

And Finally...

Through the Hoop with Tony Antenen

'95 Subscriptions, a comment... Seasonal correspondence to Club Secretaries... anybody out there got a moment or two ?..... Four newly formed clubs..... croquet in Europe.... "twinning"

I wrote my last end-of magazine piece in November and announced my decision to do an all-Association Members 'mail-shot' advising no change in subscription rates and enclosing the return form for completion to accompany the cheque. I included in my letter to you a 'special pleading' for everyone to send in a return including our SO paymentiers et al. This then is my thanks to all you good people who did as requested, completed the form, and provided Paul Campion, our formula 1 computer op with much valuable information for the CA data base.

The early months of the year made the usual Seasonal demands on the Office with first the despatch of the 1995 Fixture Book to those paid up members entitled to receive it. The books were delivered to my office on a Wednesday afternoon and some 700 plus envelopes went into the next day's post! My thanks to Roger Jackman who answered my SOS for assistance with Paul C and Brian Mac both unavoidably absent. Next followed the All-Secretaries pre-Season despatch followed shortly after that by one to tournament clubs and, on going, the posting to paid-up clubs of the up dated Registered Club's Pack. These 'postal marathons' drive a carriage and pair through the day-to-day operations of the Office and your secretary is grateful for the assistance of willing hands.

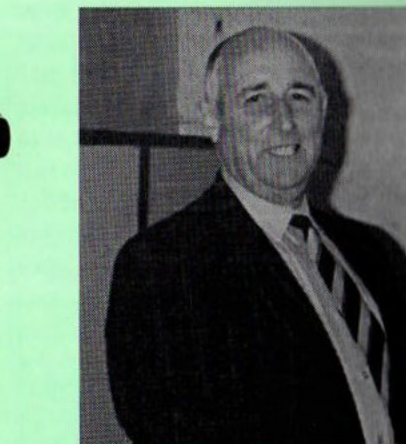
The Registered Club Pack! now there's an undertaking. Few people know of - and fewer couldn't care less about - the immense amount of work that went into the compilation of the original document and, subsequently, the up-dating for 1995 by Syd Jones and Bob Smith. I've mentioned before the part played by Marie De Laurey (Surbiton) in the assembly and despatch of last year's original (Thanks to Marie's tuition Syd is photocopying for England in the next Office Procedures and Practices

Olympics). Sadly, I am now without Marie's splendid assistance, her once a week visits to the CA Office having been curtailed by failing health. The Office Team all miss her indomitable spirit and sleeves-up practical help and we thank her, sincerely, for her efforts.

You can guess what comes next! Anybody out there within striking distance of the Office who can spare a regular day-a-week to come along and give a hand would be welcome. (Welcome!! I'll get Brian to tidy his office!!) The basic "qualifications" are a willingness to "get stuck in" and, most important, a sense of humour! Any additional qualities or expertise such as, for instance, being able to read and write, add up past ten with your shoes still on, keyboard familiarity, etc is a bonus. No 'salary' as such. Reasonable travelling expenses refunded (hence the need for ease of access). Unlimited coffee, lots of laughs and plenty of real, if unspectacular, jobs to do. Ring me on 0171 736 3148. We'll be waiting for your call!!


A warm welcome to four lately formed Clubs. Clent Croquet Club in Worcester came on song in January and Enfield (London N14) and West Chiltingdon (W Sussex) signed up in March. Welcome all. Further information on location, contacts etc., available through the Office or your Federation Secretary.

A possible bit of business for your next club meeting (or something to think about anyway). Croquet, as a developing game, is taking root in Europe. Clubs are up and active in Belgium, France, Switzerland, and Italy. Having spoken to representatives from these countries I can assure you they would warmly welcome Association members as playing visitors (I did type the "I" in "playing"? Good!) Well! In the same way that towns "twin" one with another it seemed to me a possibility that CA Clubs



might "twin" with one of their European counterparts and arrange exchange visits to the mutual benefit, and enjoyment, of both. If the idea appeals and you would like to pursue it give me a ring or drop a line. Could be fun! Croquet sans frontiers?!!

And finally.... The "Seasonal Greetings" referred to in my last missive was, of course, intended for Easter!!! I am confident my best wishes to you all for a happy - and successful Season will reach you before the club finals weekend in October.



Don't forget the Editor's Hot-line on Monday May 15th 7 - 9pm

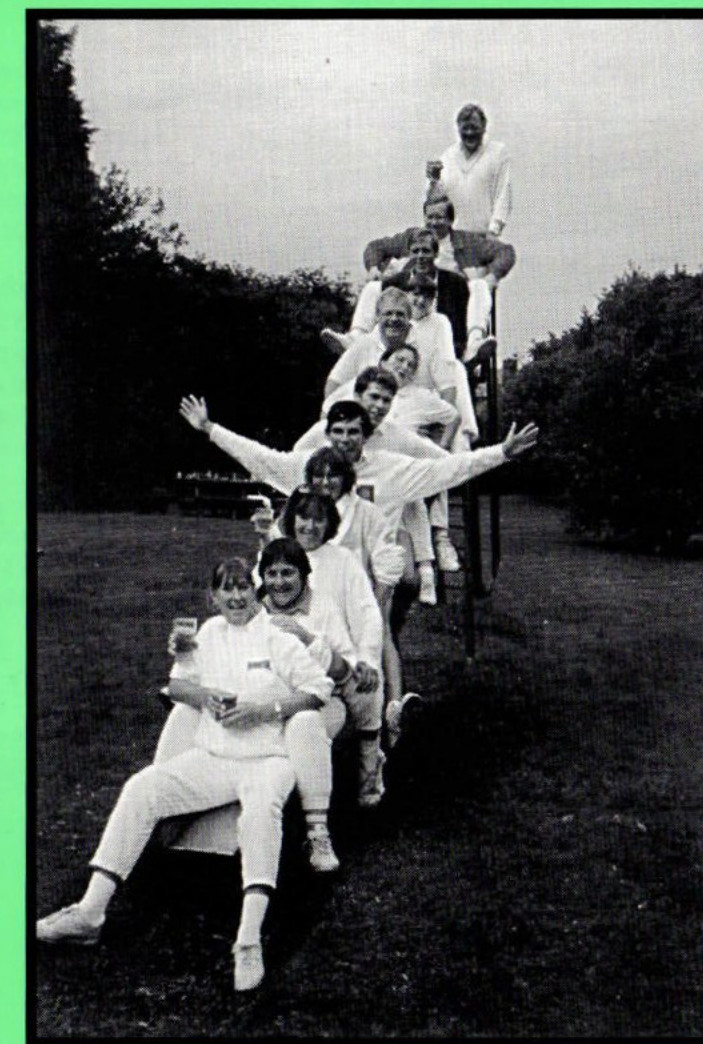
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CROQUET

Issue 237 May 1995

It would appear that nobody worries about sliding handicaps at Guildford & Godalming Tournaments



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CROQUET

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Cover Photo by Celia Steward **Produced by** Gail Curry for **Publication** in the second week of every other month throughout the year by the Croquet Association **Written contributions** on computer disk (IBM or Macintosh), typed or hand written **Photographs/illustrations** preferably black and white are welcome and should be sent to the Editor **Illustrations/Caroons** are by Jack Shotton unless otherwise stated **Copy date** is shown on the back cover **Tournament Reports and Results** should be sent via the CA Secretary **Delivery queries** should be directed to Chris Clarke or Russell Hutton tel: 01462 485449 **Advertising** details are available from the Editor through whom advertising should be booked **Editor** Gail Curry **Design/Typesetting** Gail Curry **Printing, Binding & Imagesetting** by The Print House.
Gail Curry 33 Percy Gardens Tynemouth North Shields Tyne & Wear NE30 4HQ (tel: 0191 2579045)
The Croquet Association The Hurlingham Club Ranelagh Gardens London SW6 3PR (tel: 0171 363148) Secretary L W D Antenen Chairman W E Lamb

Chairman's Column

Welcome to Gail Curry, the new editor of Croquet. After such a period of disruption I am sure that Gail's enthusiasm and experience with publishing an alternative magazine will ensure that normal, or rather better, service will be resume. I am grateful for all the names that were suggested by various members as suitable people to edit the magazine and that we were able to make a choice of the new editor so quickly after my letter to Associates.

It has been decided that future issues will be dated as the odd months in the year with the magazine appearing in the last week of the preceding months. The latter seems to be common practice in the publishing world. This issue is therefore dated May, appearing in late April. I apologise for the fact that with this change only five issues this year and there were only five issues last year. If Gail is able to gather sufficient material, at least one of the issues will be a "bumper" edition. Council has also recognised that associates have been deprived of their normal benefits and has decided that there will be no increase in subscriptions next year in partial compensation.

Later this year the first Federation representatives will take their place on Council. Some concern has been expressed that, with the reduced number of places available by normal election, younger members in particular may find it difficult to be elected. I would not want to argue in favour of positive discrimination for any particular group, whether on grounds of age or gender, but I think it is important that council retains a representative balance. Above all, we need members who are prepared to make a positive contribution to the Association.

Council meets four times a year and most members also serve on two committees, which usually meet once or twice a year. The duties are not particularly onerous, unless you are chairman of a major committee. As a largely amateur organisation we do not pay for services rendered, but Council members are entitled to claim for travelling and out-of-pocket expenses. I should be pleased to talk with anyone who is thinking of seeking election to Council and who requires further information.

With a new season under way, enjoy your croquet and help to spread the word about the game.

Bill Lamb

STOP PRESS...

Inter-Counties Championship 1995

Players Needed for Berkshire!

I wish to form a team in this years Inter-Counties. We have a number of willing players already, but need a few more to be sure of being able to field a team. If you are interested and eligible* please contact me, Adrian Wadley, at home on 01734 340214, or at work on 01344 413703, or drop me a line to: 30 Cotterell Gardens, Twyford, Reading, RG10 OXP
* Have a look in the fixture book p8 for eligibility.

Solomon Trophy At Nottingham

Nottingham Croquet club has been chosen as the venue for this years Solomon Trophy test match between Great Britain and Ireland and the USA. The match will take place on the club's courts at Highfields, University Boulevard over the period 4 - 7 July 1995, and it is hoped that as many spectators as possible will come and support the event. It is the first time since 1985 that Nottingham has hosted an international match, and work to improve the already excellent

playing surfaces is well under way.

Anyone who is considering organising a club visit to the test should inform Graham Fowler (Nottingham 395308) so that the necessary catering arrangements to provide light refreshments can be made.

David Carpenter
Nottingham C.C.

200th Anniversary Gift From Jaques To All Associate Members

Dear Associate,
Inside your magazine is a small book celebrating the 200th anniversary of Jaques. This beautiful book has been given to us free of charge and we hope that you will enjoy the fascinating story that is revealed inside its pages. The Croquet Association would like to thank Jaques for their gift and wish them all the best for the next 200 years!

'Croquet Magazine' or

'The Gazette'?

The Editorial Committee and the Editor would welcome your thoughts on which title you want this publication to be known as.

NEWS & INFORMATION

Egypt Joins World Croquet Federation

The WCF Council has approved the application for full membership from the Egyptian Croquet Association.

The association has 16 affiliated clubs, with 525 registered members.

The association plays Golf Croquet only and arranges both inter-club competitions and individual championships for its members.

In the last Egyptian Men's championship 166 players competed, the winner being Moheb Erian.

1995 World Championships

The sixth World Championship is to be hosted by the French Croquet Association at Fontenay le Comte from 10th to 18th June.

