

# CROQUET ASSOCIATION

## NEWS

### Sports Council Grant

Reported in the last issue of the Gazette the good news that our Sports Council grant had been confirmed at £25,000 for this year and £20,000 for the following year. However, bad news was to follow. The Sports Council has been split into an English Sports Council (Scotland and Wales have their own Sports Councils) and a UK Sports Council. The latter is intended to concentrate on international affairs and elite sports and performers. Our grant for this year has been divided into £7,000 from the ESC and £18,000 from the UKSC. This is clearly a ridiculous division, as only £3,000 of last year's grant of £28,000 was allocated to the international fund. The danger is that next year we would not be able to justify a large grant from the UKSC, and would therefore lose out. In common with other sports who have suffered in this way, we have declined to accept the grant on these terms and negotiations will continue.

### National Lottery

Nailsea Croquet Club has been awarded £36,000 by the Sports Panel of the National Lottery fund, towards the building of a new clubhouse. The Croquet Association is playing its part in the project with a loan of £3,000 and supported the application. However, the major effort has come from the club itself and they must be congratulated on their initiative and success.

### Berkshire Croquet Club

The newly-formed Berkshire Croquet Club is being assisted by the Croquet Association with a grant of £500 and a loan of £2,500, payable in instalments as required. This is a major new development for a five-lawn club, which will in due course apply for a National Lottery grant. We wish them every success.

### Subscriptions for 1998

As we have to move further towards self-sufficiency in the light of a decreasing Sports Council grant, it is inevitable that subscriptions will have to increase at least in line with inflation and probably more in future years. Council has accepted the recommendation of F&GP committee that subscriptions for 1998 should be as under:

Tournament	25	(22)
Tournament composite	40	(35)
Veteran	21	(18)
Non-Tournament	15	(12)

Non-Tournament composite 22 (19)  
Junior 11

All figures in pounds sterling. Figures in brackets are discounted rates for payment by direct debit. The Junior rate of subscription has not been increased.

The Club Registration Fee will also be increased to £5.40, in line with inflation since the last increase. F&GP is investigating how income can be increased from other sources and will be preparing a longer term forecast of our future needs.

### Membership Statistics

Recruitment of new associates in the first two months of this year has been disappointingly low at 10 for January and 13 for February. In addition, the number of members who have yet to pay their subscriptions is higher than in previous years. No doubt the increase in subscriptions is having some adverse effect, as is the loss of incentive to pay before Feb 1st (other than receipt of the Fixture Book) for those who do not wish to pay by direct debit. Nevertheless, we cannot afford to be complacent and every effort must be made to maintain and increase our membership. Your help will be appreciated.

### Direct Debit

The number of associates paying by direct debit continues to grow and has reached a total of 940. We look forward to registering the first one thousand. The system has worked very smoothly and the only problems have been where banks failed to cancel standing orders in spite of instructions on the mandate to do so. These few problems were quickly spotted and resolved by the Croquet Association office. If you have not yet paid your subscription for 1997, you can still do so by direct debit at the discounted rate. There is no need to send a cheque for this year's subscription with your mandate. Save yourself money now and the office time in future by completing a mandate.

*Bill Lamb*

### The CA Planning Group

The Chairman, in his column, reports the setting up of a small free-standing planning group to prepare for the new four year plan, to be submitted to the Sports Council in 1998, in support of a new grant application. With the

millennium approaching, the time is also ripe to look to the future of croquet. The group consists of the following members:-

Bill Arliss (Southwick and Council)  
Quiller Barrett (Surbiton)  
Michael Evans (Beverley)  
Tony Fathers (Roehampton)  
David Magee (Cheltenham and Council)  
Ian Scott (Parkstone)  
Bill Sidebottom (Kenilworth and Council)

The group has members from large and small clubs spread throughout the country, with a range of playing handicaps from low to middling, and with varied experience at clubs, in Federations, and on Council committees.

Following our first meeting on the 5th April, we have initiated a first stage exercise to look at ideas and concepts on the issues which affect, or might affect, the sport of croquet in the future. They include the obvious issues, such as our relationship with the Sports Council, organisation, the development of players and quality in the game, finance, marketing and sponsorship, and the recruitment of new members. We also included, for example, the consideration of single ball and golf croquet, and how they might develop to help to phase beginners up to tournament play, or be the basis for more organised winter play. In this first stage we particularly wish to be open to any thoughts or suggestions without limitation, and we would welcome any ideas which could apply to croquet as a whole or to particular parts of the game.

The first stage will be completed by mid-June. The second stage will co-ordinate the themes and ideas from stage one in order to develop a draft overall plan, both for the sport and for the Sports Council submission, including a summary document for comment and consultation. This summary will be completed by mid-October, with a target date set for completion of the group's final document by the end-January 1998. The period of consultation for the summary report will necessarily be fairly short.

We would especially welcome any views and comments during the next few weeks so that they can be considered at the start of the process. Initial contact could be with me on 01926 852638 or with any of the group's members

*Bill Sidebottom*

# The Croquet Gazette

Issue 249

May 1997

### IN THIS ISSUE

The Chairman's Column

Letters

Tournament Reports

Publicity News

News & Information

CA News

How's Your Wrist? (part 2)

Far Flung Croquet (part 1)

Rushes & Crushes

The Solomon Trophy

Points Of Law

Recruitment

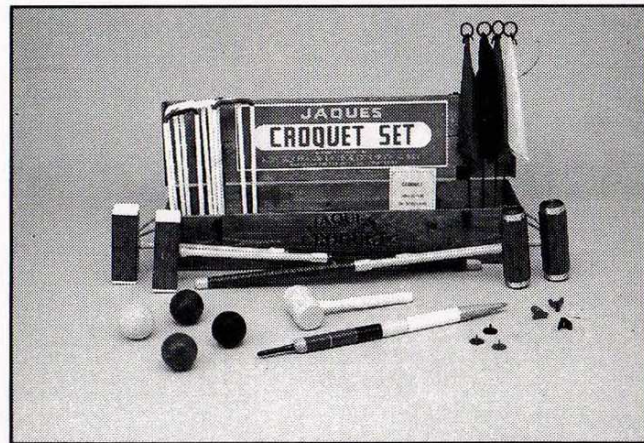
Golf Croquet



**Commendation For Outstanding Achievement - David Price being presented with his award by Stephen Badger, Chairman of the Croquet Association**







