black yet able to be rushed to 1-back. This leave allows UK a 17 Yard Shot (Black at Blue) with the knowledge that this is almost certainly his last shot.

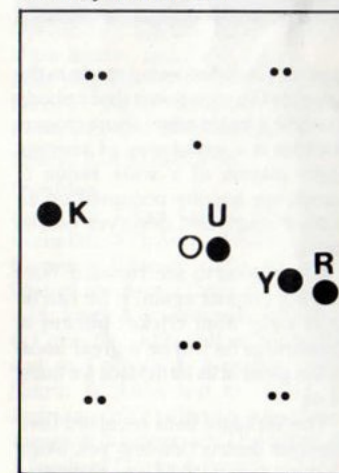


Diagram C: Red for 1-back; Yellow for Peg.

**Turn 4:** Take the appropriate rush, send Yellow to 2 back getting a rush to 1 back and finish. There is this one moderately difficult shot which should be in any A Class player's repertoire.

So there you have it. Only 1 peel to do, and a leave giving a shortest shot of 17 yards. There is absolutely no need to perform a triple - so why on earth is it so highly rated?

## CROQUET THROUGH THE AGES

(in no particular order)

Nick

'Every time I get a decent break going, some Roman lets the lions out.'

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## Indoor Croquet

### Indoor Croquet in Blackburn

Report by Andrew Bennet

First, I must apologise to all those who tried unsuccessfully to get in touch with me to arrange fixtures in our newly opened sports hall during the Christmas holidays. October and November are unplug-the-phone time in my line of business. Still, visitors with the right connections from East Anglia and Switzerland (about equidistant from Blackburn) arrived and some early participants left for New Zealand (which I think is a bit further away).

myself, was short-croquet doubles: add up the handicaps, divide by 2, convert to short-croquet handicap and play to 1-hour time limit. If a pair has peeling to do, either player may do a mandatory peel: if a pair has bisques, only the higher-handicapped player may take them. This was waived in the event of two longish-bisquers playing together, but we did not arrive at a formal definition. As it seemed to make little difference, and was perhaps unfair to

peeling side, as the bisque-taking side is likely to have taken most of the one-hour allocation.

It can also be argued that as bisques are dead when time is called, the mandatory peels are quite correctly cancelled, as they are also part of the handicapping system. Readers might like to add to the discussion with their experiences. Dan Kelly had contrary opinions. We read the Laws correctly, but it seems to me that the only reason for no

the headmaster, Russell.)

In these three weeks I have done more hoovering and washing-up than I've done in my house in years (anyone who has stayed at my house will not disagree).

Finally we thank the headmaster for encouraging the project and especially Vincent Chester, the head groundsman, for being so helpful at all times but especially with his trailer to help us load the lorry at the end.

Note by Chris Hudson

This was a most successful first outing for the second (slower) carpet. It was located in the QEGS sports hall from 15th December to 5th January, and during that time was used for something like 88 hours croquet. (Unfortunately the school sports hall could not be used after 6pm - a condition of planning permission).

Transport costs were reduced because both carpets were delivered on the same day, one to Soham and the other to QEGS, requiring only one lorry. Andrew Bennet raised the £100 hire charge requested by the CA from entry fees. This charge goes towards the cost of storing and insuring the carpets.

The second carpet is in 9 strips, making it much easier to handle, as each strip is half the width and half the weight of the 5 strips that make up the first carpet. The ball stops were not of the type supplied on the first carpet and the joints were nothing like strong enough. The manufacturer is supplying us with stops to the original design free of charge.

The marks made by the balls turn out to have been caused by friction. The carpet fabric has a low melting point and the heat generated between the ball and the carpet causes the fibres to weld together. Experiment has shown that the marks can be reduced if not entirely eliminated by the use of a stiff brush to separate the fibres again.

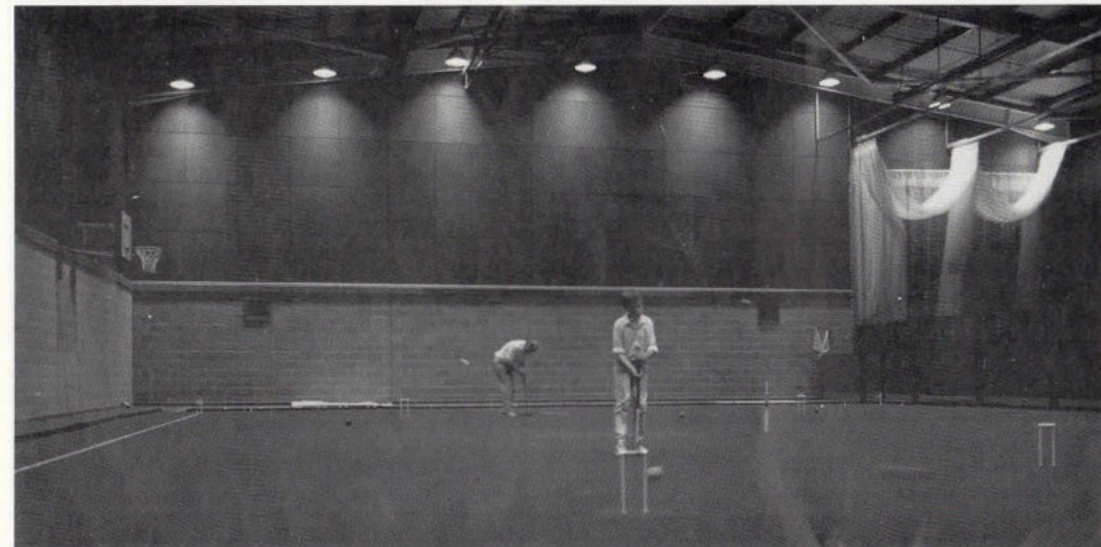
specific provision being made in the Laws for this situation is that nobody thought it might arise. Short-croquet doubles is a useful way of keeping eight players of a wide range of handicaps happily occupied on an indoor court, and deserves official status.

It was good to see Howard Yates playing croquet again. If he can be kept away from cricket pitches at Cambridge he will be a great boost to the game at its birthplace for many of us.

The Birkdale balls received their severest destruction-test yet, being slammed regularly at Collighan speed against breeze-block walls, as the ball-stops were inadequately joined. One ball of the eight developed a slight fault.

Many thanks are due especially to those who have come back from their first term at university and put their muscle into laying the carpet and taking it up, especially Chris Clarke, Russ Collighan and Rick Harding. Andrew and Adrian Saurin also were outstanding in their efforts.

Next year we might put on a major event if deputies can be found for the Manager, Referee, Caterer, Caretaker, Litter Collector, Hooverer, Transport Manager, Washer-upper, Dustbin-man, Liaison-Officer with interested players and clubs, Liaison-Officer with the Groundsmen and Security Staff, Diplomat to headmaster, and specialist in extracting croquet balls embedded where they were never intended to be embedded. (I won't tell



The Indoor Carpet at Blackburn.

There were eight triangular matches, with teams from Birkdale, Manchester Grammar School, Old Blackburnians, Pendle, and Southport playing against QEGS. We were pleased to see Norman Eatough, an old boy of the school who runs croquet in Switzerland, playing for both school and the Old Blackburnians!

Mark Saurin pronounced the carpet too easy-paced. It is certainly not as fast as the first carpet, but is still as fast as many lawns one would wish to play on. After a little trouble early on, even the long-bisque visitors found the pace manageable, although the danger of taking off into the ball-stops or skating past a hoop was always present. Richard Harding completed a triple peel in the School v Old Boys match, the penultimate peel succeeding on the fourth try, on the way to 4-back. The only other triple peel was a superb delayed effort by Chris Clarke. The unforgiving rigidity of the hoops makes peeling difficult, but Colin Irwin had enough control to achieve peels in all his games of short-croquet doubles, guiding his grateful partners through to win all eight games, a promising prelude to the New Zealand tour. Chris Clarke was the only other player to make peeling look easy.

Another note for the record books might be that on two days 25% of the participants were Championship Referees.

For many of the matches, the format, devised by Chris Irwin and

a 10 partnering a 17, this restriction was later dropped.

At first jump-shots were outlawed, but later experience showed that they can be properly executed by experts. We are still undecided on this subject. Some ball-imprints appeared, but Law 32(a) (16) now specifies damage 'by the mallet' as well as defining 'substantial damage', and on both accounts the marks are allowed by the laws. The strange thing is that most of these marks happened in the first match, when nothing untoward was observed. I experimented with some violent rolls and jump-shots and made no mark on the carpet. Who did it (and how)? Not Mark Saurin, who was able to get some useful practice for New Zealand, or so I thought. He managed to construe things differently.

There were other ball-imprints, one on a corner-spot and another eight feet high in the woodwork above the door, but please don't tell the headmaster about that one.

Owing to the large number of minus players around, the question did arise about the laws on mandatory peels not done in a timed ending. Subject to Appendix 5 section 4, which states that points cannot be scored by running the next hoop if the requirement for peels cannot thereafter be met, Regulation 13 applies, which is a simple point-count.

This is the correct reading of the book and also seems fair to the

## Indoor Croquet

### Soham: 16-17 December Great Britain just hang on!

Report by Keith Aiton

In the croquet equivalent of a pre-'World Cup' friendly against Brazil, the Test Team limped home against a highly motivated East Anglian team, which included a winner of the President's Cup, three Chairman's Salver players and a member of the National Junior Squad. The result was in doubt until tea-time on Sunday when Openshaw fulfilled the expectations of his team by playing a break from hoop 2 to the peg to score the decisive tenth point.

After consultation with both sides Richard Hilditch, as manager, decided to abandon chess clocks in favour of a normal two hour time limit. This meant that reasonably normal tactics could be employed, although one is always aware of how small the lawn is when laying up. On a flat surface the carpet would be ridiculously easy, but with the moderate slopes at Soham pioneer placement became something of a lottery. Hoop approaches are always a problem due to the plates in which the hoops are set. In addition the carpet can tend to curl up at the edges of the plates.

In the opening games mistakes by Saurin and Aiton were efficiently punished by French and Cornelius. An after time rally by Aiton failed at penult with the game winning peel already jawed. Avery and Fulford also had to work hard against Clarke and Comish, but just maintained the upper hand. At this point the GB captain arrived and quickly showed that he was ready to lead by example. Meanwhile Aiton broke down on a triple against Burridge and only started playing again after time, but having picked up a game winning three ball break by running 2-back from three yards he promptly dropped it by misapproaching 3-back. After some more losing by the GB juniors and their coach, East Anglia were in the lead. The score was levelled by a Fulford triple, which may be the first completed on the carpet in a match.

On Sunday the highlights were a triple by your reporter (a blast from the past), Saurin's gritty first win, Openshaw's continued domination and Cornelius' final turn to finish from penult alone against peg alone against Aiton. There was also the heavyweight clash between Clarke and Fulford, which boxing aficionados could compare with Frank Bruno against Gary Mason. (One has

unsuccessfully challenged the World Champion, the other is being groomed for the opportunity).

The arrangements were once again excellent, with dinner on Saturday and lunch on Sunday being provided for the players by the management of the Sports Centre. Spectators came from as far afield as Cheltenham, Bowdon and Southport, although I am glad to report that there was no crowd trouble. No need for all seater stadia and I.D. cards in croquet - Colin Moynihan please note. Finally, I must mention the largest chess clock I have ever seen (about six feet by four feet) which, I understand, belongs to the Croquet Association. Go and see it if you get the chance. I am not going to predict the result of the Test Series (since it will be over when this first appears in print.) However, on this week-end's showing, overconfidence should not be a problem!

#### RESULTS

##### Great Britain vs East Anglia

All games were played on the first indoor carpet (24 yds x 16 yds) with 2 hour normal time limits single games, double banked throughout.

#### Teams:

*Great Britain:* Mark Avery, David Openshaw (Captain); Robert Fulford, Mark Saurin, and Keith Aiton.

*East Anglia:* Chris Clarke, Martin French, Steve Comish, Debbie Cornelius, and Ian Burridge.

