

And Finally...

Through the Hoop with Tony Antenen

...Sombre words from a saddened Secretary to start with.....
but a happier ending....

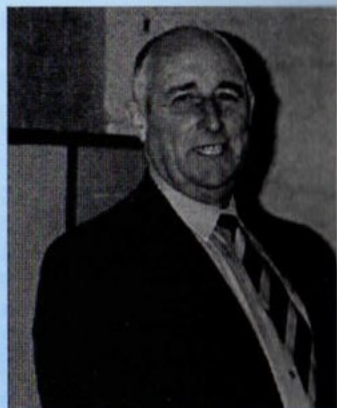
In my last despatch I mentioned that Marie De Laury, Surbiton Club member and our invaluable "Girl Friday" had had to discontinue her once a week visit to the office through failing health. We at the CA Office were shattered to receive the news of her passing just days after she had been admitted to the local hospice. Brian, Paul and I attended the funeral service but it was not until the next following Friday that the realisation of her death was brought home to us. Her practical down to earth approach to any task coupled to a quirky sense of humour in the face of what we now know to have been a debilitating illness left a lasting impression and she is sadly missed.

It seemed that we had hardly had time to recover from one lot of bad news before we were delivered another hammer blow when I received a call from Derek Caporn's nephew Rupert advising me of Derek's death in hospital. There then followed a series of telephone calls as I advised members of Council and the Association of the wretched news. One might have thought that, after the first few calls, the communication might, in some way, have been less fraught. Not so. Try as

I might, it was almost impossible to cushion the shock, such was Derek's standing. There will be other words by those far more able than I to write them, I simply wish to record the appreciation of Derek's unfailing courtesy, patience and helpfulness, particularly in my early days as Secretary.

One door closes, another opens. Here at the CA Office we were pleased to receive a call from, and later welcome Roy Fox (Merton) who has volunteered his services on a once a week basis. At the time of writing he has survived two encounters here at HQ so any further visits are on his own head! Roy seems to have adjusted to the pace of life in the Office which, on occasion, is representative of the old Chinese curse: "May you live in interesting times!"

To end on a lighter note. Royal Tunbridge Wells marked the official opening of their club house on Saturday, 3rd June with a well organised and well supported event which even a drear, dull day could not depress! The club enjoys strong local Council support and welcomed the Mayor and Mayoress, Councillor and Mrs Wally Stone along with Head of Leisure Services David Bell. The CA was represented by



President, John Solomon and Barbara, just recently returned from the USA, CA Tournaments Chairman Dennis Shaw and Eileen and your Secretary. Centre stage, however belonged to Jilly Goolden, she of the BBC's Food and Drink programme. Her sparkling personality brightened the day and her articulate and well turned address charmed us all. Sincere thanks to Peter and Audrey Howells and, in fact, to all members of Royal Tunbridge Wells for their kind invitation and generous hospitality. I am sure that the welcome would be equally warm for any CA members who would like to play croquet against an imposing south-facing backdrop in that historic town. The contact number for Audrey and Peter is 01892 853 173.

CROQUET

Issue 238

July 1995

*From
Coaching
Courses to
Presidents
Cup, the
Croquet
Association
has
something
for everyone*

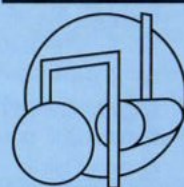


Inside:

*News & Information
1994 AGM
Points Of View
Book Reviews
British Rankings
Tournament Reports & Results*

*The Chairman's Column
New Coaching Feature
Extracts From Our Past
Indoor Carpets*

*The National Lottery
Judging Wired Balls
Croquet Conundrum
Council Minutes
Handicap Changes
World Championship Results*



The Croquet Association Shop

Books (all prices are postage paid)

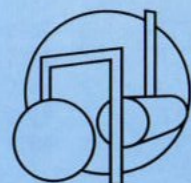
History of Croquet	£11.20
Queen of Games	£9.00
Croquet Complete Guide	£7.40
Coaching Manual	£10.45

Know the Game	£3.95	Play the Game	£4.16
How to Play Croquet	£3.30	Teach Yourself Croquet	£5.72
Croquet	£7.62	Plus One On Time	£5.62
Expert Croquet Tactics	£12.72		

Clothing

Wet Suits - available in all sizes Waitcoats
Ties (Presidents, Chaimans, Spencer Ell, Counties & CA)

CA Enamel Brooch £4
Tissot Croquet Girl note cards. Pack of 8
including envelopes £4.50 post paid



Contact: Brian Macmillan, The Croquet Association Shop Tel. 0171 - 7363148



*Don't forget
the Editor's
Hot-line
on Monday
July 24th
7 - 9pm*

*Next Issue Published
September 8th
Copy Deadline
August 11th
Stop Press Deadline
August 18th*

If undelivered please return to:-
Inter County Office Furniture
8 Ascot Industrial Estate
Icknield Way
Letchworth
Herts SG6 1TD



JUBILEE CROQUET SET

One of the range of twenty or so sets we produce in our South London factory suitable for beginners right through to tournament players.

CRAFTSMAN

One of Jaques' team of wood-turners and craftsmen who make an extensive range of high quality mallets using English and foreign hardwoods.

Ask for details of the latest Tuftex, twin-faced "long life" mallets - ideal for all standards of play.



John Jaques

1795 • 1995

THE OLDEST SPORTS &
GAMES MANUFACTURER
IN THE WORLD

John Jaques II won a place in sporting history - and a Gold Medal - for introducing croquet into England at the Great Exhibition in 1851. His display there attracted such wide attention that the game speedily became the vogue and over the years developed into the absorbing sport enjoyed by so many world-wide.

Today, Jaques sell their products to every corner of the world and their quality is unsurpassed. Jaques 'Eclipse' balls are requested by top players for championship play because of their dependable characteristics and these balls have been used in every World Championship and have been selected for the forthcoming World Championship event in France later this year.

Complete Croquet sets range in price from £80 to £800 and mallets from £25 to £150. Full specifications and colour brochure available on request.

"We taught the world to play...."



361 WHITEHORSE ROAD THORNTON HEATH SURREY CR7 8XP ENGLAND TELEPHONE 0181 684 4242 FAX 0181 684 4243

CROQUET

No.238 (July 1995) Price £2.50

CONTENTS

OBITUARY.....	4
THE CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN.....	4
<i>Is there the danger of Council losing touch with the wishes of players?</i>	
NEWS & INFORMATION.....	5
<i>Guidance notes, safety warning, new ball, new secretary, HELP II, Survey of clubs, etc. etc.</i>	
LETTERS.....	7
<i>A point of law, bad losers, statistics, optically challenged plea, bomb craters and full bisque play.</i>	
THE NATIONAL LOTTERY.....	9
<i>Ground rules for getting a share.</i>	
1994 AGM MINUTES	10
CLASSIC COACHING TIPS.....	13
<i>John Solomon starts off the new series of coaching tips.</i>	
JUDGING WIRED BALLS.....	14
<i>Allen Parker offers an exposition for difficult cases first offered in 1914.</i>	
POINTS OF VIEW.....	15
<i>The Scottish Bulletin asks the question if the game should be changed because it is too easy for a handful of experts.</i>	
EXTRACTS FROM OUR PAST.....	15
<i>A look over our shoulders at previous inclusions from past issues.</i>	
THE 1994 ACCOUNTS	16
A CROQUET CONUNDRUM.....	18
<i>Can you figure it out, do you agree with the given solution?</i>	
BOOK REVIEWS.....	19
INDOOR CARPETS.....	20
<i>What is the future, plus a report of the Inter-Federation Tournament.</i>	
COUNCIL MINUTES.....	21
TOURNAMENTS '95.....	22
<i>Pendle, Cheltenham, Bristol, Budleigh & Plymouth, plus results.</i>	
1995 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS.....	25
BRITISH RANKINGS.....	26
NEW ASSOCIATES, HANDICAP ALTERATIONS, ETC.....	27
AND FINALLY.....	28
<i>CA Secretary Tony Antenen writes from through the hoop.</i>	

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 736 3148) Secretary L W D Antenen Chairman W E Lamb

Co-operate and Communicate Towards A Better and Brighter 'Croquet'

I believe editing this magazine is very much like playing croquet, that is, before one can become competent there will undoubtedly be some errors made, and the whole process is one of learning by those mistakes. Alas, an Editor cannot take a bisque when a error is made, but I believe an apology to the readers for such errors is a good substitute for a bisque. With this in mind I offer my apologies to the readers who would have liked to have entered the Fantasy Croquet Competition, and to Chris Clarke for offering the competition to the readers. I can offer no excuse for the lateness of the issue, but hope in future issues to make amends and offer other competitions to replace this lost opportunity, as well of course as ensuring prompt publication.

The hot-line proved in fact to be luke warm, possibly due to the fact that some readers did not receive their magazine as quickly as anticipated. However, this matter has been taken into account and I shall sit in anticipation once again for your feedback and ideas.

This magazine has, I am sure you would agree, a great potential. However, this potential can only be reached with the co-operation of a far greater number of readers that currently communicate their wishes or contribute towards it.

In the recent past I have had some valid comments that the magazine is biased for example, towards the 'A' class and tournament players. I would not disagree with these statements. However, it is a sad fact that the vast majority of contributions come from these sources. In order to change this there is only one answer, those who feel they are not being represented or catered for in this magazine are going to have to communicate more frequently and positively with the editor if they wish to redress the future balance of this publication. Don't just sit in a state of apathy, or anticipation of the fact someone else may ask for what you want from this magazine, use the hot-line, write me a letter, bend my ear at tournaments, be positive tell me what you want and together we may just produce the magazine to satisfy all of the players all of the time.

Gail Curry

~ Obituary ~

Edward Duffield 1898 - 1995

Edward Duffield was the Croquet Association's seventh President from 1975 until 1982. Edward was a modest man and, whilst honoured and pleased to accept the invitation to preside over the Association, he made it plain that he regarded himself as a caretaker of the office. He had great respect for both his predecessor and successor, Maurice Reckitt and John Solomon, and he would remain as President only until John was ready to succeed him. That epitomises the man, since Edward preferred the role of selfless worker in all the many activities and interests that enriched his life.

He joined the CA in 1935, shortly after he and Doris, his wife, joined the Colchester Croquet Club (founded 1926). In the following year he became Assistant Secretary of the club and in 1939 its Secretary, with Doris as his assistant. It is, perhaps, for his work for the Club that he is best known, since he nurtured it throughout the difficult war and post-war years and devoted an enormous amount of time and energy to improving its facilities and the quality of its lawns. Virtually single-handedly he converted the tennis courts on the upper terrace to form a four-court club, and by the 1960's he had made the lawns reputedly the flattest and fastest in the country - "near perfection" says Prichard in his history. If a storm was brewing one could always find Edward at the Club waiting to map puddles in preparation for any autumnal levelling that might be needed. He became Chairman of the Club in 1965 and President in 1973, finally retiring in 1991. He died on 5th January 1995, aged 97.

Despite the bulk of the man, Edward was a neat side-style player. He preferred a light boxwood mallet with a shortish handle and played delicate touch shots and immaculate breaks. But in later life the lightness of the mallet coupled with nerves and hardly any backswing made his game vulnerable, especially when power was required. He had modest success in tournaments before the war, but became a major player in the late forties and throughout the fifties, winning the Roehampton Cup twice and the Association Plate, and being selected for the Surrey Cup (second eight) in 1956 and 1960. For ten years he played at handicap minus one. He

retired from active croquet playing in the 1970's.

An elected member of Council from 1946 to 1967, Edward became its Chairman 1952-54. He was then Vice-President 1967-1975.

One of the major themes of Edward's life was the encouragement of the young. Having no children of his own, he found especial pleasure in working for young people in education (as a town councillor and alderman), in music and, not least, in croquet (as the writer can well testify). Thus it was largely due to Edward that, in and around the sixties, Colchester became the second of the Heley Club (a Cambridge student "club" centred on Mrs Heley's home lawn) which produced a glittering array of players of the likes of Dashwood, Hallett, Miller, Murray, Thorpe and Wiley, to name but a few. Edward knew the gentlemen and lady players of the pre- and post-war years, and he had also seen the rise of youth in John Solomon and the many young players that followed him. He knew where croquet's future lay and did his utmost to encourage them, whilst never neglecting the traditional strength of croquet and the needs of the 'ordinary' club player.

Seeing Edward at the club every day working on the courts or chatting to members, one would hardly dream that this was a man active in many other walks of life. Edward was miller and master baker, he was a tireless worker for Colchester Council, becoming its Mayor in 1967-1968, he was a deacon of his church, an active trustee for numerous old people's causes, and an enthusiastic bass singer. But above all, from the age of 9 until his nineties he was a bell ringer, being accorded one of the highest honours of that fraternity, Master of the Ancient Society of college Youths, the 350 year old guild from which ringers are drawn to ring at St. Pauls Cathedral and Westminster Abbey on national occasions.

Edward was a gentle man, full of humour and always considerate of others. He was held in great affection by all who knew him but his longevity of those who would sing his praises. Croquet has lost a quiet man of great strengths, one to whom it owes an immense debt of gratitude.

R.W. Bray

Chairman's Column

The recent rumpus in the world of rugby football made me wonder whether the same thing could happen to us. There are parallels between our two sports. We are both essentially amateur, although there is a world of difference in the scale of our operations. You only have to see the palatial headquarters at Twickenham and the size of the CA office to realise how we operate on a shoestring compared with the money available to rugger.

Yet that money seems to bring its own problems. It is generated, of course, through sponsorship and television rights, which are in turn attracted by the skills of the top players. The latter, no longer satisfied with playing only for enjoyment, are demanding that the time they must devote to developing their skills and maintaining their fitness should be properly rewarded.

We do not have the same problem, as croquet is not a spectator sport, and probably never will be. However, we have in the past attracted modest sponsorship and I hope we shall do so in the future, but sponsors are not interested in lesser events where the likes of me hack around. They want the top events with top players. Our top players get a lot out of the game, particularly when they are selected for international matches, but we must never forget that they are the ones who also bring money into the game, which filters down for the benefit of us all.

But the main problem with rugby is that its administration seems to have got out of touch with its players. Are we in danger of doing the same thing? I hope not, for we have one important advantage over rugby: the CA Council is composed predominantly of people who are still playing croquet at whatever level. Now I suspect that many players have little interest in the affairs of the CA as the rugby players who slog it out in the E team on Saturday afternoon in winter have in the affairs of the RFU. However, we must not be complacent about that indifference. Council must always be aware of the opinions of players and clubs. If you are not satisfied with what Council is doing on your behalf, then let us know, either through the forum of this magazine, by writing to me, or by buttonholing any Council member when ever you meet one.

Bill Lamb

NEWS & INFORMATION

Sports Council Guidance Notes

The Sports Council have produced a series of guidance notes which may be of use to clubs considering an application for funding from lottery funds. They are not a substitute for professional advice, but no doubt would be a sound source of information. Topics covered by the series include:

Business plans & budgeting.
Car Parking
Clubhouses & pavilions
Costs - building and contract
Financing projects
Floodlighting
Health & Safety
Legislation
Planning permission and statutory consent
Programming - the best use of your facility

All guidance notes are priced £3 and obtainable from:
The Sports Council
Information Centre,
16 Upper Woburn Place,
London WC1H 0QP
Tel. 0171 - 3881277
Please make cheques payable to the Sports Council.

