

**Through the Hoop**

With Tony Antenen

'THANK YOU' - my first words in print in the magazine. And so many thank you's needed, far too many to list including as they do Club Secretaries and officials who have given up their time to discuss matters, Federation officers who are preparing to take on wider responsibilities and, of course, Association members, who without exception, have been kindness personified. Thanks everyone for your support and encouragement and for making my introduction to the world of Croquet such a pleasant experience.

Having declared publicly my stated aim to improve communications between 'Headquarters' and the Clubs, I have been fortunate enough to be invited to some seven or eight across the country and to attend the AGM of the London & South East Federation. These visits are a valuable part of my personal strategy. I certainly do not intend to stick in the office and become some faceless administrator or a disembodied voice at the end of a telephone. By getting out and about I hear at first hand, from club officials and members alike, opinion and comment on Croquet matters which widen the Secretary's perspective. I am particularly keen to establish close links with Club and Federation Secretaries and consider a Saturday or Sunday well spent in their company.

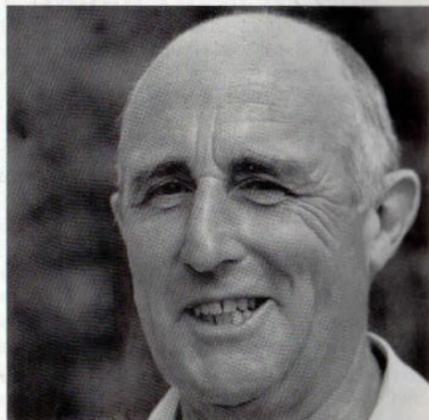
Last weekend for example I was in Caterham for the London & South East Federation AGM (Chaired in his own inimitable fashion by Richard Hilditch) at which much constructive comment came from those attending and was noted by the Committee. I know well enough the demands that are made on one's time in the cause of 'the best game in the world' but I would like to see strong links being forged between Clubs and Federations and this means club representation at Federation meetings. This does not necessarily mean the attendance of the Club Secretary who has probably got enough on his, or her, plate. It does require a volunteer to

attend and carry to the meeting the view of that particular club and, equally important, to take the Federation's message back for dissemination within the club.

On Sunday I spent an informative day at Wrest Park - thank you George Collin for meeting me at Luton station and driving me ten miles or so out to the Club and returning me to the station well fortified by a fine pub lunch consumed at the end of the morning's visit. It is just such a visit which enables me to carry into Committee, or to promote through 'channels' the individual club point of view.

By the time this goes to print I will have attended some five or six CA Committee meetings plus a brace of Council Meetings, so I should have some idea of the way things are shaping. One thing I am certain of and that is that the game is on the move - hence the importance of forward planning. If we don't look ahead, if there is any tendency to bury our heads in the sand, the game will grow out of its present framework and leave us hanging on to its coat-tails. Hence, in my view, the need for a strong Federation structure and a decentralisation of both administrative and playing matters.

Already we have a serious study of the appointment of part-time paid development officers in the regions; we have league Croquet being played, albeit on a local basis, but who's to say that in ten year's time there won't be a national league for club croquet? Impossible? Couldn't happen? That's what was said about my own game. Now the Rugby Union league structure is up and running, and the game overall is the better for it. My own club at Sutton is presently sitting right up there at the top of London League Division I, we contest the Southern Counties Merit Table, are active (still!) in the Surrey Cup and our fixture list *still* retains those matches with our old friends which go right back through our hundred year history. The structuralism of rugby on a national



Tony Antenen, CA Secretary.

basis was resisted by the 'traditionalists' who foretold the end of civilisation as we know it! The result? Ever improving player standards, coupled with more efficient club organisation. The winner? The game itself.

Finally, I conclude as I commenced, with a 'Thank you'. This time a special one to Brian Macmillan for his totally unstinting help, advice and guidance during these last few months. What could have been a delicate operation has been made smooth and enjoyable with a thousand laughs along the way thanks to Brian's generosity of spirit. His is an impossible act to follow, so I will just have to re-write the script.

The publication date of this issue means I must put my Seasonal Greetings in the past tense and hope you all had an enjoyable Christmas. What is timely is my sincere best wishes to you all for a peaceful, prosperous and happy New Year, and may 1991 be all that you wish it to be.

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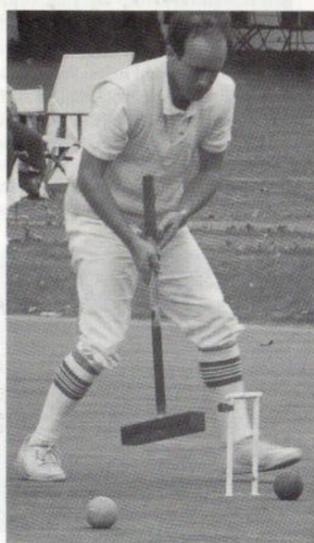
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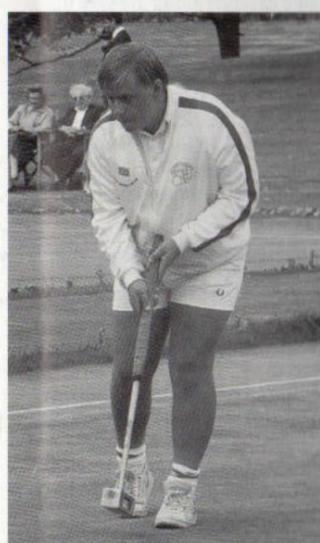


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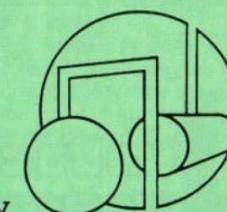
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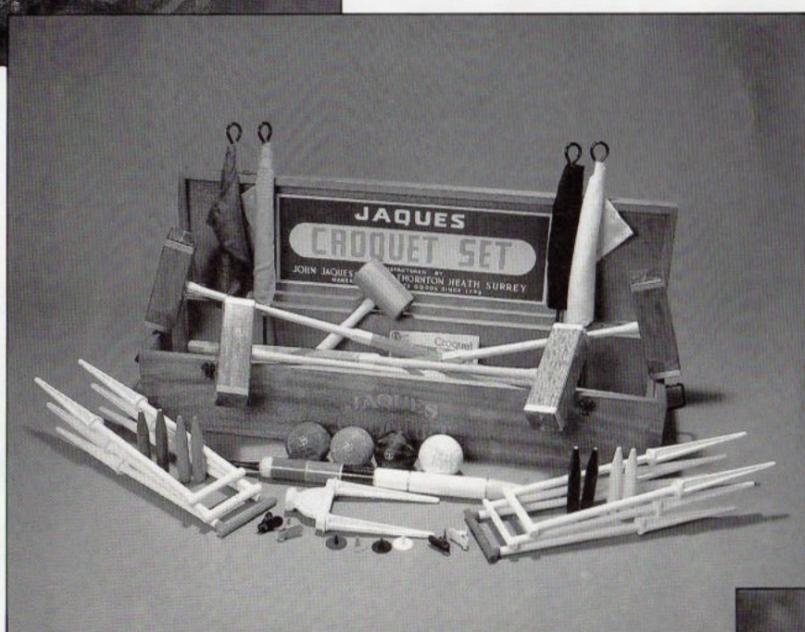
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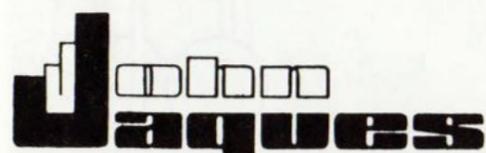
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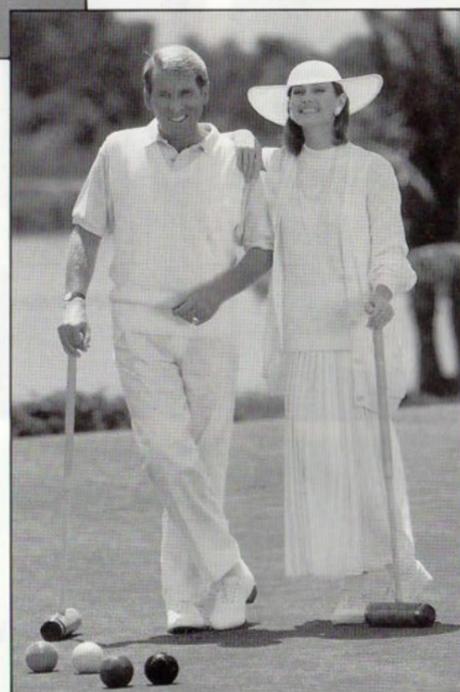
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**CROQUET**

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**Cover Photo:** Croquet North showing off their new track suits - a great idea for publicising the Federation and the game in general.

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**Editorial**

**OUTLOOK 1991**

In the last two years attention has been focussed on international matters, namely forming the World Croquet Federation, holding the first World Championships and preparing for the MacRobertson Shield.

It is not altogether surprising that a small number of domestic shortcomings have prompted some Associates to ask if internationals and A-class players are all that the CA cares about. The answer is a definite 'no'.

The great majority of the CA's activities are either for the benefit of all Associates or, using coaching and development as examples, targeted at beginners and non-experts. Nonetheless, there is no excuse for complacency and there is certainly scope for improvement.

During my chairmanship of Council, the CA will pay particular attention to the basic domestic services of national tournament management, refereeing, handicapping and publicity.

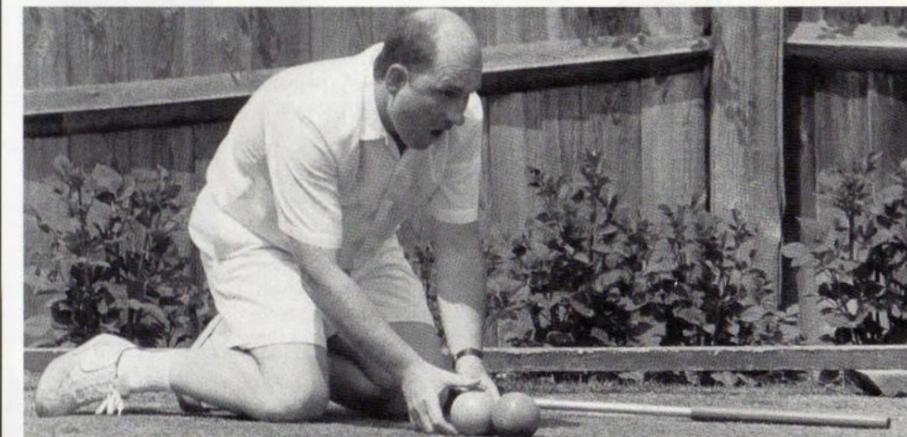
80 to the target of 150 by the end of 1991. It will also permit the holding of refresher seminars at the start of each season, which should be attended by Official Referees once every three years.

On page 20 of this issue you will find an appeal for all regular tournament players with two years' experience to come forward and become Official Referees. If you fall into this category, please respond positively. It will be good for you and good for the game.

**Handicapping.**

The present handicapping system demonstrates that you cannot please everybody all the time. Although some of the criticisms directed at the Handicap Co-ordination Committee seem to arise from a misunderstanding of the present guidelines, there is clearly a need for fresh thinking.

I am pleased to report that the HCC intends to introduce in 1991 a national card-based system of automatic handicapping which will govern the



*'They'll look nice if I plant them here!'* Peter MacGowan in play during the 1990 Croquet Classic competition at Woking. More clubs are planning to enter groups in this year's competition.

**Tournament management**

Sincere apologies are owed to contestants in the Short Croquet Team event (the event was cancelled after the first round), the Short Croquet Individual final (difficulties in deciding the venue until shortly before the event) and the All-England Handicap final (no manager or handicapper available until just beforehand). These shortcomings will not be allowed to happen again.

These problems arise from an over-stretched Council. The number of national events requiring season-long organisation has grown in the last decade to meet rising demand. The number of individuals with the time to perform these thankless tasks has fallen as the Council has become younger and fewer of its members are retired.

Council vacancies have been advertised for the last two years so, if you think you could serve on Council and do your share of the legwork, please consider standing for election. Nominations, backed by a proposer and seconder, should be received at the CA office before 1st February 1991.

**Referees**

It has become clear that there is a shortage of referees and that practical arrangements need to be made to keep existing referees up to date.

The first step has already been taken and I am pleased to announce that over 35 experienced referees have agreed to become Examining Referees. This increases the total number to over 50 and paves the way for an increase in the number of active Official Referees from the present level of

great majority of all handicap changes. This system, similar to one tested by the Ipswich Club in 1990 and to Roger Wheeler's suggestion published recently in 'Croquet', will be given an initial trial of two years.

The Ipswich trial was very encouraging so, if you play handicap croquet in the coming season, please use the system enthusiastically and help to make it work. A full account of the system is published on page 15 of this issue.

**Publicity**

National publicity improves Croquet's image and encourages sponsors. Local publicity can play a significant role in assisting the recruitment of new members for clubs. The Press Officer has been re-appointed for a further year but with the specific brief to spend 50% of his time helping clubs and Federations to obtain effective local publicity.

**The future**

The growth of Croquet since 1980 has greatly increased the administrative burden placed on the CA staff and an entirely voluntary Council. In the short-term, we intend to adjust Council procedures to achieve greater efficiency.

However, looking further forward, it seems essential that the Federations must play a more significant role if Croquet is to continue to grow. We have already begun consulting with the Federations to see what elements of administration could be beneficially devolved.

STEPHEN MULLINER,  
 Chairman, CA Council.

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## Championships

### SOUTH OF ENGLAND CHAMPIONSHIPS

#### Compton: 15-23 September A Happy Time at Compton

Report by Derek Caporn

The South of England Championships began on Saturday 15th September with a handicap singles event, the Devonshire Park Cup for the 'X' and the Felixstowe Cup for the 'Y'. The 'X' was won by Duncan Reeve (-1) who won his previous rounds by 1, 2 & 5 but played extremely well in the final to defeat Peter Howell (1½) by 17. The Managers, Derek Caporn and Alan Oldham, drew each other in the 'Y' and in a long tussle Alan won by the classic '+1 on time'. Bob Fewtrell having lost his first game in the 'X' to Duncan Reeve by 1, stormed through to win the 'Y', beating his wife Faith in the semi-final (she no doubt got her revenge when they retired to their adjoining caravan that night!) and Alan Oldham in the final.

The handicap doubles, again 'X' & 'Y', was greatly enhanced by the appearance for the second successive year of Robert Fulford, now the World Champion, and Chris Clarke. Their partners Bill Gillott and Mrs Dalby respectively were both skilfully partnered round and both pairs reached the finals, when the former won over the latter. It presented the two young men with a new challenge and the spectators with very interesting games and we all hope to see them again next year.

Robert won five out of his six games in the Ionides Challenge Trophy: he made three Triple Peels and Chris the runner-up did one. Mr and Mrs Howell were unlucky to meet Chris Clarke and Mrs Dalby in the first round of the 'X' but, having lost, they then won the Gilbert Spoons in the 'Y'. These spoons were

found amongst the Compton's Club's cutlery inscribed 'J.B. Gilbert' last year and were shown to Derek Caporn and Alan Oldham who were the only two players there who knew Brian Gilbert. He had a handicap of -1 and was a member of the Roehampton Club. He was also a tennis player of above County Class. Gilbert claimed he was the last player to put a tennis ball on the original All England Club ground at Worple Road, Wimbledon to win the All England Plate by serving an ace. How the spoons came into the possession of the Compton Club we shall never know. Dennis Shaw had them cleaned and mounted on wooden plaques at the CA's expense and the Club donated the spoons to the CA.

Dennis Shaw dominated the 'B' Class Devonshire Park Salver, his only close game being against Alex Thomas from Surbiton who was the runner-up.

In his first tournament, Kevin Maguire of the Compton Club won the Trevor Williams Cup, with Michael Hornby who came all the way from Australia to play, as the runner-up. He and his charming wife said they thoroughly enjoyed the tournament as did everyone else. The Hornbys had never before played croquet the right way up and found it an enjoyable experience!! Two other newcomers to tournaments were Mr Evenett and his son, both of whom did well. Their enjoyment of this tournament was evident for all to see. Their undoubted pleasure and much laughter communicated itself to all

and helped to make the week such a happy one.

Our grateful thanks to the ladies of the club and the Managers of the bar for providing excellent refreshments and for the Manager's office, but please, in future, could they supply a tin hat for wear when entering or leaving the office!



Dennis Shaw, winner of the Devonshire Park Salver.

#### RESULTS

##### Ionides Challenge Trophy

5 wins: R.I. Fulford (winner); C.D. Clarke.

3 wins: D.C. Reeve.

1 win: P. Howell.

0 wins: C.J. Miles.

##### Devonshire Park Salver

5 wins: D.W. Shaw.

4 wins: A. Thomas.

3 wins: E. Dymock.

2 wins: D.C. Caporn.

1 win: Mrs I.H. McDiarmid.

0 wins: L. Wharrad.

##### Trevor Williams Cup

5 wins: J.K. Maguire (winner); A.M. Hornby.

4 wins: I.H. McDiarmid; M.J. Evenett; A.J. Oldham.

3 wins: Miss D. Martin.

2 wins: J.D. Evenett.

1 win: R. Fewtrell, Mrs G. Miles, E. Robinson.

##### Handicap Singles

(18pt game, 12 bisques and over)

4 wins: Mrs F. Fewtrell.

3 wins: N. Bircumshaw.

1 win: Mrs Edwards; W.P. Gillott.

0 wins: Mrs A.M. Hornby.

##### Anna Milnns Salvors

(Handicap Doubles: 10 pairs entered)

##### Semi-Finals

C.D. Clarke & Mrs Dalby bt D.C. Caporn & A. Thomas +15; R.I. Fulford & W.P. Gillott bt M.J. & J.D. Evenett +10.

##### Final

Fulford & Gillott bt Clarke & Dalby +12.

##### The Gilbert Spoons

('Y' Handicap Doubles)

##### Final

Mr & Mrs P. Howell bt L. Wharrad & E. Dymock +3(T).

##### Devonshire Park Cup

(Handicap Singles: 21 entries)

##### Semi-Finals

P. Howell (1½) bt D.W. Shaw (2) +1; D.C. Reeve (-1) bt M.J. Evenett (9) +5.

##### Final

Reeve bt Howell +17.

##### The Felixstowe Cup

(Handicap Singles 'Y')

##### Final

R. Fewtrell (8) bt A.J. Oldham (8) +10

### THE SOUTHERN CHAMPIONSHIP

#### Fulford wins fifth championship this year

Report by Chris Clarke

The first event after the World Championship gave several players their first chance to beat the new World Champion and allowed the ever-keen Compton locals to watch high quality croquet.

The main event of the first day was the 'arrival' of Mulliner. The manager thought he had given Mulliner leave till noon and the tournament hummed with rumours of disqualification as the clock struck 3 o'clock. When Steve arrived three quarters of an hour later, the remaining players were disappointed that only a 'quiet word' was administered.

Steve still appeared genuinely concerned and even resorted to going to the peg and giving contact in an attempt to make up for lost time. Meanwhile, Robert Fulford was adding more triples to his already massive total of over 50 this year.

Since the social nature of this event was curtailed by the relocation of the 'cans', I shall stick to croquet and record that Robert and Steve reached the final without conceding a game, beating Duncan Reeve and Ian Burridge respectively in the semis.

The final was unsurprisingly a best of five. The conditions had been tricky during the week, but rain created easy-paced lawns. The first four games were shared and the players produced a superb fifth game for the crowd. Steve went to 4-back on the fourth turn but Robert hit and replied on 5th. Steve hit on the 6th but, due to the leave, was only able to make a powerful leave. Robert hit on the 7th turn and finished to gain his fifth Championship of the year. Hopefully, his university finals will not affect his play next year.

Steve and Robert have been in a class of their own this year. Steve has

improved over the last three years and he must be disappointed to have lost his number one position. However, without his consistently high level of performance the standard of British croquet would not be as good as it is now. Whilst most of us like to criticize Steve, we have all enjoyed the great finals that he and Robert have produced for us this year.

The rest of the players were enjoying the swiss to a greater or lesser extent, Duncan Reeve more than most, but none of us were able to produce the peels needed to take the peeling prize from Robert Fulford. The only other award given by the manager was to Denis Shaw for waiting six hours for Steve on the first day. Many thanks to our genial manager, Roger, and to the ladies for their lunches and teas.

RESULTS ►

##### Championship of the South of England

##### O'Callaghan Gold Cup

(Advanced Play: 16 entries)

##### Round 1

D.J. Goacher bt Miss F. McCoig +21, +14;

I.J. Burridge bt P. Howell +14, +14; S.N.

Mulliner bt D.W. Shaw +23, +22; P.L.

Smith bt M. French -22, +9, +9; J.O.

Walters bt C.D. Clarke +7, +15; D.C. Reeve

bt F.L.R. Landor +5, +23; R.I. Fulford bt

J.R. Hilditch +26(TP), +9(TPO); Mrs

W.R.D. Wiggins bt Dr R. Wood +16, +10.

##### Round 2

Burridge bt Goacher +5, -14, +23;

Mulliner bt Smith +15, +17(TP); Reeve bt

Walters +24, +5(TP); Fulford bt Mrs

Wiggins +20(TP), +26.

##### Semi-Finals

Mulliner bt Burridge +12, +6; Fulford bt

Reeve +2, +21.

##### Final

Fulford bt Mulliner +3, -5, +16(TP), -17,

+17(TP).

##### 3rd Place Play-Off

Reeve bt Burridge +8, +15, +21(TP).

### THE NORTHERN CHAMPIONSHIPS

#### Ten Days of Spectacular Croquet

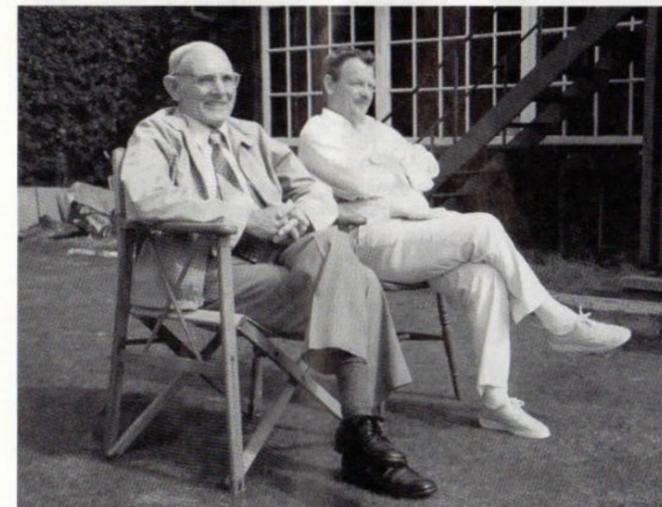
Report by Chris Clarke

Due to the World Championship, the format of the Northern Championships was changed, with the Championship itself being played first. Conditions had been easy for the President's Cup the week before and they remained so. Straight-hitting proved vital and with the new best of three format, we were provided with some excellent matches.

There was too much good play to mention all matches of interest, so here are some of the highlights.

##### Saurin v. Maugham

The match started with Mark showing good form and capitalising on two misses from David to win 26TP. Mark was then unlucky to have David revert to his President's Cup form and win the next two 26TP, 26TP. When was the last occasion that a match produced this scoreline?



Proud dads! Their two fathers look on as David Maugham and David Openshaw play the final of the Northern Championship.

##### Maugham v. Fulford

Robert went into this match having told me that he was going to have a third turn ball round and leave all the balls near the boundary at 2. He did this, but David hit the lift and executed a TPO, leaving balls in 2nd and 4th corners. Robert approached hoop 1 from 4th corner, putting the croqueted ball to hoop 2. He then ran an excellent hoop to the north boundary, hit the ball in corner 2, but failed to finish on the fifth turn due to misapproaching hoop 2. David took control and won. The second game was dominated by David who duly took his place in the final.