As in 1994, forty players will be invited to take part. The format for the Championship will again be 8 preliminary blocks of 5 players, followed by a 32-player knockout. In parallel with the championship, there will be a 14-point event for all players.

C.A. Announces English Selection

The Croquet Association Selection Committee has selected Steve Comish, David Maugham and Stephen Mulliner to fill three of their four places for the forthcoming World Championships. A qualifying tournament will be held in late April at Surbiton C.C. to fill

the final place.

Mailsort

The Croquet Association has introduced a new system for the mailing of this magazine - Mailsort. This will enable us to save over £1000 a year on postage costs. The CA would like to express its gratitude to Duncan Hector of Inter County Office Furniture for his help setting up the system.

Mailsort works by using your postcode. To qualify for discounts, over 90% of postcodes must be correct and so it is vital that any errors in your postcode are notified to us as soon as possible.

If you find an error or experience any problems regarding delivery of your magazine, please ring 01462 485449 during office hours and ask for Chris Clarke or Russell Hutton.

The Challenge of France

A new tournament, open to all players over 40, will be held in Fontenay-le-Comte, following the World Championships from 18 - 22 June 1995.

An exciting convivial social programme. the entry fee of FF2,850 includes: Entry fees, hotel accommodation all food and social events.

Applications should be made to Federation Francaise Croquet, 4 rue du Chateau, 85200 Fontenay-le-Comte, France.

Tel. 01033 51697058
Fax. 01033 51 51 12 75
Entries close on 15 May 1995.

OBITUARIES

Edgar Jackson

Few croquet players have left such an impression on the game as Edgar Jackson, who died on December 11th 1994 at the age of 88. He came to the game relatively late in life, claiming to have decided at an early age to take the game up when he was 50. In fact he failed to wait quite so long, and joined the Cheltenham club, a few hundred yards from his home, in 1954. By then he had risen to high office in GCHQ, following war service in Naval intelligence at Bletchley Park. His quick and powerful mind no doubt qualified him well for an intelligence career, though his university degree, from Peterhouse, Cambridge, was in architecture. He was a successful partner in a London practice before being recruited by the intelligence service at the start of the Second world War.

Typical of the stories that Edgar liked to tell was that he had decided on Cheltenham as the new headquarters for GCHQ in 1949 because of the presence of the croquet club. His enjoyment of a good story was such that he was unlikely to let the facts get in the way. With such a sense of fun, he must have found the Cheltenham Croquet Club of 1954 somewhat daunting. Not only was he constantly referred to as "that young man", but he incurred the displeasure of the older members, typified by the intimidating Miss Paulley, for daring to wear shorts in hot weather. The fact that he later known to criticise others for doing exactly the same thing would have bothered him not at all. "Don't do as I do, do as I tell you" was a philosophy fully in keeping with Edgar's attitudes.

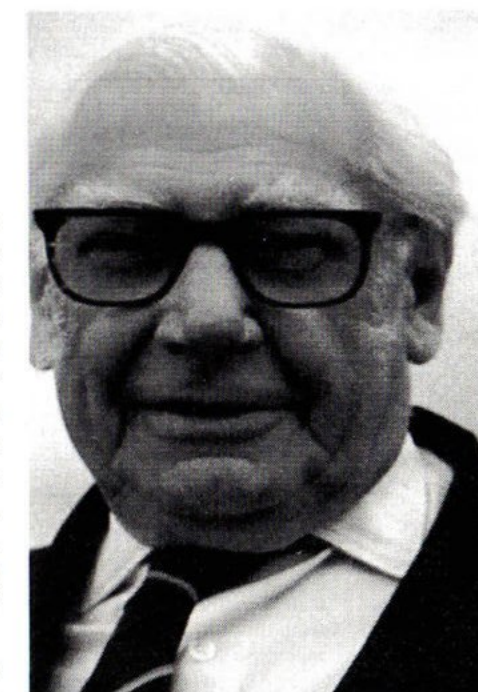
It was not only croquet that Edgar had waited till middle age to take up (and then successfully). In 1957 he, in his own words, "committed matrimony" to Joan. He had two children, Hermione and Gildart, and liked to tell the story of going to the Registry Office at the age of 53 to register Hermione's birth and being asked if he had "achitty from the father". Like many younger players since, he found the conflicts of interest between family and croquet difficult at times. To make matters worse, the croquet establishment was then much less understanding than it is today. After a rapid improvement, gaining entry to the Surrey Cup invitation event in 1957, winning it in

1958, he was selected for the President's cup in 1959. Since his daughter Hermione was just about to be born, he declined the invitation, and was rewarded with subsequent ostracism from the Surrey Cup under the rule that those who had played, or been invited, to play in the President's Cup were not selected. His consequent dislike of the President's Cup endured throughout his life; he disliked playing in London at all, and never entered the Opens at Hurlingham, claiming that there were far better things to do in London, like going to the opera, one of his many enthusiasms.

His ostracism was ended by a relaxation of the rules in 1965, and a change in policy in 1966 resulted in the introduction of the Chairman's Salver, a genuine "Second Eight", with no restrictions on selection. Here Edgar found his true home, and played every year until 1978, except for three occasions (in 1971, 73, and 75) when he was promoted to the President's Cup. The 1977 Chairman's Salver is one of my fondest memories of Edgar. I was going through a crisis of confidence, having lost my place in the President's Cup, but Edgar's companionship during that week in Colchester (we travelled together and shared the same lodgings) enabled me to recover my enjoyment of the game, and my form. I will always be grateful to him for that friendship when I needed it.

His results in the Chairman's Salver were 2nd, 2nd, 1st, 2nd, 2nd, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 6th, and 2nd, a truly remarkable record. The contrast with his performances in the President's Cup could hardly be starker. In four appearances (1979 as well as those above) each time he came bottom with 2 games. Though I imagine he got pleasure out of saying something like "you see, I can't play properly in London".

All these selections had to earned, of course, and Edgar's other great successes were in the Men's Championship, which was regularly held at Cheltenham from 1972. The entry was smaller than now usual, but the quality of the field was guaranteed by the strength of Cheltenham's membership in those days, particularly the regular Inter-Club team of Hands, Hope, Murray and Prichard, all test team players. On Cheltenham's lawns Edgar proved a



match for such competition, and he won the event in 1975 and 1977, at the age of 68 and 70 respectively. The latter is probably a record for a major Championship, though I can find no documented evidence. I remember Andrew Hope telling me how in the 1975 final Edgar for once showed outwardly the determination and competitive spirit which he had in full measure, but usually concealed so well. His ability to compete on equal terms with payers forty or fifty years his junior (Openshaw and Hemsted were also among his victims in this era) was matched by the good relations he had with all of them. Indeed, he probably got on better with the younger generation than many of his contemporaries. As one of the game's great veterans he continued to play club games well into his eighties, winning the Sturdy Seniors (a club event for veterans) at the age of 83 and serving as the club's President for many years.

Edgar's playing record alone would have been enough to guarantee his place in croquet history, but his probably more enduring legacy will be his contribution to the management of tournaments. When he joined Cheltenham, the only tournaments organised were traditional Monday to Saturday events. Social customs, particularly among the upper-middle classes who made up the croquet playing fraternity, made Sunday play quite unthinkable, so working players were restricted to one or two tournaments a year, taken from their precious leave entitlement. In the early sixties some braver souls, at Cheltenham and Hunstanton initially, dared to organise weekend

tournaments, and Edgar, as a working family man himself as at the forefront of this development. His fertile mind delighted in the intellectual problems of organising such tournaments to give the maximum number of players the maximum amount of play, and he energetically collected statistics about lengths of games to help him improve the systems he used. Since then Cheltenham's five weekend handicap tournaments each year have provided literally hundreds of players the opportunity to enjoy competitive play. Most of them learned to treasure Edgar's friendship.

For many of his friends, Edgar's razor sharp mind, his sense of fun, and his wide interests, were his most endearing characteristics. Some found him difficult, for he tolerated fools poorly, had no time for stuffy conservatives, and was uncompromising in his ideas. His excellent relationships with his two children helped to keep his mind young, and so for a generation of younger players he was a wonderful friend and mentor, and we will always remember the glorious sight of Edgar, long white hair in full flow, striding purposefully into the turn to stalk a shot or hoop stroke on Cheltenham's lawns.

Despite his own prowess, Edgar was never an elitist. He is reported in David Prichard's "History of Croquet" as being "not interested in winners, only in losers". Prichard goes on to say "The pressure is relentless. Weaker mortals wilt as the evening meal grows tantalisingly elusive as a mirage, but for the strong and the active there is no better manager who gives better value than Edgar Jackson". Neither was there a human being who was better value. We are of course sad to see him go, but we'll always be thankful that we knew him in his prime.

Martin Murray.

Michael Hornby

My first meeting with Michael was at a Budleigh Salterton tournament. "Who's my partner in the doubles?" I ask.

"Michael Hornby. That's him over there." Consider this from my point of view.

I was what croquet considers a young whipper snapper, barely able to tell the head of a mallet from the handle. I am directed to an imposing 6 foot plus gentleman with a shock of white hair, currently dispatching balls around the lawn with what might possibly be considered a dangerous weapon.

(Well it sounded like a shotgun going off every time he made contact with the balls). Any of the balls that did not go where directed were subject to a low growl and muttered threats of what would happen if they did not do better next time. Needless to say, I spent most of our first game finding how difficult it was to hide on a croquet lawn.

I obviously did not know Michael.

A few months later Margaret and Michael moved to Budleigh and much to my surprise he rang up for a game. After that we played possible 2 or 3 times a week. I was getting to know Michael.

I was getting to know a person who, if he hadn't done it, it probably was not worth doing, be it serving in India, farming in England or sailing to all places in between, whilst also managing to take advantage of the alternative handicapping styles in Australia.

Much to my regret I cannot tell you much about Michael, for every time we met he talked about the next game or the next tournament or the next season, such was his love for the game. I can tell you about the man I liked, the wicked sense of humour that all too infrequently showed itself with the twinkle in his eyes, the man who took everything life threw at him and still asked for more.

Those of you who knew Michael will understand that the only regret I have about my association with him is that it wasn't long enough.

Shaun Carter.

William Dean, 1909 - 1995

It is with regret that we report the death of William Dean. Associates who played in Colchester Croquet Club tournaments during the 1980's will remember with pleasure their games on Colchester's fifth court, namely The Old Rectory, Wivenhoe.

Dr. Dean kindly offered the use of his beautifully maintained private court to Colchester members at any time - an offer which was frequently taken up. How pleasant it was during the summer months as the outplayer to sit under the large cedar tree beside the court and sip the iced lime water William so kindly provided and, during the July week, to eat his delicious home grown strawberries and return to Colchester clutching a bouquet of his prize-winning sweetpeas.

Who will forget the third corner and law 24, hunting for over-hit balls in the

elephant trap and, at the game's end, falling into the most welcome gin trap?

Colchester has lost not only a vice president but also a great friend and benefactor to croquet.

Pat Hetherington.

Edward Duffield

It may not be widely known that before becoming a member of Colchester Croquet Club in 1930, Ted Duffield had already established himself as one of the most distinguished bell ringers of his generation. Croquet and ringing have many things in common, both requiring physical skill and mental concentration, as well as taking time to learn but being addictive thereafter!

