

Croquet

MAGAZINE & NEWS

Issue 220
March/April 1992

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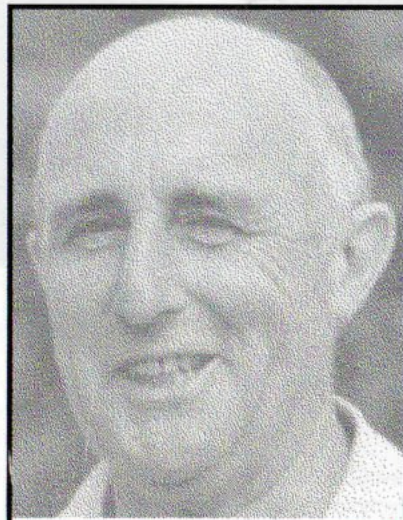
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Which single sporting activity, contested by 11 nations, has a total budget figure of 147.5 million pounds sterling? Answer? The America's Cup. Disbelief? See 'The Daily Telegraph' for Tuesday, 14 January this year. O.K.! So what? Well, the point is you see that it is the event itself that sucks in that colossal amount of money and when one gets down to analysing the thing as a sporting event - using "sporting" in the old Corinthian meaning of the word - it seems to me that it falls a long way short of value for money.

Consider. Over the 137 years or so when the Cup was so securely the property of the New York Yacht Club, the holders changed the rules to suit the defenders and the challengers threatened court action. The two-year legal wrangle that followed the San Diego contest cost millions of dollars and all but scuppered the San Diego Yacht Club. Poor old Dennis Connor, the defending skipper, 'only' has one boat and is struggling along on a



Through the Hoop
with
Tony Antenen

tend to regard commercial activities as alien to their beliefs". That's a summary of the findings of a year-long study into the management and marketing of Rugby Union. But at least the RFU has in front of it a nine point recommendation resulting from Sarah Massey's Courage-sponsored research. I wonder where we would be if, as is more than likely, our game really takes off in the near, possibly very near future?

Talking of the future leads me to remind those of us who need reminding that Saturday, 23 May is National Croquet Day and those clubs who are not actively engaged in major competitive play are, it is hoped, "at Home" to the great British public. Please. Do enter into this with zest and spirit. Engage the local media who, you may be surprised to find, will be very supportive if they see an opening for local news and comment. Chris Hudson, the CA's Development Officer, along with Charles Townsend and his Publicity Committee and Brian MacMillan will be ac-

...The Secretary talks about Mega-monies & May...

budget of some £8.75 million while Italy, for example, who seem to be taking the thing rather seriously, are in for a five boat qualifier at a cost of some £32.8 million. I wouldn't mind but the whole enterprise is shot through with attempted marine espionage, deception, double dealing and a downright stop-at-nothing-to-win-at-all-costs attitude which is the next planet but three removed for the croquet ethos.

So how come we can't get our hands on just a fraction of the loot that is available, even in the present recession, which would enable us to develop the game and

make it available to a wider playing public? Is it, I wonder, fear? Fear of what might happen to the structure of the game? Fear of what might happen to the spirit of the game? Or fears for the game itself lest it be 'modernised', 'reshaped' become 'TV user-friendly' with 16 million people deserting Pot Black to watch avidly as John Walters, (fresh from filming his TV toothpaste commercial) battles with ice-cold Robert ("The Fridge") Fulford?

Another quote: "Most senior ... clubs in England pay little attention to the public, possess large, inflexible committees and

active at national level but it is out there, at the grass roots where the real impact needs to be made and I cannot stress too highly the important role that the Federations can play in helping to co-ordinate local activity so as to achieve the maximum impact. Sound advice is available from the above mentioned who are all experienced "media-conscious" activists. A call to any one of them could be fruitful and if you are looking for a slogan how about "We're clean, green and nice to know".

Don't delay, start planning today!!

INTRODUCING CROQUET

1. Start at the very beginning

What is croquet all about? What is the object of the game? Everyone surely has a mental image which appears at the thought of croquet: hoops, mallets and coloured balls are the part of that image which bears any relation to reality. So it is not hard to understand that the object of the game is simply for your side to get its balls through all the hoops, using a mallet to strike the balls in your bid to achieve this goal!

Neither is there anything difficult in tying this concept down a bit. That there are 6 hoops and that there is a set course, whereby each ball must go through the hoops in a specified order and direction (four coloured clips, which match the balls, are placed on the hoops to indicate which hoop each ball is currently trying to get through). Croquet, in common with most sports, is a game of just two sides (although singles and doubles are both played). Since there are four balls it follows that each side plays two balls; for simplicity the balls are coloured, red & yellow are one side playing against the other side - blue & black.

Croquet has been described as a race. The winner is the side who gets both its balls through the course of hoops before the opposition. Of course, croquet players don't go running around the lawn

trying to be faster than the opponent (well most don't!). Only one player is allowed on the lawn at a time, the other sits on the sideline watching - just like in snooker. The croquet race is not won by the player who scores points fastest, nevertheless it is the first player who scores all the points with both balls that is the winner. The reason players sometimes talk about scoring points rather than going through hoops is because as well as the six hoops there is a peg - in the middle of the court. Obviously you can't go through a peg! The two peg points are scored by a side's two balls simply by them hitting it; the peg is like the last hoop (the seventh hoop?!!) so having scored it the ball is removed from the game, and when both balls of a side do it you've won! Thus, as an "Independent" journalist put it "pegging out" is the croquet player's dream - for having done that he has not expired, but simply won a game.

Croquet turns alternate between the two sides, and at the start of a turn you may hit either of your two balls with the mallet. Just as snooker would be a pretty boring game if each side were just allowed one hit of the cue ball a turn (and therefore only one "pot" a turn at most), so too croquet if each side were allowed just one hit of a ball a turn. In fact that first shot can be used to earn another, and ditto for the second, etc. extending the turn almost indefinitely - the string of shots being used to score many points (hoops), and called a break (again in common with

snooker).

So the joy of croquet is in the physical and tactical skills necessary to manipulate one of your balls, and with it the other 3 balls, constructing breaks which will get your 2 balls through the course of hoops before your opponent has a chance to get his 2 balls through that course!

Next issue we discuss how the extra shots in a turn are earned, which allow players to extend their turns past that first shot each time and string together many points (hoops) while the opponent can only sit and watch!

CROQUET SLANG

Explaining those puzzling phrases used so freely by tournament players.

1. Rigall. Named, as with so many croquet expressions, after a real person. In this case Leslie Rigall of South Africa, who has written many times on the disadvantages of "pegging out" one ball when its partner has not yet finished the course of hoops - thus causing the "pegged out" ball to be removed from the game. Surprisingly then *Rigall* means to peg out, and is used in an astonishing number of ways in connection with that manoeuvre - verb or noun!

Rigall: To peg out a ball (usually an opponent's), with no intention of finishing the game in the

Here we go!

Well finally here it is. The new large circulation "Croquet News", published especially for the CA's three and a half thousand affiliate members. Together with full-blooded Associates, who also receive "Croquet" magazine, that puts the total circulation figure of "Croquet News" at around 6,000. "Croquet News" will be published 4 times a year and will be distributed to all affiliates via their club Secretary. That means providing your club remains registered with the Croquet Association and within the Affiliation Scheme (at no extra cost), your club can receive all the benefits of the scheme and you will continue to receive "Croquet News" four times a year. Non-affiliates can still subscribe and we hope to introduce a special scheme, for affiliates who want to have "Croquet News" mailed to them directly, in the near future.

Elegant Amour

Thanks to "Amour" of 26/28 Fore Street, Ipswich (tel: 0473 250847), for their invaluable assistance with our March cover shoot. They provided the beautiful dress you see modelled by Annabel McDiarmid, one of the UK's leading woman players, in our tableau "The Return of Roquetetta". This is based on an original engraving which appeared on the cover of 4 issues of the "Croquet Gazette" (as it then was) in 1970/71, while Bryan Lloyd-Pratt was Editor. "Amour" have a wide selection of Bridal, Evening and Occasion wear to purchase or for hire, and would be a good first choice for anyone looking to find something a bit special.

Giardini National Croquet Day

National Croquet Day 1992 is on Saturday 23rd May. Giardini are sponsoring this mammoth high profile event. "Giardini" is the Italian for garden, but in this case is a delicious new drink which selected clubs should be able to sample on the big day. We hope that there will be various club activities up and down the country; the CA and its Federations will provide support nationally and locally.

Speeding to Television

The Yorkshire TV programme featuring two indoor "Speed Croquet" matches (Robert Fulford v Debbie Cornelius & John Walters v Stephen Mulliner) is currently being edited. Transmission times

will be published when they are known.

Indoor Croquet out in the cold!

Regretfully, the Indoor Croquet League has had to be postponed due to lack of sponsorship. Hopefully a successful YTV broadcast will encourage potential sponsors to take the plunge with a winter 92/93 league.

Clarke guests in South Africa

Providing that the breath of political fresh air blowing through South Africa is not polluted by remaining reactionary elements, 1992 should see the readmission of that country to international sport. With a thriving croquet community intact, our sport may be one of the first to reopen contacts. Hopes are high for a visiting team in this country during the summer. Even before that, current UK no.1 & Masters' Champion Chris Clarke has accepted an invitation to South Africa's top event, the Western Province Championships, in March. Planned preparations including acclimatising to the South African "Barlow Ball", which is becoming popular as a knock-around ball in UK clubs, have been amended now that Chris has learnt that the balls in use will be good old Jaques Eclipse after all - it's a strange world!

BBC acknowledges croquet again

Eagle-eyed viewers will have noticed that the BBC once again acknowledged croquet at their annual "Sports Review of the Year". Held at the Queen Elisabeth Conference Centre in Westminster, the top names in sport gathered to pay tribute to their best. Our World Champion was on the stage, amongst more celebrated winners, and could often be seen dazzling the cameras with his ubiquitous smile. This time croquet was included in the round-up of UK world champions, with a clip of footage from the final - in fact we got as much coverage as snooker! We hope to bring readers a behind the scenes look at the programme in the May issue.

UK's top 6 will go to US

Selection for the Sonoma Cutrer International and WCF World Championship has been made. Both events are in the second half of May; Sonoma in the heart of California's wine-growing country (closer to the heart you could not get, since it is staged at Brice Cutrer Jones' winery!), the WCF World Championship at the famous Rhode Island Club in Newport. UK nos 1, 2, 4 and 5 (Chris Clarke, Robert Fulford, John Walters and David Maugham - holder) will go to the former, with Chris, Robert and John (holder) joined by David Openshaw (no.3) and Steve Mulliner (no.6) at the latter.

Muddle in the middle

Readers who have seen the 1992 CA Fixtures List probably noticed that a couple of the early pages were transposed. Hardly disastrous, but inelegant! Why was it distributed like this when correction would have caused no delay? I think the financial compensation offered as an alternative may have had an effect - a wise decision!



Goodbye Phil and Good Luck

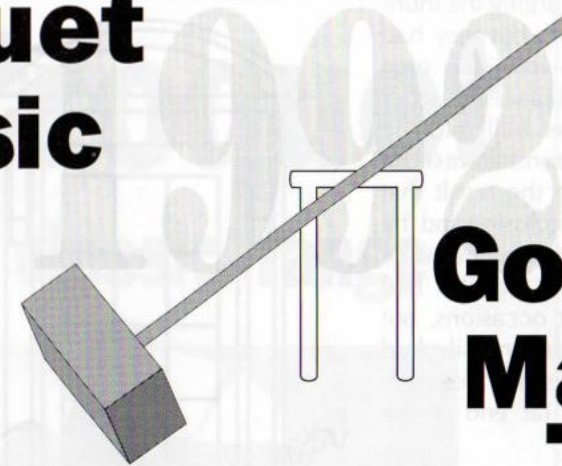
Readers may not know that Phil Cordingley, one of the UK's top players throughout the eighties, has emigrated to the US. Phil was regularly a President's Cup player in the eighties as well as winning the Chairman's Salver and the Open Doubles (with John McCullough). An extremely gritty player on court, Phil never made the mistake of treating the game too seriously off-court and won many friends with his sense of humour. We all hope it won't be too long before he is back playing on British lawns, but everyone would like to wish him good luck in his new life.

Phil Cordingley (right) with Cliff Jones (left); block winners at the Wrest Park July tournament - Phil's last before leaving for the USA

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Croquet Classic



Golden Mallet

The Croquet Classic

Now in its 6th year, this is a Short Croquet competition for players who have never had a handicap of 18 or less.

You can enter the Croquet Classic as an individual or as one of a group of players. Every competitor will receive a special booklet with basic rules and technical hints.

As an individual entrant, you will be grouped with three other local players in an all-play-all competition to be contested leisurely during the period May to mid-July. This format will give you three games, even if you lose. To host a match in your own garden, 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. Members of Croquet Clubs may prefer to use their own club's facilities to play their matches.

