

CROQUET ASSOCIATION

... NEWS ...

Council Elections

Five council members, Keith Aiton, Andrew Hope, Colin Irwin, Stephen Mulliner and Chris Williams retired from council and did not seek re-election. Colin Irwin comes back as the NW Federation representative and is joined by Nigel Gray for the East Anglian Federation and Bruce Rannie from Croquet North. As there were no other candidates standing an election was not necessary. S.T. Badger was elected as Chairman to replace Bill Lamb, whose term of office has ended. T.J. Haste is the new vice-Chairman. The new Council is: Judy Anderson, Bill Arliss, Stephen Badger, Ian Burr ridge, Chris Clarke, Don Gaunt, Nigel Gray, Andrew Gregory, Hamish Hall, Tim Haste, Colin Irwin, Syd Jones, Bill Lamb, Strat Liddiard, Paul Macdonald, David Magee, Martin Murray, Bruce Rannie, Dennis Shaw, Bill Sidebottom, Bob Smith and Derek Trotman.

Development

Chris Hudson's contract as National Development Officer has come to an end. In future, the work will be undertaken by various other individuals. David Haslam, from Colchester, has agreed to take on development work for schools, and Paul Campion will do much of the administrative work from the Croquet Association office. Tournaments that

Chris used to run will come under the Tournament Committee. More money will be made available to regions for development work.

Direct Debit

The direct debit programme is swinging into action. The first associates invited to join the scheme were new members and associates currently paying by standing order. Other associates were invited to join with the direct debit forms included with the September issue of the Gazette; some were unable to wait and used the forms issued to clubs for the use of new members! To the end of September, 196 associates had elected to pay their subscriptions in future by direct debit, a promising start with three months to go. Some associates have queried the fact that there is no place on the form to indicate class of membership or subscription. In fact, for existing members the class of membership is already on the database and the subscription is picked up from this. Members who wish to change their membership should do so on the membership forms issued this month. If you have not already filled in a direct debit mandate, please do so as soon as possible and save yourself and the Croquet Association money.

Office Staff

Tony Antenen retires as Secretary this month and

will be replaced by Paul Campion. By mutual agreement, Paul will work a four-day week. However, two part-time assistants, Mrs. Shirley Moore and Mrs. Hazel Sherrington, have been appointed and the Croquet Association office will be open five days a week between the hours of 10.00am and 4.00pm. If you wish to contact the office, please do so between these times. Brian Macmillan remains as Commercial Agent and can be contacted in the office most mornings.

Recruitment

To the end of September, 137 new associates, excluding overseas, had joined in comparison with 130 to the same date last year. The drop-out rate has been further reduced and we have 1508 associates (end September) compared with 1482 at the start of the year.

Publications

A new edition of Prichard's Commentary on the Laws is now available from the Croquet Association office at a price of £5.00. Brian Macmillan will sell sets of 10 to clubs at a discounted price of £35.00. Similarly, Brian will discount Principles of Handicapping, normal price £2.00 each, to clubs in sets of 10 for £15.00.

Bill Lamb

CROQUET ASSOCIATION COUNCIL COMMITTEES AS OF OCTOBER 1996

F & GP

Chairman DJ Magee
ST Badger, TJ Haste, RW Bray, WE Lamb, AJ Oldham, BM Rannie, DW Trotman.

Tournament

Chairman WH Arliss
ST Badger, TJ Haste, RW Bray, IJ Burr ridge, DL Gaunt, AK Gregory, IPM Macdonald, DW Shaw.

Development

Chairman DW Trotman
ST Badger, TJ Haste, RW Bray, Mrs. J Anderson, AJ Oldham, WJ Sidebottom, RJ Smith.

Publicity

Chairman ST Badger
TJ Haste, RW Bray, Mrs. J Anderson, SO Jones.

Trophies

Chairman AJ Oldham
IPM Macdonald, DJ Magee, M Murray.

International

Chairman CJ Irwin
IJ Burr ridge, CD Clarke, DL Gaunt, WE Lamb, M Murray.

Coaching

Chairman TJ Haste
WH Arliss, SNH Gray, CJ Irwin, GS Liddiard, BM Rannie + FCOs

Equipment

Chairman GS Liddiard
IJ Burr ridge, WJ Sidebottom.

Handicap

Chairman WE Lamb
SNH Gray, CN Williams.

Laws

Chairman WE Lamb
ID Bond, SN Mulliner, M Murray, IG Vincent.

Centenary

Chairman ST Badger
Mrs. HBH Carlisle, DH Drazin, HM Hall, AJ Oldham, JW Solomon.

Golf

Chairman SO Jones,
M Murray.

Editorial

Chairman HM Hall
WH Arliss, AK Gregory, BM Rannie.

Selection

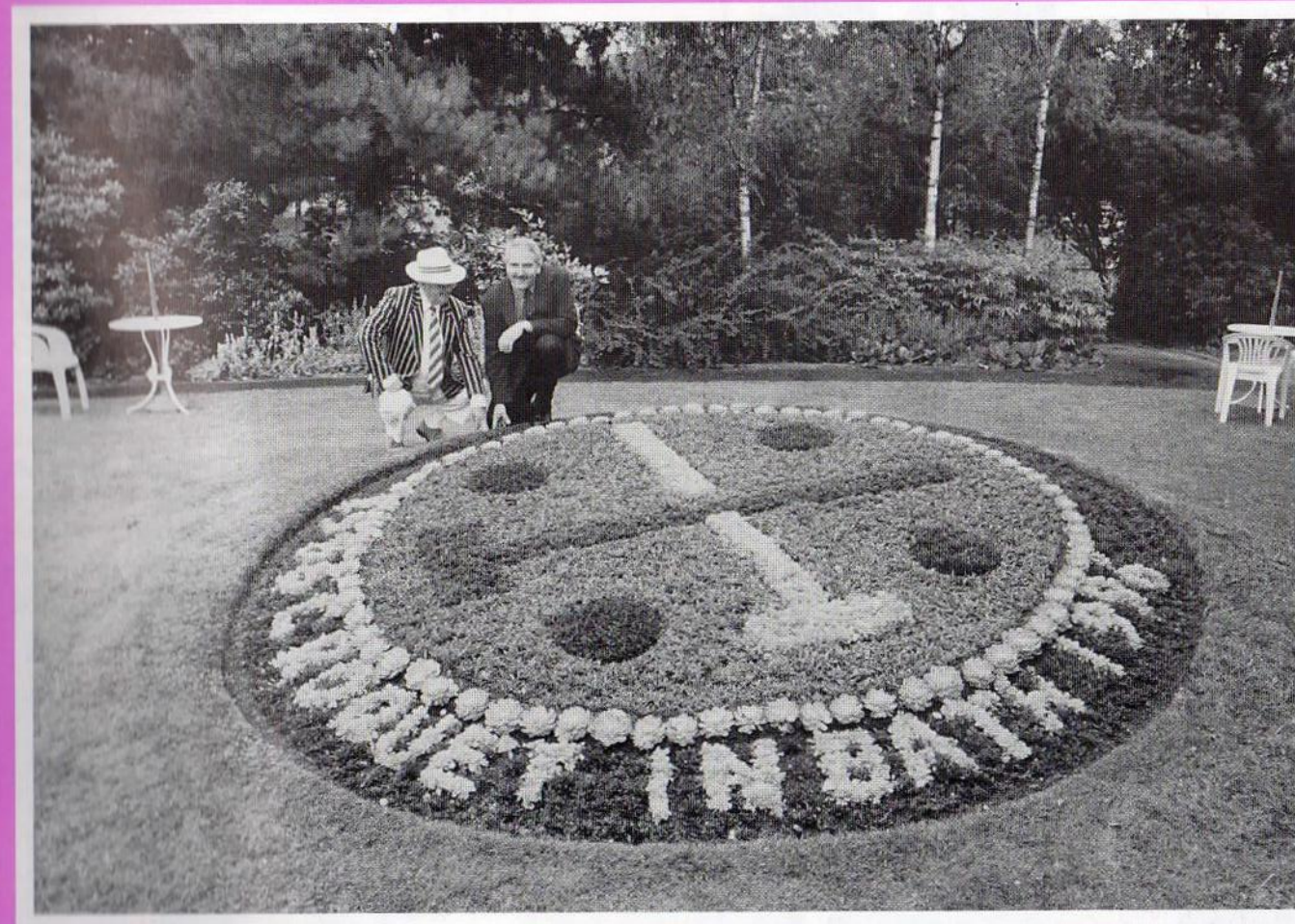
Chairman to be elected
IJ Burr ridge, CD Clarke, DL Gaunt, WE Lamb, CJ Irwin.

STB, TJH and RWB are ex-officio on the first four committees. Once again no-one wanted to chair Publicity, so STB will do so.

The CROQUET Gazette

Issue 246

November 1996



Inside:
News & Information
Letters
Helpful Hints
CA News

Points of View
Council Standing Committees
Handicap Alterations
Omega Croquet

Selection Events
The Chairman's Column
MacRobertson Shield
The Birth of the CA



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 Tufftex, twin-faced "long life" mallets - ideal for all standards of play.



J

John Jaques

1795 • 1995

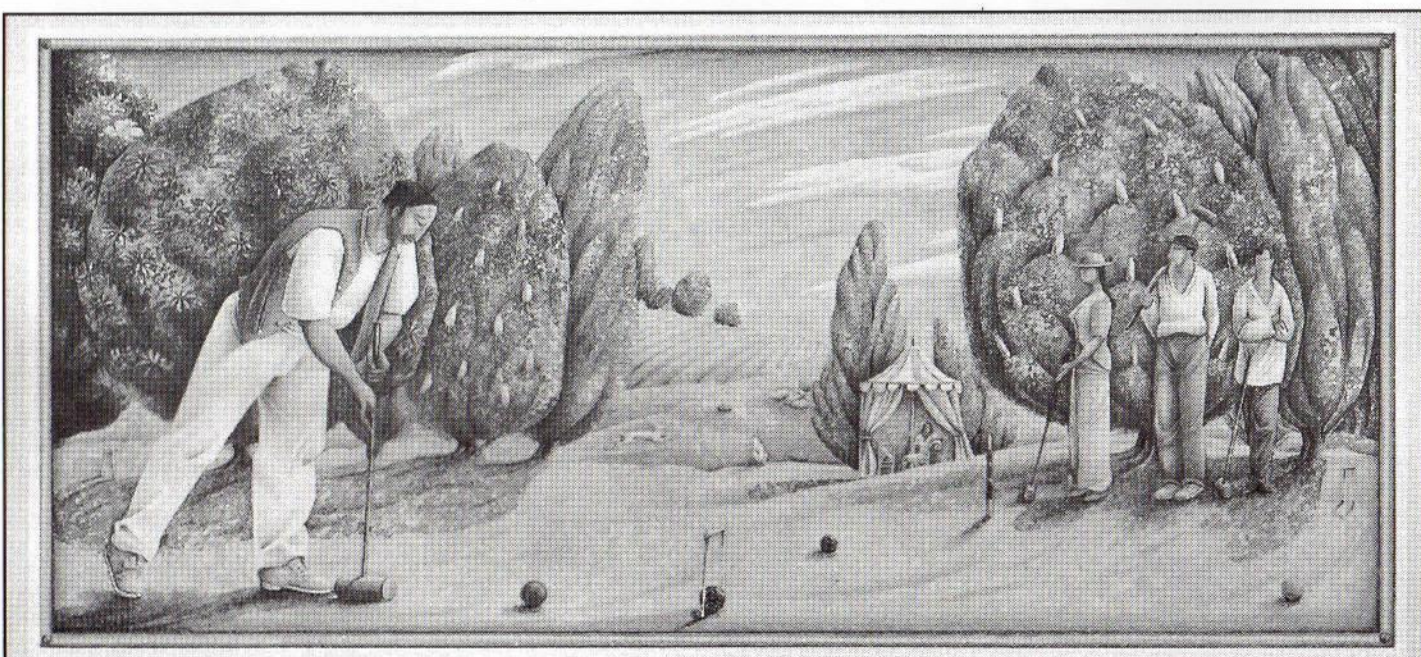
THE OLDEST SPORTS
GAMES MANUFACTURER
IN THE WORLD

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 were selected for the World Championship in France in 1995.

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

The CROQUET GAZETTE

No.246 (November 1996) Price £2.50

Front Cover: Croquet in Bloom at Bath. Maurice Boardman (left) and an official of the Parks Department inspect the flower bed celebrating the Bath Club's centenary. Photo by Bob Whitaker.

CONTENTS

CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN.....	4
<i>Bill Lamb's final column as Chairman.</i>	
OBITUARY.....	4
NEWS & INFORMATION.....	5
<i>Lost flags, new club, a warning and the new staff line up in the CA Office.</i>	
THE KENT CUP.....	6
<i>The story of a new individual county competition from conception to finals weekend celebrations.</i>	
LETTERS.....	7
<i>Even more golf croquet, lawn speeds, thanks to Plymouth, white lines and more.</i>	
THE BIRTH OF THE CA.....	9
<i>Alan Oldham shares the information that led to the formation of the CA.</i>	
CLASSIC COACHING TIPS.....	10
<i>Don Gaunt explores Law 32 part 2 through part five of his Helpful Hints Series.</i>	
SELECTION EVENTS.....	11
<i>President's Cup, Chairman's Salver, Spencer Ell, Barlow Bowl, Longman Bowl and Selector's Weekend.</i>	
OMEGA CROQUET.....	17
<i>David Wedmore starts the ball rolling on a series of light hearted articles introducing the little known but much played 'Omega' croquet.</i>	
H. F. CROWTHER SMITH'S BEST 10.....	17
<i>An opportunity to subscribe to a limited edition of a hitherto unpublished work.</i>	
POINTS OF VIEW.....	18
<i>Members of the Medway Club offer a different design for future handicap cards.</i>	
THE MACROBERTSON SHIELD.....	19
<i>Reports, results and photographs of the test matches played at Bowdon, Parkstone and Cheltenham.</i>	
HANDICAP ALTERATIONS.....	27
CA NEWS.....	28
<i>The new feature to keep you in touch with the latest news from the CA.</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** are welcome and should be sent to the Editor **Illustrations/Caricatures** are by Jack Shotton unless otherwise stated **Tournament Reports and Results** should be sent via the CA Secretary **Delivery queries** should be directed to the CA Office **Advertising** details are available from the Editor through whom advertising should be booked **Editor** Gail Curry 33 Percy Gardens Tynemouth North Shields Tyne & Wear NE30 4HQ (tel: 0191 2579045)

E-mail gail@cgazette.demon.co.uk
The Croquet Association The Hurlingham Club Ranelagh Gardens London SW6 3PR (tel: 0171 736 3148) Secretary L W D Antenen Chairman W E Lamb

There is a Reason - Please be Patient

Generally, I think it is safe to say, most players seem to be enjoying the Gazette, and many are actively participating by making contributions. Occasionally I receive letters from players who make a contribution which is in their eyes correct, that questions the accuracy of a previous contribution, although in actual fact their understanding of the the previous contribution is incorrect. An example of this is the letter in the last issue regarding lawn speeds from Julian Tonks.

I have had many responses to this letter, ranging from helpful to annoyed at the standard of journalism for printing inaccurate facts. I have spoken to all of the parties involved concerning this issue, but seeing as it is not the first, perhaps it is time I explained why I have done, and will continue to publish inaccurate contributions.

If an item provokes someone into making a reply, albeit inaccurate, that contribution is still valuable and should in my opinion be published for the following reasons:

- 1) If a player misunderstands an item and responds, they are probably not the only person to misunderstand.
- 2) If the same player is not corrected, they may very well pass on that inaccurate understanding to others, which may lead to further problems.
- 3) By publishing the 'wrong' response, a correct explanatory reply can be published following the 'wrong' response to educate not only the contributor of the original response, but also all of the players who did not respond but equally did not fully understand the first time round.

Ideally a response to any incorrect contribution printed should be reproduced in the same issue as the incorrect contribution. Unfortunately due to a lack of time within the tight deadlines set for the Gazette, to enable reliable and regular circulation, this is not always possible as accurate explanations cannot always be obtained in the time available. Hence it could appear that inaccuracies are being printed to the detriment of all parties concerned. All I can say is that in such cases, please be patient, as if an explanatory response to an incorrect item is required it will be sought, but it may have to wait until the following issue.

My final plea is that all players who do not understand, or wish to question the theories or statements of perhaps more well known players, please continue to do so. Don't be shy, you will not be piloried, you will simply be better informed, eventually. And to all of you who are quick to pull up less knowledgeable players, don't chastise them, educate them.

Gail Curry

The Chairman's Column

By the time you read this, my two-year term of office as Chairman of Council will be over and this will be my last column. It has been an interesting and sometimes difficult time, and one that has shown the great strength of the Croquet Association; the willingness of so many people to give their time and effort freely to the sport that we all enjoy. I know there are people who grumble about the Croquet Association, and by that I think they mean the Council, but without the people you elect we would not have an organised sport. When I gave my telephone number and invited associates to ring me to discuss various matters, I did so with some trepidation but the numbers have been manageable and I have enjoyed listening and talking to so many people. Of course, being an amateur organisation has its disadvantages as well, witness the failure to form a publicity committee, although I have not noticed a decrease in publicity effort or results, but we must live with these.

Council has also shown its willingness to listen, as revealed by a change of heart over discounted Junior subscriptions; there is also a wish to consult and discuss, as the very successful Conference in February demonstrated. But, in the end, Council has to take decisions based on our sport as a whole and this will not always be to the liking of those with narrower objectives in mind.

In looking to the future we must be realistic. We must not fall into the trap of assuming that because croquet appeals to us, it would appeal to everyone if only they had the chance. That fallacy is exposed by the take-up rate of membership in every club that runs beginners courses. In comparison with many other games, croquet needs a lot of practice before one gets to the stage of being able to enjoy a game. Much as I enjoy croquet now, I doubt if I would have got the same enjoyment in my younger days: it lacks the element of physical exertion that so many sportsmen enjoy. In spite of these drawbacks, I believe in the future of the game but no amount of promotion, even if money and manpower permitted, would be of use without adequate facilities. The Croquet Association is trying to help here with grants, loans and support for national lottery funding.

Recruitment has not been as high as one would wish - we can always do with more members - and our campaigns have been by and large unsuccessful.