Results (GB names first):

#### Doubles

Saurin & Aiton lost to French & Cornelius -3(T); Avery & Fulford beat Clarke & Comish +1(T); Avery & Openshaw beat Clarke & Comish +16; Avery & Openshaw beat French & Cornelius +17; Fulford & Saurin lost to Comish & Burridge -3(T); Saurin & Aiton lost to Clarke & Burridge -2(T); Fulford & Aiton beat French & Burridge +24TP; Fulford & Aiton beat Clarke & French +20TP; Saurin & Aiton beat Cornelius & Burridge +11; Openshaw & Fulford beat French & Comish +22.

#### Singles

Aiton lost to Burridge -3(T); Avery beat Clarke +17; Fulford lost to Comish -10; Saurin lost to Cornelius -3(T); Saurin beat Comish +7; Fulford lost to Clarke -17; Openshaw beat French +19; Aiton lost to Cornelius -1.

#### Match Result:

Great Britain 10, East Anglia 8.

## Exhibition

### How We Made the Perfect Exhibition of Ourselves

By a local Development Officer

So we decided to have this impressive professional display in the library display window in the city centre. It would be so startling, and the public so overwhelmed, that within hours there would be waiting lists at every club.

A central focal point was needed. A player poised to run a hoop would be ideal, but who had the spare time and control to do it? We had thinking players, but even they aren't that slow! We needed a poser. We have those too but not 'stationary for a week' ones. We needed a Dummy.

A quick run through the membership list produced a couple, but they were booked for a bridge tournament.

A scrounging visit to a local store was unsuccessful, so one must be hired.

The 'display shop' had a crowd of them to hire. We chose carefully; after all, this was to make a good impression of croquet. We booked our player and went home to organise the surrounding atmosphere with books, balls and of course the hoop.

The great day dawned. Jack and David went off to get the 'player of

the week' - unfortunately I had a quickly-thought-up engagement, so could not be involved. Obviously it should be very easy indeed to convey an inanimate body just a short distance across the City. That is except for the one way system. Jack made various attempts to drive to the shop but it seemed impossible. So as the system applies to car-carried dummies only, the last resort was for David to sort of grasp the body in as respectable a fashion as he could, and make for the showcase as fast as possible.

Aren't people rude! Most advice offered to David cannot be repeated here without the best bits being spoilt by censorship. It seems there are more convenient models, but these must be dangerous as they sound as if they might be blown up!

The final effect was however very effective, and many famous figures from City shop windows applied to join our local clubs.

PS: We eventually brought the model by car a week later for the start of the display and, as I told David over a pint of Guinness later, his was just a dummy run!



Downham Club Secretary, Jonathan Toye, sizes up a roll shot.

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## MacRobertson Shield

### Great Britain & Ireland Regain MacRobertson Shield A Keenly Fought Series

Here is an account of the MacRobertson Shield matches, as related in Press releases put out by Charles Townsend, Chairman of the CA's Publicity Committee.

#### PREVIEW

In Auckland next Friday, top croquet players from Great Britain & Ireland start their attempt to win back the MacRobertson Shield lost 4 years ago to New Zealand.

Started in 1925 the MacRobertson Shield is Croquet's premier international competition. It is played every four years by teams from Great Britain & Ireland, Australia, and New Zealand, the world's strongest croquet nations.

Great Britain & Ireland and New Zealand are joint favourites to win. New Zealand will have an unchanged team from their 1986 winning team, including the World Croquet Champion Joe Hogan. Their team brims with experience. Four of their players were in their winning 1979 team and for John Prince, their captain, this will be a record seventh MacRobertson Shield Series.

The Great Britain & Ireland team by contrast is full of exciting young players. Three of the players are under 25, the youngest being Mark Saurin at only 19. Players to watch are Robert Fulford (aged 21), who played devastating croquet at the end of the 1989 season to win the President's Cup and reach number two in the world rankings, and Mark Avery (24) who was losing finalist in the 1989 World Croquet Championship. Stephen Mulliner who is ranked number one in the world will not be playing against Australia but will be playing in the key match against New Zealand.

Australia by contrast are the under-

dogs but have players capable of inflicting a few surprises. Much interest will centre on Greg Bury. At only 20 this will be his first international competition. Already winner of the Australian Open Championship, he comes with a reputation as a ferociously hard hitter of the ball and one of the brightest young players in the sport.

By 27th January we shall know if the youth and flair of the Great Britain & Ireland players can overcome the experience of the New Zealanders.

#### Dates of Matches.

Great Britain and Ireland v Australia 5-10 January in Auckland.

Australia v New Zealand 13-18 January in Wellington.

Great Britain and Ireland v New Zealand 22-27 January in Christchurch.

#### First Test Match

##### Day 1: Great Britain & Ireland go 3-0 up

Great Britain and Ireland got off to a splendid start on the first day of the test match against Australia. Closest match was between the two top pairs, Britain's David Openshaw and Mark Avery against Australians Alan Cleland and George Latham. The first two games were very close, David Openshaw coming from behind to win the first for Britain, then George Latham pulling out a desperate last ditch shot to take the second for Australia. The deciding third game was won easily by Great Britain with Mark Avery finishing on only

the 9th turn of the game with a splendid triple peel.

#### Results: Day 1.

R. Fulford and W. Prichard (G.B. & Ireland) beat G. Bury and L. Herington (Aus) +10, +25.

C. Irwin and M. Saurin (G.B. & Ireland) beat C. Pickering and B. Ford (Aus) +17, +3.

D. Openshaw and M. Avery (G.B. & Ireland) beat A. Cleland and G. Latham (Aus) +6, -5, +17TP.

#### Day 2: Great Britain go 7-0 up

On the second day of the first Test Match against Australia, Great Britain & Ireland achieved a clean sweep in the 4 singles matches. After winning all three doubles matches on the first day this gives them a commanding 7-0 lead.

Mark Saurin was first to finish with a confident triple peel in his first game.

Match of the day was between two of the youngest players; Britain's 20 year old Robert Fulford and Australian Open Champion, 20 year old Greg Bury. Greg Bury got off to a good start winning the first game with a fine triple peel. Robert Fulford replied with a triple peel on the opponent. The third game could have gone either way. Greg Bury started a triple peel, but having made the first peel, missed a ball. This let in Robert Fulford who made no mistake with his own triple peel. This is only the second time in the 65 year history of the MacRobertson Shield that there have been three triple peels in one match.

Meanwhile David Openshaw struggled to beat Australian number one Colin Pickering.

In the last match to finish William Prichard allowed Leigh Herington few opportunities.

#### Results: Day 2.

D. Openshaw (G.B. & I.) beat C. Pickering (Aus) +17, +14.

R. Fulford (G.B. & I.) beat G. Bury (Aus) -12TP, +12TP, +7TP.

M. Saurin (G.B. & I.) beat B. Ford (Aus) +26TP, +17.

W. Prichard (G.B. & I.) beat L. Herington (Aus) +24TP, +22.

#### Day 3: Another Clean Sweep for Great Britain.

Great Britain & Ireland achieved another clean sweep in the three doubles matches to go 10-0 up against Australia in the Croquet Test Match in Auckland. Great Britain & Ireland now need only one more match from the remaining 11 to win the first Test.

In the first match to finish, Britain's Mark Avery and David Openshaw easily overcame Greg Bury and the out of form Leigh Herington, with Avery completing a triple peel in the first game and Openshaw doing likewise in the second.

Robert Fulford and William Prichard overcame sterling opposition from Australians Bruce Ford and Colin Pickering, the latter winning the second game with a

triple peel. However Pickering failed to run the 4-back hoop in the third game to allow Fulford to win with yet another triple peel.

Colin Irwin and Mark Saurin took the first game from the top Australian pair Alan Cleland and George Latham without conceding a point. After the Australians took the second game with a late rally, Irwin and Saurin took command in the third with Saurin narrowly failing a straight triple peel.

With three days of the Test match still to go, the in form Great Britain & Ireland team have now completed more triple peels than have ever been performed in any of the MacRobertson Shield Test matches in its 65 year history.

#### Results: Day 3.

D. Openshaw and M. Avery (G.B. & I.) beat G. Bury and L. Herington (Aus) +14TP, +21TP.

R. Fulford and W. Prichard (G.B. & I.) beat C. Pickering and B. Ford (Aus) +3, -26TP, +7TP.

C. Irwin and M. Saurin (G.B. & I.) beat A. Cleland and G. Latham (Aus) +26, -4, +21.

#### Day 4: Great Britain Win First Test Match.

Great Britain & Ireland clinched the first Test Match against Australia when Mark Saurin, Britain's 19 year old newcomer beat the experienced Leigh Herington to score Great Britain & Ireland's eleventh Match win.

Later in the day Australia scored their first win when Queenslander Bruce Ford beat William Prichard. However, wins by Britain's Mark Avery and Colin Irwin made the score, with still 2 days to go, Great Britain 13, Australia 1.

#### Results: Day 4.

M. Saurin (G.B. & I.) beat M. Herington (Aus) +20TP, +11.

M. Avery (G.B. & I.) beat A. Cleland (Aus) +17, -16, +15.

C. Irwin (G.B. & I.) beat G. Latham (Aus) -26TP, +16, +6.

W. Prichard (G.B. & I.) lost to B. Ford (Aus) -16, -7TP.

#### Day 5: Great Britain Continue to Win.

Great Britain & Ireland increased their lead against Australia in the Croquet Test Match in Auckland today.

Mark Saurin, the 19 year old newcomer to the Test team, has won all his matches in his first Test match. Today he and Colin Irwin completed a good victory over Australia's Greg Bury and Leigh Herington. The British number one pair of Mark Avery and David Openshaw lost their first game but came from behind to take the second and went on to win the third.

Australia gained a consolation win in the early evening when Alan Cleland and George Latham beat William Prichard and Robert Fulford after a long battle.

With one day remaining, Great Britain & Ireland lead Australia by 15

matches to 2.

#### Results: Day 5

C. Irwin and M. Saurin (G.B. & I.) beat L. Herington and G. Bury (Aus) +21, +16.

D. Openshaw and M. Avery (G.B. & I.) beat C. Pickering and B. Ford (Aus) -16, +17, +16.

W. Prichard and R. Fulford (G.B. & I.) lost to A. Cleland and G. Latham +5, -5, -24.

#### Day 6: Great Britain Win 18-3.

Great Britain & Ireland maintained their dominance over Australia by winning the last day's singles matches 3-1 for an overall score of 18-3.

All matches were evenly balanced at lunchtime at one game all. But the only victory for Australia came from Colin Pickering when he won with a triple peel in an errorless third game befitting this contest between the two number ones.

Both Robert Fulford and Colin Irwin gave their respective opponents George Latham and Greg Bury late chances to recover, but these opportunities were not converted.

In the final match to finish between the two captains, Britain's David Openshaw demonstrated his patience and resolve by coming from behind to overhaul Alan Cleland's early lead.

The MacRobertson Shield now enters its second phase when the Australians travel to Wellington to play the holders, New Zealand, from 13-18 January. Meanwhile the Great Britain & Ireland team, now strengthened by Steve Mulliner's arrival, continue their preparation for the third and final phase, which pundits believe will be the deciding match, against New Zealand on 22-27 January in Christchurch.

#### Results: Day 6.

M. Avery (G.B. & I.) lost to C. Pickering (Aus) +19, -17TP, -17TP.

D. Openshaw (G.B. & I.) beat A. Cleland (Aus) -17, +26, +7.

R. Fulford (G.B. & I.) beat G. Latham (Aus) +17TP, -17, +24.

C. Irwin (G.B. & I.) beat G. Bury (Aus) +17, -4, +18.

#### MATCH RESULT

Great Britain & Ireland beat Australia 18-3.