From obituaries published in "The Ringing World" one learns that he learnt to ring at the age of 11, at Tasburgh in Norfolk, and progressed rapidly to ring his first peal in 1912, two years later. In the ten years following the end of the First World War, his skill as a ringer of heavy bells came to the notice of the Pye brothers band and he rang peals with them at many towers around the country. In 1934, having settled in Colchester and become leader of the ringers at St. Peter's, he was elected Master of the Essex Association and shortly afterwards served for two years as Master of the College Youths, one of the two national ringing societies.

He continued ringing until about eight years ago, having served the Exercise for over 75 years, and he was able to enjoy listening to the bells right up to his death in early January this year.

In view of Ted Duffield's contribution both to ringing and croquet, Tom and Judy Anderson suggested that others with an interest in both activities should join them to ring:

Sharnbrook, Beds. 28 Jan, 1995 1259
Plain Bob Minor: Barbara Woplin 1, Judy Anderson 2, Tom Anderson 3, Ian Vincent 4, Mark Roberts 5, George Doughty (C) 6. In thanksgiving for the life of Edward P. Duffield.

Sharnbrook was an appropriate venue for the quarter peal as Ted was once Tower Captain there. The inside ringers were all croquet players, from the Colworth, Wrest Park, Nottingham, Durham University and Hurlingham clubs.

Ian Vincent

Letters...

Dear Ms. Curry,
Congratulations on your new appointment. I should advise you, however, not to give up the day job.

One important question: Now that the lunatics have taken over the asylum, do I need to continue to subscribe to 'Taking the Bisque' or will 'Croquet' supply my fix of Jamie Lee Curtis and Baywatch from now on?

Yours earnestly,
Peter Dorke

Poacher Turned Gamekeeper

There was a young girl called Gail
Who drank copious quantities of ale
In founding the Bisque
She was taking a risk
But now Croquet is Gail's travail.

Roger Jackman.

Dear Gentlemen,
Thank you for your kind contributions, but please no more of this ilk. I do not wish to use this publication as a vehicle for self adulation, we have far more interesting and important issues to fill the pages.
Ed.

Bibliography Progress

Dear Gail
Writing in April 1993 (Issue 226), I reported that I was compiling a bibliography of our game which I intended to be definitive, if not comprehensive. Encouraged by recent innovations in Information Technology and by support I have had from many readers at home and abroad, I have since made good headway, and feel that a brief progress report may now be of interest.

All my records are on a computer database, and I have a publisher standing by, so that, when the compilation is effectively complete, with a little bit of luck the whole work will print out automatically, complete with the indexes and fully reconciled cross references etc, at the press of a

few keys. So far, I have identified over one thousand books, pamphlets and specialist periodicals in several languages including Pitjantjara, and many more articles in non-specialist serials. The stand alone publications break down thus:

Book etc about croquet: 295 first editions (plus 177 reprints)

Multi-sports books & Encyclopaedias: 161 (56)

Films, videos, computer programmes: 42 (3)

Serials dedicated to croquet: 50

Croquet in literature: 65 (19)

Croquet in biography and letters: 47 (6)

Humour, verse, music and mime: 29 (1)

Miscellanea: 51 (9)

Patents: watch this space

A computer database affords all sorts of facilities for innocent merriment. So, for example, it took only a few moments to determine that during the years 1885 - 1900 no fewer than five articles which appeared in general periodicals bore the titles including words synonymous with "revival", but no article proclaiming such an optimistic message has been published since 1966. Now, there's food for thought - an open invitation to anyone who knows of a such a recent article to prove me wrong.

Pending publication, I would dearly welcome input from any of your readers who is in a privileged position to identify subject material which may have escaped my trawl, and equally I would be delighted to help anyone who has a query about our literary heritage.

David Drazin
Harrow Oak & Cassiobury

Eliminate the Bandit

Dear Editor,
I have been playing croquet for two seasons, and am a comparatively new reader of Croquet. I was amused to read in issue 236 that Geoffrey Cuttle suggests "Something has to be done about bandits" and worse still "Shoot the bandits". I think I must be one of these bandits because I won two trophies

last year. Perhaps for safety reasons I had better enter tournaments incognito this season!

My handicap was reduced from 24 to 20 but as the article implies high bisquers do not play to a consistent standard. My own index fluctuated up and down all season.

May I suggest that the club handicapper should authorise special handicap events in all croquet clubs, initial cards and henceforth the word 'bandit' be eliminated (rather than the individual). In any case I do not think it is a fair description of players who improve rapidly though practise.

Yours sincerely
Myer Cohen

CA Merit Awards - Home & Astray

Dear Editor,
In fairness to Chris Clarke I must reply to Len Hawkins' criticism of the delays in the sending out of the CA Merit Awards.

Like Len, I earned my Silver Award in August 1994. Having been informed that Chris had recently moved house, I obtained his new address from the CA Office, sent off my card, and received my award in September together with a handwritten letter of congratulation. If some applications were sent to his old address (in the CA fixtures handbook) is it possible that they went astray?

Yours sincerely
Christine Constable

Dear Gail,
In reply to Len Hawkins letter in the last magazine, I feel I must defend myself. I moved house in February 1994 and my ex-landlady has refused to allow me to collect any mail sent to my previous address. I informed the managers of the first few tournaments of the year of my change of address and this was also printed in the April 1994 edition of Croquet.

Unfortunately, over 30 people have failed to notice this during the last year. Realising that there was a problem, I asked John Walters in October to print my new address once more in the magazine, but this was not done.

The above has led to substantial delays in the receipt of awards for many members, I deeply regret this, but believe that in over 95% of cases, I have responded promptly.

Letters...

If anyone is still waiting for an award, please ring me on 01462 482768 in the evenings or write to me at the address below.

50 Chagry Close
Letchworth
Herts
SG6 4BY

Chris Clarke.

Appropriate Reply Please

Dear Editor,
Would it not have been appropriate for the editor to provide an immediate answer to the question on hoop running posed by James Mays in Issue 236? Alternatively a formal answer from a member of the Laws Committee could have been elicited and printed alongside the question to advantage.

My answer to the question posed would be Yes - a point would be scored which is justified by a full reading of Law 14.

The law does initially refer to a ball passing through the hoop and this is equated with "running the hoop" in the same paragraph. Running the hoop is then defined by the starting and finishing positions in 14(b)-1 and 14(b)-2 respectively. How the ball gets into the position defined by 14(-1) is therefore irrelevant and further exemplified in 14(d) where even a ball in hand may be so placed before running the hoop.

Should the ball be carelessly 'tapped' through the hoop, reaching only position 14(b)-2 it still will not have passed completely through the hoop yet will have run it unless a fault had been committed. A shot that should be watched!

Yours sincerely
Bryan Teague

Whilst I appreciate this letter was not directed at me personally, let me assure you that I will endeavour to provide answers to questioning letters by the most appropriate

sources, and include them immediately after such letters whenever possible. Your answer has been verified by Chairman of the Laws Committee Martin Murray and I thank you for the correct explanation.

Following on from this query and previous thoughts from the Editorial Committee, A regular column on the Laws will be included. If you have any queries on the Laws that you wish to have explained further please send them to the Editor for inclusion in the column.
Ed

Challenge The Referee

Dear Gail,
How pathetic that your predecessor did not see fit to supply an answer to James Mays' question on running a hoop, and Law 14. Perhaps it might simplify matters if you can reproduce the box on page 9.

The letter illustrates several factors - firstly, the need for the players to explain precisely the state of the game. If the first referee was really aware that the ball in the jaws had eached that position by being hit from the non-playing side, and he (or she) ruled that a point had been scored when the ball was eventually tapped through, then that referee needed to go on a refresher course!

Another point worth mentioning is the usefulness of the comparatively cheap paper back books which are advertised in Croquet. The Laws require careful study, but the diagrammes in these books are far more helpful in grasping similar points.

Players should also remember that they are entitled to challenge a referee's decision on a point of law. James Mays' letter is a classic example of where the aggrieved player should appeal to higher authority! And make no mistake about it, referees do make errors. Apart from more obvious failings, I have been accused of being deaf (and not hearing double taps) as well as being blind (and not seeing faults), but last year I was humbled into accepting that I had unlawfully claimed a cannon, as

my long understood interpretation of the law, when replacing balls on the yard line was unsound. the moral of the story...don't be fobbed off by a referee who is getting forgetful - send for the ROT!

Hamish Hall

Anyone Interested In 'Peeling'?

Dear Editor,
Myself and other bell ringing croquet players are interested in ringing a quarter, or even a peel, to celebrate the centenary of the Croquet Association next year. If there are any ringing croquet players who wish to join the band please contact me on 0115 925 3664.

Yours appealingly
Ian Vincent.

1905 For Sale In Aid of Australian Charity

Dear Editor,
I wish to part with a collection of croquet magazines of the year 1905. They are in excellent condition and make truly wonderful reading. Only £20 for all of 1905, to aid a children's hospital charity in Sydney, Australia.

Please send British currency preferably, to

Mr J Peterson, Unit 5, 52 Martin Street,
Harbord 2096, Sydney N.S.W.
Australia

Yours sincerely
J Peterson

Ipswich Tournament Correction

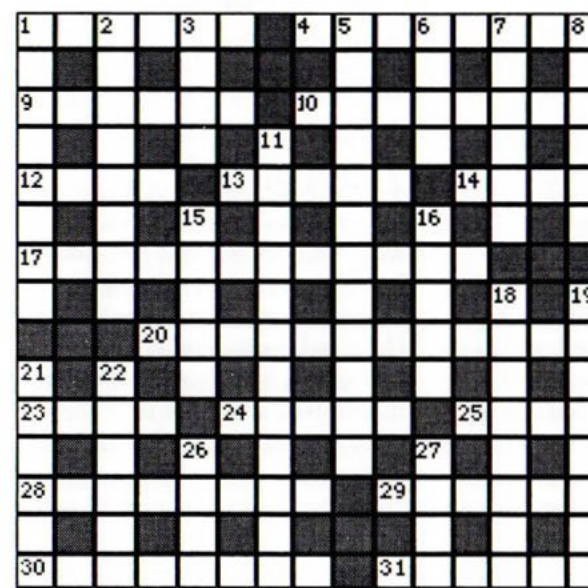
Dear Gail,
I'm writing to you in your new august role to ask if you could please print the following corrections in the magazine re our tournament dates. The correct details are :
June 10-11 Handicap Advanced
July 15-16 Level Advanced
And not as listed in the fixture book..

Thanks
Phillip Eardley
Secretary Ipswich CC

Flattery will get you everywhere.
Ed.

The Courtside Crossword

By Jane Eire



Down

1. Guess round about where it is drunk (8).
2. Sound like coarse Cheltenham players are all villains (8).
3. Dear Lotty isn't dotty about the toff (4).
5. e.g. +26 T.P. , +1 O.T. (7,5).
6. Anna illegally holds a small spike (4).
7. Demonstrates horrible N-E vice (6).
8. Dawdie in Negril (6).
11. Sundry vehicles don't start and become failures (12).
15. A thousand single men in Jordan (5).
16. Names of the seasons (5).
18. Loud Sumo in a disreputable brawl (8).
19. Adore its minor planet (8).
21. He is surrounded by police at the Egyptian (6).
22. Mixed up Rose is affected (6).
26. I'm in front of a bus wearing a skirt (4).
27. Seductive opening (4).

Across

1. Danger area for novice players (6).
4. Avocet Nelly is amongst the shameless (8).
9. Gathers less than five hundred friends (6).
10. Dead in front is perfect (8).
12. The black ball in Fontenay (4).
13. Deprived of top players (5).
14. Top cartoon company (4).
17. Troublesome courts or mean venue for A-class players (6-6).
20. Club miser nicks car and takes off South (12).
23. One back is smelly (4).
24. Rails against fibbers (5).
25. Line contest (4).
28. Opportunities at the start of the game (8).
29. Kipling's hero meets Lennon's wife wearing a dress (6).
30. Chief mourner for the most wretched (8).
31. Accomplished clergyman turns South to the editor (6).