Nevertheless, the downward trend in associate membership has ended and we are moving back up again. Although roughly the same number of people join each year, the drop-out has decreased and the membership is therefore more stable. In the end, of course, we shall only succeed when more players appreciate the value of the Croquet Association. Perhaps it is a dream, but I look forward to the time when it will be natural for all players to want to join the Croquet Association as an associate, because of the help given to their clubs.

Chairmen of Council are transient beings and this month also marks the retirement of two others, who have held office longer than I.

Chris Hudson's contract as National Development Officer has come to an end. Chris's enthusiasm and industry were particularly effective during his early years as NDO and contributed greatly to the growth of the Croquet Association. I met him for the first time at Harrogate some ten years ago, when he was organising some forty or fifty people who had responded to local advertising into groups for coaching. My interest in coaching began then and later developed into wider aspects of croquet. I am grateful to him and I know that others have been similarly influenced. However, we now have the basis for regional development with active federations and more of the Sports Council grant will be spent to this end. I wish him well in the future.

Tony Antenen also retires as Secretary this month. Tony has served us loyally, cheerfully, and to the best of his ability in often difficult circumstances. We have never been able to afford to provide full-time assistance for him, and there have been times when he has had to cope alone with telephone, visitors, etc. when trying to attend to other urgent matters. It is somewhat ironic that only on Tony's retirement have we been able to reconstruct the office staffing in a way that will provide the support that he would so much have wanted. I thank him and also wish him well for the future.

On a personal note, I regret that increasing problems with arthritis mean that I can no longer play tournament croquet. I shall miss the contacts but I hope to keep in touch with articles for the Gazette.

Thank you for your support during the last two years.

Bill Lamb

~ Obituary ~

J.F.S. Thomas

Visitors to Nottingham will be sorry to learn that Steve Thomas, our Tournament Secretary for ten years, died in August after a fall. He was 79, and leaves a brother in Kent and a sister in Australia.

An active sportsman in his youth, he was sidelined after losing one of his legs in an accident, though he retained a keen interest in both cricket and rugby, selling programmes at the Nottingham ground.

He took up croquet after retiring from a varied career, which included insurance and, towards the end, the railways. Despite his handicap, which caused him to adopt side-style, he improved steadily, reaching a handicap of eight, and played in a number of tournaments at other clubs, particularly Ryde and Hunstanton. He played fluently when his eye was in, but in later years he found the game increasingly frustrating, as his eyesight and general health declined. As a consequence, he appeared ill-tempered, throwing down his mallet after missing even improbable hoops, which tended to mask his otherwise friendly and generous nature. He was particularly encouraging to those learning the game.

He was a mainstay of the club, both as someone who was always around and willing to play, and as a member of the committee who willingly took over as Tournament Secretary after the death of Bob Chamberlain. He was always willing to help out with transport, and acted as host for several eights. A notable character who will be sadly missed.

IGV

CARBON FIBRE

Shafted
Mallets
Mallet Bags

Call Alan Pidcock on
01772 - 743859 or write to:-

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

NEWS & INFORMATION

Lost Flag

Did anyone clearing out a pavilion at the end of the season find a Union Jack, in very lightweight fabric, size 5'x3' approx, with the word "Top" written on it? If so, please contact Ian Vincent at Nottingham, as it went missing after the Test match held there, and belongs to one of the club members.

Advance Warning

The January issue of the Gazette will reach members somewhat later than usual. This due to the fact that the printers close for the Christmas & New Year holidays and the editor will be doing the same. However contributions will be accepted as normal.

Unsatisfactory, But Alas Necessary

For anyone who finds this issue of the Gazette unduly top-heavy with MacRobertson Shield information, I offer my apologies. Had the information been available for the last issue it was my intention to either break it into two parts or to produce a Tournament Review, with a 'Mac' special. Unfortunately neither of these plans have proved practicable due to matters beyond my control, and I am of the opinion that if the information was not published now it would be of little interest or value to anyone, barring historians or statisticians, if it were to wait any longer.

If the inclusion still causes any reader cause for complaint, I can offer only the fact that the Gazette is journal of record for the Croquet Association, together with the fact that the next Shield series will not be played until the year 2000 as compensation.

Centenary Exhibition

The CA intends to produce a small mobile exhibition for display in a series of public venues. In the hope of minimising the costs of this the Centenary Committee would be very pleased to hear from any associate who may have access to

suitable display panels or other appropriate exhibition equipment. If you can help please contact Stephen Badger (0171 2748126) or David Drazin (01923 774048).

Berkshire CC

Berkshire Croquet Club officially came into being on 8th October on land adjacent to Thatcham Town Cricket Club. (Thatcham is a suburb of Newbury.)

We were approached a year ago by the cricket club who were anxious to replace two football teams by a "more complementary" sport. We have available a wedge-shaped piece of land large enough for 5 1/2 courts and it is fairly flat to start with.

The site is excellent, since security is good, we are able to share the cricket club's changing rooms, bar, kitchen, etc. and we can use its ground staff and equipment.

We are beginning next Spring with two courts on the best land currently available. When we have numbers up in a couple of years we move to 'Phase II' which involves completely re-laying the surface of the rest of the land to create top quality courts (do come to our first open tournament in 1999).

The location is excellent, with superb communications (M4, A34, Newbury By-pass, etc.) and in the centre of a large area devoid of a strong club. There are 19 in South-Central England - 15 with one court and four with two. Hence we have ambitions to become a 'centre of excellence' and a focus for Southern Federation activities.

We have just spent £1000 on preparing the first two courts and plan to spend the same again next Spring on fertiliser, equipment, shelter, etc. Although we are applying for every grant and loan going, we are desperate for donations and sponsors (would any gazette reader consider sponsoring a hoop?)

Contact Kevin Carter
tel: 01734 - 712948

New Secretary & New Staff

Paul Campion, who succeeds Tony Antenen as Secretary of the CA on 1st November, is known to many members as he has already been 'a voice at the end of the phone' in the CA office for over two and a half years.

In his capacity as Tony's assistant, he has been closely concerned with the upgrading of the new computer system and, more recently, with the implementation of the Direct Debit system which is just now coming into operation. So you know the name to ask for if you ring with queries on those (or indeed any other) matters!

Paul has been a CA Associate for over 15 years. During that period he has enjoyed membership at Parsons Green, Roehampton and Surbiton clubs, and has been a coach for several seasons at Hurlingham, working with both beginners and medium bisque players. Over the years he has toured on the tournament circuit (so his face may be familiar even if his name isn't).

Coming to work with Paul are two new secretarial assistants, Hazel Sherrington and Shirley Moore, who will both be in the office on a part-time basis. Between the three of them, and together with Brian Macmillan who is continuing his sterling work as Commercial Agent, it is expected that the office will be manned from 9.00 am to 4.00 pm every weekday all year round. (Should you ring on the exceptional occasion when on the answering machine is there, do please leave a message; your call will be speedily returned.) We offer best wishes to Paul, Shirley, and Hazel in their new appointments and hope that they enjoy being with the CA for many years to come.



New and old faces at the CA office (L to R) Hazel Sherrington, Shirley Moore, Brian Macmillan, Paul Campion. Photo by Paul Campion.

CA CHAMPIONSHIP APPROVED BALLS
"Grande Tournament"(G.T.) £107 per set
Championship Balls £86 per set

Mail Order add £5 per set p&p
3 Year Guarantee

Send for full list of Top Quality Croquet Equipment
mallets, balls, hoops, flags and winning pegs from

WOODLANDS CROQUET PRODUCTS
Woodlands, Skipton Road, Barnoldswick, Colne
Lancashire BB8 6HH
Telephone 01282813070

THE KENT CUP

The story of a new competition from conception to finals weekend celebrations.

Background information and photos by Rodney Parkins

In the context of the crowded south east, Kent is a long county with only five established clubs (and even Chartham Hatch and Medway are relatively new). To see if we could help develop croquet in the county we had a meeting of club representatives, and decided to hold the Kent Cup.

The concept of county championships and events is scarcely recognised in croquet. With the Kent Cup (the "Kent Croquet Club Members' Cup" to give its full name), we decided to combine encouragement to high bisquers with fairly establishing the best player. The result was that Peter Nash was the inaugural winner (see Alex Jardine's report) and Paul Hill (Chartham Hatch) was the best high bisquer.

The organisation required reconciling irreconcilables. How could we encourage high bisquers to enter if advanced play was needed to find out who was best? Would entrants be prepared to travel long distances? What format would suit an unknown and, in the context of the clubs, unlimited number of entries? The answer was a level play knockout, subject to the following:-

- ◆ Players were seeded according to handicap.
- ◆ People with handicaps of fourteen and over took part in the early rounds at their own clubs or the clubs nearest to them.
- ◆ The survivors advanced to the intermediate rounds (one day at Tunbridge Wells) which saw entrants with handicaps of between six and twelve start.
- ◆ The survivors from the intermediate rounds moved into the final rounds (a weekend at Tunbridge Wells) where they met the lowest handicapped competitors.
- ◆ All play in the final rounds was advanced.
- ◆ The semi-finals and final were the best



Alex Jardine and other competitors in play during the Kent Cup at Tunbridge Wells.

of three.

Was the actual event a success? Well, despite the organiser tearing his hair out and burning the telephone lines when having to make enforced last minute changes, the answer is "yes". Any doubts can be allayed by studying the beaming smiles of Ed Dymock (third) and Adrian Dickins (14+ runner up).

Can we make improvements? Yes of course; one example is the need to create more self-belief in the participants. There were instances of people withdrawing because they had not anticipated beating lower handicapped players, thereby reaching later rounds held on dates when they were away. There were certainly upsets galore. An eleven lost to an eighteen (Adrian Dickins). Three twos met three sixes: only one of the twos won and that was by one point on time. A six (Andy Mitchell) reached the semi-finals. Forty people entered. Chartham Hatch, the club least experienced in tournaments, had the biggest entry. Paul Hill's success indicates their potential, which they can now develop with their new ground.

My thanks go to fellow committee members, David Collins, Peter Howell and Roy Ware for their support and encouragement, and to Alex Jardine for organising a Swiss to console those knocked out.

And what of the winner? Well, Peter Nash would have liked to have challenged the winners of similar county competitions. Will other counties adopt this idea, so that Kent's next year's winner has other county winners to challenge?

Kent Members' Cup Final Rounds - JULY 20/21

For the final rounds of the Kent Members' Cup, Tunbridge Wells laid on the hottest weekend of the year (so far) and lawns of such an interesting and testing nature that later games had to be drastically shortened to allow a civilised finish.

The eight lowest-handicapped entries were now joined by the eight who had battled through the earlier rounds to qualify. Two of these prospered mightily, Andy Mitchell (Ramsgate) and David Parkins (Medway) putting out the third and fourth seeds, Peter Howell and John Hobbs of the host club. The second seed, Dulwich's



Kent Cup competitors pictured at Tunbridge Wells (l to r) Ed Dymock (3rd), Peter Nash (winner) Adrian Dickins runner-up and Alex Jardine (2nd). Photo by Rodney Parkins.

own Yorkshireman, Ed Dymock, squeezed through by the narrowest of margins (+1T) against manager, and qualifier, Rodney Parkins.

In the quarter-finals, an all-Dulwich clash saw in-form Peter Nash put out top seed Roger Best by 16, while Andy progressed still further at the expense of club-mate John Ruddock.

The first games of the best-of-three semis were concluded on the Saturday evening, leaving a potential five games to be concluded on the Sunday on extremely tricky lawns where break-making was at a premium for most players. Despite shortening to 18-points with 2-hour limits, all remaining games went to time but, perhaps fortunately, resulted in 2-0 victories. Peter white-washed Andy in the first, but had a sterner struggle in the second before winning +26,+8T. Meantime Alex Jardine (TW) doured out a +10T,+10T win over Ed Dymock.

Decided over a single game, the playoff for third place resulted in an emphatic win for Ed. In the Final, Peter took the first game easily +10T. The second game provided a marvellous climax to the tournament. With all clips bar one on Penult, two points down, Peter joined up as time was called near corner IV but without a rush to 3-back. In the time turn, Alex hit and had only to separate Peter's balls to enforce a third game, but the take-off hit hoop 5 and he dived into corner I. So Peter was forced to two-ball from the East boundary, which he did, through 3-back, 4-back and, with the lift threatening, penult to win the game, match and title to much well-deserved applause.

In the meantime, most of those defeated earlier had enjoyed themselves in a "Swiz", the eventual winner of which was Roger Best, undefeated after his departure from the main event.

Alex Jardine

Letters...

Spirit or Letter of the Law?

Dear Editor

At the Men's & Women's Championship this year an incident occurred which I feel should be brought to wider attention. One of my opponents found himself cross-wired at his hoop but on closer observation discovered that the hoop wasn't straight. He seemed to be the only one aware that the regulations had changed and that he was entitled to have the hoop re-set before he played his shot, not after as used to be the case. The Referee of the Tournament consulted the Laws book and the new rule was confirmed. Of course my opponent then proceeded to make the roquet, although he did say that he could see a fraction of the ball beforehand and wanted the hoop to be straightened so that it was a guide for the sighting of the ball. Nevertheless this begs the question of why this rule was changed - can someone from the Laws Committee explain please. Does it mean that along with my belt, strap and visor I have to carry a set square with me now if I am considering a cross-wiring or cross-pegging?

To me, to ask for a hoop adjustment prior to a critical shot seems contrary to the spirit of the game and I will suggest that, if the rule remains (there may be good reason for it) players play to the spirit rather than the letter of the Law.
David Goacher

Future Boundaries

Dear Editor

I was interested to read the Chairman's Column in the last issue, in which Bill Lamb discusses the possibility of the MacRobertson Shield becoming the recognised world team championship.

I think it is generally accepted that a world team event should have a similar format to the current Mac, with four teams of six competing, combined with the means of promotion/demotion between divisions. Apart from the issue of the money demanded by the World Croquet Federation, this is likely to have particular ramifications for Great Britain and its constituent countries.

The United Kingdom is a political entity consisting of England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, Jersey, Guernsey and the Isle of Man are largely self-governing, and legally and constitutionally are not part of the UK. (They

are three of the UK's sixteen dependent areas.) However, I believe residents do consider themselves British, and they have a 'special' British passport. For convenience I define the UK without England but with its dependent areas, as the Bits (Little) Of Britain, or BLOBs.

Currently, England, Scotland (and Ireland) are full voting members of the WCF; Wales, Jersey and Guernsey are observer (non-voting) members; and Northern Ireland and the Isle of Man are not members at all.

It seems quite likely that the WCF or one or more of its members will insist, not unreasonably, that at least some of the BLOBs represent themselves separately in a world team championship.

I think it would be constructive if the relevant people in the CA (the International Committee?) and the WCF would consider and answer a few questions:

- 1) Is it the CA's or the WCF's intention or desire that the BLOBs represent themselves separately, or will Great Britain be allowed a single team?
- 2) What will be the rules of eligibility to play for a country (birth, residence, etc.)?

[It is reasonable to suppose that the BLOBs will never be in the top division of the world team event. It is therefore not unlikely that top BLOBish players may want to play for their BLOB in the European Championship or in Sonoma, but to represent England in the world team event, against the other top players. Would/should this having and eating of cake be allowed?]
Duncan Reeve

Lawn Speed

Dear Editor

Julian Tonks (Gazette Issue 245 September 1996) raises the old nutmeg about measurement of lawn speed. Although I would not know my inverse proportion from my elbow I do know that Bill Lamb and Derek Trotman are right in their calculation of lawn speeds. To be fair to Julian, he is not alone in finding difficulty in understanding how to measure lawn speed.

Briefly:

On a slow lawn you hit the ball hard, it travels at a fast rate of knots across the lawn and then pulls up very quickly.

On a fast lawn you can hit it softer, it may trickle to the desired spot on the lawn but can seem to go on for ever.

In the first example the time the ball is

in motion is less than the second example. Therefore the longer the time taken for a ball to get to the same spot, the faster the lawn.

Now that is sorted, I hope, we now move to the real question to be answered. What is the ideal speed of a lawn? Would you like to play upon an ice rink, a ploughed field or something in between?

This will depend upon the skill of the individual player, but essentially it boils down to the fact that a faster lawn is a better test of skill, requiring greater control than that required on a slow lawn.

The real test for a groundsman or constructor of an artificial surface is to find a happy medium, one that will satisfy the skilled player and the novice. Personally I believe an 8 second lawn to be too slow and no real test for an A class player. Conversely, the novice will enjoy it. My ideal is about 11 seconds, which should suit all standards of player, but this is open to argument.

Incidentally, the 14 second lawn was measured by myself and a colleague at Bowdon, on lawn two, summer 1995. It had not rained, honestly, for over two months. The lawn was brown and hard, it was a boiling hot day but the test was done in a shaded area and the measurement was accurate. At Bowdon we strive for the fastest possible lawn conditions we can get and we make no apologies to our C and D class players.

It doesn't mean, of course that others need follow suit, it only adds to the debate.

Brian Storey

Thank you, Plymouth

Dear Editor

I would like to use your letters page to thank Plymouth C.C. for their hospitality and friendliness and to commend their May handicap tournament to Gazette readers. As a new CA Associate, it was with some trepidation that I travelled to Plymouth at the Bank Holiday weekend for my first CA tournament. I have been brought up in a club with one full lawn, less than 10 active players, no coaching or official handicapping - in comparison with what normally appears in your columns Kingston Langley are (metaphorically) non-league while the rest of your readership lives in the premier (are we unique?). To make matters worse, I had cajoled the family into joining me for the trip down the M5 by promising to combine croquet with a West Country holiday: sitting in the rain on a Friday night Bank Holiday traffic jam, towing our caravan, it dawned on me that I had forgotten all my white clothes! We were not happy. However, we need not have worried. On reporting to the club on the first day, someone immediately rushed home and brought two pairs of trousers for me to try. Later in the tournament when one face of my mallet fell off, the club's Mr Fix-it immediately offered to take it home

and re-glue it (thank you Arthur).

It was an eventful first tournament for me. If there are any high bisque readers wondering whether to try a handicap tournament, I would encourage them to have a go. Try Plymouth next year. I had never even seen single figure handicap player, never mind played against one. All that was lacking was some sunshine - but the friendliness of the natives, the food and the competition more than made up for that!

Tony Treglown

Danger White Lines!

Dear Editor

Why do even the best laid croquet lawns eventually seem to develop a downward slope towards the boundaries? Does the white compound used to mark the boundary lines have some chemical effect on the grass, or is it all in the mind?