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,

Sapcote, the winning team at the 1992 Denman Golden Mallet Regional Final. (L to R) Joyce Critchley, John Hansen, Mary Randell, Gerry Broomhead, Mavis Benbridge.



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

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

The Golden Mallet

Inaugurated last year, this Golf Croquet competition is open to anyone who has never had a handicap of 18 or less. It will be played as a series of Regional tournaments, under the supervision of Regional man-

agers 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 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.

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. The Regional Finals will be held in July, and 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 June.

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, PO Box 55, Crewe, Cheshire, CW1 1WP. 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 all-play-all garden competition.
I will be able to host matches in my own garden
YES / NO

Group Entry
Please enter our group for the Croquet Classic.
Group Manager's name:
Address:
Tel: Home: Work:

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

Name:
Address:
Tel: Home: Work:
Signed: Date:

THE GOLDEN Mallet

Please enter our group for the Golden Mallet competition.
Contact name:
Address:
Tel: Home: Work:

**Missile through window of
10 Withers Avenue**

I respectfully report that at 12.38am, Wednesday June 16th 1958, as a result of a telephone message received at the Police Office, I visited the Peninsula Barracks, Warrington. Our telephone message received at 12.20am from Mr Peacock, 51 Morris Street, had reported that people in the district had been disturbed by loud bangs from the Peninsula Barracks; another telephone message at 12.30am received from Mrs Miller, 10 Withers Avenue, reported that there were aircraft overhead, loud bangs had been heard, and an object like a wooden bowl had smashed a window and entered a bedroom.

At the barracks I contacted the Commanding Officer of 151 Battery, R.A., Lieut. Col. Pring. I informed him of the complaints received, and he said there had been a party in the officer's mess and several thunder flashes had been discharged. I asked him for the names of the officers concerned with the discharging of thunder flashes and he named the following -
Lt. Col. Pring
Major Tolputt
Capt. Walter
Lieuts. MacDonald, Bracewell, Evans, Wilkins, Lindsay
He stated that it was not possible to say which officer was responsible



for igniting or discharging the thunder flashes or missile but they had formed themselves into four men gun crews, and had placed thunder flash and a croquet ball into the barrel of an old cannon in front of the officer's mess, with the result that there had been an explosion and the croquet ball was ejected from the barrel. It was stated that this had been done on past occasions, but the furthest point any missile had reached prior to this had been the gymnasium at the far end of the barracks square.

I was shown a cannon, made in the year 1794, and used in the Napoleonic Wars, which is placed outside the officer's mess facing across the barracks square in a northerly direction. Upon examining the cannon I found the bore was approximately 3 1/2 inches, and a croquet ball, several

of which were in a box in the mess entrance, fitted into the barrel. There was a deposit of grey ash in the barrel of the cannon, which appeared to be consistent with something having been discharged within it recently. There was a croquet ball jammed at the breach-block end of the barrel.

During my enquiries I was joined by P.C.93 Carey, and later P.C. Coops. I later visited 10 Withers Avenue, Warrington, where I saw George Carter, aged 32 years, who resides at that address. I found a hole in the right hand pane of glass in the bay window of the front bedroom, and fragments of glass scattered about the room. The hole was



approximately four inches by eight inches, and the damage was consistent with an object passing through the glass at high speed. The curtain which had been on the inside of the window had been pulled from its rails, and it appeared that an object had been caught in the curtains after it had passed through the window. Carter produced a croquet ball which he said he had recovered from the bed in which he was sleeping. Major Tolputt later identified the ball as similar to the one that he had placed in the barrel of the cannon.

The Commanding Officer, and the other officers concerned had expressed their regret that such an unfortunate incident had occurred and their apologies were offered to the members of the household at 10 Withers Avenue by Major Tolputt. All concerned wished to pay for damage caused, and said they would see that the repairs were carried out at the earliest opportunity.

The ball recovered from Carter has been brought to the Police Office. The statement obtained from Carter is appended. All the officers



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Croquet

'Croquet' No. 220
(March/April 1992).

Roquetetta!



Cover: "Roquetetta's Return" after the original engraving "The Rape of Roquetetta".

Modelled by: Annabel McDiramid

Photography: John Walters

Dress: "Amour" of Ipswich

Equipment: Townsend Croquet

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Tournament results & reports should be sent via the CA Secretary; any correspondence about non-delivery of the magazine should also be addressed to the CA Secretary.

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The LONGEST

Croquet Shot Ever!

Report by Martin Kolbuszewski.

You know, of course, that if time is called after you strike your ball for the last time in your turn, your opponent gets another turn and then so do you, but if it is called before you hit the ball, the game finishes after your opponent's turn. Well, what I want to know is what happens if the last stroke of your turn is a double tap and time is called in between the taps? This has nothing to do with the Hunstanton tournament, but I think we should be told.

I wasn't even late this year (well, only a couple of minutes) but I still got to write the tournament report again. I think this was a threat to keep me in line, with even more dire penalties in store if I actually did arrive late. Having forgotten to pack an alarm clock, I had to go straight down to the shops and buy one. Just to keep me on my toes, play was started half a day early at lunchtime on Saturday, to get all the games fitted in. This extended the tournament to five days, which was very welcome because it felt more like a holiday for the visitors. These included a party of wasps which David Turner assured me were German, although their preference for ginger beer rather than lager suggested otherwise.

The following morning I was very confused because my watch said Monday and I wasn't sure whether I'd slept through Sunday. Expecting stringent retribution, I was instead given a cheque by Beryl Gosden, on the grounds that I'd paid my entry fee twice. I seem to be getting very disorganised. Perhaps I've already written a report on this tournament and forgotten about it. Other notable events on Sunday included a spider's web discovered in a hoop and a pegged out game in which Nick Harris, double peeled by Paul Day, hit every roquet on the lawn and progressed as far as 4-back before clanging it terminally.

By Monday morning my watch was telling me it was Tuesday, though later on it changed its mind and claimed it was Sunday. Bill Lamb, the manager, was unable to locate the results and claimed that they had been destroyed either by unsuccessful competitors or by the KGB, who at that moment were destroying all the secret files in the Lubyanka in the aftermath of the failed coup. They got my sweater as well. Norman Bircumshaw, developing a reputation as a bandit, finally succumbed in the semi-final of the X to Paul Day in a borrowed cowboy hat.

On Tuesday, Pat Hague won an exciting match against Paul Day, peg-

ging him (but not herself) out with a commanding lead. Paul hit in but was unable to go out in fast, difficult conditions and lost by 3. On the same lawn, Martin Kolbuszewski, in a temporary respite from a severe attack of Hoop Disease (not Mad Hoop Disease, which is quite different), went round after time to draw level with Ian Storey, and then had to play on until scoring the winning hoop half an hour later.

Celia Pearce showed some gastronomic originality by ingesting a mouthful of German wasp with her ginger beer, but most of us stuck with the Hunstanton lunches and teas, which were as delicious as ever, particularly the curried egg sandwiches. While enjoying one such lunch with a large helping of Sarah Hampson's superb apple and garlic chutney (she doubles the prescribed quantity of garlic), I overheard an abstruse discussion between a conclave of referees about the top of the peg falling off while you are playing the wrong ball on a bisque turn, or something of that kind. A few minutes later I was surprised to see Stephen Mulliner in the distance, but assumed that he had been called out from London to deal with this problem. He stayed ten minutes, refereed a shot by Celia Steward and then disappeared. Only a few brave souls stayed behind to watch Nick Harris playing on into the night, trying to complete a peeling finish after his opponent had given up and gone home. The Harris cat, apparently, has not escaped on to the roof again but is suspected of having designs on the Harris hamsters.

On Wednesday morning, a concerned guest house owner turned up at the club to give Bill Lamb back his pyjamas, which he had discarded somewhere on his travels. He might have needed them as the day became overcast and cool, with a reminder of the famous Hunstanton wind. Ron Gosden says it's not like the old days when people used to play in four sweaters. These days with global warming you only need two.

As the finals got under way, Duncan Hector, featured photographically in that day's Eastern Daily Press, was seen prowling around with a gigantic camera and tripod, perhaps looking for revenge. He played well in the X final against Paul Day but could not get his backward ball going in the run up to time, so that Paul's two long breaks in tricky playing conditions won him the trophy. Celia Pearce

Lamb Loses Pyjamas at Hunstanton.

92ND ANNUAL TOURNAMENT, 24-28 AUGUST.



Left: Bill Lamb. Right: Sarah Hampson.

beat Val Tompkinson to win the Y final. I didn't see any of this as Celia Steward was beating me in a game in which the first lift was not conceded for three hours.

The block winners, Nick Harris, Richard White, Jill Waters and Norman Bircumshaw all coped well with the fast lawns and tight hoops, but one of the most impressive feats of the week was performed by Bill Lamb, the manager, in getting through a tightly packed schedule of games of which about two thirds went to time (and a quarter of these to +1 on time), with several assistants from Ipswich who were on hand to answer questions like "What's thirty one plus thirty seven?" As he calculated the next day's critical path. But as, usual, it was the hospitality of the Hunstanton members and the summer holiday atmosphere which combined to make the tournament so enjoyable.

I have to stop now, as there's something else I've got to start writing. I think it's a report on a Hunstanton tournament.....

The Cage

Myself, I travelled to the Parkstone tournament (26-31 August) just the reasonable distance from Nailsea. Geoff Roy, a fellow competitor, was flying in from New York! So it was I who arrived early on Sunday afternoon and obtained permission from manager Les Butler to hit a few practice shots, hoping to gain some advantage over my opponents in the matches to come.

Monday morning opened with the Handicap 'X' event. I knew from my previous day's aperitif that Parkstone's lawns are immaculate - an exception being lawn 6: 'The Cage'. This was the dreaded site for my match against Derrick Charsley-Thomas. The lawn consists of two converted tennis courts, with bare base and service lines. The balls took on a mind of their own, deceiving and frustrating both players. Needless to say, I lost - but to a seasoned, experienced player who weathered the conditions far better than I did.

The days were hot and sunny. A friendly atmosphere prevailed as the various events progressed. Notable performances came from husband

& wife Faith and Bob Fewtrell: the former overcoming strong opposition to win the Handicap 'X', while the latter completed his referees course and won the 'B' class event. David Harrison-Wood won the Open section (beating Allen Parker - possibly the most consistent player of the tournament), the Handicap 'Y' and the Handicap Doubles 'Y' with Jean Wraith. Derek Lewis played well above his handicap to win the 'C' class and Roger Jackman / David Thatcher won the Handicap Doubles 'X'. David Thatcher

Brian Hallam undefeated

Another sunny weekend at the Nottingham Handicap Weekend (13-15 September). The weather in combination with a temporary local water pump problem produced an interesting set of lawns: 1 was welcoming; 2 and 3, which had not received water for considerable time, were VERY fast; 4 and 5 were similar in texture to 2 and 3, although a rapid drenching during the week had slowed them a little.

Despite these tricky conditions both Alain Giraud and David Carpenter had three wins by teatime on the first day. Rick Davis, in his first tournament as manager, showed Gooch-like acceptance of responsibility as he completed his first triple peel - to considerable applause.

Brian Hallam had been absent on Friday - I think he sent a note - but by Saturday evening had played and won 5 games to top the leader board. Brian was playing superbly; he was the only playing to cope adequately with the difficult lawns. Having beaten most of the contenders on Saturday, he beat the rest on Sunday. A wonderful 8 out of 8. The position of runner-up was shared by Alain Giraud, Richard White and Graham Fowler, all of whom were net 4 wins. Graham Fowler

Kansas City Kicker

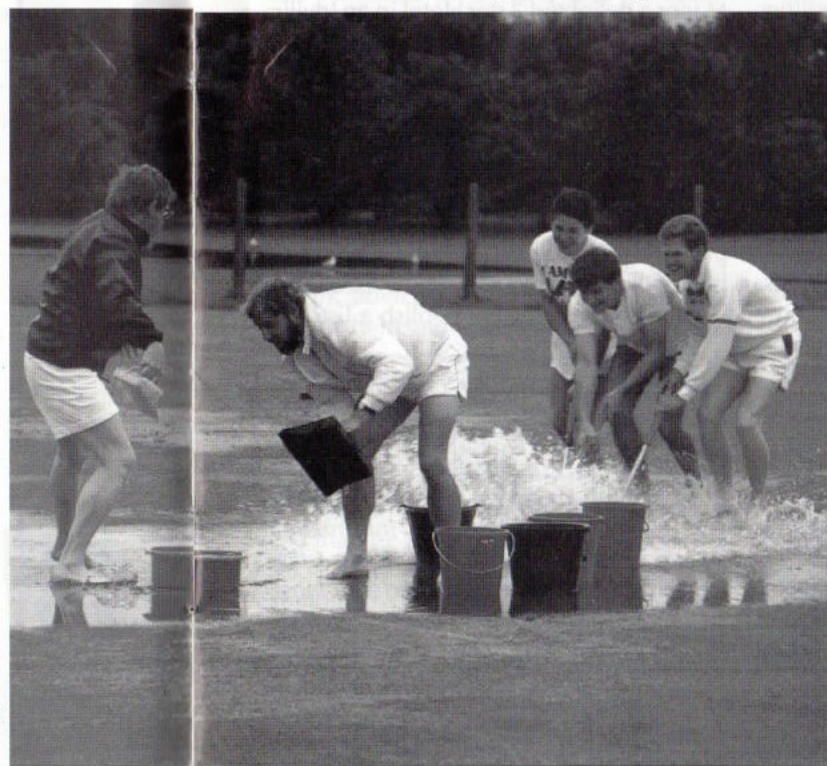
I thought I would start the Southport Open Weekend (21st-22nd September) report by asking a simple trivia question. Who is the only current A-class player who has kicked for the Kansas City Chiefs in an American football match? If like me you follow the sport then you will know that averaging 67-yards a kick is good going, which is what he did! Well

the answer for all those interested is John Haslam.