The other semi was between David Openshaw and Alan Sutcliffe who had played very well to reach this stage. The match went on all day and was dissimilar to the rest of play. David won.

##### Openshaw v. Maugham

The first game of the final saw Maugham hit everything and win 26TP. Openshaw changed. How many times has Openshaw won

matches from unpromising positions by a slow grinding down of the opposition. However, the fact that impressed me was that he seemed to realise that something different was needed in this case. He raised his game to a very high level, hitting straight, picking up his breaks well and making defensive leaves with wide joins. Maugham did not crack and continued to play well. However, it was Openshaw who dominated and picked up his fifth victory in this tournament. And so David 'golden oldie' Openshaw became the oldest winner of the Northern Championships since the '50's.

The swiss was played as an Egyptian and helped the tournament to smash peeling records. Over 60% of the players completed a triple and at the end of the four days, Robert

form of Adrian Saurin and Chris Haslam.

However, it was the A-class which entertained most people. The finalists were Dan McCormick and Robert Fulford. On his way to the final, Robert had completed all six peels of a sextuple three times but had failed to convert any of them. He had also had a brilliant turn against Mike Sandler in which he not only completed a TPO, but also peeled his partner ball from 5 to 2-back.

The final began and Dan showed some excellent form to win 17TP. Robert had the first break in the second, but surprisingly only went to 1-back with a delayed sextuple leave. Dan missed and Robert at last managed to complete his first delayed sextuple in competitive play. The crowd went wild, but the match was still alive. Dan had the first break in the third but a Fulford TPO was soon followed by a three ball break to give Robert the match.

Thanks to everyone who helped run this event, especially to Chris Irwin who once again proved herself to be one of the few top class managers in the country at the moment. Most people hope that Bowdon decide not to change the format too drastically next year. Whatever their decision, hopefully more southerners will take the chance to sample excellent lawns and warm hospitality.

#### RESULTS

##### Championship of the North of England

##### The Faulkner Cup

(Advanced Play: 27 entries)

##### Round 1

R.J. Collighan bt C. Southern +7, +23; C.J.

Irwin bt N.G. Hyne +21, +26; K.M.H.

Aiton bt D.R. Foulser +15, -2, +6; I.J.

Burridge bt A. Bennet +17, +17; A.F.

Sutcliffe bt Ms C. Spooner +23, +17; D.J.

McCormick bt F.I. Maugham +14, +16;

C.J. Haslam bt S. Comish -18, +25,

+14(TP); R.I. Fulford bt W.O. Aldridge

+15(TP), +25; A.T. Saurin bt C.H. Wild

+19, +3; J.E. Guest bt C.D. Clarke +3, -17,

+26; M.A. Saurin bt P.L. Smith +9,

+6(TP).

##### Round 2

D.K. Openshaw bt J.O. Walters -26(TP), +3,

+17(TP); Irwin bt Collighan +25, +17;

Aiton bt Burridge -17, +12, +3; Sutcliffe

bt McCormick -24(TP), +16, +8; Fulford

bt Haslam -12, +17, +17(TP); Guest bt A.T.

Saurin +26(TP), +6; D.B. Maugham bt

M.A. Saurin -26(TP), +26(TP), +26(TP);

A.J. Symons bt J.R. Hilditch +23, +20.

##### Round 3

Openshaw bt Irwin +20, +18; Sutcliffe bt

Aiton +1, +16; Fulford bt Guest +23(TP),

-19, +17(TP); D.B. Maugham bt Symons

+15(TP), +5(TP).

##### Semi-Finals

Openshaw bt Sutcliffe -8, +13, +15; D.B.

Maugham bt Fulford +8(TPO), +26(TP).

##### Final

Openshaw bt Maugham -26, +26(TP),

+18.

##### Open Doubles

(Advanced Play: 4 pairs entered)

#### Final

C.J. Haslam & D.J. McCormick bt C.D. Clarke & R.I. Fulford +26.

#### Golf Croquet

(Level Play, single life: 16 entries)

Winner: D.J. McCormick.

#### Open Singles

(Advanced Play: 13 entries)

#### DRAW

#### Semi-Finals

Fulford bt Sutcliffe +2; McCormick bt Aldridge +2.

#### Final

McCormick bt Fulford +26.

#### PROCESS

#### Semi-Finals

McCormick bt Clarke +16; Fulford bt Aldridge +25.

#### Final

Fulford bt McCormick +26(TP).

#### PLAY-OFF

Fulford bt McCormick +13(TPO).

#### B Class Singles

(Advanced Play: 9 entries)

#### DRAW

#### Semi-Finals

Mrs B.C. Sutcliffe bt A. Pidcock +8; B.E. Thompson bt J.D. Hawkins +11.

#### Final

Mrs Sutcliffe bt Thompson +3.

#### PROCESS

#### Semi-Finals

Mrs Sutcliffe bt D.W.M. Reekie +2; Mrs C.E. Irwin bt B.E. Thompson +8.

#### Final

Mrs Irwin bt Mrs Sutcliffe +17.

#### PLAY-OFF

Mrs Irwin bt Mrs Sutcliffe +4.

#### D Class Singles

(Level Play, American block. 5 entries)

4 wins: H. Taylor.

3 wins: J. Wastell.

1 win: Mrs L.J. Taylor.

0 wins: Miss P.M.H. Lewis; P.G. Walker.

#### Handicap Singles

(Knock-out: 26 entries)

#### Round 3

D.W.M. Reekie (4) bt J. Wastell (12) +2; H.

Taylor (9) bt R.I. Fulford (-2) +25; C.J.

Haslam (-½) bt A. Bennet (1) +9; M.H.

Sandler (3) bt K.B. Cooper (7) +8.

#### Semi-Finals

Taylor bt Reekie +10; Haslam bt Sandler

+18.

#### Final

Taylor bt Haslam +26.

#### Handicap Doubles

(Knock-out: 12 pairs entered)

#### Semi-Finals

Mrs L.J. Taylor & R.I. Fulford bt P.G. Walker

& C.H. Wild +11; C.D. Clarke & R.B.

Huyshe bt Miss P.M.H. Lewis & I.J.

Burridge +3.

#### Final

Clarke & Huyshe bt Mrs Taylor & Fulford

+19.

#### The Reed Cup

(Handicap Play. Knock-out: 27 entries)

#### Round 3

K.B. Cooper (7) bt W.O. Aldridge (-1) +14;

J. Wastell (12

## An Apologia

Dear Sir,

More observant readers will have spotted the technical error in my Report in Issue 212 for Guildford and Godalming in which I asserted that Anthony Miller had two Peels of a Delayed Triple but was still on Penult. I must have expanded my jottings incorrectly and it should have been reported as two attempts at the 4-back peel.

It is unfortunate also that the nature of Anthony's Lunch was lost in the Typesetting; having been to the Cider House, he was supposed to have been con'der'ably encouraged but this was spelt correctly.

Are Anthony, see page 25, and Richard White, see pages 12 & 29, doppelgangers or is the Editor just getting the most out of a couple of negatives?

Readers will be pleased to hear that I have been in contact with the vet with regard to having The Cat's operation reversed in order to prevent him escaping on to the roof again. The vet agreed to look into the possibility and has suggested a couple of chains in addition.

Nick Harris,  
Norwich.

## Southwick

Dear Sir,

There has been a substantial amount of recent comment and correspondence about the future of Southwick. As I have been entrusted with the task of exploring ways of publicising and improving the membership of the club, I would be grateful for the chance to use the columns of 'Croquet' to make a couple of points.

I have developed a questionnaire which I will be sending to a wide range of people in the croquet world. This will seek to elicit suggestions and advice on ways of invigorating the club.

If you receive a questionnaire, please do take the time to fill it in. Many clubs have undergone different challenges and problems, and such experience could prove invaluable.

If anybody else has any suggestions, they would be gratefully received. I can't possibly write to everybody who might have a useful contribution to make, so I will have to rely to some extent on spontaneous suggestions.

Finally, I have a particular plea. At many tournaments I play in, there seems to be an attitude of amused dismissal whenever Southwick is mentioned. Judgements range from 'quaint and archaic' to 'lost cause'. All I would say is that the croquet world is neither so well-served by facilities nor so prosperous that it can afford to give up on Southwick.

Many other clubs have gone through periods of financial hardship and dwindling membership. Some have survived and flourished. Others have not. Cheltenham is the only club we have of comparable size to Southwick. Recent discussions on the Inter-Counties show how important a 10+ lawn club is.

Much of the criticism of Southwick is unjustified. A great deal is being done to improve matters, with the assistance of players of the calibre of John Solomon, Stephen Mulliner and Mark Saurin. More importantly, prophecies of doom will inevitably be self-fulfilling. As Diana Brothers pointed out in her letter, development is a long-term option. Far more important is a thriving and active spirit in the club. Recent meetings have shown this exists. The support of the croquet world at large will help secure the future.

Simon Tuke,  
Southwick.

## Handicapping

Dear Sir,

Hail Roger! I can only lend support to Roger

Wheeler's letter in the September issue. He points out failings of not using all games, handicap and level, as a measure of one's own handicap.

I'm sure many readers will have at some time during a level play game felt, or even dared to suggest, that perhaps their opponent's handicap might be wrong. Particularly, if the opponent is winning the majority of his or her games against lower handicap players. So, should all the lower handicap players have their handicaps increased? Much debate and I'm sure argument would follow. Therefore, the only logical solution to what I see as a problem, would be to reduce the higher person's handicap. The opponents would feel happier about being beaten than before, and the player himself would be pleased at being recognised as a better player by his colleagues. Thus, everyone is happy and its drinks all round, even the handicapper may get one.



The Southwick Club.

Now, if Roger's system was accepted then the above problem would not arise, because handicaps would be automatically adjusted when necessary. This appears to be similar to a 'Hands' tournament in its lay-out, which at first was regarded as radical by certain sections of the croquet community. Roger's system no doubt will be viewed by some with the same suspicion. However, as with the former system, I am sure with time it will prove a winner with the people that matter the most, namely the players themselves.

Handicappers, do not despair, for this system can only operate on results alone, and as any good P.E. teacher should tell you, 'it matters not who won or lost, but how the game was played'. Therefore, I see the handicapper's role as one of a safety valve, consolidating or not a change before it is made.

Assessing the results along with the tactics, the opponents, and the type of games being played. All of which will have an input of one degree or another.

A fluid system such as this can only enhance the game and its appeal to newcomers who want to see rewards for their efforts.

Ivor Brand,  
Worcester.

Dear Sir,

I have no doubt that you will receive many letters in support of Roger Wheeler's handicapping scheme. You cannot print them all but you might let your readers know how many letters you get for and against the idea.

I see no reason why the Croquet Association should not accept the Wheeler Plan in its entirety, with effect from the first day of the next season.

P. Dorke,  
Ludlow.

Dear Sir,

I am very pleased that my proposal for an automatic procedure for handicap adjustment has already received much support and that experiments are being undertaken to test its efficiency.

I am sorry, however, that Bill Lamb feels that my letter unfairly represented the philosophy of the Handicap Coordination Committee. I think, however, that my interpretation of their recommendations cannot be construed as unreasonable.

In the 'Guide to Handicappers of the 1989 season', issued in February 1989 by the then Chairman Barry Keen, it says:

'The HCC has therefore decided that the alteration of handicaps at tournaments with no handicap events is anomalous and that in future there will be no general handicap alterations as a result of play at a single tournament with open play only.'

(One has to assume that 'open play' means level play: 'open' is a description of the qualification for admission to a tournament, not a method of play.)

The HCC decreed that the handicapping guidelines for 1990 should be the same as those for the previous season and, indeed, a letter dated 13.6.90 over the signature of the new Chairman says:

'...alterations should not be made at level advanced play events unsupported by evidence of play in handicap events.'

I still find both these recommendations unambiguous. It was the fact that they also seemed illogical that prompted me to urge that, far from being discounted, the results of level games - whether they are ordinary or advanced is irrelevant - should be accorded particular prominence when handicap changes are being considered.

Incidentally, although I did not decide this until after my original letter had been submitted, I now think that the figures for the ratings should be halved, with the marker point for 'scratch' set at 200.

Roger F Wheeler  
Brimsfield

Dear Sir,

I am grateful for the correspondence which has been published in 'Croquet' during the last few issues and for the talks I have had with individual handicappers during the last season.

As you will see from the article by Martin French in this issue of 'Croquet', matters have moved on apace, particularly after the publication of Roger Wheeler's letter in 'Croquet' 211, and the HCC intends to have a new system in operation by the beginning of next season. Handicappers have been invited to respond to the new scheme by completing a questionnaire. If anyone else wishes to submit their comments and ideas, please do so to me. I may not be able to answer letters, but they will all be considered by the HCC.

Bill Lamb,  
Chairman: HCC.

## Green Croquet

Dear Sir,

I'm glad that Martin French did not recommend the use of lignum vitae for mallet heads in his article in the last issue of 'Croquet'. (With Mallets

Aforethought or a Balanced View of Mallets, issue no 212).

Some readers may be interested to know that lignum vitae is the heaviest timber in commercial use and comes from the species Guaiacum Officinale. The highest quality timber is said to come from the West Indies and coastal regions of Colombia and Venezuela, but trees belonging to the genus Guaiacum from which the wood is taken are also native to Central America.

The timber is of extremely high quality and its high resin content makes it resistant to rot and abrasion. It has remained a very valuable commodity for its tremendous hardness, strength and density. The demand for the wood has led to overcutting of the species and this has resulted in a shortage of the timber.

The extent to which the species is threatened by over-exploitation I do not know, and have been unable to readily ascertain. However, there does seem to be a strong case for recommending that the timber of this endangered tree is not used for such an inconsequential purpose as making croquet mallets.

Unfortunately, Martin went on to recommend the use of non-biodegradable synthetic faces...!

Duncan Reeve,  
Reepham, Norfolk.

## The Full-Bisque Game

Dear Sir,

The Cheltenham Club again played their season-long Big Handicap under Full-Bisque rules with scratch as base. The 1989 results were published in issue No.207, page 21; 1990 play confirmed the previous year's findings.

a) Scratch as base is satisfactory in performance. No handicap range seemed to have an advantage. In particular the 1's to 2½'s did not do better than other handicaps. Scratch as base has the advantage of simplicity.

b) Full-bisque play encourages break building.

c) Games take less time.

Details are much as in 1989. There were 64 entries, though six failed to complete their schedule. Play initially was in blocks of only four. Block winners and seconds then went through to a simple knockout. So half the company went on to the second stage. The handicaps of those who reached the quarter finals were: 14, 11, 5, 4, 2½, 2, 1½, and ½. The 11 beat the 4 in the final.

The 64 entrants included 10 of handicaps 1 to 2½. Six of them got through to the knock-out stage. But then there were eight players with handicaps 5 to 7. 6 of them also went on to the knock-out stage.

Ninety-three of the 112 completed games were timed. The average was just over 2 hours 4 minutes. This is half an hour less than required for a similar batch of players using the normal subtractive bisque method; a significant advantage as one so often hears the bleat that croquet takes so long.

It would be interesting to hear details of other full-bisque events.

Edgar Jackson,  
Cheltenham.

## 24-hour hot-line hot up

Dear Sir,

Martin Kolbuszewski (see Report on the Southwick Weekend Tournament Nov. 1990 issue) awaits the deliberation of the Laws Committee on the subject of cooling croquet balls, and thereby shrinking them, in a bucket of ice water. Equally, I wait to hear what they have to say about the use of a blowlamp to heat, and thereby enlarge, the hoops.

The trouble is that they do not say much at all. In answer to my query regarding the use of items of white clothing to act as a sight-screen when lining up a peel during a stygian thunderstorm, - not, you will note, whilst playing the stroke - the then Chairman dismissed the matter as 'footling'.

In my opinion, the 24-hour hotline to the Chairman of the Laws Committee comes not a moment too soon. Now at last we might obtain more satisfactory responses to these weighty questions, and couched in the proper legal language.

Eric W. Solomon,  
London.



Paul Henderson and his wife enjoying a game at the Stockey Furzen Croquet Club, Gidleigh Park.

## A Shot Too Long?

Dear Sir,

While offering grateful thanks to those who have provided interesting reports, and accepting that a little varnishing of the truth can add spice, there are at least two references in the November issue to 35-yard roquets. One appeared to be down the west boundary (33 yards or less) and another was from cross-wired at hoop 1 to the second corner (28 yards).

The 35-yard range from, say, the fourth corner spot lies on an arc from 12 yards west of 3rd corner to 12 yards south of corner 2, passing a yard and a half beyond hoop 2. The longest possible roquet, if the ball goes in a curve to miss the peg, is 42 yards.

F.F. Ross,  
Alne, N. Yorks.

## A Little Secret

Dear Sir,

Who knows of a wondrously comfortable hotel set in acres of beautiful countryside which has two magnificent (and hardly used) croquet courts? I do, for I stayed at the Gidleigh Park Hotel, Chagford, Devon, late this summer. What an expensive but worthwhile piece of heaven!!

The two courts are set a little away from the hotel over the Teigh river and behind a small bosk. Paul Henderson, the hotel owner (American but Budleigh Salterton trained) was saddened by the

little use made of his courts (freely open to the population of Chagford and environs) but is determined to create two courts of 'Hurlingham standard'.

He showed me his contoured maps of the two courts and explained 'We measured the croquet courts with a theodolite and transit. We put a string across the court at 2-yard intervals, and then moved the transit across the string at 2-yard intervals, making 252 readings (14 x 18 readings).

The readings were recorded on quadrille paper as we measured, then we connected up with coloured pencils the readings at the same levels, which gave us a contour map of the court. We are now top dressing heavily in the lower areas, and lightly in the higher areas. I hope that after three or four years of this the courts will be nearly perfectly level!

Smokey Eades,  
Boulton Lock.

## The Format of the Ladies' 6

Dear Sir,

In answer to Ian Bond's observation about the amazingly inefficient assignment of lawns used for the Ladies' Six, may I refer him to a memorandum on this subject I sent to the Tournament Committee in about 1981, which was, however, never acted on. Despite this, the improved system was used (with the consent of the players) when I managed the Ladies' Field Cup at Nottingham in 1982.

A perfect system with each player occupying the three lawns twice, twice and once in each series and 4, 3, and 3 times overall, is not possible if each player is to play her two games each day on different lawns.

The following scheme is about the best that can be achieved. It satisfies three criteria:

1. Each competitor plays at least once on each lawn in each series.
2. Over the two series, no competitor plays on any lawn more than four times.
3. Every day, each competitor plays her two games on different lawns.

Lawn	1	2	3
Round 1	AB	CD	EF
2	DE	FA	BC
3	CE	BF	DA
4	FD	AC	EB
5	CF	EA	DB
6	BA	DC	FE
7	CB	ED	AF
8	AD	FB	EC
9	BE	DF	CA
10	FC	AE	BD

Roger F. Wheeler,  
Brimsfield.

## Could Do Better!

Dear Sir,

After such a wonderful summer for playing Croquet it seems churlish to complain but the organisation of some of the National Croquet competitions leads me to put pen to paper.

The Short Croquet Team event, following last year's closely fought final with no trophy to present to the winners, appears to have become a non-event. Despite requests for information none has been forthcoming and now word has reached us by the 'grapevine' that it has been postponed until next year.

The Short Croquet Individual event was held on the advertised day but that was about all that was correct. The Manager (no blame attached to him) was unsure who or how many players were

## Your Letters

competing but he thought it was 12. On the day only six turned up and they had only found out by pestering the organiser by phone and were finally informed of the venue eight days before hand.

Had the other six not been informed? Had the wet weather put them off? Did they ever exist? As in last year's team event, there was no trophy to present to the winner. The last minute arrangements, the lack of a trophy, and the small number of competitors rather devalued the event for the winner. The Ashby Club where the final was played are suffering from a lack of members and this event could have been part of a membership drive, but the opportunity was lost due to lack of forward planning.

Our club's entrant to the All England Handicap reports chaos in the final of that event too.

The final of the World Championship was a rather one-sided affair, but someone had the good sense to stage a fascinating

exhibition game between Joe Hogan and Jerry Stark. Whose bright idea was it to stop it at 3.50 for the prizegiving (advertised for 4.30) after which it seemed pointless to resume, so they went off to tea.

I appreciate that the organisers of these events give their time voluntarily but surely someone could be found with some organising ability who would show some interest in the events.

I have felt for some time that the Council is only interested in advanced play in events such as the World Championship, the Open Championship, the MacRobertson Shield and the Invitation events and only pay lip service to other forms of the game.

If the Council members are not interested in organising other events, perhaps they should not be on the Council or possibly organisers could be found elsewhere.

Roger Jackman,  
High Wycombe.



Howard Taylor, winner of the handicap singles at the Northern Championships, receives his trophy from Bowdon Chairman Mike Sandler. Manager Chris Irwin looks on.



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## Rankings

### NATIONAL RANKINGS (As at end 1990)

	Grade	Games		Grade	Games
1 Mulliner SN	173.3	99	51 Gaunt DL	110.4	28
2 Fulford RI	172.9	198	52 Saurin Adrian T	108.4	37
3 Maugham DB	170.6	101	53 Davis EJ	108.1	11
4 Openshaw DK	161.5	67	54 Vincent IG	107.7	58
5 Saurin MA	159.6	120	55 Bell E	107.4	20
6 Aspinall GN	151.6	31	56 Mrozinski AJ	105.3	89
7 Irwin CJ	149.1	80	57 Harris N	103.9	55
8 Avery MN	147.5	38	58 Hyne NG	103.5	29
9 Heap MEW	142.9	33	59 Smith PL	101.7	52
10 Goacher DJ	142.0	97	60 Ransom RW	101.2	29
11 Guest JE	141.7	101	61 Gregory AK	101.0	31
12 Clarke CD	138.4	153	62 Sykes BC	100.5	26
13 French MR	138.4	81	63 Maugham FI	100.3	28
14 Reeve DC	138.0	83	64 Bogle AJ	99.1	31
15 Prichard WdB	137.5	19	65 Evans MJ	98.0	12
16 McCormick DJ	137.0	89	66 Smith RJ	97.9	20
17 Walters JO	136.3	72	67 Dorke PJ	97.2	16
18 Cornelius DA Miss	135.7	34	68 Hallam BG	96.5	17
19 Murray M	134.8	42	69 Anderson TW	96.2	16
20 Burridge LJ	133.5	128	70 Battison JSH	95.9	17
21 Williams S	130.8	36	71 Hilditch JR	95.1	144
22 Haslam CJ	128.9	84	72 Jackson JJ	94.4	43
23 Bond ID	128.3	62	73 Rose J	94.0	24
24 Hope AB	126.3	21	74 Chapman LJ	93.0	58
25 Symons AJ	124.7	69	75 Liddiard GS	92.3	32
26 Noble GW	124.1	73	76 Williams C	91.1	24
27 Aldridge WO	123.8	24	77 Saurin Andrew J	91.0	22
28 Comish S	123.4	98	78 Jenkins RS	90.8	24
29 Lewis SE	123.3	25	79 Bottomley HJ	90.5	13
30 Wood TI	122.4	12	80 Jones KE	89.9	14
31 Lamb WE	122.0	73	81 Brand RS	89.7	25
32 Cordingly P	121.1	75	82 Death PJ	89.7	11
33 Gunasekera D	120.5	39	83 Haggerston MJB	88.7	26
34 Dawson JP	120.5	53	84 Hector JD	88.7	20
35 Ormerod WP	119.9	14	85 Bray AC	88.1	20
36 Healy GPN	118.8	10	86 Plummer IR	88.1	15
37 Rogerson F	118.7	11	87 Macdonald IPM	88.0	30
38 Harrison TD	118.5	18	88 Wood R	85.9	14
39 Collighan RJ	118.5	65	89 Miller ARK	85.8	79
40 Greenwood JD	117.8	45	90 Southern C	85.7	61
41 Aiton KMH	114.9	105	90 Curry G Miss	85.4	25
42 Palmer LJ	114.7	63	92 Tompkinson MG	85.1	30
43 Foulser DR	113.4	42	93 Harrison-Wood D	85.0	13
44 Sutcliffe AF	112.7	73	94 McCoig FC Miss	84.6	35
45 Landor FJR	112.2	67	95 Ames JP	83.0	11
46 Wurmlj J	112.0	11	96 Howell P	82.7	26
47 Tuke SM	111.9	56	97 Weitz BGF	82.4	17
48 Stevens MJ	111.5	41	98 Davis R	82.2	11
49 Prichard RDC	111.2	31	99 Carter KJ	81.8	34
50 Wiggins DCD	111.1	57	100 Wild CH	81.5	41

### OBITUARIES

#### Frederick Woodhead

Fred collapsed and died whilst playing Croquet at the Sussex County Croquet Club at Southwick, on Saturday 6th October.