Hugh Tresise

The compound used to mark the lines is not the culprit. The cause of falling, or occasionally rising, boundaries is generally due to top dressing over a period of time only on the lawn, or within a very confined space around the outer boundary. In order not to have this effect on lawns, as large an area as possible outside the boundary should be dressed and the lawns moved slightly. This not only eliminates the dropping or rising of boundaries, but also gives more ground to manoeuvre hoop positions. Ed.

Golf Croquet - The Saga Continues

Unfortunate Omission

Dear Editor,

You will be able to confirm that a rather important word was omitted from our earlier letter about golf 'croquet'. We had referred to the viewing Boeotians. If C.A. members do not stick to their 1984 decision and they allow Council to seek sponsorship for the promotion of golf 'croquet' on television, the unassailable argument we shall hear is that the objectives and tactics of that game are simple enough for viewers to understand what is going on without any effort, unlike Association Croquet. But because (unless the name is changed) the word 'croquet' will have been implanted into their consciousness, the public's widespread misconceptions about true croquet will have been only too vividly reinforced. Despite the successes that many devoted publicists have been having during recent years in gaining greater awareness of the attraction of our sport, such folly will set back the prospects of public enlightenment by several decades. And it will all be for the sake of money.

Incidentally, early in the nineteenth century, various mathematicians announced that

they had demonstrated the possibility of non-euclidean geometries and it emerged that the great mathematician Gauss had made the same discovery many years earlier. He gave as his reason for not publishing his results that he had feared 'the derision of the Boeotians'.

Roger & Dab Wheeler

(Sorry about the Omission, you just can't get the staff - Ed)

It's All in the Name

Dear Editor

Two points emerge quite clearly from the various opinions expressed in the recent correspondence about golf croquet. One is that it is a game enjoyed by many people at a number of croquet clubs; the other is that some confusion, disappointment and irritation have been caused because of its name. It is not croquet (nor is it golf!) but that is not a reason for condemning it.

People who join a Bridge club do not expect to be asked to play Whist, though Whist is a perfectly good game for four players using the standard playing cards. Similarly, Chess club members do not expect to play Draughts, which is a perfectly good game requiring pieces to be moved on a chequered board. In each case, the 'other' game has a quite distinct name and therefore maintains the dignity of a separate identity, which might not be so if Whist were called Single-pack Bridge and Draughts were Flat Chess.

What we need is a new name for golf croquet to acknowledge it as a distinct and separate game which happens to be played on a flat lawn, using mallets, coloured balls, six hoops and a peg. Clubs which at present have a golf croquet section could amend their names to 'The Blanktown Croquet and Other Game Club'.

But what should the other game be called? It would be interesting to hear suggestions from players, particularly from those who play golf croquet. So here is a project for the long winter evenings - Name the Game!

Margaret Selmes

Golf Croquet has its Place, however...

Dear Editor

At Southwick, Golf Croquet was started four years ago at a time when our membership needed boosting.

From the beginning the subscription was the same as for Association. The aims were to improve play in a friendly and sociable way, introduce newcomers to club members, and to get as many newcomers on to Association as possible. Some are able to start with Association straight away, others take longer to feel comfortable with the basic stokes, but all are offered an introduction to Association at least within a year.

Organised golf croquet is played one afternoon per week, and members can make up their own games at other times. One afternoon recently there were 32 playing golf croquet and 20 playing Association! Many of our Association members play Golf croquet regularly.

Of our 22 newcomers this year, 2 already play well, 4 are learning Association, 4 are learning both and 12 are coming along nicely at Golf Croquet and will soon get an introduction to Association.

One hears that at some clubs Golf Croquet is played at separate times to Association; some have different subscriptions, or allocate certain lawns only for Golf Croquet, and that it is almost impossible to interest people in learning Association. These were the pitfalls we sought to avoid.

For Golf Croquet players there is a singles, doubles and pairs tournament. As well, we play friendlies, enter a team in the S.E. Fed Golf Croquet day, and enter the Golden Mallet. Finals of both Association and Golf competitions at the club are played off on the same day. I feel our aims in starting Golf Croquet are working!

We have not been able to persuade any of our best Golf Croquet players to enter any national events because they all play Association and have not the inclination.

I would support two issues of the Golf Croquet magazine, one at the beginning of April, as Golf Croquet has its place in the world of croquet. However to publicise Golf Croquet in the media would certainly bemuse the general public and, I believe, be a disservice to Association Croquet. Every non-player still assumes croquet is a game where the balls are hit into the shrubbery. Instead, every effort should be made to advertise a shortened version of Association just called 'croquet', to grab the public's interest.

Diana Brothers.

Reply to an 'Honourable Man'

Dear Editor

Re the account of the Budleigh May week (July reports p.7), it was kind of my friend Hamish Hall to devote so much space to my play in a relatively minor event at that tournament.

In referring to me as his "bette noire" he obviously did not mean "a person or thing that one particularly dislikes" (Oxford), but rather in the context of his MOST FEARED OPPONENT. I do assure him that, though he may be playing an international he should try to allay his fears, and not show the degree of nervousness that causes him to pause even longer than usual between each shot, during our encounters.

As for his reference to my bisque taking, there is an implied criticism of my lady partner, Maureen, therein - not to mention a more direct criticism of Margaretha Regan in the previous paragraph. I'm sure he would agree that it is more gallant to save one's barbs for the men-folk. For Hamish is an honourable man!

Andrew Potter

The Birth Of THE CROQUET ASSOCIATION

How many of you know that the Croquet Association is the fourth governing body for croquet?

The first such body was the All England Croquet Club (AECC), now the All England Lawn Tennis & Croquet Club at Wimbledon founded in 1868. The second was a rival body set up in 1869 by Walter Jones Whitmore called the National Croquet Club (NCC) which was later (1871) absorbed into the AECC. The third was the Grand National Croquet Club also formed by the eternally dissenting Whitmore but this body, although running a number of successful tournaments, did not survive Whitmore's death in 1872.

Despite his many failings, Whitmore is credited with the organisation of what has been regarded as the first Open Championship at Evesham in 1867, although many might question whether it should merit such a distinction since there was no advance notice of the event, he merely invited four friends to play, the courts were small, the hoops 8 inches wide and he won the event himself! However that may be, this was the tournament whose centenary we celebrated in style in 1967 in the presence of our patron, Her Majesty The Queen.

As readers of Prichard's *History of Croquet* will be well aware, croquet went into a decline in the 1880's. Wimbledon having been taken over by lawn tennis, there was no central coordinating and law making body for croquet and tournaments quickly disappeared from the calendar, though the game continued to be played in people's gardens, in Oxford colleges and at a handful of clubs.

However, in 1894 enterprise reasserted itself and a successful series of open tournaments at Maidstone was organised by a Mrs Hill, a lady from Cheltenham. Thus encouraged Walter Peel, who had been champion in 1868, 1870 and 1871 as a young man, decided that tournament croquet could be generally revived.

In contrast to a previous ideas for governance, which had been based on the pre-eminence of a single club, Peel planned to band together all players up and down the country into one body. He circulated the best past and present players of the time who responded enthusiastically and at Maidstone in August 1896 agreed to form a new association. The fourth and present governing body for croquet, the United All England Croquet Association, thus came into being - changing its name to that by which we know ourselves in 1900.

Not very much was done in the winter of 1896-97 apart from enrolling about 200 members and, as you might expect, nothing at all during the following summer months apart from organising open tournaments at Maidstone, Ascot, Bath, Bristol and Devonshire Park (Eastbourne). It was not until the 15th October 1897 that the first committee meeting was held at 19 Southwell Gardens (now 106 Gloucester Road) in South Kensington, London. A sub-committee was then formed to frame the Association's Rules (i.e. its constitution) and to determine the Laws of the game; these were formally adopted at the first General Meeting of the Association on 26th January 1898.

As a consequence of this desultory beginning of our affairs and in the absence of any more definitive record the choice of the correct date for our foundation is - like that for the start of the Christian calendar - not beyond dispute. The CA Council has nevertheless accepted that 1997 is the appropriate year in which to celebrate our centenary and in particular has decided that 15th October shall be regarded as the precise date for record purposes.

It must remain a matter for regret that our founder, Walter Peel, died only 12 days after that first committee meeting in 1897. His achievements have been commemorated by the Peel Memorial Competition which was initiated in 1898.

Alan Oldham Oct 1996.


The Answer To "A Very Good Question"

There has been much discussion by referees over the answer to Dave Nicholson's question in the last issue of the Gazette (issue 245). Here finally is the definitive reply from Bill Lamb, Chairman of the Laws Committee.

Law 2a states that the peg has two parts: the base and the extension. Confusion possibly arises because most people loosely refer to the base as the peg. Therefore, in an attempted peg-out a ball which hits the extension is pegged-out. The clips are not part of the peg and should be removed before a jump peg-out. Technically, a ball which would otherwise have hit the extension but is prevented from doing so by a clip is not pegged-out. However, should the adversary object on this ground, the striker would be quite justified in removing the base from the ground and pursuing the adversary around the court with the sharp end foremost.

Note that the peg, i.e. base plus extension, is part of the equipment of the game: the extension by itself is not; if it falls off or is temporarily removed, it should be treated as an outside agency, and any interference with play dealt with under Law 34.

The clips of another, double-banked game are also outside agencies.



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



HELPFUL HINTS No.5

by Don Gaunt

A Series of short tips and ideas for beginners and improvers

Please note that these hints may not always be the best solution, consider your options carefully.

No. 5 Law 32 part 2

Continuing with our close look at Law 32 (faults) we look at No. 10.

It will help if you have a copy of the rule book with you so that you can see the precise wording.

32(a) You commit a fault during the striking period if you.....

....(10) disturb any stationary ball by hitting the hoop or the peg;

Note the meaning of this sub-law carefully. It refers only to the indirect movement of the ball via a hoop or the peg. It doesn't matter how you cause the movement - your clothes, mallet and body all count. It covers any ball, including yours. So be careful when your ball (or any other) is touching a hoop or the peg.

Sub law 10 does not deal with moving balls, or the illegal striking of another ball. Other sub laws do this.

...(12) do not hit away from a hoop or a peg when your ball is in contact with it;

If you don't hit away, you will 'crush' your ball (see HH No.4). An exception is if you are pegging out. Then you can hit into the peg. How can your ball be against the peg and not be pegged out already? If your opponent put it there is how.

...(13) touch any other ball with your mallet or allow your ball to touch your mallet again;

It should be pretty obvious that you can only hit your own ball, but the second part needs explaining. Double tapping has already been explained in the last HH, but this is different. This is allowing your ball to hit your mallet again, usually after bouncing off something. It is a fault if this happens, even if the shot was a roquet.

...(14) touch any ball with any part of your body or clothes; so if you have a loose flapping coat be careful! Remember, this is only during the striking period.

...(15) In a croquet stroke, do not hit into the croqueted ball and move or shake the croqueted ball;

Most players know that you must move or at least shake the croqueted ball, even if quite a few fail to do so! What is often not realised is that you must hit in to croqueted ball i.e. your line of shot with your ball must, if struck correctly, disturb the croqueted ball. "Surely", you say, "if the croqueted ball moves I must have hit into it". Not so, the croqueted ball may have been resting on a worm cast, held there only by your ball.

...(16) play a stroke which is likely to, and does, damage the lawn with your mallet.

This fairly new sub law has caused more arguments among referees than any other! I am not going to bore you with all of the arguments. This is how I interpret it:

Suppose you want to play a jump shot. This is a shot which is likely to damage the lawn.

If you make a small indentation in the lawn with your mallet, I do not consider this a fault.

If your ball makes a considerable dent and damages the surface, I do not consider it a fault.

If your mallet makes a considerable dent and damages the surface, and you have obviously made no attempt to prevent damage, I consider it a fault.

Other referees may be more or less lenient than I, so the best thing is not to cause damage!

Other shots which may cause damage are;

The vertically played shot when hampered at a hoop;

Any special shot where the mallet is taken towards the ground and will reach it. A proper roll shot is not such a shot as it will miss the ground. A stab roll shot is such a shot and care must be taken;

Scraping the ground - but only if playing a shot which is likely to damage the lawn. A normal shot which goes wrong is not a fault under this sub law - but it might be under another one!

The final Helpful Hints on Law 32 will deal with definitions and penalties in the next issue.

Selection Events

1996 Presidents Cup Hurlingham 8th ~ 12th Sep

report by Chris Clarke

The 1996 President's Cup was held at Hurlingham whose excellent lawns provided easy playing conditions. The hoops were set to 1/64th but were still some of the easiest that I have ever played with due to the softness of the ground.

Mark Avery's withdrawal allowed Keith Aiton back into his first President's since 1989 and also made him the first scratch handicap to play in the event.

Day 1

Goacher started well, beating Burridge for the third consecutive game - the previous two being in the Northerns final a fortnight earlier. The only triple of the round came in the form of a TPO by Maugham against Clarke who failed to capitalise on two good chances.

Round two finished with Maugham and Mulliner unbeaten. Maugham had benefited from a piece of generosity from Burridge who had conceded a wiring lift on his 1-back leave to give Maugham an easy finish.

Aiton produced his first OTP in round 3. He croqueted a ball off the lawn whilst making his contact leave to allow Goacher the pleasure of saying "that's the first time I've ever finished off the contact". Maugham and Mulliner moved to 3/3 with TPs against Cornelius and Clarke respectively. Burridge made a good comeback to win 3TP against Dawson and record his first win.

The leaders met in round 4. Mulliner had the first break, but Maugham hit the lift and started on a TPO which failed at hoop 5. Mulliner took his easy chance to finish the first day unbeaten. Goacher beat Dawson to join Maugham in second place whilst Aiton hit Burridge's 1-back leave to win his first game with an easy TP. Clarke beat Cornelius in a scrappy game to become nicely poised on 2/4.

After 4 rounds:

Mulliner 4, Goacher 3, Maugham 3, Clarke 2, Aiton 1, Burridge 1, Cornelius 1, Dawson 1.

Day 2

Round 5 was probably the most exciting of the event. Clarke beat Aiton with a TPO and Maugham beat Dawson having been TPO'd. Meanwhile, Burridge was playing Cornelius on lawn 4 and after doing 2 peels of a TP, opted to peg himself out leaving his other ball 2 yards in front of rover at a



President's Cup Competitors (L to R) Stephen Mulliner, David Goacher, David Maugham, Debbie Cornelius, Ian Burridge, Chris Clarke, Jeff Dawson, Keith Aiton. Photo by Chris Clarke.

	Aiton	Burridge	Clarke	Cornelius	Dawson	Goacher	Maugham	Mulliner	Wins	Order
Keith Aiton		+20TP -19	-13TPO -26	+26TP -25TP	-25 -17	-14OTP -26TP	-26TP -12OTP	-11TPO +26	3	8th
Ian Burridge	-20TP +19		+26STP -25TP	-1 -2OTP	+3TP +7TPO	-6 +15TP	-20TP -14	-25TP -17	5	6th
Chris Clarke	+13TPO +26	-26STP +25TP		+5 +4TP	+1 +26TP	+26TP +16TP	-10TPO +23	-22TP +10TPO	11	1st
Debbie Cornelius	-26TP +25TP	+1 +2OTP	-5 -4TP		+26 -26	-9 -26TP	-17TP +26TP	-25 +15TP	6	5th
Jeff Dawson	+25 +17	-3TP -7TPO	-1 -26TP	-26 +26		-17 -7OTP	-13OTP -17TP	-25TP +4	4	7th
David Goacher	+14OTP +26TP	+6 -15TP	-26TP -16TP	+9 +26TP	+17 +7OTP		+6OTP -11TPO	-3TPO -22TP	8	4th
David Maugham	+26TP +12OTP	+20TP +14	+10TPO -23	+17TP -26TP	+13OTP +17TP	-6OTP +11TPO		-21 +18TP	10	2nd
Stephen Mulliner	+11TPO -26	+25TP +17	+22TP -10TPO	+25 -15TP	+25TP -4	+3TPO +22TP	+21 -18TP		9	3rd

slight angle. Cornelius was on 1 and 3-back and turned down an 11 yarder at Ian's ball in favour of a 16yarder joining up. This was missed, but Ian then failed to run rover. Debbie laid up near 1st corner leaving Ian a couple of yards East of hoop 3. Ian took the unusual decision to try and run his 20 yard hoop. His shot whistled through the hoop and finished only 11 yards from Debbie's balls, which he duly missed. Debbie went round to the peg with her hoop 1 ball and laid up. Ian shot at the guarded peg and missed giving Debbie a +1 victory.

At the other end of the club on lawn 1, Mulliner was playing Goacher who had decided to slow his game down to enable him to concentrate fully on this important game. Stephen had TPO'd David and was making a bit of a mess of the pegged out

ending. On two occasions he accidentally put a ball into 1-back, giving David a free shot. Eventually, after both players had failed a few chances, Stephen pegged his other ball out leaving himself for 4-back against 5. David played some good positional shots and by the time Stephen had run 4-back, David was in front of 3-back. The game reached penult Vs penult and the crowd was looking forward to an impasse with both players refusing to take position for the hoop. Unfortunately, some unnaturally hasty play from David allowed Stephen to gain control of the playing side of the hoop and extract a win in just under 3 hours to move to 5/5.

The four leaders all won in round 6, but Clarke had to come back from 2 and 4-back Vs peg alone against Dawson who was only given one turn in which he played to a

boundary.

The last round of the first series produced four triples and also extended Mulliner's lead as Goacher beat Maugham after being TPOd. Burrige beat Clarke with a sixth turn STP and Aiton had a good 26TP win against Cornelius.

After 7 rounds:

Mulliner 7, Goacher 5, Maugham 5, Clarke 4, Aiton 2, Burrige 2, Cornelius 2, Dawson 1.

The final round of the day saw Mulliner's first loss. Stephen had the first break against Debbie, but the lift was hit and Debbie went to 4-back peeling Stephen's hoop 1 ball to 3 with a reasonable leave. Stephen missed the lift and Debbie completed her first TP of the event. However, Stephen's lead of two games was maintained as Goacher lost to Burrige and Maugham lost to Clarke.

Day 3
The manager made Mulliner start playing Goacher at 9.30 in round 9 after their marathon in the first series. Goacher was in two minds about how his slow play was being treated. On the one hand, he thought he was being unfairly discriminated against, on the other he said "I've always wanted to be a bit of a rebel". In the end, Mulliner won in just over an hour to go 3 clear of Goacher and Maugham who had lost to a revitalised Cornelius 26TP. Clarke beat Aiton to move

into outright 2nd two wins behind.

