

## THROUGH THE HOOP

**A** crowded weekend commenced with a Saturday meeting of the Publicity Committee, chaired by Mr Commercial himself, Brian Macmillan with Syd Jones, CA Development Committee Chairman in attendance. Along with such stalwarts as Judy Anderson, Chris Hudson and Bill Giltott, I was pleased to see James Hawkins who handles publicity for the North West Federation, there by invitation with a particular interest in the staging of the 5th World Championship at Cardon Park, Chester later this year (Apply to Brian Mac for an information pack if your club has not already received one!) As meetings go this was a good one with plenty of constructive ideas being discussed and positive "feed-in" from around the table.

Saturday night SOJ and I ate out at "my" pasta cafe up in Wimbledon Village (The last time we ate there the lady at the next table sat quietly day-dreaming while her napkin went up in flames. It was flung onto the floor and stamped out in a passable imitation of a Cherokee rain-dance. Syd, unused to the more sophisticated ways of London and its environs, thought it was part of the floor show and I wasn't about to enlighten him!)

Sunday - and a cock-crow start to get Syd down to Southwick to pit his wits in the CA Referees exam organised and run by Dennis Shaw with, among others, Ian Bond and George Noble active on and off court. It is, of course, one of the great strengths of the CA that guys like that are prepared to give up their (playing!) time to organise and run an exacting, testing course to provide referees of a high standard - a quick

answer to the somewhat narrow outlook question "What does the CA do for me?"

Working with Dennis I hope to set up a comprehensive list of referees by grade for publication in this magazine. Having achieved that goal, the next step is to do something similar for CA Tournament Managers. Lionel Wharrad circulated his proposal to hold a weekend seminar and, in the face of a disappointing response that barely touched double figures, did not proceed. In retrospect - and hind-

*... a fun filled weekend ... match managers ...*

*... CA "Rookie of the Year" ...*

*... a National Press non-event ...*



*Tony presents the 1993 'All England' to John MacGowen*

sight not being worth a bent hoop - I wish now I had urged Lionel to go ahead. It would have been a start - acorn planting for future oaks.

Point is - we need to buck up and take a more professional approach to running the game ("Professional"!!! Aargh!!! That word!! - OK! A less bumbling "it'll be All right on the day" approach). I know, and I am sure you do as well, the good managers, each of whom handles a tournament in his - or, most emphatically, her own way. What a terrific team they would make as instructors/mentors to budding, up and coming managers. Think on it Lionel and once More into the whatsit!

After a very enjoyable lunch at Southwick - to whom my thanks to all

concerned for the hospitality and kindness shown to the Secretary - it was off to Kent to the Medway Club to present the Townsend Award. We were met by a surprisingly - and gratifying - high turnout of club members on a bitter cold day cheered and enlivened by the warmth of the welcome extended to Syd and yours truly.

After a welcome cup of tea and light refreshments (I would join the club just for the home made cake!) Syd, in his own inimitable fashion, made the presentation

*... a fun filled weekend ... match managers ...*

*... CA "Rookie of the Year" ...*

*... a National Press non-event ...*

of, first the Townsend Award Trophy and second, to great delight, the gift of a mallet generously donated by Charles Townsend to whom I can convey through these lines the genuine appreciation of the club. Congratulations Medway. Well deserved! Here's a club, recruiting right across the board who are active in promoting the game in a location which, without them, would be a barren wilderness. We can, I believe, expect to hear a lot more from that quarter.

I received a very welcome call from the good old US of A during which I was informed that one of our youngest CA members, Donald Fournier, aged all of 12 years, has been voted USCA Rookie of the

Year. Our congratulations Donald - we look forward to your continued progression and eventual entry into the national and international ranks over here.

Now! That call set me thinking. Here is a good example of what might be called "progressive" development. I know we have the Townsend and the Apps Healey awards but what about, say, the "Welcome" Award to the club voted the most hospitable on the tournament circuit? or the "Clubman/woman" of the year award to an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to his/her club - not only - or necessarily - by playing ability but also by a continuous, ongoing effort. Any ideas? Let me have them and I'll feed them on to the right quarter.

Finally, congratulations to the victorious Solomon Trophy team. Funny, isn't it. Our cricket team, having been seen out of sight, finally we win a single Test and the Press would have us declare a national holiday. Brian Macmillan spends hours telexing the sports desks of all the (so-called) top broadsheets about the successful National Croquet Team and gets nothing - apart from one barely-to-be-found mention over the four or five days of the competition. Any other sport and the players would be household names.

That's it. I am penning this in my Cornish hideaway overlooking Padstow where, as close friends know because I bore them to tears about it, I have found the perfect unwinding, totally relaxing, get-away-from-it-all. So with the dispatch of this missive to JOW I can turn my thoughts to the serious matter of tonights menu - and choice of accompanying wine .. now let me see ..!

*Tony Antenen*

# croquet

## MAGAZINE ISSUE 233



## Four Weddings & a Funeral?

No, but with summer here everybody's doing it.  
CROQUET - everything from back yard to green sward, inside.

JUNE 1994



£ 2 . 5 0

# NEWS

Changed dates;  
Laws Rulings;  
Benefits for  
recruiting new  
CA Members

## Spencer Ell 1994 Ball off the court

The dates for this event that appear in the Fixtures List are incorrect. In fact the Spencer Ell will be held between Wednesday 7th September and Saturday 10th September, but players must be available to play on Sunday 11th September if necessary.

## Colchester Over 60 Weekend

Although correctly advertised as Friday to Sunday, unfortunately the dates given in the Fixtures List for the Colchester Over 60's were a day out. The correct dates are August 19th to 21st

## Advanced Handicap Play

At their meeting on March 26th the CA Council adopted the Laws Committee Official Adjudication on the interpretation of "preceding turn" in Law 36(a) for the purposes of Advanced Handicap Play.

Bisque turns are to be considered as continuations of the turn and not as new turns. Therefore lifts and contacts cannot be avoided by the taking of bisques.

Interpretation of Law 10 from NZCA Regulations will have the effect of a Laws Committee Chairman's ruling until incorporated into the next reprint of the Law book (it was omitted from the last reprint in error).

"It is sometimes the case that a ball deviates from its line or rolls back slightly when coming to rest. This can give rise to the possibility that a ball that is found to be just inside the boundary line has in fact gone out before coming to rest.

In general, it is the responsibility of the striker to watch the shot and to determine whether the ball remains on court at all times. Should the striker be in a good position to make such a judgement, the opponent should accept the striker's opinion, although the opponent's normal rights to be consulted, as set out in Law 45 (e), should be respected. If the striker is not able to make such a judgement, but the opponent is in a good position to have seen what happened, the striker should seek his opinion.

When neither can make a reliable judge-

ment, or when there is a dispute, the matter should be decided by a referee. If the referee can decide the matter on the basis of his own observations or by consulting witnesses, as prescribed in Regulation 7 (b), he should do so. Failing that, and subject to the exceptions set out below, the referee should base his decision on the final position of the ball.

The exceptions are:  
(1) when the ball hits an object or fixture outside the court, including a string boundary line, and rebounds into the court;

(2) when the ball is interfered with by an outside agency beyond the court and returns into the court;

(3) when the ball mounts an incline outside the court and rolls back into the court.

The final exception is the only one that might give rise to dispute between players. In such a case, the referee should satisfy himself that the claimed effect of gravity can be repeated before placing reliance upon it.

## Secretary's Shield

Congratulations to Bury CC on winning the Secretary's Shield (pictured left) - the national competition for clubs who won their regional leagues in the previous year. Bury beat Tyneside 4-3 in the final at Nottingham on 25/9.

## Recruitment Drive

The CA needs to recruit more members, and your help is needed! Details of a recruitment drive to be held this year are as follows:

For every 3 new CA members recruited by a club from now on up to the end of 1994, the CA will provide a £12 voucher that can be used

either towards a membership subscription for 1995 or towards CA merchandise from the CA Shop.

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

Ring Chris Hudson on 0270 820296 for an entry form now.

## 1994 Open Championship

The top Croquet players will be competing in The Open Croquet Championship to be held at The Hurlingham Club 17th - 24th July inclusive. Reginald Bamford (South Africa) will be defending his title against World Champion Robert Fulford.

Now is the opportunity to see croquet played as it should be played, as they will all want to do well before the World Championship in August.

Why not come along to Hurlingham? Organise a party from your club or just come yourself. If you are a member of the Croquet Association you get in free on production of your current membership card: **cards must be shown**. Otherwise you will have to pay the Hurlingham Club entrance fee so please ensure that you have your card with you so as not to cause embarrassment. You will have an enjoyable day in a lovely setting.

If your friends wish to come along the charge by Hurlingham is £7.00, tickets can be obtained from the Games Office at the Hurlingham Club. Cheques must be made out to the Hurlingham Club not the CA.

# CROQUET

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## OBITUARIES

### Susan Wiggins

I saw Susan only a week before she left for New Zealand, excited at the thought of being near her mother and the prospect of refurbishing her flat. She hoped to return for a few months in 1995, to play croquet and continue judging with me in various Horse Trials. Susan was a valuable member of my team of judges, as her knowledge was daunting, having been brought up with Horses, and competed in events herself. She had also hunted with the Beaufont Hunt over here.

Susan was no mean golf player and was a member of the Parkstone Golf Club, playing in various matches. She was also a keen bridge player.

Her croquet prowess was well known and she shepherded me through to the final of the Ladies Candlesticks in 1990 at Hurlingham.

Susan was a great character, easy going, and a great friend. I shall miss her very much.

Pat Asa-Thomas

The Croquet Communities of both Great Britain and New Zealand will be shocked to hear of the death in New Zealand of Susan Wiggins, following an operation on January 8th. This sad news comes just a few months after the death of Susan's husband Bobby.

Susan was an accom-

plished sportswoman who achieved a high level of success in other fields before taking to croquet, where she maintained an impressive level over many years. Instantly recognisable on the court, Susan employed an elegant upright side-style stance with a long mallet. She combined a technically admirable style with a level of determination that made her a fearsome adversary. Though approaching them modestly, she seemed to particularly enjoy matches against the top players - when she would up her game and often be pegging out before they knew what had hit them. Her shooting could be phenomenal, and I well remember her conquering bewildered opponents of a younger generation in a handicap doubles game at Budleigh after her partner had been pegged out - just by hitting shot after shot across a less than perfect lawn!

For many years during the eighties she was a class above any other lady croquet players in the world. Her successes then in The British Womens Championship (3 times winner and twice runner-up) and Ladies Field Cup (3 wins in 3 appearances) were a foregone conclusion. In 1983 she was selected and played in the Spencer Ell Cup, where she acquitted herself

well. Susan began spending gradually more time in New Zealand, as she and Bobby moved between there and the UK to enjoy the summer months of both. She joined her husband in the ranks of those people who have represented their country at croquet after she became an essential part of the Kiwi womens Test Team, when the annual competition against Australia was instituted. Susan was most often seen in this country enjoying the leisurely week-long tournaments of the South Coast. For many people, she will always be part of the fond memories they have of playing alongside her in the sunshine.

JOW

### Simon Garrett

All members and friends of the Bath Croquet Club will have been saddened to hear of the death on Good Friday of Simon Garrett, at the early age of 51. Simon had been ill throughout the winter and had seemed to be recovering.

Simon, who learnt croquet as a garden player at home, was one of the first members of the Bath club when Joyce Brash-Smith re-founded it in the middle 1970's. Throughout his membership he was one of the club's best players, and played in a few tourna-

ments, notably at Roehampton, though he never quite reached the level he himself would have wished. As John McCullough said, he was more of an aesthetic player, who preferred playing well to winning.

Earlier in his life, Simon had been a copywriter in the advertising industry, based in London, but had moved back to his native Bath, where he devoted much of his life to caring for his parents, neither of whom enjoyed good health in recent years. He never involved himself deeply in club affairs, but was a good friend to all other members. The Bath club will miss him.

Martin Murray

### Elspeth Alice Jackson

I first met Elspeth before the War in 1939 at Cricket Week, when the members of the English team, which included Elspeth, made up a side with other keen cricket players. We played from 10 - 6 daily for a week in the Malvern area, about 12 matches a day took place on "school" grounds. I was most impressed with Elspeth on this first meeting, as a person and a wicket keeper!!

We did not meet again until the 70's, but kept in touch through a mutual friend. It was a pleasure to see Elspeth again and

I caught up with all her success. She played Hockey and Cricket for Middlesex, she was a selector for the England Hockey team and went as Manager of the English Cricket team to South Africa in 1960/61. Later she became President of the Women's Cricket Association.

Elspeth joined the S.C.C.C. (Southwick) as a great sportswoman, and took to Croquet with little trouble. She started the game too late to become an "A" player, but with her experience as a Secretary at a school in Pinner and Bursar of Lady Mable College of PE - both for many years - she soon became our Club Chairman, a position she held with dignity and respect. She was most conscientious and self-effacing, and would help any member at any time.

Her family meant much to her - two important nieces, and then the great nieces and nephews, and their pets! She loved all animals, especially dogs.

Even when she had turned 87 she was down to the club every Saturday to take the tea money. Her generosity was much appreciated, she always supported financially any drive or collection for the benefit of the club and became an Honorary Member. I know I am joined by many others when I say I shall miss her greatly.

Pat Shine



## Are you coming to the World Championship?

We are hoping to have a large turnout of spectators at the World Championship, to be held at Carden Park, near Chester, from 10th to 17th August.