#### NEW ZEALAND v. AUSTRALIA.

(New Zealand names first)

##### Day 1

J. Hogan & R. Murfitt lost to C. Pickering & B. Ford -14, +5, -4TP.

R. Jackson & J. Prince lost to G. Latham & A. Cleland +11, -17, -1.

P. Skinley & G. Beale beat L. Herington & G. Bury +18, +11.

##### Day 2

J. Hogan beat A. Cleland +4, +3.

J. Prince beat G. Latham +26, +26. G. Beale lost to B. Ford -4, -14.

R. Murfitt beat L. Herington +24TP, +23.

##### Day 3

J. Hogan & R. Murfitt beat G. Latham & A. Cleland +10, -9, +20.

R. Jackson & J. Prince beat L. Herington & G. Bury +15, +12.



The Great Britain & Ireland team, winners of the 1990 MacRobertson Shield Series. Back (L to R): Colin Irwin, William Prichard, Mark Saurin, & Robert Fulford. Front: Stephen Mulliner, David Openshaw & Mark Avery.

P. Skinley & G. Beale beat C. Pickering & B. Ford +26, +21.

##### Day 4

R. Jackson beat C. Pickering +17, -26TP, +10.

P. Skinley beat G. Bury +8, +21. G. Beale beat L. Herington +7, +22.

R. Murfitt lost to B. Ford -5TP, -25.

##### Day 5

All matches abandoned due to rain.

##### Day 6

J. Hogan lost to C. Pickering -25, -17. R. Jackson beat A. Cleland +25TP, +25.

P. Skinley beat G. Latham +9TP, +26TP.

J. Prince beat G. Bury +6TP, -16, +17.

#### MATCH RESULT

New Zealand beat Australia 13-5.

#### PREVIEW

The final Test Match of the MacRobertson Shield Series starts in Christchurch New Zealand on 22nd January. In the two preceding test matches, both New Zealand and Great Britain & Ireland have defeated Australia so this final match will decide who will win the MacRobertson Shield.

The Great Britain & Ireland team has been strengthened since their win against Australia by the arrival of Stephen Mulliner, presently ranked the number one croquet player in the world. While New Zealand were beating Australia, Great Britain & Ireland produced two emphatic victories against two New Zealand Provincial sides. Hopes are therefore high that Great Britain & Ireland can beat New Zealand and regain from them the MacRobertson Shield that they lost in 1986.

The final Test will be played over 6 days from 22nd - 27th January as the best of 21 matches.

#### Day 1: Great Britain & Ireland Go into Lead.

After a dour tough day in the New Zealand sun, Great Britain & Ireland took a 2-1 lead in the Croquet Test Match against New Zealand. The day began with a shock announcement that Roger Murfitt, after 15 years of playing for New Zealand, had with-

## MacRobertson Shield

shots and an attempted hammer shot went badly wrong. However his confidence suddenly picked up and he began to hit everything, he and his partner John Prince going on to win +11, +13.

The biggest shock came in the third match. New Zealanders Joe Hogan and Bob Jackson are generally considered the strongest doubles pairing in the world - they won the doubles at the World Championship last summer. So their defeat by Ireland's Colin Irwin and 19 year old Mark Saurin must rank as the biggest upset of the Test Match so far.

In the first game, with only two balls left on the court, Colin Irwin struck the decisive shot from the boundary line. He hit Jackson's ball in the middle of the court and drove it 15 yards to his own hoop. Suddenly New Zealand were one down and a confident British pair were on their way to an easy win in the second game.

#### Results: Day 1.

R. Fulford and S. Mulliner (G.B. & I.) beat P. Skinley and G. Beale (NZ) +21, +17.

D. Openshaw and M. Avery (G.B. & I.) lost to J. Prince and S. Jones (NZ) -11, -13.

C. Irwin and M. Saurin (G.B. & I.) beat J. Hogan and R. Jackson (NZ) +2, +16.

continued overleaf



Captain David Openshaw steered Great Britain & Ireland to victory.

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## MacRobertson Shield

### Day 2: New Zealand Fight Back from the Brink of Disaster.

At lunch on the second day of the Croquet Test Match between New Zealand and Great Britain & Ireland, New Zealand were on the edge of disaster. Having started 2-1 down after the first day, they had lost the first game in all four singles matches. However, in the afternoon two of their players found top form, enabling New Zealand to come back and finish the day 2 games all.

Bob Jackson - the great Auckland stone-face - had two triple peels against Britain's Mark Avery to win his match, and Graham Beale managed to overcome Britain's 19 year old Mark Saurin. In the other matches, New Zealander Steve Jones was overwhelmed by Colin Irwin who scored 49 consecutive points, and British Captain David Openshaw won in three games against New Zealander Paul Skinley.

After two days, predictions that this test match would be very close are proving correct. It will probably not be until the final day that the match, and so the winner of the MacRobertson Shield, will be decided.

After two days Great Britain and Ireland lead New Zealand 4-3, with 4 days to play.

#### Results: Day 2

M. Avery (G.B. & I) lost to R. Jackson (NZ) +7, -17TP, -17TP.  
D. Openshaw (G.B. & I) beat P. Skinley (NZ) +26, -10, +17.  
C. Irwin (G.B. & I) beat S. Jones (NZ) +3, +26.  
M. Saurin (G.B. & I) lost to G. Beale (NZ) +16, -4, -17.



Colin Irwin, who dropped only one (doubles) match throughout the series.

### Day 3: Disaster in the Twilight.

In a sensational 10 minutes of play in the gathering dusk, New Zealand went ahead in the Croquet Test Match against Great Britain & Ireland. Earlier, top New Zealand pair Bob Jackson and Joe Hogan had easily beaten Stephen Mulliner and Robert Fulford to level the match score at 4 games all.

The two remaining matches were evenly poised at one game each and with both sides only a good shot away from victory. Then after 10 hours of croquet with the light fading, New Zealander Graham Beale rolled 10 metres to the peg to win his match. This was followed by John Prince, the New Zealand captain, hitting the peg from 12 metres to make the day a clean sweep for New Zealand.

That shot had finished an extraordinary fight back by the British pair of Colin Irwin and Mark Saurin. In the deciding game John Prince was for the peg with his partner Steve Jones making what should have been the winning break when he stuck in the last hoop. Two hours later, the British pair were still going, and when John Prince finally leapt to the air in triumph, the victory was by a mere two points.

Great Britain & Ireland will need to do well in the singles tomorrow to keep their hopes alive of regaining the MacRobertson Shield. New Zealand lead Great Britain & Ireland by 6 games to 4 with 3 days left to play.

#### Results: Day 3.

S. Mulliner and R. Fulford (G.B. & I) lost to R. Jackson and J. Hogan (NZ) -19, -15.

C. Irwin and M. Saurin (G.B. & I) lost to J. Prince and S. Jones (NZ) -13, +9, -2.

D. Openshaw and M. Avery (G.B. & I) lost to P. Skinley and G. Beale (NZ) +7, -16, -12.

### Day 4: Great Britain Fight Back in Croquet Test Match.

Great Britain & Ireland won 3 of the 4 matches played today at Christchurch to level the overall score at 7-7 against New Zealand. World Champion Joe Hogan added to New Zealand's overnight lead with a convincing win against Steve Mulliner. However, Britain fought back with three victories by Robert Fulford, Mark Saurin and Colin Irwin.

Robert Fulford won his first game against N.Z. Captain John Prince by a mere 4 points. In the second game only two balls were left on the court. Fulford's remaining ball was for the peg, while Prince had still 5 hoops to make. Prince made his hoops but was left on the wrong side of the hoop. He played a jump shot over the top of the hoop but failed to hit the peg. Fulford narrowly missed the peg from 10 yards. Prince shot slowly at the peg and missed. This left Fulford a 14 yard shot at Prince's ball which he hit and which enabled him to get up to the peg and win the game.

Mark Saurin, Britain's Junior Champion, fought back well to take the 2nd and 3rd games against Steve Jones.

In the final match to finish, Colin Irwin gave a typically gritty performance to win against Graham Beale.

#### Results: Day 4.

S. Mulliner (G.B. & I) lost to J. Hogan (NZ) -21, -26.  
R. Fulford (G.B. & I) beat J. Prince (NZ) +4, +1.  
C. Irwin (G.B. & I) beat G. Beale (NZ) -26, +18, +15.  
M. Saurin (G.B. & I) beat S. Jones -13, +20, +25.

### Day 5: Great Britain Forge Ahead.

Great Britain & Ireland took the lead in the deciding Test Match against New Zealand by winning all three doubles matches on the 5th day.

David Openshaw and Mark Avery beat the New Zealand top pair of Joe Hogan and Bob Jackson. They won the first game by 17 points and looked likely to win the second game by a similar score but were unable to find the finishing touch. Joe Hogan then made a break but broke down with only two hoops to go. After further nervous play by both sides, Mark Avery hit the peg from 13 yards to win the match.

Stephen Mulliner and Robert Fulford shared the first two very closely contested games with New Zealanders John Prince and Steve Jones. In the deciding game both Britons made good breaks to win without the New Zealanders running a single hoop.

In the late evening, Great Britain won the third match of the day. Mark Saurin and Colin Irwin took the first

game quickly but the second game was a 7 hour marathon in which Great Britain came from behind to win.

At the end of the 5th day, Great Britain lead New Zealand by 10 games to 7 with one day still to play. On the final day, Great Britain & Ireland need only to win one of the four singles matches to win the Test Match and so regain the MacRobertson Shield.

#### Results: Day 5.

M. Avery and D. Openshaw (G.B. & I) beat J. Hogan and R. Jackson (NZ) +17, +4.  
R. Fulford and S. Mulliner (G.B. & I) beat J. Prince and S. Jones (NZ) -2, +2, +26.  
M. Saurin and C. Irwin (G.B. & I) beat P. Skinley and G. Beale (NZ) +24, +4.

### Day 6: Britain Regain the MacRobertson Shield.

Great Britain & Ireland today regained Croquet's major trophy, the MacRobertson Shield, by beating New Zealand in the final deciding Test Match.

The win was achieved in only 132 minutes by a display of majestic croquet from Britain's World Number 1 player Stephen Mulliner. Stephen Mulliner playing top New Zealander Bob Jackson was in devastating form. In the first game Bob Jackson missed the first hoop and Stephen Mulliner was pegged out in just over an hour. The second game took 53 minutes. When he missed a long shot 5 minutes before the end Bob Jackson placed his mallet in its cover and put on his jacket. He knew it was all over. Stephen Mulliner had won both games without conceding a single hoop.

With the tension off, the rest of the day turned into exhibition croquet. New Zealand's Paul Skinley and Joe Hogan made triple peels. Britain's Robert Fulford delighted the crowd with a near attempt at a sextuple peel - and smiled when it broke down at the last hoop and Paul Skinley was left an easy shot. John Prince won the battle of the captains with a straight games victory over David Openshaw.

On paper it looked a reasonably close finish but the truth was that in the last 4 days the British and Irish had won the only four games that counted. Great Britain & Ireland had regained the MacRobertson Shield that they lost to New Zealand in 1986.

#### Results: Day 6.

S. Mulliner (G.B. & I) beat R. Jackson (NZ) +26, +26.  
M. Avery (G.B. & I) lost to J. Hogan (NZ) -8, -26TP.  
D. Openshaw (G.B. & I) lost to J. Prince (NZ) -2, -16.  
R. Fulford (G.B. & I) beat P. Skinley (NZ) -17TP, +20TP, +8.

#### Match Score

Great Britain & Ireland beat New Zealand 12-9.

Great Britain & Ireland taking the MacRobertson Shield having beaten both New Zealand and Australia.

## Harrow: 5-6 August Battles on Harrow Hills

Report by Chris Clarke

A wide range of croquet talent met at Harrow to do battle with the hills and sample the delights of the catering.

The first round produced an interesting clash between David Openshaw, playing in his first tournament since his selection for N.Z. and Phil Cordingley, eager to reproduce similar form to August '88. The match proved to be rather disappointing and led to a defeat for the G.B. captain. Meanwhile, Hyne and Clarke both produced triples.

The semis, played best of three, resulted in a comfortable win for Cordingley over Hilditch, whilst the Cornelius/Clarke encounter looked to be all over in Debbie's favour - game up and 4-back and peg vs nowhere. Debbie missed a rush and had soon lost, -3TP. Despite a similar lead in the third, Clarke again made a comeback to take the game and match +2.