**JUBILEE CROQUET SET**

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

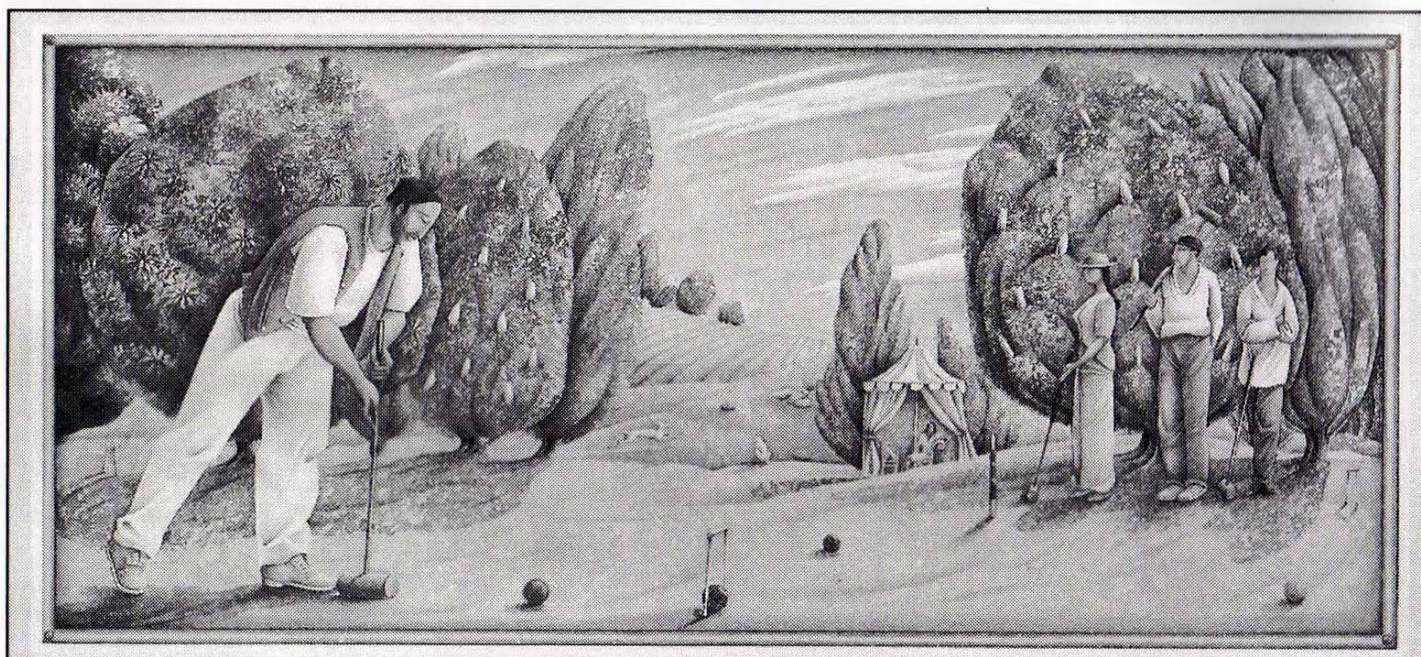
**CRAFTSMAN**

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

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



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



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



**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.

**PUBLICATION DETAILS**

The Croquet Gazette is published six times per year in January, March, May, July, September and November.

**Publication Schedule**

Copy should reach the editor before 16th December, 16th February, 16th April, 16th June, 16th August and 16th October.

**Advertising**

Full details of all advertising rates and data are available at all clubs as well as through the Editor of the Gazette and the Secretary of the CA.

**Specific Questions & Queries**

Specific questions or queries should be sent direct to the relevant CA official, e.g. Laws questions to the chairman of the Laws Committee.

**Copy Details**

General copy and contributions should be sent direct to the editor on floppy disc (text or ASCII files). Typed work or clear handwriting is also acceptable.

Photographs are always required. Both black and white or colour prints can be utilised. Please detail on the reverse of all photos the subject of the picture, and if you require the photographs to be returned please include your address on the reverse.

**Tournament Reports**

These should be written and sent to the Secretary of the CA within SEVEN DAYS of the completion of a tournament. Failure to comply with this guideline may result in reports failing to be published. ALL REPORTS should be accompanied by a copy of the tournament results. For knockout events please include draw sheets. For American blocks, Swiss and Egyptian formats please supply a list of the top three positions with the numbers of games won/lost. Order of play sheets are not required to accompany reports for publication, but are expected to be sent in to the office together with the results by tournament managers.

**Delivery Queries**

Queries regarding delivery of the Gazette to members should be directed to the Secretary of the Croquet Association and not to the Editor.

**This Issue**

Editor Gail Curry  
Production Gail Curry  
Syd Jones  
Margaret Selmes  
Paul Campion

Printing The Print House, Prospect Terrace, North Shields, Tyne & Wear  
Tel: 0191 - 2587027

**CROQUET ASSOCIATION CONTACTS**

Secretary Paul Campion  
The Croquet Association, The Hurlingham Club, Ranelagh Gardens, London SW6 3PR  
Tel: 0171 - 7363148

**Chairman of Council**

Stephen Badger  
154 Burbage Road, Dulwich, London SE21 7AG  
Tel: 0171 - 2748126

**Gazette Editor**

Gail Curry  
33 Percy Gardens, Tynemouth, Tyne & Wear NE30 4HQ . Tel: 0191 - 2579045

E-mail gail@cgazette.demon.co.uk

**Tournament Committee**

Bill Arliss  
30 Hove Park Villas, Hove, West Sussex BN3 6HG. Tel: 01273 728204

E-mail wha@mm-brig.mottmac.com

**Laws Committee**

Bill Lamb  
5 Bondyke Close, Cottingham, North Humberside HU16 5ND. Tel: 01482 - 840739

E-mail bill.lamb@bondyke.demon.co.uk

**Handicap Coordination Committee**

Bill Lamb

**Coaching Committee (Acting Chairman)**

Colin Irwin  
5 Hawthorn Road, Plumley, Knutsford, Cheshire WA16 0UH. Tel: 01565 - 722556