Attractions will be a group package for club members, excellent accommodation and catering facilities at the ground, displays of modern croquet equipment for sale, croquet competitions for visitors and guests, croquet video showings, and introductory sessions for those new to the game.

For those who want to

book party facilities, private marquees and patio areas are available overlooking the "Great Lawn" on which the Championship will be played. Buffet meals and lunch are served individually in your own marquee.

40 players from 15 countries will be competing for the Championship. Divided initially into 8 blocks of 5, each player will play a single game against all the others in the block. This process will take three days, and will be followed by any neces-

sary play-offs to decide the final order in each block.

The bottom player in each block is eliminated, and the remaining 32 players will go forward into a final knock-out (best of three game matches) to determine the World Champion. Chris Irwin is managing the Championship and Tim Haste is the Championship Referee. Bowdon's Brian Storey is the Ground Manager.

Alongside the Championship is a full social programme, including visits to Lord Tollemache's old home at Peckforton Castle, and an evening trip up the River Dee on the "Lady Diana", complete with jazz band. Those staying at Carden Park for the Championship are welcome to attend.

Besides the croquet, Carden Park has a range of sports facilities

available to guests, including an 18-hole Golf course, clay-pigeon shooting, and an off-road driving track. Details of prices can be obtained from Chris Hudson or the hotel sales office (0829-731000).

If you are planning to stay for the whole day and to take advantage of the hotel's excellent catering facilities, the day-package, which includes the entry fee, is highly recommended. But please remember to make a reservation well in advance to ensure your place.

To get to Carden park by road, travel on the A534 from Nantwich to Wrexham. After crossing the junction of this road with the A41, Carden park is some two miles further on, on the left hand side. Extensive car parking facilities are available.

## Shotton Paper to the rescue!

Preparing for the forthcoming World Championship at Carden park, the organising committee were faced with a problem: where to obtain half a mile of ball-stops?

In stepped Roger Croston, Chester's energetic Secretary, who contacted Shotton Paper and spoke to Martin Gale their Fibrous Materials Manager. Quite unknown to us, Martin turned out to be a keen garden player, only

too anxious to help.

Thanks to Shotton Paper (motto "Tomorrow's Newsprint Today") we shall have delivered at Carden Park three lorry loads of 2 metre long spruce logs, diameter 5 to 8 inches. These will act as ball-stops throughout the Championship and will be collected by Shotton Paper when the event has ended. A most generous offer, which will help to ensure the success of the Championship.



## THE FACTS

1. Shotton Paper Company was born because we now have, in Great Britain, significant supplies of trees suitable for newsprint manufacture. The forests today are the result of a planting programme begun for strategic reasons after the Second World War. Since then, the productive woodlands have grown to over 2 million hectares, around 10% of Britain's land area, and this is expanding at nearly 25,000 hectares per annum.

2. The two paper machines at Shotton produce a total of 430,000 tonnes of newsprint a year, requiring more than 650,000 tonnes of roundwood and 150,000 tonnes of sawmill chips.

## 5th World Croquet Championship

Players who have been nominated by their national governing bodies to date are:

<b>AUSTRALIA</b> Rohan Carter Mark Kobelt Blaise Northey Michael Taylor	<b>NEW ZEALAND</b> Bob Jackson Steve Jones Paul Skinley Aaron Westerby
<b>ENGLAND</b> Chris Clarke Colin Irwin David Maugham Stephen Mulliner	<b>SCOTLAND</b> Jeremy Dyer Ian Bond
<b>GUERNSEY</b> Philip Archer	<b>SOUTH AFRICA</b> Tom Barlow Carole Knox
<b>IRELAND</b> Fred Rogerson Simon Williams	<b>SWITZERLAND</b> Peter Payne
<b>ITALY</b> Paolo de Petra	<b>USA</b> Robert Rebuschatis Jerry Stark
<b>JAPAN</b> Takashi Nozaki	John Taves
<b>JERSEY</b> Tony le Moignon	Rhys Thomas
	<b>WALES</b> Ian Burrigde

Canada and France both have one place allocated to them in the Championship but have yet to announce their nominated players.

Robert Fulford, reigning World Champion, has accepted an invitation to defend his title, and the WCF has awarded places to Reginald Bamford (South Africa) and John Walters (World Champion in 1991 & runner-up in 1992).

Five of the reigning seven places will be allocated as a result of three qualifying competitions, two to be held in England, at Surbiton on 25th/26th June, and at Carden Park on 2nd/3rd July, and the other in France at Fontenay-le-Comte, on 21st/22nd May. The final two places will be awarded as WCF "wild cards".

## Merit Award Scheme

Congratulations to the following players who achieved the standards required for merit awards during tournament play in the 1993 season. A particular mention is due to Ian Storey, who became the first player to get the full set of bronze, silver and gold awards, and to John Exell who gained his bronze at age 87.

### Gold: 8

Howard Bottomley  
Ian Burrigde  
Philip Eardley  
C N Farthing  
James Hawkins  
M R Hayes  
I E Storey  
Peter Trimmer

### Silver: 13

Derek Bradley  
Mike Burrow  
Shawn Carter  
Michael Davis  
H M Dawson  
Graham Gale  
Tal Golesworthy  
David Kibble  
Gene Mears  
M Percival  
Ann Stephens  
L Tibble  
Simon Whiteley

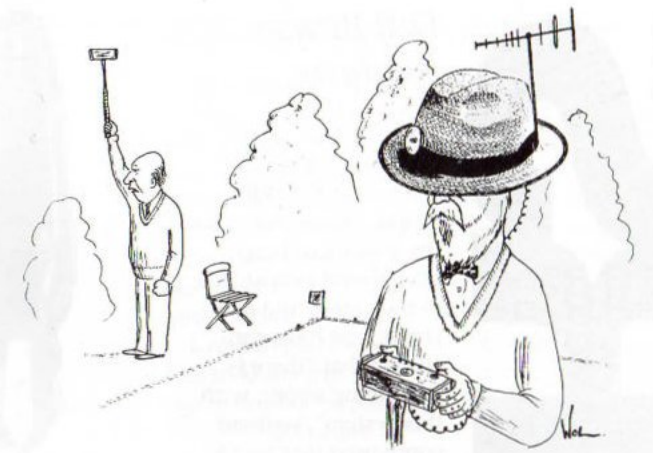
### Bronze: 34

Pamela Arliss  
Mrs M Badham-  
Thornhill  
Gillian Burgin  
B E Burt  
S Carter  
Miss M S Catling  
Christine Constable  
John Exell

Richard Fellows  
Anna Giraud  
Miss M Hilton  
Olive Jackson  
Margaret Jones  
Iain Leggate  
John Lonsdale  
Ian McDiarmid  
Beatrice McGlew  
David Mooney  
Barbara Noble  
K H M Noble  
Jean Oades  
Mrs C A Parker  
David Parkins  
Rodney Parkins  
Philip Pawson  
J Rusted  
Mrs M Scaddon  
Peter Shephard  
W J Sidebottom  
D Skeen  
Paul Stephenson  
Shirley Stoker  
Doug Taylor  
Graham Thompson  
J W Wilkinson

The scheme will continue this season under the same conditions as last season. These conditions are printed on page 3 of the fixture book: in particular, award winners must send a stamped addresses envelope to receive their badge.

Tim Haste has taken over as the new chairman of the coaching committee and Chris Clarke will be looking after the merit award scheme. New claim cards have been printed and distributed to clubs. However, these cards are not printed with the address to which they should be sent. Claimants should consult the club notice board or



Roy Wallis

"I should've guessed this kind of thing would happen when Walters became Editor of 'Radio Control Model Mart'!"

page 4 of the fixture book to find the correct address. Please do not send cards to me.

May I thank everyone who has cooperated with this scheme over the past five years.

Bill Lamb

## Tyneside Croquet

The Tyneside Croquet Club Dinner this year also celebrated the tenth anniversary of Croquet in the North-East. The dinner was held in the Bay Hotel on Friday 12th November on a date as near as possible to the inaugural meeting in Gateshead on the 9th November 1983.

After a speech and the presentation of Club awards by the President Alice Jones, in which she reviewed a very successful competitive year for the Club, Mr L W D Antenen, the Secretary of

the Croquet Association presented the national award for the Golden Mallet (Golf croquet) to Club member Chuck Ward.

A brief history of croquet in the area was presented by Syd Jones, first club President and past Croquet Association Development Officer for this region.

This is your life, Croquet North' explained how the start was made by John Meads arriving from the south with equipment supplied by the Croquet Association and the Sports Council to establish this club and hence croquet in the North.

The club commenced play, with one court, in Smiths Park on the 6th May 1984 and in its second season won the national Longman Cup, began and won a local Pennine league and were

runners-up in the Northern league by travelling as far as Hull and Chester for matches. In 1986 the club also ran a trial season in Churchill playing fields, doubled the membership and won the Croquet Association recruitment competition and hence the prize of £250.

The club moved to the present venue at Cochrane Park, Newcastle in 1988 playing on two courts, purpose built by the University. Golf Croquet evenings were started in 1989 and have become increasingly popular.

The Federation of clubs in the region became officially part of the Croquet Association in 1989 and had a successful presence at the Gateshead Garden Festival. Other clubs have been opened in the ten years including Belsay Hall.

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Club President Alice Jones presents Don Wright with the 'Cock-a-Hoop Trophy'. This much sought after trophy goes to a player who has talked well and long of their past and future achievements on the courts throughout the North.



# REFLECTIONS

Are even normal handicap games inherently biased?  
Dorothy Rush's "Hot Spot".  
More Japanese poetry.

## Full Bisque Analysis

Dear Editor,  
Christine Irwin's analysis of 975 full bisque games shows that the lower handicap player won almost 59% of the games. But she should not have concluded that "there is something wrong with this system", without comparing that result with the results of handicaps played under normal rules.

Her analysis only confirms a fact that is well known to analysts of croquet that the lower the handicap of a player, the greater the value of a bisque. This can be demonstrated in doubles play under normal rules. Bisesques taken by the strong partner are more productive than bisesques taken by the weaker partner, and the common practice of allowing the weak partner to use the bisesques is tactically unsound. I remember a game played by my wife Gladys a long time ago, when this principle in doubles play was not generally known. Because her partner was weak they had five bisesques, and much to the surprise of the spectators Gladys used them all, and this tactic won the game.

The margin of advantage indicated by the analysis of 975 full bisque games would have no significance if the results of normal handicap games are similar. Bearing in mind the facts given in my previous paragraph, I agree with the general opinion that the stronger players do have an advantage in present handicap play. Quite certainly they have a psychological advantage. Minus players have actually been barred from entering handicap events in various tournaments in the past,



*"the game can be very boring both to play and to watch when weak players are involved"*

because of the belief that they had an unfair advantage.

But in any case croquet is such an expensive game in terms of time consumed, with innumerable frustrating unfinished games, that full bisque play is bound to be adopted eventually to speed up the game, which can be very boring both to play and to watch when weak players are involved. When those weak players become accustomed to using their bisesques, because of constant practice in so doing, they will play at about the speed of a scratch player, which is twice as fast. After all, the bisesques are intended to bring them to the level of a scratch player, and it is absurdly illogical to take away those bisesques after awarding them.

And as soon as full bisque play is adopted as standard, if there is then any possible advantage enjoyed by lower bisquers in full bisque play as compared with present handicap play, this would automatically disappear, because future handicaps will be based on the results of full bisque play.

*Yours sincerely,  
Leslie Riggall, Durban.*

*An analysis of ordinary handicap results has been proposed. Chris Irwin's judgement on her results is valid - but it may be that "there is something wrong" with the ordinary system as well!*

*Naturally bisesques are more valuable to better players - that's why they get less. Bear in mind that in England we have the AHS, whose specific purpose is to iron out anomalies of the kind you mention. The AHS should adjust handicaps statistically so that the odds of a 12 versus a 6 are about 50/50; Chris Irwin's work seems to suggest that either full bisque and normal*

*bisque are not compatible or the AHS does not work as well as we might hope. We shall have to await further work to be done. Ed*

## Improvers Course

Dear Editor,  
The last day of April dawned with scorching sunshine over Budleigh Salterton. David Purdon the Regional Coach, had gathered 21 'improvers' from such areas as Bath, Bristol, Cheltenham, Sidmouth, Cranford (Exmouth) and Lyme Valley (Lyme Regis); all keen to soak up 2 days of expert coaching. With the very able assistance of George Webb, David began, what was to prove to be the most instructive (if not the most tiring) 2 days croquet instruction most had ever experienced.

Class instruction on the lawn, followed by practice in small groups under the ever watchful ever helpful guidance of David and George, proved to be a very successful formula. Mistakes that were being made were very soon spotted and corrected. The basis of a sound game was soon recognised by all and, though we were not always able to put the theory into practice the seeds for improvement were certainly sown for future development.

As a relative beginner to the sport, I and most others who attended were in need of such a course. With so much to learn in the first year and the inevitable 'bad' practises beginning to take hold, a course for 'Improvers' is important. This course did much to put us all 'back on track' and we were all provided ample opportunity in the practice sessions to prove the points made.

Budleigh Salterton is undoubtedly one of the

most attractive environments in which to play croquet. High above the town it boasts superb panoramic views of cliff and coastline, and offers all the Club 'support' facilities such as excellent snacks (or superb meals for Tournaments etc); hot and cold drinks and warm shelter (should it rain). We certainly enjoyed our 2 days there. Should the same course be made available again next year, I for one would certainly recommend any 'improver' to attend.