Meanwhile, the Swiss was in progress. Openshaw lost to Hyne on time and then to Simon Tuke - never mind David, everyone loses form occasionally.

The final, played like the rest of the tournament in sweltering conditions, produced a 2-1 win for Phil who played solidly throughout and thoroughly deserved his success after a poor season. Finally, thanks to Richard for doing everything.

#### RESULTS

14 entries: advanced play knockout)

#### Round 1:

C.D. Clarke bt J. Ruddock +13TP; A. Symons bt D. Ruscombe-King +18; N. Hyne bt T. Harrison +26TP; R. Hilditch bt Miss A. McDiarmid +18; S. Tuke bt M. Kolbuszewski +19; P. Cordingley bt D. Openshaw +16.

#### Round 2:

Miss D. Cornelius bt G. Vince +24; Clarke bt Symons +15; Hilditch bt Hyne +7; Cordingley bt Tuke +13.

#### Semi-Finals:

Clarke bt Miss Cornelius -23, +3TP, +2; Cordingley bt Hilditch +21, +17.

#### Final:

Cordingley bt Clarke -3, +13, +9.

## Inter Club Championship A win for Harrow Oak

Report by David Openshaw

Harrow Oak won this years Inter-Club Championship with a decisive 6-1 against Hurlingham in the final.

The match was played at the Surbiton Club which proved an excellent venue with tight firm hoops and a very good lunch. The morning games were somewhat in and out, but both Eric Solomon and Tim Harrison eventually overcame James Carlisle and Mike Stevens in the two singles matches. In the doubles, David Openshaw and Philip Cordingley had a more convincing win against Dayal Gunaskera and Jerry Guest.

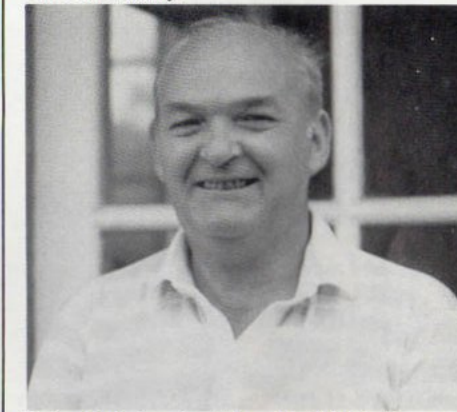
In the afternoon, when the remaining 4 singles were played, Harrow's superiority showed and a whitewash looked likely until James Carlisle narrowly won the last game to finish for Hurlingham.

## Nottingham: 14-19 August Good value for money!

Report by Chris Clarke

The annual Nottingham week tournament brought together some old and some new faces to do battle in one of the most enjoyable tournaments in the calendar.

The smaller than usual entry allowed our manager, Ian Vincent, to use all-play-all blocks in class events, with play-offs for anyone within one shot of the leader. This provided most players with plenty of games and with most doubles lasting over 3½ hours, even the quicker players enjoyed good value for money.



Brian Melody, who did well at Nottingham.

The first day started with the Robin Hood Handicap. Hilary Smith beat John Portwood +26 with 6½ bisques left, whilst Brian Melody still had 3½ left against Duncan Reeve despite using 4 for the peg out! As this event progressed, Brian continued unbeaten to the play-offs, but Hilary was unable to use her good break technique when deprived of bisques against other high bisquers.

Brian was joined in the semis by Andrew Bennet, John Death and Duncan Reeve and this gave the event an excellent split of handicaps. Whilst these more successful players were winning, the rest of us were either enjoying high-class croquet or close struggles. Chris Clarke produced a 4th turn QPO against Mike Cowan, but the problem with playing at Nottingham is that people aren't impressed by things like this because Keith Aiton does them all

the time.

The semis of the Hood saw Duncan beat Andrew and Brian lose narrowly to John, whose play improved tremendously as the week progressed. The final produced a comfortable win for John and the customary 1 hour lecture on how to clean (or not to clean) the Gold Cup.

The class events were all close affairs. A 3-way tie in the D-class produced a win for Gordon Boyce over Margaret Boyd and May Ollett.

In the C-class, Brian Melody was unbeaten with Nigel Kenwood 1 win behind. However, the play-off reversed the earlier results, and Brian was left reflecting on the grinding performance that Nigel had produced all week.

In the B-class, another 3-way tie resulted in John Reeve beating Laurence Whittaker but then being overpowered by John Death.

The A-class was tied on 5 wins between Mike Stevens and Chris Clarke. A best of 3 final produced a 2-0 win for Chris, including an attempted sextuple on the opponent.

The doubles event was great fun. In the first round, only a 40 yard hit in and break after time saved Whittaker and Death from losing to Thomas and Reeve. There were several strong pairs including Bennet/Boyce and Clarke/Giraud but both these went down in the semis. The final was a long drawn out affair and resulted in a +1(T) win for May Ollett and Bob Blackburn over Whittaker and Death who was thereby prevented from completing a grand slam of wins.

The 60th anniversary of the Nottingham club was celebrated during the tournament. All competitors were invited for drinks by the Mayor. Highlights of the evening included the beautiful surroundings, a guided tour of the building by the most enthusiastic and amusing guide you could wish for, and an excellent speech on behalf of the club by Ian Vincent. All present will remember the evening vividly (except perhaps John Reeve) and look forward to the club's 70th anniversary.

Thanks to Ian for managing and all the competitors for making it such a pleasant tournament to play in.

## LIGHTEN OUR LOAD!

Please pay your Club Registration Fees by 1st May 1990

## 1990 CLUB REGISTRATION FEES

Council has decided that Club Registration fees will in future be based on Club membership at September 30th in the previous year.

The 1990 Registration fee is £1.25 for each of your Club members who is not a member of the CA, with a minimum charge of £15.

For new Clubs and University Colleges in the first 3 years of their existence, the 1990 Registration Fee is £15.00.

For Schools, the 1990 Registration Fee is £7.50, irrespective of the number of players.

1990 Registration Fees should be paid by Clubs by 1st May 1990.

Council's decision means that any club can now calculate its total Registration Fee at the start of each season. So please lighten our load by forwarding your registration fee to the CA Office as soon as possible.

Your co-operation will be greatly appreciated.

Brian Macmillan,  
Administration Secretary.





## Your Letters

## The Magazine

Dear Sir,  
In response to Edgar Jackson's letter on the imbalance of A-class tournament reports as opposed to other tournaments, I find it impossible to agree with him.

There always seems to me to be an abundance of lower level tournament reports. Besides, when I buy a golfing magazine, for example, I expect to read about people such as Nick Faldo and other top players. Is there not a parallel to be drawn with croquet? The number of people playing croquet continues to grow, along with the number of tournaments. Surely then if the size of the Croquet magazine remains the same, it must focus on coverage of top class events.

On a different matter, though still relating to tournament reports, I would like to say that the enjoyment I derive from reading a report (if I give it more than cursory attention) comes less from the nature of the tournament than from the literary skills of the author.

Duncan Reeve,  
London.

## The Chairman's Salver

Dear Sir,  
Whilst I accept the Editor's unquestionable right to cut out paragraphs, and generally edit correspondence, so long as the essential substance is not altered, I do feel that he was over zealous with his scissors and blue pencil, with the result that my sense of dismay over the incident in the Chairman's Salver has been totally eclipsed.

My concern that Council should act, and be seen to act, has to be viewed against the background of last year's Home International, when Peter Dank's report included a thought that there was evidence of the McEnroe syndrome emerging in our game. The excellent record that Jim Townsend commented on must not be permitted to become tarnished.

Croquet, at what ever the level, should be played in a spirit of sportsmanship and enjoyment, and if one can win more than half one's games, that's a bonus.

Hamish Hall,  
Bristol.

Dear Sir,  
How I wish the following scene could have occurred on the last day of the Chairman's Salver:

As a ball is hit across the lawn -  
Player A: It hit - a roquet!  
Player B: Oh. Are you sure. I thought it missed.

A: Er, yes, I'm sure.

B: Well if you're really sure, only I didn't see the ball move.

A: Er... If you didn't see or hear anything, perhaps I was mistaken....

B: Oh no, no, I'm sure you're right. I wasn't meaning to doubt....

A: No, of course not. Look, if you're not convinced, then nor am I.

B: Likewise. I mean to say, if you're

sure then so am I.

A: My dear chap, I insist if you're not 100%...

B: No, no. Absolutely not, I'm with you all the way.

A: No really, I must insist....

B: No, most definitely, I insist....

No one remembered the end of the conversation; they just recalled the celebrations in the bar later that day, as the winner was presented with the Salver amidst enthusiastic applause and cries of 'Congratulations', 'Well played'....

Duncan Reeve,  
London.

Dear Sir,  
I write to disagree with Simon William's contention in issue 207 that the reporter on the Chairman's Salver was wrong to mention the controversial incident in the match between Martin French and David Maugham.

I think the reporter was right to draw attention to a situation where the laws of the game could do with some official clarification. I refer to the position where the opinions of the striker and adversary as joint referees differ.

Law 45(f) says that when the question is whether a ball has been hit, the positive opinion is generally to be preferred to the negative. Also, that if any reliable witnesses are present, the players should agree to consult them, but neither may do so without consulting the other. I underline the particularly ambiguous words.

Does this rule mean that if the striker believes he has hit a ball, he is entitled to play on despite the objection of the adversary? Is it merely sporting to consult witnesses, or is there any legal requirement on the players to do so? If witnesses are consulted, is their collective opinion binding on the players? Should a referee if available automatically be called when the striker and adversary disagree?

If there were a clearer understanding of what the laws intend to provide for such a situation, contention would be unlikely. Could a member of the Laws Committee oblige?

Jeremy Short,  
Ashford.

## A Divorce?

Dear Sir,  
On reading Simon William's letter on marriages in first class events in 'Croquet' Issue No 207, as manager of the Northerns I immediately felt compelled to rush to write in my defence quoting some obscure point of the regulations that not even Simon had happenstanced on.

As on reading the relevant sections of the Regulations, I find I have such no defence and herewith I plead guilty as charged.

The only thing I can add to my (or Bowdon's) credit is that our centre pegs are the correct diameter.

Incidentally, has anyone ever seen an extension to the peg that really is 6 inches in length (except at Bowdon of course)?

Yours ashamedly,  
Chris Irwin,  
Knutsford.

## An Historic Snap-shot!

Dear Sir,  
Browsing through some old albums recently my wife came across this picture taken in the early 1930's of three officers then attached to the German Embassy in London who were on holiday in Shanklin.



Keitel, Friedeburg, and colleague playing croquet at Shanklin in the 1930's.

The figure in the rear is that of Keitel later in the war to become a Field Marshall and Hitler's Chief of Combined General Staff, and who after the Nuremberg trial was hung as a war criminal. One of the foreground figures is Friedeburg, successor to Doenitz as head of the German navy and who at the end of the war lead the delegation which surrendered to Montgomery at Luneberg Heath.

What a pity that these gentlemen did not pursue their interest in croquet and moreover introduce the game to their Nazi masters. Perhaps the world would have been a much more peaceful place had they done so!

A. Rowlands,  
Shanklin.

## Photo Comment

Dear Sir,  
It occurs to me that there might be an alternative caption to the picture at the bottom of page 11 of January's Croquet as follows:

'Following the recent rule changes, Chris Hudson, the CA's Development Officer, demonstrates the correct use of the new CA mallet.'

John Filsak,  
Nottingham.

## How say?

Dear Sir,  
I have addressed countless envelopes to CA office, but on only a few occasions have I needed to dictate its address. I have been defeated by the pronunciation of 'Ranelagh', which I always spell out. As a professional

linguist, I am worried by this chink in my armour.

From seeing the written word, I have always heard it in my head as 'Ran-ee-ladge', in a Merseyside accent.

Will an expert on Lortdonspeak please advise?

Andrew Bennet,  
Blackburn.