Fantasy Croquet 1995

Fantasy croquet was born in 1994 and provided entertainment for a small band of croquet players. This year, anyone can enter and there will be a prize for the winner! All you have to do is pick 4 players from the list below costing no more than £6million and if your players score the most points during the year you win! Entry is free.

How are points scored?

There are seven main tournaments during the year, Worlds, Opens, Mens, Northerns, Easterns, Southern and Westerns. Points are scored on the following scale:-

	N, S, E, W & M's	Worlds / Opens
Winner	20	30
R-U	12	20
3rd	8	12
4th	6	8
winner of cons event	6	8

Points are also awarded for the following:-

winning best of 3 in one of the main seven events	5
winning any CA Open weekend	5
winning a game in the consolation event	1
doing a triple peel	1

So just send the names of your 4 chosen players to: Steve Comish, 23 Bridgewood Road, Woodbridge, Suffolk, IP12 4HA.

Closing date for entries May 6th.
Have fun and good luck !

Cost of players - all figures are in millions.

Clarke 3.6	Maugham 3.4	Farthing 0.6	Gregory 0.6
Bamford 3.0	Fulford 3.0	Hallam 0.6	Patmore 0.6
Mulliner 2.6	Westerby 2.4	Aspinall 0.5	Foulser 0.5
Comish 2.0	Irwin 2.0	Gunasekera 0.5	Lamb 0.5
Cornelius 1.7	Goacher 1.7	Landor 0.5	Murray 0.5
Dawson 1.5	Cordingley 1.4	P Smith 0.5	Aiton 0.4
Day 1.4	Burridge 1.3	Ames 0.4	R Brown 0.4
Openshaw 1.1	Avery 0.9	T Browne 0.4	T Coles 0.4
Harrison-W 0.9	Gaunt 0.8	MJ Evans 0.4	J Haslam 0.4
Goddard 0.8	Wiggins 0.8	Hawkins 0.4	C Jones 0.4
C Williams 0.8	Symons 0.8	Leggate 0.4	Li-William 0.4
Bond 0.7	Guest 0.7	McDiarmid 0.4	Mrozinski 0.4
Hope 0.7	Liddiard 0.7	W Prichard 0.4	R Smith 0.4
Noble 0.7	Palmer 0.7	C Southern 0.4	J Toye 0.4
Walters 0.7	Curry 0.6	Tuke 0.4	Vincent 0.4

Chris Clarke.

COACHING CONCEPT

TRAVELLING BY COACH - A NEW VENTURE

Don't look now it's boring

Coaching: I looked it up in the dictionary. It said: "Coaching: Travelling by coach, tutoring; instruction. "Well that's not a lot of help I thought. But then neither has the coaching offered by the CA been. I know many people (some people) have been on CA courses but what have they achieved? Lots? Little? The courses are not oversubscribed. My phone is not ringing incessantly with demands for more CA coaching courses. The ether is not buzzing with news of the CA coaching scheme. But should it be!!

You mean it's changed?

The coaching committee are travelling: they have revamped the coaching courses. What are your needs? You know? Tell us! You don't know? Ask us!

We ask you!

Each course now consists of a pre-course evaluation. Based on the information gained from the questionnaire, the core curriculum and the skills of the coaches the course is tailor-made for the participants.

So what?

You get to be coached by people who have been there before and found that if they had been coached it would have been easier and are willing to help you. You get to meet players of your own standard and they will help you and you will help them. When you go to competitions you will see a friendly face from the coaching course. If you don't go away you can welcome old friends and bring new ideas to your club. At the end you will get a personal training plan targeted at helping you to achieve your goals.

Tell me more!

The new CA Coaching concept is simple: You tell us what you want, Experts assess what you need. These are put together and a course is designed. The course is assessed by the participants and the

coaches in terms of content, tutoring and enjoyment. Everyone gets feedback and the next course benefits.

What's the catch?

Well, it costs; not so much in money but in time and effort (but if a thing is worth doing it is worth doing well and it is worth doing with people of your own standard.) You need to put aside a weekend in April or May to attend. You must assess your needs and return the pre-course questionnaire. If you don't do it conscientiously it will be difficult to help you. But at the end of it all if you work hard you could win a voucher.

My club coach is all I need!

He or she is probably very good but do you have people to try out your new found skills against? Are there other ideas you could learn from players of a similar standard? Have you got ideas you could share? Could you lead others in your club?

Can I learn to coach?

Sure you can! At every course! Just apply as a coach not a participant. (Yes, you participate as a coach; there is a prize for the person who can find a better word.) Same rules apply: Pre-course questionnaire, Intra-course evaluation and Post-course feedback - two ways I hope! You could become a CA qualified

coach and get a voucher!!

That's great!

It all sounds like a good idea but hasn't it all been tried before? No, not in the CA but elsewhere it works. We aim to increase the number of people attending CA coaching courses both as participants and as coaches. If people come and enjoy themselves and learn then they will tell their friends and they will come. Some will endeavour to become coaches and share their learning. And all the time we will be increasing the common pool of knowledge because we will be exchanging ideas, skills and techniques. The way to better croquet is through better communication. Before, during and after CA coaching courses will lead to better croquet.

Who's paying?

The courses are self-financing. It is possible that some profit may accrue. This will help to keep CA subscriptions down.

I'll give it a try!

Early in the season! Near you! Look in the CA Fixture book! There is a Bronze, Silver, Gold or Master Class course for you. Apply today! It will set you up for the season and set the season up for you.

Strat Liddiard

Coaching Committee

Solomon Trophy Teams Announced

The following teams have been announced to play in the Test series to play for the Solomon Trophy at Nottingham C.C. from 4th - 7th July 1995.

Great Britain

Chris Clarke (capt.)
Steve Comish
Debbie Cornelius
Paul Day
David Goacher
Colin Irwin

U.S.A.

Bill Berne
Carl Mabee
John Osborn
Erv Peterson
John Taves
Rhys Thomas

Talking Point

Duncan Reeve replies to Geoffrey Cuttle's article in the previous issue, on the seemingly eternal debate on Handicapping

Despite the length and apparently well argued nature of Geoffrey Cuttle's article on handicap play, I for one remain totally unconvinced by his plea for a base of six in full bisque handicap play. Not only does his analysis embody non-sequiturs but his whole case is flawed because he completely overlooks the most important and dominating feature in a handicap game, particularly a game between a long-bisquer and an A-class player, namely, the difficulty of the lawn on which the game is being played.

Because of Geoffrey Cuttle's influence as a member of the Handicapping Subcommittee of Council, it is important that his views should not remain unchallenged if, as I believe, there are serious grounds for further debate.

Firstly, Mr Cuttle argues that high bisquers need two bisques to set up a break for each ball, but once they have improved below a handicap of about ten they should need less. This is reasonable; however, he then appears to suggest that a player of handicap ten will use four bisques for setting up two breaks, and then do two all-round breaks using no bisques at all. This is optimistic to say the least, even on the easiest of lawns. Again, to argue that a six handicap player does not need four bisques to set up breaks is reasonable, but it by no means follows that they need no bisques at all. I see no case here for a handicap base of six, or for that matter for anything else. And certainly no argument against a base of zero.

Mr Cuttle also says that a full bisque game will "kill the fun" by making it too easy. However, a sixteen handicap player will only succeed in doing two all-round breaks with sixteen or less bisques on an easy lawn, and in any case by doing so he will be emulating the form of many A-class games, which presumably is to be encouraged. Far from suggesting a minimum base of four, this clearly suggests to me a base of zero.

An important point raised by Mr Cuttle is the aim of trying to make the game consistent to a player playing opponents of different ability. To then call for a


handicap base of six is to shoot oneself in the foot. A player of handicap eight, say, must adopt completely different strategies when playing opponents with handicaps of nine and zero, with respectively two and eight bisques.

I suggest that a vital aspect of the debate has been ignored thus far: the difficulty of the lawn is all-important. An easy lawn makes it more difficult for the stronger player to win; that is, it favours the weaker player; and conversely a difficult lawn favours the stronger player. My proposal is that the handicap base be determined by the lawn. At the start of a tournament the Manager (for example) will assign to each lawn, a lawn "index" or "handicap", typically lying in the range -4 to +4. An easy lawn will be assigned a positive index, a difficult lawn a negative index, and an average lawn an index of zero. This index is the handicap base for handicap games played on that lawn. The fact that the index is a subjective "guess" does not matter since all games on a particular lawn will be played to the same base. In fact it might be beneficial to change the index of a lawn during the course of a tournament if the conditions change. For most clubs all lawns would have the same index, since conditions do not generally differ markedly between lawns.

I would also like to say something on the issue of bandits. It is inevitable that there will be bandits, as I will demonstrate by means of the following anecdote. Rather than being labelled as pariahs, such players should

simply be encouraged. No-one remains a bandit for long.

In my first season of competitive croquet, I played in three tournaments and my handicap came down from 12 to 6. Before each tournament I practised assiduously to ensure that I could play better than my handicap and hopefully win. Shortly before going to one of these tournaments, the club handicapper at the club where I was practising, was clearly concerned that I should not go to another club as a bandit. I was therefore (casually) requested to play against a solid B-class player in order to get an idea of my ability. I deliberately lost this game thereby ensuring that my handicap remained unchanged, and subsequently returned from the tournament with a cup and a handicap reduction.



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Variation In Form

An explanation offered in 1907, to a problem that still troubles many in 1995

This is an abridges version of an article that appeared in the Croquet Gazette of 19th December, 1907. Reference to "two turns to one" and "two turns to none" in the first example near the end of the article, arises because of the sequence game then played (blue-red-black-yellow). If red were pegged out, then yellow had a turn only after black, but not after blue.

During the 1900's many ways were suggested for making the game more difficult for the experts. One of these was the 3 foot lift shot referring to the second example. Also in the second example, it was possible for black and blue to lay up with red because it was yellow's turn to play. The No. 2 setting referred to is the 'Willis Setting' (i.e. the present day setting), which was apparently in at least occasional use at this early date (1906), although it was not generally adopted in the UK until 1922. - Allen Parker.

If a plebiscite were taken among croquet players to elicit the chief drawbacks of croquet as a game, there is little doubt that high up in the list would come "nerves", and the extraordinary variation in form that every player experiences.

Yet on deeper consideration, what a dull game it would be without those interesting and exciting unknown quantities? Doesn't the very champion of the game lay himself open to the charge of being "uninteresting" to watch by his triumph over these failings which so often wreck the hopes of lesser mortals?

As a rule our pleasure in a game is directly dependent on the skill with which we play it, that is to say, we like the best games we play best; but the real pleasure is not so much in the game itself as in the consciousness of continual improvement. Hence the prominent aspect of variation in form in croquet which steps in to check us on our path of progress.

The art of playing croquet is separable into three distinct functions. Firstly we have the combination of physical efforts producing any strokes, that is to say the co-operation of many muscles or groups of muscles by which the stroke is made. Secondly, we have the accurate co-operation of hand and eye which gives the stroke the qualities of direction and strength; and thirdly, we have the mysterious control of these two qualities by the will-power or conscious thought.