New Ball From Barlow Croquet

A new ball from Barlow Croquet to be marketed in the UK and Europe by Woodlands Croquet, claims to combine the proven durability of the well known Barlow "Championship" ball, stability at any temperature extreme, and a traditional playing quality with little "pull". The new ball called the "Grande Tournament" or the Barlow 'GT', has recently been tested and has gained CA Championship approval which means that it is approved by the CA for play at the highest levels. The bounce test requires

consistent bounce height within the range 31 - 37 inches. Two inches tolerance within a matched set. The new 'GT' balls averaged 32.6 inches with a range of 1 inch at 17 deg.C. Temperature tests have shown bounces of 35.5 inches at -12 deg.C and 32.2 inches at 94 deg.C proving temperature stability beyond any others. In the past Barlow balls have been criticised by becoming soft and sluggish at higher temperatures. The 'GT' remain hard with no deterioration in resilience and have little 'pull', as well as meeting all of the CA Championship play requirements for size, shape, weight and milling. The 'GT' will retail at £127 per set in the UK.

Safety Warning

A booklet entitled "Safety in Universities: Code of Practice - Physical Recreation and Sport" saw fit to add the following editorial comment to our contribution that croquet was not a dangerous sport and that no particular safety precautions were required: "Please note that the authors feel that this is not a very responsible attitude to take as there is always the possibility of, for example, slipping on wet grass or tripping over hoops." Safety in any sport is important and we are fortunate that croquet is not dangerous. The principle hazard would appear to be in double-banked games or where there are no boundary boards and some care is obviously required. Otherwise, common sense should prevail. And would those who work or study in universities please be careful where they walk on a croquet lawn!

The Croquet Grading System

Any player who wishes to obtain a printout of their games

as contained in the Croquet Grading System should send a stamped addressed envelope and £1 in stamps (to cover administration costs) to: Chris Williams, 36 Fonmon Road, Rhoose, Barry, South Glamorgan CF62 3DZ.

New Tournament Secretary for Edinburgh

The new Edinburgh tournament Secretary for the Fettes tournament is Sheila Crearie, 12A Saxe Coburg Street, Edinburgh, EH3 5BN. The tournament manager will be Ian Wright.

South of England Championship and Week

The late Derek Caporn was secretary for both of these events. Although every effort has been made to ensure that cheques and entry forms sent to his address have been passed on to the CA office for appropriate admin any entrant who is in any doubt whether their entry has been received should contact the CA Secretary. The Championship will be managed by Dr. Roger Wood and the 'week' by Dennis Shaw.

Magazine Title Votes - So Far

The current polling for the choice of preferred name for this magazine is as follows:

Croquet Gazette	37
Croquet Magazine	5
Croquet Times	3
Don't know	2

If you wish to vote or offer an alternative please do so, but the poll will close on July 24th.

Adjustable Mallet Heads - A New Design

A new mallet with a difference is now being marketed, the difference being the fact that the head may be rotated around the shaft to enable the most comfortable position for the traditional octagonal handle to fit the players hand. The head is allowed to be rotated by the use of a nylon rod which joins the aluminium shaft to the head, which when the player has found the ideal position of the shaft can then be anchored firmly.

The mallets claim to have two advantages over its non-rotating counterparts. Firstly that the mallet, once fixed, ensures that it is pointing in the right direction, and secondly that the construction of the handle absorbs shock and minimises pains in the wrist.

The mallets are available in a variety of woods and finishes. For more information contact John Hobbs on 01892 852072

Survey Of Club Facilities

The CA is carrying out a "club facilities" survey during the season in anticipation of a large number of requests from clubs for grant aid towards National Lottery applications.

If you can help Chris Hudson gather the data for your own club, please ring him on 01270 - 820296 for a survey form.

Estimated time for completion is 15 minutes for someone who is familiar with the workings of their club.

Clubs Follow Up CA Contacts

Cheltenham, Parsons Green and York have all requested lists of local CA contacts so they can follow them up as part of their recruitment drive.

Keith Smith our Development Officer in Yorkshire & Humberside, discovered 70 people living within 10 miles of Sheffield through the CA's list. Thirty of them expressed interest in forming a local club in Sheffield.

As a result of Keith's initiative a new club has been formed at Sprotborough, and discussions with Sheffield City Council could lead to purpose-built croquet lawns being constructed in the city.

Fantasy Croquet Entries

Due to delays (not the fault of our new editor!) the closing date for the 'Fantasy Croquet' competition in the last issue had already passed by the time some people had received their copy of the magazine. Despite this a large number of entries were received, so these have all been accepted for inclusion in the competition.

The 'small prize' which Chris Clarke mentioned in his introduction is actually a small silver salver, presented for a year. This is currently residing on David Goacher's mantelpiece, whose winning team for 1994 was Comish, Cordingley, Dawson and Goacher.

It is hoped that a mid season table of results of the teams in the next issue.

National Croquet League

This year a National Croquet League has been established, as a trial venture to assess the long term feasibility of such a scheme. The league, which is being run alongside the existing Inter Club and Mary Rose competitions, will consist of two divisions. The first National Division is made up of teams from Bowdon, Colchester, Ipswich, Parkstone and Surbiton and the second regional division

will be competed for by Leicester, Letchworth, Newport, Northampton, and Wrest Park. Each team of four players, will play the other teams in their division once with matches consisting of 2 doubles and 4 singles games, two points will be awarded for a win and one point for a draw.

Australian Gazette Replaces Editor

Editorial problems appear not to be solely a problem experienced by "Croquet". In April Mark Senior was not re-elected to his post as editor of the Australian Croquet Gazette. The vote was very close, 7 votes to 5 against the existing editor who had been in post for almost two years. No successor has yet been appointed.

British Open Championships

Come along to the Hurlingham Club and see the top croquet players in action from 9 - 16 July. As well as this the final of the Golf Croquet championship will be played on July 9th.

Associate members of the CA will be asked to show their membership card for free admission. Affiliate and non CA members wishing to attend either of these events will have to pay an £8 entry fee to the Hurlingham Club. The entry fee includes use of Hurlingham's excellent bar and restaurant facilities.

Enjoy a day out and see croquet as it should be played in beautiful surroundings.

Something For Your Handbags

The CA Office has received a quantity of handbag sized Rosewater facial sprays by Floris of London, the prestigious Jermyn Street perfumier. These are available to CA Registered Clubs and are intended for lady

members, although there is no reason why gentlemen should not receive one if that is what they wish. Club secretaries are invited to contact the CA Office (0171 736 3148) for further details of this offer, although we advise that all quantities will have to be collected.

HELP II - Something For Your Croquet Bag

Finally after months of winter toil, the first attempted guide to croquet clubs is now available to players. HELP II - The Humorous guide to Enlighten Lost croquet Players, offers information in two sections of an A5 publication sold in aid of the Tyneside and Beverley Croquet Clubs.

The first section of the booklet offers directions, recommended accommodation, recommended places to eat and local watering holes to celebrate or commiserate at 99% of tournament venues. As well as this standard information the clubs have also included other information pertaining to their facilities, anecdotal stories, as well as information on local attractions for non-playing partners. The second section of the booklet includes information on clubs who as yet are not tournament venues, but would welcome visitors to their clubs.

The booklet may not be essential to seasoned tournament players who will have their own favourite haunts and short cuts, but it should prove to be invaluable to newcomers to the circuit, or those contemplating joining in the fun in the near future.

The cost of the book is £4.75 inc P&P and is available by return of post from Gail Curry (tel. 0191 2579045) or Mike Evans (tel. 01482 882936) as well as from the CA shop.

Letters...

Desirable Data

Dear Editor,

The 1995 Member's Handbook which arrived from the CA contained some interesting statistics (as a statistician I would say that wouldn't I?). It is splendid to see that we have increased our number of Associates by more than 50% over the last ten years. On the other hand, it is disappointing to note that we have lost 60% of those who were associates 10 years ago; and no doubt we have lost others who joined and left during the decade. Is this just a feature of the age structure of the croquet playing population? Do we have statistics on the age of players when they join the Association? How long does the average member remain in the Association? Does this depend on age and gender? Does it depend on how fast the member's handicap changes? Does that in turn depend on their gender and age at joining? Can we separate these effects?

I ask these questions because I think their answers could have considerable implications for recruitment and retention of members. My own feeling is that we should be aiming to attract men and women in their late 30s and early 40s when they are beginning to realise that their participation in sports in which they chase moving objects (balls, shuttlecocks, fast runners) is coming to an end. But that opinion is merely a reflection of what happened to me. If we have the facts, let us use them. I would be interested in further statistics from the CA membership data-base.

Yours sincerely
David Appleton

Time Gentlemen, Please

Dear Gail,

Following the Inter-County Championship in 1993 I wrote a letter to the then Chairman of the C.A. Laws Committee, Martin Murray, asking for guidance regarding the correct calling of time. This followed a rather unpleasant incident involving one of my

team members. I received no reply so I wrote to him again on 12.1.94. Two years after the original letter I am still waiting!

I would be obliged if, on my behalf, you could print the circumstances of the incident and try and elicit a reply from some responsible person at the C.A. on how time should be called.

The following is the original letter.

At the recent Inter County Championships held at Southwick club a member of my team (i.e. Cheshire) was taken to task by a player from the double banked game for whom he was acting as timekeeper. Briefly the circumstances were that he was asked to call time with the aid of a watch. This he did, clearly, but at the instant the subject player was playing a stroke. The result of the stroke was that the strikers ball did not make it through the next hoop in order and it was suggested that this had occurred because of my colleague calling time loudly. Following this criticism I remonstrated with the player, who replied that time should have been called after his stroke had been made in order that he would not be put off. On speaking to some other A class players in the competition it appears to me that there is a wide divergence of opinion of how time should be called. I make the following points:-

1. In Prichard's Commentary on the Laws (Fourth Edition revised 1984 Page 30) it specifically mentions that "the time keeper should call "TIME" loudly at the precise moment the time-limit expires, even though a player may be in the act of striking."
2. In the more recently updated Commentary on the Laws by Graeme Roberts (NZ) there is no guidance of how time should be called.
3. When I first started playing, the time-keeper was asked to call time with his back to the play. Apparently so they could be adjudged as completely impartial. Nowadays my understanding is that the time-keeper is expected to observe the state of the game at the same time so that he/she can adjudge when the mallet hit the ball, i.e. before or after the calling of time.
4. How many persons asked to act as time-

keepers know what they are supposed to be looking for?

5. Should the position as time-keeper, where possible, be a job for a referee?

6. Should time be called differently for doubles games? (i.e. the non playing partner of the striker being informed at the appropriate time.)

I would be grateful if you could give some conclusive up to date guidance of the matter which I feel should be published in the next available edition of "Croquet".

Yours Sincerely,
Brian Storey

Dear Brian,

Response duly elicited from Martin Murray, Chairman of the Laws Committee, which is as follows.

"There has certainly been a change of practice here within the thirty years or so I've been playing the game, and the practice of the timekeeper watching the game so as not to disturb a player in the act of playing a stroke has superseded the older practice of the timekeeper having his or her back to the game so as not to be influenced by seeing the game. While I would agree that the new procedure is preferable, I would propose restricting the period during which the elapsing of time is not called immediately to be essentially that as defined as the striking period in Law 31. I have little sympathy with players who complain about being disturbed by what is after all an essential requirement of any game which goes to time (Reg.13(c)(1))."

Down with Bad Losers, Long Live the Bandit

Dear Gail,

What is so wrong with bandits? In short, they beat the wrong people because they have the wrong handicap at the time, for a variety of reasons. It may not be particularly high, but if it is, the bandit probably won with goodness knows how many bisques still standing. What could be worse?

I suggest that an increase in players who have to win at all costs, who cannot accept what has been recorded on an opponent's card (which some suggest should be signed by an opponent as in golf) and who take much enjoyment out of the game, would be very much worse.

Occasionally a bandit is just a very gifted player who, in one season, progresses from beginner to advanced tournaments.

What a pleasure to see one arrive on the international scene. Others add interest and spice to a few tournaments in a season and then disappear into their proper places - when their betters and maybe elders feel even better.

To make all handicap tournaments full bisque in order to eliminate such bright sparks seems to have something to do with babies and bath water, or carts and horses and needs stronger justification. Let further change wait until the supposed beneficiaries of such games can find the confidence to make their voices heard. Perhaps after all, I meant sledgehammers and nuts.

Yours sincerely
Claire Heritage.

I suspect you have just hit the proverbial nail on the head.

Ed.

Colour Blind Croquet Players

Dear Gail,

I sound a plea on behalf of colour blind croquet players everywhere. With 1 in 8 males and 1 in 80 females so afflicted, the decision by Jaques to change from lime green to olive green (at least I'm told that these are the colours concerned) has now made it impossible for me and other fellow sufferers to distinguish between the green and brown balls. The use of lime green had previously made the ball more distinguishable. Often one is faced with playing second colours and I do not believe I have any given right to white or pink. In any case it is frequently necessary to know the position of the opponents balls and it is disruptive to have to constantly ask one's opponent at the start or even during your break as you prepare a leave. As a direct approach to the manufacturers has elicited no response, perhaps it is time for the law makers to specify the shade of colours to remove a problem for what is after all a sizeable proportion of players.

Yours sincerely
Alan Bogle

Dear Alan,

I have spoken on your behalf to Christopher Jaques, who says to the best of his knowledge that the colour of their green balls has been a dark green (or in your case brown No.2) for at least 20 years, as it is the same

colourant used in the manufacture of table tennis tables, which is another of their products.

Old Legacies

Dear Gail,

Northampton club is situated within the grounds of St Andrews Hospital, an establishment dating back to the mid 1800's. The groundstaff here have recently undertaken on the club's behalf, to fill in a depression on lawn 2. The depression extended just north of hoop 1 with a with a circumference large enough to encompass the west boundary, presenting major problems to anyone unfortunate enough to be approaching that hoop, either as one or two-back. The standard joke usually applied when trying a take-off to get in front of one from the non-playing side, was that from the depths of the depression that the hoop wasn't even visible. And, of course, the ball would naturally settle in the lowest part of the bomb crater, (yes, I am exaggerating, but only a little, anyone under 5ft 6ins was really in trouble).

So, the work was done, and everyone remarked how nice it was to have seen the last of the bomb crater. Indeed, the Hospital Administrator, Geoff Hillman, mentioned that he was currently writing a piece about it for the Hospital newsletter, he also used the bomb crater to describe the depression, and went on to explain that it really was a genuine bomb crater. In 1942 a Luftwaffe pilot had unloaded a stick of bombs, destroying one of the ward buildings and creating the crater.

This struck me as an interesting piece of local history, as well as prompting the question of how other clubs had been affected directly or indirectly by WW2. I have been told that Cheltenham was given the choice of either being used for growing vegetables or sheep grazing. Perhaps there are a few more stories to be told, and if anyone can recall them would they share them with readers of 'Croquet' magazine. I for one would find them very interesting.

Lionel Tibble (not a pen name for Steve Davis, who also finds many things 'interesting')

Support Of Full Bisque Play

Dear Gail,

In this my third full season and with a

handicap of 7, I write to support Geoffrey Cuttle's well argued case. In essence what he is arguing for is

i) Full bisques to base 6 in the normal handicap game

ii) Full bisques to scratch in the Advanced handicap game

In tournament play the maximum handicap recognised for normal handicap game would be 18, in the advanced handicap game it would be 12.

In the normal handicap game it distresses me as a committee member of my club to two 20 handicap players playing each other with no bisques. Surely croquet is about making a break, or it is nothing. It therefore follows that a high bisquer must have bisques in every game, not just when he plays against a low bisquer. As to the argument as to whether the base should be scratch, 12 or something in between I am prepared to heed the voice of experience that scratch proved historically unsatisfactory and to accept that 6 is the lowest sensible figure.

As to the advanced game it might be thought that I am not entitled to speak since I have so rarely played it. But the reason why I don't play it is the absence of bisques! If I could receive bisques to base scratch I would be delighted to enter advanced tournaments. Even with bisques I would be at a disadvantage initially against an 'A' class player since I have little idea how to plan a single peel leave let alone a triple. But with experience and practice I might get the hang of it.