## Tie-breaking

Dear Sir,  
Mr Pennant Jones, who wrote a letter about tie-breaks in American Tournaments, is quite right. Gross points is a far fairer way to determine a winner than net points, and the debate rages on in Australia, where the net points are gaining ground.

He may be comforted by the fact that there is no definitive prohibition of his system, or any other for determining the winner of an American tournament, in the Regulations, provided that the system be advertised in advance. Unfortunately, few managers bother to do this.

I cannot condemn strongly enough the use of points, net or gross, in determining the winner of a block in a first-class event.

Simon Williams,  
Shanklin.

## Twisting the Laws

Dear Sir,  
Simon Williams writes that my 'Draconian interpretation of Law 49 is fortunately inaccurate'. The use of the word 'fortunately' indicates a bias which is quite inappropriate in one who attempts to interpret laws.

But what other interpretation than mine can there possibly be? Law 49(a) is expressed in the clearest and quite unmistakable terms. It declares 'A player is not entitled to receive advice from anyone'. And so far as playing a wrong ball is concerned this very definite and unambiguous statement of the intention of the law is reinforced by 49(b), which forbids the adversary to warn the striker who is about to play a wrong ball.

In addition to those given in Law 44 there are other examples of information relating to the state of the game which could reasonably be requested under Law 44, for example in a handicap game asking how many bisques remain, or in a timed game how much time remains.

But asking the opponent, or anyone else, which ball the striker is playing is a flagrant attempt to defy Law 49, and to evade the severe penalty provided for playing the wrong ball under Law 28(b).

Mr Williams seems to be confused, because he claims that the adversary is obliged to advise the striker which ball he is playing with under Law 45(b), but in fact this law specifically reinforces Law 49(b).

As explained in my first letter, a player can gain an enormous advantage by playing the wrong ball,

whether deliberately or inadvertently or through wishful thinking, and thus the severe penalty provided under Law 28(b) is appropriate and absolutely necessary. Therefore a request for advice in this matter is contrary both to the Laws and the whole spirit of the game.

Leslie Riggall,  
Kloof, S.A.

## Posture for Past-Its

Dear Sir,  
With reference to Bill Bawden's extremely helpful article (January 1990); may I suggest that using a lighter mallet may help injury-prone players once they realise how little is the power thus lost.

I perceive that a croquet swing performed with flexed wrists (as advocated by Bill) and with, at impact, a minimal forward movement due to arms swinging and body rock, is a swing behaving, at impact, like a pendulum: i.e. the mallet is swinging from the tip of the handle.

From that I reckon to have calculated that a mere 3% loss of single ball speed of the mallet is linked to an 8% decrease (from 3lbs to 2 3/4 lbs) in mallet weight. The loss is 6% for a 2 1/2 lb mallet. (For narrow-angle croquet strokes the loss, naturally is much greater; Bill has warned us against playing such hospital shots!)

Because, at impact, there is bound to be an element of forward movement of the mallet as a whole, however fully flexed may be the wrists, single ball speed loss will, in practice, be actually less than the figures I have quoted.

Of course, believing helps make it so because scepticism will become manifest as a hesitant stroke!

Tommy Cameron,  
York.

## The Fixtures Book

Dear Sir,  
Dennis Moorcraft's letter in the January number regarding the delay in issuing the Fixtures Book prompts me to draw on memories of my 12 years stint of producing the Book, in the days when it always reached Associates by early January. Ironically, when I took over the assignment in 1972 I was able, in an initial flush of enthusiasm, to get the Book into the hands of Associates a fortnight before Christmas, for which I was then severely taken to task by two club secretaries who asked me to temper my zeal in future and avoid a repetition of their Christmas mail being cluttered up with Tournament Entry Forms.

I was fortunate on two counts compared with present day compilers. Throughout my 12 years the number of Tournaments was less than a half of those in today's Calendar, with a corresponding effect on the work load. Secondly, I was lucky to inherit from Derek Caporn (the 'fons et origo' of the

Fixtures Book) a firm of typographers in Burnley who gave a first-rate service in speed and accuracy. They employed straight forward typewriting from my rough material, which was invariably back in my hands within a week. By burning the midnight oil I was then able to return corrected proofs within a few further days, the stapled books then being in the C.A. office by mid-December ready for enveloping and despatch in the New Year.



A visiting team from South Africa at Phyllis Court in August, 1976. Seated (L to R): Lester Sullivan, Tom Barlow, Ian Gillespie, and David Cunningham. Standing: John Soutter, John Solomon, Richard Rothwell, and the late Guy Betts.

I am the first to admit that my efforts looked very pedestrian and amateurish compared with the highly professional presentation today, but they at least served the purpose of Associates being able to leisure to arrange their year's competitive activities.

The plan to which I adhered rigidly was to ensure that all club copy was in my hands within the week following the October Council Meeting which finalised details of all C.A. Tournaments. This enabled me to complete the lay-out, pagination, etc., ready for despatch to Burnley by early November. On one occasion when a Club failed without explanation or apology to respond, I resorted to the device of including a skeleton set-up based on their previous year's entry, with an explanatory footnote that intending competitors would have to obtain further details from the Club. In the following year the Club was among the first to send me their necessary material.

By way of a footnote, it is exceptionally rare for anyone to join issue with Edgar Jackson, but I cannot agree with his proposal that the Fixtures Book should list Handicap Weekends before Open Weekends, on the flimsy argument that entries for the former predominate. By the same token, Week-long Club Tournaments should on quantitative grounds give pride of place to their Handicap Singles as Event 1, relegating their Open Singles to Event 2. I cannot believe that this would receive Edgar's blessing.

Jim Townsend,  
Westward Ho!

## The Full-Bisque Game

Dear Sir,  
It is surprising that it is taking so long to introduce the full-bisque game. More than twenty years ago, in his chapter on Handicaps, John Solomon gave priority to the full-bisque game, stating that it is the only logical way of using bisques. Those interested in his analysis should refer to his excellent book 'Croquet'.

\* Bearing in mind that beginners and other high-bisquers usually play

in front of me at exactly the same time that my ball passed the other ball, even though I did not see the other ball move.

Experience has shown me that this is very possible - in a friendly game of golf croquet I was standing only a yard or so from my ball when it was passed by my opponent's ball. My ball did not move, but both my opponent and I agreed that contact (although irrelevant) had been made because we both heard the distinctive noise of croquet balls hitting.

After I claimed the roquet I was told that I should only make the claim if I was one hundred per cent sure. I did not 'disregard these comments'; I merely expressed my own, differing, opinion. It was then suggested that the spectators who were sitting behind me should be asked as to what they had seen.

With one exception, none were willing to say either way whether a roquet had been made or not. The exception was an elderly gentleman who insisted that he had seen the ball move. I have no reason to disbelieve him since he was at a slightly different angle to the ball to me, and so it is possible that he saw reflected light from the ball in such a way that it was possible for him to see the ball move.

It never occurred to me to call a referee because no referee could have decided the critical question - whether a roquet had occurred or not. The only people in a position to decide (i.e. the people behind me) were asked and consequently a decision was reached.

With this evidence I was confident that I had made the roquet and that the right decision (under Law 45f) was made.

David Foulser in his report mentions the lack of applause after the prize giving. I feel that this was more due to my ineptitude at making an impromptu speech than for any other reason.

David Maugham,  
Sale.

We are no longer living in the leisurely nineteenth century, and a game of croquet, as played by average players today, costs far too much time, space, and money. The simple solution is the full-bisque game. There is no possible justification for giving bisques and at the same time removing them. Let average players use their bisques, and learn to play the same constructive game as A players do.

Leslie Riggall,  
Kloof, S.A.

## The Chairman's Salver

Dear Sir,  
The report on the Chairman's Salver and subsequent letters have prompted me to clarify my position in the final game I played against Martin French, specifically the last shot I took.

I claimed the roquet because I distinctly heard the sound of contact between croquet balls from directly

## Your Letters

in front of me at exactly the same time that my ball passed the other ball, even though I did not see the other ball move.

Experience has shown me that this is very possible - in a friendly game of golf croquet I was standing only a yard or so from my ball when it was passed by my opponent's ball. My ball did not move, but both my opponent and I agreed that contact (although irrelevant) had been made because we both heard the distinctive noise of croquet balls hitting.

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David Maugham,  
Sale.

**LIGHTEN OUR LOAD!**  
Please pay your Club Registration Fees by 1st May 1990

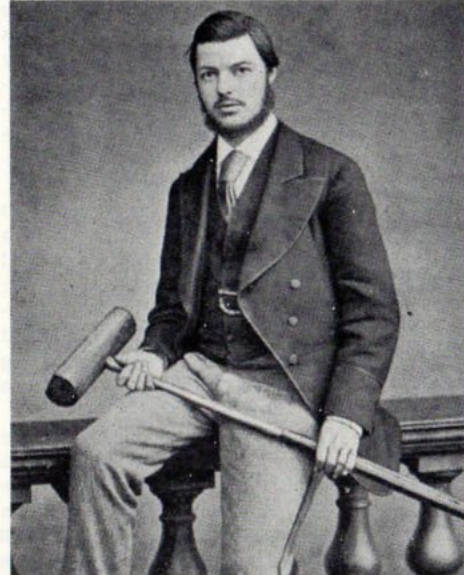


Details on Page 15.

## Open Champions of the Past

(Reprinted from the 1906 Gazette)

The Championship meeting of 1873 took place at Wimbledon on July 15th and following days. Four-inch blue hoops were used, and several games were



J.D. Heath, Esq.,  
Open Champion 1873-1874.

played without umpires. There were 16 entries for the Open event, the score being as follows:

### FIRST ROUND

James Heath bt A. Lillie by 2 games to 0.  
Douglas Heath bt H. Jones by 2 games to 1.  
Rev. A.C. Pearson bt - Stewart by 2 games to 0.  
R. Gray bt - Forrest by 2 games to 0  
E.C. Haines bt G.P. Willoughby by 2 games to 1.  
Rev. A. Law bt G.A. Muntz by 2 games to 1.  
D.I. Heath bt D.J. Macfie by 2 games to 1.  
W.H. Peel bt S. Coleridge by 2 games to 1.

### SECOND ROUND

James Heath bt Douglas Heath by 2 to 0.  
Rev. A.C. Pearson bt R. Gray by 2 to 1.  
E.C. Haines bt Rev. A. Law by 2 to 1.  
D.I. Heath bt W.H. Peel by 2 to 0.

### SEMI-FINAL

James Heath bt Rev. A.C. Pearson by 2 to 0.  
E.C. Haines bt D.I. Heath by 2 to 0.

### FINAL

James Heath bt E.C. Haines by 3 to 0.

The final was the best of 5 games with 3/4 steel-braced hoops. 'The Field' remarks that Mr Heath's performance throughout the meeting was perfect croquet in every description of two-ball stroke, nothing so good within a bisque having ever been seen before. On the Friday began the match between Mr Heath and the holder, Mr C. Black. Mr Heath won the first game by 18 points in 1 1/2 hours, and the second by 16, making a break of 7 in the first game and of 9 in the second. In the third game, Mr Black played 'most powerfully, especially at the opening, and throughout with admirable judgment', but his shooting failed him at some

critical points. Each player made a break of 7 points, Mr Heath eventually winning by 14 points after nearly two hours play, and so becoming the holder for the year of the 50-guinea Challenge Cup.

At the General Meeting of the All England Croquet Club Mr Law proposed that 3/4 inch hoops should be used in next year's competition, 'four-inch being regarded by all first-class players as a very imperfect test of skill, the player who has first break not infrequently walking off with the game before his opponent has a chance of coming in.' This proposal, it is interesting to note, was carried unanimously. According to 'The Field', Mr Douglas Heath won the break prize with a score of 15, 5 by Mrs Hallowes being good enough to win the Ladies' prize. Mr Coleridge, however, informs us that he won the break prize in this competition with a break of 28. Possibly he may have been mistaken as to the year. A novelty in the shape of a taking-off competition was won by Mr Gray, Mr Pearson



Miss F.H. Williamson,  
Lady Champion 1874.

of missing the hoop; and just because there is no audible tap, the player goes on her way serenely quite unconscious of the fact that she has made a foul stroke of the worst description.