**International Committee**

Colin Irwin

**Finance & General Purposes Committee**

David Magee  
Hurstwood, Moorend, Hartpury, Gloucester GL19 3DG . Tel: 01452 - 700353

**Development Committee**

Derek Trotman  
3 High Stobhill, Morpeth, Northumberland NE61 2TT. Tel: 01670 - 518228

**Golf Croquet Committee**

Syd Jones  
36 Front Street, Monkseaton, Whitley Bay, Tyne & Wear NE25 8DF. Tel: 0191 - 2522962

**Publicity Committee**

Syd Jones

**Editorial Board**

Hamish Hall  
5 Telford House, North Road, Bristol BS8 3PP  
Tel: 0117 - 9741683

**Selection Committee**

Ian Burrige  
47 Porter Close, West Thurrock, Grays, Essex RM20 4AS. Tel: 01375 - 375295

E-mail Ian\_Burrige@msn.com

**Equipment Committee**

Bill Sidebottom  
Malthouse, 6 Malthouse Lane, Kenilworth, Warwickshire CV8 1AB. Tel: 01926 - 852638

**FEDERATION CONTACTS**

**EAST MIDLANDS**

Gary Norman  
Ivydene, 25 Atherstone Road, Measham, Swadlincote, Derbyshire. Tel: 01530 - 270826

**EAST ANGLIA**

Judy Anderson  
16 Wellpond Close, Sharnbrook, Bedford MK44 1PL. Tel: 01234 - 781783

**LONDON & SOUTH EAST**

Quiller Barrett  
16 Frinton Court, Hardwick Green, London W13 8DW Tel: 0181 - 9985453

**NORTH WEST**

Mrs J Partington  
9 Hatherway Road, Sunnybank, Bury BL9 8EQ

**CROQUET NORTH**

Bruce Rannie  
7 Keswick Drive, Cullercoats, North Shields, Tyne & Wear NE30 3EW Tel: 0191 - 2529739

**SOUTH WEST**

David Magee  
Hurstwood, Moorend, Hartpury, Gloucester GL19 3DG . Tel: 01452 - 700353

**SOUTHERN**

Mike Duck  
Arabis, York Road, West Hagbourne, Oxfordshire OX11 0NG

**WEST MIDLANDS**

Chris Bennett  
285 Harborne Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 3JB Tel: 0121 - 4556426

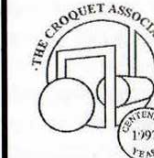
**YORKSHIRE & HUMBERSIDE**

Mike Evans  
12 Middlehowe Green, Walkington, Beverley HU17 8TE Tel: 01482 - 882936

(If any of the above contacts change please inform the editor and the CA Secretary.)

Buy a TIE (£12-00 post paid) and get a FREE copy of 'THE LAWS'.

The choice is from any of the following ties:  
**C.A. Striped, C.A. Bow Tie, C.A. Monogrammed [Hoop, ball & Mallet],  
The President's Cup, The Chairman's Salver,  
The Spencer-Ell and The Inter-Counties.**  
(Available only to CA members who have played in those events)



send orders to: The Croquet Association,  
c/o The Hurlingham Club,  
Ranelagh Gardens, London SW6 3PR







Front Cover: David Price is presented with his award at the Vintage Times Pharmaton Senior Sports Awards by Steven Badger, Chairman of the Council of the Croquet Association

Next Issue Published 14th July

Copy Deadline 16th June

Editor's Hotline 9th June 6.00 pm - 10.00 pm

CONTENTS

EDITORIAL..... 4
CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN..... 4
NEWS & INFORMATION..... 5
LETTERS..... 6
POINTS OF LAW..... 7
CROQUET AROUND THE WORLD..... 8
TECHNICAL MATTERS..... 9
GOLF CROQUET..... 10
PUBLICITY BRIEFING..... 11
STOP PRESS..... 11
INDOOR CROQUET..... 12
HOW'S YOUR WRIST?..... 13
1997 CENTENARY DINNER..... 14
RECRUITMENT..... 14
TOURNAMENT REPORTS..... 15
THE SOLOMON TROPHY..... 18
FRONT COVER STORY..... 19
NEW ASSOCIATES..... 19
HANDICAP ALTERATIONS..... 19
CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING..... 19
CROQUET ASSOCIATION NEWS..... 20

Editorial

Welcome to a Gazette with a slightly different appearance and styling which will, hopefully, be even clearer and easier to read. The two major changes concern the contents and contacts page, which you should have already read, and the inclusion of Golf Croquet News in the centre four pages, which I hope you will read.

The inclusion of the contact names should be self explanatory, and will I hope aid communication between players and administrators. The addition to the Gazette of Golf Croquet News, previously produced separately, is, I hope, a permanent and positive feature which may go some way to prove that the void some would have between the disciplines of Golf Croquet and Association Croquet is not as wide or deep as some would have us believe.

A move I do not believe is positive is

Chairman's Column

First, looking back. In view of our centenary, Council recently decided that it would be appropriate to see who the longest-serving associates were and indeed how long they had been associates. Amazingly one (Major Freddie Stone) First enrolled in 1912 and so has achieved 85 years of membership. This must surely surpass records in most other bodies. Thereafter one has to wait until 1937 when Mr Edward Hunt, who represented Australia in that year, was granted honorary life membership and 1938 when Mr GF Rothwell became an associate. Our president, John Solomon, completes his half-century this year but is a mere stripling by comparison.

We are not aware of any other associate still living with a longer continuous period of membership than his, but if any reader can correct this statement we would be very pleased to put the record straight.

In the circumstances of the centenary Council decided to grant honorary life associateship to Freddie Stone and John Solomon as a mark of appreciation for their tremendous support (the two other associates listed already have life membership). Readers may like to know that other recent grants of honorary life associateship were made to Brian Macmillan earlier this year in view of his sterling work as the CA's commercial agent and to John Prince of New Zealand when he came over last year as their non-playing captain.

Now, looking forward. We regularly produce a four year plan as support to our application for grant aid from the Sports Council. The next period runs from 1999-2002 and so the

the new delivery method of this, the now single issue of the Gazette to go to affiliates. Such members will now have to collect their issue from their club, and I can't help but wonder how many clubs will have uncollected piles adorning their club houses for some period of time. What is more important, saving money or keeping channels of communication open?