He was a member of the Worthing Croquet Club for some years, a very keen player of both Association and Golf Croquet; most popular with the Members, extremely helpful and welcoming in coaching new Members, and will be greatly missed by all of us.

Earlier in the summer he had played with his partner, Miss Vera Payton, at Phyllis Court in the Golf Croquet Championships. Although a frequent visitor and keen player at Southwick, he had only recently joined the Club as a Member. He will be sadly missed by both Clubs, especially the Worthing Croquet Club where he was seen playing most days.

Brenda M. Hollis,  
Chairman: Worthing C.C.

#### Jim Kirby

Jim Kirby died on 8th November 1990. He was a much respected member of Loughborough Croquet

Club, latterly Chairman of the club and an invaluable member of the East Midlands Croquet Federation Executive Committee.

As a Federation committee member, Jim was very active in promoting and developing croquet in the East Midlands in addition to acting as League Manager, Schools Croquet Officer and even turning his hand to Federation auditor.

Jim was a true croquet workaholic. As a founder member and club treasurer of Ashby Croquet Club he was always willing to help out with organisation, coaching and anything else that needed to be done - nothing was too much trouble.

When Jim and his wife Betty moved out of the Ashby area, Jim's enthusiasm and geniality soon became a part of the Loughborough club where his talents were quickly recognised and he became club Chairman.

Jim will be especially remembered for his enthusiasm for the game and his eagerness to help others, but above all for his kindness, generosity and thoughtfulness. He will be sadly missed by his many friends.

Gary Norman.

# CROQUET NEWS (7)... at January 1991 Round-up

## More Croquet in 1991!

As another Croquet year comes to an end, we can look back on a series of tremendous successes.

In International matches in 1990, Great Britain and Ireland regained the MacRobertson Shield in the triangular Test series against Australia and New Zealand (the former holders). Great Britain and Ireland also beat the United States to retain the Solomon Trophy.

An English player, Robert Fulford, won the World Championship, in which players from 10 countries competed, and British croquet moved from

strength to strength. The Croquet Association's new Affiliate Membership scheme was also launched, and now has over 2000 members, expected to rise quickly to 3000.

In 1991, you too can join with this success. You can enter the Croquet Classic competition for garden players and beginners, now in its 5th year, or you can enter the new Golden Mallet competition, introduced for the first time in 1991 for Golf Croquet players.

Details of these events are given elsewhere in this

## ★ ★ ★ Entry Form on 'Competitions' Page ★ ★ ★

magazine, and they are probably the most fun competitions in croquet. You can attend one of the many CA coaching courses or become a Croquet Demonstrator and show others how to play the game. Make 1991 your croquet year and really enjoy yourself.

### Openshaw wins Northern

David Openshaw won the Northern Championship at Bowdon in September. To the surprise of many people, the final did not feature either Robert

Fulford or Stephen Mulliner, who have sometimes seemed to have had a monopoly on Championship Finals this summer.

The final instead saw David Openshaw completing, for him, a rare triple peel to beat David Maugham -26, +26TP, +17. David Openshaw has been known to argue strongly against the tactic of triple peels, so this was an unusual game. He was heard to say after winning, with a twinkle in his eye, that 'now I can do triple peels I shall be a force to reckon with'. David Openshaw is three times past holder of the Open Championship and, with his win this year, he has now won the Northern Championship five times, equalling the record of the legendary Miss D.D. Steele. He is currently Captain of the Great Britain team.

The most astonishing game of the Northern Championship came in one of the semi-finals. David Maugham was playing Robert Fulford. In the third turn, Robert made a break to the 4-back hoop. In the fourth turn, David hit in and performed a triple peel on the opponent (taking one of his balls right round, whilst peeling his opponent's ball through its last three hoops and pegging it out). On the fifth turn, from a difficult position with David's balls spread in opposite corners, Robert took the first hoop and got the balls perfectly set for a three-ball break. However, he inexplicably stuck in the second hoop, and went on to lose the game and the match.

### Fulford wins Southern

Robert Fulford won the 83rd South of England Championship at Compton on 15th-23rd September. Once again, the final was between Robert Fulford and Stephen Mulliner, and once again it went to five games.

The final game was a true classic. On the fifth turn, Stephen hit in and made a break to the 4-back hoop (3 hoops still to run). On the sixth turn, Robert hit in and also made a break to 4-back. On the seventh turn, Stephen hit in and laid up. On the eighth turn, Robert hit in yet again and finished the game with a triple peel. This is about as close as you can get to perfect croquet.



World Champion Robert Fulford lines up the peg-out in the second and last game of the final.

up for a sextuple peel but failing to make it, and Stephen Mulliner powering through. Elsewhere Robert Fulford was starting to look ominously good, sailing through with two triple peels against Jerry Guest. Surprise of the round was American Jerry Stark beating top Australian Colin Pickering.

In the next round, Jerry Stark went one better. He beat New Zealander Paul Skinley in two very tight games, winning by the tiny margin of +2, +8. Robert Fulford was by now starting to look well nigh invincible, beating Captain of the Great Britain team David Openshaw with two triple peels and conceding only three points in two games.

The semi-finals saw Robert Fulford against Jerry Stark and Stephen Mulliner against Ireland's Mark Saurin. Throughout the summer the finals of most of the championships have been Robert Fulford against Stephen Mulliner. Everyone was predicting the World Championship would see another confrontation between them. However, there were still some surprises in store. Jerry

Stark took a game off Robert Fulford to level the match after Robert had started with yet another triple peel. However, a further triple peel saw Robert through +24T, 16, +26TP. In the other semi-final, after Stephen Mulliner won the first game with a triple peel, Mark Saurin won the next two to go through to the final -24TP, +16, +17TP.

Final Day dawned with beautiful sunny weather. The first game started with a rare mistake by Robert Fulford. He missed the 'Duffers tice' Mark Saurin had left him, and bounced off a hoop to give Mark an opening. However, after only two hoops Mark missed a roquet. The rest had an air of inevitability, as Robert first took one ball round and then completed yet another triple peel to win the first game.

The second game was all Robert Fulford. He allowed little chance for Mark to get in and won the game without conceding a hoop.

Robert Fulford of Colchester had become the new World Champion at just 21. His play, particularly in the latter stages, had been majestic. The score in the final was +24TP, +26.

## Early Days

### Conduct of Bystanders

By Allen Parker (Parkstone)

The following six letters appeared in the issues of the *Croquet Gazette* between 27th September and 6th December 1906. They illustrate how controversy can wax extensively when replies appear within a week or two - Allen Parker.

Dear Sir,  
I went through your columns to call attention to a crying evil, namely, the careless and inconsiderate conduct of bystanders at tournaments. One sees crack players, as well as lesser lights, miss short roquets through spectators casually moving in the line of aim. I saw Mr Corbally miss one such the other day. When one has taken aim at an object ball on the boundary, and is just on the stroke, it often occurs to an onlooker immediately behind it to get up. Surely a little commonsense would put an end to this kind of nuisance.

Loud conversation on the side of the court is another great annoyance. Sometimes this takes the form of a discussion on entirely irrelevant matters. When this is the case one wonders why another locality is not chosen if the game is not sufficiently interesting to gain attention. At other times, however, it takes the form of criticism of the player's strokes and tactics. I have noticed that those with large handicaps are particularly fond of this kind of amusement. Now one does not expect such criticism to be very edifying or improving; at the same time it may prove most irritating to a nervous player. Surely those with as many as six or seven bisques would do better to watch and learn, rather than to make inane remarks about what they do not understand.

I feel exceedingly strongly about the matter to which I have now called your attention, especially as it is by no means those unaccustomed to tournaments who are the greatest offenders, but regular tournament players who ought to know better.

Yours truly,  
G.F.H. Elvey.

Dear Sir,  
It appears to me that Mr G.F.H. Elvey, in the interesting letter in his name in the *Gazette* of the 27th September, might fairly have included therein some strictures on 'the conduct of players'. Let me relate a little incident witnessed by me at the Bexhill-on-Sea tournament last month. A popular Scottish lady (not unknown to Mr Elvey), whilst endeavouring in a very tricky corner to make two balls remain touching, had a ball shot with tremendous force right at her by a player handicapped at considerably less than 6 or 7 bisques, from near the diagonal corner without warning, and whilst the lady was actually handling the corner balls. The shot missed the object balls and lady's hand by three or four

inches! No expression of regret was tendered to the startled and amazed lady. On the contrary, the striker (a gentleman), boasted that he had deliberately done it in consequence of the time the lady took to make the balls remain in contact. Had the shot struck the lady a serious wound must have been inflicted. The same gentleman is reported on excellent authority to have been obliged to tender a written apology to another player for some further act of rudeness at croquet a few days previously at St Leonards. Mr Elvey is, I understand, acquainted with all the details of these cases, having been an eye witness on each occasion. I do not myself know what power (if any) the Croquet Association has of dealing with such unmanly conduct on the part of associates on tournament grounds,



From the *Gazette* dated 1st June, 1905: 'This picture of the Essex County Croquet Club ground is from a block procured at the time when arrangements had been made for the Gold Medal meeting to be held on that ground. Owing to the state of the lawns this year these arrangements have been cancelled, and the scene of the meeting will be Cheltenham on the date originally announced.'

but might I suggest to Mr Elvey that at the next general meeting of the Association he might propose a resolution framed with the object of conferring on the committee power inflicting punishment fitting the crime on associate competitors guilty of conduct unbecoming a man; and that pending a decision of the committee, the referee at tournaments should have the power of suspending players worthy of such distinction. Mr Elvey can back me up in stating that, as can be easily understood, the victims in the two cases referred to by me were ladies. Such experiments are much too risky to be tried on men.

I do not think, Mr Editor, that the public can be expected to remain dumb during tournaments from the time they set foot on tournament grounds till their departure. Some players' nerves are really not fit for tournaments. One lady player this year (a 10 or 11 bisquer) actually suggested that another lady (a 3 bisquer), should not sit near her

ground, alleging that the lady's very presence prevented her from playing properly. After all, a gallery pays its way and should be encouraged, though nervous and fussy people do not like it. Should such players remain at home, Mr Editor, and devote their energies entirely to letter writing? May I add that Mr Elvey is entitled to our thanks for initiating this correspondence.

Yours truly,  
T.B. Moffat.

Dear Sir,  
The views on tournament conduct suggested by Mr Elvey, and traversed so emphatically by the padded mailed fist of Mr Moffat, seem eminently suitable for discussion in your columns during the croquet 'silly season' now upon us. Tournament play would certainly

intended for the interest and amusement of all present, it might be as well if irritable and nervous players would recognise that they are there afforded an excellent opportunity of educating themselves to overcome their unfortunate habits productive of so much discomfort to themselves and others, by taking things as they come with equanimity. By watching their symptoms they could make tournament play satisfactorily cure their 'nerves'.

Yours truly,  
A.B.C.

Dear Sir,  
Though Mr Moffat mentions my name so frequently in his letter of the 5th inst. I am unable to back up his statements. My croquet experiences have nearly all been exceedingly happy, and I am glad to say I have never, either at Bexhill or anywhere else, been unfortunate enough to witness such an act of rudeness as Mr Moffat mentions. I enjoyed six weeks excellent croquet at St Leonards Club this summer, and know of no case of any player being obliged to apologise for rudeness to a lady. I think, Mr Editor, that as Mr Moffat has made such a grave and serious charge against an Associate, he should be compelled by the Committee of the C.A. either to meet that Associate in their presence, and substantiate this charge, or to publicly withdraw his statements with due apology. I may add that if I am ever present at a general meeting of the C.A. I shall have much pleasure in bringing forward a resolution to this effect.

Yours truly,  
G.F.H. Elvey.

Dear Sir,  
I have read with much interest the letter published in the *Gazette* of Sept 27th re Conduct of Bystanders. I discussed the subject with a number of croquet players, and they all agree with Mr Elvey that onlookers and bystanders might, with advantage, show a little more consideration and courtesy towards players, whether the latter be greater or lesser lights.

Personally, I consider that croquet requires almost as much thought as chess, and one's attention is drawn involuntarily from one's game by having to listen to the loud conversation carried on in one's immediate vicinity by persons most probably not at all interested in the game; sometimes one's opponent is not the least of the offenders.

I suggest that the leading manufacturers of croquet accessories should be requested to furnish the corner flags with small metal notices requesting bystanders to converse in an undertone.

Yours very truly,  
PAX.

But as croquet tournaments are

## Obituary

### VANDELEUR ROBINSON

Vivian Dering Vandeleur Robinson, Secretary of the Croquet Association from 1970 to 1977, died on the 19th September 1990 aged 88, after having suffered distressingly from Alzheimer's disease for several years.

Vandeleur Robinson came to us following a varied, interesting and distinguished career as a writer, teacher and traveller before the war, in the Intelligence Corps during the war years, and thereafter at the Ministry of Civil Aviation. When he joined us the Sports Council had not started its Grant Aid Scheme for governing bodies in sport and one is reminded of the level of activity then prevailing in the croquet world by realizing that he received what amounted to a mere pittance in his honorarium of £250 per annum. That he took the job at all at that time was a great relief to the two Council officers who had been charged with the difficult task of finding a candidate for the vacancy and who had spent many months in a vain search.

Vandeleur's introduction to croquet came from his membership of a very small club, the Heathfield on Wandsworth Common, where I first met him in 1954. His style of play

which had never benefited from any formal coaching of the kind available today, might be described as impetuous and rather misdirected. Consequently his successes on the lawns were few and mostly confined to Handicap Doubles, bolstered by Bernard Neal, in Hurlingham Club competitions.

Much credit is due to Vandeleur for the expansion of the CA membership brought about during the 1970's by the first Development Scheme. He always showed great energy and keenness in furthering the interests of the game, both from within the office and outside, even to the extent of making, at no cost to the CA, overseas visits to Australia, New Zealand and South Africa. His affability was such that he was able to make those who had dealings with him feel that their business, however trivial, was important to him; and many Associates, particularly visitors from overseas, would make a special point of calling at the CA office at Hurlingham to see him, whenever they could do so. His energy was astonishing for a man of his age; even in his late seventies he continued to 'proceed at the double' and an invitation to accompany him for a

### Early Days (Cont'd)

Dear Sir,  
I have read with much interest Mr Elvey's excellent letter on the conduct of 'Bystanders' and also the replies of Mr Moffat, 'A.B.C.', etc. These two answers appear to have somewhat missed the mark. Mr Elvey seems to make only the very reasonable claim that bystanders at croquet tournaments should treat players with that consideration which is unhesitatingly given at other games of skill, such as bridge, chess or billiards, namely, by avoiding loud remarks, sudden movement, etc.

Nearly all associates will undoubtedly agree with Mr Elvey. Moreover, the Committee's code of etiquette states:-

'Spectators should refrain from all comments on the game.'

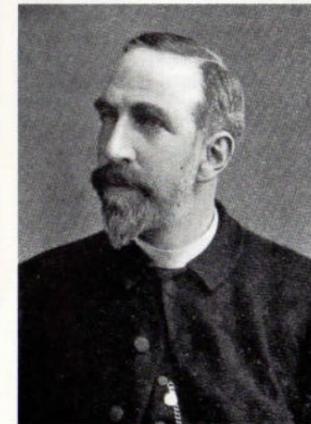
It is quite true that as Mr Moffat puts it, the gallery 'pays its way', but it is by no means thereby entitled to annoy players at its own sweet will.

One criticism may possibly be made on Mr Elvey's letter. He is a little hard on 6 or 7 bisquers, who may be pardoned for the probable absurdity of their comments, on the ground that they are somewhat over-elated at getting into the edge of the 'Class A'.

In conclusion one cannot help feeling delighted that, as is evident from Mr Elvey's last letter, Mr Moffat was mistaken with regard to the incidents he mentioned; possibly someone with a very poor sense of

humour has taken advantage of his good faith by way of a joke. By the bye, others besides 10-bisquers have been known to ask bystanders to move on, nor has it before occurred to anyone to take offence at such a thing.

Yours truly,  
X.Y.Z.



From the *Gazette* dated 1st June, 1905: 'Mr Pemberton, the Hon Secretary of the Essex County Club, has other claims to inclusion in our series of portraits, not only as a member of the Committee, with decided leanings towards local opinion in the matter of Regulations, but also as a brilliant player. He takes rank as the third-best left-handed player of the day.'

## Obituary



Vandeleur Robinson. CA Secretary 1970-77.

walk in the hills behind his holiday home at Laigueglia in Italy was not one to be accepted lightly.

Membership matters - as he called them - were Vandeleur's forte and his correspondence on this subject was voluminous. If he had a fault it was in his epistolary style, which while making excellent reading for the recipients, usually erred more than generously in length, sometimes at the expense of other work awaiting his attention; while most of us forget things sometimes, Vandeleur had the amiable trait of remembering things twice. His long pre-war association with Eastern Europe and extensive knowledge of complicated Balkan family relationships and their way of life, coupled with his possession of an international circle of acquaintances, often encouraged him to include in his business correspondence enquiries as to whether his correspondent might possibly be related to one of his friends or relations. His pleasure at such discovery was great but it inevitably led to a much prolonged correspondence.

Vandeleur had an endearing olde world charm, completely epitomising the better aspects of a period of history, both in the croquet world and in the world at large, which has sadly departed with him. As a travelling companion on a European tour he was superb; he was virtually a walking Baedeker. It was not wise, however, to allow him to be also your driver because of his alarming tendency to forget that his vehicle was not horse drawn, and to leave it to drive itself while he consulted his maps.

Vandeleur, the son of Colonel G.V. Robinson of the Royal Marines, was educated at Cheltenham College and Emmanuel College, Cambridge, where he took honours in history. Originally destined for a military career he passed high on the list in

and out of Woolwich and attained the rank of major, but then turned to teaching at Eton College and in Prague. He became a prolific writer, playwright, publicist and organiser for the League of Nations Union and for a time, private secretary to Lord Neville Baxter. His extensive travels in the Balkans resulted in the publication of 'Albania's Road to Freedom' in 1941 and his service in the Intelligence Corps led to his being sent to Albania at the end of the war as Acting Press Attaché with the British Military Mission.

He was married three times: his second wife was Clare Hollingworth, the well known intrepid war correspondent, and his third wife, who predeceased him, was Sarah, widow of Lieutenant Colonel Biloshmi, a diplomat closely associated with the late King Zog of Albania. He is survived by his stepdaughter, her husband Mr James Mellett, a grand-daughter and a great grand-daughter to whom we extend our sympathy.

A.J.Oldham.

### CROQUET NEWS

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Please make cheques payable to 'The Croquet Association'.

## CROQUET NORTH

## What's been happening in the North in 1990?

Report from Syd Jones

Well quite a lot and most of it at the National Garden Festival in Gateshead. Croquet has been one of the most popular events which has been on going throughout the six months run of the national show, with hundreds of people playing and enjoying a game they didn't even know existed till this summer. We became part of the show from the opening parade in May in front of the Princess Royal to the final sad handshakes at the fireworks finale in October. Encouraging as well to see 'Croquet' advertised by the Festival as the 'Sport of the Future'. But to summarise the details:

## CLUBS

We have started a new club at Carlisle

and had preliminary play at four other possible venues for 1991, Richmond, Gateshead, Mickley and Kirkley Hall. We look like bringing Penrith into the Federation, and have a chance of restarting Bishop Auckland.

## SCHOOLS

With National Garden Festival help we offered croquet coaching to over seventy schools and the chance to play at the N.G.F. We got three takers, but enough enthusiasm for one group to come with staff on a Friday evening and one school still continuing to play croquet through the winter. We held a tournament for all three schools with twenty four children on the Green in July at the



Presentation of the winner's trophy to the Hedworthfield Comprehensive team.

a local school, where we held a Club team competition and a Singles handicap competition.

This was followed by a Northern Championship, played on the carpet for one week at the Garden Festival. This was an invitation event played level by the best players in our region, with four heats during the week and the final on Friday afternoon. We used the CA's electronic scoreboard for timing and this produced fast exciting games. In fact Yorkshire Television, who came to see what indoor croquet was like, seemed rather taken aback by the 'speed' of the matches. Marvellous performance by John Davis who not only won the 'National Garden Festival Rose-Bowl' but pegged-out in every 'thirty minutes play' game that he played, known after this as 'Run-A-Hoop-A-Minute-Davis', and I do mean run!

Concurrently with the Northern Championship, we held a Women's Institutes team competition (five teams from the region and won by Northumberland), and a Schools competition in which a total of over sixty competitors took part. An opportunity was also provided for the public to play croquet on the carpet.

The carpet then went on to Seaburn Leisure Centre for the following weekend, where the Sunderland illuminations were in full

blaze. The weekend was sponsored by 'Arnott Insurance', and got good press coverage, including local radio and the *Daily Mirror*. The Handicap doubles event was won by Liz Nisbet and Derek Trotman. If we thought that electronic scoring made the singles fast, doubles were even faster, with the 'team' effort including the non-playing partner fielding the ball on long shots in efforts to save vital seconds!

The Handicap singles ended with a final between Roger Peters and his ten year old son Ryan. We had a fast, high scoring final with Roger pegging-out just within the sixty minute time limit, an all-action final with thirty-five hoops scored.

As for the Edwardian dress tournament, well it was different and did achieve success in getting the publicity!

**COACHING**  
'Come and Try' days were held during the season at Teesside and Tyneside, and an 'Improvers' course was held at Belsay.

**LEAGUE**  
Six teams on full-size court but with 'three-player teams'. Certainly an across-the-region competition with entries by York, Belsay in Northumberland, and the winners Carlisle, on their first year of entry.

**DEMONSTRATIONS**  
Demonstrations were given at the National Garden Festival throughout the summer by Federation members and Festival staff. We ran a croquet training course in April for the Garden Festival for sixteen of their staff and added players to this as the summer progressed. Demonstrations were also given at the Middlesbrough Sports Festival, Windermere, Richmond, and 'Arnott Insurance' Garden parties.

**TOURNAMENTS**  
A Progressive Doubles tournament was held at Gateshead, and we achieved sixteen entries from around the region on four short courts. The tournament was particularly good in bringing some of our new players into competition with more experienced low bisquers.

**WOMEN'S INSTITUTES**  
Two Demonstrator Courses and one Golf Croquet Tournament were held in the North. We also have indoor croquet at Sunderland with the local 'Action Sport' team.

**INDOOR CARPET**  
In October, the Indoor Carpet came North for a Weekend at Teesside, at

National Garden Festival, with the winners getting local press cover. We followed this with matches on the indoor carpet there in October. The clowns on site, who also acquired a taste for croquet, presented the prizes and challenged the winners on each day.

We have established for the time being a schools facility at Gateshead which will be available hopefully for all schools in the area.

**CROQUET CLASSIC**  
With sponsorship from Derwent Valley Foods we had thirty three entries in heats and a regional final at the N.G.F. This was a major event and supported by our sponsor's hot-air balloon and free crisp offer to the visitors (see separate report).

**INTERNATIONAL CROQUET**  
We organised a Short-Croquet Team event including teams from Glasgow, Edinburgh, Teesside and Tyneside which was played on the Green at the N.G.F. in August.