More power to Geoffrey Cuttle and his influence on the Handicapping Committee.

Antony Fathers
Rochampton Club

Starting with the next issue the editor will be awarding a £10 book or music token for the best letter to be published, so dust off those pens and keyboards and start contributing now.

The National Lottery

Ground Rules For Getting A Share

If you have a regular date with your TV on a Saturday night, it's even money betting that greed, the mortal sin, is rearing its ugly head - Have I won the "Jackpot" - or at least a tenner?

But even recognising that our new Editor will wish to start with a clean sweep, Gail has not commissioned me to pen an article upon the deadly sins of sloth, envy or covetousness - but rather, having attended numerous debates with the Sports Council, on the National Lottery. Club treasurers (and others) may be interested in a synopsis of the basic ground rules for getting a share of the available resource.

So, who is eligible for funding? Certainly, voluntary sports clubs, and governing bodies (ie, the CA and all the Federations).

What projects are eligible for funding? Almost exclusively, capital projects - new building construction, purchase of land: genuine upgrading of existing facilities: irrigation systems. Building a new court, as well as levelling or bringing an existing one up to full size would all meet the criteria. We at Bristol would, as they say, have had our snout in the trough over the past 5 years with the purchase and erection of our new 'second hand' clubhouse, and the extensions to our three lawns. But renewals, repairs and maintenance are not eligible.

"Don't despair - an applicant's contribution can include the value of all voluntary labour"

The Sports Council, who are the distributing body for lottery funds, have decided that they will not normally consider projects where the total cost is less than £5000 - clearly they do not want to be swamped in administering small projects. They have also indicated that the applicant should stump up at least 35% of the overall cost, (but with a target of 50%). But don't

despair - an applicant's contribution can include the value of all voluntary labour that members put into major projects. It would, of course, have to be correctly certified. Additionally, the CA may be able to help, but more on that a little later.

Already, the Sports Council has published details of projects which have received funding so how do you set about getting in on the act? Firstly, discuss your project thoroughly with your committee and your Federation.

"It is only common sense that you liaise from the outset with both your Federation and the CA"

Why the Federation? Because I believe that applications are more favourably received if the project falls within the overall concept of a 'Governing Body's Plan' - and it seems sensible for all Federations to have such a plan, quite apart from the CA's overall Forward Plan. Certainly the application pack includes a Consultation form which the CA needs to complete - so it is only common sense that you liaise from the outset with both your Federation and the CA to get their backing for your application.

Lets assume that you have gone ahead and phoned 01345 649649 and requested an Application Pack. (Phoning that number is the only way to get a pack.) The documentation required is detailed and extensive - indeed the Sports Council seem to require identical detail whether the application is for £5000 or £5,000,000! They will be looking to see whether the applicant can realistically fund not only the project, but equally importantly, its on going costs. As an example, building a clubhouse is one thing, but the costs associated with running it are considerable - increased rates, water, sewage, electricity, insurance, all quite apart from maintenance. Your business plan will need to demonstrate an ability to meet these ongoing charges.

Another of the selection criteria which can be usefully pushed is to emphasise that croquet satisfies the needs of several 'target' groups - women, pensioners as well as disabled people - and of course, that it is an international game open to ethnic minorities. At Budleigh, they say that you take the game up once you find golf, and fishing too energetic - and Edgar Jackson did say 'Forget the game until you are 50!'

Council have responded positively to the reality of the National Lottery, and recognise that clubs may have difficulties in financing the difference between what may be available from the lottery and the overall cost of a project. They have therefore created a committee to examine applications from Clubs, with the aim of assisting in funding this shortfall. It is early days, and I am unable to indicate guidelines, but each application will be considered on its merits, and within the parameter of the available funds. Any assistance provided would be in the form of interest free loans.

"Don't rush into an ill thought out project. Rather, assess, your need and make your business plan."

The Sports Council are monitoring grants, by both type of sport, as well as post code, with the intention of ensuring that the available funds are allocated fairly throughout the country, and the sporting world. They have also undertaken to provide unsuccessful applicants with an explanation as to why their project failed to meet the criteria. I personally believe that the climate is right, politically, for this form of assistance to continue well into the future - so, don't rush into an ill thought out project. Rather, assess your need and make your business plan, andgood luck. Who will be the first club to benefit from the current mania of greed?

Hamish Hall

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at The Hurlingham Club, 15th October 1994

Present: J.W. Solomon (President) C.J. Irwin (Chairman of Council) W.E. Lamb (Vice Chairman of Council) R.W. Bray (Hon Treasurer) A.J. Oldham (Vice President) L. Wharrad (Vice President) L.W.D. Antenen (Secretary) and 40 Associates.

Apologies were received from: J Ames; Mrs J Anderson; S T Badger; Mrs C Bagnall; P W P Campion; D C Caporn; H B H Carlisle; Mrs H B H Carlisle; J Carlisle; Mrs M Harris; Mrs C Irwin; R T Jackman; G S Liddiard; Mr and Mrs D J Magee; Mrs E A M Pritchard (Vice President); R D C Pritchard; K Smith; P Taylor; and S S Townsend (Vice President)

Opening Address

The President opened the Meeting and welcomed all present.

1. Minutes

1.1 The minutes of the annual General meeting held on Saturday, 23 October 1993 were signed as a true record of that meeting.

2. Chairman's Report

This is the end of my two and a half years as Chairman, and it has been a time of change and some trauma for the Association. We have seen the new subscription policy put into place and later we will vote on the rule changes to alter the structure of the Council to include Federation representatives. The next four year forward plan has been submitted to the Sports Council, as yet we have no idea of the grant (if any) we will receive.

We did suffer some loss of membership because of the new subs policy, and some 20 smaller clubs deregistered, but our projected income for 1994 on the ordinary account is some £10,000 more than in 1991, the last year prior to the change, so we are on the way to securing the financial base of the Association. However, we are not there yet... We achieved small surpluses on the ordinary account in 1992, 1993 and also should have a small surplus in

1994, though without the profits on our sales through Brian Macmillan's activities these would have been deficits. It is important that we continue to achieve these surpluses as money from other sources such as the Sports Council, sponsorship and so on is becoming harder to get, and we need reserves to tide us over the lean times which will undoubtedly come.

We have improved our database thanks to a lot of work from Geoffrey Cuttle, and this work continues.

The motion to change the rules paves the way for the first three Federation representatives to come on Council in 1995, and we now hope this will encourage activity at the Federation level and make the CA Council less remote from the ordinary membership than has been the perception in the past.

The forward plan links into this with its theme of consolidation. Let's take what we have now and improve it; increase membership of existing clubs, get more Affiliates to become Associates, improve the facilities on offer at clubs, particularly the basic social amenities. We have proposed minimum standards to be aimed for, based on what experience has shown makes a viable club in the long term, and we are requesting an increase in our Sports Council grant to help us help our clubs develop in this way. We want to develop and improve our coaching activities, we want to be in a position to offer Federations financial help with local development, we want to be able to support clubs in recruiting new members. We plan to develop short croquet and golf croquet, to be able to offer more to 'social players'. The essential aim of the plan is that every one of our clubs and players can potentially benefit from some aspect of it, so that no-one will be able to say 'What does the CA do for me?' We will need the help of the Federations and clubs, without them the CA can do very little, but with them we can build some momentum for the future.

Whilst on the subject of help, after a number of years of sterling service in the office Roger Jackman has stood down. I want to take this opportunity to thank him for all his work and to welcome his successor Paul Campion. We are also indebted to Marie de Laurey who works one day a week in the office, and of course I must thank Tony for all his help in the last two and a half years, even to the extent of missing major rugby fixtures to attend meetings, surely dedication above and beyond the call of duty. Also I must really thank our

Commercial Manager Brian Macmillan for yet another outstanding year. Without the profit from his commercial activities we would be hard pressed financially. I'm surprised anyone visits the office, because once you get in there, there is no escape, at least not without a lighter wallet.

And what about the election of councillors. Twelve candidates for eight places, unheard of in my time in the CA. Either we are doing something right or we are doing something wrong, whichever is the case at least we have generated some interest, which can be no bad thing. It looks as though my successor is in for a lively time.

Whilst giving this address, it would be remiss of me not to mention the two people proposed by Council to become Vice-Presidents, Derek Caporn and Bernard Neal. In their own unobtrusive way they have been of great help during my term as Chairman, in Council meetings and Committees, where their great experience and sound advice has been much appreciated.

On the playing front, England staged the World Championships at Cardon Park this year. Thanks to a huge amount of work from various members of the Chester, Bowdon and Southport clubs, particularly the organising committee of Roger Croston, Chris Irwin, Brian Storey, Liz Taylor-Webb, James Hawkins and of course Chris Hudson. The event was a great success and opened our eyes to the possibilities of what can be done. Various new ideas were tried out, the event was more commercial than previously, the publicity we got was outstanding and should be of value in future when seeking sponsorship, we learned a lot about what could be done better, all in all the event set a bit of a standard to be lived up to, and we should congratulate all involved on a superb effort. The winner was Robert Fulford with Chris Clarke as runner up.

2.1 The Chairman presented his report. Report adopted nem con.

2.2 At the conclusion of his reports the Chairman announced that the winner of the Apps Bowl was Mr H.P. Taylor (Bowdon) and the winner of the Steel Bowl was Mrs B.A. Mc Glenn (Bretby). He then presented, to acclamation, the Steel Bowl (Substitute) to Mrs Mc Glenn.

3. Treasurers Report

3.1 Dr R W Bray, CA Hon Treasurer, presented his report and reminded the meeting that a copy of the audited accounts

for the year ending 31 December 1993, together with a comprehensive commentary had been included with the Agenda and papers for the meeting sent to all members. 3.2 He could not, however, let this occasion pass without highlighting the fall in overall surplus in the Income and Expenditure Account of over £2000.00 - a particularly sobering situation when, he observed, that this was due to a reduction in income rather than a rise in expenditure.

3.3 A key factor was the decline in subscription income and this was the weakest aspect of the CA's present financial position, particularly if the slide were allowed to continue for any length of time.

3.4 There were two mechanisms by which one could hope to stop and even reverse this decline:

First. To increase subscription rates, and Second. To recruit more Associate members. 3.5 Council had already considered the first option but felt it was not an appropriate measure to raise individual subscription rates at the same time as increasing the Club Registration Fee from £4.00 to £5.00 (as agreed at last year's AGM). Subscription rates in 1995 are therefore to be kept at the same level as in 1994.

3.6 Council will consider various ways of increasing membership but it is pertinent to note that past experience shows that the most successful way of recruiting new Associates is by personal recommendation and persuasion. He urged all present to do all that they could to persuade non-Associates in their clubs to join the Association.

3.7 After the Hon Treasurer had answered questions from individual members the Treasurer's Report and the accounts for 1993 were adopted nem con.

4. Election of Treasurer

4.1 The President's proposition that a formal proposal was unnecessary received the unqualified support of the meeting and Dr R W Bray was re-elected unanimously and to acclamation.

5. Election of Auditors

5.1 The proposal by Mrs Pat Hetherington (Colchester) seconded by Bevis Sandford, That Messrs Nicholas Ames & Co be re-elected as Auditors was approved nem con.

6. Election of Vice Presidents

6.1 After reminding the meeting of the service rendered to the CA by Prof B G Neal

and Mr D C Caporn over the last 25 years, during which time they had each held every appointment except that of Treasurer, the Chairman proposed their election as CA Vice-Presidents.

6.2 In seconding the proposal the President said that he had known Bernard Neal and Derek Caporn for a long time, was well aware of their contributions to the CA and was pleased to take this opportunity to express his gratitude for the work they had both put in over the years.

6.3 The proposal was carried unanimously and to acclamation.

6.4 Prof Neal, in a brief acknowledgement, thanked the President and Chairman for their kind words and expressed his appreciation at his election. A J Oldham, speaking on behalf of D C Caporn reminded the meeting that, among many other services rendered to the Association, Derek Caporn designed and arranged for the printing of the first Fixtures Book.

7. Election of Council Members

7.1 Eight members of Council, viz. Mrs T W Anderson, D L Gaunt, W P Gillott, W E Lamb, Dr G S Liddiard, Dr M Murray, R D C Pritchard and J O Walters had retired by rotation and sought re-election under Rule 7(a)(i).

Four nominations for election under Rule 7(a)(ii) had been received, viz., Mr J Anstey, Miss D Cornelius, Mr H Hall and Mr I P M Macdonald. There had thus been twelve nominations for the eight vacancies on Council and a Postal Vote had taken place. The President announced that the following had been elected:

Mrs Anderson, Messrs Gaunt, Gillott, Hall, Lamb and Macdonald and Drs Liddiard and Murray.

7.2 A J Oldham sought approval for all returned ballot papers to be destroyed. Approved nem con.

8. Changes to the Rules of The Croquet Association

8.1 The Chairman, on behalf of Council, proposed the adoption of new Rules 2 and 7, full details of which had been circulated to members. The meeting approved their adoption without dissent. The Chairman announced that the postal vote had been overwhelmingly in favour of the proposed changes and the President thereupon declared the motion to be carried.

9. Benefactors' Book

9.1 The secretary read the names in the Benefactors' Book.

10. Other Business CA Magazine

10.1 Criticism of the CA Magazine was voiced by Jo Jarret (Ember) who questioned the amount of space devoted to technical matters.

National Lottery

10.2 Responding to a question from H Hall (Bristol) on CA participation in the National Lottery, Dr R W Bray, Treasurer, advised that the possibilities of funding from that source had been noted in the CA's Forward Plan but at the moment the Council had no plans for the type of capital project which could attract National Lottery funds. Following a brief discussion the chairman confirmed that the CA would keep a check on individual clubs applying for funding.

Postal Voting

10.3 Dr I G Vincent (Nottingham) expressed his concern that, should any contentious issue be involved, there was, under the present postal arrangements, little or no time for Associates to propose amendments to any proposals which might be circulated and pleaded for much earlier publication of them.

10.4 S N Mulliner pointed out the practical difficulties involved if amendments were received which would themselves need to be circulated. The object of postal voting was to enable Associates to cast their votes on matters that had been the subject of serious consideration and debate by Council.

11. President's Closing Address

It is difficult to know what to say at this stage of the meeting, when we have had a full report from the Chairman of Council, considered the Accounts for the year, and discussed all the matters raised by you under any other business.

As always, the work of the Council has continued unabated and vast quantities of paper have been generated over the year. We are most grateful to all those Council members who spend so much time, not only in Council but on Committees, and who work so hard on our behalf

One of the principal objectives of more than one of the Committees is to spread the gospel about our sport and to encourage more players and more membership of this Association. Having seen the accounts for

the year and read Roger Bray's excellent report on them I am struck by the fact that we seem to have made no progress in that respect. This is not to criticise the efforts of those Committees concerned - I know they will continue their efforts and I wish them all success, which will, I am sure, eventually come. But our balance sheet stands at exactly the same figure as a year ago - our assets have not been strengthened in any way - and our profit on P & L is minimal, having given very small amounts in grants and loans.

I believe there are some 150 clubs around the country and I estimate that there are perhaps 7500 members of those clubs. There are about 1500 members of the Association. What I have to say is addressed to the 7000 croquet players in those clubs who are not here, because they are not entitled to be.

We all know the reason why so many club members see no reason to join the Association. They only play in their own club, they don't play in any other tournaments and it is understandable when they say "What is the point of joining the CA? What will I get out of it? I'll receive the Gazette, but I can read the Club's copy".