Still on the subject of content, it is not an easy task to produce a balance of material to try to suit all readers of the Gazette. Unfortunately of late it has been all the more difficult by the shrinking number of contributions. Granted that the dearth has coincided with the winter/spring months but, things are going to have to improve if the standard expected is to be upheld.

On a slightly different note, I should like to thank the Bath and Berkshire Croquet clubs for invitations to their official openings of their new facilities. Unfortunately, as the Gazette is only something which I produce in my spare time, I was unable to attend, but hope that reportage will nonetheless reach the Gazette in due course.

plan will need to be ready early next year. This also seems a good opportunity to look forward for our second century generally and do our best to ensure that the CA is responding to the needs of its members and doing what it can to promote the cause of croquet effectively. What can you do to help?

We have set up a small free-standing group, composed partly of members of Council but partly of others with differing areas of experience, to act as a planning nucleus. By the time this appears they will have had their first meeting. Any associate who feels he or she may have something to contribute to this process is encouraged to contact either me as shown below or Paul Campion in the CA Office. You will all have your own views, so please let us hear them.

Finally, my usual reminder about the events of our centenary year. Each Federation has now been given a small trophy by the Centenary committee as a catalyst for some centenary event. I hope you enjoy these. But in some ways the centre piece is the CA's own tournament for club teams of all ranges of experience at Cheltenham over the weekend of 30/31 August. Details and entry forms may be found on pages 3 & 9 of the Fixtures Book. Entries close on 1st June, so if you have not got yours in yet do so straight away.

As before I set out my telephone numbers below and am very happy to be contacted by anyone with comments or suggestions to make.

Stephen Badger 0171-2748126 / 01242- 516603

NEWS & INFORMATION

1997 Fixtures Book

This year the date order calendar was split up into sections covering Championships, H/C W/Es etc. I was mandated to do this as a result of the Club Conference. I have received a number of negative responses, suggesting that the old "all together in date order" was better. I think so too, but I try to please the customers! So, please let me know which you prefer. If you don't care, then fair enough, it will go in at my own discretion. Those who have already expressed an opinion have had it noted and need not contact me again.

You will also have noticed that adverts have now started to appear in the book. This is an excellent way of drawing attention to your special 1998 event. Also, B&B adverts right next to your event will prove a great attraction. You could consider adding a little extra on top of the modest CA charge to boost your own club's funds.

Don Gaunt
Editor, Fixtures Book
Tel: 0145-3822507

Any Old Balls?

I am always on the look-out for half-decent balls to use in introductory courses or to lend (or even give) to people to use in their gardens. If anyone knows that their club is buying new balls for the coming season and is as a result getting rid of some that are no longer quite good enough for club play I would be interested. They don't have to be in sets; indeed the colour doesn't matter as I am prepared to give them a few coats of car paint, and the odd chip can be filled. I usually reckon that the sort of thing I am looking for is worth about a tenner, and I can probably organise some sort of chain of messengers so that they don't need to be posted.

Old hoops would also be extremely welcome, even odd ones and twos.
David Appleton Tel: 0191 - 2857385

City of Bunbury Croquet Tournament (2nd to 16th November 1997)

In conjunction with the running of the WORLD CROQUET CHAMPIONSHIPS on behalf of the World Croquet Federation in Bunbury, Western Australia, from 8th to 16th November 1997 a secondary tournament is to be held which will cater for croquet players of all standards. This secondary competition will start a few days prior to the World Championships and run along

parallel to the World Championships at a nearby venue in the city of Bunbury. Both Singles and Doubles competitions will be in round robin blocks, either graded into Divisions or into handicap ranges so that players will get at least 4 games of Singles and 4 games of Doubles.

This is an opportunity for every croquet player to play in open competition and at the same time see the best croquet players from all the main croquet-playing countries of the world.

The competitions will start on Sunday 2nd November with Handicap Doubles (2 days), followed by Level play Singles (2 days), then Level play Doubles (4 games in 5 days). In the first 2 Events no player will play more than 2 games per day. A separate entry form should be sent for each of 2 Doubles partners (photocopies accepted). Any two players can play as partners. Program subject to change depending on entries. All games will be 3 hours time limit, doubled up if required, Dawson Balls.

Interested parties may obtain an entry form from Paul Campion at the CA office or write directly to Mrs Lynne Wilkinson, PO Box 1191, Bunbury, W.A. 6231 Australia.

Fixture Book Correction

The correct e-mail address for Richard Sowerby of the Jersey Croquet Club is jjtidgeon@itl.net and not as stated on page 26 of the fixtures book.

Final High Bisquers

The 10th and final high bisque tournament managed by Pat Shine and Pat Asa-Thomas at the Sussex County Croquet Club (Southwick) will be held on 10th - 12th June.

John Solomon has said that he would like to come and Alan Oldham has kindly agreed to present the prizes.

Your Appreciation Please

In the January edition of the Croquet Gazette, the Editor sought your help in establishing what you want from your magazine, and whether or not you had preferences as to how it is presented. You were also asked to let the Editor or members of the Editorial board know your requirements.

The response has been abysmal. One Associate contacted me and the Editor had less than half a dozen responses. Perhaps one should not be so surprised if one remembers that less than some 4% of the association ever contribute photographs, articles or correspondence.

The editorial Board have been charged by council with carrying out an in depth examination of the composition and content of

the Gazette, including the expense of production. By definition, associates who serve on Council have to be activists, but if our recommendations are to be at all representative, it is essential that we have the views of a good cross section of readers.

Associates in the south west will remember that the federation newsletter SWAN came out on A5 paper rather than A4 with a substantial saving in cost. Should the gazette be going down that road? Should we cease to produce the glossy pictorial magazine that costs about 20% of our income? Happily we now have a more varied selection of photographs - but do we want photos at all? They put up production costs and limit the change of grade of paper - and savings could be made if we moved to news print.

So, for the second time of asking, it is vital that the Editor or the Board understand what you appreciate and what you do not about your magazine. The Editor's address is on page 3 as is the Chairman's of the Editorial Board.