The purely muscular act may, for the purposes of this article may be left out of consideration, for, though it may be an important factor in the variation in form exhibited by a really bad player, it soon becomes a simple habit of ordinary practice. The muscles are soon taught when left to

themselves to do their work automatically and satisfactorily. But the co-operation of hand and eye is a much more delicate affair, and individuals show considerable differences in their natural ability in this direction. The expression of having a "good eye" really means a more than average ability, and, putting on one side, for the moment, the effect of the third factor, variation in form is frequently due to variation in the harmonious working together of hand and eye.

The strokes which a moment ago were easily and well executed become more laboured

This variation may be quite temporary, as shown in the lack of accuracy often noticed at the beginning of a break or game compared with the proficiency developed when a player is "set", or more lasting when due to some cause such as headache, or a feeling of ill-health. On such occasions we say we are "off our game".

The most important cause of variation in form, however, is the third factor, comprising the control of muscles and senses by the will-power. It is not easy to convey in simple phraseology the idea of this domination of the efforts of the body by the mind. Although the mind is always exercising this control it is for the most part a subconscious influence.

Muscles of the senses of sight and touch are all working together, and we are

not really aware of it, and as long as the mind is free from other distracting influences, our form will not vary to any great extent. But the mind is only too easily engaged by other attractions, excitement of a critical moment is sufficient to raise the subconscious or dormant mental control to a highly conscious one. The strokes which a moments ago were easily and well executed become more laboured under this disturbing influence, and if the mental balance is sufficiently affected we are face to face with an attack of "nerves".

It is interesting to note that mental excitement may not only interfere with the proper execution of the actual stroke, but also with that part of the mind that is occupied with the relation of one stroke to another; in other words, our judgement or tactics.

Everyone must have lost or won games by inexplicable conduct of their own or their adversary in the excitement of a critical finish. Here are two instances:-

A lady, having successfully pegged out one of her adversary's balls, a little later with great deliberation, pegged out the other also, the idea in her mind being, apparently, that it would be easier to win with two turns to None than with two turns to ONE.

In case the reader should feel their credulity unduly strained by this example, the writer hastens to add another instance witnessed with his own eyes. An ex-champion was playing a one and a half bisquer in a tournament (No.2 setting) towards the end of 1906, when a wired ball might be lifted to any spot within 3 feet of its position. His ball (yellow) was for the Rover hoop, and had been placed by his adversary about a foot south of that hoop,

in such a position that he could not shoot at any of the three other balls (all rovers) which lay together about the middle of the South boundary. After a lengthy discussion the Referee was called up to give permission to lift. The player then asked to know exactly where he might lift to, and was told anywhere within 3 feet of the spot where his ball lay. Again after mature consideration, the ball was placed 3 feet nearer the South boundary, and the 12 yard roquet attempted, and missed, the opponent going out next turn. It never occurred to EITHER player that Yellow could have been placed in the mouth of the rover hoop, and the hoop run to the boundary. If excitement could cause such mental aberration in players of this class, the colossal blunders of the less experienced are little to be wondered at.

The best course would seem to be to take plenty of time to consider the strokes

But, *revenons`a nos moutons*, is there any practical lesson to be learnt from the study of variation in form? There is certainly no golden remedy such as the quack can offer for all diseases of the human body, though the moderate application of the principles of Christian Science might be decidedly beneficial. We have only to believe firmly enough that it is impossible to miss short roquets to conquer that weakness. But alas for the weakness in our faith.

Meanwhile every opportunity of playing under conditions of nerve strain must be embraced. We must strive to play naturally, i.e. without giving too much or too little attention to our strokes. Some play quickly to avoid the former, others play slowly to avoid the latter. The best course would seem to be to take plenty of time to consider the strokes, but not too much in the address and execution.

"MEDICUS"

Next Issue: Allen Parker delves into the archives to find out how difficult wiring lifts were suggested to be judged.

British Rankings 1993

	Grade	G's	Wins
1 Maugham DB	184	156	113
2 Bamford RL (SA)	181	107	78
3 Fulford RI	175	128	103
4 Clarke CD	173	116	81
5 Irwin CJ	172	84	63
6 Mulliner SN	168	74	52
7 Goacher DJ	167	95	61
8 Comish S	164	96	66
9 Walters JO	153	65	36
10 Openshaw DK	151	83	56
11 Dawson JP	151	34	22
12 Burridge IJ (W)	148	168	105
13 Aspinall GN	145	20	14
14 Cornelius DA Miss	143	100	61
15 Palmer LJ (W)	138	72	49
16 Goddard JP	136	50	31
17 Curry GE Miss	135	49	39
18 Avery MN	134	35	21
19 Lamb WE	133	40	23
20 Wiggins DCD	131	73	49

National Rankings 1993 and 1994

For some reason the National Rankings List for 1993 was never published. For the historical record it is given here with the 1994 list.

The base for 1995 has been adjusted so that both the computer Grading system and the Automatic Handicapping System are more obviously in line. Players on the above list may like to compare their handicap index at the end of last season with their computer grade.

Please note, however, that the CGS grade takes no account of handicap games or of internal club games and has a different weighting according to the importance of the game. If you discover that there is a substantial difference (say more than 150 points) between your AHS index and your CGS grade that can not be accounted for by the above factors, please send your handicap record card or a photocopy to:

Bill Lamb, 5 Bondyke Close,
Cottingham, North Humberside
HU16 5ND

British Rankings 1994

	Grade	G's	Wins
1 Bamford RL (SA)	2954	57	48
2 Fulford RI	2889	57	49
3 Maugham DB	2837	107	78
4 Clarke CD	2682	118	84
5 Mulliner SN	2651	107	73
6 Comish S	2627	112	72
7 Openshaw DK	2538	47	32
8 Cornelius DA Miss	2526	82	58
9 Day PE	2511	74	49
10 Dawson JP	2465	69	45
11 Cordingley P	2456	131	86
12 Walters JO	2455	26	17
13 Goacher DJ	2449	110	67
14 Irwin CJ	2409	88	55
15 Symons AJ	2406	33	20
16 Bond ID (S)	2384	50	34
17 Williams S (I)	2382	41	26
18 Burridge IJ (W)	2364	148	75
19 Noble GW	2343	56	40
20 Avery MN	2343	43	22
21 Gaunt DL	2333	104	63
22 Goddard JP	2328	60	37
23 Prichard WdeB (W)	2314	12	8
24 Harrison-Wood D	2307	69	43
25 Guest JE	2287	68	44
26 Hope AB (S)	2264	30	11
27 Wormald MR	2261	11	9
28 Liddiard GS (S)	2259	94	46
29 Murray M (S)	2256	16	9
30 Surgenor J (S)	2253	41	32
31 Rogerson F (I)	2225	35	19
32 Coles WT	2219	51	26
33 Farthing CN	2207	51	26
34 Evans MJ (W)	2202	21	16
35 Williams CN (W)	2201	94	53
36 Wiggins DCD	2198	71	40
37 Mrozinski AJ (W)	2192	71	40
38 Gunasekera DL (W)	2190	15	4
39 Watson JPG	2189	19	15
40 Palmer LJ (W)	2185	64	38
41 Taylor HP	2184	29	22
42 Patmore CJ	2183	76	44
43 Lamb WE	2171	34	18
44 Maugham FI	2169	20	10
45 Ames JP	2167	65	39
46 Aiton KMH (S)	2166	60	29
47 Gregory AK	2156	116	60
48 Saurin AT	2154	25	10
49 Curry GE Miss	2153	51	33
50 Schmieder CS von (I)	2127	41	23
51 Leggate ATR	2126	76	47
52 Linton AM	2125	27	18

1995 Federation Conference Notes

Held at the Old Silhillians Club, Solihull on 19th February 1995

Some 30 members of the CA attended the conference comprising: 10 members of Council (some also represented Federations) including the Chairman and 5 chairmen of Standing Committees. 20 Federation representatives from 8 of the 9 Federations. The West Midlands was not represented.

The National Development Officer was also in attendance.

The Chairman of Council in concluding his welcoming address referred to the recent problems with Croquet magazine which he hoped had now been overcome by the appointment of Gail Curry as the new editor.

The morning session of the conference was devoted to the 1995-98 Forward Plan. A presentation covering the contents of the plan, the implications of the sports Council's decision to award £30k in 1995 and a reducing amount in the following years and the need for Federations to submit regional plans for funding was made by Bill Lamb and Chris Hudson. Delegates then split into three groups to discuss various aspects of the Forward Plan.

Recruitment & Facilities:
Chairman - Brian Storey
Juniors, Schools & Special Projects:
Chairman - David Magee
Regional Activities & Competition Provision:
Chairman - Richard Hilditch

The chairmen summarised the discussions during the afternoon session which allowed a more general discussion to occur. Some of the points made were:

RECRUITMENT

- Targets for Affiliate members are realistic but doubts were expressed regarding increases in Associate members.
- The Croquet association has a problem with its image with the membership and needs to project itself more effectively.

- Recruitment Officers were not thought to be necessary - the Development Officers should already be dealing with this area.
- Increase in per capita subscriptions from the clubs must increase with inflation.

FACILITIES

- Differences in opinion existed on the criteria for facilities required to establish a club and the need for more four court clubs.

JUNIORS.

- The establishment of school leagues was thought unlikely to succeed due to the short summer term.
- Clubs should then promote games in schools by demonstrations, etc. but should encourage further play at their own clubs even to the extent of forming junior sections.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

- The names 'Affiliates' & 'Associates' were not universally popular. It was suggested all should be members and get an individual handbook.
- The Croquet Association should be investigating artificial grass surfaces.
- Indoor carpets are uneconomic unless a permanent site can be found which can be used as a coaching venue.

COMPETITION PROVISION

- The numerous Federation calendar events including short croquet, should be published with the object of a national structure being formed.
- Golf croquet and short croquet players are not interested in long distance travel for matches.
- A need to establish whether members are interested in team events which will result in the promotion of national leagues as opposed to the individual aspects of tournament play.

REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

- It is essential that the Croquet Associa-

tion and Federations should have the same aims.

- Unregistered clubs in the Federations should be identified so that they can be made the subject of official approaches to persuade them to join the CA.
- Federations should be informed of any Croquet Association activities which are to be arranged in their areas.
- Northampton CC have overcome funding problems on coaching by registering as an official evening class with the local authority.

During the afternoon, presentations were also made by:

George Collins - on the possible uses of the video camera the Croquet Association had purchased with Sports Council funds. A video of some of his efforts was shown to demonstrate the high standard of the camera.

Syd Jones - on the plans of the Publicity Committee. Samples of the posters available for National Croquet Day were exhibited.

Tim Haste - on the revised coaching scheme involving gold, silver, bronze and master courses.

Alan Oldham - on the problems we have with valuable trophies. An agreed solution as to whether trophies should be retained or disposed of and cheaper replicas used does not appear to exist.

Hamish Hall - on the National Lottery applications which detailed the procedures which must be adopted. The Chairman then explained how the CA was prepared to support applications with interest free loans if they satisfied the requirements in the Forward Plan.

Derek Trotman
Chairman Development Committee

FEDERATION ROUND-UP

South East Godfathers

There was a big turnout from sixteen of the clubs in the London & South East Federation at Surbiton on 12th February for the Federation's 8th AGM and Club Conference.

Also present were CA Secretary Tony Antenen, CA National Development Officer Chris Hudson, CA Publicity Chairman Syd Jones and the CA President, John Solomon who presented League trophies to Harrow Oak and Dulwich. Other Federation events in 1994 had been won by Ealing (Team Tournament), Southwick (Ladies Day) and Worthing (One Roquet). The proposed Short Croquet League had not, after all, been organized but it was



John Solomon presenting the SE Fed 'B' League trophy to Sue Best of Dulwich promised for this year; one-ball and golf croquet events were also on the 1995 Federation's calendar.