I suspect that even a John Haslam in his youth would have failed to kick an American football at least 40-yards in the wind that decided to pay us a visit at Southport for this tournament. Although the weather started off reasonably good, by lunch on Saturday and then throughout Sunday things got worse. Wet, windy and Why the hell do we play croquet were on the lips of a great many of us.

I should now pay tribute to the gentleman who won the tournament who having a large swing must suffer the most in the conditions experienced. David Maugham proved he could handle the challenge given to him by the powers that be much better than the rest even though his form was not quite at its usual high level. He did lose a game to Richard Harding in the semi's but otherwise never looked threatened. He was aided though by the fact that his opponent in the final took it upon himself to try, halfway through the first game, to play with a brand new mallet he had received 10 minutes earlier. Mark Saurin

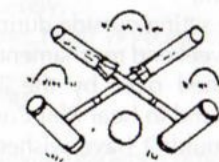
Below: A typical Southport tournament!



Tournament News

PARKSTONE, NOTTINGHAM & SOUTHPORT

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Knitting with words

Dear Sir,
Re M. Howell's enquiry in "Croquet" Jan. 1992. She is obviously asking for more information about a course on CROCHET. There are many similarities between croquet and crochet, and I list a few:

CROCHET	CROQUET
Loops	Hoops
Treble stitch	Triple peel
Single stitch	Singles
Break (in thread)	Break
Dropped it	Missed it

Yours sincerely,
Miriam M. Reader, Erant.

Look forward to 1992

Dear Sir,
I should like to wish John Walters well as the new Editor of "Croquet", and to thank Chris Hudson for all his hard work over the past 6 years.

Last year I was worried that some weekend tournaments were not as friendly as they usually are - playing wise, due to the Experimental Handicap System which introduced a strongly competitive element.

I wonder if this competitiveness was the cause of John Anstey's obviously unhappy introduction to tournaments ("Croquet" no.219, Jan. 1992).

I am sure that the CA Handicap Committee would welcome all feedback, for and against, and constructive ideas to help them evaluate the system and decide on the future of the CA Handicapping System.

My most joyous moments of 1991 were:-
1) to see Gail Curry's standard flying over Cheltenham;

2) To be sitting outside during the Wrest Park July weekend tournament eating Lobster, watched over by the Tawny Owl (Heather!) and to hear Phil Cordingley say that "he couldn't have wished to end his playing days in Britain at a better place".

What has 1992 to offer?

Judy Anderson, Sharnbrook.

Croquet players

"May not be sports"!

Dear John,
Readers of "Croquet" will know of the determined efforts that Bristol have made to upgrade not only their offcourt facilities but also the lawns over the past 7+ years, and whilst we would like to install showers, our current priority is to improve the playing surface. Last autumn we imported some Cumberland turf, which has transformed the areas around the hoops on lawn 1.

Although we have yet to play on the new grass, the result has been so pleasing that I determined to approach the Foundation for Sports and the Arts for a substantial five figure grant which would allow us to have lawns equal to the best. At the worst, the approach cost me a little time and a stamp!

Conceivably we would get funds for one lawn, if not the three, for the foundation has a budget of £40 million odd.

Gratton Endicott, the Secretary to the Foundation's Trustees replied: "sympathetically but helplessly I am 'fixed' by our terms of reference which allow aid to athletic sports and athletic games". Apparently croquet does not meet this criteria.

I understand that the Development Committee are in touch with the Foundation, on behalf of the Federations, and if that is the case a progress report in "Croquet" would not go amiss. But on the assumption that they receive a similar ruling, it seems obvious that the Association should be requesting one of our learned members to prepare the case of croquet being an athletic game. No-one can deny that Stephen Mulliner runs around the lawn, and in timed games even the most slothful player can be seen to move with alacrity. My Oxford dictionary defines an athlete as a competitor in physical exercise. I would have thought that a good barrister could argue our case.

Yours sincerely
Hamish Hall, Bristol.

Croquet Hotels

Dear John,

As the one who wrote to the Daily Telegraph regarding their feature on croquet in hotels, may I comment on Allen Jenkins' letter?

I have already written to a number of Hotel Chains suggesting that unless the hotel provides 'proper facilities' for 'proper croquet' they might describe their facilities as for 'family croquet'. I believe this a better description than my earlier suggestion of 'fun croquet'.

Proper facilities are defined as a croquet court (not a lawn, not a field, but as the laws say a **court**). Something reasonably level, regularly mown and of good size and dimensions (ie. based on 5, 6 or 7) with marked boundaries and tournament hoops.

From my personal experience I only know of the following hotels which have 'proper' facilities:

Gidleigh Park, Clagford, Devon
Phyllis Court, Henley on Thames
Chewton Glen, New Milton, Hants
Gleneagles, Scotland

I am sure there are others; if anyone knows perhaps they would tell.

I know of no hotel that offers a bowling green, but I do know one that offers a bowling lawn. You, I know, immediately understand the difference.

How nice it would be if 'proper' croquet players (Golf or Association) talked of a croquet court rather than a croquet lawn. Not even members of Council do that! By using the proper nomenclature we would enhance the perception of the game in the eyes of the public; hotels could describe



their facilities with precision and that ubiquitous acquaintance who has a croquet lawn (triangular, circular or irregular) could be put in his place.

I hope the new Editor of this magazine (not many games have the World Champion as their journal's Editor!) will do his best to ensure that the proper terminology is used throughout its pages.

Yours sincerely
R. S. Eades, Maidenhead.

Dear Sir,

I can well understand Allen Jenkins (Croquet No.219) frustration at hotels advertising croquet facilities in national newspapers which turn out to be a disgrace; even for those guests who do not wish to play serious croquet.

I am sure many readers have had similar disappointments.

Allen's suggestion of listing in Croquet those Hotels which CA members can confirm have playable facilities would be useful for those members who would like to combine a weekend break with reasonable croquet. There must surely be quite a few establishments with "Jaques hoops and a playable lawn (without bird-baths)" albeit not to top club standard.

Berkeley Club (E. Yorks) play at Rowley Manor a delightful 3 star Hotel in an idyllic setting which by arrangement with the club allows genuine hotel guests to use the club lawns and equipment free of charge. I can assure you that the lawns are properly marked out and the hoops are "Jaques" top quality correctly set. I understand Harrogate Croquet Club are moving to a very pleasant hotel in Ripon. Will other members or clubs inform us of similar locations?

Is the Editor willing to publish a list?

Yours sincerely,
Mike Evans, Hon. Sec. Beverly C.C.

Brian MacMillan is now in the process of compiling a list of genuine croquet hotels. He would very much like to hear from croquet club members who have visited hotels with such facilities. Any information should include a grading of: a) Top Class (ie. up to the standard expected for clubs); b) Reasonable (including those with half-size lawns etc.); c) 'Fun'. Please send any information to Brian at the CA Office, The Hurlingham Club.

The 1992 Fixtures List gives a good guide for what conditions constitute 'A1' with regard to croquet facilities, should readers wish to pin-down hotel proprietors before booking. It has a number of things to say on hoops. Other manufacturers of good qual-

ity hoops are Townsend Croquet & Bill Aldridge - all three companies have advertisements in this magazine.

Difference of opinion

Dear Sir,

As a high bisquer and a non-referee I shall be grateful for a decision on a stroke that occurred during a short croquet match that I was playing on a half-size court with Walker balls.

The ball in play - the striker's ball - had roqueted one of his opponent's balls to a point between peg and hoop 2 and level with hoop 6. The next hoop in order with the striker's ball was hoop 2. The intention was to send the croqueted ball to a position between hoop 2 and the north boundary and for the striker's ball to approach hoop 2 so that it would run hoop 2 in the continuation stroke. However, in the croquet stroke the croqueted ball ran off the court over the north boundary and the ball in play (the striker's ball) ran hoop 2, its hoop in order.

What should have happened next? The striker held that under Law 12(a) the croqueted ball was replaced on the yard line; under Law 14(a) the striker's ball scored the hoop point; under Law 20(c)(1) the turn ended; for the striker to have continued his turn he would have had to take a bisque.

What did happen? The two players were unsure so they asked for a ruling from a referee who was playing a game on an adjacent lawn. The decision was (i) the stroke was a fault (ii) the croqueted ball was replaced on the yard line and (iii) the hoop point did not count and (iv) turn ended.

I was not (and still am not) happy. In order to extend my knowledge of the game I sought advice from three other referees. Two of them said that the hoop point should have counted; that it was not a fault within the definition of Law 32 (one of them in fact said that it was a 'hard luck stroke', not a fault); and that the turn should end under Law 20(c)(1) (agreeing with the striker). The third said that the hoop point did not count and that the turn ended (agreeing with the decision accepted at the time, in the paragraph above).

Here we have four experienced referees differing two against two in the interpretation of the laws of our game; and myself, a tyro in search of enlightenment. Please, can someone **out there** help and give an authoritative ruling? I do not think this is an isolated case, it could happen on any small lawn with Walker balls.

Yours faithfully,
John R. P. Lansdown, Cheltenham.

(... cont.)

The hoop point is scored and the turn comes to an end - no fault has been committed. The situation is the same as the more common incident where in an attempted peg-out the front ball misses and goes off the lawn but the back ball hits the peg. The two courses of balls after a croquet stroke should be thought of as separate and independent branches.

If it is the striker's ball not the croqueted ball which goes off the lawn after scoring its hoop in a croquet stroke, then the hoop is scored and the turn continues. There being no penalty on a continuation stroke earned by the striker's ball scoring a hoop point, should it go off the lawn after!

Remember that you are entitled to query the decision of a referee with the Tournament Referee when it is on a matter of the Laws such as this one.

S. N. Mulliner, Laws Committee Chairman.

Handicapping System

Dear Sir,

The January issue of Croquet contained within the tournament reports a number of references to the Automatic Handicapping System (AHS) and two in particular seemed to imply that the Handicap Co-ordination Committee (HCC) is in habit of rejecting handicappers recommendations. In fact, last season the HCC was forced to intervene on only three occasions out of several hundred automatic changes and a couple of dozen exceptional changes.

That so little intervention was required was due to the good sense of the many handicappers who followed the guidelines. They may at times seem restrictive, but they are necessary in order to standardise the actions of almost a hundred handicappers who in the past have acted independently and to different standards throughout the country.

Responsible handicappers do not threaten to resign if their recommendations are not accepted and I should like to put on record that there were no such threats. The HCC must act when it is necessary and will not be influenced by silly challenges; there would be no point in having an HCC which did otherwise.

I am grateful to all the players who have written to me during the past nine months, and apologise that I have not always replied. I have been reluctant to enter into a debate by correspondence in the middle of the trial, but all the points raised have been noted. There are several important changes to the system for the coming season and the new guidelines will be found elsewhere in this issue.

Yours faithfully,
Bill Lamb,
Handicap Co-ordination
Committee Chairman.

A very tight hoop

Dear Sir,

In the January '92 issue of "Croquet" on page 17 my letter on hoop setting was printed, but near the bottom of column 3 the internal width of hoops was misprinted as 3 1/4"!

Please note that this **was** a misprint otherwise potential visitors to Southwick may think twice!

Yours sincerely,
John Eardley-Simpson, Southwick.

Captions to Photographs

Dear Sir,

I do not know who supplies the captions to photographs in the gazette but I do wish he would take the trouble to get them right.

There have been a number of misattributions in recent years, most of which have been more or less obviously wrong, but I am particularly concerned about the caption which was applied to the photograph on page 11 of the January 1992 issue of 'Croquet' in which Daisy Lintern appears with "Sookey" Adler.

Daisy was Chairman of Council 1958-60. She was never formally Secretary of the Croquet Association though, following the sudden death of Lorn Apps in 1959, she was obliged to act in this capacity jointly with Mrs Thorn for a short time until a successor (V.C. Gasson) could be found. (Prichard: History of Croquet pp 132 and 231)

Trouble for future historians of the CA can be caused by misleading descriptions as they lead to the perpetuation of myths which are difficult to destroy after those who know the facts have died.