**WOMEN'S INSTITUTES**  
Two Demonstrator Courses and one Golf Croquet Tournament were held in the North. We also have indoor croquet at Sunderland with the local 'Action Sport' team.

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In October, the Indoor Carpet came North for a Weekend at Teesside, at

## SOUTH EAST FEDERATION

## A Transitional Phase

Report from Stephen Badger

The South East Croquet Federation was inaugurated at a meeting at Reigate on 21st March 1987. The leading motivator behind it was David Higgs of Caterham and the first president was Dennis Shaw of Ramsgate and Compton. Fifteen clubs were represented at that meeting; our membership has now grown to twenty-three, but there are still quite a number of clubs in the area who have yet to join. The Federation covers all of London and stretches down to Ramsgate in the South East and Chichester in West Sussex.

The Federation has always organised a league. This was won by Wellcome (Beckenham) in 1987, by Dulwich in 1988 and by Vine Road in 1989, who then went on to reach the final of the Secretary's Shield. In the season just ended, there were thirteen entries for the principal league. This was again won by Vine Road with Dulwich and Crawley as runners up. The 'B' league (with restricted handicaps) was won by Preston, with Havering and Woking as runners up from a field of fourteen. The golf league was won by Wellcome (Beckenham). The ladies

league was played as a combined tournament at Compton in June and was won by Havering (see report in 'Croquet' for November). Our annual general meeting took place this year on 1st December at Caterham and attracted a reasonable attendance, including the new CA Secretary, Tony Antenen.

David Higgs, who was a very active organiser, moved to France earlier this year so we are currently going through a transitional phase. The present officers are Richard Hilditch (Harrow Oak), President, John Knight (Reigate Priory), Treasurer, and Stephen Badger (Dulwich), Secretary. Mike Keen (Wellcome) organised the leagues in 1990 but has now handed over to John Greenwood (Parsons Green). Our coaching and development officer is Ron Welch who is gradually building up an overall picture of the requirements and potentialities of the region.

During the year, developing clubs (notably Chichester and Fisbourne, Worthing, Ember) were supported with coaching sessions, and demonstrations and come-and-try-it

sessions were held at Enfield, Chatham and Adlestone. At each of these centres we hope to have the nucleus of a new club for next summer. It is noticeable that, under the new arrangements, parks departments are keen to find a new use for their land and are often enthusiastically involved.

A summer school at Ardingly, which can accommodate up to forty players, seems to have become a regular feature of the calendar in August. A new development this year was a five-morning school for children on holiday held in a park for the London Borough of Merton. Run by Ron Welch, these sessions attracted twelve participants of various ages with the elder teenagers becoming very enthusiastic.

Anyone wanting more information about the Federation should contact Stephen Badger at 154 Burbage Road, London SE21 7AG (tel: 071-274 8126) or, for coaching and development matters, Ron Welch on 081-679 0552. We should particularly like to hear from existing or potential clubs in the area which would be interested in becoming members.



Players at Ardingly ready for the start of the next session.

## EAST ANGLIAN FEDERATION

## Another successful year

Report from Judy Anderson

During the last year new Clubs were formed at Cambridge and Chelmsford.

We are extremely grateful to all the Croquet players who have given their time to coaching and development work. Don Cornelius is our new Chairman, and we have already made good use of the lovely Lawns at Newport (Essex) for a Grade 1 coaching course, and W.I. demonstrators course. Thanks to Ron Atkinson, Roger Bray and Martin French for these courses.

We are holding a Referees Course at Newport in April 1991. Betty and

Nick Carter have been a tremendous help with the National Trust Tournament and we have given them a token of our thanks.

We are most grateful to NatWest for sponsoring the Eastern Championships and to Pat Hetherington and Richard Hilditch for making this event so successful.

We are encouraging Clubs to host W.I. events, run coaching courses in conjunction with Adult Education courses, and have helped the Sports Council with the Active Retired and indoor (Village Hall) croquet.

Last year a letter in 'Croquet' said that we had missed a Club out on our Map. Please would all Croquet groups make themselves known to us, so that we can keep you all in touch with one another. Please tell us of your existence!!

## League Results

## Essex/Suffolk League

1st	Ipswich
2nd	Bury St Edmunds
3rd	Havering
4th	Colchester
5th	Colbert
6th	Fellinggay

Organised by Pat Hetherington.

## Beds/Herts League

1st	Letchworth
2nd	Newport
3rd=	Cassiobury
3rd=	Wrest Park
5th	Colworth
6th	St Albans



Syd Jones presents Roger Peters with the Arnott Insurance Handicap Singles cup at Seaburn. Roger's son Ryan (right) was the runner-up.



The winning Northumberland WI team on the indoor carpet at the National Garden Festival, Gateshead.

## FEDERATION CONTACTS

## North

Syd Jones, 13 Kew Gardens, Whitley Bay, Tyne & Wear, NE26 3LY. Tel: 091-252-2962.

## North West

Angus Peterson, 9 Langham Road, Bowdon, Altrincham, Cheshire, WA14 2HT. Tel: 061-941-3579.

## Yorks &amp; Humberside

Bill Lamb, 5 Bondyke Close, St Margaret's Ave, Cottingham, Hull, HU16 5ND. Tel: 0482-840739.

## West Midlands

Chris Bennett, 4 Greenfield Court, 101 Greenfield Road, Harborne, Birmingham, B17 0EF. Tel: 021-426-2369.

## East Midlands

Gary Norman, Ivydene, 25 Atherstone Road, Measham, Burton-on-Trent, Staffs, DE12 7LY. Tel: 0530-70826.

## South West

Strat Liddiard, Knoll Hill Cottage, Knoll Lane, Corfe, Mullen, Dorset, BH21 3RF. Tel: 0202-694135.

## South

Bob Smith, 33 Donegal Close, Caversham, Reading, Berks, RG4 0DT. Tel: 0734-478802.

## London &amp; S.E.

Stephen Badger, 154 Burbage Road, Dulwich, London, SE21 7AG. Tel: 071-274-8126.



Nick & Betty Carter who have helped with the EACF/National Trust Tournament since its inception - their TENT has been invaluable!

Organised by George Collin  
Cambs/Norfolk Area

The original plan had been a friendly league, but not all the clubs felt inclined to travel so there was a compromise, with Bury, Cambridge, Downham and Norwich having a lot of fun playing one another and all the Area's clubs meeting for an end of Season competition at Hunstanton.

This drew players from Bury, Cromer, Downham, Hunstanton, Norwich and Soham. Teams played Short Croquet and provided a large number of close finishes. The eventual winners were the Soham pair Ian Storey and Paul Day. A remarkable result considering the relatively short time that these two have been playing croquet and a tribute to the excellent coaching of the late Albert Lawrence, who did so much for the game. (Report from Jonathan Toye.)

## EACF/National Trust Tournament 1990

Bury St Edmunds Club have donated a beautiful shield for competition at this Tournament. Colworth players Trevor Wilkins and Steve Jones played exceptionally well to win the Final. Second were Cambridge, with Norwich and S.E. Essex the other finalists. This competition gives us an opportunity to bring young Clubs together, and croquet in beautiful settings is good publicity.



Don't Forget: 1991 is Sports Council 'Year of Sport'.

## Tournament Reports

### Edgbaston: 1-2 September A Manager's Nightmare

Report by David Goacher

This tournament witnessed the debut of Andrew Gregory as Manager. Firstly, he had to change the format when numbers increased from nine to fourteen within the last week after several last minute phone calls. He decided on two blocks of seven with semi-final and final and then spent a sleepless Friday night wondering if he would get all the games played as three people couldn't start until the Saturday morning and the lawns were very tricky.

In the event the semi-finals had to be scrapped (to the chagrin of one of the two qualifiers particularly) to ensure that the final did not finish too late. He was in a position where whatever he did he was bound to upset somebody. At least the 'Walters award' for scratching was not presented this year unlike previous years, although ironically this might have made things easier.

Lawns 1 and 2 were very fast and hilly, making good Croquet difficult but providing some amusing moments. Hoop 1 on Lawn 2 was proving particularly tiresome for Jenkins and Girling - Jenkins mis-approached it three times from close in and Girling did likewise from only one foot away. The latter got so fed up that in his next turn he left pink in the jaws of hoop 1 and shot with white near hoop 2 at his opponent's balls in corner 3 even though they were both for hoop 1 as well. Fortunately he hit and was then able to make hoop 1 with both balls showing that impetuosity can sometimes work!

The portly Mr Dorke was unusually quiet - possibly because 'Geraldine' was lurking in the

background but also because he seemed to be involved in all the long games and was too busy playing croquet!! He had a 4¼ hour tussle with Andrew Gregory and 3¾ hours with Roger Jenkins. He assured me that this was definitely nothing to do with his speed of play, only his standard of play!



Peter Dorke celebrating a win earlier in the season at Southwick, when he won the Men's Handicap 'Y' event.

He was however stung into life when a wasp caught him behind the ear while in mid-swing for a long roquet. After a few expletives but little sympathy the game resumed.

Ken 'Pancho' Jones (making us believe we were in the wild west instead of the West Midlands by sporting a stunning sombrero) claimed the shot of the tournament. In attempting to hit his ball into corner 1 for a wide join, he hit hoop 1 which

deflected his ball onto his other one on the boundary parallel to hoop 1. Another amusing incident occurred when John Ruddock, making a welcome return to croquet after a 15 year absence, attempted to cross-peg his opponent's balls but managed to put the blue in the way of his own. Instead of trying a jump shot he played a scatter shot trying to leave his two balls wired from black at the peg. Unfortunately blue hit yellow leaving all four balls round the peg!

Goacher and Symons won all their games in their respective blocks and played off for the final. Symons seemed more interested in a game of knock-out whist than the croquet. This was probably because he was sulking after the manager earned bonus marks by refusing to give in to his demands to play on the lawn furthest from the club house so that the game could start half an hour earlier. He rightly wanted a proper final on Lawn 1.

In the event Goacher won quite comfortably - his first break to 4-back was achieved on a tricky lawn with opponent's balls in corners 2 and 4, but after that play deteriorated. Unlike Chris Clarke, the author does not wish to spend two paragraphs talking about his own play, especially as this report is getting like some of the author's games - long!

Suffice to say that I always find this tournament a very friendly event in the Croquet Calendar and this year was no exception. Lawn 3 which has recently been re-laid is playing very well and the other two lawns are being re-laid this winter. So there should be no excuse for not having a good entry next year.

### Guildford & Godalming: 15-16 September Coconuts, Hand Grenades, Fences and all that

Report by Adrian Judge

We arrived at G & G to find 5 very fast courts and a much slower bowling green, the latter separated from the outside world by a 3 foot high wire fence. Throughout the two days, approaching court 6 proved far from straight forward. Kevin Carter played an excellent jump shot (whilst taking care not to damage himself in the process) whilst other, less energetic souls opted for the 'Aunt Emma' game and used the gate. The chivalrous Hugh Smorfitt, having called Celia Steward to watch a hampered shot, decided to give her a lift.

The weather was great, and the local cider establishment proved to be both a players' delight and the ever-cheerful Ron Selmes' nightmare. The 'hand-grenades' quenched during lunch put an entirely different complexion on the afternoon play, with many games punctuated by retirements to the surrounding countryside. (G & G suffers from the Wrest Park Syndrome). The normally sober Dr Mike Llewellyn-Williams opted for the crematorium (mind the fence, Mike!), Robert Prichard for a 'Greenwoodesque' dash for the trees, and Les Chapman for his car!

Long hoops were very much in evidence over the weekend. Star of the show was Guy Willard who twice

ran 4 from a position next to penult! The 'stylish' Jeremy Glyn's effort at running 4-back from next to the peg in a match reduced to a single ball game against yours truly also deserves a mention. (See, buying me a pint got you a mention!)

But, what happened? The tournament was won by the very promising Justin Goddard, a Cambridge University student, whose measure of the pace of the lawn against the steady Peter Mayers in the final was excellent. Mention must also be made of Mike Hopwood for winning the one-ball knockout and earning the runner-up spot.

A great way to round off the season in a very relaxed tournament. Thanks to all involved. One question, Hugh: Why did you bring the pineapple?

#### RESULTS

**5 wins:** J. Goddard.  
**4 wins:** M. Hopwood, P. Mayers, H. Smorfitt, R. Jackman, A. Judge.  
**3 wins:** G. Bennet, L. Chapman, C. Heritage, M. Llewellyn-Williams, A. Miller, C. Osmond, R. Prichard, B. Sutherland, G. Willard.  
**2 wins:** K. Carter, M. Cooperman, J. Corrie, J. Glyn, A. Mrozinski, M. Town, J. Waters.  
**1 win:** D. Goulding, T. Matthews, A. O'Connor, C. Steward.  
**0 wins:** N. Leach, M. Selmes.

## Handicaps

### The New Handicap Scheme

Explained by Martin French, Handicap Co-ordination Committee.

A new method of determining a croquet player's handicap will be introduced from the start of the 1991 season, initially for a two year trial period. It is felt that no system of handicapping can be perfect, but the new system will improve the accuracy of handicapping for the majority of CA members most of the time. This article outlines the scheme and the motivation for change. Full details will be sent to all handicappers in time for the 1991 season.

#### What's happening

The way in which handicaps are determined is to change under the new scheme, but there will be no change in the way that handicaps are applied in singles or doubles play.

The scheme will be applied from the start of the 1991 season, to all handicap singles play except friendly games. All handicap singles play in CA Calendar fixtures, regional leagues, club tournaments and similar matches will be included. Full bisque and timed games will also be included, but not short croquet. Only if the player fully expects to take part in fewer than 10 such games during the season will friendly games be included. Clubs will be encouraged to use the system for all their members, and the CA will provide clubs with sufficient handicap record cards to cover non-CA members.

At the start of the 1991 season, every player's handicap will be used to work out their grade from the table below. Grades step up in fives from 60 at handicap 20, to 200 for a scratch handicap, as shown (obviously, clubs are free to extend the system for club handicaps over 20). Every winning game increases their grade by one. Every loss, their grade decreases by one. Only at the end of an event, if their grade passes or corresponds to the next trigger point up or down, the handicap alters.

In fact, the grading system is simply a measure of win/loss difference. Grades will be carried over from one year to the next. If a player is primarily only playing handicap singles games, then all handicap changes will be automatic.

#### Why change?

The Handicap Co-ordination Committee (HCC) sanctioned a trial during 1990 of handicap record cards. The trial involved all members of Ipswich Club, plus some other CA members. Players recorded their win/play ratio in 'serious' handicap singles games, and noted when their handicap was altered. They were

encouraged to show their record cards to handicappers at events away from their home club, so that changes were made on the basis of their record.

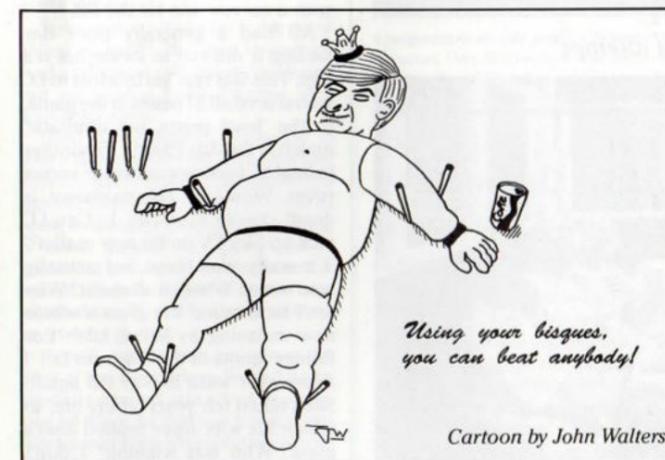
The trial was a success, showing that the majority of players would keep accurate records, and that most handicappers valued the greater evidence provided by record cards on which to base their judgments.

However, it became clear that the problems of the existing handicapping system would not all be solved simply by handicap record cards. These problems include:

has been used to test and improve the scheme.

It is felt that the benefits of this new system are:

- consistent standards being applied.
- convergence in handicap baselines, nationwide.
- substantial control of the downward drift.
- reducing the stigma of handicap increases.
- reasonable accuracy, even for infrequent players.
- long-term stability of the handicap system.
- a decrease in contentious handicapping decisions.



Cartoon by John Walters.

1. continuing downward drift of handicaps.
2. regional variation in standards.
3. resistance to justified increases, due to the status value of handicaps.
4. rapid improvers 'beating the system'.
5. relevance of level and advanced play to handicap.
6. difficulty in handicapping infrequent handicap players, e.g. minus players.

In particular, items 1 and 2 have become particularly acute over the last two seasons. In the past, an across-the-board handicap increase has been used to resolve item 1, but this was never a popular nor lasting solution. It has proved particularly difficult to resolve item 2; indeed, despite the attempts of the last few years to effect some co-ordination, the problem has got rapidly worse.

For these reasons, the HCC has been investigating various alternatives to the existing subjective method of handicapping. The approach suggested in Roger Wheeler's letter in Croquet 211 seemed particularly promising, so the data collected during the Ipswich trial

#### Exceptions

Of course, most players also play games of handicap doubles, level play or advanced play. Sustained performance in these that is thought by a handicapper to be at odds with the player's grade-related handicap ('objective handicap') can result in changes to the objective handicap. These changes will be made by official handicappers in the light of revised HCC guidelines that will be published before the season starts. When a player's singles handicap is changed in this way, their grade is reset to correspond to the new handicap.

Golf has long used a similar handicap system that relies on players keeping accurate records of their performance. Like golf, the HCC may decide at the end of each season to impose an alteration to the handicaps of players who fail to return a completed handicap record card.

The HCC is interested in the possibilities of incorporating level play in the scheme, and is investigating alternatives. The disadvantage of the proposal in Croquet 211 is that the lower handicap player has nothing to gain - their grading cannot improve even if they win all their games, and the higher handicap player has nothing to lose. For example, a lower

handicap player could win a level play Egyptian on 8/10 games, and lose enough grade points to get an increase in handicap! It is possible that an alternative will be trialled at a few clubs during the season, and introduced nationally the following year if successful.

The question of some later integration of the objective handicap system with the CGS (Computer Grading System) for advanced play has also been raised. This may be difficult to achieve, but would be worthwhile in that it would provide a single performance index for all players, and may help with the problematic handicapping of the small band of minus players. The HCC is still considering the options for minus players - for this reason the table excludes negative handicaps - but arrangements will be included in the guidelines to be published for the 1991 season.

Every year, a small number of players improve at a phenomenal rate - the 'bandits'. It is believed that no handicap system will deal well with people who deservedly change from a handicap of, say, 15 to 3 in one season of perhaps 40 games. Again, the skills of official handicappers will be called on to tackle this problem. When it is clear that an improver is gaining an unfair advantage because their objective handicap is too high, handicappers can intervene and adjust while it remains in the range 20 to 4. Their grade will be reset to correspond to the new handicap.

#### Next Steps

Now that the outline of the scheme has been agreed, the HCC will finalise the details. Full guidelines for official handicappers will be circulated before the season starts, both to clarify the scheme and to deal with the various exceptions outlined above. Suggestions and comments on these would be welcomed - please send them to Bill Lamb.

Having tested the new scheme on last season's trial data, the HCC is confident that this trial will lead to a steady improvement in the consistency of handicaps across the country.

#### Table showing handicap and grade trigger points

H'cap	Grade	H'cap	Grade
0	200	7½	125
½	195	8	120
1	190	9	115
1½	185	10	110
2	180	11	105
2½	175	12	100
3	170	13	95
3½	165	14	90
4	160	15	85
4½	155	16	80
5	150	17	75
5½	145	18	70
6	140	19	65
6½	135	20	60
7	130		

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## Invitation Events

### SELECTORS' WEEKEND

Budleigh Salterton: 7-9 September

The Toucan's Revenge? Ivor Brand wins Selectors' Title

As motley a crew as ever was seen assembled to partake of a weekend voyage. Our captain 'was the redoubtable Richard Brand (RB), ably supported by Ivor 'Toucan' Brand (IB) As for the other cut-throats:-

- Ray and Frances Ransom (RR & FR), a reference to kidnapped?
- Alan and Gill Bogle (AB & GB), a mean tattie hawker in his day.
- Paul 'le' Smith (PS), not enjoying the Spencer Ell?
- Strat Liddiard (SL), ship's doctor and only just.

- Les 'Braces' Chapman (LC), with a new aluminum mallet.
- ARK Miller (AM), born to sail the seven seas, go south my lad.
- Ian 'Leaky' Plummer (IP), anything for a joke!
- Smokin' Joe Jackson, paying homage to the home of Sir Walter Raleigh for the great gift that he introduced to England.

#### Day 1:

Decision time by el capitan. The competition will consist of 9 rounds

### THE LONGMAN BOWL

Alex O'Connor takes title at first attempt



Shown in the photo (L to R round the table) are: Alex O'Connor, Pat Macdonald, Betty Weitz, Pauline Healy, Dab Wheeler, and Kay Yeoman.

Dab Wheeler reports: Alex O'Connor (front left) came in at the last minute and showed her promise by winning the competition in style. One of the referees, who kindly gave their time to officiate, naughtily inquired at lunchtime, "What's the longest break then, 3 or 4 hoops?" That afternoon, Alex playing Betty Weitz went straight to rover and finished the game within the hour. (Nearly all the games were finished in well under 3 hours).

Joe Hogan refereed for us some of

the time and we enjoyed his store of croquet stories at lunchtimes but, ladies, we must have more referees among the competitors. So, come on: if your handicap is 7 or less, please go on a referees' course and qualify. The course will help your croquet then, if you fill in the form in the calendar, you'll stand a good chance of being selected for the ladies' competitions. If more of us apply, perhaps we can have Ladies' EIGHTS again!

The 1990 Longman Bowl	AO°C	IPM	RFW	KGY	BGW	PVH	Games Won			Final Order
							1st Series	2nd Series	Total	
Miss A. O'Connor		-7 +2	+11 +3	+14 +11	+10 +16	+7 +4	4	5	9	1
Mrs L.P. MacDonald	+7 -2		-7 +12	-8 -8	+17 +6	+13 +16	3	3	6	2=
Mrs R.F. Wheeler	-11 -3	+7 -12		+11 -10	+14 +16	+20 +9	4	2	6	2=
Mrs K.G. Yeoman	-14 -11	+8 +8	+10		+3 -7	+5 +7	3	3	6	2=
Mrs B.G. Weitz	-10 -16	-17 -6	-14 -16	-3 +7		+12 -10	1	1	2	3
Mrs P.V. Healy	-7 -4	-13 -16	-9 -9	-5 -7	-12 -10		0	1	1	4

played in a loose fitting Swiss format, with a touch of Hands thrown in. All agree and grabbing weapons set off to battle. Fair speed was made as there was wind aplenty on this day. GB had two interesting games. Against LC, she found herself pegged out with her other ball for 1 against peg and 4-back as LC decided to sportingly leave his two balls on the lawn. Unfortunately, GB failed rover having hit the lift and set up the break. El capitan made no such error in his game with GB, pegging his own ball out leaving himself for 4 against 1. Excitement all the way with a narrow win for the RB.

AB had a generally poor day finding it difficult to locate his sea legs. This was typified by a loss to LC who scored all 27 points in the game. In the 'least pretty, but dramatic' match of the day, PS took 45 minutes to beat SL from peg and rover versus rover. Who said entertainment is dead! Quotes from Day 1: 'Can LC pick up Sky TV on his new mallet?' 'I morally won three, but actually won none.' 'What's it all about? Why am I here mum?' 'He gives a whole new meaning to Miller Lite' 'Cor Blimey' quote of the day from LC, 'I never ever want to play GB again. She's taken ten years off my life,' to which his wife Joyce replied 'that's good'. Who was winning? I don't remember. IB, RB, AM, RR all had three wins I think. Congratulations to SL for the only triple of the day. We hope you get your gold award for this one.