There are more foul strokes in croquet than meet the eye or the ear. We take the opportunity of adding to the list a new one - new in the sense that we have never heard it admitted or even claimed. A take-off from a ball which is in contact with a peg or wire may be, and perhaps must be, a foul stroke. A very little consideration will show the reason. The second ball, presumably shaken by the take-off, cannot escape from the wire. Accordingly its shake must be in the direction of the player's ball, which is therefore forced to one side. The mallet, following on with the stroke, hits the ball in another place; and this may well result in a double tap.

Some of these points are still relevant today. There are players who take insufficient care to notice exactly where a ball crosses the yard line: this can make the difference between a rush and no rush, or a cannon and no cannon. We have all seen players, not necessarily ladies, who bang a ball through a hoop with a horrible crunch, and there is nothing one can do about it after the event. The comment regarding the take-off from a ball in contact with a wire gives food for thought. It could indeed give rise to a double tap, and in a tournament game it should be watched by a referee.

## Unprincipled Behaviour in 1904

By Allen Parker (Parkstone)

In present day croquet parlance there is no such thing as a 'foul', but in the following excerpt from the Gazette of 1904, the word 'foul' is synonymous with the present day 'fault'. The following rather unsportsmanlike behaviour was reported in the Notes in the September 21st issue. It could not occur under present day laws because (a) handling a ball is not a 'foul', (b) a player misled by a misplaced clip is allowed to replay his shot, and (c) the ball placed in the hoop would be entitled to a lift. Note that in the sequence game as then played it was possible for Yellow to lay up Black with Red because at the end of Yellow's turn it was Blue that had to play.

Some curious strategy, not recommended for imitation, occurred last week in a foursome on a private lawn. Blue and Black were for 'three-back', both balls lying near that hoop. Red and Yellow were for the third hoop. Yellow, from the neighbourhood of the second hoop, shot at Red in the first corner, and just missed, apparently by an inch or so. Blue then made his hoop, rushed Black to the corner, and proceeded to arrange the four balls with a view to a cannon. The player of Yellow then remarked, 'You have fallen into my trap. Yellow was never a corner ball; I put it half an inch from Red. By handling Yellow you have made a foul, and the turn ceases. I have been watching carefully for this.' The opponents, not being in a position to dispute the facts with any chance of success, were compelled to give way, and retired to a bench to concoct some scheme of revenge.

Almost at once, the heaven-sent opportunity arrived. The player of Blue remarked to his partner: 'My clip is still in my pocket; we will keep it there for a time. The position of the game is not in doubt, and it is quite likely that Yellow, after making his hoop, will leave me in that hoop and lay the break for his partner.' Which is precisely what happened. Yellow left Black with Red in the corner, rushed Blue to the third hoop, made it, tapped Blue into the middle of the hoop, and stayed hard by, beaut-

ifully wired. Blue then walked up, produced his clip, and ran the hoop. Amid the unseemly tumult that followed, he missed the roquet on Yellow, and was unable to maintain his claim to play the shot over again. However Blue and Black won the game, and were fully satisfied that they had had their revenge. All of which shows that one good turn deserves another; and that croquet, after all, is only a game, and should be played as a game, and in a sportsmanlike manner, for the sheer pleasure of losing. The Editor returned to the subject in his 'Notes' the following week, September 28th.

Apropos of the story of strategy divulged in this column last week, it may be pointed out that uncertainty as to the exact point at which a ball has crossed the boundary is one of the chief of the many reasons why Croquet can never become a professional game, i.e., a game capable of being played in professional matches for large stakes. A difference of a hairs-breadth on the boundary makes the difference between a rush and no rush - often amounting to the difference of a game. In this respect, the American game, with its raised boundary from which cushion cannons can be made, would appear to have an advantage over ours. Not that one wants professional matches introduced; but even amateurs, in other games, expect to be able to know for certain where the balls should lie, and to what privileges they are entitled. In croquet this is often a question of some doubt.

Similar doubts often occur with regard to the legitimacy of attempting certain strokes which may or may not result in crush strokes, or strokes otherwise foul. The ignorance prevailing, especially among ladies, as to what constitutes a crush-stroke, is simply amazing. One of our best known players is in the habit of making a foul stroke whenever she runs a hoop from a distance of less than six inches. The ball is either pushed through or banged through, without being given a chance

## SOUTH EAST CROQUET FEDERATION

### 22 member clubs

Report by David Higgs

The report of 1988 started with the statement that 1988 was 'again supposed to be wetter than usual', but all but one event took place as scheduled. 1989 was certainly one of the driest of recent years, but again one event had to be postponed because of torrential rain in June.

**Membership:** There are twenty-two member clubs. The new members in 1989 are Chichester, Rottingdean and Ealing. Surbiton did not renew its membership.

**Development in the Region:** There appears to be a growing awareness of the existence of croquet by local authorities. Demonstration and Come-&-Try-It days were held for Maidstone Borough Council, Runnymede District Council, and Sevenoaks District Council (2). The prospects of new clubs in these areas might take some time to come to fruition. There was also a request for a Come-&-Try-It Day by Redbridge Borough at Ilford, but unfortunately, it was not possible to find anyone to run it.

**New Clubs:** A new club has been formed at Esher, as part of the Ember Sports Club. It already has 50 members on a smallish lawn. Ferring and Mill Hill School registered with C.A. Apart from the local authorities mentioned above, other potential clubs are at Chessington and Dorking.

**Development Plan:** A report outlining our achievements, against objectives for 1988 defined in the Development Plan, was submitted to the Sports Council, together with our planned changes in emphasis. A similar report has been submitted for 1989.

**Regional Pamphlet:** The edition which was printed with the help of the Sports Council, gave 37 clubs in the region. There are 54 known clubs (or schools), and a much revised edition has been prepared but not generally circulated. Copies of the Regional Development Plan can be obtained from the Secretary.

A short (one third A4) leaflet, suitable for hand-outs at Come-&-Try-It days for club recruitment, has been prepared.

In comparison with leaflets prepared by other sports, our productions may be informative but boring, and need some line drawings to break up the monotony of the text. Is there any one who could do line drawings?

**Federation Tournaments:** These were disappointing. Only two of the scheduled events at Cophorne Hotel in April and at Compton in July attracted visitors. The scheduled tournaments at Ramsgate and Dulwich took place with 0 and 2 visitors respectively. It could be that the reduction in size of advertisements for these tournaments has reduced the impact. Should larger (A6, A5) notices be circulated?

The second inter-federation match with East Anglia was held at Havering. East Anglia fielded a team which did not comply with 2 players of 8 or over and 4 players of 10 or over. However, a good match was had, with a repeat of last year's very friendly result of a 4:4 draw.

**Coaching Days:** One day coaching events were held at Dulwich (13 took part), and two days at Chichester (12 in all), and a Laws day at Preston (9).

**Coaching Series:** Four sessions were each held at Lamorbey Park (Sidcup) and St. Paul's School.

**W.I. and TG Days:** One day events were held at Godalming and Caterham for Townwomen's Guilds, and an afternoon for the W.I. at Cranleigh.

**Summer School:** It had been intended to run the school at Ardingly College for 16 to 24 participants. The response was more than expected, and 40 participants (18 resident) attended the 6 day school. Players from Beverley, Letchworth, Tracy Park, Cheltenham and Parkstone joined those from clubs within the region. All reports suggest it was enjoyable and successful.

**Travelling Expenses:** The receipts from coaching, demonstrations, etc., involved 1335 miles compared with 4320 in 1988. This gave 9.5p per mile. The aim is to recompense those on Federation business at 16p per mile.

**Leagues:** Four leagues were run compared with two in 1988. The final

league tables are shown below. There was a marked variability in the details of matches given by the winning team. If there was a prize for best reporter of results, it would go to Bernard Smith of Ramsgate.

### 'B' LEAGUE (Sum of team handicaps at least 48)

| Club        | Points |
|-------------|--------|
| Ramsgate    | 6      |
| Compton     | 6      |
| Eden Park   | 6      |
| Havering    | 5      |
| Preston     | 5      |
| Rottingdean | 0      |

### Golf League

| Club          | Points |
|---------------|--------|
| Beckenham (1) | 8      |
| Beckenham (2) | 6      |
| Crawley       | 5      |
| Ramsgate      | 4      |
| Rottingdean   | 4      |
| Caterham      | 4      |
| Preston       | 3      |
| Eden Park (1) | 3      |
| Eden Park (2) | 2      |

### Ladies' League (Minimum handicap of 14)

| Club        | Points |
|-------------|--------|
| Compton     | 7      |
| Ramsgate    | 7      |
| Havering    | 4      |
| Crawley     | 4      |
| Preston     | 4      |
| Worthing    | 3      |
| Rottingdean | 0      |

### 'U' LEAGUE (Unrestricted handicap)

| Club           | Points |
|----------------|--------|
| Vine Road      | 8      |
| Dulwich        | 7      |
| Beckenham      | 7      |
| Eden Park      | 7      |
| Harrow Oak     | 6      |
| Ramsgate       | 6      |
| Crawley        | 5      |
| Compton        | 5      |
| Preston        | 5      |
| Caterham       | 5      |
| Chichester (1) | 5      |
| Parsons Green  | 5      |
| Roehampton     | 4      |
| Chichester (2) | 3      |

THANKS as always are due to the few who turn out regularly to run the various events.

Below: Duncan Reeve lines up a peel.



## EAST MIDLANDS CROQUET FEDERATION East Midlands make steady progress

Report by Gary Norman

During 1989 development of croquet in the East Midlands was concentrated in three locations - South Derbyshire, Collingham and Long Eaton.

South Derbyshire Croquet Club was formed in October 1988 after a 'Learn to Play' course in a local park financed by South Derbyshire District Council. During 1989 their playing area was in poor condition, consisting of a disused putting green and a crown bowls lawn rented from Woodville Parish Council. Croquet equipment was transported in the boot of a car, owing to the problem of vandals and thieves breaking into their storage hut. The Parish Council have now strengthened the hut and negotiations are in progress for the club to use an adjacent pavilion for the 1990 season. The club has made a very good start despite various setbacks and now has a solid foundation on which to build.

In 1989 the club were runners-up in the National Short Croquet Team Event. They also played in the East Midlands League, finishing third in the Short Croquet Division, with all except one of their matches being played away.

After achieving the target of doubling the number of members in their first season, the club has drawn up a Development Plan for the 1990 season. Their main objectives are to introduce youngsters to croquet through schools and junior courses, and to increase still further the number of club members. Collingham Croquet Club is near Newark in Nottinghamshire and was formed in 1989. The club has twenty eight members and will be joining the East Midlands Croquet Federation at the March 1990 Annual General Meeting.

Long Eaton has a nucleus of approximately twenty enthusiastic croquet players who borrowed Federation equipment and played croquet for the whole of the 1989 season. They intend to form a club for the new season and to join the EMCF. A 'Learn to Play' course is planned for early in the season.

### 'Matchplay' East Midlands League

The sponsorship deal with Geoffrey Day's company 'Matchplay' continued into its second year and thanks are expressed for the replica trophies. In 1989 the Association Division matches were played on Association size courts for the first time, even though all of the matches had to be played at



The South Derbyshire team, finalists in the 1989 National Short Croquet Team event: (L to R) David Carpenter, Mike Gibson, Gary Norman, and Martin Willett.

Nottingham and Loughborough because of the shortage of playing areas at the other East Midlands clubs.

The Leicester and Loughborough clubs continued their prominence in the League by winning the Association Division and the Short Croquet Division respectively. The new club at South Derbyshire commendably fielded a team which finished third in the Short Croquet Division. League positions are shown in the table.