Round 10 saw easy wins for Cornelius, Goacher and Maugham whilst Clarke had hit his first lift of the event to TPO Mulliner. The 3 ball game was scrappy, but Chris came through to move within one of Stephen.

Round 11 produced wins for the top 4, but Cornelius almost beat Clarke 26TP, before sticking in penult with 2 peels done allowing Chris to finish in two turns.

The last round of the day featured the Maugham / Mulliner clash. Mulliner laid a super-shot ball which Maugham missed allowing Stephen a 3rd turn break which he took round, deliberately stopping at 3-back. David hit the lift and went to 4-back and finished when the lift was missed.

After 12 rounds:

Clarke 9, Mulliner 9, Goacher 8, Maugham 8, Burrige 5, Cornelius 5, Aiton 2, Dawson 2.

Day 4

Aiton quickly beat Mulliner and Maugham beat Burrige. Clarke was playing Goacher and had missed his lift shot. So, if Goacher could win, there would be 4 players tied on 9 with one round to play. Unfortunately, David missed a two yard slight cut rush on his hoop 2 pioneer and Chris hit in and finished with a triple next turn after David cornered to take the outright lead for the first time.

The final round failed to provide much excitement as Clarke soon beat Burrige to win the President's Cup for the fourth time. Maugham TPOd Goacher and opted to peg two balls out. He later finished on a 2-ball break having run hoop 2 and hit Goacher's ball in front of hoop 3. Mulliner's miserable second series finished with 2/7 after he lost to Dawson having misapproached 2-back whilst finishing.

Final Scores

Clarke 11, Maugham 10, Mulliner 9, Goacher 8, Cornelius 6, Burrige 5, Dawson 4, Aiton 3.

Overall impressions

I thought that the standard of play was slightly disappointing at the top, but better than usual at the bottom. Statistically 33% of lift shots over 13 yards were hit, with Maugham hitting a phenomenal 8/10. There were triples in 66% of games with everyone completing at least two. The success of TPOs was not very high. However, amongst the top 3, 6/7 TPOs were successful, possibly indicating that a certain level of play is required before the TPO becomes the correct tactic.

Finally thanks to the Hurlingham Club for providing their lawns free of charge and to Bill Lamb for giving his time to manage the event.

The Chairman's Salver Budleigh Salterton 5th ~ 8th September 1996

report by Lionel Tibble

The first game to finish was Trimmer vs Williams, with Trimmer visibly suffering from the effects of a virus. Trimmer goes to 4-back in the fifth turn, Williams misses the lift shot. Trimmer fails to get in front of hoop 1 and makes a leave. Williams misses the shot with the pioneer ball at hoop 2. Trimmer misses this ball in A baulk and Williams goes to 4-back. Trimmer hits the lift and makes another leave which is hit, Williams gets to hoop 3 and sticks. Trimmer finishes with a triple peel.

Meanwhile on lawn 1 Cordingley was taking his back ball round to peg, against Heap, but discovered a tendency for the ball to run off into a dip to the right of rover on the approach and consequently misses the angled hoop shot. Heap tries to finish with a rover peel but the peelee sticks and the half jump doesn't come off giving Cordingley the game +3.

As well as Trimmer the other walking wounded was Don Gaunt suffering from a wrist injury.

In the following round Heap lost to Gaunt after completing his first TPO, but managed to lose -7OTP and Hallam also fell foul of the run off by rover on lawn 1 whilst approaching on the last element of a triple, consequently Trimmer won +4.

In Tribe vs Williams, Tribe goes to 4-



Chairman's Salver competitors (Back Row L to R) Michael Heap, Don Gaunt, John McB. Wood (manager), Brian Hallam, Lionel Tibble, Pete Trimmer. (Front Row L to R) Phil Cordingley, Roger Tribe, Chris Williams. Photo by JMcB. Wood.

back in the fifth turn, peg in the seventh turn and finishes in the ninth turn. Before the fourth round is pegged down Hallam beats Cordingley after being pegged off.

Day 2 starts with an entertaining game Gaunt vs Cordingley who pegs off Gaunt, but rushes his front ball onto the peg, Gaunt winning +1.

Another teaser was Tibble vs Trimmer. Trimmer foe 4-back and 1 after Tibble missed the peg out and took one ball off. Trimmer said afterwards he knew he would lose because his mum and dad were watching, though mum hid

in the car when Tibble was shooting at the peg.

End of the day and Cordingley, Trimmer, Gaunt and Hallam all have 5 wins. The following day Heap hits form with +26TP against Tibble but later loses -26TP against Trimmer. Cordingley vs Williams ends in a two ball finish after Cordingley breaks down on a TP at hoop 4, Williams winning +8.

The last games of the day include Gaunt vs Trimmer, Trimmer at rover and 4-back, Gaunt at 4-back and peg. Trimmer hits the lift with the 4-back ball but doesn't make penult. At this point the game is pegged down and resumed the

following day. Gaunt hits the lift and finishes, now with a good chance of winning the Salver.

Meanwhile Cordingley, also in contention, meets Tribe and loses. Tribe then plays Gaunt to finish a decisive pegged down game held over from the second day. Gaunt misses a 4 yard roquet to give Tribe the finish and win the competition.

Tribe has clinched the Salver by beating off his two nearest rivals in successive games on the last day. A considerable achievement in his first eights event. Congratulations Roger.

Many thanks to Budleigh Salterton for hosting the event and to John MacBurnie-Wood for acting as manager.

	Cordingley	Gaunt	Hallam	Heap	Tibble	Tribe	Trimmer	Williams	Wins	Final Order
Phil Cordingley		-1	-5	+3	+24	+3	-25	+26	9	2 =
Don Gaunt	+1		+15	+7OTP	+4	-12	+12	-11	9	2 =
Gaunt	-25		+6	+17	-10	-11	+5	+16		
Brian Hallam	+5	-15		+20	+13	-22	-4	+5	7	5th
Hallam	-17	-6		+14	+26	-5	-13	+21		
Michael Heap	-3	-7OTP	-20		-4	+13	+11	+11	5	6th
Heap	-26	-17	-14		+26TP	+9	-26TP	-22		
Lionel Tibble	-24	-4	-13	+4		-16	+11	-5	4	7 =
Tibble	-19	+10	-26	-26TP		-16	-11	+8		
Roger Tribe	-3	+12	+22	-13	+16		-5	+26	10	1st
Tribe	+6	+11	+5	-9	+16		+17	+3		
Pete Trimmer	+25	-12	+4	-11	-11	+5		+14TP	8	4th
Trimmer	-25	-5	+13	+26TP	+11	-17		+20		
Chris Williams	-26	+11	-5	-11	+5	-26	-14TP		4	7 =
Williams	+8	-16	-21	+22	-8	-3	-20			

Spencer Ell Compton Sep 4 - 8 1996 report by Roy Wallis

There were four reasons for a late start. 1) The manager had decided that a 9 a.m. start was unnecessarily early and had so informed anyone who contacted him (1 player). 2) A reserve, Jerry Guest, arrived early, but could not play until the manager had ascertained whom he had replaced. 3) The maintenance men thought they were cutting on Tuesday but marking the lines on Friday. (The hoops had been moved 7 inches.) 4) One player had overslept. Nevertheless, the weather was good and stayed so throughout, though a trifle chilly at times, and all play was under way soon after 10 a.m. It was soon apparent that the ogdoad was very evenly matched (Look it up. Do you want spoon-feeding?), and this was to be reflected in some very small (and some very large) winning margins. Players were very complimentary about the lawns and the hoops, though the speed and some of the boundary slopes caught out several players, and there were many GOTLOCS* - especially on the first day. The contenders' contrasting styles were worth watching, and some of the games were - well - fascinating.

Edward Duckworth's smooth pendulum swing with standard grip was admired by the few spectators, though he failed to complete his first triple and so didn't gain the coveted CA gold medal. Even so, there were many purple patches in his play during the week and this was almost reflected in the colour of his socks. He played some very unorthodox but clever and interesting breaks.

Tom Browne's elegant, fluid style is a lesson to all beginners and improvers and it was a pity more of them did not turn up to watch. His backswing is fast and short and he approaches the ball with an Irish grip, then turns both hands into a Solomon for the stroke. However, he is so laid back that he sometimes falls flat on his face.

Jerry Guest, unusually nowadays, plays with a round mallet with a series of holes drilled

into the bottom. These are rumoured to be for the guidance electronics. His hands are wide apart for an A-class player, but he is meticulous, accurate and ever keen to play.

Terry Burge sits out with leashed energy like a greyhound in the starting trap, exploding into action on his opponent's breakdown, moving quickly around the court with a sort of lithe swagger.

Ian Vincent's slow, studied approach to each shot brings to mind a mantis preying on a moth, (if somewhat more fallible). He swings the mallet back and forth several times as though he is ringing a bob maximus.

Robin Brown plays each stroke from the knees and with some power. His six out of fourteen wins belied his obvious skill, and may have been partly due to his insistence on attempting peels whenever possible.

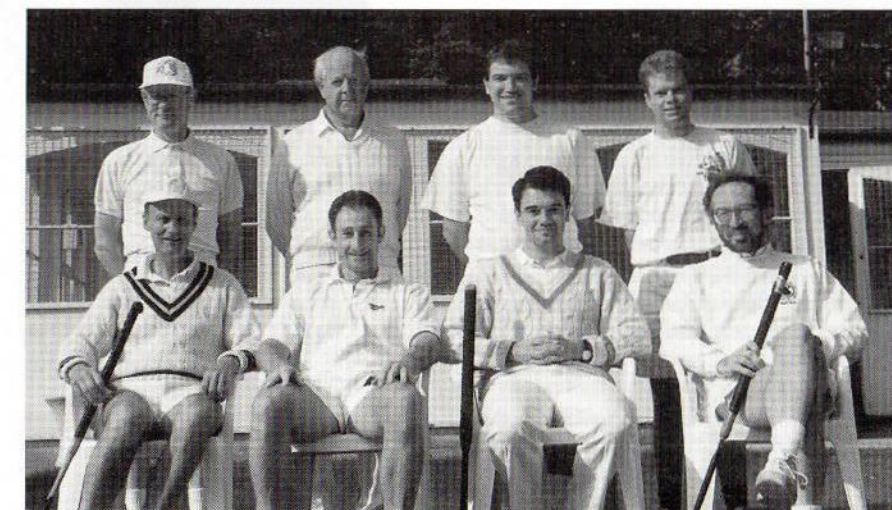
David Harrison-Wood (the Panther) ponders each stroke as though it is a suspect fiver. Another meticulous player, his was the most consistent play of the week, and brought him deserved success.

Colin Southern didn't play at his best,

sometimes forcing his shots with consequent inaccuracy. His habit of standing square to the hoop with feet barely a mallet's width apart suggests some sort of remedial stance.

Jerry Guest v Tom Browne (Thursday) was a hare and tortoise game. Tom got stuck on rover and peg for a long time and Jerry eventually pegged out Tom's yellow. Tom managed rover with Jerry on 6 and unwisely shot at the peg from near the S boundary, leaving Jerry with an easy rush along the N boundary to pick up a 3-ball break. The result was the usual one in a Tom and Jerry battle.

Ian Vincent v Terry Burge (Thursday) was a seesaw game with many errors. Terry pegged out Ian's black and laid up in the 4th corner with a long rush due to bouncing off 3-back. Ian shot at rover from the N boundary, hit the wire and rebounded to a position N of 3-back. Terry hit red, split it to rover, getting a good rush on blue to penultimate, but cut it to 3 yards SE of penult. He took off to a position 4 feet NNW of penult, but decided, rather than attempt the difficult hoop, to guard the S boundary against blue shooting at red. Ian did shoot at red and just



Spencer Ell Competitors (Back Row L to R) David Harrison-Wood, Colin Southern, Robin Brown, Edward Duckworth. (Front Row L to R) Jerry Guest, Terry Burge, Tom Browne, Ian Vincent. Photo by Roy Wallis.

nicked it, displacing it only a foot to enable him to make rover and win by 4.

Ed Duckworth v David Harrison-Wood (Friday). After 3 failed and 1 successful attempts to peel red through rover, David laid up a perfect rush to the peg, but played it short and wide. He took off to blue and black in corner 4 and missed the double! Ed failed to run 6 with black. David hit blue on the rebound from the wire of 1-back and, on the thick take-off to red in corner 4, yellow pegged itself out! Ed played black to a position near blue, but David shot from the corner and pegged out to win by 12.

Colin Southern v Jerry Guest (Friday). Colin was for rover and 4-back and yellow had an easy rush to 4-back. Black was in corner 4 and Jerry shot blue into corner 1, anticipating the lift. Colin rushed red to 4-back and put his yellow into the jaws ready for a rush-peel. Jerry shot from corner 4 and missed to the boundary. Colin rush-peeled to the boundary and picked up black to set up his break and win by 2.

David Harrison-Wood v Ian Vincent (Saturday). After 3 hours and 50 minutes, the game was pegged down so that Ian could get lunch before they stopped serving. At this stage, David had pegged out one of Ian's balls with the other on 4-back. David was for 4-back and rover. The manager itched to put a time limit on the game. In the evening, David took another 20 minutes

	Brown	Browne	Burge	Duckworth	Guest	H-Wood	Southern	Vincent	Wins	Final Order
Robin Brown		+4	+17	-26	+12	-80TP	+22	+13	6	6 =
Tom Browne	-4	-11	-4	-5	-9TP	-22	+20	-14TP	9	2nd
Terry Burge	+11		+19	-5	+19	+14	+17	+25	8	3rd
Edward Duckworth	-17	-19		+4	+23	+25	+11	+10	7	4 =
Jerry Guest	+4	-12		-16	+15	+15	-3	-4	7	4 =
David H-Wood	+26	+5	-4		-12	-14	+23	+17	9	1st
Colin Southern	+5	+19	+16		-17	-12	-14	-17TP	4	8th
Ian Vincent	-12	-19	-23	+12		-26	+4	+5	6	6 =
	+9TP	+1	-15	+17		-14	+2	-3		
	+80TP	-14	-25	+14	+26		+23	+4		
	+22	-4	-15	+12	+14	+16	-13	-19		
	-22	-17	-11	-23	-4	-23		+15		
	-20	+14	+3	+14	-2	-16		-19		
	-13	-25	-10	-17	-5	-4	-15			
	+14TP	-13	+4	+17TP	+3	+13	+19			

Play-off ~ David Harrison-Wood bt Tom Browne +17tp.

to win by 4.

Sunday dawned with David Harrison-Wood 2 wins clear of Tom Browne and Terry Burge. He had to play both of them and needed only one win. They both had to play Colin Southern and needed 2 wins to tie. Colin beat Terry, Tom beat Colin, and both Terry and Tom beat David. The play-off was dull stuff. Tom played a near-faultless break to 4-back, but the

leave was indifferent and David eschewed the lift, hitting a half-lawn shot and going to 4-back. His leave was impeccable and Tom missed, not only the lift shot, but a subsequent bonus shot, and David went on to win with a cleverly executed triple.

*GOTLOCS = Going Off The Lawn On Croquet Stroke

The Barlow & Longman Bowls Cheltenham September 11th ~ 15th 1996

report by Gail Curry

For the final year before the event moves north to Southport, Cheltenham hosted the ladies invitation events, and with this in mind an effort was made by club secretary Eileen Magee to persuade and entice some ladies to enable both events to be played. Of the Longman Bowl competitors, only Dab Wheeler and Eileen herself had played before in such events, leaving four players to make their debuts in the event. Angela Hall and Veronica McClements of Cheltenham started timidly, but as the event progressed they relaxed and played with more fluency, which resulted in improved results from the first round. Marjorie Boyd of Nottingham had a relatively quiet first series of games, but again relaxed further into the event and played with more flair and enthusiasm. Dab's play was good, but alas too many short roquets were missed, and defeat was snatched from the jaws of victory on more than one occasion, although the final results will hardly convey a true reflection of her efforts.

In the nicest possible way, and with the greatest of respect to all of the above named players, the eventual winner (Diana Williamson of Southport) and runner-up Eileen Magee were in a slightly different class. Diana showed fluent accurate play with sound tactical knowledge to great effect to remain undefeated during the



Longman & Barlow Bowl competitors (Back Row L to R) Veronica McClements, Dab Wheeler, Pauline Healy, Gail Curry, Angela Hall, Eileen Magee, Frances Ransom. (Front Row L to R) Audrey Whitaker, Marjorie Boyd, Diana Williamson, Rosemary Gugan, Bo Harris. Photo by Pauline Healy.

	Boyd	Hall	Magee	McClem	Wheeler	Williamson	Wins	Final Order
Marjorie Boyd		+6	-14	+15	-13	-10	4	3 =
Angela Hall	-6	-5	-11	+5	+4	-23	4	3 =
Eileen Magee	+5		+1	-2	+6	-15	5	2nd
Veronica McClements	+14	+6		-5	+16	-6	4	3 =
Dab Wheeler	+11	-1		-5	+9	-16	3	6th
Diana Williamson	-15	-2	+5		-4	-5	4	3 =
	-5	+2	+5		+1	-11	3	6th
	+13	+4	-16	+4		-17	10	1st
	-4	-6	-9	-1		-3		
	+10	+10	+6	+5	+17			
	+23	+15	+16	+11	+3			

	Curry	Gugan	Harris	Healy	Ransom	Whitaker	Wins	Final Order
Gail Curry		+14	+20	+12	+11	+19	8	1st
Rosemary Gugan	+11	+11	+13	-11	+9	-3	7	2nd
Bo Harris	-14		+15	+11	+1	+20	4	4th
Pauline Healy	-11	-15	+6	+17	-2	+11	3	5 =
Frances Ransom	-20	-6		+7	-18	+15	5	3rd
Audrey Whitaker	-13	-11	-7	+17	+11	-4	3	5 =
	-12	-11	-7		+10	+7		
	+11	-17	-17		-5	-3		
	-11	-1	+18	-10		+12		
	-9	+2	-11	+5		+5		
	-19	-20	-15	-7	-12			
	+3	-11	+4	+3	-5			

event. Eileen's results, like those of Dab Wheeler, do not truly reflect her ability and efforts on the lawns, perhaps it had something to do with the fact that both were not only playing but providing lunches. However, Eileen made and played breaks well, but appeared to lack just the final inch of confidence to convert near things to victories. Perhaps it was due to the sort of unkindness doled out by boundaries on lawn 10, where a shot of Eileen's rolled perfectly into the yard line area for a rush, drew breath, and then plummeted onto the line. "You were robbed Eileen," said the manager. "No, I was mugged in broad daylight," replied Eileen.