Yours sincerely,
A.J. Oldham, High Wycombe.

Handicap Play

Dear Sir,

I hope to invite readers' comments on a suggested change to the laws of Association croquet, in the use of bisques.

The change is that a bisque or 1/2 bisque, can only be taken having made a roquet or scored a hoop point.

This would mean that the player with bisques, would not be able to start a turn by shooting at a ball, miss and then take a bisque.

The law would change the approach and tactics employed during a handicap game (full or difference) bringing them closer to those used for standard or advanced play.

I believe the change would inspire high handicap players to play the game at a higher level, speed up handicap games, encourage low handicap players to enter more handicap tournaments, and could also lead to further changes in handicap laws to give a more unified set of laws which apply to handicap, standard and advanced play.

H.J. Bottomley, Wrest Park.

Introduction

In 1988 Paul Hands devised a new way of running level play croquet tournaments and tried it at his local club, Cheltenham.

Paul had turned his attention to this because he had observed many shortcomings in the systems, such as draw and process knockouts, 'American' blocks and 'Swiss', currently employed.

Above all he saw the need for a way of maximising the use of available courts, avoiding bottlenecks caused by slow players or long games and providing the flexibility for young, eager players to fulfil their preference for many games while allowing players of more advanced years the option to play less but not to be disadvantaged.

He envisaged a ladder in which any two available players reasonably close to each other could play a game, the result of which would affect their rating and hence their position on the ladder.

Often, the gap in ratings of two players would be great and a formula had to be used to adjust the resultant change of ratings. If the theoretically better player won then his rating should rise less than that of a victor who is theoretically worse.

The player that improves his/her rating the most over the course of the tournament is the winner.

This is the same problem which faced Steve Mulliner when he devised his national ratings table. So, Paul 'borrowed' Steve's formula, programmed his scientific calculator and recalculated everybody's ratings to four decimal places after each match.

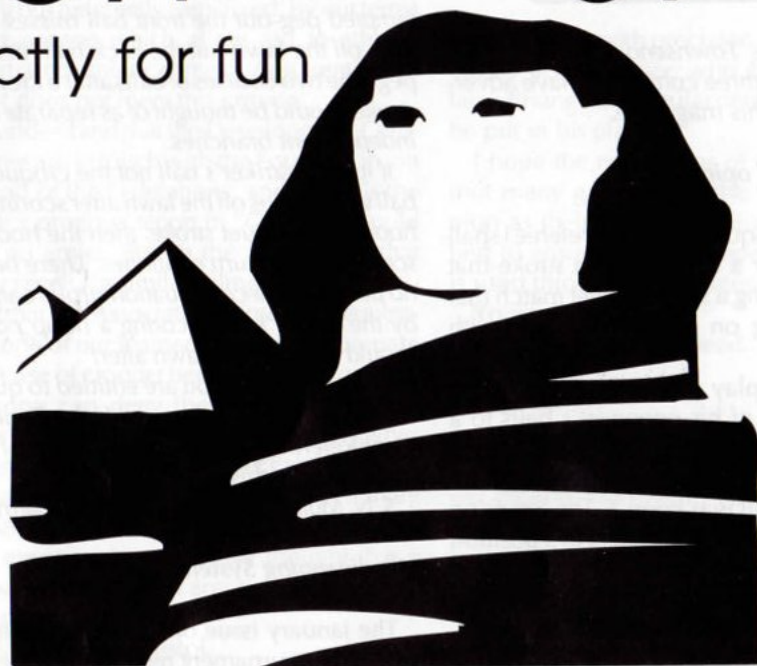
Needless to say, this amount of work did not suit us lazier managers. The system was, therefore, simplified and over the following three years modified to cope better with extreme ranges of ability.

The Hands System is now firmly established in this country in the croquet manager's repertoire. In fact, it is now probably over-used, in unsuitable situations.

The remainder of this article provides a description of the version which has evolved at the Cheltenham Club and then reviews the circumstances in which the system works well and those where it should be used with care or not at all.

Egyptology

strictly for fun



Kevin Carter's guide to Paul Hands' "Egyptian" - for events where it doesn't matter who wins!

Hands System Description

The organisation of a tournament run under the Hands System is best achieved by allocating each player a card. The example shown is reproduced from an event last year. (Cheltenham has had a supply of score cards printed.)

Each player is initially assigned a rating based on his/her handicap according to the table shown. Note that this table is not linear. For instance, the difference in ratings between a 1 handicap and a 2 is 14 points but between a 6 and a 7 is only 9. This reflects the gap in ability between players of differing handicaps.

The mathematical theory behind the table is that, throughout the scale, a player at about 10 rating points above another should have a 60% chance of winning; one 20 points higher should have a 70% chance and one 30 points higher should have an 80% chance.

After the allocation of initial ratings the cards are arranged in that order, usually on a board, and the first match will comprise the first two, the second match the second pair and so on.

As players complete their games they will fill in their score cards (not much work for the manager here!) and they will decide whether to add their names to a 'waiting list' or maybe take a rest and do so later. If players want a late start, or even a whole day off, they simply add their name to the waiting list again when they arrive.

The manager's task is to continually examine the waiting list to make up an appropriate match for the next available court. There will not, of course, always be a pair of very similar ratings available. The difference in ratings will determine the points won or lost according to the table.

In the example card shown, for John Evans, see how he obtained five points for beating Richard Brand with a ratings difference of 8, but six points for conquering John Greenwood who was 16 higher and four against Chris Williams who started 20 lower. On the other hand, he later lost seven points for losing to a lowly Francis Landor but only three for failing to topple David Foulser.

Notice, too, how John's third and ninth matches were against the same

opponent - another example of the flexibility afforded to the manager providing both players agree to do battle a second time.

Prizes will generally be awarded to those who improve their ratings by the most points over the course of the tournament.

With a large entry over a wide range of abilities it will often be a good idea to divide the field into three or four sets, perhaps with colour-coded score cards. Hence, all those up to handicap 2 might be orange, 2.5 to 6 are green and 6.5 to 16 red.

However, the competition should remain one big ladder, with options for reds to play greens, and even oranges, should they rise high enough to meet one.

So, a prize could be awarded to the orange that has improved his rating the most, one to the most improving green and one to the reds.

A word of warning: a player who finds himself in the lead but with the option to take unlimited leave will sometimes unsportingly drop out to avoid losing points. To overcome this danger it is a good idea to introduce a rule that all must play at least twice on the last day to qualify for a prize.

Suitability of the Hands System

Fundamentally it must be recognised that the winner of a tournament run under the Hands System in its basic form is not necessarily the best player present. Hence, it should not be used for club championships or for 'serious' CA events.

No, the winner is the player who improves his/her position the most over the course of the tournament. This can be, and frequently is, somebody starting near the bottom of the ladder and climbing up to half way, rather than the top player maintaining his/her position.

Sometimes a very good player might enter, say, a weekend advanced level play tournament, win every game comfortably and go away without a prize.

On the other hand, lower rated players can enter the same competition, know that they will never be playing hopelessly outside of their class and stand a decent chance of winning.

On balance, the majority of players in a Hands tournament find it a

good challenge and welcome its flexibility without worrying too much over the distribution of prizes.

However, this shortcoming has led to the Hands System being adapted in various ways, not all of them very successfully.

One modification is an attempt to overcome this problem of the best player not always winning. The starting position based on handicaps is dispensed with; everybody starts with the same rating. Then, of course, every game results in the same exchange of rating points and players are paired randomly at first with no attempt to match players of similar abilities.

Another modification seen with increasing frequency is the use of the system for handicap events. Again, everybody begins with the same rating and every match is played in the normal way, with the requisite number of bisques.

These adaptations are all right as far as they go but the implicit simplification of the original system results in many of its advantages being lost. In fact, the end result is almost identical to a 'Swiz' a Swiss without the rigid pairings for most rounds.

Finally, a word must be said about the use of the Hands System in a 'mop up' event within a tournament lasting several days and with several level class, handicap and doubles events. There is nothing worse than to get to day five, find yourself knocked out of everything and with no further games to play while there are several spare courts. Sometimes, managers resort to 'Z' events or one-ball competitions to keep these un-

fortunates busy and happy.

The Hands System is ideal for coping with those knocked out of the main events. In fact the 'Y' events and 'plates' can also be dispensed with, all resources being put into one 'Hands' into which everybody is automatically entered. Players are happy and the manager is happy.

Advantages of the Hands System

1. All matches will be between players of similar abilities. In particular, a lower rated player in a 'purple patch' will have a chance to pitch against higher rated opponents.

2. Maximum use will be made of courts; they will never be left empty awaiting 'the right players' while dozens of others sit out.

3. Every player can choose how many games to play. Some like four every day (which is normally achievable in Hands events at Cheltenham; the record is six), while others choose just two. Additionally, late starts and leave, even for whole days, are easy to accommodate.

4. The manager has less work to do than in comparable systems and need never find it difficult to play at the same time.

5. The Hands System is ideal as a 'mop up' event within a major tournament for players knocked out of the main events

Next issue: Chris Irwin, on the Egyptian in more serious events.

Table of Initial Ratings

-2	200	5.5	98
-1.5	192	6	93
-1	184	6.5	88
-0.5	176	7	84
0	168	7.5	80
0.5	160	8	76
1	153	9	68
1.5	146	10	61
2	139	11	54
2.5	132	12	48
3	126	13	42
3.5	120	14	36
4	114	15	31
4.5	108	16	26
5	103		

Table of Rating Adjustments

Diff. in ratings	Higher rated player		Lower rated player	
	If win	If lose	If win	If lose
0-8	+5	-5	+5	-5
9-16	+4	-6	+6	-4
17-24	+3	-7	+7	-3
25-32	+2	-8	+8	-2
33+	+1	-9	+9	-1

Example scorecard

NAME: JOHN EVANS				YOUR INITIAL RATING: 168
OPPONENTS NAME	OPPONENTS RATING	GAME SCORE	YOUR NEW RATING	
1. R. Brand	160	+26	173	
2. J. Greenwood	189	+2	179	
3. C. Williams	159	+6	183	
4. P. Dorke	165	+15	186	
5. F. Landor	164	-3	179	
6. R. Jenkins	159	+19	182	
7. D. Foulser	202	-1	179	
8. R. Ransom	178	+16	184	
9. C. Williams	162	+17	187	
10. B. Neal	175	-1	181	
HANDS SYSTEM SCORE CARD				

Croquet spread from England throughout the world; but it came to England from Ireland. Today croquet in Ireland is still strong, controlled independently from the English CA by the CAI. Carrickmines is the centre of Irish croquet, a club whose hospitality has received verbose praise from English visitors for many years. Tales of croquet played one-handed, to facilitate unbroken Guinness drinking with the other hand, abound. In 1991 I decided the time had come to extend my croquet ties to this idyllic refuge. I was not alone - a record entry included around 30 overseas players from England, Scot-

begin panicking about where to stay, only to find that cousins of one of my travelling companions had gone to meet us at the ferry; we went back to meet them, eventually we met each other! Our first contact with the Irish people, Lewis Palmer's relatives proved everything said about kind & generous hospitality.

Our pre-tournament sight-seeing included a rather beautiful waterfall, but for some of my companions the highlight of our first full day in Ireland came at Lake Glendalough. Persuaded that this large body of water was circumnavigable, my early reluctance for any further physical

... who'd have thought dreamy Carrickmines so Cosmopolitan?

land, New Zealand and Switzerland. My own Ipswich club alone provided a couple from its supply of Celias, as well as 5 other members. A number which was further increased by the end of the week, due to the flexible membership fees and the quantity of Guinness consumed by the Treasurer (Membership fees this week included 2 pints of Guinness!)

The surface journey to Dublin from Ipswich is arduous (as is making arrangements for a group of four). Part one consisted of parking on the M25, and eventually discovering that a section of the "World's longest Circular" had been closed (I look forward to reading what the "Citizen's Charter" will have to say on the M25). The bulk of our journey took place the next day and was remarkable only by the fact that there is no major route to Holyhead - fortunately the Welsh scenery eases 40mph nervous tension. On arriving in Dun Laoghaire we were able to

activity was soon overtaken by spirit of adventure. At the far end of the lake my suspicions were aroused by the marshy crossing necessary to reach the wooded side which would lead back to civilisation. Some time later scrambling became paddling, which became wading and eventually ... swimming. A Gaelic coffee, consoling at a chance meeting in a pub with Celas Pearce and Steward and a dry change of clothes later, I could almost see the funny side to the same extent as Annabel McDiarmid. As a reminder though, my watch is destined to tell the time of that soggy climax for the rest of its earth-bound existence: one minute past eight and twelve seconds!