Minor alterations were agreed to the League rules: to alter times of games if both captains agree and to encourage high bisquers.

Officers and committee members for this year are - Chairman: Richard Hilditch (Harrow Oak), Treasurer: John Knight (Reigate), Secretary: Quiller Barrett (Ealing and Surbiton) and Bill Arliss (Southwick),

Stephen Badger (Dulwich), David Collins (Dulwich and Wellcome), Roy Ware (Ramsgate) and Ron Welch (Reigate and Selsdon Park). At this AGM Stephen Badger stood down as Secretary after many successful years organizing the Federation's affairs; he was enthusiastically thanked by everyone present.

Chairman Hilditch then announced the S.E. Federation's Godfather scheme: the aim is to improve communications between the committee and members. All 30+ clubs in the Federation have been allocated amongst committee members who will act as Godfathers and visit their designated clubs to discuss any needs, grouses - or indeed help which the clubs may be able to

relevance of the plan to clubs, new perspectives for the Federation (in the light of replies received to questionnaires sent to clubs last year), some difficult aspects of croquet laws and some old established customs of the game (not shaking hands at the end of the game seemed the quirkiest to many newcomers!).

A useful and entertaining day was the general verdict.

Quiller Barrett.

Croquet North, the final frontier of the CA

Croquet North is the Federation of Croquet Clubs in Northumberland, Tyne and Wear, Durham, Cleveland and Cumbria, which is a large area covering Barrow to Carlisle on the west, and Berwick to Teesside on the east. The Federation was set up several years ago, as the Confederation covering the whole of the North of England was divided into three to coincide with the Regions of the Sports Council. The first Chairman was Reg Forth, the stalwart of Norton Hall, the ICI Sports Club covering those plants north of the Tees, and the driving forces included Syd Jones, John Davis and David Appleton. The East Pennines League, designed for one-court clubs, was taken over to become the Croquet North League, and each year at least six clubs take part, mainly using it as a means of introducing beginners into competitive croquet. The Confederation League is used as the teams competition for senior players, and usually Tyneside, Ormesby Hall and Belsay Hall compete with the Yorkshire and Lancashire clubs for that trophy.

Nowadays there are six registered clubs, Tyneside and Belsay Hall in the north-east, Ormesby Hall and Norton Hall on Teesside, and Carlisle and Crake Valley at each end of Cumbria. There are about 120 players spread over these clubs, which shows that developing croquet in the large area is left to a very few people, with the time and determination to make a contribution.

Tyneside now has four courts over two sites, Belsay Hall has two, and a waiting list for membership. Ormesby Hall and Crake Valley have two, and the others one court. Croquet is played in Barrow, Lowther, Kirkley, and Middlesbrough in addition, and there have been efforts over the years at Durham University.

Golf croquet is popular at Tyneside and Belsay Hall, and the Golden Mallet winner has come from the North for the last two years. Short croquet is not often played seriously, but Tyneside did reach the national final in 1993.

The most prestigious representative event is the annual match at B-level with the Scottish Croquet Association, at which the Newcastle Breweries Challenge Trophy is competed for each July. The fixture, in the same format as full CA internationals, gives players the experience of advanced play in good company over two days of best-of-three doubles and singles, and shows the improving players that B-level or better is not so daunting after all. The success of these events is shown by the number of English players now joining the Scottish Croquet Association also, as because one has to travel between 100 and 150 miles in any direction to find good facilities and serious competition, one might as easily head north to Glasgow or Edinburgh, as south to Pendle, Bowdon, Hull or Southport.

Each year, at least two Progressive Doubles events are held, at which senior and junior players are paired together with a movement between short croquet games that is like a whist drive, i.e. winners move up and split up. The junior player scores two points for each hoop, while the senior player scores only one, thus encouraging the expert to coach the beginner round the course, thus giving half a dozen lessons in play, to half a dozen different players (or from half a dozen different partners) during a pleasant day's competition. The events have proved to be an ideal coaching medium, as well as a source of camaraderie, and of course funds.

Croquet North has recently had Sports Council assistance to produce the Federation's Forward Plan, to coincide with the CA Plan, i.e. for the next four years. Derek Trotman, Chairman of the Federation, consulted widely with all registered clubs and most local authorities, and has produced the Plan, which met with great approval by the Sports Council, and is being cited as a model for other minority sports to follow. Five objectives are listed, with targets to be met each year, with the overall aim of

improving facilities in clubs, doubling membership over the four years, increasing the standard of play, establishing at least one four-court club, and determining where new clubs may be viable with support of local population in numbers without adversely affecting existing clubs' survival. This Plan was endorsed at the recent Annual General Meeting of the Federation, and fits into the CA prime objective of increasing membership in registered clubs without difficulty.

The Federation will elect its first Representative for CA Council in 1996, and will then be seen to be playing its full part in developing croquet in the ways agreed and outlined in the CA Forward Plan, as well as providing champions in individual play to follow Gail Curry's fine example. The progress made shows what can be done with a lot of effort and time, but it also shows how vulnerable such a minority sport can be, if the few activists pull in different directions, or, worse, stop pulling altogether. You can give support to the area by entering the new handicap or advanced tournaments in Newcastle, on 2 and 3 June or 8 and 9 July respectively, and meet old friends and new faces, including some from over the Border.

Bruce Rannie

East Anglian Croquet Federation - E.A.C.F / National Trust Croquet Tournaments 1995

Background

This is the 9th year of these Annual Tournaments. Originally we were asked to run tournaments at National Trust houses in East Anglia - these to be an outlet for Greene King brewers. For the first 3 years the sponsorship enabled us to pay for and obtain equipment (which we are now able to lend to our newly formed clubs), and the sub-sponsors gave magnificent prizes - Peatling and Cawdron Fine Wines and Moët & Chandon Champagne.

We have played at 6 stately houses through the years.

The Present

We have continued a most amicable partnership with the National Trust. House Administrators have been delighted to have the extra attraction of our activity, in full view on lawns beside beautiful houses.

National Trust Press releases attract local Radio and Television.

We have the opportunity of showing our game to very large numbers of the public (up to 500 - 700 at each venue). We have a "come and try it" lawn for the public to "have a go", we have a publicity banner and display table for hand-outs of our area leaflet and CA information. Our tent acts as HQ for the players, a place for results boards, and shelter in inclement weather!

The Format

The tournament is played to short croquet rules. We take 16 teams/clubs (Team of 2 people playing doubles & singles) - 4 teams at each venue. The winners from each venue play-off at the final at Ickworth (Bury St Edmunds) in September.

The Ickworth lawns and setting is by far the best with Orangery, raised terrace for viewing and the Head gardener (who is a trained groundsman) has even been publicising croquet on his lecture trips to Poland.

1995 is the Centenary of the National Trust, by request we are running 2 special Golf Croquet Tournaments at Anglesey Abbey near Cambridge. As it is the first of such tournaments we have no idea how popular these will be, we are hoping for a wide range of clubs to be represented.

The dates of our tournaments are:-

Golf Croquet
Anglesey Abbey - Saturdays 15 & 29 July.
Short Croquet
Long Melford - Sunday 25th June
Anglesey Abbey - Sundays 16 & 30 July
Oxborough - Sunday 6th August
Ickworth (Final) - Sunday 3rd September

Details of which can be obtained from: Judy Anderson, 16 Wellpond Close, Sharnbrook, Beds MK44 1PL

The Future

We hope that our clubs/groups will continue to enjoy this opportunity to publicize our noble game.

It is an ideal event to introduce new players to competitive play in a relaxed atmosphere, and meet players from other clubs. Another bonus is that it has been a very good way of helping new groups to meet and mix with established clubs.

We are very grateful to the Bury St Edmunds club who donated an impressive shield which we compete for now.

Judy Anderson.

Tournaments '94

2nd European Open Golf Club "Le Robinie", Solbiate-Olona (VA) 2nd ~ 4th September 1994

The preliminary rounds saw few surprises, with Stephen Mulliner, Edward Cunningham (Ireland), Paul Day and Debbie Cornelius each leading their respective groups. The Italians gave a good showing, both Giampietro Donati and Gianni Farioli coming second in their groups. Phillip Archer (Guernsey) scored a rare victory over Malcolm Smith (Scotland). The happenings of his match against Giampietro could be used for a CA referees' examination, but are best forgotten here! With the manager agreeing to no time limits, most players obliged with rapid games and most matches scheduled for Saturday morning were played Friday evening. Commiserations to Mike Llewellyn-Williams (Wales) and Othello Ravez (France - Yoann's younger brother) who had to play until well after Othello's bedtime, Mike eventually winning by +1 (not on time) on Saturday morning! Other close matches worth a mention belonged to Ian Sexton (Switzerland), who was beaten by a relieved Stephen Mulliner by +3, and Paul Day, who slithered past Giampietro Donati +1. Gianni Farioli edged past "Stormin" Norman Eatough (Switzerland) +2 to avenge his 26 point defeat in the Coupe des Alpes, earlier in the year.

The knockout stages provided more entertainment. The "Battle of the Isles" left Jersey's Tony Le Moignan a +12 TP victor over Phillip Archer. Giampietro Donati's name will go down in history for performing Italy's first TP, unfortunately transformed into an OTP by Charlie Von Schmieder (Ireland). The quarter finals saw the last of the "Continental" defeated, Yoann being devoured by Paul +26TP. Stephen eased past Tony +23TP and, to complete the sassnach domination, Debbie controlled Strat Liddiard +6. The final quarter was an all-Irish affair (shades of '93), Charlie sauntering past a tired (?) Edward +22TP.

Much discussion took place on Saturday evening over whether the semi-finals

should be best of three or a single match only. The Manager made the decision to play over one leg only, the final being played over three. Suffice to say that Stephen steamed past Paul +26TP before some unmentionables had even arrived at the lawns, while Charlie took rather longer to claim his place in the final, beating Debbie +25. The tradition on the Continent is to play-off for 3rd place. This is to amuse the gallery, in case the final is a rapid affair, and to keep sponsors happy. Debbie and Paul went on to the lawn to enjoy themselves and, having a +2 -90TP score-line after the first two legs, needed to play the last leg as a one baller to keep within the timetable, various people having planes or trains to catch. Debbie won +5 to take third spot. The final, itself, was a long and colourful affair, with Stephen deservedly retaining his crown. Charlie put up a brave fight, however, and the final went the whole three legs, Stephen eventually taking it +16TP -15 +25.

The prize giving left nobody empty-handed (Thanks, Stephen, for the Brunello di Montalcino!), and Carlo Farioli and the Associazione Italiana Croquet are to be thanked and congratulated for another very successful tournament. My personal thanks go to Paolo De Petra, my Co-Manager, who actually did most (if not all) of the work! In 1995, the 3rd European Open will be held in Ireland, at Carrickmines, where we can be sure of a very warm welcome.

Peter J. Payne
Tournament Co-Manager

Indoor Croquet Winter 1994 /1995 East Anglia Roll Out The Carpet

The East Anglian Croquet federation held three indoor tournaments on the fast mat for winter '94/'95 at the Soham Sports Centre in Jan, Feb and March.