The Barlow Bowl had no debutantes alas, but it did have experienced players, although at times this could have quite easily been brought into question. But more of those embarrassing big mishaps later - see what happens when nobody volunteers to write a report and the editor has to do it.

The first series appeared to pass without any great surprises, but not necessarily incident, apart from the fact that Audrey Whitaker hadn't won a game yet, and that Gail Curry had been the only player to take a game off Rosemary Gugan to decide the finishing order after the first series, with Pauline Healy, Bo Harris and Frances Ransom massing in third place on two wins each. Things may have been slightly different however if, in round two, the very tightly contested battle of Bristol between Rosemary and Frances had finished in a different way. Rosemary, being peg and peg, in rather gloomy, nay near darkness, missed the peg-out with her forward ball, and after a little thought removed striker's ball from the game. The game was pegged down at this point, to be continued the following morning. Frances made rover off the opponent's ball and obtained the usual 'sort of rush' on partner to the peg, which 'sort of went to the peg'. The forward ball again missed, going some 6-7 yards south west of the opponent's ball, with the backward ball being pegged out, and probably the fingers crossed. However Rosemary was not for letting the game slip away again and made the twitchy roquet to win by the very popular score of +1.

The second series of games was a little more complicated and altogether more interesting in view of what could, and what

actually did happen.

Round six saw Audrey record her first win, against Pauline Healy. The second battle of Bristol was again close fought towards the end, although it would have never appeared to be so, as Rosemary had a commanding lead before Frances took croquet for the first time. But as the saying goes attitude is everything, and the game was still in the balance when Frances, 1-back and peg, versus 4-back and box drew the attention of the spectators. With some good single ball shots Rosemary eventually made short work of 4-back and penult, in the same time Frances trundled to 4-back. On Three occasions Rosemary approached rover from near corner four to find good position, but was moved away with equal accuracy. The fatal move was to try for position a fourth time, which not only failed to gain good position but also acted as a capable pioneer for Frances, who finished to win +2. Round seven found Gail and Rosemary unable to finish a game because of bad light, without knowing then what the consequences of this game would be.

Round eight saw Rosemary win against Bo, Frances against Pauline, and Audrey upset the form book by beating Gail. (Well let's face it nobody likes to see a manager doing well, and

Selectors' Weekend Southport 6th - 8th September Who would be a manager - a personal perspective report by David Magee

At the beginning of September Dennis Shaw calls and asks if I will manage The Selector's Weekend. Though somewhat nonplussed - why has he not asked any of the more experienced managers who will be present - I quickly succumb to his flattery and agree. First things first and I hasten to read Roger Wheeler's and Don Gaunt's book on Management. End up none the wiser as to what format to play. Obviously we cannot get through a complete American block but I quite like the idea of a Knockout playing best of 3 each round. Hang on though, with all due respect to the players we are not of the top drawer and would we get through three rounds in two days to leave Sunday clear for the

the defeat as well as the 'shame' of having a pegged down game gave all the other competitors plenty to keep them amused.) Round nine added even more mirth, when yet again the manager was involved in another pegged down game, when perhaps it really should have been a much more concise victory to Frances, having at one point been in a considerable lead. (More jokes at the manager's expense.)

Round ten saw Bo win her final game against Frances, Gail lose to Pauline and Rosemary beat Audrey. This gave Rosemary 7 wins with one game to complete, and Gail 6 wins with two games to complete. The pegged down game between Gail (penult and 4-back) and Frances (3-back and 4-back) was recommenced, Gail winning in two turns to set up a the final pegged down game which had in effect become a final as the winner would carry off the spoils.

The scene was set, the spectators were gathered, Rosemary 2-back & 2-back versus Gail 4-back and peg with the innings and a rush to 4-back. Both 4-back and penult were made but rover was changed. Rosemary hit but eventually failed to gain position at her hoop. Yellow was cleared supposedly to corner 2, but actually parked itself in the middle of hoop 2. Rosemary again failed to get position at her hoop and Gail shot at the ball in hoop two with the rover ball, scoring a hit but nothing else. The innings changed hands once more as Rosemary hit, but on a stop shot approach to her hoop she clanged and Gail's peg ball once again had an unintentional collision with hoop 2. Rosemary ran 2-back, but only to leave a hampered shot which was missed, and the rest as they say is history, with Gail finishing in the next turn.

The prizes were graciously presented by Carmen Lady Bazley, and all who needed to be thanked were, I hope. If anyone was neglected, I apologise, but I did have a few things on my mind, not least a sense of relief and a few nasty ideas of what to do with hoop 2.

final? I also like Robert Pritchard's SWIFT - his modified Swiss which sounds like an early version of an Egyptian format and rewards quick play - a very good idea. I decide to be democratic and put it to the players on the day but I will try and persuade them to commemorate Robert Pritchard by playing his SWIFT.

Gail Curry calls and asks for a late start. My first decision. Why not, it cannot cause any real problem can it? I agree and she will let me know when to expect her.

Never having been to Southport, I set off early and John Haslam's good directions and a clear road see me arrive in plenty of time. John shows me round and points out that now drainage has been laid in the west of the Park, the risk of the courts flooding has diminished significantly - great, one less thing to worry about. Draw up Order of Play supervised by Shaun Carter and can now relax. Phone home and learn that Tony Le Moignan, having picked up his Lamborghini, may be late. I have to phone him

on his mobile at 08.30am to check his progress. No point in worrying, go and eat.

Friday morning dawns bright and cheerful but after breakfast I learn that Tony is crawling slowly passed Birmingham - there does not seem much advantage in having a mega car when you can only do the same 10 mph as the rest of the traffic! No real problem though, a minor change to the Order of Play with me substituting for him and he will have to await Gail's arrival, whenever that may be (I hope she is not looking for her new mallet as that is here). Arrive at the Club to see John Haslam has nearly finished setting the hoops. I will just prepare my words of intro.....

"Hello Nelson, you here on holiday?"

"No I am here to play."

"Not according to my list."

"Oh yes," says Haslam "the CA told us about Morrows inclusion some time ago."

Turn away, curse quietly, tear up the Order of Play and abandon all thought of the Knock-out option. But then think positively - the odd number of players means that we will always have someone sitting out available immediately for the next game.

End of first day and all seems to have gone well though it is apparent that no one is breaking away from the pack. Twenty seven games played and there are 5 people on 3 wins; Kevin Carter and his 'cousin' Shaun, Alex Leggate and Adrian Wadley. Peter Darby is also on 3 wins and, unlike Samson, his lack of facial hair is not impeding his progress at all - perhaps someone should tell Nelson Morrow and Julian Sheraton-Davis. I wonder if I should be concerned about the rapid fluctuations in Kevin Carter's odds - does he know something that I should and obviously don't.

Saturday. Do I let this laissez-faire management continue and pair up people as they arrive? I think that would be carrying simplistic faith too far so write up Order of Play. It soon becomes apparent that those who were winning yesterday are not doing quite so well today. Tony Le Moignan is playing very steadily and Peter Taylor is hitting everything in sight. There have not been a lot of TPs - many are tried but few are successful, and Penult seems to be the problem. In two games that I should not have been watching I saw Gail Curry and Tony Le Moignan both come to grief around that hoop with all three peels safely done. Tony managed to wire himself from his pioneer approaching the hoop and Gail was totally hampered after running it. All this frenetic activity is completely bypassing Frances Ransom and Mike Hammelev who are gently meandering towards a 6 hour game - to be fair though, they did stop for lunch.

After lunch Peter Darby informs me that he will not be here on Sunday as he is playing in the Mary Rose for Cheltenham! After picking up the remnants of my coffee cup, I realise there is an advantage - there will now be an even number of players and no one will have to sit out in the morning. To the detriment of my play I start thinking about Sunday's two rounds and



Selectors' Weekend competitors pictured by the manager's get away vehicle. (Players L to R) Peter Darby, Tony le Moignan, David Kibble, Nelson Morrow, Mike Hammelev, Alex Leggate, Shaun Carter, Gail Curry, Frances Ransom, Adrian Wadley, Kevin Carter, John Haslam, David Magee, Julian Sheraton-Davis.

even contemplate arranging a final Relax a bit and contemplate Adrian Wadley's feet. What benefit does he derive by sticking one foot in the air when lying prone to line up a peg-out? And why has he just taken his shoe off to execute a hampered shot? - oh I see it is so that he can wedge his foot more comfortably into the hoop. Evening approaches and there is the strong likelihood of a wonderful sunset. The only slight cause for concern is that Dave Kibble and Alex Leggate are still battling away on lawn 3 and this could throw my plans for Sunday into confusion. My panic mounts at a rate proportional to the setting of the sun but wait, I might be lucky - Alex's mallet has just gone sailing over the hedge. He surely cannot be playing for time? No Dave is lining up the peg-out, his hat characteristically and precariously balanced between head and ground. *@*!*. He has missed with the forward ball. Shortly after, with Dave missing the peg again, I have to call a halt, especially as supper has arrived and everyone is waiting to start.

Sunday. Up early to sort out the Order of Play which I think I shall have to control totally today. There are still half a dozen in with a chance and the variable standard of play fogs any forecast. It does not take long for the worms of worry to start crawling around my stomach. All is not going well in my game against John Haslam and I have far too much time to look around and see that Dave Kibble has already lost, Adrian Wadley has forgotten how to hit and eventually loses to Peter Taylor. Alex Leggate has also finished very quickly so there is time to resume his pegged-down game against Dave

Kibble. All my plans are going to pot - Alex has won that pegged-down game. But no time to think about that, Kevin Carter and Tony Le Moignan want to start again before lunch and want to know if they can play each other. Okay I blithely say (privately thinking that there is no problem as they will not finish before my 2 o'clock deadline for last starts and so they will not get another game) Sneak off into a corner and wonders upon wonders - the Order of Play works out and, if the results go the right way, I will get a definite winner. Have lunch in relaxed fashion and wander out to see when Kevin and Tony are going to break for their lunch. Rising indigestion, they both want another game, have imposed a time-limit on themselves and will eat lunch on the hoof. Keep smiling, tear up Order of Play and start again. It still works but the Gods will have to be on my side if I am to get a clear result.

My faith is rewarded. Alex finishes quickly and in style with 26TP to give him a winning margin. Although Kevin and Adrian also have 7 wins. Alex's comes from 9 games whereas theirs come from 10. Congratulations to Alex, commiserations to Kevin who had beaten Alex on Friday. Thank you to Southport for their magnificent hospitality. I particularly liked the serving of morning coffee from a table alongside the lawns. Eighty six games played in all and no complaints (that I know of). However, I am still none the wiser about the art of management. All I definitely know is that, as my feeble results testify, it does not do a lot for your own game.

OMEGA CROQUET

The glorious 14th at Hurlingham - a one day high bisquers tournament in full swing. Alas, after 3 rounds the limitations of the X Y Z knock-out format are cruelly revealed by the sight of a pitiful group of so-called "losers", desperately keen to try again, but with no opportunity to do so.. To satisfy this need, manager Paul McDonald resourcefully created a fourth division which he calls "Omega", and considerably put it on a lawn well away from the tournament proper.

Far from giving in to failure, we losers (Quiller Barrett, Allan Maitland, Bob Porter and myself) embraced it, and so found ourselves at the very cutting edge of croquet evolution. Even as we played, a subtly different form of the game emerged spontaneously, with aims and customs better suiting our achievements and psychological needs.

To make up for incompetence, failure was counted as success; and to the loser went the honour of buying the winner a drink. Good shots were applauded only if inadvertent and/or inappropriate (e.g. a really clean reverse hoop, perfect premature peg, or peel of the opponent into an unassailable lead just as time is called). Ploys - such as stalking, practice swings, or concentrating - were approved only if the end result was not the

Celebrating success can be difficult enough in some circumstances, but celebrating failure and enjoying it?

David Wedmore, and quite possibly others, intend to do just this in a series of light hearted articles on the various aspects of the game of croquet.

one intended. Carefully prepared strokes leading to desirable positions were regarded as technical faults, although normally condoned.

This form of the game is to be known as Omega Croquet, to distinguish it from Association (or "Pi") Croquet. The conventional shaped hoop is to be replaced in due course based on a prototype tried out at Ham House this summer. Its key feature is that the ball jams in the hoop at ground level and so must be jumped.

Given sufficient demand, it is tentatively suggested that a GRAND ORDER OF OMEGA PLAYERS might be formed, with the motto "Semper Inadvertis" and a logo based around that of the CA but with the mallet replaced by partner ball - thus depicting the classic Omega join (i.e. balls cross-wired hard against the hoop). Possible HQ in a Royal Park ...humble duty etc.....arise Sir W*****mwho knows where it might lead? I commend it to the Association.

(Anyone wishing to contribute towards Omega Croquet can do so by forwarding their contributions to the editor, who will pass them on to the Great GOOP.)

H F CROWTHER SMITH ('CROWTHER'), CROQUET WRITER AND CARICATURIST EXTRAORDINARY

AN OPPORTUNITY TO SUBSCRIBE TO A LIMITED EDITION OF A HITHERTO UNPUBLISHED WORK

Crowther's claim to fame as an artist and humorist was already secure when he canvassed subscriptions for his *A Croquet Nonsense Book* in these columns in 1929. Copies of this work and his earlier *A Croquet Alphabet* now fetch hundreds of pounds at auction.

Less well known, but no less stunning, is his hitherto unpublished *The 'Best Ten' 1925*, caricaturing the ten players who contested the Champion Cup (afterwards the President's Cup) that year - viz William Longman, P Duff Mathews, G L Reckitt, D L G Joseph, Miss D D Steel, J C Windsor, Capt K H Coxe, C R Elwes, Ben C Apps, and Hugh Wright. The original artwork was bequeathed to the CA by the winner's widow, Mrs Kay Longman, in 1992, and it is now proposed to publish it in book form on the occasion of our centenary next year. This is a private project, but is endorsed by the Centenary Committee.

The twin aims of this note are to test the market and give would-be subscribers an opportunity to reserve their copies at a concessionary pre-publication price.

The sponsors of this venture will be encouraged to go ahead if they can see their way to sell a limited edition of 250 copies at £50 per copy to advance subscribers, and at £60 on publication. But, if demand should later appear to exceed supply, the price will be allowed to rise in response to market forces. Any profit realised will be donated to the CA, any loss sustained will be borne by the sponsors.

The book will be presented as a de luxe collectors' quarto, combining fine two-colour letterpress on art paper with the highest quality colour lithography in a heavy gold-blocked buckram binding.

All you have to do to reserve your copy and thus also help the sponsors forecast demand - is to fill in the coupon below and post it to the address given.

To: David Drazin
CA Centenary Committee
Roefield
The Green
Croxley Green, Herts
WD3 3HJ

Please reserve me copy(ies) of H F Crowther Smith's 'Best Ten' 1925 at the special pre-publication price of £50 per copy if this work is published, as is hoped, early in 1997. I understand that I will not be asked to pay any money until I receive my copy(ies).

Signed Date

Full name and address, including postcode

Points Of View

Robert Alexander and Richard Mann of the Medway Club focus their attention on a the idea of slightly different design to the handicap card.

A new handicap card for the Croquet Association?

During the season several of our club members have questioned the utility of the current CA handicap card. We refer to those distributed to Associates which have information about the handicap index on the front together with 6 fields per row for recording each match. There are sufficient rows for about 148 matches.

In our lives as regular club players with two or three tournaments per year, it looks as if the current card will last around 5 years - unless it falls to bits before then! However we are regularly frustrated by the limited space for recording each match and suggest a revised design to be considered as the "standard CA handicap card".

I	DATE	EVENT	HCP	OPPONENT			SCORE		PTS	INDEX		OWN
				LP	NAME	HCP	CLUB	SELF		OPPO	DIFF	

Another suggestion is to include extra information on the first and last sheet of the card to clarify some important aspects of handicapping. Suggested wording could be:

CROQUET ASSOCIATION HANDICAP CARD

Name: _____ Club: _____ Year: _____

This card should be used to record results for CA matches and will be the basis for changes to a player's handicap.

Handicap Index Changes: For handicap games the winner's index increases by 10 and the loser's decreases by 10. For level play games use the table below. Calculate the number of steps between the players' handicaps and use the appropriate column to determine the change in the index. The winner increases their index by the value in the table and the loser's index decreases by the same amount.

Handicap Changes: These should always be authorised by an official CA handicapper. Tournament players should note that a handicap will not change during a tournament, even if a trigger point is reached. Any adjustments will be based on the index at the end of the tournament

Non CA Matches: Optionally this card may be used to record results of local club matches and "friendlies", but in this case the "Index" column will not be used.

We will await with interest any comments from the handicapping committee and, of course, other players to this new design.

The benefits of recording additional information about a match will be:

- Allow recording of final score in time limited games
- Confirm when, where and in what circumstances you met a particular opponent
- Enable an official handicapper to see the real extent of a player's "ups and downs" if a handicap revision is being considered
- Encourage all players to maintain a card

The design we propose can continue as one A4 card (folded into three), but with printing running at right angles to the present layout. We estimate that the new design could record 40 - 50 matches before replacement. Thus one card should see most club players through one/two seasons.

Consideration should also be given to using the card to record ALL matches for those players who do not take part in many external competitions. This would provide a club handicapper with a complete picture of a player's ability should an adjustment be considered appropriate. Clearly where players are involved in many CA events then the option of recording only CA match results could continue.

HANDICAP STEPS	INDEX CHANGE	
	HIGHER WINS	LOWER WINS
DIFFERENCE		
0	10	10
1	11	9
2	12	8
3	13	7
4	14	6
5	15	5
6	16	4
7 OR 8	17	3
9 OR 10	18	2
11 OR GREATER	19	1

HOW THE MACROBERTSON SHIELD WAS WON

Week 2

GB vs USA

(Bowdon 22nd - 27th June 1996)

Day 7: 22nd June 1996

The Captains of all four teams have announced the following team orders for the second test matches.