Carrickmines Croquet and Lawn Tennis Club (to give it its full title) is rather bigger than I expected. As well as four croquet lawns it boasts eight tennis courts (and a table-tennis table - many of the young tennis players continue their coached two-handed styles in table-tennis), while



the pleasant club-house is manned by full-time staff - on hand principally to meet your every pleasure at the bar. The friendly lilting Irish voice of Joe Cunningham finally became a friendly Irishman; for him nothing had been too much trouble when we were arranging our visit and his company turned out to be just as pleasant "in real life". What we caught on our Sunday arrival at the club was the end of an Ireland vs Switzerland match, the following weekend was an Ireland vs Scotland match - who'd have thought dreamy Carrickmines so Cosmopolitan?

EMERALD ISLE

For many years now fearless British travellers have reported back strange goings on from across the Irish Sea. JOHN WALTERS samples 'real' Guinness and 'real' Croquet in what may be the birthplace of both, at the 1991 Championships.

ingly easy semi, in John's semi things were looking more tricky. Lewis Palmer won game one and took the first break in game two with John looking terminally out of form. Suddenly though John was round to 4-back and out with a triple. The decider seemed to be following a similar course until peeling rover straight a hill, so famous that locals had been predicting it as Walters' nemesis, struck. Though the peel sailed through this curvature of the earth took the strikers ball solidly onto the wire, and Walters to a -3 defeat. After such an exciting semi the final was something of an anti-climax.

the time Veronica got her first position at rover Ronan was for 1-back; he hit and took off struggling on in the 1-ball game - hitting Veronica at the peg on more than one occasion and displaying very mature tactics. But it was in vain - Veronica triumphed, a deserved victory after a week which included much brilliant play.

A number of competitors entered the table-tennis competition organised by Colin Dinwoodie. The best-of-five final between Norman Eatough (Switzerland) and Michael O'Shaughnessy (Ireland) turned out to be serious stuff. But it was high

"There is only one thing worse than being talked about, and that is not being talked about!"

Simon could not regain hitting or break-play form, and Lewis walked to a comfortable victory.

A refreshing change at this tournament was that the customary bandit was female. Veronica Tuke demolished most opposition (with husband Simon looking on) despite carrying a passenger who will doubtless be part of the formidable next generation test team being built with Mulliners/Frenchs/Murrays/Hopes. In the final of the big handicap she met young Ronan McNery of Ireland, not without incident. Bisqueless at penult and peg, Veronica watched as Ronan went round and pegged her out. She soon hit in but displayed her aggressive instincts with a speculative approach of penult joining up oppo in the middle of the lawn, rather than simultaneously dispatching him. By

quality and entertaining, with Norman always appearing to be defending and Michael attacking - but Norman's success at this dogged approach finally brought him victory in the deciding game. I nagged all week to get on the tennis courts finally being pointed in the direction of Stephen McCauley, a young bisportual Carrickmines member. I never did get the game he promised but I did get on the courts for a while, which included a few rallies with the elusive Stephen (enough to establish he is quite good!) perhaps next year! On the croquet lawn Stephen was also able to muster enough skill to beat eights player Steve Comish no-croquet with two bisques left. In fact Carrickmines (continued on page 14)

To accommodate the burgeoning entry Manager Carl von Schmeider was using 8.30am starting times; despite the long days thus created, come evening it still seemed hours earlier than it was - such was the magic of Ireland. For us things always seemed to be ticking along, for the Manager behind the scenes they were somewhat more chaotic and punctuated by incident. With attempts to shorten the time-limits of games containing players lax with their time-keeping, hopes of resignation on the peg and a "you're in / you're out" saga with Gerard Healy in the handicap doubles. In other places tempers (including that of the Manager) may have become terminally frayed, but here sour moments were soon drowned in another deluge of Guinness.

The Championship itself opened with matches including one between the well-known Scotswoman Corla van Griethuysen and the well-known Irishman Carl von Schmeider. As rounds progressed both John Walters and Simon Williams proceeded to hack through opposite halves of the draw with triple peels. Simon overcame Fred Rogerson in a surpris-



Above: The Cunninghams with Ronan McNery
Top of page: Annabel McDiarmid and Neil Jackson

(continued from page 13)

boasts a number of enthusiastic and promising young croquet players. Providing they are not lured away by tennis, work or women Ireland may well produce a formidable croquet crew in the future. The third of these to be playing in the week was Edward Cunningham, son of Joe, who did enough in-between rushes of blood to the head to win the novice cup. Having started in croquet tournaments myself at their age, I know how much fun and enjoyment they could find ahead. Also how much to learn - like the fact that you can absolutely guarantee when you're talking about someone at a tournament, they will be standing roughly 3 yards behind you. Fortunately, some people agree with that famous Irishman Oscar Wilde, "There is only one thing worse than being talked about, and that is not being talked about!"

Celia Steward continued her climb towards the heights of women's croquet and won the B-level event; in fact a rather successful week for the ladies, with Veronica adding the C class to her victories. Unlikely victors in the Open Doubles - Jerry

Guest was only paired with improving 8 bisquer Philip Eardley after namesake Phil Cordingley dropped out. En route through the draw & process the only thing they were never able to beat was the clock - every win being on time! The handicap doubles went to Switzerland, in the form of Eatough/Payne; both showing much promise in terms of ability, but in common with players "cut off" from peers by geography they struggled tactically.

This was one of the most enjoyable weeks croquet I've had in the 12 years I've been playing tournaments. They know how to make people feel at home here; at the mid-week barbeque (often a downer for vegetarians) there were even veggieburgers bought in for me specially. One piece of advice: 12,000 miles is almost enough distance between me and Dawson 2000 balls, it seems that 400 miles isn't nearly enough! Of course the journey back seems even longer than the outward stretch. Interest was added atop the ferry on Sunday morning by a Catholic mass! In the middle of the Irish Sea with the sun shining down, a group of pilgrims going to meet the

pope in Poland treated us to this spectacle. Even for a liberal-progressive thinking pantheist with Buddhist leanings and complete dedication to the idea of secular nationhood, it was a wonderful way to end one's first visit to Ireland!



Celia Pearce & Steve Comish relaxing at Carrickmines.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE HURLINGHAM CLUB ON SATURDAY, 11 APRIL 1992 AT 11.00 A.M.

1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The proceedings of the Annual General Meeting held on 20 April 1991 were published in 'Croquet', Issue 216, page 20. Copies of the formal minutes will be available at the meeting and will be sent to Associates resident in the United Kingdom on written request to the Secretary.

2. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

3. TREASURER'S REPORT

Copies of the audited accounts for the year ended 31 December 1991 will be available at the meeting. Copies will be sent to Associates resident in the United Kingdom on written request to the Secretary.

4. ELECTION OF TREASURER

The retiring Treasurer, Mr. A.J. Oldham, does not seek re-election and Dr. R.W. Bray is proposed by the President, Mr. J.W. Solomon, and seconded by the Chairman, Mr. S.N. Mulliner.

5. ELECTION OF AUDITORS

Messrs. Nichollass Ames & Co. offer themselves for re-election.

6. ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

The following retire by rotation pursuant to Rule 2 and seek re-election under Rule 7(a)(i): Messrs. D.C. Caporn, G. Cuttle, M.R. French, S.N. Mulliner and C.P. Townsend. Mr. R.S. Eades and Mr. A.J. Oldham also retire by rotation but do not seek re-election. Mr. W.T. Coles resigned from Council during the year.

Messrs. D.W. Shaw and D.W. Trotman seek election under Rule 7(a)(ii).

There are therefore seven candidates for eight places and an election will not be necessary.

7. MOTIONS

By Mr. S.N. Mulliner on behalf of the Council:



THE CROQUET ASSOCIATION

(1) DIRECT REPRESENTATION OF FEDERATIONS ON THE COUNCIL

Rule 2: replace the existing rule by the following:

(a) The management and control of the property, funds and affairs of the Association and the fulfilment of its objectives (except as otherwise provided in these Rules) shall be vested in a Council consisting of 24 members (exclusive of ex-officio members).

(b) Fifteen members shall be elected by the votes of all Associates resident in the Domain, Scotland and Wales ("resident Associates"). One-third shall retire by rotation at each Annual General Meeting but shall be eligible for re-election under Rule 7.

(c) Each of the other nine members shall

be elected to represent one of the nine Croquet Federations of England by the votes of all Associates resident in the geographical area administered by the relative Federation ("qualified Associates"). One-third shall retire by rotation at each Annual General Meeting but shall be eligible for re-election under Rule 7.

Rule 7(a)(i): replace "Rule 2" by "Rule 2(b) or Rule 2(c)".

Rule 7(a)(ii): insert after "seconded" the words "for membership of the Council pursuant to Rule 2(b)".

Add Rule 7(a)(iii): "Associates duly proposed and seconded for membership of the Council as Federation representatives pursuant to Rule 2(c) by two other qualified Associates of whose candidature written notice has been received by the Secretary by 1st February preceding the Annual General Meeting."

Add Rule 26: "The provisions relating to Federation representatives in Rules 2 and 7 shall become effective at the discretion of the Council but not later than 31 December 1997."

(2) ALTERATION OF THE DATE OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Rule 3: replace "April, May or June" by "October".

Rule 5(d): replace "1st February" by "1st August".

Rule 7(a): replace each occurrence of "1st February" by "1st August".

8. BENEFACTORS BOOK

The names of the Benefactors will be read.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

10. PRESIDENT'S CLOSING ADDRESS

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE RULES Associates will notice that two significant changes to the Rules of the Association will be proposed by the Council at the AGM and will therefore be the subject of a postal vote. The reasons for these proposals are set out below.

(1) DIRECT REPRESENTATION OF FEDERATIONS ON THE COUNCIL

The Council firmly believes that the nine regional Federations should be encouraged to play a full part in the future development of Croquet. The first Federation conference was held on 16 November 1991 and served to emphasise the enthusiasm and commitment of Federation officers and their desire for a direct voice on the Council.

The matter was considered at the Council meeting held in December 1991 and the basic principle of direct representation was overwhelmingly endorsed. If approved by Associates, the rule changes will result in a Council of fifteen nationally-elected members and nine regionally-elected Federation representatives by 1997 at the latest. The nine places will be made available within this timescale at the discretion of the Council so that the currently most organised and most active Federations will be officially represented first.

(2) CHANGE OF DATE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Council also recommends that the AGM be moved

from April to October. This will have significant administrative advantages, most notably in relation to the effective working of certain Council committees. It should also make the AGM more relevant to the past season and permit a meaningful awards ceremony for CA trophies. No change is intended in the CA's financial year and the audited accounts of the Association will be published in 'Croquet' in advance of the Meeting.

THE TREASURER

Associates will note that Alan Oldham has decided to retire as the C.A. Treasurer after an unbroken stint of 25 years. He deserves an enormous vote of thanks from all of us for a quite extraordinary degree of service to the Association during that time and a full appreciation of his contribution will appear at a later date.

Dr. Roger Bray will be proposed as his successor. Roger is a university mathematics teacher by profession who has recently taken early retirement. He is a former President's Cup and Test (1969) player who spent many years on Council. He has chaired most of its major committees and served as Chairman from 1978 to 1980. He then retired from Council but is now looking forward to a fresh involvement with the administration of the CA.

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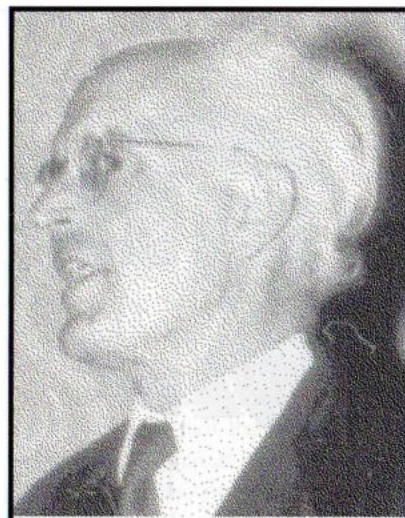
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1 Introduction

These guidelines, published by the Handicap Co-ordination Committee (HCC), apply for the 1992 season and supersede all previous guidelines. The guidelines apply nationally to all CA Associates and cover all competitive games played in Tournaments, Federation and Club events within the realm of the CA.

1992 is the second year of the two-year trial of the Automatic Handicapping System (AHS). In 1991 the AHS was restricted to competitive handicap games whilst trials took place to find a fair and simple way to incorporate the results of level play games into the system. The incorporation of level play results is the principal change in the guidelines for 1992.



Bill Lamb

AUTOMATIC HANDICAPPING SYSTEM: GENERAL GUIDELINES 1992

The HCC has recognised the disappointment felt by many debutante players at the number of games they had to win to improve steadily from a high handicap to a low one. For the 1992 season some handicap levels have been removed from the AHS to make the transition easier for the genuinely improving player. The removed levels are 5 1/2, 6 1/2, 7 1/2, 13, 15, 17, 19.