To those people I would say this - Don't think about what the CA can do for you, but about what the CA has done for you. Imagine the CA had never been formed 97 years ago. We don't know whether there would be 150 clubs as there are today, or 50 or 500. No doubt some clubs would hold a tournament for themselves, but it is unlikely that outside players would enter, for they wouldn't know it was being held because the club would have no knowledge of other clubs to whom to advertise. Being purely local events they would not be reported in the national press and they would get no publicity.

Imagine this scenario. Let us suppose that under these conditions Southwick suddenly found out that there was a club at Compton. "Let's challenge them to a match!" The secretaries arranged the date and Southwick arrived at Compton. They were a little surprised to find that Compton's Courts had two pegs and a quarter of an hour was spent in explaining the way the course was played, but that settled, off they went. Compton won the toss and played Blue in front of first hoop. 'Goodie goodie' said Southwick to themselves and red shot at blue and hit. Taking red to blue for the croquet shot Compton queried this. "I have made a roquet and I'm going to take croquet". "you can't take croquet until you have made the first hoop" said Compton. Looking longingly at the hoop and noting that it was


four and a half inches wide (they had noticed this before but thought they would keep quiet about it as it might give them an advantage) they bided their time. On the sixth turn Southwick decided that it was obviously right for yellow to play. Compton claimed a fault as red had to play and it emerged that Compton played the sequence game. Other differences became apparent - if you roqueted a ball off the court your turn ended, if a ball reached the peg it could be pegged out by any ball - after all you can peel a ball through a hoop at a time so why not peg it out, even if you are a rover yourself. One could go on for quite a long time.

And so I say to those 7000 odd people who are not entitled to be here to think what the Association has done for you. It has established a sport that is virtually universally acknowledged and without it

you might be playing a very different game to that which you now play.

And to you, faithful members of the Association, I can now address my remarks. Go back to your clubs. Tell them something of what I have said and suggest to those who are not members of the Association, very politely, that it would be a nice 'thank you' to the CA if they were to join as recognition of our, and our predecessors efforts on behalf of croquet. If we could double, maybe quadruple, the membership of the CA we would be paying a subscription of half the current rate, and the CA would have a surplus of £10,000 or £20,000 a year to give away as grants or loans to clubs who are in need.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 12.15pm.



For a comprehensive range of Croquet Equipment, Mallets, Balls, Hoops, Winning pegs, Clips, Corner flags, Corner pegs, etc.

All at competitive prices.

Ask for Townsend Croquet equipment at your local shop.

TOWNSEND CROQUET LTD.
CLAIRE ROAD
KIRBY CROSS
FRINTON-ON-SEA
ESSEX CO13 0LX
TELEPHONE: FRINTON (01255) 67-4404



This new, and hopefully regular feature, is designed to offer a wide spectrum of coaching tips for all levels of players. The experiences of some of our foremost players are to be drawn upon to start the ball rolling, however anyone is invited to contribute towards this feature. In the first of the series we call on the vast knowledge and experience of John Solomon, President of the Croquet Association and acknowledged master of the game.

Separating the Opponents

By John Solomon

In our early days of playing croquet, when we had begun to get some idea of how to play most of the shots, our teacher would start to teach us how to play the game. That is to say, we would be taught about the break and we would start on our first tentative steps at actually playing a game.

Probably, after two or three games with our mentor (if we were lucky enough to have so many) we would play, as often as we were able to, with other beginners or quite likely other club members who had been playing for some time but whose handicap was still way up at 16, 18 or 20.

Practice was rarely thought of. We must have a game, that's where the fun comes in! Practice is boring. Oh well,

maybe now and then we might spend ten minutes trying a few shots we hadn't been doing too well just recently.

I hope to cover some of the elements of practice in a later article but just now I would like us to look at one of the games played between two long bisquers, and regrettably what I am going to describe can too often occur when the handicaps are almost in single figures.

We have all watched these games. We come across them and find they have been playing for two hours and all the clips are still on the crown of the hoop and look as though they are unlikely to progress to the uprights for some time.

Blue and black have just separated the opponents and joined up in a corner. Red shoots at yellow, maybe in the opposite corner.

Blue dutifully takes off and maybe is 4 or 5 yards short or maybe does a good

one and is very close. It doesn't matter which, provided blue hits one of the opponents. What happens now?

Almost invariably blue will stop-shot the opponent away ignoring the other ball and has a 20 or 30 yard shot back to join partner. The result? A rush to nowhere. Red (or yellow) will join up again and the same process is certain to go on for several turns until blue does a bad take-off and goes off or is short and misses. No wonder these games take so long.

It seems to me that teachers, or the better players in the club, never think to tell these poor souls that the only important thing to achieve at the end of the turn is to give yourself a rush to **somewhere**. It might be to your hoop or it might be to another ball. But how does one achieve this?

The golden rule is that in order to get a good rush it is vital to play your last shot to your partner from as close as possible, ideally a couple of yards but certainly less than 5 yards away. So how can this be achieved?

It is very simple. Having taken off to the opponents and roqueted one of them, **don't** stop-shot it away. Take off behind the other ball so as to get a rush up the court. It doesn't matter precisely where so long as it is possible to rush it well away. Having done that and achieved the necessary separation, a simple take off back to mother should land close enough so that the final shot can give a good rush for one or the other ball to the hoop required.

Even better of course would be: if when taking off to get behind the second opponent ball a rush to the hoop is achieved, but, if the hoop is at the other end of the court such a long rush may not be achievable. But I'll come to that on another day.

Anything The Matter?

By Tommy Cameron

*Pursuant to sporadic article
 Concerning sub-atomic particles,
 Let me report in all sobriety
 With c.c. to the Royal Society,
 That on the lawn as it grew dark
 There capered myriad pair of quark,
 Magenta heads and purple tails
 Describing fleeting vapour trails.*

*How came these quarks to run amok,
 The laws of nature thus to buck?*

*In a fantastic incident
 A striker, spurred by crass intent,
 - i.e. in one fell stroke to take
 A 4-ball group to 4-ball break
 (Complete with pioneers and pivot)-
 When swinging, gouged a whopping divot.
 Scarred balls which he had failed to shoot.
 And dished some atoms in, to boot*

Judging Wired Balls

In the Croquet Gazette of February 15th 1914 there appeared a letter by C.D. Locock (then the Editor of the Gazette) describing a method of judging particularly difficult cases of wiring. This is the case in which the target ball (marked B in the Figure), appears to be completely open to the striker's ball (marked A3 in the figure), but is nevertheless wired by a wire or peg such as that marked P in the Figure. Locock's method was complicated and in some respects inaccurate, and his letter prompted a reply by one Hubert Cox which appeared in the issue dated 9th March 1914.

The first part of Cox's letter is concerned with an explanation of why Locock's method is faulty, and he then goes on to describe his own recommended method. It is the second part of his letter that is reproduced here.

.....I believe that any test of this interesting case, to be reliable, must be carried out without moving the object ball (or the striker's ball) and with the dummy ball in position: further, if it is to have any tournament value it must be such as to be capable of furnishing a rapid as well as an accurate decision. Whether there be such a test or not, I do not know: but as, after firing so many shots at Mr Locock's pre-holiday target I should feel very mean if I now ran away without putting up one of my own. I will admit that if I had been faced with the

necessity of dealing with this problem at an open tournament at which I was the advertised referee, I should have proceeded thus (see figure):-

With dummy ball C placed in position (as diagram), take an ordinary croquet mallet, the newer and more carefully made the better, and after cautiously wiping the head, ask someone to put a finger on the balls B and C to prevent the slightest movement. Then place the mallet on the ground with, say, the name of the maker uppermost, and looking towards the balls, adjust it with the greatest care, so that while the head is in contact with both balls B and C, the centre line of the shaft points exactly to the point of contact of the balls. Now walk to the other side of the balls, and from N take a careful view along the line of the shaft in the general direction of A1. Get somebody to take one of the white corner pegs and put it down at some point beyond A1, in the exact line the handle is pointing. Now I fancy I can hear some objectors say, "Most ridiculous! As if all mallet handles were set so perfectly at right angles as to be of any use for this purpose!" Quite so. But I have not yet finished. Take up the mallet and turn it over so that the title mark is now uppermost. Repeat the same process with the same scrupulous care and exactness, and have another white corner peg put in along the fresh line of sight from N and at the same distance from the point of contact of B and

C as the former peg. The middle point of the line that joins these two corner pegs is the exact spot where the common tangent of those two balls B and C passes - represented on the diagram as NM. Further explanation is needless. (Note by CAP - In fact ball A2 is open, and A3 is wired.)

Yours faithfully,

Hubert H. Cox. Feb 20th 1914

(Perhaps Mr Locock may be pardoned for his errors on the ground that they have evoked this admirable exposition of the case. - Ed.)

(I wonder how many present day referees have considered this interesting case. Incidentally bisques would perhaps make more convenient markers than corner pegs. - Allen Parker.)



CA CHAMPIONSHIP APPROVED BALLS

"GRANDE TOURNAMENT" £127 per set

"CHAMPIONSHIP" £86 per set

Mail Order add £5 per set p&p

3 Year Guarantee

Available from UK Barlow Stockist

WOODLANDS CROQUET PRODUCTS

Woodlands, Skipton Road, Barnoldswick, Colne

Lancashire BB8 6HH

Telephone 01282813070

Full list of CA specification equipment on request

TROQUET™ CARPET CROQUET

FIELD COURT GAMES © PAT No 2237211

Enjoy top croquet in the comfort of your lounge
Judged by many top players to play like the real game

The outdoor game has been cleverly scaled so, for the first time, you can enjoy the game unrestricted by weather or seasons.

Handcrafted and beautifully presented in an attractive fitted box, TROQUET provides everything for a really authentic game.

Only £60

Inclusive of £5 postage & packing

Tel 01206 575798

01206 42629

or write to:-

Fieldcourt Games, PO box 1228, Colchester, CO1 1WT



Points Of View

This Issue - From The Scottish Croquet Association Bulletin 'A Law Unto Themselves'

All sports revise their laws from time to time. Cricket has often changed its LBW rule, and when I was a boy it was where you put your back foot that was important when you were bowling, not your front foot. Rugby Union has tinkered with line-outs, rucks and mauls recently, and not all that long ago introduced the very successful restriction

on kicking to touch from outside your 25 (sorry, 22). Golf has changed the size of the ball (at least in this country) and tennis has introduced tie-breaks. Football doesn't so much change the laws as change their interpretation.

What has this to do with croquet? Well, we already have several different

'Now the Croquet Players Association want to introduce yet another version'

games known as croquet. There is the handicap game which we all learned first; there is the game with lifts and contacts which some of us aspire to master; there is short croquet; there is golf croquet; and we must not forget the American six-wicket and nine-wicket formats. Now the Croquet Players Association want to introduce yet another version which would consist of hoops 1 to 6 and the peg with each ball, and lifts would be awarded at hoop 3 and 4 with a contact if both hoops were run in the same turn when the partner ball had not run hoop 3 at the beginning of the turn. A player would not be entitled to any lifts if he conceded a contact.

Should we accept this with equanimity or even enthusiasm, or should we say "enough is enough" and try to standardise on one game that we all recognise, and leave the rest for the odd amusing interlude between consenting players in private?

I can see the force of the arguments for the new game: do away with routine break play, put a bigger premium on good croquet strokes than on shooting, let the innings change hands more in games between top players, shorten the game and allow matches to consist of more games. I would like to try the format. But I am unhappy about the current situation of one set of laws for the expert and one set for the rest being taken even further. Will we end up with a breakaway set of players (Croquet League) while the national associations administer another game (Croquet Union)?

Professional Golfers and snooker players don't play a fundamentally different game from the ordinary club members. Is it really true that our game is too easy? And why have I never heard anyone in the SCA complain about it.

Points of View is intended to generate thought or reaction. If you disagree with the author, you are kindly requested to respect their point of view, should you feel strongly enough to reply to an item.

Any reply to an item which does not comply with this will not be considered for publication.
Ed.

Extracts From Our Past

5 Years Ago

July 1990

Affiliate Membership scheme goes ahead. The affiliation scheme costs registered clubs no extra, but provides benefits to their members who are not yet Associate members.

10 Years Ago

June 1985 - Short Croquet

A new game burst on to the world of sport this week. It will revolutionise croquet in the very same way as one-day cricket and 5-a-side football revolutionised both these sports.

Now the new short croquet brings the fun of croquet to every home that has a modest lawn.

20 Years Ago

Spring Issue 1975

The entrance fee for the Veterans Championship is £1.25. The figure shown in the fixtures book is somewhat blurred and looks more like £1.05. Will intending entrants please note the correct figure.

84 Years Ago

August 1911

Accompanied by one of her younger sons, a blithe youngster of 66, Mrs Rebecca Clarke, aged 108, England's oldest inhabitant, on Monday attended an "old age" garden party given in her honour at East Finchley.

To meet her, there had assembled quite a number of young people still in their seventies, eighties or nineties, including Mr Robert Andrews, the oldest salesman in the meat market at Smithfield, whose proud avowal of his 91 years Mrs Clarke regarded with the tolerant smile of superior age. "You have a long way to go yet, young man," was her only comment.

But the old lady's astonishing vitality soon demanded a more strenuous outlet. She challenged Mr Andrews to a game of croquet. The challenge was accepted with boyish alacrity, and the match, punctuated by frequent cheering, proved by far the most popular event of the evening. Mrs Clarke claimed a signal victory.

Commentary On The 1994 Accounts

by Treasurer, Roger Bray

It is a rare and pleasant duty for a Treasurer to report a windfall. In 1994 a modest excess of £800 (note: most figures in this commentary are to the nearest £50) of 'regular' income over expenditure was transformed into a substantial surplus of £9300 after tax adjustment. The major part of that adjustment (nearly £8000) was due to new VAT regulations governing the activities of sports bodies which enabled the CA to reclaim part of the VAT paid in the years 1990 to 1993. Most of the reclaimed tax originated from VAT charged on Levy (£4700). Other items affected were some Subscriptions and Coaching Fees and (minimally) Club Registration Fees.

The more favourable VAT situation has, of course, had a beneficial effect on these same sources of income in 1994 to an estimated order of £2500.

Once again the Income & Expenditure Account is presented in two parts, the 'ordinary' and 'extraordinary' where the latter covers publicity, development and international activities largely financed by the Sports Council Grant. Comparison between the 1993 and 1994 figures shows that the overall performances in the two parts have changed very little, but there are significant differences in several individual items between the two years.

On the income side the largest increase by far is Club Registration Fees (up by £5150). This was mainly due to the rule change agreed at the 1993 AGM whereby the per capita charge was extended to cover Associates as well as Affiliates. This was a controversial move but I would remind readers that, if it had not taken place, Council would have pressed for a steep increase in individual UK subscription rates which have not been altered since 1991.

Other increased sources of revenue in 'ordinary' activities include Levy (up £2050 of which £1450 is attributable to VAT changes) and Investment Income (up £950), the latter being largely consequent on the redemption during the year of fixed interest stock held by the CA.

There have also been savings in expenditure in Publications (down £1600). Production and distribution costs were roughly the same as in 1993, but the Directory and one issue of CROQUET did not appear in 1994 (saving £3250) whilst two issues were distributed to Affiliates in 1994

compared to one in 1993 (extra cost £1300).

On the down side in the ordinary account, Tournaments show a smaller surplus (by £1750, due mainly to the purchase of balls), the cost of Salaries and Computer Services both rose (by £2350 each) and in 1994 there was an exceptional Bad Debt Provision (of £3100).