#### Day 2:

As the ship sailed southwards, so the winds died and the sun stirred above the horizon. Would this improve the standard of play? Yes! Today we see a triple from AM and a straight triple from IB. Poor GB, alas the other players seem to keep their best form for their match with her. Even PS returns to form. First by pulling back from nowhere to peg out AM only to go on to lose, nay throw away the match when it was won.

If this provided entertainment for the spectators, PS went one better in his next match with JJ. Having finished his turn, JJ excused himself for a call of nature. PS then proceeded to hit the lift that never was. Guilt ridden that this was not a punishable offence, PS completed his turn by returning the innings to JJ. Noble JJ forsakes the opportunity, using his turn to return the balls to the positions before PS had taken the lift that was not. How good to see such sportsmanship.

In his game against LC, IB missed the peg out with his front ball, pegging out the other. Unworried, LC hit the lift and progressed from 1 and 1 only to give the match away by

missing a short roquet after running rover with an easy peg out. IB was now out in front. In the chasing pack, RR remained indecisive but not enough to stop him winning games. AM continued to boldly go through every hoop he attempted from any distance. Quotes from the cast included: 'It's difficult to get into the right frame of mind.' IB was described as 'the best goalkeeper England never had' after he finger-tipped a ricochet resulting from a fine cut rush.

The day finished with the entire cast and families enjoying a meal and a few ales at the local inn. Competition did not halt however. A promotion by Guinness offered the opportunity to win further free pints of Guinness by answering a few simple questions and then recognising well known sporting personalities from a partially revealed picture. In this PS proved his judgment off the lawn to be in sync with his on-lawn play. AB proved that he could recognise some obscure Scottish footballer but nobody believed him. Sadly the other quotes are not suitable for publication, but a full review can be obtained from any of those present.

#### Day 3:

A fine sunny becalmed day. PS commented that it was nice to see global warming back with us. Because of the fast progress of play the event was quickly decided in the first round of play, this being the 9th game for most players. Given this situation, several players took the opportunity to play more ambitiously. LC in his match with JJ completed the three peels of a TPO, although there was some talk of a bisque? in this match.

In an extraordinary match between SL and AB, an attempt at an octuple was followed by an attempt at the sextuple. In all 14 peels were completed in the game which finished in a draw with the simultaneous peg out of his own and his opponent's ball under the watchful eye of the referee of the tournament and another referee. PS who witnessed the match described himself as 'dumbfounded'.

As for the serious business. Congratulations to IB who was the clear winner, losing only one game. I put his success down to the power of the small 'Toucan' mascots which he handed out to each of us on Day 1. Ivor played the most consistent croquet of the weekend, making few mistakes and punishing those of his opponents. AM played aggressively well and made much of his own luck. Finally and not least, the thanks of all the players go to the officials and members of Budleigh Club for looking after us so well.

### THE CHAIRMAN'S SALVER

Nottingham: 3-7 September

Good Steady Play by David Goacher earns Salver

Report by Francis Landor

The Chairman's Salver was held in Nottingham this year and not only were the lawns in good condition considering the hot summer but Ian Vincent had kindly invited everyone to stay at his house. (Ian was meanwhile playing in the Spencer Ell). Six of us took up this offer, while David and Jeff stayed close by with their respective brothers.

Monday was bridge night at Ian's. The first test was to find a pack of cards, and after some searching two packs were discovered but both incomplete. A good pack was put together from both of them and bridge took place all evening until on the last hand we discovered that we had all been playing with two six of diamonds. You might well ask had we been drinking (we hadn't) but Russell and Dan were having a session and had discovered where Ian kept his spirits. If you look closely at results, this was reflected in the next day's play.

Tuesday was bowling night and saw the battle of the North versus the South. The teams were Rus, Dan and Steve against Duncan, Jeff and Francis and as you can imagine this was taken far more seriously than the day's other play. The first match was won by the North, mainly due to Dan wearing his elephant trunk cap which appeared to have magic powers; luckily he took it off for the second match and the evening was drawn one all. It was agreed by all of us that we should have been getting many more strikes than we actually did.

Wednesday after another delightful (dreadful) takeaway we shot off to the indoor bowls club. Duncan used all his powers of persuasion; yes we did know how to play, yes we had all played before and yes we did know a member there (Keith Aiton), no we were not a bunch of drunken lager louts. Having now halved the age of all present we proceeded to use our rink and you could definitely see who had played before and who had not. After our time was up, we had not been thrown out and so we all adjourned to the pool table.

Thursday was tournament dinner night and the first question was to Russell and Dan as to how much they could afford to spend. No answer was forthcoming and so the next idea was to suggest that Dan and Rus cooked a meal at Ian's but on second thoughts it was doubtful if anyone would eat it. In the end a chef was appointed and we all ate a good meal with wine for the older members and beer for the youngsters.

Steve Thomas who managed the week was present and after the food and drink we settled down to passing a pair of scissors crossed or uncrossed. Then we all took turns from one place to 'er' another place. Most of us were in fits of laughter watching the others present looking more and more bewildered at these immature games. The evening finished with a card flicking session, and Ian, if you find a king of clubs, Russell would be grateful to have it back.

Oh yes, Croquet was also played during the day and here are a few highlights relating to each player in

reverse order.

Francis's only two moments of inspiration all week were one, a triple peel and two, the chicken stroganoff.

Jeff was also lacking on the peeling front, the only peeling he did all week being the carrots. He did in fact beat David twice, showing that no one really stood out as being far better than anyone else.

John's achievement of the week was to perform a disappearing act on day 3; one minute he was there and the next he was gone, without as much as a by your leave. The only positive effect this was to have was that Francis now had a bed but also agreed 'reluctantly' to write the report.

Steve was not living up to his giant killer reputation and even though he had a couple of +26 scores he missed out on playing Steve Thomas in a handicap game.

Hard hitting Russell did manage to lose a ball in the stream on the Sunday practice game but could not repeat this against David, even though seven of us were looking for his black ball during a close pegged out game. David produced a wired leave near the end to which Russell forgot that he was entitled to a lift and so David went on to win the game.

Russell against Dan produced the shot of the week where Russell again down to one ball was wired from the peg by rover. All that was needed was a jump over rover, hitting the peg to win. What happened was a jump over rover missing the peg by a hair and then running penult to the boundary; Dan won that game.

Duncan started well with a sixth turn +26TP winning all his games on the first day. Unfortunately he could not sustain this over the week but was in the running up until the last day.

Dan, who got off to a slow start improved over the week and completed a +26STP against Steve. When asked why not do some peels earlier, no reply was forthcoming. Dan was the only person who could have been in contention with David on the last day but in the end David was clear out front.

David (who I think is much maligned for his slow play) played solidly all week running long hoops with ease and hardly ever breaking down. All credit to him for winning the Chairman's but it would have been nice to see more triples on the easy lawns.

Well a good time was had by the seven of us and thanks to Steve Thomas and Ian Vincent for looking after us in their respective ways.

Finally I would like to make a commonly heard suggestion; that of playing the eights over a weekend either as five days or four days. Is there a problem with this?

#### Final Order:

**Winner:** David Goacher (10 wins).

**8 wins:** Duncan Reeve and Dan McCormick.

**6 wins:** Russell Collighan.

**5 wins:** Steve Comish.

**4 wins:** Jeff Dawson, and Francis Landor.



Competitors in this year's Chairman's Salver. Back (L to R): Russell Collighan, Jeff Dawson, Dan McCormick, and Steve Thomas (Manager). Front: Steve Comish, Duncan Reeve, David Goacher, and Francis Landor.

### THE BARLOW BOWL

Roehampton: 10-14 September

Gail Curry Claims Bowl for Tyneside

Report by Celia Steward

It was on a glorious Monday morning that six ladies arrived at the Roehampton Club, by invitation of the CA, to compete for the Barlow Bowl. Two amongst their number had never played in an invitation event or at Roehampton before, and they were warmly welcomed by the more experienced players and the manager Paul Macdonald. After a warning from Paul that he would not hesitate to use the 'Yellow Card' or even the 'Red Card' when necessary, battle commenced.

It became evident to those who had played at Roehampton last year that the efforts of the groundstaff at the club had greatly improved the lawns. In the first round, Frances Ransom unfortunately missed the Peg out against Gail Curry to give an exciting finish in which Frances eventually won by 3, and by the end of the first day only Corla van Griethuysen had won both games.

On the second day, the weather and the games heated up (leading to over-exposure in some cases), Corla narrowly beating Judy Anderson by 3 in the morning and Celia Steward clinching a very tense game against Bo

Harris by 2 in the afternoon. The first series was completed with Corla clearly leading the field with 4 wins and marked by the tournament dinner with Paul as guest of honour.

The second series provided as many close games, with Frances again missing the peg out by a distance measured in widths of Putney Bridge. However by the last day it became evident that there were great possibilities of a play-off between Corla, Frances or Gail, but unfortunately Frances lost the crucial game to Corla, therefore leaving Corla and Gail to the tie break.

Unfortunately Gail's long journey to Tyneside necessitated a time limit to be set (the first of the tournament) and, after a really dramatic game, time was called with Corla having only one ball, the other having been pegged out by Gail, and 3 hoops behind. And so all we have to do is surmise how Gail managed to carry the Barlow Bowl back to Tyneside on the bus and whether she really did fill it with champagne - or was it marbles?

The 1990 Barlow Bowl	GC	CVG	RWR	TWA	CMS	DHH	Games Won			Final Order
							1st Series	2nd Series	Total	
Miss G. Curry		+11 +5	-3 +3	+12 +24	+15 -6	-3 +20	3	4	7	1*
Dr. C. Van Griethuysen	-11 -5		+18 +8	+3 +13	+5 +20	+22 -16	4	3	7	2
Mrs R.W. Ransom	+3 -3	-18 -8		+15 +21	-12 +13	+7 +4	3	3	6	3
Mrs T.W. Anderson	-12 -24	-3 -13	-15 -21		+8 +7	+13 +8	2	2	4	4
Mrs C.M. Steward	-15 +6	-20 -5	+12 -13	-8 -7		+2 -10	2	1	3	5=
Mrs D.H. Harris	+3 -20	-22 +16	-7 -4	-13 -8	-2 +10		1	2	3	5=

\* PLAY OFF: Miss Curry beat Dr. Van Griethuysen +3(T)

## Invitation Events

## The Intrepid Explorers - Part 2 AUSTRALIA

By Annabel MacDiarmid and Debbie Cornelius

The Intrepid Explorers crept stealthily into the bush in search of the long lost Aboriginal city where the legendary 'Hooppa Wallop' croquet tribe was once found. They were very keen to renew the long forgotten shouts of 'Hill', and 'Hoop', and 'Oh, what', which once resounded through the bush.

Mallets in hand they drew closer to the forgotten land.... 'that's a poisonous snake so take care', the IE's were brought back to reality in time for their first sighting of a Red Bellied Black. This did not deter them, no, it was the leeches crawling up their legs and sucking their blood that pinpointed the return to the safety of the car.

Sydney: thunderstorms - rain - sun - Charlie Brown's (wine, wine, wine) - The Lord Dudley (beer, beer, beer) - cockroaches - fleas - basically very nice.

Sydney is a lovely city full of chic people wearing the latest fashions and hairstyles, and generally looking very healthy and fit: we felt very conscious of our 'backpackers clothes'. We stayed in Bondi Junction - a town for Kiwi's, Poms, and Japs.

The bush was only an hour and a half's drive out of Sydney, so a camping weekend was easily arranged. It was a great change of scenery with kangaroo sightings and the odd turtle.

The Fox family made us very welcome when we arrived. A couple of times they took us to their local croquet clubs for a game - Sydney is not short of clubs.

One club, Manly, was holding a coaching course and asked us to give a demo, refilling our wine glasses as we went (just like home). The applause for both of us as we took each shot was very enthusiastic (we like these people). The next day we played a few friendlies and Debbie played well, having a triple followed by a quad.

Shortly after that Debbie had a radio interview for 'Women in sport' - she started by telling them that there are 12 hoops! fortunately clarifying herself as she went on.

Elections were being held while we were there, which caused a few work problems for us, but a certain amount of fun whilst watching TV as we tried to guess which party was advertising - they only told you at the end.

After six weeks in Sydney we were on our way to Brisbane. Waiting for the coach, Debs suddenly leapt up and searched for her personal stereo, and as we switched on we heard the words "and that's all from 'Women in

Sport'" - we had missed the interview.

Along came Brisbane and the Australia Championships. This three week long tournament was a much needed relief from the trials of working life (one and a half weeks of work and we were worn out).

The Brisbane lawns have much to recommend them. Flat, fast and all on the local bus and train routes. The tournament was slowed down by heavy rain which twice caused the lawns, scattered all over town, to flood. This cancelled play completely and on these days we did such sinfully lazy things as watch TV, and write letters and sleep till 3pm.

About half the competitors were



The Clowns take on the Schools on the CA's indoor carpet at the Gateshead National Garden Festival.

staying at the local AAA Motel (no it doesn't stand for Alcoholics Anonymous). This gem of a motel was distinguished by its unusual extras: for example, a beehive in the floorboards of the room, and a noisy argumentative family in the back garden - very colourful language.

The tournament started with the annual meeting followed by the annual church service. The minister had tried very hard to relate the sermon to croquet and did a speech revolving around the words 'jump, grasshopper, jump'. Basically saying that the lessons of concentration and effort in croquet can be related to life's ups and downs. A little strange but on the whole quite good.

Unlike the New Zealand Championships play did not start late to cater for us poor English players, and after the floods the 8.30 start became 8.00. How did we cope? Not very well!

Fashion was very important in Brisbane we discovered. Halfway

through the tournament Annabel decided she needed a new pair of shorts, so we went out and bought a pair. That night we showed them to Bruce Ford, who we were staying with, and did he warn us, NO! The traitor. Next day the horrified stares told the tale. These were the shortest shorts ever worn in Australia by a woman croquet player. A new era in croquet fashion has begun.

Anyway, I suppose as readers you'd like to know who won; well, the Interstate cup was won by Queensland (in recent years the home team has won so good luck to NSW in 1991). John Eddes won the Open, George Latham the Mens, Shirley Carr the Womens, and

statistics. He greeted Debbie with quoted results of games she had played three years ago - he doesn't even get the gazette! He also talks non-stop croquet - sound familiar? Anyway, what happened? Annabel, Blaise and Debbie each won their blocks, and Sonya won the boobey prize for scoring the most points against Debbie in their block. The invitation from Trevor and Therese also included staying with them for a while in Tuncurry. We made our way there in the bus, boogeying down the aisle to the sound of 'Drama' as we went.

In Tuncurry Debbie, Sonya and Annabel were often found driving the beach buggy to the nine mile long, white, sandy beach; generally accompanied by the White's mad dog 'Hunter', who never let a crashing wave deter him from retrieving the ball.

The three then split their ways. Annabel stayed put whilst Sonya went on to America, and Debbie experienced first hand the rounding up of sheep with motorcycles, before moving on to America for their World Championships in Sonoma. (Debbie's experiences will be recounted in Part 3 - USA.) Annabel - Of the next couple of months I shall be brief. Most of Australia is very accessible as there is a very good coach system. The only problem with them is that the more trips you make the more likely you are to see the same film again. I saw two films three times and one film twice. The films on the coach trip to Echuca were ignored as Blaise Northey was going to the tournament, and fortunately caught the same coach.

Echuca is a quiet little town situated on the Murray River in Victoria. The club known as The Rich Rover Golf Club has three very nice croquet lawns and the use of a very fast and flat bowling green. The tournament run by Ken Boal went smoothly and was most enjoyable. The Rich River Club is known also for its Casino, situated in the grounds: I restricted my one visit to \$5 and managed to double it in the half hour.

Adelaide is a lovely city that gives the feeling that it's a small town surrounded by gardens. The tour of the Barossa Valley vineyards was most enjoyable, and their Botanic gardens which also feature European trees are just beautiful.

Due to flooding on the roads to Ayers Rock and Darwin, I had to change my plans, and so went to Cairns along the East coast via

through the tournament Annabel decided she needed a new pair of shorts, so we went out and bought a pair. That night we showed them to Bruce Ford, who we were staying with, and did he warn us, NO! The traitor. Next day the horrified stares told the tale. These were the shortest shorts ever worn in Australia by a woman croquet player. A new era in croquet fashion has begun.

Anyway, I suppose as readers you'd like to know who won; well, the Interstate cup was won by Queensland (in recent years the home team has won so good luck to NSW in 1991). John Eddes won the Open, George Latham the Mens, Shirley Carr the Womens, and

statistics. He greeted Debbie with quoted results of games she had played three years ago - he doesn't even get the gazette! He also talks non-stop croquet - sound familiar? Anyway, what happened? Annabel, Blaise and Debbie each won their blocks, and Sonya won the boobey prize for scoring the most points against Debbie in their block. The invitation from Trevor and Therese also included staying with them for a while in Tuncurry. We made our way there in the bus, boogeying down the aisle to the sound of 'Drama' as we went.

In Tuncurry Debbie, Sonya and Annabel were often found driving the beach buggy to the nine mile long, white, sandy beach; generally accompanied by the White's mad dog 'Hunter', who never let a crashing wave deter him from retrieving the ball.

The three then split their ways. Annabel stayed put whilst Sonya went on to America, and Debbie experienced first hand the rounding up of sheep with motorcycles, before moving on to America for their World Championships in Sonoma. (Debbie's experiences will be recounted in Part 3 - USA.) Annabel - Of the next couple of months I shall be brief. Most of Australia is very accessible as there is a very good coach system. The only problem with them is that the more trips you make the more likely you are to see the same film again. I saw two films three times and one film twice. The films on the coach trip to Echuca were ignored as Blaise Northey was going to the tournament, and fortunately caught the same coach.

Echuca is a quiet little town situated on the Murray River in Victoria. The club known as The Rich Rover Golf Club has three very nice croquet lawns and the use of a very fast and flat bowling green. The tournament run by Ken Boal went smoothly and was most enjoyable. The Rich River Club is known also for its Casino, situated in the grounds: I restricted my one visit to \$5 and managed to double it in the half hour.

Adelaide is a lovely city that gives the feeling that it's a small town surrounded by gardens. The tour of the Barossa Valley vineyards was most enjoyable, and their Botanic gardens which also feature European trees are just beautiful.

Due to flooding on the roads to Ayers Rock and Darwin, I had to change my plans, and so went to Cairns along the East coast via

## Croquet Jargon

By Keith Aiton

I was watching 'A Question of Sport' recently when Ian Botham was stumped by the question: 'In which sport would you find the following terms; a goose egg, ducks on the pond, and a mackerel?'

The answer was baseball (reasons at the end of this article).

It occurred to me that there are many terms in croquet of a similar nature, which are in common usage, and which are not fully understood by those hearing them (and in some cases by those using them). I list below some of these terms with a brief explanation of their meaning and in appropriate cases their derivation. This is not a definitive list since croquet jargon, like the English language itself, is constantly changing. Some of the terms listed below have developed quite considerably since they were first used.

**'Wharrad':** originally this described any shot which was under-hit. The original wharrad was a take-off from corner 2 to corner 4 that just passed the peg (after the same take-off in his previous turn had reached hoop 4). 'Wharrad' developed to mean anything that was deficient, small, short. The adjective is 'wharradic'.

Brisbane. On my way there I started reading my Croquet Gazette. We pulled in to a station for lunch and I left the Gazette on my chair along with other things. I came back from lunch and all had gone - the cleaners had been in and thrown everything away including my Gazette - worse still the bin men had come and emptied the bins - no rescue possible. I shall have to wait till I get back home to find out what went on in that Gazette.

I was disappointed in Cairns; it had the feel of a not quite built Benidorm. It has a mud beach and it takes over three hours to get to the barrier reef, although I managed a shorter trip out there by travelling slightly further North.

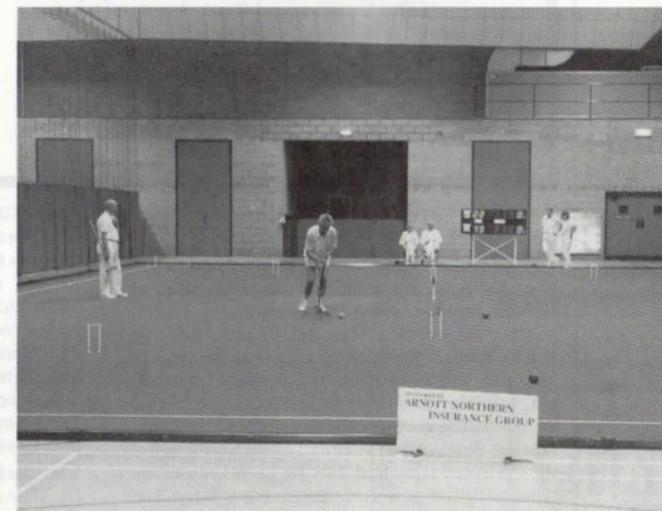
My stay in Australia ended in Brisbane, where I caught a plane to America to meet Debbie. During the flight I had to carefully answer questions like; 'Is that a T-square you're carrying?' 'Croquet, that's like Cricket isn't it?' 'Croquet, is that the game with the round things you stick in the ground?'

Find out how Debbie and Annabel meet, and what they get up to in the next exciting episode of *The Intrepid Explorers*...

**'Mat':** this has taken over the original meaning of wharrad, and is derived from the bowls expression 'left it on the mat'.

**'Henshaw':** the original henshaw was an accidental mishit off the edge of the mallet face. It would be used to explain why a shot missed. 'Henshaw' then came to be used as a term for the mallet itself, as in 'Where have I left my henshaw?' Both usages still apply.

**'Wrist':** another explanation for a missed shot, due to the twisting of the mallet at the moment of impact. Used in such expressions as 'I wristed off a two yarder'. 'Wrist' can also describe any persistent stiffness or pain in the body due to playing croquet.



Brian Thompson making a break on the CA's indoor carpet at Seaburn Leisure Centre.

**'Wrist':** rather confusingly this is the term both for someone who persistently 'wrists off' and for an attractive young woman. The latter meaning derives from a corruption of the song 'Witchy woman' recorded by the Eagles. Context is obviously all important here; contrast 'the tournament was full of wristers' with 'the pub was full of wristers'. 'Wrist' can also mean female companionship and 'wrist off' can mean reject, by a woman. So, for example, we have: 'I went out last night looking for some wrist and met an immaculate wrister, but she wristed me off!'

**'Christ off':** to make a roquet unintentionally in a croquet stroke. This used to be greeted with applause by students at Christ's College Cambridge, who didn't know any better.

**'Club':** to hit the ball hard, or too hard. So, we have 'clubbing through hoops' and 'I clubbed it off the lawn'. **'Hut':** a clubhouse or pavilion. E.g. 'I'll just go and pick up my henshaw and meet you in the hut'.

**'Hedge':** a toilet. This derives from night time play at a sports ground in Cambridge some 200 yards from the nearest toilet.

**'The Colours':** red and yellow.

**'Park':** this arrived in May 1990 and is still undergoing development. At the moment it describes a shot the result of which is almost invariably an immediate and disastrous end of turn, whether or not the striker has one shot left. E.g., getting cross-wired from a pioneer, going into a hoop on a croquet stroke, hitting the peg full

(c) 'Sponge': the lawn has some grass on it and therefore mere mortals can sometimes play breaks. (d) 'Slow': easy paced, and that's why we lost!

### 2. The hoops

(a) 'Tight': the ball will pass through in some orientations if hit sufficiently hard.

(b) 'Nice': the ball will pass through in all orientations (just).

(c) 'Reasonable': the ball does not quite stick in any orientation.

(d) 'Wide': there is a noticeable, albeit minute, gap in all orientations.

(e) 'Enormous': it is set to the minimum width allowed by the Laws of Croquet.

(f) 'Firm': the hoops would remain standing after a nuclear attack.

(g) 'Loose': when hit by a croquet ball travelling at the speed of sound the hoop is observed to quiver, slightly.