*Yours Brian Smith,  
Sidmouth.*

## Southport Centenary

Dear John,  
As all who peruse the fixtures list in detail will have noticed, Southport & Birkdale Croquet Club has been in existence for 100 years!

Our main celebration is centring around a Centenary Tournament consisting of Family Doubles, Handicap and Class events culminating in the Centenary Championship which has been granted this status by the C.A. Tournament Committee.

Unfortunately this event is not grouped with other Championships in the fixtures book but is in the normal club list. Despite the fact that Dorothy Rush has found the event, we are hoping that it might be drawn to the attention of players with better rankings. The terms of acceptance also seem to have been mislaid along the way and the usual Championship entry selection on rankings is intended.

As the World Championships are just down the road in Cheshire during the following week, we hope players will come to the Southport Centenary for a final warm up.

We hope to welcome many visitors to our programme of tournaments throughout this very special year for our Club.

*Yours sincerely,  
J.D. Williamson, Chairman*

## More Haiku

Dear Editor,  
Roger Davies' "End of Season" poem published in issue 231 is entertaining but is not a Haiku. It has some affinities with one of the Haiku's predecessors, the Renga, which was a succession of stanzas (each by a different poet) expressing aspects of a common theme.

The Haiku is a very short poem in which the poet tries to express the essence of a moment as economically as possible. Grammatical structure is minimal, articles and conjunctions often omitted. The traditional Japanese form contained 17 sound symbols, and some Western writers have produced Haiku with 17 syllables as a direct parallel. It has been suggested, however, (by William J. Higginson in The Haiku Handbook published by Kodansha International) that because syllables in English are longer and weightier than Japanese sound elements, a nearer equivalent in English would be a poem of about 12 syllables arranged in three lines of 2, 3 and 2 stresses respectively, with a marked pause after the second or fifth stress.

Some of your readers may like to try to capture a "croquet moment" or the essence of a particular club in this form.

Here is one about Guildford and Godalming as a starter:  
A wide sky,  
balls streak through  
the rain;  
taste of cider!

*Yours sincerely,  
Margaret Selmes*

*"Both my lives must have reached the semi-final stage by now, so I can hardly wait for Variation A to be introduced"*



## Canary Croquet Good Bye

Dear John,  
Many British people take a winter break in the Canary Islands, where the sun is guaranteed (almost) the whole year round and the prices will not make too big a hole in your pocket.

Croquet players may like to know that you can now play croquet at the "British Games Club", Camino del Coche, Puerto de la Cruz, Tenerife. (Tele. No. +22-384823 or Fax No. +22-385034)

The "British Games Club" was founded in the early 1890's and has two grass lawns. Originally they were used for playing croquet but gradually bowls took over and croquet eventually disappeared some 10-20 years ago. Now however croquet has been revived, thanks to the efforts of Tom Weston, a member of the Jersey, (Channel Islands) club. A musician and entertainer by profession, Tom has been working in Tenerife for several months and during that time managed to persuade the club management to restart croquet on one of the smaller two lawns. This lawn will only accommodate a short lawn game, but club members are very keen to learn from experienced players.

Tom has now returned to the Channel Islands, but the club has given a commitment that they intend that croquet should continue. Visitors are welcome to the club, where there is also bowls, tennis, a nice club house and a friendly English atmosphere. So anyone who fancies a game of croquet during their holiday should contact "Maxine" at the "British Games Club", or another member of the Management Committee.

G. Youd,  
High Wycombe.

Dear John,  
I don't know about being attracted to an occult art (Simon Williams' dispatch from the Celtic Fringe), but a game which expresses its Regulations thus:

*"For pairing purposes an imaginary player named 'Bye' is introduced whose score is permanently zero."* must have something going for it.

Both my lives must have reached the semi-final stage by now, so I can hardly wait for Variation A to be introduced. And even when the final stage arrives, there is Variation B to relieve the gloom.

In the meantime I shall continue the struggle for what seems unattainable consistency at a very modest level of the oh, so simple handicap game. I hope everyone enjoys this season as much as I shall.

*Yours sincerely,  
Claire Heritage,  
Bury St. Edmunds.*

## Coverup

Dear Editor,  
Two members of our croquet club went up to Hurlingham to purchase mallets. They thought they might as well buy covers as well so they walked out carrying these over their respective shoulders and walked through St James and Hyde Park before catching their coach home.

It was a pleasant day with many people sitting in the sun and as they passed everyone turned to look in utter amazement wondering what they were carrying! There must have been some comic answers.

*Monica Catling,  
Lansdown CC.*

# LETTERS

## Shoot the referee

Dear Sir,  
I thought your readers might be amused and interested by an incident which occurred at a Newport Handicap Tournament recently and which raised more interesting questions about the laws of the game. If a member of the Laws Committee can proffer a 'correct' answer, if there is one, I would be glad to know it.

The game is a three hour time-limited encounter between two high-bisquers. Time has been called and the extra turn played and completed, without a hoop being run. I have imagined the conversation along these lines:

Player A: Many thanks for the game. May I buy you a drink?

Player B: No, no allow me. After all, the winner should buy the drinks.

A: But I won the game. Look at the clips: mine, blue and black, are on 6 and 1-back, your red and yellow on 4 and 1-back.

B: Good God, so they are. But I remember going round to three back while you were in the bar. That clip on four is misplaced, and ought to be on 3-back - I've won the game, after all.

The manager is



*"They finally decided that what was taking place was not 'CRRICKETT' but 'CRROCKETT' because 'CRRICKETT' is played by Gentlemen!!"*

subsequently summoned, along with the referee of the tournament. Subsequent discussion reveals that the clip HAD been placed incorrectly, and should have been on 3-back, not on 4, but both players denied having misplaced it. A referee, called on to watch a shot in the double-banked game, was suspected. He was last seen running to his car and driving home, perhaps wisely.

Both players claimed that they had been playing for time in the belief that they were winning, UK regarding the clips, RY in the knowledge that he'd taken a ball round to three-back. All are agreed that the game is over, since the two players have quit the lawn in that belief. But who has won?

Yours,  
Justin Goddard,  
Cambridge.

## Bishop and the actress

Dear Sir,  
Having read the letter in issue 232 from Mr W. Heaton-Ward concerning a 'guide' to the game for the completely dumb-founded observer, I enclose the pamphlet we have produced for

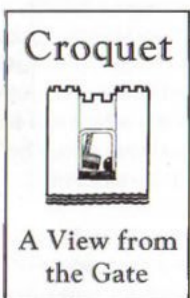
watchers of the game on the Bishops Palace lawn at Wells in Somerset.

A great many foreign visitors (and British) ask a lot of questions of the man at the entrance gate, and the pamphlet gives them at least some idea - very simply of what is going on. I have played the game myself, but only in a very desultory way, and I wrote the description for fellow ignoramuses. I was prompted by a conversation I overheard (at the Palace gate) between some Italians. They finally decided that what was taking place was not 'CRRICKETT' but 'CRROCKETT' because 'CRRICKETT' is played by Gentlemen!!

The season has only just begun, so I cannot tell you how the pamphlets are being received.

Yours sincerely,  
Lynda Lyall,  
Bishop's Palace CC

P.S.  
The Bishop does not play!



It is not easy to give a brief explanation of a game as complicated as Association Croquet. Like all worthwhile games, there are terms to be learnt, skills to be developed, and tactics to be decided upon.

While striving to get your own balls through six hoops and thence to the peg, in a specific order, twice, you must try to prevent your opponent, or opponents, from doing so first. The game can be played as doubles or singles, and on various sizes of grass court according to the space available, though a standard area is 35 yds x 28 yds.

Four balls are used. Black and blue play red and yellow. Each ball can make use of any of the others (friend or foe) in order to get where it needs to be. Should a ball cross the boundary line, it is lifted back to a position one mallet length inside; and balls can also be lifted to be positioned for varied shots.

It is a difficult and challenging game to play, for all age groups. The diagram shows the position of the hoops and the centre peg, and the direction of play, which is reversed for the second half. As each loop is achieved, the player fixes a metal clip, the colour of the successful ball, to the next hoop. This enables all players to assess the state of the game and to plan strategy accordingly.

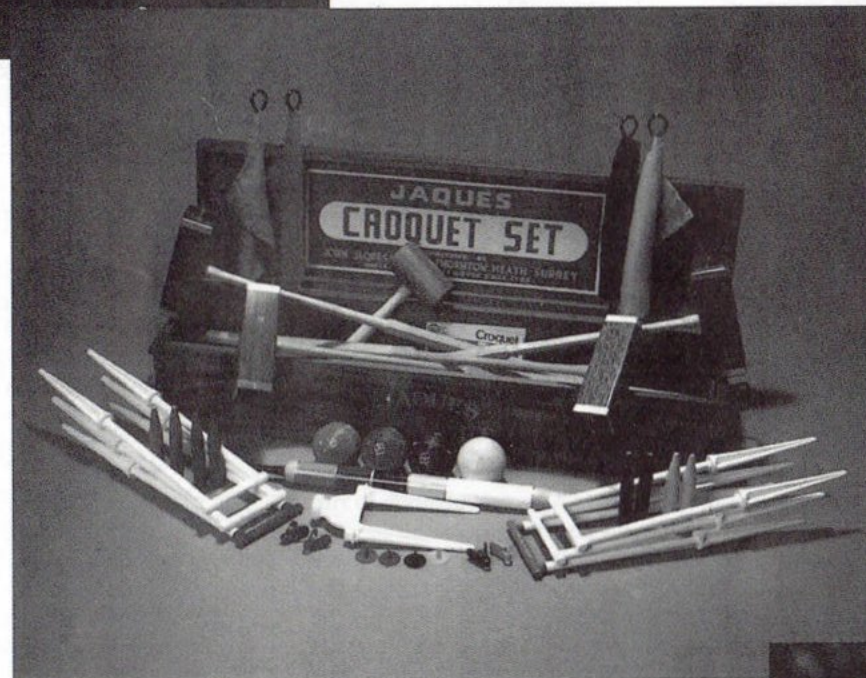
When players of differing abilities oppose each other, handicaps are used; those of greater skill have fewer "free" hits. While awaiting their next turn (which can be quite a while) players sit quietly at the side of the court, watching carefully the moves being made, especially if their own balls are involved, and their strategy frustrated.

There are many informative books about croquet to be found in public libraries. If you are really interested, the address of the Croquet Association is Ranelagh Gardens, London SW6.



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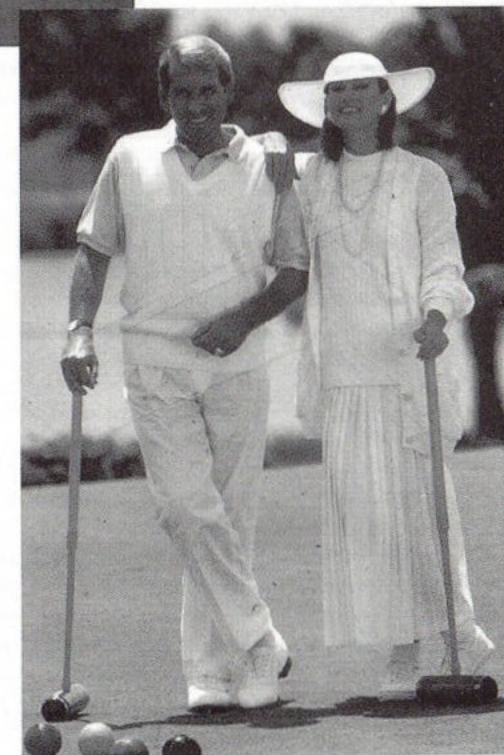
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# talking GOLF CROQUET

With Chris Hudson

In 1989, "Croquet" published a reprint of a little 20-page pamphlet on "The Art of Golf Croquet" by H.F. Crowther-Smith. The Rules in force then were different to those current today. This series is an attempt to update the pamphlet for today's players.

(Part 1 in this series, on "The Strokes", was published in "Croquet", issue no. 228.)

## Part 2: The Tactics.

The side that plays 1st and 3rd for the next point has a very great advantage over the side that plays 2nd and 4th. However, players 1 and 3 must take great care to produce accurate shots if this advantage is to be maintained.

Simply stated, because 1 plays before 2 it follows that if 1 gets position for the hoop it is not sensible for 2 to try to do the same; for 1 plays before 2 and can run the hoop first. Even if 1 does not get position, there is no point in 2 trying to get it; for again, 1 plays before 2 and can therefore remove him. The same principle applies to the first strokes of 3 and 4; as 3 plays before 4, 3 can afford to take position, while 4 cannot.

You may say that 2 plays before 3, and so 2 will remove 3 from position for the hoop; but 1 plays before 2, and unless 2 has been very clever and used the safety zone area (see diagram of Court) so as to prevent it, 1 will see that 2 does not interfere with 3's position.

It will be seen, therefore, that a constant eye on the numerical order of play is essential to an understanding of the game. The side that plays 1st and 3rd for the next point in order has a big advantage over the side that plays 2nd and 4th. Players 1 and 3 should be able to dominate the hoop to be contested, simply as a result of the order of play. Both 1 and 3 can afford to take position for the hoop, and nearly always enjoy a 2 to 1 superiority; and because of their superiority, the other side, the 2nd and 4th players, are kept on the defensive and are forced to finesse.