OPPORTUNITY: East Midlands Representative on Council

The East Midlands Federation invites applications from Associates resident in the East Midlands (Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Rutland, Northamptonshire) for the position of East Midlands Representative on the CA Council for a term commencing in Autumn 1997.

Applicants should send a brief CV with an indication of what they would hope to contribute in this position to the Federation Secretary, Clive Pearson, 12 Moores Close, Horninglow, Burton on Trent DE13 0GA to be received BY 31st JULY 1997.

If there is a contested election, a postal ballot will be held.

Opponents Required

Does anyone think that their club might like to play a friendly against Cambridge University (either handicap or advanced)? We are available to play almost any day up to about the start of June for advanced and the middle of June for handicap (due to availability of particular players and existing fixtures) and should have car transport available to clubs within reasonable distance. If anyone is interested could they contact me, Chris Dent, on 01223-313882.



# Letters...

## Overseas Handicaps

Dear Editor

We have 2 club members who spend 6 months of the year in the UK and the other 6 months in Australia.....they play a lot of croquet in both countries and they are both 'rapid improvers'. How do we handicap them?

They both had a similar handicap (around 8) when they left last October and since then have had several successful tournaments in Australia. They both had their handicap's altered whilst in Australia but according to my interpretations of the CA system, they only record games on their CA cards if their opponent is a CA member, thus on their return to this country they would still be playing off 8 whilst their true handicap would be much lower. If they have a current Australian handicap, how does that relate to a CA handicap? (I believe one of them is a 7.5 and the other a 5.5 in Australia at the moment). Do we have to follow the normal 'evidence on the cards' method that normally applies to native 'rapid improvers'?

I'm sure that Handicap Committee will give me the 'official' response but I would like to here from any club/individual that has knowledge of a similar situation.

Shaun Carter

## Rottweilers & Lambs

Dear Editor

I enjoyed reading Charlotte Townsend's amusing report of the Fettes week. Even though I am a fervent Scottish nationalist, I am reluctant to intervene in Scottish affairs but I feel that some comment on the refereeing problems is necessary.

In the first incident described, relating to bisques and the extension period, the referee has a duty to ascertain the state of the game - Reg 5(a). It is a pretty daft question to ask if they are playing in the extension period: any player who knows what an extension period is is likely to know that bisques may not be used during it and therefore not require the services of a referee. It is far better to ask when was time called and what has happened since. Technical terms have their use in framing laws and regulations, but they are best avoided by referees unless they are certain that they are properly understood by players needing assistance.

In the second incident in a handicap game, a rover ball was rushed on to the peg by another rover and was correctly removed from

the game. However, when the player continued to play and struck her remaining ball on to the peg, she was playing when not entitled to do so. The powers of spectator referees are strictly limited, on the principal that players should normally be left to enjoy their game free from interference. Although under Reg.8(c) a spectator referee can intervene in a handicap game when a ball has been incorrectly removed from a game in breach of Law 39, that was not the case here. Once the players have left the court in the belief that the game has ended, it has - Law 26(e), and there is nothing anyone can do.

In the third incident, when John Beech failed to complete his turn, Malcolm O'Connell correctly pointed this out. He was obliged to do so - Law 45(b), as both players are referees of their own game. John was then obliged to complete the turn or deem his ball to have been played. It was nonsense for the huddle of watching referees to decide that John had taken advantage of advice from Malcolm.

Bill Lamb (Laws Committee)

## Time for a Change

Dear Editor

Some of our members have become besotted with the idea of Chess-Clock Games where both players in non-handicap games play for the same number of minutes and handicap games have a minimal difference to allow for the use of bisques. There is a proposal that ALL our club events should be timed.

This seems to me a complete contradiction of what croquet is about. Surely the whole idea of hitting in is to give yourself an extra shot, which implies more time on the lawn. Good croquet shots and good planning give you extra shots which means more time on the lawn. A good approach followed by a good hoop gives you an extra shot which means more time on the lawn. Why should a player who misses a roquet, does a bad approach and doesn't go through a hoop qualify for equal time?

We are told that what we do today is what the Croquet Association will do tomorrow. Is it perhaps that what the Croquet Association rejected yesterday (perhaps even a hundred years ago) we do today?

While I have no objection to individuals between themselves playing however they think fit, is it 'legal' for Club events to be timed in this way?

Owen Bryce

*I can undersand why the idea of playing to the confines of a chess clock may not appeal, but is there really any difference between playing to the standard alarm clock or a chess clock? My own view is that the only difference is that the chess clock has the advantage of dividing the duration of the game equally. It is then, of course, up to the individual how they spend their half of the agreed time. Some, of course, may argue that we already have the framework for expedition in play without the use of chess clocks. This may be true, but how often is it enforced, let alone brought to a player's attention? Perhaps other players would like to comment upon this.*

Dear Editor

My dear mother, Millicent Rankin, former member of the Sussex County Croquet Club and of the Croquet Association, died suddenly on March 31st.

She was known at Southwick not only for her invaluable help on the catering side, but also as a formidable player winning several trophies for singles and doubles in her lifetime.

Millicent Rankin will be sadly missed not only by club members but by visitors, and of course most of all by her loving daughter Sally, currently a member at Southwick.

Sally Rankin

## Tournament Programs?

Dear Editor

Does anyone know of a reliable computer program suitable for organising tournaments (preferably IBM compatible)? I have seen neat lists telling one where, when & whom one is playing, which I have assumed have been computer produced.

Do these programs organise the whole tournament? Or simply print out the order once the organiser running the tournament has decided the difficult part of fitting everyone's games into the time allowed, & the number of lawns provided? If such programs have been written could copies be placed in the C.A library so that other clubs, perhaps paying a small fee (to cover copy rights), could benefit from the facility.

A. Dustan-Smith (Sidmouth)

*This question has been asked before, both here and on the e-mail newsgroup. It would appear that the only program that has been forthcoming is for sale from an American source, unless of course someone out there knows different.*

## Overdue Library?

Dear Editor

In the Club Conference report by Derek Trotman, Gazette issue 243, p12, there was the suggestion made that a library list of C.A. leaflets should be prepared.

One of the more important leaflets must be the one on Lawn Maintenance and Ground

Improvements. Bill Lamb in his Chairman's column in the 244 issue of the Gazette emphasised the importance of good lawns. Many clubs are not in a position to hire qualified experts or groundsmen to undertake ground improvement projects, but with a comprehensive leaflet compiled by those with the necessary experience, clubs would be enabled to use a D.I.Y. fix for their lawns.