For decades the CA Office has relied heavily on help provided by unpaid (or, at best underpaid) volunteers. But such people are thinner on the ground nowadays and, with the increasing complexities of running a modern office, the efficiency of such a system is at best doubtful. The benefits of employing a part-time assistant on a more regular basis were amply shown by Roger Jackman who retired early in the year and we thank him most sincerely for his outstanding contribution. Paul Campion, his successor, has been able to build on Roger's foundations and the Executive Committee were delighted that Paul has been willing to work flexible and increased hours when needed. Paul's main task is to maintain the CA database. He has been helped in this by a further purchase of computer equipment and by the continuing software development which started in 1993. Though not yet complete, the new system works extremely well and its benefits can already be seen in the accuracy and detail of records, in financial savings (e.g. by using Mailsort for the magazine distribution from 1995) and in more effective monitoring. Improvements in staffing and computing do not come cheaply but I believe we are now getting close to having an efficient and effective office commensurate with the size and needs of the CA.

The bad debt provision is for outstanding 1992 and 1993 advertisement fees for the magazine, the collection of which was the responsibility of the Editor. The preparation of the 1994 Accounts coincided with the recent editorial hiatus and it was deemed prudent to adopt this accounting procedure. I can assure Associates that, nonetheless, the collection of these fees is being pursued and I am hopeful of being able to report much brighter news in due course.

In the extraordinary account 1994 was another disappointing year for Sponsorship with Phillips, the auctioneers, the only sponsor (of the Home

Internationals). The figure for Sponsorship is shown as a deficit (greater by £1800) compared to 1993) after deduction of allowable expenses for tax purposes. This loss of revenue was more than counterbalanced by a drop in Grants (by £1900) and in the cost of General Publicity and Development (by £800).

For the past eleven years the CA has given £12,000 in grants to help establish federations. 1994 was the last year of this scheme when only a few remaining final payments were made totalling £450 (£875 in 1993). Grants to clubs were also smaller (£200 compared to £1075 in 1993) - purely a reflection of the applications received - and the Development Committee saw little reason to set aside much money for future grants in the Four Court and Improvement Funds (£75 compared to £675 in 1993). In the broader view this reflects Council's thinking that, in future, greater emphasis should be placed on loans so that money can be re-circulated for the benefit of a greater number of clubs.

The fall in the cost of General Publicity and Development is misleading in that the costs of activities organised under the aegis of the Publicity and Development Committees actually increased (by £450 and £500 respectively). The major change under this heading was a smaller allocation (by £1700) to the International Fund.

The above comments highlight changes over the last two years, but constancy can also be significant. Thus, Subscriptions, particularly from the UK, have remained static. Last year I reported a fall of 4%, so this is an improved situation but it can hardly be described as comfortable. Secondly, if one excludes salaries and the exceptional bad debt item, the cost of General Overheads is still at its 1991 and 1992 levels despite increased computing costs and inflation.

Finally I return to the overall surplus of £9300. With general reserves thus increased, the CA will be able to play a more active role in developing its loan scheme and this, combined with the possibility of grants from National Lottery funds, will give greater opportunities to clubs to improve their facilities. I therefore hope that the CA will be helping clubs in a much more positive way than has been possible in the past.

THE CROQUET ASSOCIATION STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 1994

	1993	1994	1993	1994	1993	1994
FIXED ASSETS						
Office Furniture & Equipment at Written Down Value	900					
Croquet Equipment at Written Down Value	1,250					
Trophies	10,000					
Investments, as per attached schedule	60,191					
	72,341					
CURRENT ASSETS						
Stocks of Literature & Equipment	7,700					
Loans to Member Clubs	1,000					
Sundry Debtors & Prepayments	3,648					
Cash at Bank and in Hand	15,899					
Taxation Recoverable						
	28,247					
	100,588					
CURRENT LIABILITIES						
Subscriptions Received in Advance	6,714					
Accrued Expenses	19,323					
Taxation	45					
	26,082					
	£74,506					
Net Assets						
Representing:-						
Accumulated General Funds as at 1st January 1994	29,316					
Surplus for the Year on Activities	9,313					
	38,629					
OTHER FUNDS, as per attached schedule						
Life Membership	1,500					
International (formerly Test Tour)	8,601					
Benefactors	19,933					
Tournaments & Trophies	3,583					
Four Court	2,050					
Improvement	750					
	£74,506					
W.E. Lamb Chairman of Council						
R. W. Bray Treasurer						
25th March 1995						
OTHER FUNDS						
Balance at 1st January 1993	1,605					
Add Interest on Invested Funds	202					
Donations	90					
From General Funds	2,800					
	1,605					
Deduct:						
Allocation in Year	(1,051)					
Balance at 31st December 1994	£1,500					
	£8,061					
	£19,933					
	£3,583					
	£2,050					
	£750					
	675					
	675					
	2,050					
	3,413					
	19,078					
	19,078					
	765					
	90					
	330					
	4,113					
	(530)					
	£3,583					
	£2,050					
	£750					
	675					
	675					
	2,050					
	3,413					
	19,078					
	19,078					
	765					
	90					
	330					
	4,113					
	(530)					
	£3,583					
	£2,050					
	£750					
	675					
	675					
	2,050					
	3,413					
	19,078					
	19,078					
	765					
	90					
	330					
	4,113					
	(530)					
	£3,583					
	£2,050					
	£750					
	675					
	675					
	2,050					
	3,413					
	19,078					
	19,078					
	765					
	90					
	330					
	4,113					
	(530)					
	£3,583					
	£2,050					
	£750					
	675					
	675					
	2,050					
	3,413					
	19,078					
	19,078					
	765					
	90					
	330					
	4,113					
	(530)					
	£3,583					
	£2,050					
	£750					
	675					
	675					
	2,050					
	3,413					
	19,078					
	19,078					
	765					
	90					
	330					
	4,113					
	(530)					
	£3,583					
	£2,050					
	£750					
	675					
	675					
	2,050					
	3,413					
	19,078					
	19,078					
	765					
	90					
	330					
	4,113					
	(530)					
	£3,583					
	£2,050					
	£750					
	675					
	675					
	2,050					
	3,413					
	19,078					
	19,078					
	765					
	90					
	330					
	4,113					
	(530)					
	£3,583					
	£2,050					
	£750					
	675					
	675					
	2,050					
	3,413					
	19,078					
	19,078					
	765					
	90					
	330					
	4,113					
	(530)					
	£3,583					
	£2,050					
	£750					
	675					
	675					
	2,050					
	3,413					
	19,078					
	19,078					
	765					
	90					
	330					
	4,113					
	(530)					
	£3,583					
	£2,050					
	£750					
	675					
	675					
	2,050					
	3,413					
	19,078					
	19,078					
	765					
	90					
	330					
	4,113					
	(530)					
	£3,583					
	£2,050					
	£750					

A Croquet Conundrum

Timed Games between high or medium bisquers where a lot is believed to be at stake, can be fraught with missed shots and tactical errors when time is running out. Try this hypothesis. Near the end of a timed game of handicap singles between Bab and Ray the scores are level 23 all. Red and blue are for the peg and black and yellow are for rover.

Bab, a 'D' class player, (playing black and blue) observing that Ray's red ball is near the peg perceives it an advantage to peg it out with blue. To get to red she takes off from yellow which is on the west boundary almost opposite the peg. Black is on the east boundary almost opposite the peg. It is just visible to yellow. Having pegged red out Bab contemplates joining black but is afraid of leaving an attractive double for Ray a 'B' class player. When there are three minutes of the timed game left a bystander had been asked to call time. That was ages ago. According to Bab's watch there is less than two minutes to go. She decides to lay up behind the peg where black can make a roquet but hidden from Yellow. In her agitation she hits blue far too gently. It trundles to a position about a mallet head from the peg between penult and the peg. Ray lines up to shoot at blue but has second thoughts. If he misses he will end up near black. He realises that by pegging red out Bab has put him one point in front. He plays yellow a short distance along the west boundary to a point where he can shoot at blue without ending up too near black. Bab ought to shoot or lay a wide join with black on the boundary. She has forgotten she has a half bisque left to get her out of trouble. Yet fearful of leaving a double she plays black to a position to run rover. It ends up about 3 inches from the hoop and right in front of it. She should have no problem to run it if Ray misses. That will make the scores level. Even if time is called play will continue until a point is scored. She has the advantage she thinks, because Ray does not have a partner ball to join up with. At this point the awful truth dawns she has left Ray a gift of a pioneer at rover. It is also his hoop. Biting her nails she waits for Ray to take his shot. Thirty seconds to go. All is not lost. Ray with time pressing scuffs the lawn and mis-hits. Yellow ends up 5 feet from blue

between it and penult. Bab bounds onto the lawn. She discovers that although yellow is within easy range of blue the swing is fatally hampered by the peg. She could run rover with black which would even the score but the return roquet is almost certainly wired without being entitled to a lift (she is responsible for the position of black). In the next turn yellow may be able to cut rush blue to near his hoop (rover) or separate her balls and lay up to run rover and have a strong chance of winning plus one on time if Bab misses the long roquet. She then remembers that she has a half bisque. Only seconds to go to time. Realising that the bisque must be used before time she quickly taps blue away from the peg and signals to take the half bisque. She observes wry smiles on the faces of the timekeeper (who is an examining referee) and just before time is called rushes yellow towards corner 3 and well away from black. She takes off with blue to black. Blue roquets black in the take off. It peels black, which is almost in the jaws off rover just through the hoop. 'Aha' she thinks my partner ball is now a rover. Black is wired from the peg but she can and does take off to the peg and hits the peg with the continuation stroke. Bab picks up blue and

its clip and leaves the court. Ray then retrieves blue and its clip and places blue against the peg where it struck it, replaces the blue clip and taps his yellow ball with the face of his mallet and shakes hands with Bab. He offers to buy her a drink. Hang on says Bab, I realise now I cannot score points with blue having taken half a bisque but the scores are level because black scored a point when it was peeled through rover. No it didn't says Ray and appeals to the referee. He confirms that the laws provide that after a half bisque is used no points may be scored by any ball. Ah well says Bab there was nothing I could do about it anyway. Wry smiles again. So what's the rub says Bab you smiled when I took the half bisque. I am sorry says Ron Referee I should not have done that. The fact was that once you took the half bisque you were bound to lose whereas if you had not and had played a different shot you were almost certain to win. Ron explains. Can you explain how? The answer is blue can be pegged out despite yellow and black not being rovers because red has already been pegged out.

If blue pegs out just before time is called yellow has one shot and cannot roquet black because he is wired from the only ball left and is not entitled to a lift because he is responsible for its position. In the final turn Bab runs rover with black and wins plus one on time!

Mike Evans
Beverley C.C.



Competitors in the 1994 Spencer Ell, held at Southport & Birkdale C.C.

Book Reviews

Croquet - An annotated bibliography from the Rendell Rhoades Croquet Collection by Nancy L Rhoades. Pub. (Hardback) The Scarecrow Press N.J. & London 1992 pp. xx+214 Available from Dr. M. Murray, 69 High Kingsdown Bristol BS2 8EP @ £12 post free

Dr. Rendell Rhoades, an American scientist who died in 1976 formed an esoteric collection of books and material on croquet. The collection, including nearly 1000 pieces of croquet literature and a list of 500 'wants' still to be found, is currently housed in the Rutherford B Hayes Presidential Centre in Fremont Ohio where it is in the process of being catalogued.

This first attempt at a bibliography by his widow is interesting and useful on first reference but is slightly dissatisfying on further checking because the documentation is not consistent throughout and reveals the compiler more as a librarian than as a cataloguer. There are a large number of typographical errors.

The section dealing with literary allusions to croquet and with entries in various encyclopedias are valuable, as is the more unusual section dealing with manuals and catalogues produced by croquet equipment manufacturers, but as the reader must expect the overall content is dominated by material from the USA.

A useful small book which it is nice to possess.

A.J. Oldham

Croquet Management by Don Gaunt and Roger Wheeler

It is something of a publishing event to find a croquet book in which almost all the material has never before appeared in print. Nothing here for improving hoop running or tightening up leaves, but the authors have drawn on their own extensive experience, and tapped the collective wisdom of others, to produce a book which addresses the nitty gritty issues relevant to the planning and running of croquet tournaments. The book is inexpensively produced as A4 sheets spiral bound. The text is liberally sprinkled with helpful diagrams, tables and even the odd formula.

They seem to have three audiences in mind:

- 1 club officers wanting advice and check-lists for absolutely everything they ought to think about when preparing for a tournament, especially if doing so for the first time;
- 2 organizers of nationwide and international level tournaments requiring check-lists and reminders so that the lessons learnt at one staging of the event are not forgotten by the next;
- 3 tournament managers seeking to run efficient and enjoyable events for whatever clientele they attract.

The first two categories are perhaps of somewhat limited interest but usefully made available here for the sake of completeness: they constitute about 15% of the total material. The remainder of the book is devoted to management proper. No fewer than eight chapters present detailed discussions of the various (and it seems ever-increasing number of) event formats that we know and love. These are the meat of the book and give clear descriptions of how to organize each type, how many games will be required for a given number of players, different ways of deciding winners and how best to record results. Having all this material readily to hand is a definite boon and managers new to the craft will find much food for thought here; and even the oldest hands will be sure to glean a new wrinkle or two. I was particularly pleased to discover Bernard Neal's advice on seeding a draw in a variety of commonly encountered circumstances.

Two early chapters cover the general topics of Management Planning and Shortening Games. The quality of the planning is clearly vital to the smooth running of any tournament, the more so if there are many events running concurrently over several days. In order to achieve optimum lawn occupation throughout, optimum daily player satisfaction (for all, not just the winners), and to have good contingency arrangements in mind in case of bad weather, a manager must give careful attention to the shape of each event (number of rounds, how byes fit in, single games versus best-of-three, time limits, shortened games etc) and how different events influence each other as the tournament progresses. All these points are touched on individually, and the importance of forward planning is stressed several times, but if there is one weakness in this compilation it is that these threads are never satisfactorily drawn together in the form of a critical review to demonstrate how the right choices make for contentment and the wrong choices can lead to disaster and sleepless nights - a must for the second edition!

Game shortening is always contentious and there is no universal solution. The authors set out the traditional methods of time limits and reduced point scoring but come out strongly in favour of Wharrad turns (limiting the number of turns after time is called). Since it is virtually impossible to play competitive croquet without being at the mercy of a manager, there will always be the spur to innovate. Already Ian Vincent's Internet Croquet Forum (Croquet 237, page 18) has had a contribution on the 'Patmor' or 'double elimination' format popular in the United States. Such new ideas will doubtless find their way into later generations of this most worthwhile addition to the canon of croquet literature. Edgar Jackson, manager extraordinaire, to whom the book is so appropriately dedicated, would surely have approved. The authors are to be warmly congratulated on successfully breaking new ground.

Roger Wood

Authors' note: The line missing from the foot of page 71 reads:
“(ie successive pairings obtained by the above) or be chosen by a random draw.”

Indoor Carpets

The infrequent use of the two indoor carpets during the last few years has become a matter of concern to the CA because it represents an under use of an asset with an insured value of £20,000. Recently the responsibility for the carpets has been transferred to the Development Committee and at their autumn meeting they decided to attempt to organise a major event using both carpets as a means of rekindling interest in indoor croquet (speed croquet) and promoting carpet utilisation.

Thanks are due to Gary Norman of the East Midlands Federation for finding and negotiating the use of the hall at Bretby Conference Centre and to all the Federations who agreed to support an Inter-Federation tournament.

The East Anglia Federation were consulted on the playing format as over the last few years they have gained considerable experience in running speed croquet tournaments. We were also fortunate in persuading Donald Cornelius Chairman of the E.A. Federation to manage the event and his report of the tournament and comments follow this introduction.