(h) 'Floppy': when pushed vigorously by a 15 stone man the crown of the hoop can be moved.

(i) 'Pathetic': the hoops have been set in a way that everyone else in the tournament finds acceptable.

(j) 'A Joke': any combination of 'wide' or 'enormous' with 'floppy' or 'pathetic'.

Answers to the baseball terms - a goose egg: an innings in which no runs are scored.

'ducks on the pond': the bases are loaded.

'a mackerel': a curve ball.

### CA WHITE WEATHERSUITS

We are still unable to find a new supplier for these suits, but hope to have better news shortly.

Details of all outstanding orders are being held by the CA Office, and cheques will not be cashed until supply is assured.

We hope to supply all concerned in time for the coming season and a report on the latest situation will be published in our next issue.

### AFFILIATE MEMBERS TIES

These are now available, with a single motif gold CA logo and a blue background.

Price £11.67 (including VAT and postage)

Please order from the CA Office.

## Laws

### Best-of-five matches: Time limits and related regulations

*A Note from Stephen Mulliner,  
Chairman, CA Laws Committee*

Before the best-of-five matches receive official blessing, the Tournament Committee wishes to develop appropriate time limits and guidance for tournament managers. It has asked the Laws Committee to consider the matter.

The Laws Committee proposes that the following rules be adopted and published in the 1991 Fixture Book and any later editions published before the Regulations for Tournaments are next reprinted.

#### BEST-OF-FIVE MATCHES

(1) The Manager has discretion to play a match as best-of-five if he considers that it is desirable and practical to do so. It will usually be desirable only in finals involving quick players of expert standard. It will usually be practical only when a complete day is available for the match.

(2) If the Manager wishes to impose time limits from the start of a match, the following cumulative limits shall apply:

- 2½ hours for the first game;
- 4½ hours for the first two games;
- 6 hours for the first three games;
- 7½ hours for the first four games; and
- 9 hours in total.

(3) If a match begins without time-limits and provided that at least 1½ hours has elapsed since the start of the match, the Manager may at any time impose a limit of one further hour on the game in progress. The relevant part of the above schedule shall then be applied to the remaining games subject to a minimum of 1½ hours for any one game.

Example: After 4 hours, game 2 is making slow progress and the Manager decides to impose the time limit. Game 2 must now end after 5 hours and, as game 3 is guaranteed 1½ hours, the match could require a total of 9½ hours. However, if game 3 takes one hour or less, the original schedule will have been regained.

(4) In an emergency, the Manager may reduce a match begun as best-of-five to best-of-three provided that the change is made in the course of the first game at a stage when neither side has gained a significant advantage.

### CALLING ALL NON-REFEREES....

More Official Referees and Championship Referees are urgently needed. Shortages of Referees at tournaments have been widely reported and this imposes an onerous burden on the qualified competitors. The list of Official Referees contains over 170 names but fewer than half can be described as active. At the end of the 1990 season, the headcount was approximately 70 active Official Referees who included 20 Championship Referees and 12 Examining Referees.

The Laws Committee has taken a number of steps to address the problem. We have appointed over thirty new Examining Referees who will be ready to examine

### Procedure for Altering the Laws

The Australian Croquet Association, the New Zealand Croquet Council, and the Council of the Croquet Association have reached the following conclusions following the International Laws Meeting held in New Zealand in January 1990.

(1) Future Laws changes should be restricted to a minimum. The Laws book published by the CA and used in Australia and the USA should not be reprinted more than once every five years. It was recognised that, although the Laws covered most situations adequately, there would inevitably be occasions when more than one interpretation might arise. Current policy, which attempts to devise new wording to cope with every suggested

amendment at any time if this is necessary. Such changes will be implemented using existing procedure. Between reprints, amendment slips will be supplied for the CA Laws Book while the NZCC will be able to take advantage of the incorporation of the Laws in the annual publication of their Year Book.

(4) The occasion of the next edition of the CA Laws Book (probably in 1994) will provide an opportunity to elevate some of the Official Rulings to the status of Law changes. The gap between new editions will be a desirable respite in which the adequacy and good sense of new rulings can be tested by experience. The first Official Rulings will be published in the March edition of 'Croquet'.



Cartoon by R.E. Wallis, Tenerife.

ambiguity, carries the risk that it will create new problems as quickly as it resolves old ones.

(2) Accordingly, the three governing bodies will henceforth jointly authorise the publication of Official Rulings which will set out the official interpretation of those Laws and situations that give rise to doubt. These rulings will have the force of law and will be published initially in croquet magazines and will then be available in collected form from the governing bodies. It should be noted that the Rules of the CA already give a nominee of the CA Council (by tradition the Laws Committee chairman) the power to make such rulings. The new agreement ensures that this power and the similar powers vested in the other governing bodies will be used uniformly.

(3) It will still remain possible for the Laws to be

#### CHANGES TO THE LAWS

In accordance with the new procedure, the only changes to the Laws which need to be implemented in 1991 relate to Law 2(e) and Law 28(a). The proposed texts of these Laws are published below and, if confirmed by the Council at its meeting on 24th March 1991, will take effect from that date. The amendment to Law 2(e) is required to outlaw the 'magic' or 'sandwich' mallet introduced in Australia. The amendment to Law 28(a) is required to give the outplayer a reasonable chance to forestall.

##### Law 2(e) - MALLETS

(1) The end-faces of the head of a mallet may be made of wood or, subject to (2) below, any other non-metallic material and must be parallel and identical. Bevelled edges are not part of the end-faces.

(2) The two ends of the head must have identical playing characteristics and must not give any playing advantage over a head made entirely of wood.

(3) A mallet may not be changed during a turn (see Law 4(d)) unless it has suffered damage affecting use in that turn.

##### Law 28(a) - PLAYING THE PARTNER BALL AT THE START OF A TURN

(1) If the striker, having elected to play with one of the balls of his side under Law 8(b)(1), plays with the partner ball and the error is not condoned, the stroke is invalid, no points may be scored for any ball thereby, the balls are replaced in their lawful positions and the striker continues his turn without penalty in accordance with Law 8(c).

(2) The error is condoned if it is not discovered before the second stroke of the striker's turn. In that event, the first stroke in error and any subsequent strokes are deemed to be valid, the balls are not replaced and the partner ball is deemed to be the striker's ball for that turn (but see Law 40(d) for doubles play).

Stephen Mulliner  
Chairman C.A. Laws Committee

## Gossip.....

#### GOSSIP.....

Mark Saurin, the young Irish player, had a surprise while he was waiting to play during the World Championship. There was a message for him. Would he be interested in a modelling contract? Obviously inspired by this, he went on to reach the Finals. Three weeks later, while playing for the Under-21 Team against Great Britain, the plot thickened. A single red rose was delivered to him, with no label and no clue as to who had sent it. Speculation was rife. Had he a secret admirer? Had he his own fan club? Had croquet now got its own media star - Croquet's Gazza?



Mark Saurin, Croquet's new media star?

A barbecue was generously laid on by the Hurlingham Club during the World Championships for players and others associated with the competition.

Afterwards representatives from the different countries made short speeches. The two most memorable were from Toro Takano and William Prichard. Toro Takano's was entirely in Japanese, so people who recognised their own names being mentioned are still wondering just exactly what he had to say about them. William Prichard, on behalf of the Welsh Croquet Association, commented on the progress of Ian Burridge who had reached the last eight. As he said, since Ian was the Welsh No 5, just think how the Welsh Nos 1, 2, 3, and 4 would have done.

During the prize giving at the World Championships, perhaps the most astonished person was Japan's Toro Takano. He was awarded the Fun Cup, donated by the Italian Croquet Association. The second most surprised person was Jerry Stark, who won the Fun Cup the year before. He had brought back his cup to be given to this year's winner, only to find that another cup had been donated and he could keep the cup himself.

After the World Championship, New Zealander Joe Hogan visited a number of clubs to help with coaching. One of his stops was the Great Britain Under-21 squad Coaching Weekend at Colchester. One of the highlights of the weekend was the now almost traditional arm wrestling competition. Joe came in second behind Russell Collighan, who once again showed his arm wrestling prowess.

What attraction is it that the Far East, Australia, and New Zealand have for Croquet players? In the past year, a procession of young players has set

#### Coaching course for Beginners

Loughborough Summer School 29 July - 2 August, 1991

The aim of this course is to improve the personal performance of 'beginners' - those players who have not yet obtained an official handicap, or those whose handicap is 12 or more. Initially, major emphasis will be placed on good stroke production, but as soon as groups have a good command of stroke technique, the emphasis will shift to tactical play. Coaching will be interspersed with competitive play and time will be made available for individual coaching on particular difficulties.

The course is restricted to members of the Croquet Association. Details of how to join the CA may be obtained from Tony Antenen, The Croquet Association,

## The Swing

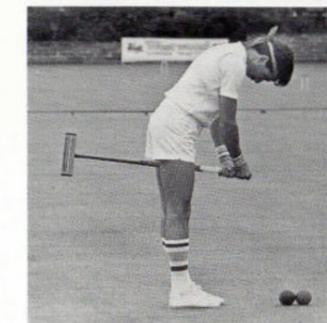
By Charles Townsend

One of the things that most quickly distinguishes the top croquet player from the garden croquet player is their swings.

The Garden player will often have a rather stiff stance with legs straight and swings with hardly any backlift, often almost jabbing at the ball.

The experienced croquet player will look very different (there are, of course, exceptions!). Their legs are usually (though not always) slightly bent and their swing sweeps through the ball with far more back lift and follow through than most Garden

players. Probably Croquet's biggest backlift is that of Paul Skinley from New Zealand. His backlift on long shots sees his mallet head come above the level of his head.



Paul Skinley demonstrates his uniquely long backswing.

In the swing itself, the arms are not swung like the pendulum of a clock. It is a flat swing. On the backswing, start moving your arms and hands forward and then as the mallet comes down, sweep the head through the ball. Continue the swing after the ball has been hit. Let the weight of the mallet do the work. Swung correctly, it is not necessary to use a lot of strength to hit the ball; the mallet will do the work for you.

## Matchplay

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Chris Clarke in November had his first go at playing miniature carpet croquet. As his opponent had never played croquet before, Chris suggested that they play Golf Croquet. Play was proceeding happily when John Walters suddenly pointed out with glee that Chris was losing to a person who had never picked up a mallet before and that as Chris was British Golf Croquet Champion, what would that make his opponent? Chris redoubled his efforts and just managed to pull back and finally win.

Have you heard the one about the croquet-playing cat?... Jane Ainger bought her parents a carpet croquet set. They were having great fun with it when their cat discovered that the size was just right for him to join in. Soon the cat was batting balls through the hoops with his paw....

### ★ ★ ★ Competitions for you to enter in 1991 ★ ★ ★

#### THE CROQUET CLASSIC

##### Become a County Champion in 1991!

For every tournament player, there are hundreds who revel in the thrills and spills of garden croquet. If you're one of these, welcome to the Croquet Classic.

The Croquet Association is expanding the format of this popular competition, now in its fifth year. Men and women, boys and girls, every age group - all are welcome. If you have always wanted to become a County Champion, here's your chance.

Don't worry if you're inexperienced. Most people will be in the same boat, because we bar anyone who has ever had a croquet handicap of 18 or less. We'll send you a special booklet with basic rules and technical hints to make life easier, and at the County competitions there'll be a qualified coach on hand to explain the rules if necessary.

You can enter the Croquet Classic as an individual, as a group of friends, or as a competitor in your own County competition.

As an individual entrant, you will be grouped with three other local players in an all-play-all competition to be contested leisurely, in your own gardens, during the period May to mid-July. This format will give you three games, even if you lose. To host a match, you need a lawn measuring at least 15yds by 10yds, and a basic set of equipment (6 hoops, centre peg, 4 balls, and mallets) but otherwise the arrangements are entirely in your hands.

As a group entrant, your group will nominate a 'manager' to organise your own competition. You can play this in any way to suit your group, provided the games are played to the published rules and the winner plays at least three different opponents to win the group. You must complete your event by mid-July to



Last year's Croquet Classic Final in progress at St Mary's College, Twickenham.

enable your group winner to qualify for the relevant Regional final of the National competition.

Where County Championships are organised, they will be played on a single day in June/early July at a venue in the relevant county. Depending on the size of entry, there may be qualifying competitions beforehand. Dates and venues for each County competition will be announced at the beginning of March in the next edition of 'Croquet News'.

Each of the 16 players who reaches the National Final will be presented with a Croquet Association medal. The National Champion will hold the Croquet Association's handsome Garden Croquet Challenge Cup.

Entry fees are £6.00 per player (for individual or county entries) and £25.00 per group (minimum 4 players). Deduct £1.00 from your individual entry fee if you are an Affiliate member of the CA. Entry closing date for individuals is 1st May (for groups, 1st June).

#### THE GOLDEN MALLET

##### A New Competition for Golf Croquet Players!

a 'Golden Mallet' trophy.

Entry will be by group and each group will organise its own preliminary tournament in consultation with the relevant Regional manager. Assistance will be given by the CA in providing equipment and finding a suitable venue if necessary. Full competition rules and regulations will be supplied on acceptance of entry.

A group can consist of up to 32 players, and each group will be advised of the name of their Regional Manager when they enter. Each competitor will play as an individual, and the format of each competition in the series will be progressive doubles, with a change of partner after each game.

The Regional Finals will be held in July. Dates for the preliminary group competitions, which should be played before the 30th June, must be agreed with the Regional Manager as soon as possible after entry.

Regional winners will be invited to take part in a National Final in early September.

The entry fee is £2.00 per player (maximum £20.00 per group). Entry closing date is 1st May.

This competition will be played under the Rules of Golf Croquet and is open to anyone who has never had a croquet handicap of 18 or less.

It will be played as a series of Regional tournaments, under the supervision of Regional managers appointed by the Croquet Association. Depending on the size of entry, a number of players from each group in the first round will go forward to a Regional final to compete for

#### HOW TO ENTER

To enter either of the competitions listed on this page, simply fill in the form below, and send it with your remittance to: The Croquet Association, P.O. Box 55, Crewe, Cheshire, CW1 1WP.

The next issue of 'Croquet News' will contain a list of County venues and competition dates, together with a full set of tournament rules and conditions. To

obtain a copy, please write to the above address, enclosing a stamped (17p) addressed DL envelope (4¼" x 8½"). Or if you would like a regular copy of 'Croquet News', send your £2.00 subscription to the same address.

Cheques should be made payable to 'The Croquet Association'.

#### CROQUET ASSOCIATION COMPETITION ENTRY FORM

##### THE CROQUET CLASSIC

###### Individual Entry

Please enter me as an individual for the Croquet Classic in category (i) or (ii) below (delete as appropriate):

(i) All-play-all garden competition.

I will be able to host matches in my own garden YES/NO

(ii) County competition.

###### Group Entry

Please enter our group for the Croquet Classic.

Group Manager's name: .....

Address: .....

.....

Tel: Home: ..... Work: .....

##### THE GOLDEN MALLET

Please enter our group for the Golden Mallet competition.

Contact name: .....

Address: .....

.....

Tel: Home: ..... Work: .....

.....

I enclose my remittance for ..... to cover the relevant entry fees.

Name: .....

Address: .....

.....

Tel No: Home: ..... Work: .....

.....

Signed: ..... Date: .....

## WALKER CROQUET EQUIPMENT

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## Game and Match

A Short Story by Eve Dalby

Our village of just 219 souls has only one claim to fame, its new croquet club. Formed two years ago, and now on the way to becoming one of the most active clubs in the country.

The big event of this summer however was the approaching wedding of my son Stuart who, as it happened, was also Captain, Manager and lowest handicapper in the club.

St. Mary's (the local church) takes pride of place in the centre of the village. The vicarage and an adjoining field used for parking, plus large graveyard to the rear, with a footpath across another small field to 'St Mary's Croquet Club'. The whole surrounded by ancient trees of old England.

The main entrance to the croquet club is along a picturesque lane (single track only) on the further side of the club from St Mary's, and where our brand new clubhouse and two courts are much in evidence.

Excitement had built up over Stuart's forthcoming marriage to Alice, a delightful girl from New Zealand, and the whole village had been invited along to share the festivities due to take place on Friday the 6th day of July.

Andrew, the vicar, had kindly offered us the use of the vicarage garden, our own not being large enough for everyone.

A large marquee had been ordered, caterers from the nearest big town ten miles away, booked to supply the Buffet Luncheon for the approximate 320 guests expected. All was in order for the great day. Reservations made on Concorde, to be followed by a trip to Barbados for the honeymoon.

After a certain amount of string-pulling on the part of Alice, she had managed to persuade a team of top New Zealand croquet players to undertake a short tour of several of Britain's croquet clubs, to culminate in a final at Hurlingham.

St Mary's had the honour of being first on the list, but with the proviso that the matches should commence on Wednesday 4th July owing to the team's various commitments.

With a certain amount of organisation by Stuart's brother Richard, this was duly arranged. Everyone was thrilled at the prospect of seeing some championship play on our own courts on that day. Although the whole event was perilously near the wedding date, which had been arranged many months previously, it could just be managed.

The weather had been perfect for weeks, and everyone was busily preparing for the marriage, or practising for the tournament, all being involved in one way or another.

It had been agreed that the bridegroom must enter at least one event, being our best player. Should

he succeed in winning, Richard, his brother would take his place in the final.

On the morning of the 3rd of July a cablegram was received from New Zealand, stating that all flights were cancelled owing to a thick blanket of fog over the Islands. This was not expected to clear for at least two days, therefore they would be unable to travel until the 5th of July with no alternative but to play the games on the 6th of July!

PANIC AND CONSTERNATION all round.....

However, owing to Richard's amazing organising abilities (for which he was renowned), many

sweet peas, and carnations filling the air, the scene was set for an ideal occasion. All programmes were set in motion.

Start of play was due at 9.30am. Wedding service at 11.00am. Stuart's game at 12.00 midday. This would give him time to play, then change etc. and reach the airport in good time for 'take off' at 4.30pm.

This left us with just two problems. First, most of the guests wished to watch the matches, but also to attend the service, and second, Andrew, the vicar, was the only available referee, it being uncertain whether or not the New Zealanders would bring their own.

#### ANOTHER WEDDING!

The marriage took place on 15th September of Simon Tuke (1½) and Veronica Gadsby (14). As well as an archway formed by the ushers containing, among other artefacts, two croquet mallets, the wedding cake continued the croquet theme. The weekend before the wedding saw the happy couple competing in the Parsons Green Club Handicap Finals. Fortunately this produced a victory for the distaff side +25, and led to the suggestion that 'marital bliss' should be superseded by 'marital bisques'. An interesting concept!



headaches, phone calls, and anxieties later, a workable solution was found, enabling the two major events to take place on the same day. Our consent was given. We subsequently learned the flight had taken off as planned, and all breathed a sigh of relief.

July 6th dawned another perfect summer's day. The floral decorations in and around the church and clubhouse, with the scent of roses,

Both unsolvable.

Luckily during the service Andrew was not called upon in this capacity!

As some guests were playing, and so many wished to spectate, there was a general to-ing and fro-ing in the church, and across the churchyard throughout the proceedings. But the ceremony was carried out with proper dignity and meaning by Andrew, and Stuart and Alice were united.

#### PUBLICATIONS & OTHER ITEMS AVAILABLE FROM THE ASSOCIATION

	CA Associate Members	CA Affiliates & non-members	Postage
<b>Publications</b>			
Full 'Laws & Regulations'	£ 3.00	£ 5.00	27p
'Know the Game'	£ 1.65	£ 1.99	27p
'12 Hints for Beginners'	75p	£ 1.50	27p
'Croquet Handbook'	75p	£ 1.50	27p
'History of Croquet' (Prichard)	£10.00	£15.00	£1.30
'Croquet' (Solomon)	£ 7.00	£ 7.95	55p
'Plus One on Time' (Gaunt)	£ 5.00	£ 6.00	55p
'Teach Yourself Croquet' (Danks) *	£ 6.00	£ 7.95	71p
'Simplified Croquet' (Danks) *	£ 6.00	£ 7.95	71p
'Play the Game' (Mulliner)	£ 3.66	£ 3.99	46p
'World of Croquet' (McCullough & Mulliner)	£14.95	£16.95	£2.10
'Croquet: The Skills of the Game' (Lamb)	£ 9.50	£10.95	80p
'How to Play Croquet' (Aspinall)	£ 2.60	£ 2.95	32p
'Croquet: The Complete Guide' (Gill)	£ 7.50	£14.95	£1.25
<b>Video</b>			
Coaching Video (Joe Hogan)	£23.00	£30.00	71p
<b>Equipment</b>			
Hoop Gauges	£5.00 + 75p VAT	CA Ties \$11.67	
Ball Gauges	£15.00 + \$2.25 VAT	(including VAT and postage)	

#### \* SPECIAL OFFER

A bumper bundle. Two books by the late Peter Danks 'Teach Yourself Croquet' and 'Simplified Croquet.' Associates £7.50. Affiliates £9.00. Both plus £1.00 postage.

At 12.00 precisely a breathless Stuart was approaching court 1, clad in whites, and ready to play. Alice had managed to find a cup of coffee for him which had been liberally 'laced' with something a little stronger, as he had missed the usual stag-night shindig the previous evening.

The New Zealander won the toss and elected to put Stuart in first. Our hero started off badly, unable to make hoop 1 with his first ball until the fourth attempt, and matters became worse as his opponent made rapid progress onwards. He sipped another cup of 'special' coffee. Hey presto, fortune smiled on the new bridegroom. T'was then the New Zealander with one ball on 4-back and the other on rover missed his roquet.

With a quick prayer to the Almighty, Stuart went into battle. Got a break going, did a couple of peels including a triple, and got round to rover. The climate was electric, but he excelled himself and went on to win by just one point.

Drinks all round, and after an indication to his best man, they quietly slipped away and met up at the vicarage. With a quick change of clothes, collection of waiting bride, tickets, luggage etc., farewells to immediate family, a race across to the chauffeured car, they were on their way....

An uneventful drive to the airport, through customs check-out etc., and they finally boarded Concorde.

Here they collapsed into their seats and, courtesy of the airline, were presented with a wonderful 'wedding breakfast'.

Later, Stuart and Alice looked into each others' eyes, and wondered if there would ever be another day such as this during the rest of their married lives?

#### Ardingly College Summer School 4 - 10 August, 1991

A week of tuition and games for players with handicaps between 12 and 19 in a friendly atmosphere.

The likely cost will be £170 for residents, and £28 plus meals for non-residents.

A prospectus giving further details and an entry form is available from David Higgs,

Ambeyrac, 12260 VILLENEUVE, France.

Ardingly College is at Ardingly, W. Sussex.



'July Tournament' (Cheltenham 1985). Roy Weaver. Oil. 12" x 18".

### PRINCIPAL CROQUET FIXTURES 1991

4-6 May	The Western Championships - Cheltenham Croquet Club, Old Bath Road, Cheltenham, Glos, GL53 7DF.
25-28 May	Inter-County Championship - Sussex County Croquet & LT Club, Victoria Road, Southwick, Brighton, E. Sussex.
29 May - 3 June	The Men's Championship, The Women's Championship, The Mixed Doubles Championship - Cheltenham Croquet Club, Old Bath Road, Cheltenham, Glos, GL53 7DF.
15-16 June	The Home International Championship - Glasgow Croquet Club, Glasgow Green, Glasgow.
15-17 June	The British Student Championships - Oxford University.
1-8 July	The Eastern Championship - Colchester Croquet Club, Elianore Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3UN.
10 July	The ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND National Schools Championship Final - Bowdon Croquet Club, St Mary's Road, Bowdon, Cheshire.
18-20 July	The Junior Championship - Bowdon Croquet Club, St Mary's Road, Bowdon, Cheshire.
20 July	The GIEVES & HAWKES British Seniors Championship Finals - The Hurlingham Club, Ranelagh Gardens, London, SW6 3PR.
21-28 July	The ATCO British Open Championship, The ATCO British Open Doubles Championship - The Hurlingham Club, Ranelagh Gardens, London, SW6 3PR.
17-26 August	The Northern Championships - Bowdon Croquet Club, St Mary's Road, Bowdon, Cheshire.
8-15 Sept	The CONTINENTAL AIRLINES World Croquet Championship, held under the auspices of the World Croquet Federation (Details to be confirmed) - The Hurlingham Club, Ranelagh Gardens, London, SW6 3PR.
14-22 Sept	The South of England Championship - Compton Croquet Club, Saffrons Sports Club, Compton Place Road, Eastbourne, E. Sussex.
28-29 Sept	The CROQUET ASSOCIATION National Club Championship Finals - Cheltenham Croquet Club, Old Bath Road, Cheltenham, Glos, GL53 7DF.
9 October	The ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND National Schools Handicap Final - Bowdon Croquet Club, St Mary's Road, Bowdon, Cheshire.