Such a leaflet could cover aspects such

as:-

- i) When and how to scarify
- ii) When and how to aerate
- iii) When and how to fertilise
- iv) When and how to treat weeds
- v) When and how to roll
- vi) How best to repair localised damage caused by:
  - mallet or ball impact
  - weed extraction
  - rabbit scratchings
  - wear in hoop jaws
- vii) Best equipment and product for line marking
- viii) How to discourage rabbits,

My questions therefore are, when will the library of leaflets be available and what leaflets will it include?

Brian James

## Referees, Umpires and Examinations

I have followed the correspondence about referees with interest and I have also had the opportunity to study the New Zealand system and examinations, thanks to the help of Graeme Roberts. As Colin Irwin has pointed out, and this is confirmed by the New Zealand system, there is more to it than just taking people to one side for a couple of hours and teaching them about faults. In his booklet "Practical Umpiring" Graeme divides the matters relating to decisions of fact into four topics, each of which requires a classroom session of about one and a half hours plus demonstrations. In all, I guess about eight hours of instruction. Then there is the examination, written and practical. Colin's latest letter, Issue 247 January 1997, lists the appropriate laws, which comprise almost the whole of Part 2, Section B - Ordinary Single Play. To this, I would add the regulations governing the powers and duties of referees.

As the shortage of referees is particularly acute in handicap tournaments, it would be easy to add the laws of handicap play, and indeed essential where these laws differ from those of ordinary singles, i.e. peg-outs. In short, this would comprise about 75% of our standard qualifying examination and would be covered by written paper A (General Knowledge) and practical parts C (Static Situations on Court) and D (Dynamic Situations on Court). The remaining part of the full examination, paper B (Analysis), is the bit the court-side lawyers can get their teeth into. Therefore, it would be very easy to incorporate an umpiring qualification into our present

training and examination structure; only a minor change to the order of presentation would be required. It would also have the advantage that someone who attempts the full examination but fails paper B could still qualify as an umpire and fulfil a useful role.

This and other matters of training will be considered by the Laws Committee. It would eventually require some alteration to the Regulations, which are due for revision in any case, and the approval of Council in due course. It would be interesting to know how many people would want to qualify as umpires. Please write to, or telephone me. If the demand is there and the Laws committee agrees, I shall try to arrange suitable instruction later this season.

Bill Lamb (Chairman, Laws Committee)

## Handicap Points

Dear Editor

As a very humble high bisquer it is with considerable diffidence that I venture to make a suggestion to the powers that be.

## Points Of Law

By Bill Lamb

(Chairman Laws Committee)

Several laws, which are ambiguous or anomalous or have required a ruling for clarification, are currently under review by the Laws committee of the CA and our counterparts in New Zealand, Australia and the USA, in preparation for a revised edition.

The laws can only be changed by unanimous agreement between these four countries and, in the past, meetings of their representatives have only taken place during MacRobertson Shield matches. Communication by post or telephone has been either subject to lengthy delay or expensive. Fortunately, modern technology has come to the rescue and our initial discussions on re-drafting are carried out via e-mail. Nevertheless, revising and re-drafting is not easy, if further anomalies are to be avoided. I hope we shall make progress for a revised edition to be ready for the start of the 1998 season, but I suspect it may take longer.

The opportunity will also be taken to revise regulations where appropriate, to bring them into line with current practice.

## Interpretation of the Laws

a) The roquet stroke. Law 18(a)C states that a striker's ball becomes a ball in hand unless the striker's turn ends either under Law 20(C) or..... But Law 20(C) refers to a croquet stroke and I fail to see how it applies to the roquet stroke. Can you enlighten me?

It has long seemed to me that there is something not quite fair about the way points are gained or lost in the AHS, ie 10 points regardless of the winning margin, so that a very narrow victory produces the same benefit as a +26TP.

I wonder if a sliding scale could be operated - eg + or - 1 point for a win or loss of 1-5, + or - 2 points for a win or loss of 6-10 etc etc to a maximum of 5 points. Possibly a bonus point could be given to a winner with a TP. Clearly if some such scale was introduced, then the trigger points for changes of handicap could be chosen at intervals - perhaps 15 or 20 instead of 50 as now.

I should add that I have not discussed this idea with any other players so I have no idea what reaction to expect.

Mary J Ollett

b) Hoop Point. Law 14(C) states that if the striker's ball becomes a ball in hand, it must begin to run the hoop again. However, Law 17 provides an exception to this since by hitting the ball which was clear of the hoop, it becomes a ball in hand at the end of the stroke, and croquet is allowed to be taken. Perhaps the phrase "except for Law 17" should be added to Law 14(C). Does Law 14(c) just cover the case of the striker's ball hitting a ball, which may be roqueted, and which lies within the jaws of the hoop?

Brian James

Bill Lamb replies:

a) It is quite common for a roquet to be made during a croquet stroke. (Note that a stroke does not end under Law 31(c) until all balls moved in consequence have come to rest or have left the court.) However, if the croqueted ball is sent off the court, other than as the result of a peg-out, the turn ends under Law 20(c)(1) and the striker's ball does not become a ball in hand, even though it may have roqueted another ball during the stroke.

b) Law 14(c) applies only to the case where a ball completes the running of a hoop in two or more turns, i.e. the ball has started to run the hoop but has not completed it at the first attempt. The statement that it must begin to run the hoop afresh, if it becomes a ball in hand, is intended to cover the case of the striker's ball in contact with another ball at the start of the subsequent turn or turns, when a roquet is deemed to have been made. However, the wording of this law is known to be defective because it does not specifically exclude other cases of a ball becoming in hand. It is one of the laws under review.



## Croquet Around The World

### Clubbing it up in New Zealand

by Liz Taylor-Webb

Women croquet players outnumber men by a ratio of about ten to one in New Zealand. We found this to be so especially on weekly 'club days' where practically the whole club turn up in whites with their packed lunches, play all day, then disappear at 4.30 pm.