But the 1st and 3rd players may lose this domination (and the hoop) through bad tactics, by reason of the clever play of the 2nd and 4th players, or through bad luck - which enters into Golf Croquet as much as it does most games.

## The Start

Each player has a wide choice of position from which to play his first shot - anywhere on the north start line in fact - but the tactics of one side with regard to that stroke differ very greatly from those of the other. The importance of this is well worth emphasising.

We will assume that the game is a foursome and that a start is made in the order of colour - Blue, Red, Black, and Yellow, representing respectively 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th players.

With the whole length of the start line to choose from, where should the first player (Blue) place his ball to start? His objective (being for the first hoop) must be to get as near as possible to a perfect position to run that hoop in his next turn.

To achieve this, he is best advised to place his ball at the end of the yard line, in the centre of the north boundary. This gives the shortest shot, and the least angled hoop shot next turn if the first shot is too long. The stroke must be played with a great deal of care and accuracy.

The second player (Red) will be influenced by two things: (1) if the first player (Blue) has played well enough to get any reasonably certain position for running the first hoop; and (2) if he has not. In the first case, Red must definitely shoot at Blue.

Now is the time to explain the two dotted lines on the diagram of the Court which, with the two yardlines, form a six-yard square south west of the first hoop. This imaginary square provides a safety zone for the 2nd and 4th players (here Red and Yellow), and materially governs their tactics. These two players (the 2nd and 4th) must always realize that they are on the defensive against the commanding advantage possessed by the 1st and 3rd players. Their chief danger will arise from their opponents' use of the deadly stop-shot.

To minimise the disastrous effect of this "remove" stroke, players 2 and 4 (when for the first hoop) must never play their ball outside this imaginary square. By going South or West of 1 or 3, the stop-shot is

rendered comparatively harmless because of the protection afforded by the two boundaries.

To return to the stroke of the second player (Red) and how Blue will influence it. If Blue has succeeded in getting position for the hoop, Red should shoot hard at Blue to make certain it is moved significantly away from the hoop. Red will place his ball on the startline for the shot so that he has as short a shot and as clear a sight of Blue as possible. If he misses, he must ensure that his ball will be replaced on the South yard line within the safety zone, and therefore on the playing side of the first hoop.

If Blue has not succeeded in getting a good enough position for the hoop so that he can run it in his next turn, the 2nd player (Red) should play to a spot 4 or 5 yards South of the hoop. Here he is safe from the stop-shot and yet well situated to deal with either ball of the opponents which may threaten to run the hoop.

The 3rd player (Black) must, as his partner Blue did, play for an accurate position for the hoop - even if Blue (missed by Red) is still in position. This is the advantage of the 1st and 3rd players, that each can play for position with impunity - an advantage denied to their opponents.

It is now the turn of the 4th player (Yellow) and his stroke depends chiefly on Blue - the ball that plays immediately after him.

If Blue (missed by Red) is in position, the 4th player (Yellow) must shoot at it. This is a desperate stroke for, if missed, Blue will run the hoop. Yellow's only idea is to remove Blue, and he should concentrate entirely on this, leaving to chance where his own ball or Blue will be replaced afterwards should he hit.

If Black and not Blue is in position, Yellow may shoot at it, following the directions given to Red when shooting at Blue. It is not essential for Yellow to shoot at Black, for Red, it will be remembered, is at hand to deal with either ball that threatens to run the hoop. Yellow might then, instead of shooting at Black, play to any spot within the six-yard safety zone that gives him protection.

This briefly suggests the play of the first four strokes of the game for the first hoop. The same tactics apply in principle to the first strokes for every hoop, and again it is important to note the difference between the tactics of the 1st and 3rd players, and those of

the 2nd and 4th.

In the next article, I shall deal with some of the "wiles" of Golf Croquet. Until then, here are the answers to the quiz attached to my last article, and some more questions to see how well you know the Rules of Golf Croquet.

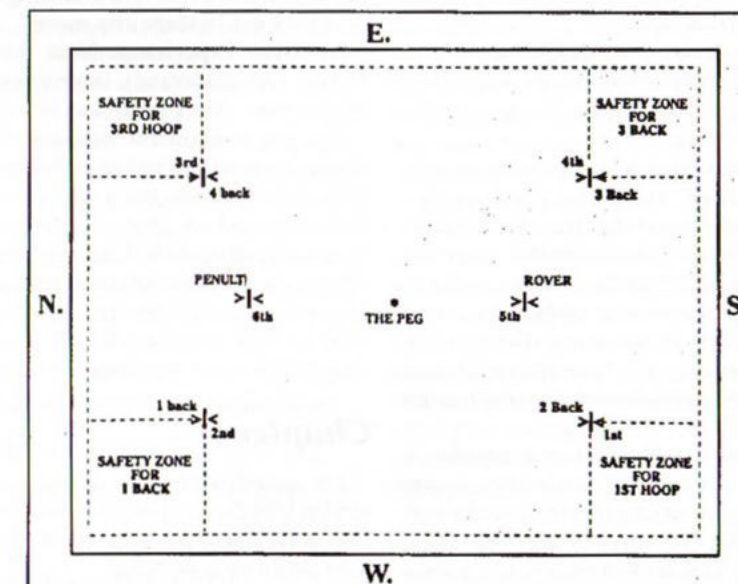
## Answers to the questions following Part 1.

1. If you set out to play your ball and miss it altogether, then you are deemed to have played your stroke and your turn ends.
2. If your ball goes through two hoops on the same stroke, then you score both points.
3. The striker must always contest the hoop in order, and must never play solely to gain advantage for the next hoop but one. If you play a stroke to compete for the current hoop so that your ball hits another ball and as a result goes towards the next hoop but one, then that is your good fortune you have not played solely to gain advantage for the next but one hoop.
4. If you play the wrong ball when it is your turn and somebody notices before the end of the game, then all the balls are put back to where they were when you played the wrong ball, and you then play your turn with the correct ball. You do not lose your turn for having played the wrong ball.
5. If your opponent knocks your ball half-way through the hoop that is being contested, then your partner ball can hit your ball through the hoop in a later turn and score the hoop for Your ball.

## Now test your knowledge with these questions!

1. Black plays her ball through the hoop. It stops, and then rolls slowly backwards, coming to rest within the jaws of the hoop. Has Black scored the hoop point?
2. What are the maximum and minimum official handicaps that can be awarded in Golf Croquet?
3. Red plays and goes off the court. The next player, Black, plays before Red has been replaced on the yardline. Does Black have to take her shot again, or is she penalised in any way?
4. Yellow is stuck in the hoop. Red plays a jump shot, knocks Yellow through the hoop, and goes through itself. Has a hoop point been scored and, if so, by whom?
5. Two players finish their 13-point game, believing the score to be 7 points to 3. After they have left the court, a spectator points out that the score was actually 6 points to 4. Having thought it over, the players eventually agree with this. Does the loser have any redress?

(Answers next issue)



# A GRIM POMS PROGRESS

or

## Oh! My Poor Bunyon

The continuing pilgrimage of Don Guantes and his Faithful Doñana - mixed up in totally the wrong story, in the Antipodes

### Chapter 10

*Neptune smiles on the wayfarers and gives them safe passage. Onwards south to the land where the Bard's gentle streams flow onward to the sea, and under the spreading chestnut tree the village cocky stands. A wizard appears for a spell. The French Connection is made.*

Next morning we were up bright and early, well early anyway. We boarded the Arahura for Picton on South Island. We had had dire warnings of the crossing and how rough it could be, so it was a great relief to find the sea

*When we visited,  
there was a bagpipe  
competition on.  
There is also the Wizard.  
This is a looney  
who dresses up in a  
pointy hat and flowered coat  
and spouts nonsense  
at the crowds.*

like a mill-pond. The entry through Pelourus Sound into Picton is impressive with the mountains either side.

The main road to Christchurch was pretty at first but then became fairly mundane. We booked in for three nights. These were the things we saw.

**The Avon walk.** It is the River Avon, with its chestnut trees, punts and picnic parties, that give Christchurch the title "most English of cities". That and the Cathedral. On a nice day the walk is extremely pleasant, with lots of places to stop and relax with an ice-cream or coffee. The Avon goes through the Botanical Gardens which are splendidly laid out with many specialised native and foreign collections. Free.

**Christchurch Cathedral and Square.** A lovely Gothic edifice surrounded by a square which is the hub of city life. It's also the hub of layabouts, so watch your valuables, although we had no bother. There are food stalls and entertainments. When we visited, there was a bagpipe competition on. There is also the Wizard. This is a looney who dresses

up in a pointy hat and flowered coat and spouts nonsense at the crowds.

**Victoria Square.** More dignified than Cathedral Square, there is a floral clock and the Boyer Ferrier Fountain.

**The Gondola.** A cable car up Mount Cavendish. There is a great view of Christchurch and the port of Lyttleton from the top. Quite expensive, as cable cars tend to be. Buses run from the information centre. If you are adventurous, you can take a mountain bike up to the top and ride it down. I thought about it but chickened out! At the top is a viewing platform and restaurant, also the "Time Tunnel" a history of the Canterbury area (extra charge).

**Akaroa.** Some 80 km from Christchurch, this small town was created by French settlers. It still has some street names in French. It is a pretty spot but a long way out. We saw signs for a couple of croquet clubs on the way.

**Ferrymead.** A reconstructed old town like the one at Tauranga except that you get a tram ride thrown in. Well-constructed with many exhibits. It even has a croquet lawn! Reasonably priced.

**RNAF Museum, Wigram Air Base.** An excellent museum, well set out. Chronological displays of history, planes and videos. Not expensive. We saw in the paper that there was talk of closing the base, so it may not be there any more.

**Antarctic Experience.** Near the airport. Flashy and moderately interesting but we felt it rather over-priced and over-hyped.

The trip to Dunedin was one of the few days of torrential rain that we had, so we saw little of the scenery. For a while we thought that we would see little of Dunedin as well. It was the start of the University semester, there were several conferences on, and Billy Connolly was at the theatre. It took us a long time to find accommodation. It was now time for the next tournament.

### Chapter 11

*The second battle is fought, this time on the battlefield at Dunedin (NZ for Hangover). Don Guantes is almost victorious but is worsted in a fight with a Strange Beast.*

The 1993 Medals was played as a block giving 14 games. It was played entirely at Watea CC over 5 days. I nearly made a clean

sweep but lost my concentration in the second game against Bill Strang who took advantage of this and won. I had consolation by beating the eventual winner, Peter Couch in an exciting 3-ball finish. The weather was cold, the people warm. It was unfortunate that for a lot of the time I, amongst others, was suffering from some sort of stomach bug. This took the edge off things for a few days but didn't stop me completely. Still, I got a Bronze Medal and a place in the Year-book.

I offered to do a coaching session after the tournament and, thanks to the efforts of

*I offered to do a coaching  
session after the  
tournament and some 40  
people turned up.  
I think it went well,  
a lot of people thanked me  
and we were very kindly  
given a cucumber  
& a bottle of wine*

several people whose names sadly have gone from my memory, some 40 people turned up. I think it went well, a lot of people thanked me and we were very kindly given a cucumber & a bottle of wine for our picnic and a copy of the history of Watea CC. Thank you, Dunedin.

### Chapter 12

*A sighting is made of the Ancient Mariner's bird plus some other rather more fishy varieties. Hibernian influences abound.*

We decided to stay on in Dunedin for a few days as there was a lot to see.

**Taieri Gorge Railway.** A great ride for 60 km into the Taieri Gorge. Not dear considering that you get a four-hour ride. The ride starts off gently and gets wilder and wilder as it reaches the end. Lots of stops are made so that you can see the scenery.

**Larnach Castle.** About 15 km from Dunedin. Nice grounds and interesting rooms but we thought it was slightly expensive for what there is. Possibly we

have seen too many ancient houses.

**Otago Bay and Taiaroa Head.** An attractive drive along the coast. At the end three things can be visited.

**Albatross Colony.** This is the only mainland site in the world. We saw two young birds quite clearly from the viewing platform. You don't really see a lot for your money, but remember that you are paying to help preserve a unique habitat.

**The Fort.** The most interesting thing here is the "Disappearing Gun". This gun popped up out of its hole and fired. The act of firing pushed the gun back down the hole, so that its location was hidden. There is another one, less well preserved, in Auckland.

**The Penguin Colony.** Small charge, get the key from a farm 1 km up the road. Best time is late afternoon when the penguins get back to roost. Gravel road and short, steep paths. You can't get close, binoculars needed (farm will lend). These are Yellow-eyed penguins, there are a couple of other types back at the farm, Magellan & Blue. There is also a fur seal colony, you can get quite close (but not too close they can bite, they also smell!).

**Baldwin Street.** The world's steepest street



B-B-Q at  
King's Park,  
Perth

(Guinness book of Records). North Dunedin. Centenary Hill. Monument and viewpoint over Dunedin.

**The Octagon.** Centre of Dunedin. Attractive area and hub of the city.

**The Railway station.** Worth seeing as a building in its own right.

**Botanical Gardens and University.** These are next to each other. The gardens are well laid out with a gigantic rockery. The university campus looks very Scottish and has nice walks. I expect that parts can be visited, but it was Sunday and all shut up when we went.

**Otago Early Settlers Museum.** Small charge. Lots of memorabilia including a section on the Dutch settlers. Has an old push-me-pull-you steam engine like the one on the Ffestiniog Railway in Wales.