GREAT BRITAIN 1. D.Maugham 2. R.Fulford 3. C.Clarke 4. S.Comish 5. D.Cornelius 6. I.Burridge

Doubles: 1. C.Clarke/R.Fulford 2. S.Comish/D.Maugham 3. I.Burridge/D.Cornelius

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA 1. J.Stark 2. J.Taves 3. E.Peterson 4. J.Osborn 5. W.Rodoni 6. R.Rebuschatis

Doubles: 1. J.Stark/E.Peterson 2. W.Rodoni/J.Taves 3. J.Osborn/R.Rebuschatis

Great Britain v United States of America

Day 7 : June 22nd 1996

GB Ahead

In the first day of the second test match at Bowdon, Cheshire, Great Britain took a 3-0 lead against the United States of America. For a while it looked as though John Taves and Wayne Rodoni (USA) would pose a serious threat to the GB pairing of Chris Clarke and Robert Fulford, but that quickly evaporated. Taves had gone to four back with the first ball and the spurned lift shot by Clarke narrowly missed its target. Rodoni eventually clanged at hoop 4, leaving Fulford with an "easy" triple peel of Taves' ball. Rodoni made a good attempt of trying to win the game but on a two ball break ran hoop 6 only to become unstuck at 1 back. Clarke took the opportunity and finished on a three ball break to the peg and the first win of the test.

In the second game, USA captain Jerry Stark, playing once again with Erv Peterson, were eventually no match for Comish and Maugham (GB). The Americans did take the Britons to a close second game. The third match once again showed the excellent partnership of Burridge and Cornelius (GB) as dominant. They have yet to lose a doubles match in the test series and John Osborn and Bob "Rebo" Rebuschatis were no match for them.

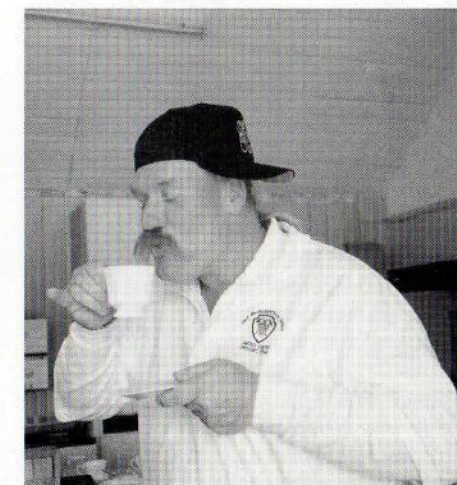
Great Britain 3 v 0 United States of America
Great Britain names first. C.Clarke/R.Fulford beat J.Taves/W.Rodoni +7(TPO)(Fulford), +17(TP)(Clarke) S.Comish/D.Maugham beat J.Stark/E.Peterson +26(STP)(Comish), +3 I.Burridge/D.Cornelius beat J.Osborn/R.Rebuschatis +17(TP)(Cornelius), +24

Day 8: 23rd June 1996

GB Extend Lead

The Great Britain team extended their lead over the United States of America in their test match at Bowdon today. In the best of 21 match series they now lead 6-1 after the second day. Despite this score, the day was history in the making for the American team. They had never before managed to take a game from the British in previous MacRobertson Shield encounters. That honour went to Wayne Rodoni (US) who took the first game against Ian Burridge (GB) although he was eventually to lose the match. The second excitement of the day was when former World No 1, David "Beast" Maugham (GB) was beaten in three games by John Taves (USA). This was the first match that the Americans had won against the British in MacRobertson history. The two remaining matches went as expected with Comish (GB) easily beating Erv Peterson (USA) and Debbie Cornelius (GB) taking her match against an out of form Bob Rebuschatis (USA). Although they are 6-1 behind the GB team, the Americans can feel that they have come of age today in this most stressful of competitive croquet environments.

Great Britain 6 v 1 United States of America
Great Britain names first. D.Maugham lost to J.Taves -23, +7, +17(TP) S.Comish beat E.Peterson +15(TP), +24(TP) D.Cornelius beat v R.Rebuschatis +24(TP), +25 I.Burridge beat W.Rodoni -15, +20(TP), +25



Jerry Stark, captain of the USA team, enjoys a cup of tea at Bowdon. Photo by Liz Taylor-Webb.

Day 9: 24th June 1996

Fulford Triples But Loses His Grip?

The top game of the day at the MacRobertson Shield saw Chris Clarke and Robert Fulford (GB) take on Jerry Stark and Erv Peterson (USA) The match was a mixture of superlative play and errors. The first game went eventually easily to the Britons. The second was also under their control when Clarke clanged rover after triple peeling Stark's ball. This left Erv Peterson with a relatively easy task of going round to the peg and winning the game. This set up the third game which could have gone either way. Peterson got the first opportunity only to break down at two back. Fulford then in running hoop one went through by approximately six inches. With his continuation stroke he failed to connect with the ball because the grip on his mallet hit the crossbar of the hoop. Stark later had an opportunity to finish the game but stuck in first hoop from right in front. Eventually Fulford completed a standard triple peel to win the game 2-1.

In the second game of the day Comish and Maugham (GB) were dominant against Osborn and Rebuschatis (USA) in the first game. Maugham stuck in hoop one allowing Osborn to get to four back but his partner could not make progress off the missed lift shot. Maugham then triple peeled Osborn out of the game. Comish then completed the game with a steady three ball break. In the second game Maugham had the first break, which, with a missed lift, allowed Comish to finish with a triple peel.

The third game saw a battle royal between the on-form team of John Taves and Wayne Rodoni (USA) and the unbeaten pairing of Ian Burridge and Debbie Cornelius (GB) The latter took the first game after Taves' ball had been pegged out, but the second game provided the afternoon spectator entertainment. John Taves was in the middle of triple peeling Rodoni when he inexplicably stuck in four back. He later regained the innings to complete the third peel and peg his own ball out. This left Rodoni on peg whilst the opponents were on four back and two. There then followed a tactical battle in which Burridge and Cornelius were desperate not to allow any shot at the peg from a side boundary whilst trying to make progress themselves. Cornelius took her ball to the peg with Burridge still on hoop two. Rodoni had a chance at a 14 yard shot but missed, hitting the side of hoop two, stopping dead right beside the ball of Burridge who then completed a three ball

break to the peg and a win.

Great Britain 9 v 1 United States of America
Great Britain names first. S.Comish/D.Maugham beat J.Osborne/R.Resbuschatis +13(TPO)(Maugham), +26(TP)(Comish) I.Burridge/D.Cornelius beat W.Rodoni/J.Taves +5, +1 C.Clarke/R.Fulford beat J.Stark/E.Peterson +25, -15, +15(TP)(Fulford)

Day 10: 25th June 1996

Great Britain today completed their expected win in the 21 match test series against the USA in the MacRobertson Shield. Leading 9-1 overnight, they required less than an hour and a half to take their second win and set up a final week at Cheltenham against New Zealand. The first win of the day went to Chris Clarke (GB Captain) who completed two triple peels against John Osborne (USA). Osborne is now beginning to play much better in this tournament but was no match for the current World Champion. The second match saw Ian Burridge (GB) easily beat Bob "Rebo" Rebuschatis (USA). The first game took 28 minutes with a speedy triple peel. This match should have been first to finish but Burridge stuck in rover with all three peels of his partner ball completed. After a scrappy interlude, Burridge had an attempted peg out but could only get one ball off the lawn. With the "last" shot, Rebuschatis finally hit in but carelessly left Burridge in a wired position with himself joined up close to the end of A baulk. With the lift shot Burridge missed but there was no respite for the mental torture of "Rebo" who did not manage to do much. Eventually Burridge did peg out to clinch the test match with an unassailable lead of 11-1.

Great Britain 13 v 1 United States of America
(GB wins test) Great Britain names first. D.Cornelius beat W.Rodoni +14, -3, +25(TP) I.Burridge beat R.Rebuschatis +26(TP), +24 R.Fulford beat J.Stark +23, +24(TP) C.Clarke beat J.Osborn +17(TP), +26(TP)

Day 11: 26th June 1996

GB wins but USA unlucky.

David Maugham and Steve Comish (GB) gained the upper hand today over John Taves and Wayne Rodoni (USA) by the skin of their teeth. Taves had earlier gone to four back, quickly followed by Rodoni to the peg. Comish hit the lift and also went to four back. With the missed lift it appeared to be a formality for Maugham to complete a triple peel and a win. At rover, he peeled his partner ball through by an inch and in attempting to jump over it and through rover to the boundary, his own ball struck the peelee bounced onto the crown of the hoop, rebounded onto his shin and a fault declared. The classic four balls round rover leave. Taves took his ball to the peg and "had a grievous", by rushing his partner ball onto the peg. Maugham hit an eight yard double and finished. The second game saw Rodoni with an early break to four back and Taves with a tidy triple peel +26(TP). The third game started with two misplaced and condoned balls by both teams, Rodoni to the east boundary



David Maugham finishing off a game at Cheltenham. Photo by Ray Hall

and Comish just out of corner two. This mirrored the start of the previous two games and the teams thought they could save a bit of time doing it this way. Hmm. In the match involving Chris Clarke and Robert Fulford (GB) against John Osborn and Bob Rebuschatis (USA), Osborn began to show better form, although it was Clarke who went to four back and Fulford who completed a triple peel.

In their second game Osborn went quickly to four back. Clarke embarked on the customary TPO but crumbled at six with one peel done. Rebuschatis then began his turn but also stuck in six with a clear intention of double peeling his partner. Fulford near to one back elected to play and missed the short shot. "Rebo" continued but missed the return roquet on his partner ball and went off the east boundary 10 yards from B baulk. Fulford took the lift and hit. He then embarked on a sextuple peel off Clarke's ball from an uncontrived position. He completed three and half peels only to stick himself in three back. The same hoop as "Rebo" who was together with the peelee at four back. The Peelee was in the jaws and his ball three yards from it an an oblique angle. The team decided Osborn should play his ball adjacent to Fulford's. A short while later "Rebo", clanged the hoop with Fulford joined with Clarke. Fulford managed two peels of a now straight triple peel before retiring.

The match of Burridge and Cornelius (GB) against Stark and Peterson (USA) provided a first game win for the Americans. The second game saw a "Riggall" by Stark on Cornelius leaving partner Peterson on one and Burridge on four back. The game became a tactical battle in which the USA team were unwilling to risk anything, with wide joins or wired positions. Burridge, by two hit-ins, got to rover. Peterson for

2 back. The excitement grew as Peterson got to the peg and attempted a long range rolled peg-out, but missed. He then took his own ball off the lawn leaving Stark three yards from the peg and Burridge in the second corner. With the resulting lift, Burridge hit and narrowly missed rushing Stark's ball onto the peg to win, +1.

The third and deciding game started with Stark once again putting pressure on the British pair with a trip to four back. The missed lift allowed Peterson the opportunity to get to one back before clanging. Cornelius then took her ball also to four back with a new standard leave. Burridge took his ball to the peg and Cornelius quickly followed to win +11.

Great Britain 16 v 1 United States of America
(GB wins test)

Great Britain names first. I.Burridge/D.Cornelius beat J.Stark/E.Peterson -26(TP)(Stark), +1, +11 C.Clarke/R.Fulford beat J.Osborn/R.Rebuschatis +22(TP)(Fulford), +5 S.Comish/D.Maugham beat W.Rodoni/J.Taves +1, -26(TP)(Taves), +23(TP)(Comish)

Day 12 : 27th June 1996

USA miss opportunities in Croquet International.

The final day's play in the Test match between Great Britain and the United States, saw GB completely rout their opponents. The USA can look back on some good personal performances but they were no match for the superior technical play of the GB team. In play today, David Maugham (GB) was taken to three games by USA Captain, Jerry Stark. The first game was totally under his control until he mis-approached rover and ended up against the wire. This left him rover and peg with Maugham still on one and one. With a missed lift in-between, Maugham added to the American's frustration by triple peeling and winning. In the second game, Stark won easily +17 and so it went to a third. Maugham took this too.

Robert Fulford (GB) against John Taves (USA) produced a high quality match. Fulford, once again using his renowned POP tactics took the first, but Taves levelled with +17 as Fulford



Wayne Rodoni of the USA gets referee Martin Murray to check for a wiring lift at Cheltenham. Photo by Peter Alvey.

missed two lift shots. The third game mirrored the first and Fulford maintained his dominant position in the sport. Steve Comish (GB) played John Osborn (USA). Osborn, another player who shows improvement did not take croquet in this match with the steady play of Comish winning the day. Chris Clarke (GB) was left to provide the afternoon entertainment playing Erv Peterson (USA). Clarke took the first game convincingly +26(TP), but Peterson showed he was not down and out by winning the second +17. Clarke ran out winner with the third game. *Great Britain 20 v 1 United States of America*
(GB wins test) Great Britain names first. C.Clarke beat E.Peterson +26(TP), -17, +23(TP) D.Maugham beat v J.Stark +3(TP), -17, +26(TP) S.Comish beat J.Osborn +26(TP), +26(TP) R.Fulford beat J.Taves +24(TP), -17, +24(TP)

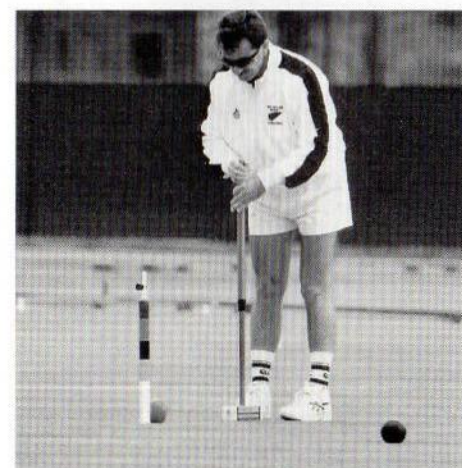
Week 2

Australia vs New Zealand (Parkstone, 22nd -27th, June, 1996)

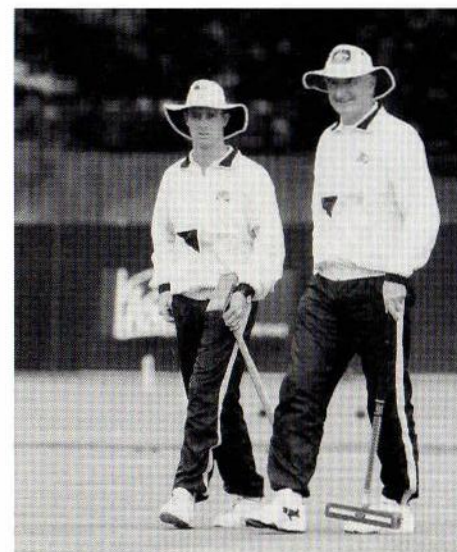
AUSTRALIA 1. C.Pickering 2. B.Hewitt 3. G.Bury 4. H.Watts 5. A.Faulkner 6. J.Newcombe
Doubles: 1. C.Pickering/H.Watts 2. B.Hewitt/J.Newcombe 3. G.Bury/A.Faulkner
NEW ZEALAND 1. S.Jones 2. P.Skinley 3. T.Stephens 4. R.Baker 5. A.Johnson 6. B.Wislang
Doubles: 1. R.Baker/T.Stephens 2. A.Johnson/P.Skinley 3. S.Jones/B.Wislang

Following the play at Nottingham (where Australia had done better than expected and New Zealand had done worse than expected) we were looking forward to a close match. Indeed the previous trans-tasman encounter between these two rivals had gone down to the very last match.

Heavy thunderstorms on the practice day made the lawns very wet and soft and one lawn was not used for the first day. The lawns had a very smooth green close cropped surface making them the most attractive of the venues to play on. Although there was no further rain during the event, the overcast conditions for much of the time prevented the lawns from really drying



Paul Skinley of New Zealand pegging out at Parkstone. Photo by Peter Alvey.



Colin Pickering & Harly Watts of Australia in play at Parkstone. Photo by Peter Alvey.

out to be as fast as they could be. Conditions varied during the event from hot sunshine to quite cold windy conditions. The preparations from the club were excellent with all the lawns being cut each morning, very good lunches and plenty of members spectating.

When the team sheets were handed in, there were no surprises, both countries had elected to keep their same team orders as at Nottingham. The match between Pickering and Watts and Skinley and Johnson saw a clinical +17TP to Skinley in 8 turns in the first. The second game was more scrappy and Skinley had to hit a long shot after his partner had been pegged out to win the match. The second match to finish saw an untidy victory for Bury and Faulkner to equalise for Australia. It was notable for a stroke by Bury where he ran 1-back and 2-back and roqueted a ball. The deciding match had gone to 3 games after Tony Stephens had done a TP to equalise. This third game saw the early control with the Australians as Newcombe got to 4-back and Faulkner started on a delayed TP but failed at 4-back with 2 peels done. After a few errors from both sides and two breaks from the New Zealanders we found ourselves in a classic pegged out game with 4-back (Baker) and peg versus 4-back. This proved to be very slow with both sides showing a lack of tactics and extreme nerves. In the end the 2 balls won to give New Zealand a 2-1 lead.

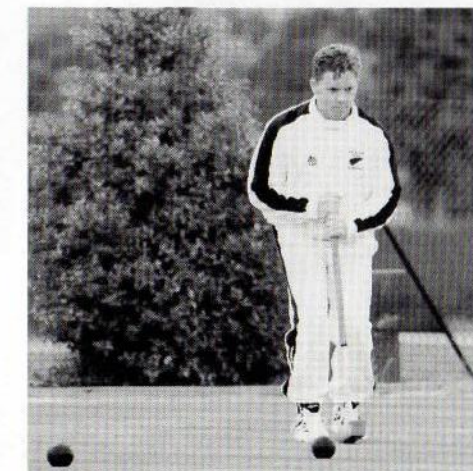
Day 2 started with an excellent no-error match between Colin Pickering and Paul Skinley with 3 26TPs, Colin doing the 1st and 3rd to equalise the match for Australia. The second match started with a blistering (for southern hemisphere speed) 50 minute 26STP from Harley Watts against Tony Stephens. The second was more in and out with a narrow win to Tony. In the decider Harley failed his triple by a careless approach and attempt at 3-back with 2 peels done. Tony started a break only to be faulted with a hammer shot after 5th at the Wylie hoop (where Keith Wylie had faulted Bob

Jackson for a double tap in 1986). Harley progressed to rover and peg but later was only able to peg out one of his balls. Tony hit (his clips being 1 and 6) and took his hoop 6 ball to the peg getting a good leave with Harley near corner 3 guarding corner 1 (Harley having relinquished his lifts by pegging out 1 ball). Tony made a hoop then missed hoop 2 badly but luckily bounced off towards his partner near hoop 3. Harley shot across and Tony picked up Harley's ball on the boundary 9 yards away. He later started a 3 ball break but missed a 3 yard rush after 4-back to lose the game. Thus the Australians took the lead (for a couple of hours).