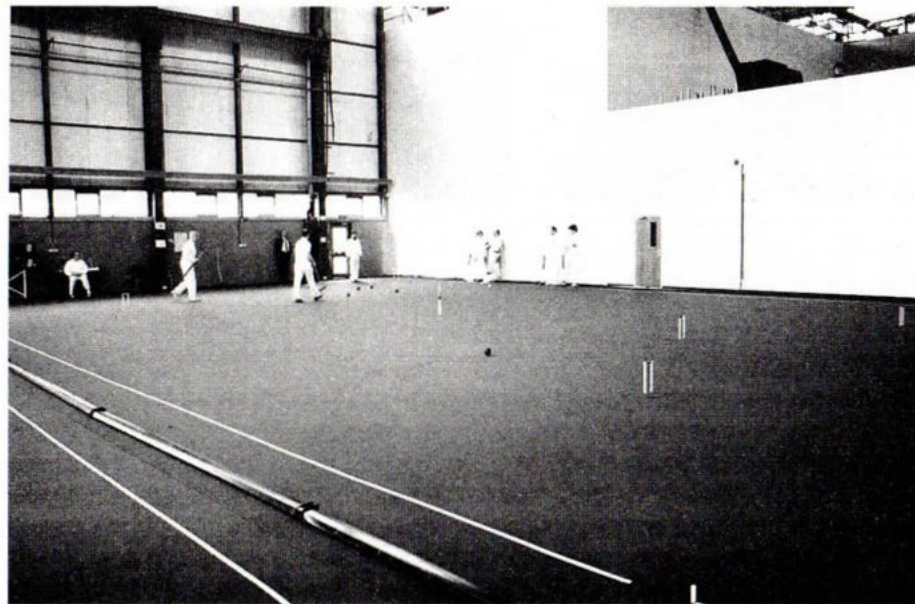
Derek Trotman Chairman of the Development Committee will be collating comments from the federations on the support of making such a tournament an annual event, the playing format and other general organisational aspects so that a decision can be made on the future for the carpets.

The National Inter-Federation Indoor Croquet Tournament - 25th/26th March 1995

The first ever Inter-Federation tournament, designed to make better use of both the CA carpets and to introduce 'Speed Croquet' to a wider range of players than previously, was a great success.

Unfortunately Yorkshire & Humberside could not find a full team but the other eight Federations all played each other - four games on Saturday and three games on Sunday. Each team had two pairs with one playing on each carpet.

South West, South East and East Anglia had the same four players both days but the others had numerous changes, and



overall 56 people took part. There were three minus players, and at the other extreme we had two 24 handicappers on Sunday and, over the two days, 17 players with double figure handicaps. The bisques the latter received gave them lots of opportunities to do well, especially against the low handicapper who had to make mandatory peels.

The two strongest teams, South West and South East, had to make mandatory peels with both pairs but thanks to their greater ability to hit in and to their better touch play they did very well, each winning 11 out of their 14 games. The winners, however, were East Anglia with 12 wins, where the four players had all played on the fast carpet the weekend before and many times over the previous years. Their handicaps of 2.5 to 4 meant that each pair had half a bisque rather than any mandatory peels. Celia Steward and Phillip Eardley, both from Ipswich, won all their seven games but Nigel Gray and Donald Cornelius lost two. Donald blamed the pressures of trying to manage the tournament as well as play, but that was just an excuse for some lax play.

Speed Croquet is short croquet with a time limit, but entirely different rules have had to be adopted and these are constantly being amended. The rules for this tournament were very much the same as those which had been used by the East Anglian Federation in their three 94/95 tournaments. However, several new problems arose where the rules were not clear. The subject of mandatory peels caused some discussion, for can a team win or even draw if they have not done

all of their mandatory peels? The manager decided that one peel not made counted as one point against hoop points already made, but in subsequent debate many felt this was too lenient, and some felt that a team that had not done all of its mandatory peels should not win at all. A new, hopefully complete set of rules for Speed Croquet, separate from Short Croquet, will be worked out before next season and circulated to all Federations. Other points that arose during games and that still need clarifying are the extra shot after time has been called - especially if that next shot would have been a croquet stroke - and can unused bisques still be after a side has run out of time and is reduced to single shots only?

With 56 games in all there were obviously many interesting items, such as the strange tactics of some of the teams, low handicappers as well as high, when time was getting short. The most novel incident seen by the writer was when a young man with little time left tripped over on running off the lawn. Getting up would have taken time so he rolled off.

Finally thanks must be given to Gary Norman and his colleagues from East Midlands for laying the two carpets and setting up the electronic time clocks. Also thanks to all those who stayed around until the end to help roll the carpets up again and to clear up generally.

A most enjoyable weekend, which hopefully, will be repeated. It might, in years to come, be as popular in the winter as the Inter-Counties is in the summer.

Donald Cornelius

Extracts from Minutes of Council Meeting held on March 25th 1995 Provided by Derek Caporn

Reports from Committees and Officers

Executive (W.E. Lamb)

CA Magazine - After finding the position of J O Walters as Editor, to be no longer tenable applications for the position had been invited. Ms Gail Curry had been offered the post of Editor and he was pleased to confirm her acceptance. The next issue of "Croquet" should be the May issue appearing in late April. Inserts to the magazine would not be accepted so as not to abuse the Mailsort service to be provided for this and future issues through the good offices of Duncan Hector.

Council agreed that the Executive Committee clear up outstanding financial matters with the previous Editor.

Council noted that the valid period for overseas subscriptions will be extended to give such members the full number of magazines.

Data Base - Council agreed that a copy of any data base carried out at home by individuals for CA purposes should be lodged with the CA Office.

F & GP (S.T. Badger)

Accounts for 1994 were adopted nem con as was the budget for 1995.

Subscriptions 1996 - G.S. Liddiard submitted that CA subscription policy should include an automatic annual rise. The Chairman replied that, because of missed editions of the CA Magazine any rise in 1996 would be resented by Associates. The recommendation that there be no change in subscriptions or CRF for 1996 with the proviso that new clubs joining in future should pay £25.00, £50.00 and £75.00 in their first three years (or £5.00 per head if less with a minimum of £25.00) was agreed nem con.

Following further discussion on "subscription policy" the Chairman undertook to have published in "Croquet" an article discussing the principle underlying an annual rise in subscriptions.

Croquet Players' Association - Subscription (CPA) - C Clarke responding to a question from Mrs J Anderson, gave details of the CPA and its aims to improve and publicise croquet played at the highest level. Council noted his assurances that there was no conflict of interest between the CPA and the CA.

The Late Edward Duffield - The Treasurer advised that the wishes of the late Edward Duffield as expressed in his will was that income arising from investment of monies left to the CA be centred on support for the MacRobertson Shield event.

Tournament (D.W. Shaw)

1995 Men's Championship - Request for entry: Miss D Cornelius - Council had before it, certain correspondence.

A suggestion that the Men's Championship be renamed did not have the support of the meeting.

G Cuttle, speaking at length from a prepared statement, highlighted what he saw as the four major points at issue. First: The legal aspect and the need for proper advice as to whether restricted entry into an event was in conflict with today's discriminatory guidelines. Second: The long history of the Womens event which started in 1869 making it the second oldest event in the Calendar.

Third: The selection issue and the need to be scrupulously fair to both sexes; and Fourth: The need to recognise that this year's calendar is already published and players are already planning and entering events accordingly.

C Clarke, speaking in support of allowing womens' entry into the Mens', stressed the significance of the Mens' as a guide to selection for the MacRobertson Shield team. There would be some four or six players in contention for the remaining places and there was no other event in which Debbie Cornelius could participate on equal terms with her male contemporaries in time for her to secure consideration for selection.

In the discussion which followed these points emerged:

The Grading List bore no overwhelming significance to selection;

One day events do not provide a serious test for selection for events such as the MacRobertson which stretched over several days;

The concern that any changes to the established order be very carefully considered and only undertaken after the widest possible consultation with Associates;

The regret that this matter had not been foreseen and brought to Council at a much earlier date; The point that the Mens' and Womens' were not the proper vehicle for selection and the counter point that, in 1995, due to an accident of timing, there was a very real significance in participation in these events.

A J Oldham, brought to the meeting the views of his fellow Vice-Presidents. S S Townsend was "strongly against" the suggestion of women participating in the Mens; Mrs Betty Prichard wished to remind Council that recognition of outstanding women players was not a new problem and had quoted the legal maxim "Hard cases make bad law". He added that for his own part, while recognising the existence of a real continuing problem, he hoped that a solution could be found that would not appear to lay the council open to the ridicule of Associates in general.

After further discussion the Proposal by S N Mulliner, seconded by C Clarke, THAT women be allowed to play in the Mens' Championship in 1995 was NOT Carried, the Voting being 9 For; 12 Against.

The suggestion by G Cuttle that a play-

off be arranged between the Mens and Womens' Champions was referred to the Tournaments Committee.

There was criticism from some members that the contents of Miss Cornelius' letter had been 'leaked' and become the subject of discussion outside the Council. An opposing view was that this was 'no bad thing'.

Home International Entry Fees - Ireland, Scotland and Wales had paid their outstanding dues. Scotland and Wales had paid their 1995 Entry Fees. Chairman of the Tournament Committee will contact Secretary, Irish CA and remind her that entry fees must accompany application to participate. C Clarke is currently organising payment of arrears by past England participants.

The report of the Tournament Committee was adopted with the proviso that item 1 [Mens' Championship - Women to enter in 1995] be not acceded to.

Development (D.W. Trotman)

Apps-Heley and Townsend Trophies - Awards - Council approved the award of the Apps-Heley Trophy to Ashby Croquet Club and Townsend Trophy to Llanfairfechan Croquet Club.

Council agreed that in future the award of the Apps-Heley/Townsend trophies would be made by the Development Committee and the winners notified without delay, the matter becoming an "Information" item rather than one of "Decision".

Four Court Fund / Development Fund - Amalgamation approved nem con.

Commercial Agent (B.C. Macmillan) After hearing of the significance and impact of a 'croquet presence' at public displays the report was adopted nem con.

Secretary's Report and Formal Business Council, confirmed the election of 45 Associates who had joined since the last meeting.

CRF - The Chairman advised that in future in order to estimate, for the purposes of these statistics, the "number of additional affiliates" i.e., those not specified in the Club Returns to the CA Office, the total CRF of each relevant club would simply be divided by the capitation fee (£5.00 in 1995).

Correspondence

The Chairman reported receiving a letter from the publishers of "Know the Game" stating their satisfaction with current sales and indicating their intention to reprint.

Motion

Proposed by S O Jones (vice B C Macmillan), Seconded by R W Bray, That a Committee be formed for golf Croquet. Agreed nem con.

Other Business

Benefactors' Book - Council agreed unanimously that the name of Edward Duffield be entered in the Benefactors' Book.

Tournaments '95

Pendle Handicap Weekend 14 - 17 April

'A Weekend of Firsts'

Pendle Croquet Club's first venture into the world of Association tournaments took the form of a four day Handicap Egyptian event played over Easter weekend. There was an entry of sixteen, with handicaps ranging from 0.5 up to 24 (yes, the ever entertaining James Hawkins did concede the inevitable 23.5 bisques to the inimitable Jean Partington in one game), and players came from as far away as Bury, Bowdon, Fylde, Llanfairfechan and Woking.

Pendle, one of the country's younger clubs, now have four lawns and a magnificent new clubhouse, paid for partly with the aid of CA grants, so the club can now boast facilities to rival most in the North. This provided a venue for the club's wonderful lunches and teas, and for the most awesome display of banter I have yet encountered.

The first day's play took place in the glorious sunshine for which the North is renowned. Highlights of the weekend included a monstrous five foot rover peel by James Hawkins to beat Peter MacGowan, and one incident between protagonists whom I shall not name, where after a ball had lodged in 2-back, and neither player was sure whether the subsequent attempted roquet hit the ball or the wire, one player insisted on settling the matter by tossing a coin! There was also much rejoicing that my bandit days over, I suffered a couple of big defeats.

By Easter Monday, Bowdon's David Walters and Llanfairfechan's Clive Llewellyn had opened up a big gap to the rest of the field, so in the cold wind and heavy rain which had by then driven back the sunshine, they played off for the title, in a game which David won +9 in two and a half hours, for his first tournament victory. It was quite a nice feeling for those of us from Bury and Pendle to have Bowdonian to accuse of banditry, rather than the other way round as is customary - another first?

I would finally like to thank Croquet in Pendle for an excellent tournament played

in the right spirit, and particularly John Beech for organising and managing the event.

Chris Dent

Results:

1.	David Walters	8/9
2.	Clive Llewellyn	6/8
3.	Len Forkin	
	Stephen Pratt	
	David Gillett	3/5

Easter Handicap Cheltenham 14-17 April

The sunshine on day 1 inspired fast play with only 3 of 54 games going to time and there was little of note in the matches as players shrugged off the close season cobwebs. The manager was gifted the only +26 of the day, which was appropriate on his birthday and represented his first tournament win in over 18 months.

Day two was cloudy and cool, and saw a plethora of close games with over 10% finishing +1 or +2. Richard Brand excelled by participating in two such games winning the first and losing the second. The latter was an epic struggle with Ian Maugham which was enjoyed with much hilarity from the pavilion. There were few players with a 100% record - Don Gaunt and Mike Evans both contesting the same block, and Derek Bradley. The other blocks were wide open, with all players in contention. The fewest turns of the day were had by David Maugham who had a third turn to 4-back in his first game but nothing further and a -26 in his second.

Day 3 was even colder and few braved shorts. Don Gaunt lost his first game to Malcolm MacBean but then proceeded to beat Mike Evans later on. Derek Bradley maintained his 100% record with two more wins. David Maugham provided the day's only highlight with the only triple peel of the tournament.

With weary limbs, the players assembled for the final day, with most blocks still open. Most blocks were undecided

until the final games were over. Tim Exell won both games beating Alex Jardine in the block decider, only for Alex to lose second place to Tom Anderson on who beat whom. Mike Evans took block B ahead of Don Gaunt despite losing their match. Block C was won by Nick Heriz-Smith who pipped Sean Carter. Derek Bradley never lost a game in Block D with three players chasing on 5 wins, the prize going to George Chamberlin on points. Chris Williams took block E ahead of Denis Regan. Finally, Jane Shorten just pipped David Coates in block F.

Many players commented on the lack of runaway winners compared to previous years and much praise was given to the Automatic Handicap System (AHS). The close nature of the block placings could be considered a rough indicator of its success. With this in mind, I have compiled the following table. It shows the number of games won by block winners and those placed second. While further data and analysis is needed it does on the face of it suggest that the AHS has seen more even competition with block winners and runners-up winning slightly fewer games than would have been the case before its introduction.

1995	6,7,6,8,6,6 (total 39)	block winners game tally
	5,6,6,5,6,6 (total 34)	2nd place game tally
1993		1992
7,8,7,8,7,7 (44)		7,6,6,7,6,7 (39)
6,5,6,7,7,6 (37)		6,6,6,6,5,6 (35)
1991		1990
7,7,6,8,7,7 (42)		6,8,6,7,8,8 (43)
5,7,6,5,6,6 (35)		5,6,6,6,6,5 (34)
1989		1988
7,7,8,8,7,7 (44)		7,8,7,7,7,7 (43)
6,7,6,6,6,6 (37)		6,6,7,7,6,5 (37)

Also, while low scoring games are not a good measure of evenness, there were 70 games won by 6 or less in 1995 compared to only 56 in 1988.

With one overseas player in the tournament, controversy surrounded the CA ruling concerning games against overseas players NOT COUNTING with respect to the AHS. Chris Williams was able to put the CA case, which I fail to recollect but remember it as lacking cohesion. From a

tournament manager's viewpoint, 8 games were guaranteed to all players and it is not unreasonable to expect that all 8 games should count. A sensible approach would be to allow handicappers to award a "CA handicap" to overseas players during the tournament (although no adjustment was necessary in this case).

Alan Bogle

Bristol Advanced Wknd 20 - 21 May

Not Goacher Yet Again (or how the McCullough Challenge Trophy went overseas for the first time).