The November Tournament was, as usual, for the Albert Lawrence Memorial Trophy. Fourteen doubles teams took part, mostly representing clubs in the area but

some were casual pairings. In some cases several different people played for their club so teams often changed. The teams were split into two blocks, one of stronger teams and the other of weaker teams with higher handicap players. In the 'weaker' block Chelmsford won all 6 games, the runners-up being Ipswich 'Y'. The 'stronger' block was won by Letchworth 'X' - Chris Clarke and Nigel Gray - with 5 wins, with Soham runners-up with 4 wins. In the play-offs Chelmsford beat Letchworth 'X' and Soham beat Ipswich 'Y' for third place.

One of the most exciting finishes was when Stony Stratford - Mike Hammerlev and Lionel Tibble - were 'out of time' for 6 and peg and still had to make one peel. The opponents, Bottisham, were way behind but with time in hand. From near hoop 4 Mike lodged his ball in hoop 6 - shot of the tournament. Bottisham made a hoop. From then on Mike and Lionel approached hoop 6. Bottisham made a hoop. From then on Mike and Lionel took single shots at the peg but Bottisham plodded on and won before both had pegged out.

The January and March Tournaments were for the combined Lynnsport Trophy. January saw some really close matches with two draws, five wins by only one point and four by two points. A feature of this weekend was a straight triple peel by Chris Clarke. The three minus handicap players made it look easy at times but the high bisquers looked to be enjoying it all just as much, despite more frequent mistakes. Leaders after this weekend were with 5 wins each were Letchworth 'X', Soham and Colworth.

In March Letchworth 'X' again did well, winning 4 of their 6 matches to make a total of 9 wins - their points count was a very high +82. Colchester Town won 8 games and came second. The 'weaker' block was in contention until near the end when Letchworth 'Y', who had 8 wins, played Soham with 7.5 wins, but it was settled when the former won - on time - by two points. Colworth with 7 wins could have come second but in their last game a Bottisham high handicap pair (18 and 16) used their bisques well to beat them comfortably.

Continued on page 20.

Access The Internet & Talk Croquet on the Information Super Highway

Ian Vincent explains why and how

For some years, a few croquet players with access to electronic mail (e-mail) facilities have been using them to exchange messages. Although the number currently able to do this is unknown, though probably still small, it is likely to be increasing at a significant rate, given the amount written about the Internet last year.

It therefore seemed an appropriate time to establish a distribution list, to provide a forum for the near instantaneous publication of information, ideas and requests relating to croquet. An additional benefit is that it should provide a source of e-mail addresses for croquet players, thus overcoming one of the major impediments to practical use of electronic mail for individual communication. This was one reason for choosing a distribution list rather than a news group, though the choice is primarily one of scale: we can always arrange a ballot for a news group if traffic ever warrants it.

The idea was floated last summer, but it was Martin Murray who provided the stimulus for me to set something up. It is

not formally an initiative of Council, but I have checked that the Chairman has no objection. Given the different timescale and, at least for a few years, extent of coverage, I see it as complementing, and possibly as a source of material for, rather than competing with, "Croquet". There is no reason why participation should be limited to those in the UK: anyone with an interest in croquet is welcome to subscribe.

To add your e-mail address to the distribution list, send a message to the Internet (RFC822) mail address croquet-request@nottingham.ac.uk

or the X.400 mail address

/S=croquet-request0=nottingham/
PRMD=uk.ac/ADMD=/C=gb/

with a body starting with the text

subscribe
end

(the subject field will be ignored).

This should cause the e-mail address from which you sent the message to be added to the publicly accessible list of subscribers and you should get back a message, giving more information about the list, followed later by any messages posted to it thereafter.

To minimize the effort required to maintain the list, I intend that it should be unmoderated, and that the administration should be largely automated. However, in case of difficulty, my personal e-mail address is

Ian.Vincent@nottingham.ac.uk.

Clearly, neither I, nor the University of Nottingham which owns the system used for the list, can accept any responsibility for the content of messages sent to it.

As the expression goes: enjoy!

Laugh with Jack



Down here we play croquet for eternity, the balls are behind you



What do you mean, you've never heard of the C.A.

Croquet Photographic Competition

Sponsored by
The Ripon Spa Hotel

The Prize

Two nights bed and breakfast at the Ripon Spa hotel for the winner and their partner.

The Competition

The competition is simplicity itself. We are looking for the photograph that captures the best possible image of croquet, which sums up either the enjoyment, competitive spirit, emotion or universal appeal of the sport.

The Rules

Your photograph(s) must be taken between April 1st and September 1st 1995. There is no limit to the number of entries from an individual. Any size photograph will be accepted. Black & white or colour photographs are acceptable, however 35mm slides are not. Photographs will not be returned unless the necessary stamped addressed packaging is included with the photograph on entry. Any photographs that are not furnished with the above packaging will be kept by the Editor for possible future use in Croquet magazine only.

Photographs for entry must have the following -

The photographers name & address on the reverse of the photograph. The venue at which the photograph was taken as well as the date.

Failure to include any of the above three or non compliance with any of the above rules will invalidate your entry. So please ensure you check the requirements carefully before entering. The winning entry will be published in the November issue of Croquet magazine.

The Judges

The judges for the competition will be Gail Curry - Editor of Croquet, Samantha Curry - A founder member of the Ripon Spa Croquet Club (no relation to the above), and Bill Lamb - Chairman of the Croquet Association.

The judges decision will be final



The Ripon Spa Hotel

The Ripon Spa Hotel has been in the same family ownership for eighty years and during all that time the emphasis on quality, service and attention to detail has remained constant. Courtesy and friendly service are second nature to our staff and traditional values of hospitality hold strong.

A fine Edwardian building, the hotel is peacefully situated in several acres of attractive gardens and well laid out grounds, yet at the same time is only five minutes level walking distance from the centre of the ancient city of Ripon.

Guests can relax and enjoy the comfort of the attractive surroundings throughout the hotel's public areas overlooking the beauty of the gardens in the changing seasons.

The 40 en-suite bedrooms are well equipped and individually furnished with many overlooking the grounds. Four rooms are on the ground floor and there is a lift to both floors.

Eating at the Ripon Spa is an experience not to be missed. Our main restaurant is very popular with local diners and offers traditional English cooking using, wherever possible, local produce. The Table D'Hote menu changes daily and in addition there is an A La Carte menu.

Morning Coffee or Afternoon Tea are served in the lounge or Garden Room and on warm summer days outside on the Terrace.

Probably the main reason for visiting Ripon is because it is set in the heart of some of England's most breathtaking countryside.

Close by is the World Heritage site of Fountains Abbey and Studley Royal Gardens, The Yorkshire Dales, Newby Hall, Norton Conyers, York, with its Minster, Viking Centre and National Railway Museum.

For the more energetic there's golf, fell walking or ballooning the Dales. And when you return to the Ripon Spa, you can enjoy the hotel's peace and tranquility by wandering through the beautiful gardens, playing a quiet game of croquet on one of the tournament lawns or just curling up with a good book.

Whatever the reason for your visit, we are sure you will want to return again ... and again.

Continued from page 17

In the final between the winners of each block Letchworth 'Y' beat Letchworth 'X' so that club keeps the trophy for another year. In the play-off for third place Colchester Town's Debbie Cornelius and Ian Burridge broke down trying to do their three peels and Soham's Cathy Storey and Celia Steward both went round well to win easily.

Forty people played for the fourteen teams over the march weekend, including nine scratch or minus players on the one hand and eleven with double figure handicaps on the other. A lot of fun and an opportunity to swing a mallet during winter's wind and rain.

Over the last several years the East Anglian Federation has been the only one to use the CA's indoor carpet regularly. So that other Federations could find out what 'speed croquet' is all about a tournament of two pairs from each Federation using both of the indoor carpets was played at the Bretby Conference Centre near Burton on Trent on Sat/Sun 25/26 March. A report of this event will be in the next issue.

Donald Cornelius
Tournament Manager

WANTED TO BUY

Old croquet books, pictures, drawings or anything else related to the subject matter of croquet. Send me your list and price of items to sell.

My interest is to see that these items do not get lost over time, & stay within the "croquet family" in a preserved collection.
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Selection Event Results '94

Barlow Bowl

Cheltenham September 14th ~ 18th

	GC	RG	DH	PH	FR	AW	Series Wins	Final Order
G Curry		+16 +23	+11 -12	+21TP +18	-8 +7	+3 +16	4 4	2
R Guban	-16 -23		+4 +8	+8 +8	-12 -10	+5 +10	3 3	3
D Harris	-11 +12	-4 -8		+13 +25	-16 -5	-13 +19	3 1	4
P Healy	-21TP -18	-8 -8	-13 -25		-25 -25	-5 -10	0 0	6
F Ransom	+8 -7	+12 +10	+16 +5	+25 +25		+25 +8	5 4	1
A Whitaker	-3 -16	-5 -10	+13 -19	+5 +10	-25 -8		2 1	5

Chairman's Salver

Compton September 8th ~ 11th

	Avery	Burridge	Cordingley	Gaunt	Goddard	Harrison - Wood	Hope	Wiggins	Final Order
Avery		-24 +12TP	-25 -23	+20TP -11	-80TP -1	+24TP +17TP	+22TP +4	-20 +25TP	4
Burridge	+24 -12TP		+2 -26TP	+26 -26	+15 -11	+15 -23TP	-1 +25	+24 -26	4
Cordingley	+25 +23	-2 +26TP		+10 +24	+11 +10	-4 -26	+26TP +10	+25 -17	1
Gaunt	-20TP +11	-26 +26	-10 -24		-5 -12	-26TP -17TP	+5 +13TP	+6 -15	7
Goddard	+8TP +1	-15 +11	-11 -10	+5 +12		-26TP -7	-17TP +24TP	+11TP +9	3
Harrison-Wood	-24TP -17TP	-15 +23TP	+4 +26	+26TP +17TP	+26TP +7		-20 +5	-26 +4TP	2
Hope	-22TP -4	+1 -25	-26TP -10	-5 -13TP	+17TP -24TP	+20 -5		+22TP -23	8
Wiggins	+20 -25TP	-24 +26	-25 +17	-6 +15	-11TP -9	+26 -4TP	-22TP +23		6

Spencer Ell

Southport September 7th ~ 11th

(Play-off: Williams beat Gregory +16)

	Williams	Gregory	Liddiard	Mrozinski	Haslam	Smith	Landor	Patmore	Final Order
Williams		-17 +4	-16 +10	-11 +26	+6 -18	-7 +24	+5 +23	+7 +3	1
Gregory	+17 -4		+10 -26	+20 +8	-11 +24	+23 -12	-5 +21	+22 +5	2
Liddiard	+16 -10	-10 +26		-10 +25	-8 -25	+16 +15	+24 +4	+10 -21	3
Mrozinski	+11 -26	-20 -8	+10 -25		+15 -17	-17 +5	+22TP +10	+24 +9	3
Haslam	-6 +18	+11 -24	+8 +25	-15 +17		-5 +18	-16 -17	-16 -10	5
Smith	+7 -24	-23 +12	-16 -15	+17 -5	+5 -18		+10 -4	+20 -14TP	5
Landor	-5 -23	+5 -21	-24 -4	-22TP -10	+16 +17	-10 +4		-24 +1	7
Patmore	-7 -3	-22 -5	-10 +21	-24 -9	+16 +10	-20 +14TP	+24 -1		7

Presidents Cup

Parkstone September 8th-11th 1994

Report by Chris Clarke

This years Presidents Cup was held at Parkstone for the first time. The reports of good lawns proved to be correct, with excellent grass quality and well set hoops. Unfortunately, the deluge that occurred the night before the event made the lawns slow and easy, although the two-paced nature of some lawns added an element of difficulty.