Liz at the entrance to Mount Munganui

The first club we found was at Mount Munganui, mentioned in Don Gaunt's famous epistle. We were on the tail end of Cyclone Fergus, hardly able to walk along the street for sheeting rain and wind, while anything flat seemed to be under water. All we could do was to admire the ornate design of the sign outside the club.

On New Year's Eve, two days later, we played at Rotorua Club in absolute blazing sunshine.

On to Napier, which was the only club at which we had pre-arranged to play. The husband of a club member had commissioned a croquet picture from me, which had been

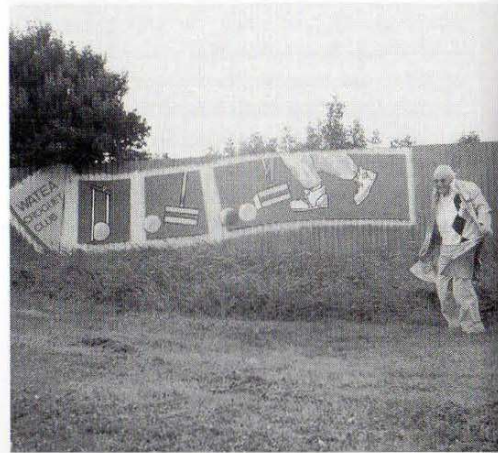
presented to the club and this led to all sorts of generous hospitality. We were there in time to watch Bob Jackson beat Toni Stevens in the final of The Gold and Silver Mallets Open Tournament. It was good to see familiar faces: John Prince, Gerry Guest and others as well as the N.Z. ladies team.

Wellington was blessed with eleven clubs and here we came across Petone Central where we counted twenty ladies and two men and not one under sixty. There were only two lawns, the club was full, so we moved on to Wainmarie, a beautiful club with little rotundas for shade, and set against a backdrop of tree covered mountains.

Across by ferry to South Island, our first stop was Nelson with five clubs. Hinemoa with four lawns and Nelson with five, are two completely separate clubs yet adjoin each other along a fifty yard boundary divided only by a border of sub-tropical plants. The large wooden club house was divided into two and although the two clubs were short of members, they would not amalgamate. Friendly rivalry?

As we arrived in Dunedin, so did another cyclone! Two more days of cold driving rain kept us away from the six clubs in the town, although we were very impressed with the Watea Club to see their artistic graffiti outside on the hoardings.

Eventually we found our way to Queensland, a lovely town with every outdoor activity you could name. Wakatipu Club was only five years old, with good lawns and lots of enthusiastic members. The average handicap was about 12 yet they all played the advanced game - as was the case everywhere in N.Z. - and should a player make a 6 hoop break or more, it was entered in the club register and signed by both members. To play here with the 'Remarkable Mountains' on one side and magnificent views



Watea Croquet Club's colourful graffiti (and Rupert)

of snow capped mountains on the other at the height of summer is enough to make anyone enthusiastic.

On the West coast we found a 100 year old club at Greymouth with a wonderful old wooden clubhouse and 3 fast lawns but only 9 members.

Christchurch was our last port of call with 11 clubs. Here we came across another artistic display outside the Barrington Park Club designed and painted by the members. Last but not least was the United Club of Christchurch and with 6 first class lawns and generous hospitality, was a good note on which to finish.

Finally during our return journey at Dubai airport we were suprised to see for sale, 'Teach Yourself Croquet' by the Bunyanised Don Gaunt.



Rotorua Club New Year's Eve 1996

**The John Hobbs Mallet**

Hold the handle how you like, you can align the head to fit your grip and idiosyncrasies.

Light shaft, nylon shock absorber, padded grips, range of woods. Details from:

John Hobbs, Kingsbury, Argos Hill, Rotherfield, E. Sussex. TN6 3QH  
Tel: 01892 - 852072

## Technical Matters

### Crushes & Rushes

by Stan Hall (Aus)

The implementation of Law 32 poses some problems especially for referees. Law 32(a)(ii) defines a crush stroke when the striker's ball is not initially in contact with the leg of a hoop or with the peg. But it is impossible to detect visually the exact moment when the ball and the mallet part company, so it is often difficult to decide whether a stroke is a crush or not.

Theoretical calculations (Ref 1) have indicated that the duration of contact is very short, about one thousandth of a second (0.9 ms or slightly longer in very gentle strokes). The tests described below were carried out initially to provide a check on these predictions, and produced such interesting results that they were extended to direct studies of crush strokes and croquet strokes.

#### 1. Contact Time - Single Ball Stokes

Daish (Ref 2) suggests that the time of contact can be measured electronically by giving both the ball and the mallet a metallic coating and then setting up an electric circuit which is operative only when the two surfaces are in contact. In these tests aluminium foil was taped on to the ball and mallet during contact was extremely small.

Copper wire in contact with the foil enabled an electric circuit to be set up. By including a cathode ray oscilloscope (CRO) in the circuit a graph could be displayed on a screen to show when the ball and mallet were in contact. The graph indicated if there were several separate contacts and the duration of each.

First a number of tests were made with the mallet shaft vertical or nearly so (inclined at not more than 20 degrees). The results agreed extremely well with the theoretical predictions. With a stroke which sent the ball 24 m (80 ft) the contact time, averaged over a number of tests, was 0.84 ms with a Jaques ball and 0.89 ms with a Dawson ball. With a stroke which sent the ball 2.7 m (9 ft) the contact times were 1.03 ms (Jaques) and 1.18 ms (Dawson).

Further tests were made in an attempt to prolong the contact time. This was found to be impossible with the mallet nearly vertical. At the time when the ball and mallet part company the mallet speed is less than half the speed of the ball so the mallet will not catch up unless the ball is impeded. An apparent push could be made with a very gentle stroke but the screen showed that this was really a case of multiple contacts at short intervals. The separate taps could not be heard unless the time gaps were 5 ms or more.

With the mallet inclined at 30 degrees or more the contact time could be considerably increased. The ball is now trapped between the mallet and the ground and the contact time depends largely on the type of stroke.

#### 2. Contact Distance - Single Ball Stokes

These tests gave the duration of contact.