The match between Andrew Johnson and Jeff Newcombe featured a very slow pegged out game after Andrew had double peeled Jeff's ball. Andrew's caution paid off and he also won a scrappy second game after over eight hours. New Zealand finished the day ahead at 4-3 when Brian Wislang won a close match with Ashley Faulkner in 3 games that featured some very good and very bad play, the singles having been split 2-2.

On Monday New Zealand took a commanding lead 7-3 by winning all three doubles matches. During the day any outcome had looked likely and there was a lot of tension in the air. Each match went to 3 games and they all finished within twenty minutes. The first game between Johnson and Skinley and Bury and Faulkner contained a very good precision break building turn from Paul Skinley with the opponents' balls close to corners 1 and 2 as he made hoop 3. In the second, however, Skinley made the critical error as he tried to rush to 2-back from penult after making the 2nd peel. The third game was a simple three turn 26 victory to New Zealand after Bury tried an over ambitious first hoop.

The first game between Pickering and Watts and Baker and Stephens saw the New Zealanders eventually get to 4-back and peg (Stephens on 4-back). Pickering hit in with his ball for penult and pegged out Baker's ball with Watts on 2-back. Stephens made one hoop before the Australians got control, however a missed 5 yarder by Watts after running rover left Stephens



The young Richard Baker of New Zealand impressed many with his stylish play. Photo by Peter Alvey.



The Australian team warm up for action at Nottingham, with David Maugham looking on. Photo by Ian Vincent

Realistically with 2 days to go the Ozzies had to get all three doubles matches, although they could stay alive with two wins. In the match between Pickering and Watts and Jones and Wislang we were treated to Colin Pickering going from the ridiculous to the sublime. He had stuck in a couple of hoops when he lifted his ball out of hoop 3 (the opponent having shaken him) and promptly trying a straight peel at penult which had gone wrong he ran his hoop by bouncing off the peel ball

a double target with his lift which he duly hit and finished to win by 2. After the match was taken to game all Baker made a nice TP to win the third.

The fourth day's play saw the arrival of Keith Aiton to apparently spy on the New Zealand team (even before Britain had finished off the USA at Bowdon). In sunny conditions the New Zealanders proceeded to get the first ball to 4-back on each of the 4 lawns. In the top match Steve Jones won his first game against Brett Hewitt with a TP. The second game saw errors from both players including another hammer that was faulted (this time the culprit was an Australian) before Steve emerged victorious. The decider between Richard Baker and Greg Bury saw several errors before Richard hit his last shot and pegged out Greg's ball leaving 3 and peg against 4-back. Although Greg needed to get in several times before he could win, the worst mistake was when Richard put Greg's ball off the lawn in trying to approach 2-back. Jeff Newcombe beat the steady Brian Wislang with a TP and a failed TP where he pegged out one ball. Andrew Johnson won his second singles match to split the matches and leave New Zealand well ahead at 9-5.

which was about 4 inches in front of the far wire; this was the shot he was aiming for having run out of other options. After this skill they did go onto a narrow win. Newcombe again came through with a TP and only one error to enable the Australians to win a second match. Unfortunately for the Australians, Baker and Stephens were looking very strong (possibly too strong for positions 3 and 4). The Ozzies were still in the match but the Kiwis had got the vital point and now led 10-7.

That evening the Australians prepared well with some heavy drinking at the club and watching the Poms getting beaten by the Germans at soccer (perhaps the reader remembers that evening?). The final morning dawned hot and sultry with Britain in mourning. The Ozzies faced an uphill task to win all their matches, but it was clearly possible with several of the New Zealanders showing frailty. As for the New Zealanders it was to be a race to see who could clinch the result first.

Steve Jones proved to be the winner of the race. Despite good play from Colin Pickering Steve won with 2 TPs in 3 hours at last showing some of the form that placed him at number 1 in the team. Racing with Steve was Richard Baker

who took advantage of Harley Watts who looked unconvincing as he crashed at hoop one from several yards in each game. The New Zealanders mopped up the other two matches in three to give a final score of 14-7 that by no means reflected the closeness of this contest. Greg Bury's 1st game was unusual in that he pegged himself out when he was forced to continue after messing up his leave after 3-back. Although he was on hoop 3 with no lifts against 2 and 4-back he took advantage of the first mistake of his opponent to finish. In the second we saw Greg attempt a TPO which quickly floundered, I think the only one attempted in this match.

Australia 1 v 2 New Zealand Australian names first C.Pickering/H.Watts lost to A.Johnson/P.Skinley +17(TP)(Skinley), +5 B.Hewitt/J.Newcombe lost to R.Baker/T.Stephens -17, +26(TP)(Stephens), +3 G.Bury/A.Faulkner beat S.Jones/B.Wislang +11, +12

Australia 3 v 4 New Zealand Australian names first C.Pickering beat P.Skinley +26(TP), -26(TP), +26(TP) H.Watts beat T.Stephens +26(STP), -6, +4 A.Faulkner lost to B.Wislang-4(TP), +7, +5 J.Newcombe lost to A.Johnson +7, +4

Australia 3 v 7 New Zealand Australian names first B.Hewitt/J.Newcombe lost to S.Jones/B.Wislang -22, +19, +16 G.Bury/A.Faulkner lost to A.Johnson/P.Skinley +23, -7, +26 C.Pickering/H.Watts lost to R.Baker/T.Stephens +2, -15, +17(TP)(Baker)

Australia 5 v 9 New Zealand Australian names first A.Faulkner lost to A.Johnson +16, -25(TP), +17 J.Newcombe beat B.Wislang +13(TP), +13 B.Hewitt lost to S.Jones +17(TP), +8 G.Bury beat R.Baker -26, +24, +6

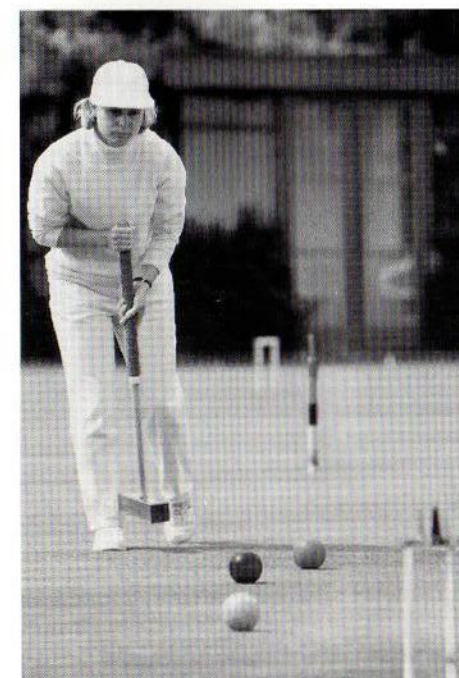
Australia 7 v 10 New Zealand Australian names first G.Bury/A.Faulkner lost to R.Baker/T.Stephens +16(TP)(Stephens), +13 C.Pickering/H.Watts beat S.Jones/B.Wislang +11, +5 B.Hewitt/J.Newcombe beat A.Johnson/P.Skinley +25(TP)(Newcombe), +12

Australia 7 v 14 New Zealand (New Zealand wins test) Australian names first G.Bury lost to T.Stephens -13, +16, +6(STP) C.Pickering lost to S.Jones +24(TP), +17(TP) H.Watts lost to R.Baker +17, +26(TP) B.Hewitt lost to P.Skinley +22, -14, +26

**Week 3
GB vs New Zealand
& Australia vs USA
(Cheltenham 29th June - 4th July 1996)**

Day 13: 29th June 1996
The Captains of all four teams have announced the following team orders for the third test matches.

AUSTRALIA 1. C.Pickering 2. H.Watts 3. B.Hewitt 4. G.Bury 5. A.Faulkner 6. J.Newcombe
Doubles: 1. C.Pickering/H.Watts 2. B.Hewitt/J.Newcombe 3. G.Bury/A.Faulkner



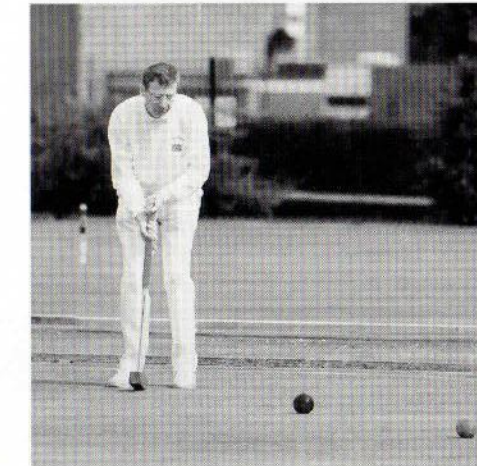
Debbie Cornelius deep in concentration during play at Cheltenham. Photo by Peter Alvey.

NEW ZEALAND 1. S.Jones 2. P.Skinley 3. T.Stephens 4. R.Baker 5. A.Johnson 6. B.Wislang
Doubles: 1. R.Baker/T.Stephens 2. S.Jones/P.Skinley 3. A.Johnson/B.Wislang
GREAT BRITAIN 1. R.Fulford 2. C.Clarke 3. S.Comish 4. D.Maugham 5. D.Cornelius 6. I.Burridge
Doubles: 1. C.Clarke/R.Fulford 2. S.Comish/D.Maugham 3. I.Burridge/D.Cornelius
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA 1. J.Taves 2. J.Stark 3.W.Rodoni 4. E.Peterson 5. J.Osborn 6. R.Rebuschatis
Doubles: 1. J.Stark/E.Peterson 2. J.Taves/W.Rodoni 3. J.Osborn/R.Rebuschatis

New Zealand take lead in final test.
In the first day of the third test match at Cheltenham, New Zealand took an important 2-1 advantage over Great Britain. The only win for the home team was by the top rated doubles pairing of Chris Clarke and Robert Fulford (GB) against Steve Jones and Paul Skinley (NZ) The feature of the second match was that all games were won by triple peels, one by David Maugham (GB) and two by the New Zealanders, Richard Baker and Tony Stephens.

In the third match, the unbeaten pairing of Ian Burridge and Debbie Cornelius (GB) were given no chance by Andrew Johnson and Brian Wislang who ran out comfortable winners +26, +26.
New Zealand 2 v 1 Great Britain New Zealand names first. R.Baker/T.Stephens beat S.Comish/D.Maugham -26(TP)(Maugham), +26(TP)(Baker), +26(TP)(Stephens) S.Jones/P.Skinley lost to C.Clarke/R.Fulford +25, +23 A.Johnson/B.Wislang beat I.Burridge/D.Cornelius +26, +26

Australia dominate the USA
Colin Pickering (AUS) convincingly won his singles game against Jerry Stark (USA). Ashley Faulkner (AUS) also proved too much for Bob Resbuschatis (USA) winning by two games to nil. Jeff Newcombe (AUS) took his time to win his match two games to nil against John Osborne (USA) the last game being a close one. Greg Bury (AUS) provided the spectator entertainment today by attempting a triple peel but faulting at rover when he double tapped after attempting the final peel and having the hoop reject it, which left him rover and rover. This allowed Wayne Rodoni (USA) to come back, eventually to four back and rover. Another hit in saw Bury eventually perform the inevitable peg out to generous applause by the crowd. In the second game, Rodoni went to four back early but Bury started a TPO, completing only one peel. Great spectator stuff ensued with a three ball ending, which Rodoni finally won +5.
Australia 3 v 1 United States of America



Steve Comish carefully watching a croquet shot at Cheltenham. Photo by Peter Alvey.

Australian names first C.Pickering beat v J.Stark +26(TP), +14 G.Bury lost to W.Rodoni -6, +19, +5 A.Faulkner beat R.Rebuschatis +25, +25(TP) J.Newcombe beat J.Osborn +23, +3

Day 14: 30th June 1996
Kiwis Bite
Great Britain, the holders of the MacRobertson Shield, are being given a hard time by New Zealand. In the best of 21 match series New Zealand lead by 5 - 2 after day 2.

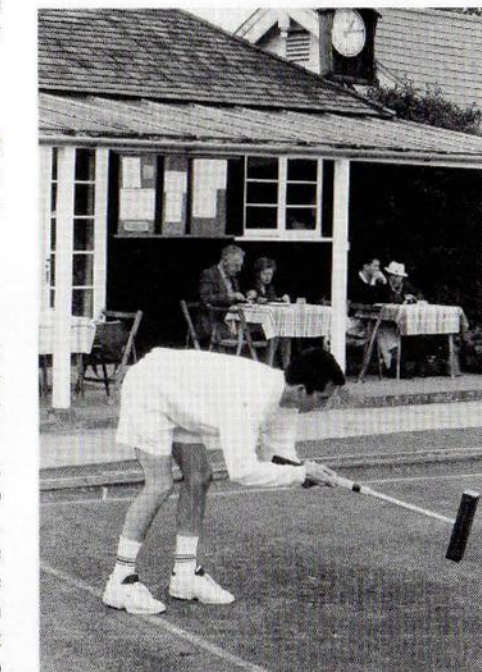
The New Zealand No 1, Steve Jones, played his usual patient, controlled croquet to beat Chris Clarke (GB) in two straight games. Debbie Cornelius (GB) did not take advantage of her innings against Brian Wislang (NZ). He ran out a comfortable winner in two games. Ian Burridge (GB) proved to be the one bright spot of the Great Britain day, although he too had to work hard against Andrew Johnson (NZ). The second game saw Burridge get to peg and four back before Johnson made any headway. In a "Riggalled" game, Johnson pegged out the

forward ball of Burridge. Burridge got to rover before Johnson managed to win +2. The third game saw Burridge in overall control and secure a much needed win for Great Britain. The match between Steve Comish (GB) and Richard Baker (NZ) saw much to indicate that Baker is a rising star in the game. Both players had their chances to finish each other off but probably the deciding factor was the long roquets which Baker made at the crucial times in the match. He deserved his win.

New Zealand 5 v 2 Great Britain New Zealand names first. S.Jones beat C.Clarke +13, +13(OTP) R.Baker beat S.Comish +17, -17(TP), +26 A.Johnson lost to I.Burridge +26, -2, +15 B.Wislang beat D.Cornelius +26(TP), +12

KANGAROOS RIDE THE EAGLE
With an overnight 3-1 lead, Australia made a good start taking the first game in the match of Colin Pickering and Harley Watts (AUS) v Wayne Rodoni and John Taves (USA), Pickering completing a triple peel. After that it was all downhill for them, making one more hoop in the next two games. Rodoni and Taves are the best of the USA doubles teams and continue to impress. The other doubles matches saw easy wins for the Australians.
Australia 5 v 2 United States of America Australian names first C.Pickering/H.Watts lost to J.Taves/W.Rodoni-25(TP)(Pickering), +26, +26 G.Bury/A.Faulkner beat J.Stark/E.Peterson +21, 24 B.Hewitt/J.Newcombe beat J.Osborn/R.Rebuschatis +13, +26

Day 15: 1st July 1996
Great Britain improved their position taking all three of the day's doubles in their match against



Ian Burridge, the dynamic entertainer of the GB team, watches the outcome of shot anxiously at Cheltenham. Photo by Ray Hall.



Harley Watts of Australia weighs up a difficult shot with referee Richard Hilditch looking on at Parkstone. Photo by Peter Alvey.

New Zealand. The doubles pairing of Burrige and Cornelius (GB) once again took top billing beating the New Zealand number one pair, Jones and Skinley convincingly.

Clarke and Fulford (GB) gave their opponents, Baker and Stephens (NZ) no chance. Fulford stands head and shoulders above any other player in the world and this was again evident today. Clarke, still lacking some confidence, showed none of his problems in executing perfect triple peels in both games.

Comish and Maugham (GB) were offered no resistance by Wislang and Johnson (NZ). Their first game was looking all over as Maugham and Comish quickly took charge, but it was Wislang who engineered a fight back only to miss a roquet at a vital stage with victory in sight.

New Zealand 5 v 5 Great Britain New Zealand names first. S.Jones/P.Skinley lost to I.Burrige/D.Cornelius +25(TP)(Cornelius), +19 A.Johnson/B.Wislang lost to S.Comish/D.Maugham +3, +22 R.Baker/T.Stephens lost to C.Clarke/R.Fulford +26(TP)(Clarke), +26(TP)(Clarke)

Rebo has his day.

The Australia v USA match is getting away from the Americans, who must surely have left themselves too much to do now to pull back. Ashley Faulkner (AUS) proved too much for John Osborn (USA), who, despite improvement has yet to show what he can really do. Brett Hewitt (AUS) and Erv Peterson (USA) were embroiled in their own personal battle for much of the day with Hewitt edging it, although not convincingly.

The match of the day was between the impressive Harley Watts (AUS) and John Taves (USA). Taves allowed Watts little chance in this game. This comes on the back of his fine doubles win yesterday with Wayne Rodoni against Watts and Pickering.

The longest game of the day was between the two players who have much to prove in this tournament. Jeff Newcombe (AUS), already credited with two triple peels, still has not found the real form leading to his selection



It's thirsty work feeding the 5,000 at Cheltenham, but these ladies managed it. Photo by Eileen Magee

for the team. His opponent, Bob "Rebo" Rebuschatis, struggled again today. In the first game he made so many mistakes his confidence, or what is left of it, was taking a real battering, and it was no surprise to see him lose it.

The second game saw no-one make a hoop for forty minutes with both players having lots of play but either bad approach work or clangs of the hoop stopped them. Newcombe got to penultimate and one back before "Rebo" got moving. He then, to much encouragement from his team-mates, ran first hoop and went all the way to four back with a reasonable leave. Newcombe missed the lift shot and "Rebo" started again. After running one and two he had the chance of a peel at four back on his forward ball. Despite the problems he has had, he showed the mental resilience to attempt it but came up short in his placement ready for the peel. By use of the opponent's ball he promoted it to peeling position on his approach shot but came through the hoop too far to control the return roquet. He almost had a "Wylie" type peel by promoting the peelee again by rushing the escape ball into it but it struck a wire and bounced clear. The crowd was beginning to enjoy this. What he needed was a forward rush out of five to assist with the peeling at four back but he went through too hard, no doubt thinking of the times he has previously stuck. He was faced with a roll which he did not do well and was four yards short of the peelee. He shot and missed. Despite the error, this series of shots, some of them perfectly executed, will have done much for him. The game progressed with a series of errors by both players but "Rebo", to chants from the crowd of his name, finally pegged out. His first win. The first two games had taken 9 hours 38 minutes. This match will be completed on Wednesday.