### East Midlands Croquet League (sponsored by 'Matchplay Mallets') League Tables for 1989 season Association Division

|               | Won | Drawn | Lost | Points |
|---------------|-----|-------|------|--------|
| 1st Leicester | 3   | 0     | 0    | 6      |
| 2nd N'thmptn  | 1   | 1     | 1    | 3      |
| 3rd L'borough | 0   | 1     | 1    | 1*     |
| 4th Nott'ham  | 0   | 2     | 0    | 0*     |

\* Lboro v. Nott'ham not played

### Short Croquet Division

|                | Won | Drawn | Lost | Points |
|----------------|-----|-------|------|--------|
| 1st L'borough  | 3   | 1     | 0    | 7      |
| 2nd Ashby      | 2   | 2     | 0    | 6      |
| 3rd S.Derby    | 1   | 1     | 2    | 3*     |
| 4th S. Stratfd | 1   | 1     | 2    | 3*     |
| 5th N'thmpton  | 0   | 1     | 3    | 1      |

\* S. Derbyshire won 13 games to Stony Stratford's 10.



Members of the new Collingham Club at a coaching session run by Jim Kirby (centre)

Croquet Club as four rounds of three matches each. Surprisingly all four teams finished on six wins each, thus producing a four way tie for first place. The match was decided on a tie break with all members of each team having one shot at the peg from the West yard line. Glasgow won the tie break to clinch the trophy by hitting with all four shots.

### Results:

| After normal play: |   |      |
|--------------------|---|------|
| Glasgow            | 6 | wins |
| South Derbyshire   | 6 | wins |
| High Wycombe       | 6 | wins |
| Loughborough       | 6 | wins |

### Tie Break Hits

|                  |   |      |
|------------------|---|------|
| Glasgow          | 4 | hits |
| South Derbyshire | 2 | hits |
| High Wycombe     | 1 | hit  |
| Loughborough     | 0 | hits |

### SOUTH DERBYSHIRE

#### 'Improvers' Coaching Courses

Two courses will be held in 1990 for the improvement of croquet skills and tactics. The details of the courses have not yet been finalised but it is envisaged that the first course will be for the handicap standard of 18 and above and the second course will cover the range of approximately 13-17.

For further details ring Gary Norman (0530 70826) or David Carpenter (0332 864579).

AN INVITATION to attend a talk about mallets by Trevor Walker of Walker Croquet Equipment. Trevor will be bringing along some samples of his new range of mallets and other equipment. For further details ring Gary Norman or David Carpenter.

### INDOOR CROQUET

A Federation Indoor Weekend was held at Victoria Leisure Centre, Nottingham, generously financed by the Councils of Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire County who also provided the trophies and mementoes of Nottingham lace. Leicestershire won the inaugural Indoor Five Counties Competition and the club Tournament Trophy went to Bretchy.

The Ancell Trust Club (Stony Stratford) organised their second indoor weekend of the 1988/89 winter at Stantonbury Leisure Centre, Milton Keynes. The event, again financed by Milton Keynes Development Corporation, featured a Club Tournament and an Inter-Federation friendly match between East Midlands and East Anglia.

### News from the East Midlands clubs LEICESTER

**Dave goes one better**  
Runner-up in the 1988 National Short Croquet Competition, Dave White of Leicester has carried his success to the Association game by winning the 1989 All England Handicap. Dave won all his five games in the National Final at Colchester and was rewarded for his success with a reduction in handicap to 8.

**Dave and Lawrence battle it out**  
More success for Dave White and the Leicester Club came when Dave beat his club captain Lawrence Whittaker +15, +13, to win the final of the Midland Masters Handicap at Edgbaston. Dave and Lawrence were the only entrants from the East Midlands in this competition organised by the West Midlands Croquet Federation and sponsored by the Heart of England Building Society.

**Two E.M. Clubs in National Final**  
The East Midlands were well represented in the final of the Short Croquet Team Event with teams from Loughborough and South Derbyshire. The final was played at Leicester

### MILTON KEYNES INDOOR WEEKEND

An indoor tournament is being organised over the Easter weekend (14th/15th April).

The tournament is open to any doubles pair, and will be played on the two indoor carpets owned by the CA. There will be four all-play-all competitions of handicap doubles, two on Saturday and two on Sunday.

The venue will be Bletchley Leisure Centre, Milton Keynes, which is able to accommodate the two carpets and spectator seating.

Players can enter for one or more competitions, which will start at the following times.

Saturday, 14th April

11am and 3pm

Sunday, 15th April

9am and 2pm

Games will be timed limited to 1 hour and 20 minutes. Double banking will be used as necessary. Minimum three games guaranteed.

Entries should be sent to Kevin Wells, Cuddlewel Corner, 64 Pond Bank, Blisworth, Northants, NN7 3EL (Tel: 0604-859581 after 6pm). Please make cheques payable to 'The Croquet Association' and specify preferred time for play.

Entry Fee: \$10 per pair per block. Closing date for entries: Monday, 2nd April, 1990.

## EAST ANGLIAN CROQUET FEDERATION Another Busy Season!

Report by Judy Anderson

Again a busy year; development and consolidation. New clubs have been formed at Burnham-on-Crouch and Cambridge and at Icknield School in Luton. Committees elected at Bottisham and Soham and players at all these clubs are becoming more skilled. Ron Atkinson continues to be busy coaching at Newport, Bentley and BISHCOS. Our aim is to have a Grade 1 C.A. Coach at every club.

We have supported the 'Sport in Villages' initiative by our Regional Sports Council and video'd at Garboldisham, and we are arranging C.A. Indoor Carpet events at Soham in December 1989 and Bedford Modern School in February 1990. (Separate Articles to follow).

### E.A.C.F. National Trust Tournament 1989

|                |                 |
|----------------|-----------------|
| Venue          | Winners         |
| Anglesey Abbey | Newport         |
| Wimpole Hall   | B. St. Edmunds  |
| Oxburgh Hall   | Bedford Mod. Sc |
| Final          | Werrington      |

Inter-Federation Friendly matches were played with the following results:

E.A.C.F. v S.E.C.F. at Havering 4-4; E.A.C.F. v East Midlands at Werrington 2-5.

We are very grateful to the host clubs

for their hospitality.

### Area Leagues and Friendly matches

Essex/Suffolk League won by Colchester 'B' Team.

Cambs/Norfolk Friendlies won by Norwich.

Beds/Herts Friendly League won by Letchworth.

Great improvement in facilities have been achieved by local club members at

Newport - now a 3 Lawn Club with plans for a Pavilion.

Norwich - change of venue to extra lawns.

Downham Market - change of venue to 'Stately Home' has greatly increased membership.

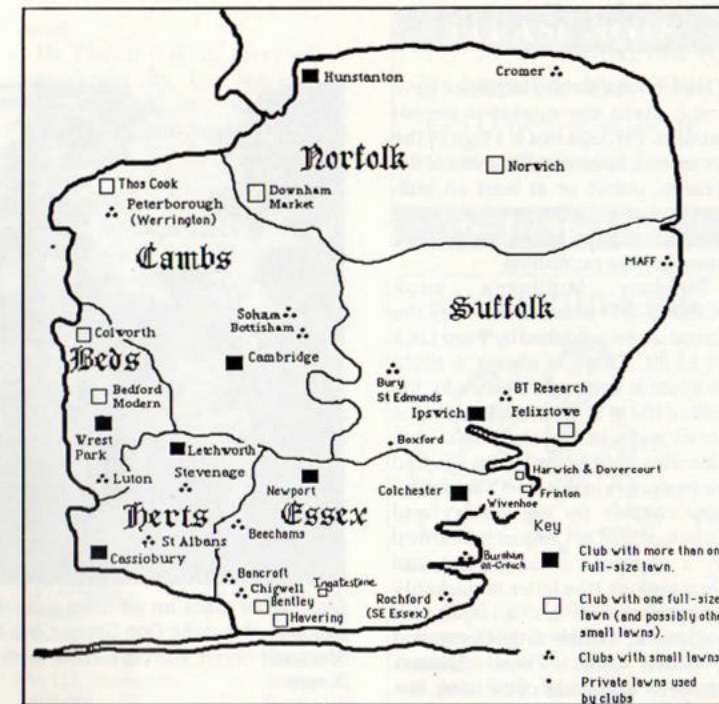
Bury St Edmunds are negotiating with their Local Authority for the provision of 4 lawns.

### Soham Indoor Weekend

G.B. v E.A.C.F. 16/17th Dec.

We are greatly indebted to John Walters for all his organisation and what was a great weekend. The only trouble was that John developed flu, and the lorry bringing the carpet had gear box trouble and arrived after midnight! The match result was a 10-8 win to GB and we shall expect them to bring back the Mack shield after their experience against us.

To Richard Hilditch our grateful



thanks for super management.

The teams were:

**G.B.:** David Openshaw; Mark Avery; Robert Fulford; Mark Saurin; Keith Aiton (coach).

**E.A.C.F.:** Ian Burrige; Chris Clarke; Steve Comish; Debbie Cornelius; Martin French.

**Heavy Gang:** Bob; Tom; Chris; Chris; Robert; Ian and Richard.

Very many thanks indeed to Chris Hudson (a weekend he will not forget) and to the C.A. for allowing us

to have the carpet and run the Event.

Soham Sports Hall management made us very welcome and would like to have us back. (Keith Aiton is submitting a separate match report).

Thanks to Charles Townsend for bringing his Indoor Equipment and running a Tiddlycroquet Tournament. We hope all the visiting spectators enjoyed themselves; thanks for coming.

## CROQUET NORTH (The Federation of Northern Croquet Clubs) Croquet in the Real North

Report by Syd Jones

First back to the future; the 1990's see the formation of our own Croquet Federation here in the Northern Region of the country.

We were originally part of the Northern Federation of Croquet Clubs, but this has now reformed as three separate bodies to match the respective regions of the Sports Council; the North West; Yorkshire and Humber; and our own 'CROQUET NORTH'.

We start with only three two-lawn clubs but great potential for development. This is mainly in the vast area to the west of the region, where we hope for new clubs in Brampton, Carlisle and Keswick in the near future, as well as Mickley (Thomas Bewick Centre) and perhaps Sunderland in the East.

All this will lead to the expansion of the League, inter-club competitions, coaching courses and tournaments, and hopefully the eventual foundation of a four-lawn centre in the region.

Participation in the National Garden Festival at Gateshead (May to October) should at least make everyone in the North aware that croquet exists and will I hope lead to a lot of

new people enjoying croquet. A great opportunity here for players with handicaps higher than 18 to enter the National Garden Croquet Competition at Gateshead. Even if you don't win, you get a day out at the Garden Festival which can't be bad!

But a look back at '89. We started with a window display in the Newcastle Central Library entrance, no expense or embarrassment spared, well not for David anyway. He carried the dummy through Newcastle with many a hurtful remark from the passing crowd! In spite of all this, we got little response regarding croquet from the general public.

The big news for '89 was the highly successful formation of Belsay Hall Croquet Club with the help of English Heritage on their magnificent lawns at Belsay Hall just fourteen miles north of Newcastle. The Club now has twenty five members (with approximately 50% C.A. membership). Belsay, the most Northerly Club in England, entered, and was undefeated in the local East-Pennine League.

The East-Pennine League was won by Tyneside in 1989, and we were

pleased to welcome York this season. The friendship and hospitality of the games were a great encouragement to all, newcomers and experienced player alike, and we look forward to renewal and expansion of these qualities in 1990.

We have maintained and developed our contacts with the Womens Institutes in 1989. Tyne and Wear at the Tyneside Club, a day with Northumberland at Belsay Hall, and a couple of sessions at Lord Rochdale's house at Keswick with the Cumbria section, with hopes that this latter venue will lead to a club in the area in the near future.

We went to the northern borders of Northumberland with a demonstration day at the eight hundred year old Chillingham Castle where in addition to local enquiries we discussed croquet with visitors from as far apart as Leeds and Dunfermline.

We are now looking forward to another good summer with lots more players and new clubs to play in and against, expansion of croquet over to the west of the region, and the permanent establishment of a strong croquet presence here in the Northern Region.