This year the event was held 2 weeks later than usual and for the first time in living memory heavy rain in the days before the weekend had made the lawns slow. The field was cosmopolitan with Williams 'the rankings' all the way from Cardiff, Gail Curry down from Edwin's Kingdom (sporting Thor's Hammer) and Chris Patmore, complete with beret and string of onions, from Paris (France). Goacher, who had once had a holiday in India, added to the ethnic influence for the weekend. Mighty Martin Murray also turned out complete with anorak and 'I spy' book of trains ready to answer any questions on the laws which might be posed by our new Croquet editor.

Betting on Goacher was heavy and the odds were shortening after each round until the time came for him to play Patmore in the semi-final. Chris had had a more chequered passage through having just crept home against Frances Ransom, in a game where she came back from the dead to almost win, and narrowly, against Martin Murray. He did not appear to have much chance against David who was flying (well metaphorically).

In the other half, Boy Wonder Ed 'the egret' Duckworth was looking good having disposed of Francis Landor in the first round and then Chris Williams in the second. In the semis he would face Terry Ballard who, with attention elsewhere, was slowly and surely moving through the rounds. The fancied minus players had not been doing too well with four eliminated in the first round and two in the second. By the semis, David Goacher was the only one left.

The first game between David and Chris was banished to lawn 4 and there followed much muttering from David that the crowd had paid to see him and would be demanding their money back. It was just as well that it was away from public attention,

otherwise they would have been throwing money, or rotten eggs. David, with plenty of chances, failed to capitalise and Chris won in two games. Following the match a stewards enquiry was begun when it was learned that a large bet (25p) had been placed on Patmore winning 2 - 0. Patmore was eliminated from the enquiry since no Francs were involved. The stewards have not yet commented on their findings. Shares in William Hill leapt 50p on news of the result.

After the game I asked Chris whether he had brought the onions as a talisman or to sell to defray his travel expenses. 'No!', he said peeling an onion and taking a large juicy bite, 'I use them to deter unwanted conversa.....'. I did not catch the end of the sentence as I disappeared into the clubhouse to fetch a Sainsburys clothes peg.

At the same time Ed and Terry were completing their semi. In the end Terry proved too wiley for the youngster and ran out the winner 2 - 1.

Meanwhile the swiss had reached an effective final between David Goacher and Frances Ransom, Frances with the customary win over her other half (who was more interested in his evening meal than a goblet). In the previous round, David had had a very nice delayed triple and was starting to play well. He continued his good form in this game and was very quickly (poetic licence) lining up his peg-out having done the three peels. Taking only 5 minutes to line up the short peg-out the inevitable happened and the croqueted ball missed. More thought and another 5 minutes passed before he decided not to peg out the strikers' ball. Well Frances was only 24 points behind. David finished shortly after to win the swiss.

As for next year, David has again entered, going for his third 'Not Goacher' in a row. Will he be successful? Watch this space.
Semi-finals: Patmore bt Goacher +16+8(t)
Ballard bt Duckworth +3(t) -14 +10(t)
Final: Patmore bt Ballard +15 +10(t)
Swiss: 5 wins Goacher 4 wins F Ransom, Duckworth, R Ransom, D Kibble.

Raymond Ransom

Inter County Results 1995

1st	Cheshire	9*	23
2nd	Essex	8*	23
3rd	Nottinghamshire	8*	21
4th	Dorset	7*	20

5th	Middlesex	7*	18
6th	Hampshire	7	18
7th	Bedfordshire	6*	15
8th	Avon	6	17
9th	Surrey	5*	16
10th	Warwickshire	5*	15
11th	Yorkshire	5	16
12th	Northamptonshire	5	15
13th	Berkshire	5	15
14th	Northumberland	4	17
15th	Gloucestershire	3*	12
16th	Suffolk	3*	11
17th	Glamorgan	3*	9
18th	Sussex	2	10
W/S	Kent	1	6

Those counties with a match marked * received a bye. Thus their match and game scores are based on ten rounds, rather than eleven.

Andrew Gregory

Budleigh Salterton 8-13 May Sextuple 'Peal' for Victory Tournament at Budleigh

The "VE" Tournament greeted its visitors with "Alamein" weather in the 80s and battered us with the "Arctic Convoys" before the week was out; though the sun shone most days the air was decidedly cold. Nothing amiss with the warmth of the welcome or with the standard of play, and there was lots of it. Seven blocks of 8 players with play-offs in the main singles guaranteed plenty of play for all, (and too much for some!), while an "X" and "Y" doubles with total entry of 24 pairs ensured the Manager had plenty to think about. A novel approach put the doubles on after tea each day, which guaranteed plenty of activity until 8.30 or 9pm most nights and kept the serious drinkers out of mischief! The reasoning was that slow play would be eliminated by the principle of enlightened self-interest, and largely it worked because only the really serious-minded struggled through to the bitter +1 on time at 9pm. The rest were enjoying the delights of Budleigh hospitality at one of the excellent hostels in the town or its environs. Players from France and Australia added an international flavour, and the sextuple peel on 'lawn 7' by Colin Pickering from Adelaide (after he was out of the running for the Block) was the Victory Celebration we were all anticipating from the bunting flying over the pavilion. This is the first ever 'sextuple' at Budleigh which will be talked of for many years to come, and there is likely to be a

suitable commemorative plaque. John Beech from Pendle was the A/B block "bandit", and his handicap will fall rapidly on this evidence. Runner-up Paul McDonald also played a bisque or two better than his handicap, and the lower blocks produced their usual crop of improving players which augurs well for the future of the game. The X Doubles was won by the popular pairing of Mary Goodheart and Nigel Betts who rather ran away from a strongly-fancied pair in the final, Brian Judson and Martin Granger-Brown; 'lawn 2' levels destroying the shooting confidence of yet another victim. Talk around the Club is that this serious lawn problem will be addressed very soon; a good thing, because the excellent site deserves a level playing surface and the turf is well maintained. The Jersey visitors Richard and Merielle Sowerby won the Y doubles. The B & C block winner was Colin Thursfield who defeated Veronica McClements in the playoff. The E, F & G block playoff ran to an extra day, fortunately contested by two local entrants, and the eventual winner was Ted Owen who beat Roland Henderson after Alison Thursfield had been eliminated on a count of games won. Excellent catering confirmed Budleigh as a justifiably popular venue unspoiled by the freak air temperatures.

Martin Granger Brown

Plymouth 27 - 29 May **A Secret Revealed**

There has been a well kept secret down in Devon (until now!). There is a croquet club in Plymouth that has four very good lawns, a group of enthusiastic members that provide the most wonderful hospitality and a Whitsun handicap tournament that should be high on the priority list of far more players.

Working on the principle that lower handicap players dislike conceding a forest of bisques to 16s and 18s and that the beginners feel intimidated by being pitched

Bespoke Mallets

A new design, allowing the head to be rotated to suit your most comfortable grip and thereby improve accuracy.

Weight, height, head, grip to order.
Light and shock absorbing handle.

Send for details to: John Hobbs
Kingsbury, Argos Hill, Rotherfield,
East Sussex TN6 3QH Tel. 01892 852072

against the 'cracks', manager Stuart Orr established two blocks: up to 9 and 10 - 18. This makes the event ideal for those just developing the taste for convivial handicap tournaments.

The block for higher bisquers was duly won by Alan Newman in his first ever tournament. Alan was unbeaten in his six games and richly deserved both the Golden Hind Tankard and a drop in handicap.

Monica Catlin travelled from Bath to take the runner-up spot for the second year in succession, but last year's victor, Heather Perrin, could not find her best form this year. Perhaps it was the distraction of being stung by a bee and having opponent Bernard Webster playing the part of Count Dracula to suck out the sting!

Jo Carter showed potential and Sue Thrussell played stylishly, but contrived to lose no fewer than five games by either one point or two.

The Amada Trophy, for lower bisquers, was keenly contested but eventually won well by local bandit Tony Epps, with seven wins out of eight. George Hesketh proved he might become a player of note when work gets less in the way of his croquet and local players Arthur Addis, the club inventor, and Syd Wakeham both turned in some sterling performances. However, it was your tournament reporter, playing less erratically than usual, who steered into second spot ahead of 'cousin' Shaun.

Kevin Carter

Results Round-UP

Colchester Open Wknd 29 - 30 April

Clarke bt Kimmerling +24TP, Farthing bt McCoig +20, Goddard bt Williams +23, Palmer bt McDiarmid +15, Burrige bt Lamb +16, Hallam bt Hilditch +6, Gregory bt Eardley +7, Walters bt Willard +2(T)

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.

TREMAINE ARKLEY,
9775 HULTMAN RD, INDEPENDENCE,
OREGON 97351, USA
Phone: 503 838 4886 Fax. 503 838 1948

Clarke bt Farthing +24TP, Palmer bt Goddard +7, Burrige bt Hallam +26, Gregory bt Walters +17
Clarke bt Palmer +17TP -16 +17, Burrige bt Gregory -16 +12OTP +10
Clarke bt Burrige +13 +5 -14 +25
Swiss Winner - B Hallam

Parkstone Open Wknd 13 - 14 May

Omerod bt McMordie +4T, Darby bt Jenkins +14, Carter bt Packer +17, Liddiard bt F Ransom +12, Burrige bt Leggate +12, Wadley bt Kennerley +4T
Gaunt bt Rangeley +17, Badger bt Ransom +4T, Omerod bt Darby +9T, Liddiard bt Carter +3, Burrige bt Wadley +10, Duckworth bt Ford +20, Williams bt Jones +3, Harrison-Wood bt Seadman +2
Gaunt bt Badger +7, Omrod bt Liddiard +1T, Burrige bt Duckworth +9, Williams bt Harrison-Wood +7
Gaunt bt Omerod +16, Burrige bt Williams +16 +3
Burrige bt Gaunt +26 -5 +17

Swiss Play-off Williams bt Duckworth +12

Wret Park Hcp Wknd 19 - 21 May

Block A - Brian Kennedy 5/7
Block B - Alan Burn 6/7
Block C - Kevin Ham 6/7

Many thanks to all of those players who took the time and effort to compile and send tournament reports. Unfortunately, it is impossible to include all of the reports due to the amount of space they occupy. However, I would like to include more tournament reports but in order to do so I am asking authors to limit their reports to between 200 - 300 words, or less if possible, so that more reports can be included.

It would also be helpful if tournament managers, particularly of weekend events, could send in their results in a more concise order than is presently the norm, as some are barely legible and take an undue amount of time to reproduce. Ed.

CARBON FIBRE Shafted Mallets

Mallet Bags

Call Alan Pidcock on
0772 - 743859 or write to:-

Manor House Croquet
1 Barn Croft, Penwortham
Preston PR1 0SX



1995 World Championship Results

10th - 18th June
1995

Fontenay-Le-Comte France

Block A

R Carter (AUS) bt P Archer (GUE) +17
S Williams (IRE) bt R Carter (AUS) +16
S Williams (IRE) bt P Archer (GUE) +25
A Taves (USA) bt P Archer (GUE) +25
C Clarke (ENG) bt P Archer (GUE) +12
C Clarke (ENG) bt A Taves (USA) +17
C Clarke (ENG) bt S Williams (IRE) +26SXP
R Carter (AUS) bt A Taves (USA) +9
C Clarke (ENG) bt R Carter (AUS) +17
S Williams (IRE) bt A Taves (USA) +24TP

Block B

R Bamford (RSA) bt C Pickering (AUS) +26TP
C Pickering (AUS) bt S Liddiard (SCO) +16TP
R Bamford (RSA) bt S Liddiard (SCO) +26TP
R Bamford (RSA) bt D Cornelius (ENG) +26TP
Le Moignan (JER) bt R Bamford (RSA) +20
D Cornelius (ENG) bt Le Moignan (JER) +10
C Pickering (AUS) bt Le Moignan (JER) +26TP
S Liddiard (SCO) bt D Cornelius (ENG) +25
S Liddiard (SCO) bt Le Moignan (JER) +16
D Cornelius (ENG) bt C Pickering (AUS) +17TP

Block C

C Irwin (ENG) bt C Barlow (RSA) +23
C Irwin (ENG) bt R Kelley (USA) +26TP
R Kelley (USA) bt C Barlow (RSA) +2
M Taylor (AUS) bt C Barlow (RSA) +17TP
C Barlow (RSA) bt P Payne (SWI) +21
M Taylor (AUS) bt P Payne (SWI) +26TP
M Taylor (AUS) bt R Kelley (USA) +7
C Irwin (ENG) bt P Payne (SWI) +20TP
C Irwin (ENG) bt M Taylor (AUS) +2
R Kelley (USA) bt P Payne (SWI) +17

Block D

J Taves (USA) bt B Beiz (AUS) +21
B Beiz (AUS) bt J-B Grochain (FRA) +18
J-B Grochain bt J Taves (USA) +4
S Mulliner (ENG) bt J Taves (USA) +5
I Burrige (W) bt J-B Grochain (FRA) +26OS
J Taves (USA) bt I Burrige (W) +18TP
S Mulliner (ENG) bt J-B Grochain (FRA) +19
S Mulliner (ENG) bt B Beiz (AUS) +26TP
S Mulliner (ENG) bt I Burrige (W) +3
I Burrige (W) bt B Beiz (AUS) +26TP
Play off -
B Beiz bt J-B Grochain +17

Block E

B Fleming (AUS) bt J-Y Guermont (FRA) +15
S Jones (NZ) bt J-Y Guermont (FRA) +24TP
S Jones (NZ) bt B Fleming (AUS) +26TP
B Fleming (AUS) bt S Comish (ENG) +11
B Fleming (AUS) bt C Williams (W) +13TP
S Comish (ENG) bt C Williams (W) +3
S Comish (ENG) bt J-Y Guermont (FRA) +26TP
C Williams (W) bt S Jones (NZ) +9
S Comish (ENG) bt S Jones (NZ) +17TP
C Williams (W) bt J-Y Guermont (FRA) +16

Block F

J Dawson (ENG) bt D Appleton (SCO) +26TP
D Appleton (SCO) bt I Nagashima (JAP) +12
J Dawson (ENG) bt I Nagashima (JAP) +20
J Dawson (ENG) bt A Westerby (NZ) +23TP
J Dawson (ENG) bt Y Ravez (FRA) +25
A Westerby (NZ) bt Y Ravez (FRA) +15
A Westerby (NZ) bt I Nagashima (JAP) +25TP
Y Ravez (FRA) bt D Appleton (SCO) +19
A Westerby (NZ) bt D Appleton (SCO) +26TP
Y Ravez (FRA) bt I Nagashima (JAP) +26TP

Block G

J Stark (USA) bt E Lualdi (ITA) +26TP
P Skinley (NZ) bt E Lualdi (ITA) +7
J Stark (USA) bt P Skinley (NZ) +26TP
J Stark (USA) bt R McInerney (IRE) +26TP
R Fulford (ENG) bt P Skinley (NZ) +12TPO
R Fulford (ENG) bt J Stark (USA) +15TP
R McInerney (IRE) bt P Skinley (NZ) +26
R McInerney (IRE) bt E Lualdi (ITA) +3
R Fulford (ENG) bt R McInerney (IRE) +26SXP
R Fulford (ENG) bt E Lualdi (ITA) +26SXP

Block H

D Maugham (ENG) bt D Paterson (AUS) +25TP
D Paterson (AUS) bt O Ravez (FRA) +18
D Maugham (ENG) bt O Ravez (FRA) +26TP
T Stephens (NZ) bt D Maugham (ENG) +25TP
D Maugham (ENG) bt J Shorten (IRE) +21STP
T Stephens (NZ) bt J Shorten (IRE) +26TP
T Stephens (NZ) bt O Ravez (FRA) +4
D Paterson (AUS) bt J Shorten (IRE) +18
T Stephens (NZ) bt D Paterson (AUS) +26TP
O Ravez (FRA) bt J Shorten (IRE) +15