**Tunnel Beach.** Off Blackhead road, just outside town. Steep path leads to a tunnel through to a beach with interesting rock erosion. Good views.

*These may be the most  
southerly lawns  
in the world?  
I wonder what  
are the most northerly,  
westerly and easterly?*

### Chapter 13

*A sign shows the way home, but is it just a bluff? The duo take to the skies to bay at half of a moon. They pass through Raroheenga and search for power deep in the earth, and the oracle tells them to travel far down a lonely road where they will see a sound and hear a sight.*

Leaving Dunedin, we made our way to Invercargill via the Catlins. This is a pretty area. We would like to have seen more of it, but time was passing by. Having booked into a Motel, we drove to Bluff. This is the

most southerly town on South Island. There is a signpost pointing to places round the world, just like the one at Cape Reinga in the far north of North Island. London was 18,958 km away. It was a surprise to us to discover that, due to the tilt of NZ, we were actually closer to Australia (Tasmania) than in Auckland.

In the late afternoon I saw Phillip Cook who I had met at Dunedin. He was preparing

*There is a signpost pointing  
to places round the world,  
just like the one at Cape  
Reinga in the far north  
of North Island.  
London was 18,958 km away.*

the lawns for a tournament. The lawns have a lovely setting in Queens Park, Invercargill. I had a knock around while Phillip was mowing. These may be the most southerly lawns in the world? I wonder what are the most northerly, westerly and easterly? I suggest Helsinki, Vancouver (unless there is one in Hawaii), and one of the two in Gisborne.

The next day we took the 20 min. trip to Stewart Island by air. This is not a trip for the faint-hearted! The plane is an eight seater, including the pilot and looks as though it has done this trip thousands of times, which I suppose ought to be encouraging, but somehow is not! As we were approaching the island Faith said.

"Look, there is a little airstrip in a clearing!" I said nothing as I knew that this was our little airstrip!

Stewart is quite a large island but is almost entirely uninhabited. Some 400 live in Oban, the only town. You can also go by sea (1 hr.). It is a paradise for walkers and those who want to get away from it all. For those who just want to see the place, half a day is ample. There is a short tour available which takes

you on almost all of the 20 km of roads. It visits places of interest such as Half-moon Bay and Observation Rock. We also sampled the local brew "Roaring Forties Ale". We felt the trip expensive, but worth it.

Oban was the turning point and from now on we were travelling back towards home. We made our way to Te Anau but saw little of the route as it was raining. Having booked in we took a trip to the underground power station at Manapouri. Moderately expensive, but you get a boat ride across the lake and a coach drive on a road, which goes deep into the mountains, to see the power station. This trip can be combined with one which goes on to Doubtful Sound, but as it was wet we didn't do that bit.

The next day, the sun came out, and stayed out for the whole of our drive to the high-point of this area, Milford Sound. This is the only road access to a huge wilderness known as Fiordland (because of the similarity to Norway). To see it properly you must be a

very good walker and even then you can only get to certain parts. Milford Sound does, however, give visitors a sample. The drive is magnificent. Once there you can make your choice of transport - boat, plane or helicopter. We chose a boat and had a wonderful trip in glorious sunshine. We were very lucky because it often rains.

## Chapter 14.

*Don Guantes and his lady mingle with the crowds. He glides just above the land and speeds just above the water but declines to bounce between the two.*

Queenstown is the tourist spot of NZ. As a result, it has all the good and bad points of a tourist town. It has crowds and is more expensive. It is also lively and has a lot to see and do. We enjoyed our stay very much but we have met people who did not.

Probably the best-known view of Queenstown is that from the top of the cable-car. Like the Grand Canyon, no picture can capture the magnificence of the view. It is a must if you go there - provided the view is clear.

---

*The Bus stops on the way to watch the Bungy Jumping. There were only one or two people doing this as it was so cold. I don't understand this - you are going to die anyway so why worry if you are cold!!*

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Readers, you will have realised by now that we have a great interest in old engines. Here there are two examples. The first is a few miles from Queenstown, the Kingston Flyer. This is a steam engine which makes regular trips for about 10 km into the country. The second is the TSS Earnslaw, a steam ship which makes several daily trips on Lake Wakatipu. The one we chose had a stop at Walter Peak Hill Farm, a very touristy look at some animals, sheep-shearing etc.

Another old vehicle, sort of, is an old English double-decker bus which does a short tour out to Arrowtown. Arrowtown is an old gold-mining town and has many relics there and in the surrounding hills (trips can be arranged). I took a short walk to the remains of a Chinese village which is in the process of restoration. We did not spend too long walking round as it was snowing - somewhat different to the 100F of NSW! The bus stops on the way to watch the Bungy Jumping. There were only one or two people doing this as it was so cold. I don't understand this - you are going to die anyway so why worry if you are cold!!

Unless you are of a very nervous disposition, do not be put off by the look of the jet boats. They are very exhilarating and

are quite safe. They can also be darned cold!

Two other things we saw which were of moderate interest were the car museum (nowhere near as big as the one at Wellington) and the bird park.

## Chapter 15

*Homage is paid to Aorangi, King of the mountains. A long trek north is made, passing the realms of the Ice Maiden, Old King Coal and the One-eyed Dog.*

We left Queenstown for the long and scenic drive to Mount Cook National Park. The weather was cloudy and overcast when we left, but got better and better as the day went on. By the time we arrived at the park, there was brilliant sunshine and a glorious view of the mountain. For those who want to explore the area, there is a hotel, restaurant and visitors centre. We spoke to some people there who said that when they had arrived the night before the ground had been covered with snow. On the return journey we stopped by the Omaha canal. This flows out of the beautiful blue Lake Pukake via an electric turbine. The power of water shooting out of the power station is awesome. We continued to the pretty town of Wanaka for the night.

Next day we travelled to the west coast via the Haast pass. We stopped by Lake Wanaka on the way. The lake was absolutely still and it was difficult to see where land and water met. We took a picture here, you can show it upside down and it still looks the same. The road is unsurfaced in parts and is very dusty, but the scenery is worth it - when the sand flies let you see it! Where the road meets the sea, there is the longest example of that NZ peculiarity - the single track bridge. These are supposed to cause tourists problems but I had no trouble, perhaps because I had the sense to slow down for them.

Faith declined the rough path to see the Fox Glacier, and I didn't blame her! Impressive though. We stayed the night at Franz Joseph Glacier, moving on up the coast the next day.

The countryside along the west coast is that rare thing, a temperate rain forest. This results in some very unusual vegetation. I'm not a botanist but the strange shaped trees and giant lily-like plants were obviously different. We stopped at Hokitikki for a picnic. Hurrah! no sand flies!! The beach here is littered for miles with dead trees. Is this natural or a result of logging? I never got round to asking. Shortly after lunch we turned inland and crossed to the other side of the island via Arthurs Pass. This is a favorite scenic ride for coaches and rightly so. Once again we were back on the Canterbury Plain, staying the night in Rangiora about 50 km north of Christchurch.

Next day saw us travelling back over the mountains, almost to where we had turned off, this time using the more northerly and less spectacular Lewis Pass. We arrived in Greymouth in time to see the Trans-Alpine Express leaving for Christchurch. This daily service crosses on a similar route to Arthurs

Pass. We would have liked to have time to go on it.

North from Greymouth, again on the west coast, we stopped at Punakaiki to see the Pancake Rocks. This geological formation looks as though the rocks have been made into large pakcaks and stuck on top of each other in huge piles. The road continues to Westport, once a large coal town but now looking a little faded. We stopped here for a couple of nights.

In Westport is Coaltown, an interesting and well-planned coal museum. It is not expensive and has a lot of things to see including some old film of the Denniston Incline. This was an amazing venture some 10 km from town whereby coal mined in the mountains was brought down to sea level on a railway built straight down the side of the mountain. The coal trucks hurtled down the track, dragging empty trucks back up with them. They were controlled by a cable attached to an enormous drum which (hopefully!) stopped them at the bottom. We drove out to the site which is almost all destroyed. It's a great pity, if it had been preserved it would have been a great

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*The coal trucks hurtled down the track, dragging empty trucks back up with them. They were controlled by a cable attached to an enormous drum which (hopefully!) stopped them at the bottom.*

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attraction. Even so, for those interested in industrial archeology, there is still enough left to make it worth the trip and some enterprising group has tried to label what little is there.

The next day we spent travelling along the pretty Buller Gorge to Nelson. Nelson, which was named after the famous sailor, claims to be the sunniest place in NZ. It kept its claim true while we stayed there. I had hoped to enter a tournament in Nelson, but the delay for the ferry at Wellington meant an alteration in my route. We in fact arrived on the evening of the last day of the tournament, where the last games were being played. I called in briefly and introduced myself. I also had a quick look at the Richmond courts and spoke to a couple of ladies there.

We didn't do a lot in Nelson as we were tired after so much driving, but we did have a wander round the town and saw the cathedral. I rang Steve Jones but got no reply. I think he was probably in Australia at the time.

On our last day on South Island we drove to Havelock, then via the coast road to Picton. Once again the weather was kind and we landed safely in Wellington for a further night at our hotel in Petone.



## Phillips to Sponsor the Home Internationals

*Phillips Auctioneers & Valuers are to sponsor this year's Home International Championship at Budleigh Salterton. Richard Madley, Phillips' Marketing Director, says "Croquet is played on the lawns of some of the finest houses in the country, and it is a natural sport for Phillips to become involved with."*

*The Home Internationals is a competition that pits England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales against each other. Teams of five players from each country are numbered 1 to 5 and each plays a best-of-three singles match, against the 'peers' in the other three countries. England have an impressive record in the event, and will be expected to do well again.*

*Phillips' Exeter branch is one of the most successful of their 22 auction rooms throughout the country, and they have strong ties in the East Devon area. They are looking forward to the sponsorship and to strengthening those ties at Budleigh Salterton. Below we give a brief history of the company.*

## Phillips 1796 - 1994

Phillips was founded in 1796 by the 'Great Harry' Phillips who, aged 30, held his first sale of the 'neat and elegant' contents of a private house in Crown Street, Westminster. Having resigned his position with another leading auctioneer, he determined to hold fashionable auctions in the West End and soon was in a position to move to his own premises at 67 Bond Street. A flamboyant and much loved character, Harry Phillips did business with almost all the notables of his day, holding elaborate evening receptions in the then prime residential Bond Street premises.

In February 1798 Phillips produce the catalogue of a 'collection of twenty five Capital Pictures recently imported from The Gallery of the Late Queen, Mary Antoinette at St. Cloud's, near Paris'. It is interesting to note Harry Phillips' success in competing for the sale of the deposed Queen's possessions at a time when the market was flooded with goods from the Revolution. He was to be equally successful some years later in securing Napoleon's effects on his death on St. Helena.

The monopoly of the sales from Royal Collections was broken when Harry Phillips sold the King of Poland's pictures in his Great Rooms, at 73 New Bond Street in June 1827, including 'Twenty views in Venice by Canaletti' and Queen Caroline's furniture and possessions at Brandenburg House, Hammersmith including one lot of 15,000 gallons of stout in 1822! Two years earlier



*A Dutch marquetry Bureau.  
Estimate: £7000 - £9000*

Phillips had sold the French and Foreign wines of the Duke of Kent. Indeed, Phillips is the only auction house to have held a sale within Buckingham Palace. The four-day sale included 'four costly Gothic lanterns', 'a magnificent glass dome by the celebrated artist Doyle', an 'electrifying machine' and a great quantity of furniture and brocade surplus to Queen Victoria's requirements.

Harry Phillips also established the Phillips tradition of house sales, the biggest of them all being the Fonthill Abbey sale of 1823. The thirty-seven day marathon sale of the collection of William Beckford created 'Fonthill fever' throughout the land and all

the society of the day attended. The Wallace collection in London gained the magnificent Reiserer Bureau du Roi Stanislas purchased at this sale by the Marquis of Hertford for the princely sum of £179.11. Among other notable names for whom Harry Phillips sold were illustrious painters, such as Sir Joshua Reynolds, Sir Godfrey Kneller, William Hamilton R.A., Richard Westall R.A., Hogarth, and James Ward; the house of the Earl of Cholmondeley; the household effects of 'A Man of Fashion' George 'Beau' Brummel, the property of the Duke of Roxburgh, Lady Hertford and George IV both as Regent and King.

Harry Phillips died in 1840 and his son William Augustus took over the business. Under his hammer came many prestigious collections such as the property of Lady Blessington at Gore House, where the Albert Hall now stands, Lord Northwick's collection in 1858 and the property of Count d'Orsay.

In 1879 the firm changed its name to Messrs. Phillips & Son. When, in 1882, William Augustus took his son-in-law Frederick into the business the name became Phillips, Son & Neale and remained so until 1971 when it reverted to 'Phillips'. The original premises at Number 73 New Bond Street had to be vacated when the 'Great Rooms' behind the last residential frontage onto Bond Street went up in flames one night in May 1939. Messrs. Edwin & Robert Hawkings, then in control of the firm and two of the great men of auctioneering moved across the street into Blenstock House, with

*Continued on Page 23*



# AROUND

## MEMORIES OF MAURICE

Continuing from our last issue the reminiscences of  
CA Vice Chairman S.S. (Jim) Townsend from his life in croquet

I finished my earlier article on untoward happenings in croquet with the remark that there was a common link running through the handful of my remaining memories, in that they all involved in some degree our former President, Maurice Reckitt. As his playing career spanned an unparalleled period of 65 years it is not perhaps surprising that he should have figured widely in the anecdotal of the game. The following five memories are listed for convenience in chronological order.