### An Apologia for Croquet

Many ignorant people claim Croquet is a vicious game. To them I would give this retort 'No more than any other sport'. To spoil a lay up is not nice. But it's not done with any vice. The aim is there to try and make A hoop or set up for a break. Surely it is not a sin To do your best to try and win? A fast and furious tennis serve Returned at speed without reserve Are both hit with intent to get More points to win the game and set. Hockey, Soccer and the rest All strive to do their very best, With greater energy and force To win their games without remorse. But, Croquet, one may well embrace More gently and at slower pace, With this may also be combined A certain subtlety of mind And, thus, a game we can engage With pleasure and at any age. Indeed when all is said and done There is no doubt, 'Croquet is Fun'

E.J.F.



'Bradmore'. Roy Weaver. Oil. 31½" x 23½".

### RECRUITMENT & PUBLICITY Why a recruiting campaign is needed

From material prepared originally by Lionel Wharrad

1. Most clubs need more revenue; many lawns are not nearly as good as they could be; a small number of comparatively well-off members who are prepared to put their hands in their pockets in order to keep the club going is no real substitute, except in the short term, for a strong membership paying adequate subscriptions.

2. The CA has, of course, a very strong interest in this subject - one of its principal functions is to encourage more people to play croquet under Association laws. There are some strong croquet clubs in the country but many are weak. It is evident from the correspondence we receive that most clubs do want to increase their membership and would like to have a resumé of the various recruiting measures that have proved successful in existing clubs. Hence this article, part 2 of which will appear in Issue 214. The CA hopes that these notes will help clubs both new and old to achieve a substantial membership increase.

#### Clubs registered with the CA

3. These fall broadly into three categories:

(a) Clubs with open membership where croquet is either a substantial part or the whole of the club's activities.

(b) Clubs which are dominated by activities other than croquet (eg Hurlingham, Roehampton, Wimbledon).

(c) Clubs maintained by organisations and companies, membership of which is consequently restricted.

4. Although these notes are written with category (a) clubs in mind, they do contain ideas which can be used by all categories of club, and later in these notes some additional suggestions are made for action that might be useful to clubs in categories (b) and (c).

#### Decisions to be made

5. Effective recruitment requires careful planning well in advance. Any club contemplating a recruiting campaign should begin now..... these remaining winter months can be most valuable in providing time to plan a recruiting campaign in detail. In these notes we have tried to anticipate the questions that a club will be asking itself during the process of planning its campaign and the subsequent paragraphs offer suggestions and ideas under each of the following headings:

Paras 6-8: How many members could the club comfortably maintain? Para 9: How many new members could the club cope with at one time? Paras 10-12: What membership concessions can the club offer as a means of attracting new members? Paras 13-14: How long should the recruiting period last?

Paras 15-23: What organisation will the club need to cope with beginners?

Paras 24-31: Can the club provide adequate subsequent follow up to retain the interest of new recruits?

In part 2 of this article, to be published in issue 214, the following topics are covered:-

Paras 32-33: What is the best time for a recruitment campaign?

Paras 34-35: What type of members by age, sex, etc. does the club ideally wish to recruit?

Paras 36-37: Likely sources for new members.

Paras 38-49: Securing free publicity.

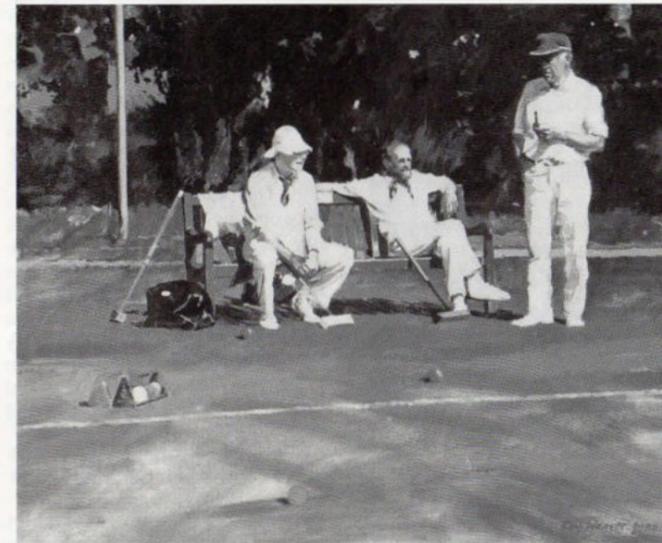
Paras 50-61: What paid publicity should be used?

Paras 62-64: Persuading non-croquet club members to try croquet.

double-banking is accepted. Of course this figure will increase if the club concludes that its members will play on average less than twice a week. Each club will need to analyse the activities of its existing members as a means of deciding on a membership figure it could comfortably sustain. Our impression is that most clubs have the lawn capacity to absorb a substantial increase in membership.

#### How many members could the club cope with at any one time?

9. Having calculated what additional membership the club lawns could accommodate, the next consideration is whether or not the club could cope with this additional membership in one short recruitment period of a week or so,



'Postmortem' (Edinburgh, 1986). Roy Weaver. Oil 24" x 20".

#### How many Members?

6. It might be sensible for a club to begin by assessing the maximum number of playing members that it could absorb.

7. There is no simple answer to this question, for it depends on how often the members are assumed to want to play, the extent to which the composition of the members enables play to be spread over the morning, afternoon, and evening sessions for seven days of the week, the amount of double-banking that a club will tolerate, and what steps the club committee takes to control the length of time a lawn is continuously occupied by any one game.

8. An example of one simple method to calculate the total membership a club could carry can be obtained from the CA. A number of calculations done in this manner suggests that 25-30 members per lawn is perfectly feasible on the assumption that all members play on average twice a week, and that

or if it would be desirable to spread the recruitment over several seasons. In other words, the club should now set itself a recruiting target.

#### What membership concession can be offered?

10. At this stage the club will also need to consider what inducements or concessions it can offer to those who join. It is certainly highly desirable, for a successful campaign, to have some kind of special offer to include in the publicity material.

11. Some ideas that have been used and may be found acceptable are:- Free introduction to the game and freedom to try the game during the recruitment period followed by membership for one month either free, or for a nominal sum.

A fee of £XX's for one month's membership, to be deducted from the annual subscription if the person involved subsequently joins the club.

Temporary suspension of the normal joining subscription until the

first X number of members have been recruited.

Specially reduced annual subscription for the whole of the season beginning from the end of the introductory week.

12. There are many possible variations - the main point to be borne in mind is how attractive the offer can be made to look in the publicity material. The more generous and welcoming the offer, the greater will be the interest aroused.

#### For what period of time can the club offer demonstrations and coaching?

13. The next stage is to consider over what period of time you wish to spread the recruiting period. This question should be considered in two parts:

(i) the actual advertised recruiting period, and

(ii) the subsequent coaching and development of new members.

The length of the recruiting period will depend on the availability of people and the intensity of the publicity material. Most members will be glad to help during some part of this period, but it is also most important to have adequate subsequent arrangements to retain the interest of new players. Failure to do so will waste all the effort that has gone into the campaign.

14. So far as the recruiting period is concerned, there is no doubt that to be successful the publicity campaign should be intense and short - local newspaper advertising, posters, house to house leaflets should generally be designed to complement one another, but all will direct attention to a fixed period of time during which Association croquet may be tried out at the club.

A period of nine days beginning on a Saturday, thus providing two full weekends, is probably as long a period as any club will wish to devote to receiving and looking after enquirers.

15. When considering the number of helpers you will need, you should bear in mind that for each new member who joins the club as a result of an advertising campaign there will probably have been two more people who have enquired and even tried out the game once or twice but who have not survived as members. In other words, out of every 30 people who respond to your publicity only 10 are likely to become members.

16. There are ways in which you can spread the enquiries so that you do not have too many people to cope with at once - for example by inviting people to telephone before coming to the club so that they can be organised to arrive in manageable numbers. You should, however, bear

## Recruitment

in mind that people will respond whilst the publicity is fresh in their minds and it is desirable to get them to the club as soon as possible after their enquiry.

### Coping with enquirers

17. In making preparation for dealing with potential members one should bear in mind that the initial visit is NOT the occasion to try to teach croquet. This initial visit should be used to sell the delights of the game and the friendliness of the club, and the organisation you set up should reflect this. The warmth of the reception given to those who telephone or simply turn up at the club is important – probably as important to a successful recruiting drive as the skill and personality of the demonstrators/coaches. You will need to have enough members available to:

- Welcome potential members.
- Enter names, addresses and telephone numbers on a record card.
- Find out how they heard about the club's recruiting drive (this will help to determine which of the media was the most effective).
- Explain about the concessions and inducements the club is offering.
- Answer questions about the club and membership terms and conditions.
- Organise them into handleable

groups.

(g) Hand them over in groups to the demonstrator/coach.

AFTER THE DEMONSTRATOR/COACH HAS FINISHED WITH THEM:

(h) Talk to them about the game and encourage them to book a return visit.

(i) Sell literature about Association croquet and provide club literature.

(j) Hospitality (tea, coffee, bar etc).

18. It is probably a good idea to ensure that some croquet is being played on the days when the club is receiving new potential members. It is sensible to try to have helpers of various age groups – particularly to have some younger people involved. It is desirable to try to ensure that young people are dealt with by young players and (at the risk of being labelled a MCP) it is desirable that men enquirers, particularly middle aged ones, should be coached initially by men of their own age or younger.

19. On the lawn a demonstrator/coach can probably deal with four people at a time – he will probably find that two hours with each group will be long enough for the first session both for him and for the group. A coach able to run three sessions in the day would thus deal with 12 people. Each coach will



'Washout' (July 1989 at Southport). Roy Weaver. Oil 30" x 24".

require one lawn.

20. The easiest way to demonstrate Association croquet and the surest way to get people to enjoy trying it out is to use a small lawn. THIS IS PROBABLY THE MOST SINGLE IMPORTANT AID YOU CAN USE. A full sized lawn can be divided into 2 lawns each 20 yards by 16 yards, that is to say using a standard length unit of 4 yards instead of 7 yards – see law 58b. This will leave a 3-yard gap between the two lawns.

21. In addition to the two lawns which can accommodate two demonstrators/coaches, there will also be a strip 8 yards by 35 yards on which recruits can be given some practice in swinging a mallet and, if a couple of spare hoops are available, they can be placed on this strip for hoop running practice. By this means only one full sized lawn is necessary to cope with eight people at a time. Even if lawn space is NOT your problem you are strongly urged to use a small lawn for introducing people to the game.

22. Each demonstrator/coach will no doubt have his/her own ideas of how to set about selling the game to enquirers. If not, the CA can supply details of a method which has been used with some success and which concentrates on giving all enquirers a general idea of the objects of the game (without going into the laws) and getting each of them to try out a 3 or 4 ball break before the end of their first session.

23. The objective of the first session is to try and arouse sufficient interest in the game for the pupil to want to return for a second session – the coach will obviously have to use a variety of different approaches depending upon the age, adaptability, physical skill and intelligence of his various pupils – he will no doubt hope that each group of four will be reasonably homogenous.

It is probably a good idea if, at the end of each session, whilst the people concerned are still fresh in mind, the coach records his assessment of the

progress and potential of each pupil he has just dealt with on their record cards. These record cards can be of much subsequent use in following up enquirers to persuade them to come back for a further session, and for organising shortened and supervised games with other beginners.

24. As mentioned in paragraph 13 the provision of coaching to follow up the initial visit is an essential element in the campaign. This will normally be in two parts:

- a period of time whilst newcomers are trying to make up their minds, during which individuals can visit the club as often as they wish and without any commitment, and
- properly organised coaching as soon as they become members. The club will need to decide for what period they are prepared to extend (ii) before people have to make a decision to join, and whether or not such visits should be free or should involve a small charge.

### Subsequent coaching

25. Once a person has decided that he/she wishes to join the club and to learn the game, then more deliberate and planned coaching will be found necessary. Many clubs have experienced people who already carry out this role. The CA has an excellent coaching manual.

26. One of the problems experienced after a recruitment drive is to ensure that you retain the interest and enthusiasm of the initial introductory period. Some newcomers give up of course because they find the game too difficult, some because they find the game too tiring; but unless the club is vigilant they may find they are losing potential members for avoidable reasons. Many losses can be avoided by careful attention to the needs of new members with a programme designed to ensure their involvement.

### Retaining the interest of new members

27. It would certainly be very helpful to newcomers to retain the

## Recruitment

small lawns for at least several months after the recruitment period. Some clubs will find that the small lawns become popular with existing members, for they do provide many players with a chance to achieve shots they would not attempt on a full-sized lawn and to practise all round breaks and various peels with some measure of success. In clubs where there are other sports, young people will often be tempted to try the game on a small lawn, and many older players who find the large lawn too heavy when wet or too large will also find they get much pleasure from the small lawns. They are excellent for teaching tactics, and use of bisques. They can even be used to seduce Aunt Emmas – into making breaks.

28. One useful means of retaining the interest of newcomers is to put aside one (or more) of the weekend sessions as a 'club session', and to encourage all members to take part. A 'club session' in effect means that all who turn up to play do so without having arranged a game, the steward or committee member being on duty to organise appropriate games – these will not always be the same at each club session but will depend upon numbers who turn up.

29. Some ideas for these club sessions are:  
Make the games short so that no player is stuck with a lame duck for the whole of the session; for example, play only shortened games of 14 points or less, and with strict time limits.

Seven point one ball games organised into small American blocks.

Newcomers to play four hoop games in American blocks with 30 minutes time limit. Each newcomer having an 'adviser' to help him.

Alternate shot doubles in which each player has his own colour but he only plays the first and alternate shots of each turn, his partner playing the others.

Alternative turns doubles which is

played like singles except that each player of a side take alternate turns whichever ball is being played and either player can start the turn.

Golf croquet is considered by many to be an excellent training game for Association as well as being a good game in its own right.

Gymkhana type games in which all taking part are divided into competitive teams and it is the team score that counts.

30. It is also thought to be helpful to organise almost immediately some form of club competition for beginners. The most suitable would appear to be an American tournament to be played during the first month or so of membership, perhaps over only four or six hoops. If there are enough newcomers they can of course be blocked into ability groups (or age groups if this is more appropriate). If possible the competition should be on a small lawn, to be followed by a full-sized lawn competition later in the season. It will be found helpful to give each newcomer a list of names and telephone numbers of all other newcomers so that they are encouraged to make contact with one another to play off their matches.

31. Beginners will be introduced to bisques once they have decided that they want to learn the game – and instruction on the use of bisques will naturally be a part of the coaching sessions. A club competition along the lines of para. 30 in which both players take bisques should be encouraged, as it does provide a newcomer with experience in using bisques even when playing other beginners.

Part 2 of this article (Paras 32-64) will be published in Issue 214.

If your club has been successful in recruiting new members, and you can add to the ideas outlined above, please write to the Editor to publicise your methods. Details can then be published in a later issue.

## TO HELP YOU FURTHER..... The CA can provide:

Blank posters (A4 and A5) for recruitment notices.

Leaflets explaining the Laws of Association Croquet, Short Croquet and Golf Croquet (modest quantities free of charge).

Specimen recruitment leaflets produced in the past.

Copies of the CA Coaches Handbook, which contains a great deal of useful information

on coaching and practice routines for beginners. (Available from the CA Office, price £7.50 plus £1.25 P&P.)

Group Club entry to the Croquet Classic – an excellent way to raise the enthusiasm of your recruits.

A new 'Golden Mallet' competition for those who wish to play Golf Croquet.

## Tournament Reports

### Roehampton: 11-14 October An Indian Summer for the Hussars

Report by Derek Powell

Returning to the scene of my 'banditry' of last year I was warmly greeted by manager Paul Macdonald who informed me that this earned me the privilege of writing the report this year.

Even this news didn't reduce the pleasure of seeing the lush green grass of Roehampton – a rare commodity in my experience this year. At Roehampton even the bare patches seem to run true. These patches were restricted to the normal south boundary but had cunningly been transported to the north boundary by moving hoop 1 to the far end of the lawn. This ploy, in combination with a starting time at the unearthly hour of 9am, successfully disorientated some of the simple-minded visitors and I wasn't the only one mistaking Rover for penult after running 2-back!

his feigned look of total confusion as he pondered his next shot (inevitably followed by the right choice), belied solid concentration and an adroit tactical sense. He calmly proceeded to defeat David Magee in the morning and Martin Haggerston in the afternoon to emerge a clear winner with 7 wins out of 8.

In the morning John Greenwood had beaten Martin comprehensively: in the afternoon, however, he fell to the ever-ebullient Les Chapman, losing his chance to attain 7 wins and thus to win the cup (for he had already beaten Neil). As it turned out this defeat also cost him second place, as David beat me in the afternoon. I had managed to give David a fright by going to peg with three bisques and laying a perfect rush to hoop 1 wired from both his balls but, undeterred, he hit the 24yd

### INTERNATIONAL NEWS



An Irish team arrives to play the French at the park in La Rochelle.

The tournament was played to the Swiss format, with full 26 point games and a time limit of 2hrs 45mins. About two-thirds of the games were completed within time and only two games had to be pegged down as night fell, a nice piece of managerial judgement. One fiercely contested game was won by Barbara Mansfield making her seventh hoop as time was called to win 7-6!

Day 1 was breezy and overcast but warm. Full summer returned on Day 2 and we were greeted with clear blue skies and hot sunshine. This was repeated on Day 3. Rain threatened on Sunday but once again the sun won through. How do you manage it Paul?

My tenuous grip on the trophy slipped on Day 3 as I became John Greenwood's 5th consecutive victim and in the afternoon lost a close game to Neil Jackson from Ipswich playing in only his second or third tournament. David Magee finally stopped John Greenwood and John, David and Neil entered the last day with 5 wins each.

On the final day, Neil who claimed 'I only entered for a bit of fun', was the dark horse. His laid-back style, with

roquet and it was not long before I had frittered away my remaining bisques and become his 6th victim! David Magee was thus runner up, having won his match against John Greenwood.

This nice clean result denied the manager an opportunity to use the threatened Sonneborn-Berger System to resolve a tie! The story was put about that this system is borrowed from the world of chess but surely, the ancient game of conkers must stake a prior claim to this process of accumulating the number of wins of one's victims? Its application would have added a nice seasonal flavour but there was universal relief that it was not required.

The arrangements were always under control as Paul Macdonald wrestled with a heavy cold as well as the conflicting roles of manager, player and referee. He kept us all in order with firmness and courtesy and successfully survived to present Neil Jackson with the very handsome Hussars Cup and a cut in handicap from 11 to 8!

Well done, Neil, and thank you Roehampton for a most enjoyable weekend.

## An English Tournament Through Australian Eyes

From Kit Miles: President, Australian Croquet Association.

This short article has been written 'by request' as it seemed to some that the impressions of one unused to English tournaments might be of interest to English readers. I assure all concerned that I put forward such impressions that I have with great diffidence.

My wife and I decided to come to England at fairly short notice primarily to visit our daughter and her family but we did time our visit to coincide with the World Croquet Federation world championship event at Hurlingham and associated meetings of the Management Committee and the annual general meeting of the World Croquet Federation.

These activities were of great interest but they are another story. Whilst at Hurlingham I made contact with the CA office and was advised by the friendly resident Secretary that if we wished to play in a tournament in England there was just time to enter the South of England Championships at the Compton Croquet Club at Eastbourne. Formalities were completed on the spot and we were able to meet the tournament manager Derek Caporn who happened to be at Hurlingham at the time.

I must say at the outset that I was impressed with the Fixtures List produced by the CA. There is no equivalent publication produced by the Australian CA mainly because all tournaments, apart from the national championships and the Interstate Cup, are conducted by the six state associations. These associations do each produce an annual programme of some sort but they are much less comprehensive than the CA publication.

Our daughter drove us from Southsea to Eastbourne on the day before the tournament and in time to play a practice game on the lawns at the Compton Croquet Club. The club is very prettily situated in a corner of the Saffrons cricket ground. It is a five-lawn complex which is very rare in Australia and unknown in my home state of New South Wales. The clubhouse compared very favourably with the better Australian clubhouses.

Sadly the lawns were in a parlous state and compared very unfavourably with any lawns I have seen in use in Australia. Many areas were virtually bare and cracked. In some areas tree roots were breaking the surface. I blame nobody for this state of affairs brought about by exceptionally dry weather and a ban on lawn watering. However the mind boggles at the problems the club will have in restoring the lawns to their former glory.

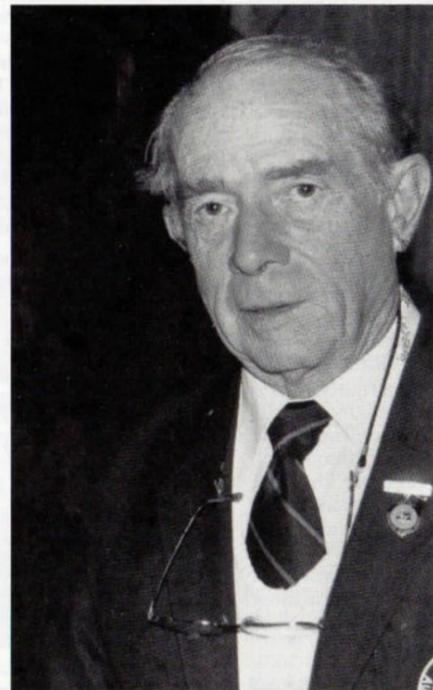
The tournament format was very comprehensive in that it guaranteed players at all levels a feast of croquet with two or three games each day. Some events were two-life and others were played in blocks between players of like handicap. More use of the block format was made than is common in Australia and this did give food for thought.

The whole atmosphere of the tournament was very relaxed and pleasant and credit for this must go to Derek Caporn and Alan Oldham. This atmosphere was a little at odds with your average Australian tournament (if there is such a thing). I make no direct criticism of tournaments in either country but some contrasts did strike me.

By standards generally enforced by Australian state associations and clubs, the dress of some players would not have passed muster as these players seemed unwilling to wear anything approaching white. In Australia at least one

qualified referee would have been allocated to each lawn. These officials would probably not have been competitors in the tournament. They would have been dressed in white and totally attentive to the matches being played on each lawn.

At Eastbourne a small group of players/referees was appointed. Members of the group did not appear to be obliged even to be present at the club when matches were taking place. When a player needed a referee he raised his mallet aloft and lowered it only when a referee appeared or his arm



Kit Miles.

got too tired to hold the mallet aloft any longer. I know this because I was part of the referee group. I know of no instances where players were disadvantaged by this somewhat cavalier attitude towards refereeing but there may well have been instances because a number of players were very inexperienced.

One player, with both his balls touching in a corner, asked me if he could move either ball when it was his turn to play! I think Australian practice may be too formal and perhaps there is a balance position between English and Australian practice. Australian matches are almost always played on a very strict three hour time limit as timed by the referee on an electronic timer. In England total discretion seems to be left to the tournament manager if the match threatens to continue too long. The Australian system reinforces the need for referees.