The absence of Fulford, Bamford, and Cornelius made this the weakest Presidents since 1990, and the standard of play was variable. Tactically, there was little of note, openings being confined to corner 2 and Duffer tices. The TPO was back in favour, but met with mixed success.

Day 1

David Maugham started well as usual with 4/4 with David Goacher keeping in touch. Goacher didn't seem to be doing anything special, but a win appeared next to his name after most rounds. Meanwhile, at the other end, Dawson, Day and Irwin were having trouble holding breaks together. Clarke, Comish and Mulliner were well poised.

Day 2

The Goacher / Maugham clash produced an easy win for Maugham who was starting to open up a big lead. He was playing well, completing a lot of triples, but was certainly not error-free. He seemed, however, to have the ability to produce the clinical game when necessary.

Day was making an impressive recovery from his poor start and beginning to produce some international class croquet as his confidence increased.

Game of the day was Irwin / Goacher. With all the other games having finished that round, Goacher was lining up a two yard peg-out. Ten minutes later, he was still lining it up - we presumed he was just playing to the crowd, building his reputation for slowness. However, when he missed the peg-out, much thigh slapping ensued and a dismayed David wandered back shaking his head saying "I knew I hadn't spent long enough lining it up!" Colin started his comeback and an hour later had taken the second ball round with a vertical spread. Unfortunately, the ball at rover was open and David opted to try to rush it to the peg.

reality, never looked like going to anyone else. His 13 wins included a record 11 triple peels and maintained his record of averaging more wins in the event than any player in the history of the game.

Mulliner blew hot and cold, achieving 9 wins and second place. Comish and Day were joint third with eight wins. Steve was not playing particularly well, but knew it and played to his ability, achieving no triples but always producing good leaves. Paul recovered well from a very bad first day and five triples is a considerable achievement in your first Presidents. Clarke played well with seven triples, but seemed to induce his opponents into playing better and finished with only seven wins. David Goacher had a miserable second series to finish with six wins. He has failed to recapture his form of a couple of years ago, but his determination remains.

Irwin won both his games on the last day, including an excellent finish from the contact against Clarke with balls in 2 and 4, to finish with some credit on 3 wins. Dawson made it a hat-trick of last places in the Presidents. In previous years, he has been unlucky, this year he simply failed to hold breaks together. Nevertheless, Jeff should look back on the year positively, thinking of his excellent debut in the Solomon Trophy and another win in the Surrey Championship.

The Parkstone club proved to be an excellent venue for the event and I hope to see it return there in a few years. Thanks to all the local members who gave up their lawns for four days and made us feel really welcome. Finally, a thank you to Cliff Jones whose hoop setting meant that despite the soggy conditions, the hoops still presented a challenge.

Results

	Clarke	Comish	Dawson	Day	Goacher	Irwin	Maugham	Mulliner	Final Order
Clarke		-7TPO -26	+19 +26TP	+26TP +14OTP	+25TP +26TP	+25TP -14TPO	-22 -26	-26 -4	5
Comish	+7TPO +26		+24TP +21	-4 -14	-26 +26	+26 +5	-23 -26	-17 +4	3
Dawson	-19 -26	-24 -21		-26 -26	-9 +8TP	+4TP -25	-26 -26	-25 -26	8
Day	-26 -14TPO	+4TP +14	+26TP +26		-16 +10TPO	+16 +26	-11 -17	-26 +16	3
Goacher	-25 -26	+26TP -26	+9 -8	+16 -10		+5 +26	-25 -25	+22 -16	6
Irwin	-25 +14OTP	-26 -5	-4 +25STP	-16 -26	-5 -26		+24 -4	-25 -14	7
Maugham	+22TP +26TP	+23TP +26TP	+26TP +26TP	+11TPO +17TP	+25 +25TP	-24 +4TPO		+30TP +14OTP	1
Mulliner	+26 +4	+17 -4	+25TP +26TP	+26 -16	-22 +16	+25 +14	-3TPO -14TPO		2

100 Years of the Croquet Association

How do you want to celebrate it?

Derek Caporn, Chairman of the Centenary Committee explains how the committee wish involve everyone in the celebrations.

In 1997 the Croquet Association will reach its centenary. The Council, last year, appointed a committee consisting of myself, Alan Oldham, Brian Macmillan and Hamish Hall to play this unique part. We have decided that this should be a celebration mainly organised and participated in by the grass roots of the C.A. - its members registered clubs and Federations. The vast majority of its members are the high bisquers, the social players and those who do so much, often unsung, working like beavers in the background. Without them the clubs would not survive. So we shall stage the events which have the greatest appeal - the things YOU want provided YOU TELL US what YOU want - what ME? YES YOU!

Other than inviting our Patron, HM the Queen, to attend a function at Hurlingham, requesting the Post Office to consider issuing a commemorative Stamp and drafting a CA 100 year handbook, we have done nothing except mill over a few ideas. 1) The Tournaments such as the All England, the Longman Cup, the golden Mallet, the Garden Classic, Golf & Short croquet are for the medium and high bisquers and those who play golf croquet i.e. the grass roots members. These could be elevated to something special in 1997 with area finals in the presence of local VIP's

with someone special being invited to present the prizes with the grand finals attended by the Queen.

2) Should the prime object be to make clubs better known locally and get more people interested? If so this can only be done if your club, and your federation plan something, for these efforts have to come from the grass roots. What do you think, what are you going to do about it, and are you going to let us have your ideas so that we can share them with others?

3) Should there be Centenary Dinners, Open Days, competitions between local firms, fun days, clubs organising charity fund raising events all of which will generate local publicity?

4) The Inter-counties reaches its Centenary that year, what shall we do to mark this milestone? How will your club obtain its majority, its silver, ruby, golden or Diamond jubilee? If so, what are YOU planning?

5) What about some promotional activities? One idea we are considering is identifying interesting places where croquet is played, excluding our clubs, publish a list and inviting our members to play any game of croquet at a number of them, have their card stamped and then they would be awarded a specially commissioned tie or brooch. What do you

think? If the answer is yes, then we want from you and the federation the places - e.g. The Tower of London, yes - croquet is played there!

6) Is there 'out there' with media expertise that can help us?

7) The 'A' Class players have their prestige tournaments. This is the year for the grass roots players. This is the year for fun, for "pentathlons", "fourplayers" and "variety packs". What on earth are they, you may ask? They are all Croquet Tournaments with a difference - some have been played for years! If you want to know more then ask me! Do you agree that these should have priority? Then please tell us.

Many members feel that the CA does little for them or their clubs. Now is YOUR chance to tell us what we should do to celebrate our centenary and what you and your federations can do to make it all happen. Will the Federations begin discussions will their clubs now? - There is a lot of planning to do and it is amazing how long it takes for a major project to get off the ground.

The committee will be happy to come and talk or to listen if we are invited to do so. Please write to the Editor or me or phone or write to a member of the committee, button hole us at tournaments, overwhelm us with your ideas. Don't leave it to someone else or nothing will happen.

Derek Caporn
1 Pinelands, 12 Beechwood Avenue,
Weybridge, Surrey, KT13 9TD
Tel. 01932 - 845884

Extracts from Minutes of Council meeting held on December 10th 1994 Provided by Derek Caporn

Reports from Committees and Officers

Executive

Forward Plan - The Chairman reported on the presentation of the Forward Plan to the Sports Council and the latest known position. It was likely that the Plan would need to be reduced in scope.

The Chairman advised Council of two matters which had been the subject of deliberation by the Executive Committee. One was the monitoring of applications by clubs for National Lottery Funds, the other concerned the possible amalgamation of the 4 Court and Improvement Funds.

National Lottery - Council agreed nem con to the following Emergency motion, That a Committee, comprising the Chairmen of the Development and F&GP Committees and the Treasurer be appointed to examine applications from clubs for National Lottery Funds.

Following discussion, during which the possible use of CA funds, either by loan or grant, to support clubs with their applications was considered, the Proposal was carried by 13 votes For with 1 against. **Amalgamation of 4 Court Fund/Improvement Fund** - The suggestion that these two funds be amalgamated was referred to the Development Committee.

CA Magazine - The chairman reported the failure of the Editor to attend a meeting with the Executive committee arranged for 11 am on 10 December 1994 and expressed the considerable concern felt by the committee in matters relating to the editorship and publication of the CA Magazine.

After intense discussion, Council agreed that the Executive Committee should take whatever action they considered necessary to resolve the problems of the Editorship and publication dates of the magazine without prior reference to Council and as soon as practicable. Voting 13 for; 3 Against. **F & GP**

Recommendations to Council
1) That AJ Oldham be appointed a Trustee of the CA vice S S Townsend who had declared his wish to resign from the post. Agreed nem con.

2) That D.C. Caporn be appointed to the Committee of the Surbiton Club as the CA's representative. Agreed nem con.

Coaching

Coach of the Year Award - made to Mr.D Purdon on his retirement as Regional Coaching Officer for the South West Federation.

Laws

A variation of the 22 point game, namely first and fifth hoops, be recognised as an Authorised Variation. The proposal was Agreed by Council subject to publication in "Croquet" and to being reaffirmed at the next Council Meeting after publication.

Publicity

National Croquet Day - Was confirmed as the weekend of 3-4 June 1995.

National Development Officer

W.I. National Golf Competition arranged for May 1995

The possibilities of a major centre being established at Himley were being explored.

Secretary

Council confirmed the election of 15 Associates who had joined the Association since the last meeting.

Council Notice

At the last meeting of Council the following recommendation was accepted:

That a variation of the 22 point game, namely the first and fifth hoop, be recognised.

The effect of this variation is that after the first ball of a side has run hoop 1, the clip of the partner ball is placed on hoop 5. The variation is similar to that which is already officially in existence for the 18 point game. If there are no objections, the recommendation will be confirmed at the next Council meeting and will be incorporated into the Regulations.

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A Message From The Editor

I hope you have all enjoyed some, if not all of the magazine, which I trust has arrived with you on time. Unfortunately I have not had the luxury of copious amounts of copy at my disposal, but hope that rather than prejudice me on matters beyond my control, that you will support my endeavours towards a more stimulating and interesting magazine by making frequent and varied contributions, however small. After all, if everyone who receives this magazine were to send just one contribution per year, my desk would overflow and so would your magazine.

Hand written contributions will now be accepted, as I am aware that not everyone has a word processor or typewriter at their disposal but can still have an equally valid view to express. The second change concerns a significant cut in the copy date. This will now be published in each issue, although obviously I would appreciate any copy as soon as possible. The 'Stop Press' column will enable me to accept a small amount of copy up to 22 days prior to the publication date, but will be reserved only for information that warrants such space.

I am currently in the process of setting up a network of regional, national and international contacts, if anyone is interested in being a regular contributor please contact me as soon as possible. I have also appointed an official illustrator/cartoonist, Jack Shotton, whose work I am sure will be appreciated, although I will also welcome such work from any other contributor.

On the subject of illustrations, particularly photographs, I am desperate for them, in a nutshell. I am sure many of you have croquet photographs you no longer require and they are simply collecting dust. If this is so, please gather them together and send them to me. I promise to give them a good home and put them to good use. If you would like them returned to you please enclose a stamped addressed envelope.

I would obviously welcome constructive criticism and ideas and to this end I am inviting any reader to telephone the 'Editors Hot-line' which will be open on the second Monday evening after the publication date. The first being on May 15th 7.00pm - 9.00pm, when I shall look forward to your calls.
Gail Curry

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