### A Bovine Summons

It was not long after taking up croquet that Maurice passed the Referee's Examination and was duly added to the list of Official Tournament Referees. With the enthusiasm of youth he was regularly first on his feet after hearing a summons for a referee. When present at a now long departed club where the lawns were scattered over a wide area, what sounded like a shout came from one of the outlying lawns which Maurice construed to be a call for a referee, and at once hastened to the scene of the action. On his return shortly after, a spectator enquired whether it was an interesting point on which he had been required to adjudicate, to which the response was "it was only a blasted cow mooing in an adjacent field."

### Beating the Elements

The weather features prominently in my next two recollections. In the early 1960s Maurice and I were scheduled to be next to play during a Hurlingham Tournament on a lawn occupied by Mrs Haigh-Smith, a local player, a tall lady of beanstalk proportions, and a lady player, from Bristol, who could be

described as liberally endowed physically. With the game nearing its conclusion there was a stormy downfall of rain, so I retired to the club house to pore over the magazines. Judge of my surprise when ten minutes later Maurice surged into the room to tell me that our game was now on. On expressing astonishment that the ladies had finished their game in those conditions, Maurice replied "Indeed they did. They played on through thick and thin!"

*... both of whom seemed to have been on the Selection Committee from time immemorial, but whose knowledge of the current form of many players was becoming somewhat secondhand ...*

### Any Volunteers?

It must have been a few years later that during the Open Championships a continuous downpour from six o'clock onwards so flooded the lawns that further play was out of the question. Guy Warwick, who was the Tournament Referee, then took off his shoes and socks and, wading through the puddles, removed balls and clips and pegged down the games. Maurice, standing among a number of onlookers, was heard to remark "Someone should buy Guy a drink." This, coming from the lips of one who was never short of a bob, took the other onlookers aback, but who however gave no outward sign of their emotions.

### Put out to Grass

My remaining recollections concern the early period of my CA Chairmanship in 1970-72, the first indeed relating to an incident only a few minutes after I had been elected to the Chair at my initial Council Meeting. There had never in my memory been any call for an election of the Selection Committee, which although not self-perpetuating, gave such satisfaction as to be automatically re-appointed each year, any resigning member being replaced by a suitable candidate who had been sounded beforehand on his willingness to serve. By 1970, Maurice, now in his eighties, and Daisy Lintern, only a few years younger, both of whom seemed to have been on the Selection Committee from time immemorial, but whose knowledge of the current form of many players was becoming somewhat secondhand with their decreasing presence at tournaments, led to two other candidates who had been waiting in the wings presenting themselves.

With Maurice and Daisy giving no sign of relinquishing their continuing enjoyment in serving, an election was accordingly necessary. When Alan Oldham, who was appointed scrutineer of the votes, announced the results, Maurice and Daisy were found to be the unsuccessful candidates.

I was startled two days later to receive a strongly worded letter from Maurice voicing his grave dissatisfaction at his rejection, regarding it as an insult and a tarnish to his name and reputation. After more than a page in this vein he added that the incident was such as to lead him to consider resigning as the CA President. I replied in what I hoped would be a conciliatory letter, writing for example that while obviously being in no position to know what had motivated the

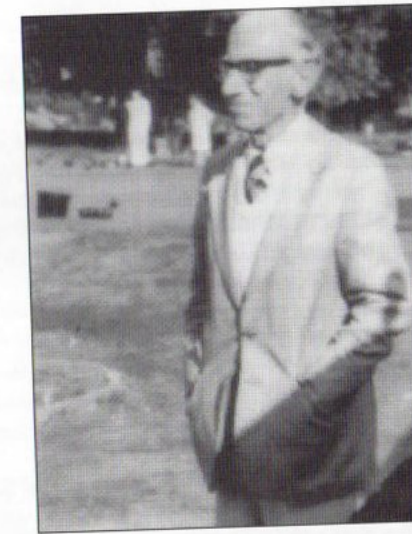
# & ABOUT

decision of Council members, I imagined that a main contributory factor in the minds of some was that he and Daisy, having borne the burden and heat of the day for so long, it was perhaps fitting for others to shoulder the task. In this I was no doubt being economical with the truth, but I added that his threat to resign the Presidency was sufficiently grave as to cause considerable disquiet among Associates if fulfilled, more particularly if this led to a schism if his reason became known. Fortunately on receiving my letter the sun had gone down on his wrath and the threat disappeared.

### Appeasing the Colonel

Less than two months after the aforesaid incident I was again confronted with a delicate situation. For a number of years before the cricket field lawns were in use at Hurlingham, the entries to the Open Championship had been maintained at their level through the generosity of Roehampton in making their lawns available free of charge for the first two or three days of the Championships. On the Monday of the week prior to the 1970 Championships I was surprised by a late evening telephone call from J B Gilbert, Captain of the Roehampton croquet section, telling me that on making his customary application for the CA to use the lawns, Colonel Miller, the Club Chairman, whose word was law at Roehampton, had bluntly refused. It appeared that the Colonel had chanced some time earlier to read the account of the previous year's Championships in a number of CROQUET in which the writer (Maurice Reckitt in fact), in commenting on the second round win of a newcomer, referred to not having seen his earlier match when he had been "banished to the wilds of Roehampton." My recollection of his precise words may not be accurate, but be that as it may, they were such as to have raised the Colonel's ire, indeed justifiably as showing a lack of appreciation of Roehampton's generosity, or as reflecting on the lawns themselves.

The Colonel however held his fire until J B, having in fact left it rather late in the day, would seek the customary approval, at which



*the writer, in commenting on the second round win of a newcomer, referred to not having seen his earlier match when he had been "banished to the wilds of Roehampton."*

time he would receive a dusty answer. By this time the entries had of course closed and the lawn allocations had been arranged for the first two days. Without the use of Roehampton lawns the Tournament Manager would have faced a task of Herculean proportions.

On asking J B what action he thought I as CA Chairman could take, he suggested that an urgent personal interview with the Colonel, coming from me in my official role, might appease him and lead to a change of heart. I felt in no mood for what would not have been a pleasant encounter, but decided to burn the midnight oil by drafting and redrafting a letter in an attempt to unruffle the waters, and delivered it by hand at Roehampton early on the following morning.

The theme of my letter was that the unfortunate words, presumably written without realising their implications, ran completely counter to the views of the

Croquet Association, or indeed the players themselves, who were only too pleased to enjoy the benefits of playing on the well-nigh perfect lawns at Roehampton. (With my tongue in cheek I added for good measure that a welcome bonus was the superiority of the then catering facilities at Roehampton). I strengthened my plea by mentioning what seemed the insurmountable problem of the Championships being completed in the time allotted without the charity of Roehampton. I rounded off my letter with the promise that for my part the Colonel could be assured that I would personally guarantee no repetition of any offending words.

Looking back, it must have sounded an embarrassingly grovelling letter, but it secured its intended effect with my receiving a reply that in the light of my letter the Colonel had told J B that the lawns would in fact be made available. As a footnote, the cricket field lawns at Hurlingham came into use in the following year, removing any residual risk of a further contretemps.

These last incidents, arising as they did within two months of my taking office as Chairman, did not augur well for the rest of my two year's tenure, but I had fortunately only one further serious problem, my involvement with the relieving of Bryan Lloyd Pratt of his editorship of CROQUET because of repeated misdemeanours. On a happier note it is interesting to recall that the outset of my Chairmanship coincided with the appointment of Vandeleur Robinson as CA Secretary who with unfettered enthusiasm fitted immediately like a glove into the world of croquet. If he had a fault it was in his epistolary style, his dealings with correspondents often liberally supplementing much more than a reply demanded, sometimes at the expense of his other duties. I well remember receiving for my approval his draft of the Minutes of his first Council meeting which read more like a blow by blow account in Hansard than the customary succinct version, necessitating liberal use of the blue pencil.

Although this will probably be my final contribution to CROQUET I will leave the door open by resisting a temptation to repeat the opening words of the *Nunc Dimittis*.

# comment!

## REINVENTING CROQUET

This month we look at two completely different games that people are already playing

### CLOCK CROQUET

As you seem to be interested in new, compact games, I enclose the rules of "Clock Croquet", which I have begun to play with some others at Carrickmines. The game was conceived for 4 players with one ball each, but so far we have played only singles with two balls each, and strict sequence. This has provided more than enough to think about, and the tactics of pegging out or partly pegging out (see rules) either partner or opponent has plenty of mileage in it. We all found that in this game there are no routine manoeuvres: every shot counts.

The advantages of Clock Croquet as a new tournament game are that it guarantees more interaction, uses a small area of lawn more effectively, does not change any of the basic existing rules of play, and that the new rules are straightforward, with no exceptions. The greatest disadvantage is that the game is so new that principles of strategy are not yet understood. Maybe a fatal flaw will emerge.

The use of colour-based turn sequence may puzzle some readers. Sequence was abandoned in Association Croquet because it made it too easy to retain the innings on a court where one could leave a 35-yard shot. On the small Clock Croquet court, where the maximum shot is about 17 yards - and this requires careful wiring - that argument does not apply. In fact, the reverse problem (that change of innings would become routine) would apply to the either-ball game on a court of this size.

The game preserves the traditional "away & back" shape, and the expression "going round" assumes a fuller significance. Beginners will naturally treat it as a straightforward race to finish, but because the break is easy, they will make faster progress than at Association Croquet. Among experts, the break is not so easy, because without serious POP-ing every turn, and high-quality leaves, you just lose! The average length of break turn is shorter because there is less walking, and because the maximum break is 8 hoops and peg. Because of the increased interaction, a short series of games will always produce an incontestable result. The average length of a single game should not commonly exceed one hour at any level.

Despite careful drafting, I find it is still necessary to make it clear that a ball is not removed from the game until it has been pegged out four times. *Simon Williams*

### Introduction

Clock Croquet is designed to have some of the pleasing complexities of Association Croquet, without the very long turns that are common in the latter, and using a much smaller area. It should appeal to both beginners and experienced players.

### General

For outdoor play, the court is 14 yards square, with a centre peg and four hoops each facing the centre of a boundary line and 3 1/2 yards from the peg. Increase the court size if you wish. Indoors, reduce the dimensions.

There are four balls, and each ball has four corresponding clips, with one clip placed on the crown of each hoop at the start of the game.

A clip on top of a hoop indicates that that hoop is to be run away from the peg; when this happens, the clip is moved to the hoop upright, which means that the hoop is now to be run towards the peg. When this is done, the clip goes on the peg.

### The Game

The object of the game is to run all the hoops both 'outwards' and 'inwards' with your own ball, and then to remove all of your clips from the court by hitting the peg 4 times. You may only hit the peg when all of your remaining clips are on it. The balls are first played from within 1 foot of the centre peg.

You may run any hoop first, but must then proceed either clockwise or anticlockwise during your turn; so if you come to a hoop with no clip of yours on it, you have to stop (unless all your other clips are on the peg).

In relation to roquets, croquets, the boundary, errors and faults, the normal laws of croquet apply. You can peel any other ball through any of its hoops, and you can 'unpeel' a peg ball back through any hoop (or 'unrun' it outwards again yourself, with no continuation shot), and move a corresponding clip from the peg to the side of that hoop.

### The Peg

Only when all your clips are on the peg can you hit the peg and remove one of them. Any other ball that has clips on the peg can be pegged out at any time. When a ball hits the peg, you remove a clip from it. You get no continuation shot after hitting the peg even if you hit it on a croquet stroke, but if you bounce off onto a ball you have not yet roqueted, you can take croquet.

The first player to remove all four of his or her clips from the court is the winner.

### For 2 Players

One player plays blue and black; the other, red and yellow. Strict colour sequence is preserved, even when a ball has been pegged out.

### Tactical Hints

Use both the positions of balls and of the clips to limit the next player's scoring chance. If one player seems about to finish, the others may prevent him by their combined play, but open conspiracy is not allowed.

If an opponent is for three in-hoops and one on the peg, you can stymie him by peeling him through the middle hoop.

You will have to unpeel an opponent, who has 3 or 4 clips on the peg, through opposite hoops (or twice through the same hoop), to do him real harm.

If you have good clips, hide in a corner and take a speculative shot from there next; you will be peeled if you venture out in the open.

You can harm an opponent's position by peeling him outwards and then inwards through the same hoop, leaving him "3 out and 1 peg". "3 out and 1 peg" is an example of 'bad clips', because on your break you will have to stop when you come around to the no-clip hoop.

### LAWN SNOOKER

Back in the eighties I, too, gave some thought to Croquet as a TV spectacle and came up with the enclosed 'Lawn Snooker' which I believe to be very much easier to understand than Eric Solomon's modifications ("Croquet" no. 231). Stuart Packer and I gave it a fairly rigorous trial and found it most satisfying on a 16 x 20 yd lawn. *Peter Dorke*

### The Court and Equipment

The size and setting of the court is as for croquet or short croquet. Colours are placed 1 yard from the hoops and directly North or South of them (as shown). The Northernmost red is equidistant from peg and East or West boundary and is level with the peg. Flags and yard line pegs may be used if required.