A word or two about ancillary equipment might not be out of place here. The Australian hoop gauge is made of metal. The back of the gauge is about five inches long and is useful for assessing whether or not a ball has run a hoop. The only English gauge I saw was a plastic 'go/no go' gauge, quite adequate for its task but of no use for the ancillary task done by the Australian gauge.

I had occasion to reset a hoop that was far too narrow. The task was very difficult because hoop setting clamps do not seem to be in general use in England and no such clamp was available to me. These clamps are extensively used in Australia and readily available from several sources. Perhaps we can do some business! Specially made 'boxes' are widely used in Australia to assess whether or not a ball is 'out'. Such boxes were not in evidence at Eastbourne. All I can say about these 'boxes' is that they do take the heat out of line ball decisions.

The handicap base in England does differ from that used by Australian state associations. The Australian CA is working on a national handicapping system based on that used in New South Wales, but has some way to go. English handicaps start from a base of minus 2 whereas Australian handicaps can go as low as minus 5. The result of this is that most Australian players have lower handicaps than their English counterparts.

I played at Eastbourne on a handicap of plus 1 and I believe that a fairer handicap might have been about plus 3. It seems that Australia should either put its base handicap up to minus 2 or should negotiate an agreement with the CA for an adjustment to Australian handicaps when Australian players compete in tournaments in England. My handicap put me in the same tournament group as players such as Robert Fulford and Chris Clarke and I was clearly outclassed. My wife on a N.S.W. handicap of plus 8 had similar problems. This should in no way be construed as a complaint because both of us thoroughly enjoyed every aspect of the tournament which was a great experience.

We both found the hospitality of Compton Croquet Club to be very warm. Great credit must go to the ladies of the club for their splendid catering arrangements. The provision of hot meals was a welcome surprise as this practice is virtually unknown in Australia. Another surprise was the club bar. I know of no croquet club in Australia with a liquor licence, although some clubs do make some minor covert arrangements.

Our thanks go to Mr Tom Entwistle, President of Compton Croquet Club, and all his members for making us so welcome. Our thanks, too, to Derek Caporn and Alan Oldham for their managerial efforts on our behalf and for their hospitality. I should like to see more reciprocal entertainment of English players. Several players said they had visited Australia but had been unable readily to make contact with clubs in Australia. If your gazette editor is willing to cooperate I shall arrange to send to him the names, addresses and telephone numbers of honorary secretaries of state associations for publication. A visiting player would then only have to phone the relevant state secretary to be assured of a game of croquet and a warm welcome.

The following new members of Council were elected: Mrs A. Croker, Mrs E. Shaw, Dr T.J. Haste and Mr S.O. Jones.

7. Motion  
The Motion by Mr K.M.H. Aiton and

### The Annual General Meeting of the Croquet Association held at the Hurlingham Club on Saturday, 21st April, 1990.

Attended by the President Mr J.W. Solomon, Vice President Mr S.S. Townsend, and 46 Associates.

1. The President, Mr J.W. Solomon, opened the meeting by welcoming all the members attending. He congratulated the British team on their marvellous victory in winning the MacRobertson Shield series against Australia and New Zealand and returning the Shield to its rightful place. He spoke of the wonderful morale of the team, and despite it being the youngest representing GB&I in this event, the excellent way they coped with the tension. He thanked them for a job well done.

Professor B.G. Neal, Chairman of the International Committee, added his congratulations. He particularly praised the Captain, David Openshaw, for his leadership and for boosting the morale of the team when they were losing. The team responded by going on to win eventually 12-9.

David Openshaw responded, thanking John Solomon and Bernard Neal for their kind remarks on behalf of the team. He said the team worked hard for their victory and had the right attitude. He thanked the sponsors, Continental Airlines, the Hurlingham Club, the Colchester Club, and the East Anglian Federation for their assistance and use of facilities to prepare for the matches. He also thanked the many supporters who went to New Zealand.

2. The 1989 AGM Minutes were approved with no alterations.

3. The Chairman's Report was read by the Vice Chairman, Mr S.N. Mulliner (Report in Croquet No. 209, May 1990, page 5). Mr Mulliner added his own thanks to Brian Macmillan who is being retired at the end of the year, and thanked him for staying on until a replacement is selected. Mr Macmillan thanked the members and said he was sorry to be going after seven years as Administration Secretary.

4. Treasurer's Report  
The Treasurer, Mr Alan Oldham, explained the 1989 Accounts and answered questions. He said he was grateful for the assistance of Mrs Audrey Croker. He spoke about the Community Charge, also about the CA's small holding of shares in the Roehampton Club and the intention to sell if an advantageous price could be obtained.

The Accounts were adopted and Mr Oldham was thanked and congratulated.

5. Election of Treasurer  
Mr A.J. Oldham was re-elected as Treasurer, nominated by D.C. Caporn and seconded by C.J. Irwin.

6. Election of Council Members  
No election was required and the following members were re-elected: Messrs K.M.H. Aiton, G.N. Aspinall, A.B. Hope, C.J. Irwin, Prof. B.G. Neal, and Mr D.W. Shaw.

The following new members of Council were elected: Mrs A. Croker, Mrs E. Shaw, Dr T.J. Haste and Mr S.O. Jones.

seconded by Mr A.B. Hope that Rule 2 of the Croquet Association be amended to insert the word 'Wales' after the word 'domain' was passed with one objection.

8. Election of Auditors  
Messrs Nicholas Ames & Co. were re-elected as Auditors.

9. Benefactors Book  
The Administration Secretary read the names in the Benefactors Book.

10. Any Other Business.  
(a) Mr Robert Prichard asked about the re-testing of Referees. He was informed that owing to an increase in testing new Referees in 1989 it had not been possible to carry out re-testing of existing referees. It was hoped that this could be carried out this year, but more Referee examiners were needed.



Regaining the MacRobertson Shield - Cause for celebration!

(b) South Africa

Mr J. Collis asked what was the Association's attitude to South Africa. Mr Mulliner replied, informing him that the CA's policy had not changed since the decision made by the Council 28/10/1989 to the following Motion:  
To exclude South African players from CA Tournaments.

1. The Croquet Association reaffirms its commitment to non-racial and non-discriminatory sport. It abhors the policy of apartheid which is practised in South Africa.

2. The Croquet Association will abide by any current Sports Council requirements concerning croquet-playing contacts with South Africa.

3. Croquet Association teams and representatives will not compete at home or abroad against South African teams or against individuals who compete as South African representatives.

4. Entries for Croquet Association tournaments will not be accepted from individuals who compete as South African representatives.

5. Subject to the foregoing, entries for Croquet Association tournaments will be accepted from South African nationals or residents on the same basis as all other entries. In accordance with its policy on non-racial sport and apartheid, the Croquet Association regards all participants in CA events as sharing its attitudes towards these subjects.

c. Mrs Betty Prichard.  
The Council proposed that Mrs Betty Prichard should be recommended to the A.G.M. as a Vice President in

recognition for someone who had done so much for the CA as Tournament Manager, Handicapper, doyen of Referees and Editor of the Magazine for 3 years, and for all the help she gave to her late husband, David, in research for his book 'History of Croquet'. It was pointed out that owing to constitutional requirements this motion could not be put forward until next year.

11. The President presented the Apps Healey award to Mrs P.A. Dwerryhouse, President of the Sidmouth Club. The Apps Bowl was presented to Mr Dan McCormick. The Steel Bowl won by Dr B.G. Bogle was unable to be presented owing to the late arrival of the previous holder.

The Meeting ended at 12.20pm.

### New Associates

Welcome to....

Mrs M. Griffiths	Bath
Mrs E. Kendall	Belsay Hall
W.V. Kendall	Belsay Hall
T.J. Nichol	Belsay Hall
W.N. Hailstone	Guildford
Mrs P. Osborne	Havering
C. Rhodes	Havering
D. Rhodes	Havering
Mrs J.E. Broughton	Hurlingham
A.D. Neely	Nottingham
S. Pratt	Pendle
J.P. Cosier	Reigate
Mrs R.S. Cosier	Reigate
B.T. Teague	Reigate
R. Cordle	Worthing

Ms A. Dalton	Australia
Dr C. van Essen	France
J. Franklin	Jersey
R. Franklin	USA
Mrs M.O. Hornby	
D.J. Keetley	
Mrs J. Lindfield	
Mrs S.M. Newbury	
T. O'Grady	
W.L. Simpson	
T. Tavender	
R. Dourthe	
Mrs R.C. Sowerby	
Ms J.L. Lawrence	

(Total: 30)



You will be sick if you miss the last day for early payment!

### 1991 SUBSCRIPTIONS

When payment is received for subscriptions, all non-Tournament members will have their membership cards sent by return. The remainder will be retained and sent together with the Fixture Book.

### JUNIOR UNDER-18 SQUAD

A number of vacancies exist in the Junior Under-18 Squad for 1991. Applications and nominations to fill these places are invited from members. If you would like to propose yourself, or if you know of a Junior player in this age group who would benefit from additional coaching, please contact Bill Lamb, Chairman of the CA's Coaching Committee. Bill's address is: 5 Bondyke Close, St Margaret's Avenue, Cottingham, Hull, N. Humberside, HU16 5ND (Tel: 0482-840739, and he would welcome nominations giving the candidate's name, address, and date of birth.

### 1991 CA MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT DRIVE

Increasing membership of the Croquet Association is one of our major objectives over the next 4 year period, and we would like to enlist the support of clubs to achieve this. Nothing works so well as an enthusiastic member selling the Association to those just starting to play the game.

In 1991, as in previous years, for every 3 new CA Associate members recruited by a club the CA will provide a \$12 voucher that can be used towards a membership subscription for the year 1992. This can be awarded as a prize for a club competition, or however the club sees fit.

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

Clubs that have been actively recruiting members for the CA since October 1990 under previous schemes may carry forward any new members into the new scheme in 1991.

### 1991 SUBSCRIPTIONS

Send your Cheque off now and reap the benefit of a reduction for early payment (figure in brackets) if paid before 1st February 1991.

Tournament	\$21.00	(\$18.00)
Non-Tournament	\$13.00	(\$11.00)
Junior (under 21, but over 18)	\$14.00	(\$12.00)
Youth (under 18)	\$9.00	(\$7.50)
Veteran (65 or over)	\$16.00	(\$14.50)
Tournament (joint husband & wife)	\$34.00	(\$29.00)
Non-Tournament (husband & wife)	\$21.00	(\$18.00)
Overseas (3-year subscription)	\$42.00	

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## Tournament Reports

### Southport: 3-5 August A Strange Event!

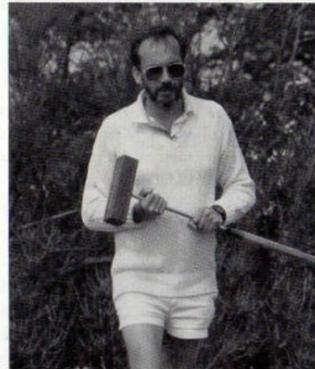
Report by James Hawkins

The Southport August Handicap Weekend was a strange tournament. Friday, 3rd August, was hot. Huge cracks gaped open in the pathways of Victoria Park. Beer shimmered as it was poured into glasses, only to evaporate once outside the clubhouse. Vultures circled overhead. On the lawns, conditions were challenging. The lawns were fast, and the hoops, which had been tight at 9am, expanded throughout the day. Progress in games was slow, and lack of time-limits brought play down to a test of stamina. Alan Pidcock was heard tutting as Don Williamson recounted his victory after a 5-hour marathon. Trivial.

Saturday brought cooler and less humid weather. Accordingly, hoops were set more tightly, since less consideration needed to be made for expansion. Theoretically. Arriving at 11am for a late start, I noticed Ernest Dalley's mallet waving in the air. As the most junior (and most gullible) referee available, I attended to the re-setting of hoop 5 on lawn 3, in which Ernest's brown ball was jammed. Then hoop 5 on lawn 4. Then 1-back on 3 (Ernest again). Then 3-back on 3 (Ernest); 4-back on lawn 3 was runnable. Ernest summoned another referee to verify this. And thus it was that Ernest's turn ended, brown sitting mid-jaws. Incidentally, the player whose ball stuck in the over-tight hoop 5 on the adjacent lawn was the hoop-setter himself, Andrew Bennet. Such is the nature of divine retribution.

Sunday arrived. Gone were the blue skies and the sweltering temperatures. Gone also were the circling vultures. The cloud of beer-vapour which had formed on Friday morning was falling to the earth in drifts of brown snow. An icy wind ripped across Victoria Park, bringing

rain and misery, as a small group of penguins waddled past the clubhouse. By the afternoon, the weather had described a full circle and it was sunny again.



Andrew Bennet, setter of the tightest hoops!

Three days of tough play had produced no obvious winner by the morning, and it was not until results of the final rounds of the four blocks were in that winners could be declared. Carol Lewis (club treasurer) was the only person to win all games. Other block winners were Don Williamson (club chairman and tournament referee), James Hawkins (tournament reporter) and Peter Death (tournament manager) who has at last been cut from 1/2 to scratch. Thanks must go especially to Andrew Bennet for all his work, and to Diana Williamson as Chief Caterer, as well as to all visitors for joining us once again.

Perhaps one thing of note, in conclusion, is that, for the first time in six years, none of the blocks was won by anyone under the age of 21. As I said, the Southport August Handicap Weekend was a strange tournament.

## Juniors

### Colchester: 29-30 September Great Britain v. Junior Great Britain

Report by David Openshaw

This annual match between the Great Britain team and the Under-21 Junior team was introduced three years ago to provide a focal point for the junior squad training sessions. The matches in the previous two years have been successful in providing the Juniors with very strong competition, but despite the Juniors' natural youthful optimism about their own chances of winning, the Great Britain team has scored convincing victories.

This year's match, however, had a different complexion from the beginning. Such has been the improvement in the strength of the Juniors that they went into the match this year very much on an equal footing. The Juniors had prior claim to players and fielded the two finalists from the World Championships, the current President's Cup holder, and the 1988 President's Cup holder, together with other rapidly improving players.

The match was scheduled to consist of 6 singles and 3 doubles (all best-of-three). The teams consisted essentially of six players but substitutes were allowed on the Junior side to provide games for all of their squad, and on the GB side to enable players to play on only one of the two days.

The match generated a lot of enthusiasm on both sides and an extremely competitive match was in prospect. The Juniors were confident and the Great Britain team were quietly confident!

On the first day the Colchester lawns were very fast and with the hoops firmly set, conditions were

very demanding. Four matches were played. David Maugham beat David Openshaw (GB) +10 +15 and Michael Heap (GB) beat Ian Burridge +5 +9 to make the score 1-1. The two doubles matches had to be pegged down in the third games. By Sunday overnight rain made play easier and the Juniors narrowly won both matches to secure a 3-1 lead. Fulford and Clarke beat Irwin and French (GB) -15 +3 +12 and Saurin and McCormick beat Cornelius and Goacher +6 -5 +4.

In the top singles match, Mulliner and Fulford renewed their rivalry. They have played 21 games against each other this season, but this time Mulliner won +17 -26TP +17. Unfortunately, just as the match was reaching its climax, the heavens opened and the lawns quickly became unplayable. Further rain caused play to be abandoned with the score 3-2 to the Juniors.

In the unfinished matches Maugham and Burridge looked certain to win against Openshaw and Avery. Clarke was ahead of French in the 3rd game, Irwin and Saurin were 1-1 and Goacher was 1-0 up against Collighan. A rather frustrating end to the match, with the Juniors quite rightly claiming a moral victory. It is hoped to replay the match early next season to determine the real winners.

playing at home at Leckhampton to the Downing 1 team of James Carlisle and Graham Budd. While the Downing players have considerable tournament experience, Willard and Goddard have the unusual joint distinction of both having read Wylie's 'Expert Croquet Tactics' before ever playing in a CA Tournament.

And so the final commenced. Both teams agreed to play advanced rather than level (as for the rest of Cuppers). Soon Goddard and Willard were for 4-back and peg. Carlisle hit in, went to peg and rigged Corpus' forward ball. The crowd began to wonder what Justin would do with the contact on his next turn. James

was in the process of playing a huge cross-court split-roll, sending blue to corner four whilst going to partner near hoop one. Suddenly, up jumped the centre peg, ran across the lawn and struck red full-on. Having pegged out both opponent and himself, James left the lawn with the following clip position: Graham Budd (Downing) for 2; Justin Goddard (Corpus) for 4-back, with a contact.

Victory to Corpus +12 followed a short while later. And so, another year's Cuppers Competition was finished. Our gratitude must go to Laurent Perrier, and especially to Stephen Clarke, for their continued help in the promotion of croquet throughout the University.

## INTERMEDIATE COACHING NOTES

By Ian Plummer

It is intended to run a series of coaching articles for Intermediate players in future issues of 'Croquet', based on some coaching notes prepared by Ian Plummer. This will be complemented by another section of the magazine, which will provide coaching notes for those just starting to play the game.

As an aid to understanding Ian Plummer's notes, Ian has provided a glossary of terms, the first part of which we publish on this page. The second half of the glossary, and the first coaching note, will appear in our next issue.

### GLOSSARY

**Advanced Play:** A game of croquet where extra rules are invoked. The games are played level, and contacts and lifts can be conceded.

**Angled Hoop:** Where the ball is well off the midline of a hoop it intends to run.

**Aspinal Peel:** A Promotion peel where the peelee is jawed in the croquet stroke and then struck by the striker's ball again in the same croquet stroke.

**Backward Ball:** The player's ball which has made fewest hoops at the start of a turn.

**Baulk:** Two regions of the boundary of the lawn from which the balls are played on to the lawn at the start of the game or when a lift is taken. The A baulk extends along the yard line originating from the first corner to the mid-point of the South boundary. The B baulk extends along the yard line from the third corner spot to the mid-point of the North boundary.

**Bisques:** Wooden sticks used to indicate the number of 'free turns' remaining to the weaker player in a handicap game.

**Boundary:** The edges of the lawn. The boundary is defined as the inside edge of the marking lines.

**Break:** A sequence of shots which allows many hoops to be made in one turn.

**Building:** The process of moving balls to advantageous positions from which to play a break.

**Cannons:** Croquet shots involving more than two balls.

**Clips:** Clothes-peg-like markers coloured to match the balls, and used to indicate the hoop a ball has to make next. Clips are placed on the top of a hoop on the first circuit and on the uprights of the hoop for the second circuit.

**Condone:** To excuse a breach of the rules.

**Contact:** An option in advanced play arising when the opponent has been through 1-back and 4-back with their forward ball in a single break. A contact involves picking up one of

your balls and placing it in contact with any of the other balls and playing a croquet shot.

**Corner:** The point of intersection of two boundaries.

**Corner Spot:** The point where the two yard lines meet in the corner.

**Croquet Stroke:** The stroke following the initial hit-in (the roquet) where the two balls are placed in contact and the striker's ball struck. Past tense croqueted (crow-kay'd).

**Cross-pegging:** Where two balls are obstructed from hitting each other by placing them either side of the peg.

**Cross-wiring:** Where two balls are obstructed from hitting each other by placing them either side of a hoop.

**Crown:** The horizontal part (top) of a croquet hoop.



Ian Plummer.

**Crush:** Either when the mallet strikes a ball which is in contact with a hoop or peg and the direction of aim is not away from the hoop or peg, or when a ball is hit predominantly downwards into the ground in a stroke.

**Cut Rush:** A cut rush is a roquet shot in which the roqueted ball moves sideways. A difficult shot to gauge the strength of.

**Damage:** A major defect in the surface of a croquet court. The result of a shot improperly executed. This is a fault under the Laws of Croquet.

**Deep:** Meaning further away than normal, at a greater distance.

**Delayed Peel:** When a peel is attempted at a later point in the break than when it would normally be done.

**Diagonal Sweep:** A stroke played to roquet a ball when the striker's ball is nearly hoop bound. The mallet is swung across the aiming line but still facing along the aiming line.

**Double Bank:** To use two sets of four balls on one lawn. The second set of balls is coloured Brown, Green, White and Pink.

**Double Peel:** A manoeuvre in which a ball is peeled through its final two hoops during a single break and pegged out.

**East:** The boundary of the lawn spanning hoops three and four.

**Escape Ball:** A second ball at a hoop where a peel is taking place. Once the peel has been made the escape ball can be roqueted and the break

continued.

**Face:** The striking surface of a mallet excluding its bevelled edges.

**Fault:** A breach of the Laws of croquet.

**Follow Through:** The continuation of the swing involved in a stroke after the mallet has made contact with the ball.

**Forward Ball:** The ball of a side which has made most hoops at the start of a given turn.

**Four-ball Break:** A manoeuvre involving four balls which allows multiple hoops to be scored in a single turn. A ball called the pivot remains near the centre of the lawn, a ball known as a pioneer is sent to the next hoop, and the striker's ball and another are used to make the present hoop.

**Free Shot:** A shot through a ball which carries no immediate disadvantage if the shot is missed.

**Handicap:** A method of biasing games so that weak and strong players have an equal probability of winning. This is done by giving the weaker player extra turns, indicated by sticks known as bisques.

**Hitting in:** To strike the striker's ball so that it hits another (remote) ball.

**Hoop Position:** Being in front of a hoop in a position from which you can run the hoop.

**Innings:** To have control over the balls. This normally means that you have your balls together and your opponent's in a disadvantageous position.

**Irish Grip:** One of three common methods of holding a croquet mallet for single ball strokes. For a right handed player: the left hand grips the top of the shaft with the palm in contact with the shaft, the palm facing forward and the thumb downward. The right hand grips the

shaft below the left one, the palm against the shaft and facing forward.

**Irish Peel:** A peel executed during a croquet shot in which both balls pass through the hoop in question. Normally played as a roll shot.

**Jaws:** The area lying between the uprights of a hoop.

**Jawed:** A ball which has been placed partly or wholly between the jaws of a hoop.

**Joining-up:** To end a turn with both your balls in close proximity.

**Jump Shot:** A stroke played slightly down on a ball which causes the ball to jump. It imparts forward spin on the ball, but there is little control on the energy given to the ball.

**Laws:** The official rules of the game prepared by the Croquet Association.

**Lay-up:** To position your balls at the end of a turn.

**Leaves:** Configuration of balls at the end of a turn.

**Level Play:** A game which is not played on handicap. No bisques are involved.

**Lift:** A lift is awarded as the result of a wiring (Law 13) or as a consequence of advanced play. The ball concerned can be played from where it lies or played on to the lawn from either baulk line.

**North:** The boundary of the lawn spanning hoops two and three.

**NSL:** New standard leave. An arrangement of balls adopted at the end of the first break in an advanced game. It differs from the OSL in that one of the opponent's balls is left by hoop 4 rather than the peg.

**OSL:** Old standard leave. A common arrangement of balls adopted at the end of the first break in an advanced game. One opponent ball is left near hoop two and the other, preferably wired, by the peg.

## The 1990 Cambridge University Cuppers Competition Victory to Corpus... and thanks to Laurent Perrier

Report by James Hawkins

Summer comes to Cambridge, and with it come graduation, exams, and - most importantly - croquet. Once again, generous sponsorship from Laurent Perrier Champagne brought a large field of competitors - over 180 pairs of skilled, and not so skilled, players.

Managing the early rounds of Cuppers is always difficult, and I must thank my ever-patient assistant manager, David Jeffrey, for his help. The standard problem this year was as follows. Team A and team B agree time and location to play. It rains. Neither team turns up. Both claim walkovers against the other. Both get disqualified. Simple.

By round 6 (the quarter finals), all

remaining players were of a notably high standard. Some pairs, who have never held mallets before, play perfect 4-ball breaks without realising they're doing something clever. Of these, a few appear each year for Cuppers, knock off a few controlled triples, and go back into hiding until the following year's competition. It is a great shame that there exists no means of locating, developing and maintaining such talent. After all, Cambridge is one of the few places where croquet has such a strong positive image among the youth.

By the final, the standard was even more uniformly high. Guy Willard and Justin Goddard (Corpus 1) were

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## Coaches Corner