1st Round Knock-Out

D Maugham bt Y Ravez +25TP; +26
S Williams bt R Kelley +26TP; +22TP
C Clarke bt C Barlow +22SXP; +3
S Mulliner bt S Liddiard +26TP; -26TP; +26TP
D Cornelius bt R Carter -26TP; +26; +24TP
T Stephens bt D Appleton -20TP; +12; +21
J Stark bt D Paterson +26TP; +26TP
I Burrige bt M Taylor +24TP; +12TPO
R Fulford bt O Ravez +25SXP; +9TP
C Pickering bt J Taves +25TP; +8TP
R Bamford bt A Taves +16TP; +26TP
S Jones bt J Dawson -26; +26TP; +24
P Skinley bt B Fleming +25; -25TP; +10
R McInerney bt S Comish +16TP; -15TP; +6
C Irwin bt B Beiz +13; +3TP

2nd Round Knock-Out

C Clarke bt C Pickering +26TP; +9TPO
I Burrige bt R Bamford +14OTP; -26TP; +26
S Jones bt J Stark +4TP; +26TP
D Cornelius bt C Irwin +4TP; +5TP
R Fulford bt A Westerby +13TPO; +26SXP
D Maugham bt P Skinley +26TP; +26TP
S Mulliner bt S Williams +11TPO; +3TPO
T Stephens bt R McInerney +8TP; +26TP

Quarter Finals

C Clarke bt D Maugham +24OTP; +26TP
R Fulford bt D Cornelius +18; +10TPO
S Mulliner bt T Stephens -2; +8; +10TP
I Burrige bt S Jones +22; +19TP

Semi Finals

C Clarke bt S Mulliner +26; +26TP; +7
R Fulford bt I Burrige +19; -3; +26; +11

Final

C Clarke bt R Fulford +18TP; -12TPO;
+26TP; -26TP; +26

Courtside Crossword Answers
From Issue 237

Across: 1. Garden 4. O'Connell 9. Infers 10. Position
12. Noir 13. Minus 14. Acme 17. Sonoma-Cutrer
20. Carrickmines 23. Hoop 24. Liars 25. Race 28.
Openings 29. Kimono 30. Sorriest 31. Versed

Down: 1. Guinness 2. Ruffians 3. Earl 5. Croquet
Score 6. Nail 7. Evince 8. Linger 11. Miscarriages
15. Amman 16. Terms 18. Infamous 19. Asteroid
21. Cheops 22. Poseur 26. Mini 27. Tice.

Advertising Rates

Current advertising rates, including classified rates which start from as little as £6, are now available. Anyone wishing to place an advertisement should contact the editor in writing or telephone out of office hours.

Puzzle Compilers Required

Puzzle compilers are required for this magazine, as the editor has managed to secure a quantity of suitable prizes, but alas does not have the time to compile the puzzles. Anyone willing and able to offer either single or multiple competitions would be greatly appreciated and should contact the editor for further details.

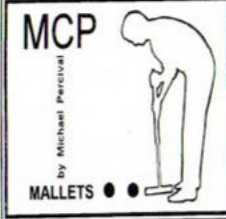
For Sale In Aid Of The
Sussex County Croquet Club
(Southwick) Building Fund

9 assorted mounted Colour prints of
Crowther Smith Original watercolours,
featuring individual characters and
accompanying rhymes.

The Prints are priced at £8 each inclusive of P&P, or for orders of 4 or more prints at £6 each inc P&P.

For further details of the prints or a catalogue please contact Bill Arliss. Tel 01273 728 204 or at 30 Hove Park Villas Hove BN3 6HG.

Mike Percival
Potash Farm
Church Road
Crowfield, Suffolk
Tel. 01449 - 711406



Beautifully grained,
hand crafted mallets
made to individual
requirements from timbers from around the
world. Any weight, length or design, including
carbon shafts. Moderately priced club mallets
also available. Repairs undertaken also.

British Rankings

As of June 6th 1995

Grade	Games	Wins	Grade	Games	Wins
1	Maugham DB	2860 45 36	51	Smith PL	2086 7 2
2	Clarke CD	2829 60 52	52	Cunningham AE (I)	2086 16 9
3	Fulford RI	2744 79 61	53	Vincent IG	2079 7 2
4	Bamford RL (SA)	2738 48 34	54	Curry GE Miss	2075 11 7
5	Mulliner SN	2673 26 17	55	Willard GM	2075 20 9
6	Westerby A (NZ)	2636 31 21	56	Fewtrell R	2072 6 2
7	Comish S	2596 34 23	57	Omerod WP	2068 12 7
8	Cordingley P	2511 42 28	58	Foulser DR	2067 5 3
9	Burridge IJ (W)	2508 67 42	59	Brown RJ	2054 15 7
10	Cornelius DA Miss	2508 37 20	60	Tribe R	2052 6 4
11	Openshaw DK	2493 23 13	61	Haslam JH	2051 8 3
12	Day PE	2462 9 1	62	Jones CS	2047 5 3
13	Irwin CJ	2458 34 21	63	Solomon JW	2047 7 2
14	Goacher DJ	2449 30 20	64	McDiarmid AJ Miss	2044 6 3
15	Dawson JP	2445 29 19	65	Tibble LG	2041 53 29
16	Noble GW	2428 16 12	66	Badger ST	2028 15 6
17	Walters JO	2408 5 3	67	Harris NR	2024 7 3
18	Harrison-Wood D	2390 28 15	68	Steadman W	2023 20 12
19	Williams S (I)	2334 22 15	69	Sandler MH	2018 7 5
20	Hallam BG	2317 34 22	70	Eardley P	2006 16 9
21	Goddard JP	2314 8 4	71	Wheeler JA	2001 8 5
22	Gaunt DL	2306 20 8	72	Landor FJR	1989 13 1
23	Bond ID (S)	2303 15 7	73	Duckworth ET	1986 17 10
24	Liddiard GS (S)	2278 21 11	74	Ransom RW	1980 16 8
25	Avery MN	2277 26 10	75	Kibble DJ	1976 27 17
26	Murray M (S)	2267 6 2	76	Scott EE	1970 18 12
27	Guest JE	2254 15 10	77	Hyne NG	1960 7 4
28	McInerney R (I)	2252 16 11	78	Bottomley HJ	1958 9 7
29	Surgenor J (S)	2251 6 2	79	Carter KJ	1944 18 8
30	Watson JPG	2240 8 5	80	Hammelev MA	1940 48 22
31	Patmore CJ	2238 6 6	81	Rangeley MW	1936 12 6
32	Farthing CN	2229 7 5	82	Smith J	1922 19 7
33	Taylor HP	2227 16 10	83	Hawkins JD	1920 16 10
34	Williams CN (W)	2222 30 13	84	Wadley AM	1919 15 10
35	Palmer LJ (W)	2221 24 16	85	Magee DJ	1919 10 3
36	Maugham FI	2221 11 6	86	Wild CH	1916 6 1
37	Linton AM	2206 13 9	87	Anderson TW	1914 8 3
38	Evans MJ (W)	2204 5 4	88	Smorfitt HW	1910 24 12
39	Coles WT	2204 14 7	89	Latham LV	1905 5 0
40	Mrozinski AJ (W)	2200 6 5	90	Kimmerling RL	1901 14 7
41	Rogerson F (I)	2199 11 8	91	Darby PA	1900 16 8
42	Gregory AK	2191 42 21	92	Collin GK	1898 9 5
43	Southern C	2187 22 14	93	Williamson JD	1893 6 2
44	Leggate ATR	2182 35 17	94	Coates DT	1890 14 7
45	Gunasekera DL (W)	2175 13 6	95	Reed AA	1889 5 1
46	Schmieder CM von	2152 6 2	96	Arliss WH	1885 6 3
47	Lamb WE	2127 19 10	97	Morrow N	1884 26 9
48	Carlisle JWH	2122 8 6	98	Whittaker FL	1875 12 6
49	Jenkins RS	2117 21 17	99	Milner KR	1872 6 4
50	Ames JP	2108 27 13	100	Ransom FE Mrs	1867 26 12

New CA Members

Mrs C.J. Brammer	London
Mrs W. Burch	Reigate
Mr J. Burch	Reigate
Mr A. Burn	Tyneside
Mr J.L. Carrick	Northampton
Mrs J. Carrick	Northampton
Mr L.V. Connor	Colchester
Mrs G.M. Cope	Bath
Miss S.M. Curd	Reading
Mr R.G. Curtis	U.S.A.
Mr J.C.F. Dawson	Bath
Mr J. Dixon	Bristol
Mrs M. Gosney	Shoreham
Mr K.G.F. Ham	Cardiff
Mrs J. Hill	Dartford
Mr. D.J. Iddon	Wolverh'ton
Mr R.B. Kennedy	Tyneside
Mrs B.E. Kitching	Crowborough
Mr B.E. Kitching	Crowborough
Mrs Lacy-Hulbert	Penarth
Mr Lacy-Hulbert	Penarth
Mr C.H. Mabee	U.S.A.
Mr D.W. Mathews	W. Midlands
Mr P. McCann	Edinburgh
Mr P.H. Morris	Pulborough
Mr A.C. Newman	Plymouth
Mr H.H. Niblett	Kent
Mrs P. Nutland	Wimborne
Mrs R. Quayle	Stockport
Mr B.G. Rees	Feltham
Mr G. Reynolds	Chester
Mrs P. Reynolds	Chester
Mrs K. Schoefield	Colne
Mr P.R. Smith	Sherford
Mr D.J. Stoaling	Bath
Mr I.G. Templeton	Romsey
Mr M.D. Town	Mil'n Keynes
Mr J. Turner	Devon
Mrs M. Turner	Devon
Mr G. Underwood	Plymouth
Mr M.J. Uttley	Somerset
Viscount Vilain	Belgium
Mr B. Witas	France
Mr W. Wood-Roe	Woking
Mr G.A. Young	Bury
Mr R.F. Alexander	Dartford
Mr C.J. Baker	Mil'n Keynes
Mr A.J. Blackshaw	Huddersfield
Mrs P.H. Bunch	Reading
Mr M. Burn	Oxford
Mrs R. Burns	Charl'n King
Mr C. Carroll	Cornhill
Mr. H. Cordwell	Bedford
Mr V. J. Corney	Morden
Mr A. Dibben	Surrey
Mr T. A. Elliott	Altrincham
Mr H. A. Garrett	Staines
Mr P. Hadley	Pewsey
Mrs A. Hadley	Pewsey
Mr P. Higgins	Oxon
Mr A. Jenkinson	Crawley
Dr S. Jones	Winscombe
Mr J.W. King	Caversham
Mr M. Lambert	Esher

Mr J.M. Leach	Worsley
Mr I. Lines	Timperley
Mrs A. Lines	Timperley
Mr N. F. Maton	Lechlade
Mr P. Miles	Caterham
Mr D. Nicholson	Cumbria
Mr E. Orange-Br	London
Mrs N. Patterson	
Mr J.F. Payne	Wol'hampton
Mr D.V. Rees	Silsoe
Mrs W. Richards	Hereford
Mr M. Roberts	Durham
Mr. R. F. Scott	Bristol
Mr P. Skinley	
Mrs S. Stephens	Kent
Mr A.B. Stephens	Kent
Mr A.J. Trickey	Cardiff
Mr. J Ward	Coventry
Mr A.J. Warnes	Beverley
Mr G. Williams	Eastbourne
Miss S.L. Wood	Isleworth

Successful CA Coaching
Course Participants

Bronze Course:

Eric Bevan
Mary Causton
Barbara Dawes
Mary Smith
R.C. Mann
R. Gatenby
David Wedmore
Peter Highton
Geoffrey Reynolds
Patricia Reynolds
Pam Arliss
John Roche
Peter Gosney
Myra Gosney
M.R.N. Rogers
Mrs B.J. Salmon
Adrian Dickins
Maureen Foster
Daphne Franks
Ted Jenner
Tom Frost
Don Beck
Mrs. K.J. Poland
Mrs. Joan Welch
Roger Ivill
Jeff Absalom
Jane Mathews
Myer Cohen
Nick Stiff
Mavis Hemming
Cliff Rogers
Joan Rogers
Phillip Reasbeck
Sheena Donald
Jim Donald
Alan Jacombs
Peter Suckling
John Hopkins
Noel Davis

Silver Course:

Vera Henderson
Roland Henderson
Neil Chalmers
David Maddocks
Hugh Read
Bill Sidebottom
Brian Smith
John Wilkinson

Gold Course:

P.H. Reed
Phil Kennerly
B.P. James
J.A. Creasay
B. Wainman
R. Jackman
D. Price
D.R. Parkins
I. Scott
Barbara McGlen
J. Lovett
P. Dyke
K. Chambers
L. Hawkins
D. Miller

Master Class:

Adrian Wadley
David Magee
Stephen Badger
David Kibble
Alan Bogle
Alan Pidcock
Bill Arliss
Nelson Morrow
Norman Eatough
Peter Trimmer

New Referees

Alan Locket	Alex Jardine
-------------	--------------

Handicap Alterations

Cheltenham April 2nd	
G. Gale	4 to 3.5
Mrs. G.D. Harris	2.5 to 3
N. Heriz-Smith	7 to 6
R. Jenkins	1 to 0
M. Ranshaw	3.5 to 3
D. Regan	4.5 to 4
R. Selmes	4 to 4.5
L. Tibble	1.5 to 1
A. Wadley	2.5 to 2
B. Wainman	4 to 3
B. Weitz	4 to 4.5
Mrs. D.A. Wheeler	7 to 8

Cheltenham Easter Hcp

S. Carter	2.5 to 2
D. Cornelius	3 to 3.5
G. Eccles	12 to 14
M. Evans	11 to 10
T. Excell	9 to 8

D. Gaunt	-1 to -1.5
T. Golesworthy	7 to 6
Mrs. G.D. Harris	3 to 3.5
V. McClements	10 to 11
A. Potter	3.5 to 4
D. Regan	4 to 3.5
Mrs. S. Stenhouse	9 to 8
D. Taylor	11 to 12
P. Watson	2.5 to 3

Pendle 14 - 17 April

D.R. Walters	12 to 9
C.Llewellyn	18* to 14

Hurlingham Club

Mrs. M. Bakewell	20 to 16
R.T.S. Chilton	20 to 16
P. Joseph	10 to 9
Mrs. I. MacDonald	10 to 9
Mrs. A. Prescott	12 to 14
Mrs. B.A.M. Reid	18 to 16
H.S. Toller	16 to 14

Sidmouth 19th April

B. Smith	12 to 10
Mrs. R. Henderson	14 to 12

Sarbiton 17th April

L. Tibble	1 to 0.5
M. Hammelev	1.5 to 1
E. Dymock	3.5 to 3
M. Town	3.5 to 3

Bowdon May Handicap

Peter Hanley	6 to 5
Gail Curry	-1 to -0.5
Peter Hallett	3.5 to 4
Fred Hallett	20 to 16

National League Results

Division 2	
Newport 3	Northampton 3
Wrest Park 3	Letchworth 3
Northampton 4	Wrest Park 2

Secretary's Shield

Prelim Round	
Tyneside 4	Pendle 3
York 4	Leicester 3
2nd Round	
Tyneside 6	High Wycombe 1
Dyffryn 5	Solihull 2
Wrest Park 6	Harrow Oak 1

Inter Club

Prelim Round	
Bristol 6	Bowdon 1
Wrest Park 5	Southwick 2
2nd Round	
Cheltenham 5	Harrow Oak 1
Northampton 4	Hurlingham 3