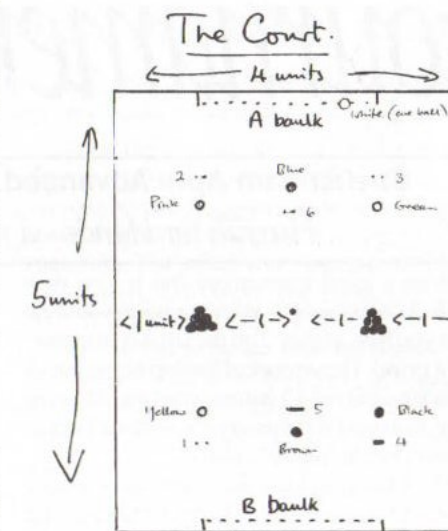
Lawn snooker may be played on a full croquet court, a short croquet court or any size in between. See Laws of Assoc. Croquet, Part 1, sub-sections 1, 2 & 3 but with the following differences:

- No clips are required;
- One of each of the croquet colours, both first and second is used, plus eleven (or 5) extra reds. There are, therefore, 1 white, 1 pink, 1 brown, 1 green, 1 blue, 1 black, 1 yellow and 12 (or 6) reds.
- Baulk lines: These are parts of the yard line that extend from directly North of the centre of hoop 2 to directly North of the centre of hoop 3 and from directly South of the centre of hoops 1 to directly South of the centre of hoop 4.  
[Note: Designation of the hoops as 1, 2, 3, etc is not strictly necessary and they could be designated and possibly painted yellow, pink, blue, etc - see plan of court]

### Outline of the game

The game is played between 2 players (4 in doubles), each of whom strikes the white (or cue) ball. The object of the game is to score points by causing a red ball to pass through a hoop (1 point), entitling the player to peg out a coloured ball, thus scoring the value of that ball. A pegged out colour is returned to its 'spot' near the appropriate hoop. Ball value is as in snooker: yellow 2, green 3, brown 4, blue 5, pink 6, black 7. Pegging out a coloured ball entitles the player to 'pot' another red and so on until a 'pot' (ie peel) or peg-out fails, when the turn ends.

A peeled red is removed from the game as soon as it has come to rest. A red may be peeled from either side of any hoop. The colours may be pegged out in any order, except that when the last red has been peeled and one further attempt made to peg out a colour (whether successful or not), the colours must then be pegged out and removed from the court in order of their value, beginning with the yellow.



### Positioning of the balls at the beginning of the Game

(see diagram)  
Yellow 1 yd N of Hoop 1. Pink 1 yd S of Hoop 2. Green 1 yd S of Hoop 3. Black 1 yd N of Hoop 4. Brown 1 yd S of Hoop 5. Blue 1 yd N of Hoop 6.

Six reds (or 3) are placed in triangular formation, with the base of the triangle to the South and the northernmost ball level with the peg, half-way between the peg and the boundary, on each side of the court.

Winning the toss gives choice of start.

### The Game

The game begins by a player striking the cue ball from the A baulk line so that it hits (roquets) a red. The player may then take croquet from that red (ie place white in contact with red and hit white so as to move both balls). In this croquet shot the red may be peeled (ie made to run) through any hoop in either direction. If the peel is successful the red is removed from the lawn, the turn continues and a roquet may be made on any colour, which may then be pegged out in the consequent croquet shot, with the possibility of another roquet on a red, as described above.

If the peel or the peg-out is unsuccessful, the turn ends and the balls remain where they come to rest, except that if the cue ball goes off the lawn in the croquet shot, it is then played from either baulk line and any successful peel or peg-out is disallowed. Moreover, if in an ordinary shot, white fails to make a roquet and goes off the lawn, it is likewise played from either baulk - though the opponent may choose to have it returned to the yard line at the spot where it left the lawn and to play it from there. In each case points are awarded to the opponent to the value of 2 if the ball concerned was a red, 2 for a yellow, 3 for a green etc, as in snooker.

In either the croquet shot or the continuation shot a player may lay a snooker (that is place the cue ball in a position where it is hidden from all valid object balls) but may snooker only behind a ball or balls, not

behind, in or in front of a hoop or peg. In the case of snookering behind a hoop or peg, a 'wiring lift' may be given, as in croquet, and the cue ball played from either baulk.

In the first shot of a turn or in a continuation shot, a player who fails to hit the designated object ball gives points to his opponent to the value of 2 for a missed red, 2 for yellow, 3 for green etc.

The scores should be kept by the out player, who may also be responsible for replacing colours in their standard positions after a peg-out.

The winner is the player whose score is the higher when all the balls have been removed from the lawn.

Rush peels (ie hitting a red through a hoop in the roquet shot) do not count - player takes croquet as normal. Rush peg-outs end turn, with no point scored.

A player may not deem his shot played, except when the opponent's turn has ended with a fault.

Law 32 (a) of the Laws of Association Croquet applies (except sub-section xii).

Handicaps: Croquet players with a lower handicap than their opponents will give a start of one red and one brown for each croquet handicap point difference.

ie 1 bisque = 5 points; 1/2 bisque = 3 points

All other appropriate laws of croquet will apply. For example, if a red or a colour leaves the court it must be replaced on the yard line, exactly opposite the point where it first touched the boundary.

In doubles, partners will play alternate turns.

If scores are level at the end of a game, a 'shoot out' will decide the winner - best of 5 shots at the peg from A baulk.

### Advantages of Lawn Snooker as a Player's game

- All the croquet shots are practised, except hoop running.
- Much more peeling and pegging out.
- Importance of accurate rolls.
- Ditto rushing.
- Long peg-outs likely to be involved.
- Fast and exciting game on large or small court.
- Probability of frequent exchange of innings.

### Advantages of Lawn Snooker as a (TV) Spectacle

- Lots of colour on the lawn.
- Empty spaces filled.
- Fast game.
- Greater use of peg: action centre, not just winning post.
- Familiarity of snooker-like potting, positioning and scoring.
- Use of cue ball focuses attention.
- East audience comprehension.
- No cumbersome marking of hoops.
- No need for clips
- In close-up, action at hoop easier to follow than in croquet.

# APRIL '94

## tournament reports

### Cheltenham April Advanced 1-6 bisque by Dab Wheeler

#### *Hurrah for Hands - a most egalitarian event*

What a good tournament this is - no time limits; play as many or as few games as you wish (but you have to play 2 on the last day to qualify for a prize). The winner of the top block, James Hawkins, played 13 games, winning 10. Some only managed 6 but everyone seemed happy. Hurrah for the Hands' ladder!

The Manager, Mike Ranshaw, divided the competitors into 3 blocks by handicap and gave each an appropriate Hands' rating. You started by playing opponents in your own block, but if you did well you were soon playing in the block above (and vice versa). Mike Hammelev, for example, was in 'B' but won so many games that he was soon meeting the 'A' players. On Saturday evening, a nail-biting game between Hugh Smorffitt and

Mike, won by Hugh, was expected to decide the prizes. By Sunday afternoon, it was a different story: James Hawkins had won against Hugh, pushing him into third place and allowing John Willis into the runner-up position in the A block: Mike Hammelev had to be content with third place in the B block, having played 10 games and won 7, giving an increase in his Hands' rating of 20. The winner, Adrian Wadley, had played 11, won 8 and increased his rating by 22; the runner-up, Brian Wainman, had an increase of 21 rating points - all very close!

The third block prizes were decided by the last game in play. The outstanding players were Lionel Tibble, David Kibble and Stuart Daddo-Langlois and they finished in that order.

Block A (h/c 1 - 2.5)

Winner: J Hawkins; Runner-up: J Willis

Blocks B (h/c 2.5 - 4)

Winner: A Wadley; Runner-up: B Wainman

Block C (h/c 4.5 - 6)

Winner: L Tibble; Runner-up: D Kibble

### The Coles Cup. Cheltenham May Day w/e by Andrew Gregory

#### *Fantasy into Reality - seedy goings on in April*

Seeds do not flourish in April. The eight here struggled in the first two rounds of what were the Western Championships in all but name. David Maugham, who features atop the world ranking list, lost his first game on time to Strat Liddiard. Luckily for seeds, all matches are best of three, but in the next round Gail Curry certainly should have beaten Maugham. Sadly she was fatally hampered after 3-back on her "finishing" turn in the decider.

Stephen Mulliner needed six games to get past Andrew Hope and Paul Smith, as did Colin Irwin against Debbie Cornelius and Peter Dorke. David Goacher and Steve Comish dropped a game each to Don Gaunt and Francis Landor respectively. In fact defending "Champion" Chris Clarke was the only player in the tournament not to lose a game on Saturday.

The narrowest margin occurred in the match between Reg Bamford and Mark Avery. With five minutes to go before Time in the decider, Avery's clips were on 4-back and peg, Bamford's on 4-back and 3. In the gathering gloom, the impending darkness, amid the nail-biting crowd, ... - I'm sorry, that's what the winner would have had your reporter believe, but I know for a fact that (a) it was tea-time and (b) the entire tournament basked in glorious sunshine. So anyway, in idyllic conditions, with nobody watching as all were taking tea, Bamford played an all-round break, with one peel, and finished by pegging himself out. Thus Avery, in his last turn, needed 3 points to win and 2 to take the match into extra time. With his 4-back ball he made a roquet near 4th corner, and rolled up towards his hoop. He was 4 yards short, but crashed through the hoop to the

boundary. Bathetically he then missed the return roquet, allowing Bamford to win by that infamous book title.

One of the seeds had to pay the price for their collective incompetence, and the hapless victim was David Openshaw. The amount of collective incompetence for which Openshaw was individually responsible may be gauged from the result of his third game against Andrew Gregory: minus fifteen on time. Six hours for a best-of-three is a stringent limit so early in the season, and after two rounds there were eight 'T's on the results sheet, only two of which were closely followed by a 'P' (both triples by David Maugham).

Away from all the seedy errors one player outperformed expectations. On learning that my first-round opponent was to be James Hawkins of Southport, some of my esteemed East Anglian colleagues congratulated my good fortune, and made none too cryptic comments about the Coles not being as strong as it used to be. As I lost the first game by coffee-time, it became clear that there were a dozen players in the tournament playing worse than Hawkins, and that I was firmly entrenched among them. Luckily I was able to use my skill and experience to drag oppo down to my level, and I won the third +2T. Undaunted by this injustice, Hawkins compiled a cheeky little TPO in the consolation event. He will be challenging for an Eights place sooner rather than later.

By the quarter-finals some seeds were at last looking the part. Bamford made two delayed triples against Gregory, while Mulliner saw off Maugham in three one-sided games. Irwin and Goacher shared two

untidy games before the latter won the third +26. I should warn Steve Comish to omit the next paragraph, unless he wants to start kicking himself all over again.

Comish got to 4-back and peg in the first game before Clarke got going. Clarke's second error was as fully punished as the first was not. 1-0 to Comish. In the second game Comish had done all three peels of his "winning" triple when he hampered himself after penult. Clarke responded with a completed triple. In the decider Clarke advanced one clip to 4-back, but Comish was on 4-back and break, heading for a powerful last leave. He then all but cross-pegged himself after penult, and in attempting the roquet bounced off the peg next to Clarke's backward ball, which had been skulking in a corner. Clarke took this ball round, single-peeling and pegging out Comish's ball. With the opponent's balls in 2nd and 4th corners, Comish tried to take position at 4-back, but left himself a long hoop. Clarke joined up in 2nd corner, Comish shot and missed. Having been once bitten by the boundary in that corner, Clarke did not obtain a rush. Eschewing "safer" options, Clarke rolled both balls near 4-back, leaving Comish the all-or-nothing 25-yarder. Comish got nothing.

The losing quarter-finalists then joined the consolatory Egyptian. Last year the consolation was a Swiss, and that format's abandonment here perhaps represents its final demise. As defined in Regulation 16, the Swiss is an inflexible format, often needing all games in one round to finish before the next can be drawn. This restricts the amount of play in a tournament according to the pace of the slowest, and leads to many

### SOLOMON TROPHY GB vs USA - Palm Beach, Florida 12-16 April by Ian BurrIDGE

#### *Level-headed Americans achieve their best ever Solomon result against Britain*

The Great Britain team for the Solomon Trophy this year had a rather unfamiliar look about it, with Robert Fulford, Colin Irwin and David Openshaw (Capt.) being joined by Jeff Dawson, Steve Comish and Ian BurrIDGE all of whom were making their international debuts. The USA team of Jerry Stark (Capt.), Kylie Jones, Wayne Rodoni, Erv Peterson, Damon Bidencope and John Taves also contained a couple of new faces and we expected a tough test from what was on paper a strong American team.

We got off to a very bad start losing the doubles 2-1 on the first day, with Fulford and Dawson producing our only victory over Bidencope and Peterson. However any worries about possible defeat were quickly dispelled on the following day when we took the first round of singles 5-1, Bidencope gaining the only victory for the US over BurrIDGE. From that moment on the result never looked in serious doubt with GB

winning the doubles on the third day 2-1. The match was clinched with a 4-2 victory in the singles on the fourth day, the Americans winning the bottom two matches. The final winning margin was 14-7, after GB won the final doubles round 2-1 on the final day.

Dawson made by far the best debut, not only winning all of his matches but winning them convincingly with some excellent play. BurrIDGE on the other hand was seriously out of form and never looked like winning a match. Comish was unfortunate to have to partner BurrIDGE in the doubles and the experience no doubt affected his singles form and he can consider himself a little unlucky to have lost to Bidencope, who played well against him. The three "old boys" all played well in the singles but were all worse in the doubles, particularly Irwin.