Both of the above changes have caused some modification to the system as operated last season but the principles remain intact and should cause no difficulty.

There has been some criticism that the AHS does not adequately cover those players who do not play many competitive games. This is indeed true but it is unlikely that there will be many players in this category who merit a substantial change of handicap. The HCC is principally concerned with the handicaps of CA Associate members and particularly those who do play competitively. The benefits of the AHS in standardising competitive handicaps outweigh any such shortcomings which apply mainly to players who are not members of the CA.

The CA Secretary has a duty to record accurately the handicaps of CA Associates. Alas, the computerised records are in some disarray,

mainly due to non-notification of handicap changes. The reporting procedures, which last season were perhaps too complicated, have been simplified. Doubles handicaps may still be given when appropriate but they will no longer be recorded separately on the CA computer; the space released can be used more profitably for handicap comparisons.

Please bear in mind that the principal reason for having a handicap system is to allow players with different abilities to enjoy a reasonably competitive game. Whilst it is possible to infer a ranking list from handicaps, this is only a secondary and somewhat undesirable feature: to seek a decrease in handicap without a true improvement in performance or to maintain a handicap no longer justified is outside the spirit of the system.

2 Standards

It is not generally recognised that there is only one standard upon which the whole handicapping system is based; that is the ability of a scratch player, given a reasonable chance, to take both balls to the peg in two turns without requiring bisques, although he may choose not to do so for tactical reasons. In fairness, any other player should be able to do the same with his full

allocation of bisques. Note that players should be capable of doing this under normal handicap tournament conditions; i.e. the hoops should be set to a maximum width of 3 3/4"; where playing conditions are easy, the hoops should be set 1/32" tighter. The HCC is not intent upon making the game more difficult for the elderly or less experienced players who may enjoy the game more with wider hoops; rather players should recognise that handicaps set under such conditions will not be CA handicaps.

3 Starting Handicaps and Indices

When you receive your handicap record card, please enter your name exactly in the style used by the CA - normally surname followed by title

and all initials (the title 'Mr' may be omitted) - for the benefit of handicappers and the CA Office. Considerable confusion is caused in the CA Office when given names, abbreviated names or nicknames are used in handicap returns and this may lead to handicap changes being incorrectly recorded or attributed.

Use table 1 or the supplementary table 1A to find your starting index. Your index from last season cannot be carried forward because of the changes to the system. Note that the indices in table 1A are not trigger points for the AHS and should be used only to set an index when appropriate. Above handicap 12 the AHS works in intervals of two bisques but handicappers may still wish to use the other values when changing or allocating handicaps outside the AHS. Tables 1 and 1A have been extended for club use.

Column 1 on the record card is for the result of your game. Column 2 is for the type of game, H for handicap, L for level. Column 3 and 4 are for your opponents name and handicap resp. Columns 5 is for the increment or decrement in your index as a result of that game and column 6 is for your new index.

4 Qualifying Games

All singles games in CA Calendar

Fixtures, Federation Leagues, inter-club contests, and designated club tournaments qualify for the system. Club handicappers should provide a list of designated club tournaments at the start of the season.

Abandoned games, walkovers, short croquet, golf croquet, friendly or ad hoc games are excluded from the system.

5 Handicap Singles Play

Every competitive singles game that you win will increase your index by 10; every loss will reduce your index by 10. Trigger points between handicaps 0 and 20 are spaced at intervals of 50 so, as last year, five extra wins or losses will trigger a change of handicap.

6 Level Singles Play

This includes ordinary and advanced singles play. The index change for both players at the end of every game is calculated from table 2. (For convenience table 2 is reprinted on the record card.) First calculate the number of steps difference in handicap. NB A step is a half-bisque between -3 and 5, a full bisque from 5 upwards. Thus, for example, the number of steps difference between handicaps 3 and 6 is five, four steps of 1/2 and one of 1. If the player with the higher handicap wins, he increases his index by the amount shown on the same row of the second column and the other player reduces his index by the same amount. If the player with the lower handicap wins, he increases his index by the amount indicated in the third column and the loser reduces his index by the same amount.

For the purposes of determining the number of steps for level play only, players with half bisques between 5 and 8 should round up their handicap to the next integral value. Such half-bisques will rapidly disappear from the system.

Table 2 has been constructed from the data available from the Computer Grading System (CGS). The increase/decrease in index is reasonably in proportion to the probability of a win/loss over the range of handicaps covered by the CGS. The weighting factor for level play games is the same as that for handicap games, i.e. when players with the same handicap play a level play game,

the winner's index increases by 10, the loser's index decreases by 10.

7 Procedure for Handicap Changes

You are responsible for recording your own results, calculating your new index and determining any handicap change. It will not be necessary to hand in your card at the start of each tournament but tournament officials may ask to see it.

At a CA Calendar Tournament, a handicap change can only be triggered at the end of the event. Then, if your handicap index is on or past a trigger point for a handicap change, you must notify the tournament handicapper or manager of your change of handicap before you leave the tournament, so that it can be notified to the CA as soon as possible. The tournament official will initial your card on the front cover to acknowledge the change.

In club and federation matches, one-day events and rounds of extended tournaments, changes of index and handicap will normally be calculated at the end of each day's play. As a matter of courtesy you should always tell your club handicapper of any change whether at a CA tournament or not. If you are a CA Associate but do not intend to play in any later CA Calendar Tournament, you should ask your club handicapper to notify the change to the CA.

If your handicap has changed between CA Calendar Tournaments, you should notify the tournament manager or handicapper at the start of the event and have your card initialled.

8 Minus Players

Most minus players do not play a significant number of handicap games and their handicaps will be determined principally by the results of their larger number of level play games. The level play table in the AHS is based upon the CGS and there will be some harmonisation of the two systems. However, the CGS has a different weighting factor, which varies according to the importance of the event, and employs an averaging process over a number of games. It is a more accurate reflection of a player's ability than the AHS index. The trigger points for minus handicaps are therefore for

guidance only. A player who reaches a minus handicap trigger point should contact the Chairman of the HCC who will obtain that player's CGS grade to ascertain whether a handicap change should be made.

9 Rapid Improvers

With the incorporation of level play results into the AHS most players will now be covered adequately by the AHS. The system will work best in standardising handicaps if it is allowed to operate with as little intervention from handicappers as possible. Nevertheless, there will always be a small number of rapid improvers (or other players who through some disability can no longer play to their handicap) whose handicaps will have to be adjusted outside the AHS. However, such occasions should be truly exceptional and procedures exist to deal with them.

Table 1 Handicap and Index Trigger Points

Hcp	Index	Hcp	Index	Hcp	Index
-3	2825	-2 1/2	2625	-2	2450
-1 1/2	2300	-1	2175	-1/2	2075
0	2000	1/2	1950	1	1900
1 1/2	1850	2	1800	2 1/2	1750
3	1700	3 1/2	1650	4	1600
4 1/2	1550	5	1500	6	1450
7	1400	8	1350	9	1300
10	1250	11	1200	12	1150
14	1100	16	1050	18	1000
20	950	22	900	24	850

Table 1A Supplementary Handicaps and Indices

Hcp	Index	Hcp	Index	Hcp	Index
5 1/2	1475	6 1/2	1425	7 1/2	1375
13	1125	15	1075	17	1025
19	975	21	925	23	875

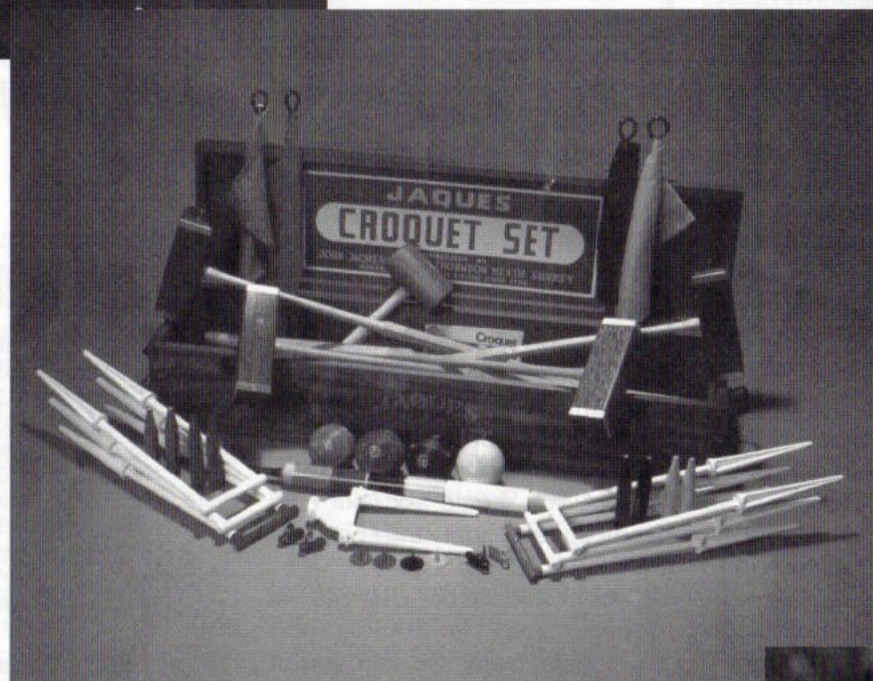
Table 2 Level Play

Handicap Difference	Index Change	
	Higher H'Cap Wins	Lower H'Cap Wins
0	10	10
1	11	9
2	12	8
3	13	7
4	14	6
5	15	5
6	16	4
7 or 8	17	3
9 or 10	18	2
11 or >	19	1

Next Issue: Bill Lamb returns to his other role as Chairman of the CA Coaching Committee, to begin a new series on improving your croquet.



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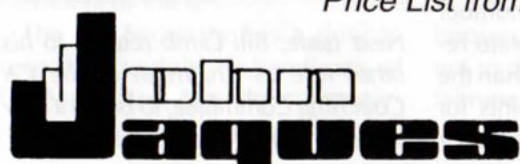
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obituaries

Mrs W Longman

It is not easy to describe Kay Longman, everything about her was quiet and charming and understated. She was a talented player with sound tactics and although not quite attaining International status she acquitted herself well in club matches against the Australians in 1937. Her style was a mixture of centre (single ball strokes) and side; with her slim figure and neat appearance she never made an ungainly stroke. She played in the President's Cup in 1958 and always wore her P.C. scarf with her grey divided shirt. She appeared many times in the Ladies' Field Cup, winning that also in 1958. Her first appearance in 1933 preceded that of Hope Rotherham - her arch rival - by several years. They both played regularly in tournaments at all the south coast and London clubs but after a dispute over a locker at Compton they were barely on speaking terms. Attempting a reconciliation Kay approached Hope at Devonshire Park and said: "Good morning Madam". Hope, surprised, replied in her ringing Edith Evans voice: "Are you addressing me Mrs Longman?" So that was that!

An accomplished doubles player Kay befriended many new players who enjoyed their games with her and she passed on the tactics she had learnt from her husband. Together she and Willie gave back so much to croquet with their generosity, and hospitality and eagerness to help both as players and on Council. Typical of the help the Longman's gave the CA was Kay's presentation of trophies for newly created events e.g. the Silver Sussex Trays for the Veteran Handicap Doubles and the silver bowl for the Ladies Second Invitation event. Before the advent of grants and sponsorship they were the ones who sustained croquet for us today.

EAMP

Arriving at Southwick during the school holidays in the Summer of 1930, I approached the outstanding Manager of the day Mrs R G O'Callaghan to enquire if there was a small court where I could knock a ball about for a time. "Oh Yes" she replied pointing to a piece of ground behind a wire fence, "you will find Miss Kathleen Stuart there, I am sure she would like to have a game with you." What a charming young girl she was, a complete beginner, we were known as rabbits in those days. W. Longman was heard to say he wanted a long bisquer to play with in the doubles. Mrs O'Callaghan duly obliged and paired him with Kay. They were engaged at the end of the week. And so the year rolled by until the war was over and we met up again when I was appointed a Consultant Anaesthetist at St Stephens Hospital in Fulham Road. Willy had made her a very efficient player. Quick and accurate she was a charming opponent, playing in the Ladies Eight for many years. She took a keen interest in the Southwick Club and was helpful to them in many ways. I often spotted her walking along Fulham Road on her way from Chelsea Square to the Peoples Dispensary for Sick Animals in Fulham Broadway. She took a great interest in this for many years.

When in London I used to call in and see her after Willy's death and we would chat over old times. The last time I saw her was during the recent World Cup at Hurlingham. She was gravely ill and I knew it was to be my last visit. She was coming up to 89 years of age.

WRDW

Kay Longman died on 22nd October 1991, she left the CA a legacy of £1000 in her will. This will of course appear in the Benefactor's Book.