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## Coaches Corner

### Coaching Comments

By Bill Lamb

Three books for the beginner have come on to the market in recent months. Perhaps this is a sign of the increasing interest in the game of the general public or at least an indication that our attempts to publicise the game have found their mark amongst the publishers.

Stephen Mulliner's book 'CROQUET' is one of the 'Play the Game' series published by Ward Lock at £3.99. There is always a slight problem in writing for a series, for the author has to fit the manuscript to the series style. However, there is considerable logic to the layout adopted for beginners in this case. The obligatory chapter on the History and Development of Croquet is followed by a chapter on Equipment and Terminology (the latter remarkably comprehensive for a book for beginners), a Guide to the Game, and a Rules Clinic. These chapters comprise about half of the book, the remainder consisting of a chapter on technique (which also includes tactics).

The book is about 80 pages, slightly larger than A5 size, clearly printed in double justified columns and free from misprints apart from a small slip in a diagram key. The diagrams are very clear, particularly the court diagrams of sequences of strokes where Stephen has wisely chosen to use several simple diagrams rather than one cluttered one. The line drawings of players, on the other hand, look rather wooden.

The book is very well written, although in parts it is rather more



Don Gaunt takes an off-lawn session at the 1989 Bisham Abbey Summer School. Left to right: Don Gaunt, Chris Hudson, Duncan Hector, Allan Laidlaw, Margaret Green, Evelyn Callan, Alan Tunbridge, John Green, and Geoffrey Yonge.

advanced than one might have expected in a book for beginners (apart from the terminology mentioned above, there is, for example, some discussion of the Corner Two and Corner Four Openings as well as the Tice Opening). It will certainly set them on the right lines. Naturally, Stephen advises a bold approach to the game and rightly so.

There is some discussion of handicap play towards the end of the book, but it must be a very long time since Stephen had the luxury of the innings and two bisques to set up a four-ball break. Of course, there are many ways of setting about such a problem, whatever the position of the balls, but some are simpler than others for high-bisquers and Stephen might have chosen a simpler and safer path in his example. However, with this book as a guide, there should be no doubt that Andrew, Lucy and Jonathan will make good progress.

'How to play CROQUET' is published by Jarrold at £2.95 and is one of the Jarrold Sports Series. Authorship is not attributed but Nigel Aspinall is described as the Technical Consultant for the book. It comprises about 50 pages approximately 6½' square.

The striking feature of this book is the profusion of colour diagrams. In fact, the whole book consists of these diagrams with a minimum of text set in or around them. The book is clearly written for absolute beginners and garden croquet players, and the colour diagrams are a great help, as well as making the book more attractive visually. One or two are, however, a little confusing: a diagram on angled hoop running has the aim at variance with the path of the ball, possibly because the artist has misunderstood the text; in the description of the two-ball break a cut rush is described as a split-roquet, as is the

following split-croquet.

There is no mention of the Solomon grip in the section on Stances and Grips, although in the section on Bad Habits the player illustrated is clearly using it! But then, I would agree that the Solomon grip is not suitable for most beginners. Handicaps are mentioned but only in passing. Within the limitations described this is a good little guide and excellent value for money.

Peter Dank's book 'Simply TEACH YOURSELF CROQUET' is more extensive than either of the other two, with over 150 A5 pages. The style is also much more chatty; in fact, anyone reading this book who knows Peter could easily imagine him giving a Grade 1 (Beginners) coaching course to the readers. Which, of course, is exactly what he is doing, for the book is based upon Peter's considerable experience of coaching beginners at Budleigh Salterton. At one stage the reader is exhorted either to follow Peter's advice or sell the book and take up another game!

The book has been self-produced with the aid of a simple word processor, no easy task for a justified A5 layout, particularly when the text is written to one side of a diagram. Very occasionally a hyphen has been retained in the middle of a word not at the end of a line or two words have been run together, presumably when the text has been altered and re-laid, but these are minor blemishes in a very commendable effort. The book is spirally bound, which has the advantage that it will stay open at any desired page.

Bisques are mentioned in one chapter, although there are no examples of their use. There are several appendices giving details of available equipment and advice within the book on how to choose it, although in my view the advice on choosing the mallet shaft length

should apply only to the Irish grip but Peter can quote other authorities supporting his case.

The book is available from the CA at £7.95 + p&p.

### Other Books Available from the Croquet Association

**The History of Croquet** by Col. D.M.C. Prichard. £8.95 (£15.00), P&P £1.20.

**The World of Croquet** by J.R. McCullough & S.N. Mulliner. £14.95, (£14.95), P&P £2.00.

**Croquet** by J.W. Solomon. £7.00 (£7.95), P&P 50p.

(Non-CA members: prices in brackets).

### COURSES FOR CROQUET DEMONSTRATORS

These courses are designed primarily for school teachers, WI members, and anyone who would like to start a croquet group. The syllabus covers the Rules of Golf Croquet, how to run a Golf Croquet competition, and an appreciation of Association Croquet.

The courses run from 10am to 5pm, with an hour's break for lunch. They will be held at the following venues, subject to demand.

|        |                   |
|--------|-------------------|
| 3 May  | Canterbury        |
| 5 May  | Newcastle on Tyne |
| 5 May  | Worcester         |
| 8 May  | Beverley          |
| 8 May  | Stoke-on-Trent    |
| 9 May  | Ipswich           |
| 9 May  | Northampton       |
| 9 May  | Tunbridge Wells   |
| 12 May | Burton-on-Trent   |
| 12 May | Caernarfon        |
| 13 May | Colne             |
| 13 May | Newark            |
| 16 May | Keswick           |
| 17 May | Norwich           |
| 17 May | Peterborough      |
| 17 May | Plymouth          |
| 18 May | Marcham           |
| 19 May | Middlesbrough     |
| 19 May | Taunton           |
| 20 May | Lancaster         |
| 20 May | Salisbury         |
| 22 May | Bath              |
| 22 May | Guildford         |
| 23 May | Letchworth        |
| 24 May | Bury St Edmunds   |
| 24 May | Eastbourne        |
| 29 May | Harrogate         |
| 29 May | Kenilworth        |
| 2 June | Woodhall Spa      |
| 6 June | Shrewsbury        |

Course Fee: £10.00, which includes all course documentation and a copy of the 'Know the Game' booklet. All enquiries to Chris Hudson (Tel: 0270-820296).

### Extract from Minutes of a meeting of the Council; Saturday 9th December 1989.

#### I. Reports

(a) *Finance and General Purposes*  
A report was given by Mr Oldham. The following were passed unanimously:

(i) That the 1990 ordinary account have a maximum budgeted debit of £2000

(ii) That the magazine budget for 1990 be £18000.

(iii) Mr Oldham was authorised to publish an Appeal in 'Croquet' for funds to rebind the old gazettes.

(iv) For all CA events no entry will be accepted in future until payment for that event has been received.

Mr Oldham also reported that the computer was now installed in the CA office. The report of the Committee was unanimously approved.

(b) *A paper on CA Membership* was tabled by Mr Hudson. There was a very lengthy discussion. All speakers congratulated Mr Hudson on his paper but it was felt that there must be a detailed examination of the proposals before implementation, and that it was vital to carry the clubs with us on these proposals. It was also felt that, at least initially, any scheme should be voluntary as it would benefit some clubs much more than others. Eventually Mr Hope proposed and Mr Caporn seconded that an Ad Hoc Committee be formed by the Chairman to examine the paper in depth and to make proposals to Council at its March meeting. This was carried by 12 votes to 2.

(c) *The Club Registration Fee*, which had been proposed by the F. & G.P. Committee, was then considered. It was carried nem con that the club registration fee for 1990 shall be £1.25 per non-associate member, with a minimum of £15, schools to remain at £7.50 irrespective of numbers, that universities, colleges and clubs in their first 3 years of existence shall pay £15 (inclusive of VAT) irrespective of membership numbers, and that if a voluntary scheme on the lines of Mr Hudson's paper be put forward, clubs could opt out of the above if they wanted to join the voluntary scheme.

(d) *The Coaching Committee* report presented by Mr Lamb was approved, including fee for Grade II coaching of £20 + £3 VAT, and Grade III £25 + £3.75 VAT for CA members only.

Council unanimously accepted the recommendation of the Committee that Mr Aiton be 'the coach of the year' in recognition of his services to the Under 21 squad. It was also agreed that the opponents in matches against the Under 18 and Under 21 squads pay £10 per head towards lawn and ball hire at the host club, and that there be no contribution from the juniors.

(e) *The Development Committee* report was given by Mrs Anderson in



Keith Aiton (right), 1989 'Coach of the Year' with Mark Saurin, a member of his Junior squad.

the absence of Mr McCullough. She warmly thanked him on behalf of the Committee for all his work and said that all were very sorry that he had to retire from Council and as Chairman of the Committee in April.

(f) *The International Committee* report was presented by Professor Neal, who asked for Council's approval for him to write to the Scottish, Irish and Welsh CAs asking for their approval to continue to call the Opens and the Men's and Women's events 'British' and that entries for the latter championships, which had been restricted to Associates, should be extended to include any bona fide members of any of the 4 home Associations. This was agreed as was the Committee's action over the MacRobertson Shield Regulations.

(g) *The Development Officer*, Mr Hudson, reported that the Gateshead National Garden Festival had agreed to sponsor a Regional Final of the Croquet Classic and that there were several sponsorship enquiries in hand.

2. **MOTIONS** by Mr French, the first being seconded by Mr Walters and the second by Mr Gaunt.

(i) Pre-qualification may take the form of a separate event, or several events organised on a regional basis, with the successful contestants going forward to the major event.

After discussion a vote was taken, 7 for and 7 against. The Chairman then cast his vote for the status quo and so the Motion was lost.

(ii) In order to accommodate a number of entries for an event staged or sponsored by the CA that exceeds the capacity of the chosen venue, pre-qualification shall be used.

If an entry fee is charged for a pre-qualifying event, in addition to a fee for the main event, then that additional fee may not exceed one half of the entry fee for the main

event.

Mr French having accepted an amendment by Mr Mulliner to replace 'shall' by 'should', the amended motion was passed nem con.

### New Associates

|                      |                      |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| Mrs A. Whitaker      | Bath                 |
| Miss K.J. Gutteridge | Bishop Vesey's GS    |
| Mrs M.A. Pena        | Bristol              |
| Mrs R. Verva         | Bristol              |
| I. Simcocks          | Caterham             |
| Mrs I. Simcocks      | Caterham             |
| M.I. McBean          | Cheltenham           |
| Mrs B.H. Madams      | Cheltenham           |
| J.K. Maguire         | Compton              |
| L. Trickey           | Dyffryn              |
| J.R.L. Corrie        | Littleton            |
| D. Barrett           | Pendle               |
| Miss A. Rowley       | Lloyds               |
| Dr M.D. Poole        | Nailsea              |
| Mrs M.J. Ollet       | Nottingham           |
| A.C. Holgate         | Queen Elizabeth's GS |
| D. Miller            | Ramsgate             |
| F.L. Sage            | Sidmouth             |
| D.J. Simmonds        | Southport            |
| Mrs D.J. Simmonds    | Southport            |
| P.S. Arliss          | Southwick            |
| Mrs P.S. Arliss      | Southwick            |
| Mrs E.M. Bailey      | Tunbridge Wells      |
| Mrs V.M. Hall-Smith  | Tunbridge Wells      |
| N. Andrews           |                      |
| A.A.C. de Cruz       |                      |
| T. Griffin           |                      |
| Mrs C. Paul          |                      |
| R.C. Pennington      |                      |
| N.D.S. Piercy        |                      |
| Mrs J.A. Plummer     |                      |
| D. Weatherhead       |                      |
| Mrs D. Weatherhead   |                      |
| (Total: 33)          |                      |

## Official Business

### PLEASE NOTE

As from 6th May 1990  
CA Office Telephone  
Number will be

071-736-3148

### SUBSCRIPTIONS



Have you heard?

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|---------------------------|--------|
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| Juniors                   | £12.00 |
| Youths                    | £6.00  |
| 2. Non-Tournament Players | £12.00 |
| Husband & Wife            | £18.00 |

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