The striking fact about the Americans was that the whole team was of roughly equal

ability, the difference between the top (Stark) and the bottom (Taves) was more a matter of experience than ability. In my opinion the whole team would equate to top Chairman's Salver players in Britain. The other notable feature of the American team was that, in contrast to the British team they tended to play better in the doubles than the singles. This may well be because they were given the opportunity to play in the doubles, due to the poorer standard of the British play.

Great Britain were also victorious, 5-4, in the President's Match, played under US rules against a US side consisting of Bill Berne, Mike Gibbons, Jim Hughes, Dan Mahoney, Mack Penwall and Chuck Reif.

The hospitality of the USCA was excellent with the team being invited to several excellent evening functions. The team was also extremely grateful to the three local players who put us up for the week.

impatient players fuming while lawns lie empty. The logic behind Regulation 16, however, is that the only scope for arbitrariness is in the initial random draw; thereafter pairings are determined from results according to a well-defined algorithm.

Paul Hands' Egyptian format avoids all the waiting around. Players play as many games as they like, when they like, and, effectively, whom they like. Players naturally prefer this arrangement, but it does seem to have lost the impartial regulation of the Swiss system. Not playing because one wants to go to church, or has a dinner date, is one thing; not playing because one doesn't feel like it, or because one is not going to beat X on one's current form is quite another. An advantage of the Egyptian is that it can virtually manage itself: its disadvantage is that to avoid players' (innocent I'm sure) manipulation it requires constant managerial attention. I do not believe it is the appropriate format for events which carry some prestige, such as the Du Pre and other Championship consolations. A Draw and Process, with an Egyptian to mop up players completely knocked out, is my recommendation.

None of the above is intended as criticism of the efficient management of Bernard Neal, who had enough problems ensuring that the main event did not run into next week; nor indeed of Colin Irwin, who won the Egyptian by beating everyone he was required to play.

By the semi-finals it had become obvious who had timed their peak in form to perfection: after shaky starts in the early rounds, Mulliner and Bamford met with little resistance in disposing of Goacher and Clarke. The latter won the third place play-off in two straight games.

This last result was a disappointment to me, since I include Goacher not Clarke in

my fantasy team. Yes, an idea unbearably obvious when you think of it, Fantasy Croquet is here. Conceived by Andy Symons, gestated by Chris Clarke, the Coles 1994 marks the birthplace of Fantasy Croquet. Teams of four players have been picked by many of the tournamental crowd, up to a value of six million pounds. For example, David Maugham will set you back £3.8m, while Debbie Cornelius can be had for £1.8m. I am a snip at £600,000, though to date am the subject only of my own fantasy. A player gains points for his or her fantasy manager by winning matches in the top events, doing triples, and suchlike. A player does not gain points by playing badly in the main event and then going home, so my selection of David Openshaw seems somewhat suspect after this weekend. The Fantasy League encourages unnatural interest in the form of lesser players. Ian BurrIDGE was particularly put out on Saturday morning. "One of my four's turned up with a new girlfriend, and another's got a finger in plaster." (Don Gaunt was attempting the Stephen Hendry approach to top-class competition.)

Away from such frivolity to the final, which was played as best-of-five. Game one to Mulliner 26TP. Game two saw Bamford first to 4-back, only for Mulliner to triple peel him out. In the contact turn Bamford did not score a point, but did achieve the squeeze position: his ball in front of first hoop, one ball between hoops 1 & 2, the other remaining in 2nd corner. Mulliner put the ball in the lawn into 4th corner. Bamford ran 1st, roqueted in 2nd corner, made hoop 2, but failed to approach hoop 3. He did achieve the mirror image of the previous leave, so Mulliner symmetrically put a ball back into 2nd corner. Bamford ran 3rd, but missed the ball in 4th corner. He was not to take croquet again, though one item of tactical interest

occurred when Mulliner decided to rush-peg 1-back, in order to avoid conceding a lift.

Mulliner was 2-0 up at lunch; Bamford pulled back the third 26TP. Game four saw Mulliner break down at 1-back, having done one peel of a TPO: a fatal error. The decider had a defensive opening, with Bamford gaining the early innings. He made three hoops with one ball before finally teasing out a break for the other. Mulliner hit the lift and established a break. With Bamford's clips on 4 & 4-back, Mulliner was essaying an elaborate hoop leave at 3-back when he blobbed the hoop. This presented Bamford with a break, and he converted this into a delayed triple peel to complete his comeback.

The final was of such quality as to compensate for the surfeit of errors in the early rounds. South African Reg Bamford is the first overseas player to lift the Coles Cup in its 15 year history. He deserved to do so, though his first-round opponent Mark Avery may disagree. Bamford compiled 5 of the tournament's low tally of 17 TP's (including 5 in the Egyptian). Runner-up Stephen Mulliner had 4 triples, and demonstrated his continued determination to remain in the top flight.

The weather, the croquet, the food, Fantasy Croquet - all were wonderful. But in the decisive game of the final, there was something far more impressive. Bamford had done 2 peels of his triple. He was for 3-back, the pioneer for which was nearer the South boundary than the hoop. This precluded most methods of achieving the early rover peel. Bamford thus played a shot whose outcome met with spontaneous applause, but whose intentionality had to await the player's confirmation. From beyond the peg Bamford deliberately played a cut rush on the peeler, which went through rover without touching the wires. Truly fantastic.

## Plymouth May Day Handicap w/e by David Carpenter

Winners at Plymouth walk on water



Shaun Carter gets the Armada Tankard from Arthur Addis

I have played in quite a few tournaments up and down the country with varying success, but up until recently I had never been aware of anyone ever making the claim that I walked on water. That was until I played in the first ever CA tournament at Plymouth. However, I should explain that the walking on water was not a reference to any great achievement on my part at this tournament, sadly those laurels rest on another's head, but to the fact that Plymouth Croquet Club is situated on top of a large reservoir with a mere few feet of concrete and soil separating one from as much water as you are likely to see on an April day at Southport. The four lawns were in very good condition, although the grass was slightly too long for the comfort of those who like to rush the ball around the court. Consequently on the Saturdays the games in the low handicap block were a little slow, with quite

a few going to time. However, the scorching heat quickened up the courts over the weekend and by Sunday afternoon they were playing very well.

The lower handicap block (2.5 - 7) for the Armada Tankard was run as an advanced handicap American block with the rulings that the taking of a bisque after a lift hoop does not negate the lift, and that no bisque can be used immediately after a missed lift. This worked very well and dispelled my prior scepticism of the advanced handicap game. The runaway winner with 5 wins was Shaun Carter.

The high handicap block for the Golden Hind Tankard was much closer with the result going literally down to the wire. In the deciding game against Monica Catlin, Heather Perren stuck in a hoop with the scores level at time. Monica missed, and Heather finished off +1 on time. Afterwards Heather efficiently marshalled everyone into the frame for the photo-call.

In addition to being Plymouth's first CA tournament, it was also Stuart Orr's first time as both a manager and a referee, offices in which he excelled, and I think rather enjoyed himself too. Considering the club has only been in existence for a small number of years the facilities are very good and will I'm sure be even better in a year or two, much of the credit for this belongs to Arthur Addis. In particular the teas were exceptionally good value and very tasty, the ladies responsible should be heartily congratulated. Some concern was expressed by the club members that players might consider Plymouth too far to travel for a tournament, if this is the case they will certainly miss out on an enjoyable experience. In my opinion, given the support, Plymouth could become a very important tournament venue.



Heather Perren being presented with the Golden Hinde Tankard by Arthur Addis

## Southwick Handicap May Day w/e by Peter Howell

Red Stain on character

Blessed with good weather, this was a very enjoyable tournament smoothly and efficiently managed by the debonair Cliff Jones. Run as an Egyptian, the twenty competitors were kept as busy as they wished to be and the red stain on the lapel of Cliff's otherwise immaculate white suit was in no way the result of a raspberry from a dissatisfied player - there were none.

Bill Arliss from Southwick, overcame the good play from many high bisquers, to become the clear winner for the third time in succession. Overcome with excitement at the prospect of a hat-trick, he split his shorts whilst in play at one point. His handicap is now down to 2 1/2.

From France, came Rodolph Dourthe, as ever happy and keen - he played well and reduced his handicap to 2. He was accompanied by Richard and Mireille Sowerby from Jersey. Mireille (Handicap 14) gained her Bronze Medal, as did newcomer Tom Bedford (Handicap 18).

Two high-bisquers were sweeping all before them - well, nearly all - Peter Gosney 18 down to 16 h'cap and Martin Rogers down to 18 were joint runners-up.

Congratulations to Bill and to Joan Weir and the Southwick team for the usual good catering. It is difficult to find anything to criticise but if one wanted to be pedantic perhaps the hoops were slightly on the generous side making it extra hard to contain the high-bisquers. Finally though, one word about the lawns - Enid and her helpers must have been using magic dust over the winter - for they are really in tremendous condition.

Well done and thank you Southwick.

## Southport Open w/e 23/24 April by Richard Hilditch

Tall story in Quarter Final

Mike Sandler played well to take the first game off of holder Colin Irwin in the semi-final of this year's excellent event. Unfortunately Colin pulled himself together to win through to the final. 7 foot tall local John (Mr Tall) Haslam fought his way past Brian Storey and Don Gaunt to face Colin in the final. John was clearly tired by his efforts (it's a long way down to reach to put a ball on) and only put up token resistance to Colin retaining the title for the third year (maybe now Colin will be able to afford a bulk discount and get the trophy engraved for those wins). Colin seemed a little unhappy that his AHS grade had actually gone down in winning 6 games out of 7 with 4 TPs, but it all seemed fair to the manager whose grade went up with 3 wins out of 7. Weather conditions were satisfactory and should be much better for the centenary championships in August, do come and support this 9 lawn club.

"Phillips 1796 - 1994"

Continued from Page 16

its distinguished 1930's exterior, undeterred and without missing a single sale.

Expansion progressed with the acquisition of two legendary auctioneering names; Glendining & Co, the well established coin and medal auctioneer, immediately after the war and later, in 1954, Messrs. Puttick and Simpson, specialists in musical instruments, stamps and porcelain. Puttick & Simpson used to hold their sales in the former studio of Sir Joshua Reynolds in Leicester Square. All three firms traded comparatively independently under one roof until the early 1970's when the 'umbrella' name of Phillips was re-instated, Glendinings retaining its own name as an affiliate of the Phillips group.

In 1989, 50 years to the day after the fire, Phillips moved back into the New Bond Street, at Number 101. Almost opposite the original premises and two doors along from the house occupied by Admiral Nelson, this smart new entrance now gives access to the salerooms behind in Blenstock House.

Today, nearly two centuries after its foundation, Phillips is one of the leading international auction houses in the world with not only the largest branch network in the United Kingdom of twenty one salerooms, but also a thriving international organisation of business-gathering offices and salerooms. In London there are two

salerooms; Phillips New Bond Street and Phillips Bayswater where regular and specialist sales are held.

Over 200 specialists covering in excess of fifty different subjects travel the world to give valuations and advice, attending major County Shows and Fairs and preparing regular catalogues. Today, Phillips hold approximately 1700 sales a year.

Harry Phillips, the man who started it all, would be amazed by today's annual turnover figure - over £82 million in 1993. His first recorded sale of 126 lots of 'miscellaneous curiosities and valuable articles' at 67 New Bond Street made only £39 but he would be proud of the continuing tradition of variety and wide-ranging expertise. Over the years everything from '90,000 bricks, porcelain and pickles' and '222 dried specimens illustrative of the 104 genera of domestic and foreign fish' to one of the world's finest collections of Dinky Toys have come under the hammer at Phillips. Today, high, and frequently world record, prices are achieved at Phillips for items as varied as a pair of brass inlaid torches by George Bullock at £130,000; a watercolour by Turner selling for £400,000; a painting by Pieter Breughel the Younger at a price of £490,000; a Wielden teapot selling for a record price of £50,000 and a pair of silver candlesticks by Nicholas Sprimont realised £214,500. A Dress Fez worn by Mussolini fetched £48,400 - a record price for a military head-dress and a rare Hawaii god stick of the 19th century sold for £51,700. Also, a unique

Penny Black stamp sold for £71,500 - a world record for a single British stamp.

At Phillips Bayswater a boxed set of pre-war no.68 camouflaged aeroplanes sold for £7,150 and Phillips broke the world record for a single Dinky Toy - a post war Guy Van advertising Lyons Swiss Rolls which fetched £1,870 in 1988. A Single skiff by E Messum in 1922 sold for £11,500; Elvis Presley's stage suit 'The Shooting Star' sold for £28,600; a world record price of £35,300 was achieved for a '00' gauge toy train; a Bristol Universal Fire Office Mark, one of only three known examples, sold for £5,720 and a record price of £103,400 was achieved for a 1949 Aston Martin DB1.

In July 1993 Phillips sold 14 aircraft on behalf of the Ministry of Defence, fetching £726,600. In the same month a world record price was achieved for a golf ball at Phillips annual sale of golfing memorabilia which coincides with the Open Golf Championship.

The list and variety is endless - from the world's largest collection of sporting memorabilia to a collection of redundant RAF bombers, from oil rigs to Taddy's clowns cigarette cards Phillips maintains the tradition of its enterprising founder.

In this essentially 'people business' many staff and specialists remain with Phillips for many years. The successor to Harry Phillips, as Chairman and Chief Executive since 1972, is Christopher Weston who first started working with Phillips aged thirteen in his school holidays.

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