B G Perry

Bill Perry was nearly 60 when he first burst on the Croquet scene in Budleigh Salterton. He had friends there - Gerald Cave, Gerald's mother, and Sylvia Gough (not forgetting Pookie the peke) and it was Sylvia who gave him a mallet. His mastery of croquet was as meteoric as his career. Born in 1907 in Australia he finished his education in Perth at the University where he represented them at Tennis and Rowing and got a Diploma in Chemical Engineering. Having worked his way over to London he won another Dip.Chem.Eng. at University College and joined ICI at Billingham doing research in the hydrogenisation of coal and later in experimental nylon plant. In 1934 he and Vi got Married - on the proverbial shoe-string. 1946 saw Bill in Avonmouth as R.T.Z.'s Deputy Chief Engineer and later became Managing Director of Imperial Smelting. His outstanding contributions to research earned him a Gold Medal from both the Institute of Mining and Metallurgy and The Royal Society. Bill's ability was recognised world-wide including by the USSR and the constant travelling was a strain on his health forcing him to retire.

In 1966, his first season, Bill's handicap went from 7* to -1 and he was selected for the Surrey Cup (finishing =3) and awarded the Apps Bowl. In both '68 and '69 he was 5th in the President's Cup while in 1970 he was unlucky not to win it. Jean Jarden had been in a winning position against Nigel Aspinall when she lost her nerve and retreated: Nigel snatched the game to tie with Bill at 11 wins. After winning the play-off Nigel quailed at the thought of a possible 6 more games in the Champion of Champions cup against Keith Wylie (Open Champion) and John Solomon (holder). Although nearly 40 years his senior Bill said he would gladly have taken his place!

"With legs straddled like a giraffe drinking" is how Bill's style has been affectionately described, but it was most effective. All his split-shots were exemplary - one is historic. Bill was double-balked but ran 1-back, split to 4-back and Corner III then split to 3-back and into corner I with a perfect rush to 2-back! I was there and agreed with the consensus that we would never see a better stroke. But Bill brought more than skill to croquet, he had a talent for friendship and a great sense of fun. When William and I beat him and Joan in the final of the 1969 Open Mixed Doubles he insisted on toasting William as a budding international. (They won it the following two years). Bill had been a probable for the Australian team that year and withdrew on health grounds but he came in for the last test in 1974.

Twice President of the Budleigh Salterton club he brought his champagne personality to that too. He was a brilliant Bridge player and was 9 times Croquet Champion. No-one enjoyed his games more than he did - unless it was his partners and opponents.

Above all Bill was a family man: adored by his grandchildren while Audrey and Judith knew he would do anything for them. When Vi died in 1978 they had enjoyed 44 years of constant companionship and in 1980 he again found happiness by marrying Diana. It is to her and Bill's family that we give our sympathy and, in a small way, share their pride in his life.

EAMP

Bill Perry died on 1st December 1991.

Expert Croquet Tactics 2

Review by Chris Clarke

When John Solomon reviewed the first edition of Expert Croquet Tactics, he admitted to being sceptical about whether there would be an audience wide enough to justify its publication. That was an opinion shared by most and yet, six years later, the second edition has been published.

The first article, on the triple peel, is virtually unchanged and remains a masterpiece. The second article, on the first break, has been updated with a paragraph on defensive 4-back leaves - such as the NZ 1990 leave. Keith quite rightly questions the value of the leave, which is surely only a possibility where you are the better player playing on an exceptionally difficult lawn.

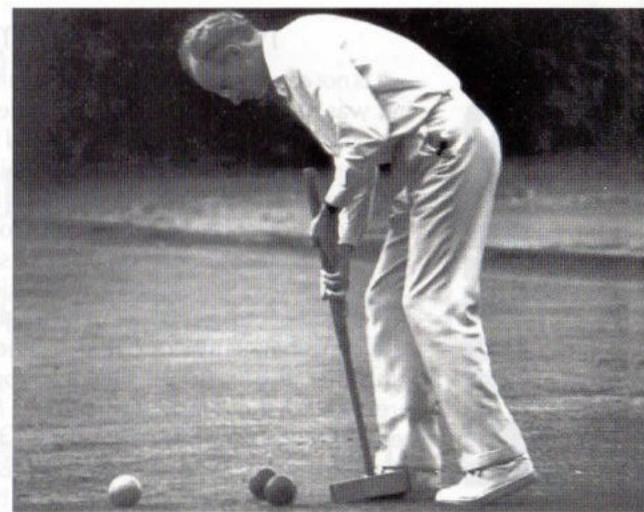
The third article, on establishing a break, now acknowledges the fact that precision croquet has become more difficult to play due to tight hoops in firm ground. Keith mourns the demise of precision croquet like a mother mourning the death of a child but, in my opinion, precision croquet is now where it ought to be

a knife in the armoury of the expert who uses his aggressive guns to reap the major rewards. However it is easy to understand his opinion since, at his peak, he was the master of the art.

The fourth article, on the opening, is where the major changes have taken place. Keith goes into a very detailed study of the standard opening (now rarely seen) and concludes that if U is played north of hoop 4, then the standard tice is unsound. I fully agree with his conclusion, although I think he overrates the value of [K at U] from A-baulk.

The main problem that Keith faces is that of keeping up with new innovations that may last only a few weeks. Such a case occurred in 1990 where, in a series of games between Fulford and Mulliner, the third turn join after [R to II] was so wide as to make [Y at R] a possibility. The book fails to comment on such experimentations.

Keith notes the increase in popularity of the Duffer tice and expands his previous analysis. This work is all sound although in giving an example of its success he states the 1991 World Champion, who I believe had



Above:
Keith Wylie,
expert croquet
tactician
Left:
Chris Clarke

a theoretically better choice of opening in [R to II].

The final paragraph on the world of the supershot makes several interesting suggestions but occasionally seems to question either the ability/courage (pg 145) or the intelligence/courage/ability (pg 150 [K to II]!?) of these supershots.

On the whole it is an improvement with many new ideas masterfully argued, and although Keith again only recommends it to the minus player I would give it to any ambitious B-class player. I look forward to the third edition.

(continued ...)

concerned had obviously consumed intoxicating liquor.

Measured on a map the distance in a straight line from the cannon at the Barracks to 10 Withers Avenue is approximately 1400 feet. In its path the missile must have passed over the barracks property, crossed Venna Road, Ridgeway Street, Corsay Lane, the Orford Hotel, Harris Street, railway embankment and railway lines, and the homes on the railway side of Withers Avenue. It then crossed Withers Avenue and went through a front window of No. 10 Withers Avenue.

I am, Sir, your obedient Servant,
R Morris P.C. 115.

GEORGE CARTER states:-

I am 32 years of age, a cost clerk employed by Rylands Bros. Ltd., and I reside at 10 Withers Avenue, Warrington.

About 11.30pm on Tuesday 15th July 1958, I retired to bed in the front upstairs bedroom. I had been in bed for some time, and was just dosing off when I felt a heavy bump on my left ear. I was startled, and felt round the bed and found that it was covered in bits of glass. Just then my sister came dashing into the room and switched on the light. On looking round the room I saw that one of the panes of glass in the large bay was broken. There was a hole near the top of the pane, it looked just as if someone had thrown a ball through it, in fact I then found that the ball which I have just given to you was on the floor at the side of my bed.

The whole of my bedroom was covered with small fragments of glass. As the ball came through the window it must have ripped the curtain from the rail, carrying it with it. The curtain had obviously saved me from serious injury, plus the fact that I always sleep with my head beneath the bed covers.

My mother, who is 68 years old, has just come out of hospital after a seizure, and was sleeping in the room below mine. She was very frightened by the occurrence which has not helped her in her convalescence.

The damaged window measures 50 inches by 37 1/2 inches, and I should think it would cost about two pounds to put the damage right.

Signed: G. Carter

BOOK REVIEW

All titles available from CA, except those marked 'ER' - available from Eastern Rose Publishing. Discounted prices available to CA members; amounts in brackets for postage & packing.

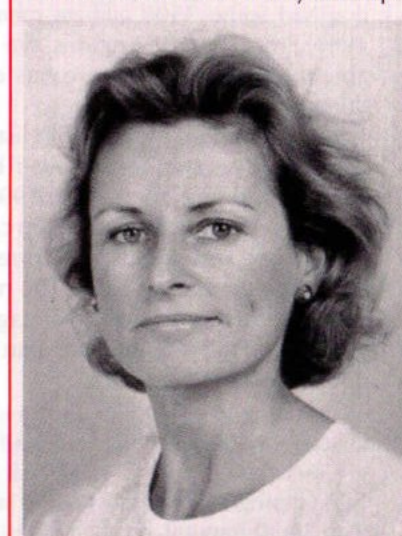
Full Laws and Regulations. In black and white, the final word on the game of croquet. £3.00 / £5.00 (28p).PB.

Know the game. A basic and fairly brief introduction to the game, but at least it's simple enough to understand. £1.65 / £1.99 (28p). PB.

Croquet Handbook. This booklet squeezes the essence of croquet into the fewest pages yet but somehow manages to remain one of the clearest. £0.75 / £1.50 (28p). PB.

History of Croquet (Prichard). Ten years old now, but still the definitive guide to croquet history. Written by David Prichard, this is the work to which croquet historians first turn. Fascinating, surprising and amusing you will read it again and again. An essential purchase! £10.00 / £15.00 (£1.40). HB.

Queen of Games (Smith). Published in 1991 this is the new history of croquet.



More of an all-round guide than David Prichard's history, with sections on playing the game (assisted by GB Team Coach Keith Aiton) and the equipment. Bringing croquet history right up to date, with observations on croquet and top croquet players in the nineteen-nineties as well as the eighteen-nineties! Thoroughly researched and well written by professional journalist Nicky Smith, who writes on croquet regularly in the 'FT' and 'Country Life', also a keen player and member of the Compton Club. Nicky originally learnt to play croquet in Thailand. £16.95 ER (P & P incl.). HB.

Croquet: The Complete Game (Gill). Journalist Anton Gill takes on croquet, and seems to regurgitate much of what

Prichard says, in this all-round guide. £9.00 / £14.95 (£1.40). HB.

Croquet (Solomon). Author John Solomon is probably the most successful croquet player ever. Solomon's tactical advice to the aspiring expert is superseded by that of Wylie but this remains a book from which to learn for high and low bisquers. £7.00 / £7.95 (60p). PB.

Play the Game (Mulliner). Current CA Chairman Stephen Mulliner adds his voice to the chorus advising croquet beginners. With step-by-step drawings and diagrams, a 'Game Guide' and 'Rules Clinic'. £3.66 / £3.99 (50p). PB.

How to play Croquet (Jarrod). Excellent full-colour diagrams shine through in this introduction to the game. Another simple and brief guide to playing croquet. £3.00 / £3.50 (36p). PB.

Croquet: Skills of the game (Lamb). Bill Lamb, CA Coaching Committee Chairman, concentrates on playing the game and how to improve in this book. £9.50 / £10.95 (93p). HB.

Simplified Croquet (Danks). Two books now being offered together in one package. Peter Danks attempts to break the playing of successful croquet down into manageable mouthfuls. £7.95 (£1.15). PB.

Plus One on Time (Gaunt). Coach of the year Don Gaunt's book will undoubtedly benefit any middle bisquer, with many diagrams cleverly constructed - if sometimes straining under the weight of information. £5.00 / £6.00 (60p). PB.

Joe Hogan Coaching Video (Hogan). The legendary New Zealand number 1 Joe Hogan. Not only a past World Champion and World number 1, but a semi-professional coach and the man cited by John Walters after winning the 1991 World Championship as a model for his play during an astonishing come-back trail. In this fully professional video Hogan passes on his coaching advice - mostly for beginners. £23.50 / £30.00 (75p). VHS.

... NEW ... NEW ... NEW ... NEW ...

Townsend's Croquet Almanack 1992 (ed. Walters). Brand new (April release) edition of the annual delve into croquet records, statistics and anecdotes. With reviews on home & overseas croquet and even more lists than usual. Finally, reasonable reproduction on Walters' often good photographs! Fewer pages this year, presumably to squeeze the price down to its cheapest level yet. £4.95 ER (50p). PB.

Expert Croquet Tactics 2nd ed. (Wylie). Substantially revised for the 1991 second edition. For those aspiring to A-class standard it is simply invaluable, but it has also proved to be a fascination for other players - mesmerised by its esoteric ideals and Wylie's uncompromising, sometimes even "schoolmarmish", approach to writing! £12.00 (66p). PB.

The Croquet Association WHAT CAN YOUR CLUB DO FOR CROQUET?

Support National Croquet Day
on Saturday 23rd May 1992
(or as near as you can get to that day!)
Might even do yourself a bit of good too!

Aim

To raise the image of Croquet and interest
as many new people as possible.

WHY NOT

Organise come and try sessions
Golf Croquet Tournaments
even invite the public to come and watch?

This year's event will be co-ordinated by the nine C.A. Federations for local publicity with the croquet association trying to spread the word on a national basis. Details of help with posters, press releases etc. will follow.