Australia 7 v 3 United States of America Australian names first A.Faulkner beat J.Osborn +26, +9 J.Newcombe +14 v R.Rebuschatis +2 (Unfinished) H.Watts lost to J.Taves +25, +24 B.Hewitt beat E.Peterson +9, +6

Day 16: 2nd July 1996

In the best of 21 match test against New Zealand, Great Britain showed their mettle as they started the day at 5 all. In the Fulford (GB) versus Skinley (NZ) match, penultimate hoop was the one that made the day. In the first game, Fulford embarked upon a delayed triple peel and with two done rushed opponent into the back of penultimate, but not jawed. The take off saw his ball hill off to leave an angled hoop. Worse was that the opponent's ball ended up in the jaws. Fulford tried to jump over it but failed. Skinley's other ball was already at rover with



The American team putting heart and soul into their national anthem on 4th July at Cheltenham. Photo by Eileen Magee.

Fulford's peelee and he then took his ball round to four back. Later in the game Skinley approached penultimate but clanged it from straight in front leaving Fulford with the easiest of finishes.

Debbie Cornelius (GB) was very impressive today. Her opponent Andrew Johnson (NZ) made only two hoops before having to concede defeat to two triple peels.

David Maugham (GB) and Tony Stephens (NZ) were locked in their own private battle for much of the day. Not many mistakes were made by either player, with game one taken by Stephens. In the second game, Maugham went to four back on the third turn but croqueted his own ball off the lawn whilst going to opponent's ball near the peg. This did not matter as Maugham in this position usually makes a leave of all three balls together anyway, but it did allow Stephens the luxury of another shot. He missed it. Maugham then went round and finished +26. In the third game, Maugham had another ball to four back but Stephens hit the lift and did likewise. With a missed shot by Maugham, Stephens then commenced his triple attempt which came to an end with one peel done. Maugham hit a short lift but he too came to grief at three back after two peels on his ball when he came up short on a little take off. This left Stephens with a short shot which saw him get to the peg but with a poor leave of Maugham's backward ball at three back, in front, four yards away, slightly angled. Maugham did not flinch and ran it cleanly up to his partner ball which had been left at four back. He then went to the peg. "Riggalled" Stephens' forward ball and jawed his own in rover. Stephens lifted, shot, but missed. Maugham ran rover and shot at the peg and missed. It was all over two shots later when Maugham hit the peg from the east boundary.

The final game on this day saw two very contrasting styles of play. The almost manic style of Ian Burrige (GB) and the quiet, calm approach of Brian Wislang (NZ) Burrige took the first, running hoops from long distances and giving his opponent no chance. There was little

in that to indicate what was to come. In the second Wislang took control and won easily. The drama was set for the third game. Burrige went quickly to four back followed by Wislang. A missed lift saw Wislang on a triple peel. At rover, with two peels done, he only just got the peelee through and in attempting to jump it to the boundary and his escape ball, went into it. He attempted a long peg out from south of rover but missed going to Burrige's balls. On splitting them up he carelessly croqueted one of Burrige's balls off the lawn leaving himself joined in the middle of the lawn. Now came the full Burrige pre-strike build up. The twitch of the socks, shorts and mallet in both hands followed eventually by a centre ball hit from 13 yards. This was with his forward ball so he laid up and Wislang pegged one ball out. With a series of spectacular angled long hoops Burrige went to the peg. Wislang shot and missed. Burrige then approached four back and made a very poor approach. The crowd were treated to more of this mental preparation and a successfully run hoop. A short while later he pegged out to great applause of the crowd. The endings of these last two matches were greeted with generous applause for all four players who had entertained them throughout the afternoon.

New Zealand 5 v 9 Great Britain New Zealand names first. A.Johnson lost to D.Cornelius +25(TP), +25(TP) B.Wislang lost to I.Burrige +16, -24, +1 P.Skinley lost to R.Fulford +6, +26(TP) T.Stephens lost to D.Maugham -17(TP), +26, +5



Ian Burrige & David Maugham relaxing in between play at Cheltenham. Photo by Ray Hall.

Australia too good for the USA

In this test match to avoid the wooden spoon, they were playing for pride. The strong partnership of Pickering and Watts (AUS) lost the first game +1 against the USA duo of Stark and Peterson.

In the doubles match Faulkner and Bury (AUS) against Osborn and Rebuschatis (USA) it was somewhat one sided. The USA team could not do anything to make a reasonable challenge.

The third doubles match of the day saw

Taves and Rodoni, a fine doubles pairing giving the Australian pairing of Hewitt and Newcombe some real trouble. The Aussies took the first with as fine a finish as you would hope to see after Taves had "Riggalled" Hewitt out of the game. Unfortunately for the Americans a short take off by Rodoni went out of bounds leaving Newcombe for two back with a corner cannon. Nicely executing it, he made that hoop and two more before making it into a three ball break of sorts and going to the peg and a win. Newcombe showed a lot of spirit in that game following his trials and tribulations from the previous day's play when he seemingly could do little right. The second game was to have been a triple peel by Taves but it crumbled about him at rover. The Americans had enough of a lead to see them through and set up the third game.

Taves was again on a triple peel but missed a three yard shot at hoop five. Later the Australians had got to peg and four back and laid up in the middle of the lawn with a rush to four back but only about 13 yards from Taves. He hit, double peeled Rodoni but ended up with a peg out attempt from rover. He "Riggalled" the opponent and himself and with a missed lift recorded a much needed win.

Australia 9 v 4 United States of America Australian names first G.Bury/A.Faulkner beat J.Osborn/R.Rebuschatis +26(TP)(Bury), +10 B.Hewitt/J.Newcombe beat J.Taves/W.Rodoni -6, +23, +4 C.Pickering/H.Watts beat J.Stark/E.Peterson -1, +13, +17

Day 17: 3rd July 1996

Great Britain wins as New Zealand hide in a corner.

The steady play of Tony Stephens (NZ) together with his younger partner Richard Baker (NZ) ensured an easy win against Ian Burrige and Debbie Cornelius (GB).

The second match saw David Maugham and Steve Comish

(GB) in impressive form. With two triple peels by Maugham this squared the day's results and meant that GB required only one more match to retain the MacRobertson Shield.

Fulford and Clarke (GB) playing Andrew Johnson and Brian Wislang (NZ) gained the early initiative in the first game when Fulford went to four back early. When Johnson shot and missed, Clarke started a triple peel but clanged hoop four. After a series of clanged hoops and missed roquets the position was that

Johnson had pegged out Fulford's ball leaving Wislang on three back and Clarke on penultimate. Clarke hit the leave and split his ball in front of his hoop and opponent near peg. He ran the hoop cleanly but hit the opponent. He approached rover only to clang it. With careful leaves Wislang progressed to Peg but did not get a rush to the peg and having used Clarke's ball left the obligatory ball open, but 35 yards away from Clarke. Clarke shot and hit and finished +2.

The next game would see GB retain the shield or NZ fight on to another day. Nerves were evident now. Wislang went to 4 but clanged. Clarke replied with a clang at one. Johnson went to one back and.....clanged! Eventually the clippage was peg and four back for the New Zealanders and one for Fulford and four back for Clarke. At this point Wislang elected to corner his ball in second corner. Johnson's ball was a yard out of fourth corner. Fulford had a rush on partner ball to the north boundary which he took. He took off to Wislang's ball but came up short. In a spectacular shot he cut rushed it half way down the boundary towards one. One roll later, he was away. A delayed triple peel was constructed, slightly amended, but always on the cards. He did have one problem at the end when he carelessly put an opponent's ball almost in the jaws of rover. He sorted that out with a cannon using the peelee and he then did the peel. To great applause he pegged out to win the Mac for GB again. The moral of the story is:- "When you play someone like Fulford, do not corner - shoot." A painful lesson for the more conservative minded New Zealanders.

Australia defeated USA 11-6 with 4 to play. New Zealand 6 v 11 Great Britain (GB wins test and MacRobertson Shield)

New Zealand names first. A.Johnson/B.Wislang lost to C.Clarke/R.Fulford +1, +5(TP)(Fulford) R.Baker/T.Stephens beat I.Burrige/D.Cornelius +24, +26 S.Jones/P.Skinley lost to S.Comish/D.Maugham +26(TP)(Maugham), +8(TP)(Maugham)

Australia wins third spot. USA get the wooden spoon.

The top match here was John Taves (USA) and Colin Pickering (AUS). Taves has improved every game during this tournament. Today he attempted triple peels in both games and was somewhat unlucky not to complete one of them. He did run out an easy winner, which is no mean achievement against a person of the standing of Pickering.

The second match saw Wayne Rodoni (USA) taking on Brett Hewitt (AUS). This lasted all day with lots of errors mixed with good play too. In the first game Rodoni had only to make the peg and had a series of shots which he eventually made. The second game went to Hewitt. The third game saw too many errors to make the game really interesting but was on points a convincing win for Rodoni.

Greg Bury (AUS) was playing Erv Peterson (USA) but the first was reportedly a

duff game. In the second game Bury did shoot at an open ball, the full length of the lawn, but hit the wired ball instead. Good use of the hills at Cheltenham!

Jerry Stark (USA) played Harley Watts (AUS). Watts' style has attracted the eye in this tournament but he was convincingly beaten today by the USA Captain.

The recommenced "grinder" of a match of Jeff Newcombe (AUS) and Bob Rebuschatis (USA) was no great shakes, Newcombe eventually winning without "Rebo" scoring a single point.

Australia 11 v 7 United States of America (Australia wins test)

Australian names first B.Hewitt lost to W.Rodoni +6, -25, +24 C.Pickering lost to J.Taves +24, +9 G.Bury beat E.Peterson +20, +3 H.Watts lost to J.Stark +17, +14 J.Newcombe beat R.Rebuschatis +14, -2, +26

Day 18: 4th July 1996

Great Britain underline superiority in MacRobertson Shield

Great Britain completed their test match against New Zealand today at Cheltenham winning by 14-7. Their overall strength in depth proved too much for the teams from Australia and the United States also. In the singles matches today Great Britain won three of them. Robert Fulford (GB) beat Steve Jones (NZ) with two triple peel turns which underlined his personal dominance upon the game. These were his 12 and 13 triple peels of the tournament which ensured his number one spot in the TP competition.

Chris Clarke (GB) easily beat Paul Skinley (NZ). Clarke, as previously reported has had an up and down tournament mixing good play with bad yet still managed to do 12 triple peels in the tournament.

David Maugham (GB) had a tough time against Richard Baker (NZ) who is destined for better things in this game. Maugham did eventually beat him with a perfectly executed triple peel (11th of the series). Baker will have learned a lot from this experience. Given that he



The MacRobertson Shield, the prize everyone wanted to win. Photo by Eileen Magee.

has been sitting examinations during this series his performances are all the more remarkable.

Steve Comish (GB) did not take croquet against the impressive Tony Stephens (NZ). He had four shots, quote "two hilled off", unquote. Stephens has been the pick of the New Zealand team. His style and approach to the game is a lesson to all.

New Zealand 7 v 14 Great Britain (GB wins test and MacRobertson Shield)

New Zealand names first. T.Stephens beat S.Comish +26(TP), +26(TP) S.Jones lost to R.Fulford +17(TP), +17(TP) R.Baker lost to D.Maugham +3, -22, +26(TP) P.Skinley lost to C.Clarke +25(TP), +23

Aussies and USA battle it out on the last day.

Although this test has been won by Australia, there was still pride to play for. The Australian

pairing of Colin Pickering and Harley Watts completely dominated John Osborn and Bob Rebuschatis (USA) Pickering and Watts have been the most impressive of the Australian team and are a formidable, if beatable, pairing. Brett Hewitt and Jeff Newcombe (AUS) had a long battle royal with Jerry Stark and Erv Peterson (USA) taking the first game. The second game was also eventually won by them. Hewitt has been the steady hand for Newcombe who, like Chris Clarke (GB), produced his best form in the doubles matches. Stark has played better in the latter stages of this tournament whilst Peterson was competent without being exciting. Greg Bury and Ashley Faulkner (AUS) had the toughest match of the day against the proven good pairing of Wayne Rodoni and John Taves (USA) Both the Australians are very effective with Bury in particular a very hard hitter. Today he made rover surrender to him in the last game even though it was difficult to run. From that they recorded their victory.

Australia 14 v 7 United States of America (Australia wins test)

Australian names first B.Hewitt/J.Newcombe beat J.Stark/E.Peterson +14, +9 C.Pickering/H.Watts beat J.Osborn/R.Rebuschatis +26(TP)(Pickering), +24 G.Bury/A.Faulkner beat J.Taves/W.Rodoni-5, +26(TP)(Bury), +26

The final positions were:-

- 1st Great Britain 3 wins
- 2nd New Zealand 2 wins
- 3rd Australia 1 win
- 4th United States of America 0 wins

Great Britain were presented with the MacRobertson Shield by the Croquet Association President, Mr John Solomon. The next MacRobertson Shield series will be held in New Zealand in January 2000.

Thanks to Richard Hilditch and especially Brian Storey for providing the reports and results of the MacRobertson Shield.



Chris Clarke, GB team captain, receives the MacRobertson Shield from CA President John Solomon at Cheltenham. Photo by Carmen Bazley.

Handicap Alterations

<i>Jersey Open 22 - 28 July</i>			
B. Dourthe	3.5	to	2
<i>Parkstone Open Wknd 3 - 4 Aug</i>			
P Rowcliffe	4	to	3.5
Mrs P Simmons	10	to	9
<i>Hurlingham 3 - 11 August</i>			
R Hoskyns	4.5	to	4
D Ruscombe-King	5	to	6
Mrs H Carlisle	3	to	3.5
G Cuttle	3	to	2.5
Mrs S Davies	8	to	7
P Earldley	1.5	to	1
D Gurney	4.5	to	5
Mrs P Healy	3	to	3.5
Mrs O Jackson	14	to	16
N Jackson	3.5	to	4
Mrs G Lewis	8	to	7
Mrs C Osmond	6	to	7
Mrs R Stephens	12	to	11
R Stephens	1.5	to	2
Miss S Thrussell	18	to	14
<i>Colchester August Hcp 4 August</i>			
Graham Bond	5	to	4.5
Peter Allnutt	3	to	2.5
Jim Potter	12	to	9
<i>Crawley Over 50's 7 - 8 Aug</i>			
P Highton	16	to	18
Mrs J Nash	11	to	10
<i>Guildford & Godalming 10 - 11 Aug</i>			
J Hilditch	3.5	to	3
H Smorfitt	0	to	0.5
R Parkins	6	to	5
<i>Autumn Tournament 12 - 17 Aug</i>			
F de Ansoarena	5	to	4.5
Mrs D Brothers	9	to	8
Miss J Carpenter	20	to	18
David Collins	4.5	to	4
James Barry	8	to	7
Peter Nash	2.5	to	2
Bryan Teague	1.5	to	1
Mrs M Wainman	14	to	16
<i>Harrow Oak Hcp Wknd 17 - 18 Aug</i>			
John Boardman	10	to	9
Peter Dennis	12	to	11
D Ruscombe King	6	to	4.5

<i>Nailsea 17 - 18 Aug</i>			
K Chambers	4.5	to	4
D Price	4.5	to	4
<i>19 Aug</i>			
D Ironside	18	to	16
J Kay	12	to	11
Mrs S Kay	16	to	17
<i>Nailsea 21 Aug</i>			
K Chambers	4	to	3.5
<i>Cheltenham 23 - 25 Aug</i>			
E Fabian	20	to	22
A Cowing	18	to	16
A Potter	3.5	to	4
Mrs J Mathews	16	to	14
D Harrison	8	to	9
Mrs K Whittall	4.5	to	5
M Kolbuszewski	6	to	7
Mrs U Atter-Martin	14	to	12
K Davis	5	to	4.5
P Higgins	12	to	11
Mrs J Powell	14	to	12
Mrs C Smith	4.5	to	4
B Wainman	2.5	to	1.5
D Regan	3.5	to	3
Mrs M Regan	9	to	8
A Bogle	2.5	to	3
B James	7	to	6
<i>Hunstanton 24 - 27 Aug</i>			
P Allnutt	2	to	1.5
I Birdseye	14	to	16
G Chamberlin	7	to	8
M Harbord	12	to	11
M Kolbuszewski	7	to	8
Mrs C Pearce	7	to	6
Mrs S Stenhouse	8	to	7
J Williams	8	to	9
<i>Hurlingham 24 - 26 Aug</i>			
John Boardman	9	to	8
Marjorie Boyd	10	to	9
Denis Cross	4	to	3.5
Bob Stephens	2	to	2.5
Sheila Watts	20	to	18
<i>Parkstone 29 August</i>			
Jeremy Marshall	14	to	9
J Lonsdale	11	to	10
K Parsons	8	to	7
I Scott	4	to	3
D Price	4	to	3.5

Caption Competition No.3 Winner

The winner of the Penguin Book of British Comic Writing was Mr John Haslam his caption being:

"Found at last, the CA Publicity Committee!"

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

NEW ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITIES

Classified advertising has now been introduced to the Gazette at very competitive rates, to both individual members and clubs as well as rates for non-members and trade/commercial. Details of how to place an advert should be available now at all clubs.

January Issue Published January 14th

Deadline for January Issue December 10th

MCP Mallets by Michael Percival

Used & Endorsed by Chris Clarke

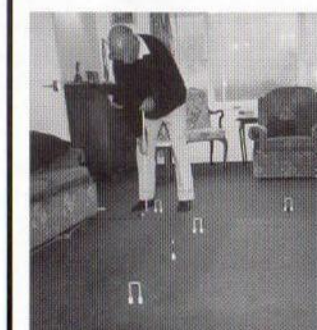
You may not have the same level of skill as Chris Clarke, the 1995 World Croquet Champion, but you can have a mallet made by Michael Percival who will use the highest level of skill and care to make your mallet to the same high specifications as he did for Chris.

All mallets are hand crafted from the finest materials and custom made to individual requirements. Moderately priced club mallets are also available as well as a full repair service for all types of mallets.

Mike Percival Potash Farm, Church Road, Crowfield, Suffolk IP6 9TG Tel: 01449 - 711406



TROQUET™ CARPET CROQUET
FIELD COURT GAMES © PAT No 2237211



Push back the furniture and enjoy a superb game of croquet this Christmas!

Excellent value at £55.00 plus £5 p+p

Fieldcourt Games, PO box 1228, Colchester, CO1 1WT Tel: 01206 575798/ 42629