Syd Jones, (Chairman, Development Committee)

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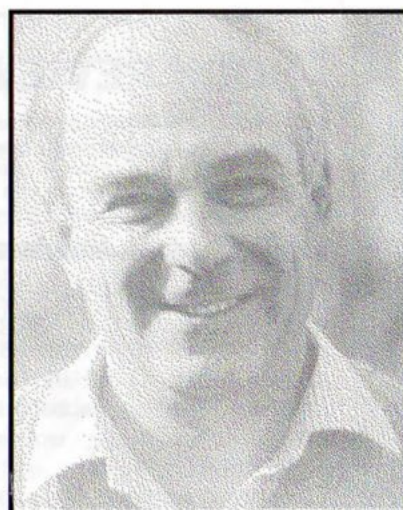
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The installation of the CA's computer and the sorting out of membership records has been a long and gradual process. However, with Bill Gillott's help on the systems side and Alan Stockwell's efforts with day to day file maintenance, we have now reached a point where the basic data is reliable.

Bill is currently installing an improved system for the daily processing of membership records, which should be operational by the time this magazine appears. In the meantime, much to my delight, our data base is beginning to provide more accurate membership figures.

At 1st January this year, the Croquet Association had 1838 Associate members. This total includes 47 members under 21 and 294 "veterans" aged 65, 110 of whom have been members of the Association for 10 years or more. In fact, nearly 500 current members have been with us for this length of time.



Development
Chris Hudson

To keep down postal charges, Affiliate membership cards will be sent in bulk to clubs to be passed on to individual Affiliates. I hope that Affiliates will feel encouraged to contact the CA and make use of the Associations services.

If we are going to increase membership figures rapidly, we need to reduce the "drop out" rate for new members. To this end, sufficient copies of "Croquet News" for all Affiliates will be delivered in bulk to each registered club throughout the coming season. Four issues will be printed, and clubs should find this helpful in maintaining interest amongst new members, as the contents of "Croquet News" will be aimed primarily at those just taking up the game.

To make it easier to apply for the CA membership, a number of membership application forms will be sent to each Club Secretary before the start of the season for display in the club house or distribution to

Increasing Membership

A major objective of the CA's Development Plan is to encourage people to take up croquet, with a view to increasing the number of CA members and the funds available for administering the game. Happily, the number of players is steadily increasing as a result of successful recruitment campaigns run by clubs and federations. Their efforts have been considerable and I am most grateful for their continuing support.

Enlarged club membership will be immediately reflected in the CA membership total, now that members of Registered Clubs are automatically enrolled as CA Affiliates. The effect of our development activity can thus be measured straight away, rather than

having to wait some time for these new players to join the CA as Associates. Club membership lists showed that the Association had some 3500 affiliate members in 1991. From the 1992 returns, we shall be able to see how this figure has changed during the past season.

As soon as club membership lists for the end of last season are received by Tony Antenen with the payments of 1992 Registration Fees, affiliate membership cards will be prepared and issued for all current Affiliates up to the end of 1993. The members concerned can then take advantage of any "special offers" for Affiliates that are announced from time to time.

club members, as appropriate. In due course, I hope that all enrolled Affiliates will become full members of the CA and thus receive all the benefits and privileges open to Associate members.

Finally, may I remind you about the Insurance Schemes available through the CA. With Public Liability Insurance alone, many clubs are saving upwards of £50 per season by insuring through the CA. Considerable savings can also be made on other types of insurance, including buildings and contents. This facility is available to Registered Clubs whose affiliate members have been enrolled. To obtain details of the cover available, please contact Tony Antenen.

Senior Championships

Sponsorship for this event has not been confirmed. Final arrangements: 4 preliminary qualifiers (run to give entrants as many games as possible)

Cheltenham (3-4 June)

Hunstanton (5-6 June)

Bush/Edinburgh (20-21 June)

Surbiton (4-5 July)

National Final -

Roehampton (9-10 September)

containing the top two players from each regional qualifier.

All England Single Ball Handicap

This new event is intended to encourage the playing of single ball croquet, and provide an extra interest to the All-England Handicap. It will be run in parallel with the All England, with area and national finals at the same venues. The initial rounds will be run by the clubs, who are free to choose their own format for these qualifying events. The area and national finals will either be run in blocks or at

least as best-of-three knockout, and club organisers should bear in mind that a single game of single ball croquet rarely lasts more than 20-30 minutes, so even a best-of-three knockout provides little return for the entry fee of £1, which is payable to the Croquet Association. As for the All-England, clubs are free to add their own entry fee to this amount. The number of entries in the area finals to which each club is entitled will be the same as for the All-England.

For single ball croquet, a player receives one third their usual bisque entitlement (there are no half bisques - round down any fraction of a half or less, round up any fraction more than a half). Each player has one ball only, all other rules are as for normal Association handicap singles play.

Any enquiries about the organisation of the competition, or about the rules of play, should be addressed to Dr Murray (see *Fixture Book*). Entries should be sent to the CA Secretary together with All-England entries, and names of qualifiers to the Area Secretaries.

Regional Golf Croquet

A series of one day events in 1992: Himley Hall (30 June), Bristol (7 July) Bowdon (6 July), Nottingham (2 July) Guildford & Godalming (9 July) Contact Chris Hudson (address pg.3). Entry Fee: £2.50.

Fixtures Book changes

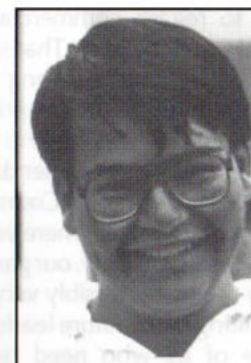
Compton Croquet Club have asked us to point out that for their 22-26 June tournament the address given for the Secretary should be 75 Saffrons Court, not 73.

Peels Championships (Fixtures List page 34) Event 1 entry fee should read £10 not £15.

European Qualifier for World Champ.s

To be held at Fontenay-le-Comte, France, on 25th and 26th April, 1992. Open to any European player; winner gets place in WCF World Croquet Championship at Newport (23rd-31st May). Entry Fee 350F. Contact your National Association (CA, CAI, SCA, WCA) for details.

1992 UK Rankings



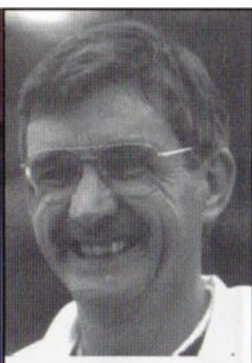
1 Chris Clarke

Croquet Masters Champion (President's Cup); British Open runner-up (to Fulford 3-1). Accountancy Undergraduate.



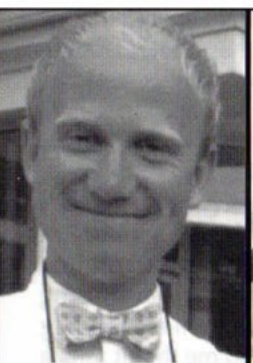
2 Robert Fulford

British Open Champion; Eastern Champion; South of England Champion. Freelancer.



3 David Openshaw

Mens Champion; Northern Champion; World Championship runner-up (to Walters 2-0). Executive.



4 John Walters

World Champion; South of England runner-up (to Fulford 3-2). Designer/Publisher.



5 David Maugham

Croquet Masters runner-up (to Clarke); Western Championship runner-up (to Mulliner 3-2). Computer programmer.

Top 10 Players				Other ranked players (minimum 10 level games played during 1991 to appear)			
No.	Name	Grade	Gms	No.	Name	Grade	Gms
1	Clarke CD	175.3	130	11	Goacher DJ	141.4	99
2	Fulford RI	174.3	123	12	Haslam CJ <J>	138.7	47
3	Openshaw DK	171.3	63	13	French MR	136.3	70
4	Walters JO	165.3	109	14	Palmer LJ	135.6	78
5	Maugham DB	160.2	157	15	Prichard WdeB	134.9	28
6	Mulliner SN	157.9	73	16	Dawson JP	134.8	58
7	Irwin CJ	154.4	89	17	Bond ID	134.5	80
8	Aspinall GN	146.5	31	18	Saurin MA	134.0	50
9	Burridge IJ	146.5	148	19	McCormick DJ <J>	133.2	49
10	Cornelius DA Miss	143.6	65	20	Reeve DC	131.7	40
				21	Wiggins DCD	130.8	65
				22	Avery MN	130.8	21
				23	Comish S	129.4	72
				24	Heap MEW	127.6	36
				25	Saurin Adrian T <J>	125.3	53
				26	Williams S [I]	125.2	54
				27	Murray M	125.0	39
				28	Noble GW	124.6	76
				29	Coles WT	124.3	38
				30	Toye JS	124.1	12
				31	Cordingley P	123.3	56
				32	Gregory AK	122.1	43
				33	Lamb WE	121.2	31
				34	Collighan RJ	121.1	13
				35	Foulser DR	120.6	61
				36	Hope AB	119.4	33
				37	Day P	118.8	63
				38	Greenwood JD	118.4	79
				39	Landor FJR	118.1	72
				40	Saurin Andrew J <J>	117.4	35
				41	Gunasekera D	117.2	28
				42	Guest JE	117.1	121
				43	Tuke SM	116.2	58
				44	Solomon EW	116.1	34
				45	Harrison TD	115.0	41
				46	Hallam BG	113.7	54
				47	Mrozinski AJ	113.3	50
				48	Gaunt DL	112.8	82
				49	Symons AJ	111.6	35
				50	Smith PL	111.4	61
				51	Stevens MJ	110.9	13
				52	Wood TI	110.1	14
				53	Neal BG	110.0	41
				54	Prichard RDC	109.8	44
				55	Goddard J	109.5	30
				56	Storey BJ	108.2	71
				57	Sutcliffe AF	108.2	71
				58	Wurml J	107.8	10
				59	Dorke PJ	107.7	89
				60	Ormerod WP	107.6	19
				61	Palmer DG	107.6	15
				62	Bogle AJ	107.3	41
				63	Harris NR	107.0	38
				64	Evans MJ	105.4	27
				65	Hyne NG	104.8	37
				66	Aiton KMH	104.1	23
				67	Curry GM Miss	103.7	41
				68	Appleton DR	103.6	37
				69	Hector JD	103.5	26
				70	Bailey RF	103.3	11
				71	Conyngham VL [I]	102.4	10
				72	Vincent IG	100.8	50
				73	Plummer IR	100.5	13
				74	Ransom RW	99.9	46
				75	Maugham FI	99.8	37
				76	McDiarmid AJ Miss	99.6	52
				77	Jones KE	99.4	17
				78	Haslam JH	99.1	56
				79	Magee DJ	98.8	54
				80	Brand IB	98.2	18
				81	Chapman LJ	97.9	38
				82	Bray AC	97.8	24
				83	Bottomley HJ	97.6	14
				84	Jones C	97.0	38
				85	Haggerston MJB	96.8	36
				86	Mann JR	96.6	11
				87	Surgeonor J [S]	96.3	23
				88	Williams CN	95.3	83
				89	Death PJ	95.2	17
				90	Ruddock JC	94.5	51
				91	Pidcock A	94.3	18
				92	Llewellyn-Williams MJ	94.2	76
				93	Browne TN	94.1	18
				94	Jenkins RS	93.9	37
				95	Liddiard GS	93.3	50
				96	Ames JP	93.1	26
				97	Bennet A	93.1	29
				98	Williams RaW [S]	91.9	17
				99	Latham LV	91.7	18
				100	Watson JPG	91.0	16
				101	Thompson BE	90.6	13
				102	Judge AP	90.5	24
				103	Moorcraft DH	89.2	21
				104	Thompson PW	89.2	11
				105	Granger-Brown M	89.0	11
				106	Miller ARK	88.9	134
				107	Shaw DW	88.7	32
				108	Smith RJ	88.5	21
				109	Harrison-Wood D	87.7	14
				110	McClelland IR	86.8	20
				111	Willis JH	86.3	22
				112	Anderson TW	85.5	33
				113	Sheraton-Davis J	85.4	44
				114	White D	85.4	26
				115	Madams B	85.0	25
				116	Hopewell CG	84.8	44
				117	Hopwood M	84.7	25
				118	Reed AA	84.7	11
				119	Dymock E	84.7	34
				120	Davis R	84.6	37
				121	Green B <J>	83.9	12
				122	Hammalev M	83.4	14
				123	Hayes MR	83.1	12
				124	Brand RS	82.5	33
				125	Hague P Mrs	82.4	18
				126	Kennerley P	82.3	12
				127	Darby PA	82.2	34
				128	Rogers C	81.7	11
				129	Hilditch JR	81.7	111
				130	Ransom Mrs F	81.7	51
				131	Leach P	81.6	10
				132	Straw JC	80.9	22
				133	Williamson JD	80.8	12
				134	Carter KJ	80.8	42
				135	Best R	80.4	14
				136	Wheeler JA	80.1	26