What the referee really wants to know is how far the ball travels during contact. This depends on the initial speed of the ball. For any particular value of the total travel of the ball its initial speed can be calculated

provided the lawn characteristics are known. So friction coefficients were measured for a number of lawns. It was found that for an average lawn the ball speed for a 24 m (80 ft) stroke was 7.3 m/sec and for a 2.7 m (9 ft) stroke it was 2.4 m/sec. With these values the contact distance was found to be about 3.5 mm for a long stroke and 1.5 mm for a fairly short stroke.

3. Crushes  
These results suggest that a crush is possible only if the ball is extremely close to the hoop when it is struck. Further tests were carried out to investigate this in more detail.

For this purpose two circuits were set up, one to monitor contact between the mallet and the ball and another to monitor contact between the ball and the hoop. Graphs of the two contacts were displayed on the CRO screen one above the other, so it was quite easy to see if the two contacts occurred at the same time.

The results fall into two distinct categories depending on the direction of the stroke relative to the leg of the hoop.

Case 1. The ball strikes the hoop a glancing blow and, with some deviation of direction, continues its course without much loss of speed.

Case 2. The ball travels directly, or almost directly towards the hoop. The change of direction is now almost 180 degrees.

The stroke considered in case 1 is shown in Fig.1. From the geometry it is clear that the distance the ball travels before contact is considerably greater than the gap, so in view of the previous tests it is not surprising that a crush does not occur unless the gap is less than 1 mm. The direction of the ball is easily estimated by noting the deviation of its path as it strikes the leg of the hoop. With a gap of 1.5 mm a crush did not occur even when the ball deviated 30 degrees. A problem was encountered with a very loose hoop. In that case the ball did not rebound correctly and this enabled the mallet to catch up with the ball.

Since many referees found these results hard to accept, a group of referees was invited to make their own tests. They were unable to make a crush with a gap of 1.5 mm provided the ball did run the hoop.

The stroke considered in case 2 is shown in Fig.2. It refers to a very "angled" hoop stroke in which the ball is necessarily hit almost directly towards the far leg. (The possibility of a crush against the near leg comes under case 1). In these tests the ball always stopped or nearly stopped. If a fault occurred it was not a crush but a multiple contact. Usually the ball oscillated rapidly between the mallet and the hoop giving the appearance of a crush. Referees found the fault fairly easy to detect. With a strong follow-through stroke the fault occurred with a gap as much as 75 mm. If the stroke was made with a grounded mallet, the fault could be avoided if the gap was 25 mm.

#### 4. Croquet Strokes

Croquet strokes are mentioned in Law 32(a)(7). So croquet strokes were investigated using the two circuit setup as for the crush test. One circuit recorded the contact between the mallet and ball 1 (the striker's ball) while the other recorded contact between ball 1 and ball

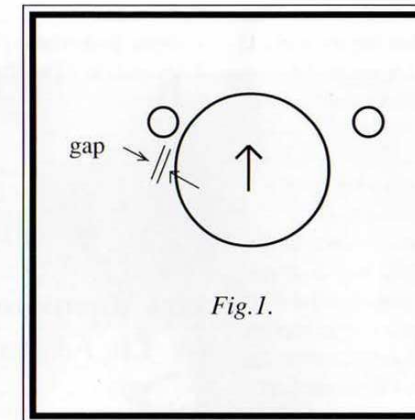


Fig. 1.

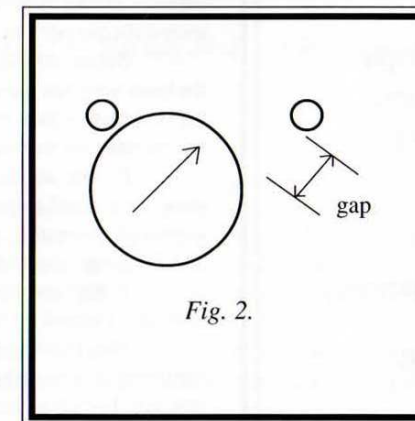


Fig. 2.



2 (the croqueted ball). Although the tests were not extensive they provided a good general picture of what occurs in a croquet stroke. In all tests the mallet was nearly vertical.

The ratio of the distance travelled by ball 1 to the distance travelled by ball 2 will be referred to as R. Tests were first made with R=0.3 (drive stroke) and with angles of split of zero and 45. Results were uniform for all these tests. The two balls stayed in contact for about 1.7 ms and after the balls parted the mallet stayed in contact with ball 1 for a further 1.1 ms. The tests were then repeated with R=0.7 and the results were practically identical. A number of stop shots were made. There was some scatter of results but generally the contact times were much the same as before.

Clearly the striker's ball cannot spring away from the mallet while its movement is impeded by ball 2. Once ball 2 moves away the mallet and ball 1 remain in contact for a further time of 1.1 ms, very similar to the contact time for a single ball stroke.

A very different picture emerged with take-off strokes. As far as the striker's ball is concerned the total contact time was 0.9 ms for a long stroke and 1.2ms for a short stroke. The striker's ball is not now impeded by the croqueted ball and behaves exactly as in a single ball stroke. The two balls remained in contact for some time after ball 1 had left the mallet. The total contact time between the balls varied from 1.6 ms to 3.6 ms. These relatively long times reflect the fact that ball 2 moves only a short distance in a take-off stroke.

5. Summary

(a) All the events examined take place in such a short time that it would be unwise to rely on sight or hearing in making a decision.

(b) In regard to crushes of type 1 (see fig 1), the crush will not occur unless the initial gap is 1 mm or less and provided the ball does run the hoop (or pass the hoop or peg) without appreciable loss of speed. Is it worthwhile to provide referees with 1 mm gauges? Perhaps it is near enough to say that the crush will not occur unless the ball is in contact with the hoop, in which case the ball must be hit in direction away from the leg.

(c) For crushes of type 2 (really multiple contacts), we note that if the ball stops or nearly stops a fault is likely. It will probably occur unless the ball is initially more than 75 mm (3 in) away from the hoop with a follow through stroke or more than 25 mm (1 in) away if the mallet is grounded.

(d) In any stroke, the contact time between mallet and ball may be considerably increased if the mallet is inclined forward at more than 20 degrees. This could affect the values given above for type 2 crushes. It is of prime importance in the case of pushes.

(e) It is not possible to make a definitive statement about crushes. However it can be said that a push (or pull) cannot be made with the mallet vertical or nearly vertical. If the mallet is inclined at more than 20 degrees the ball is trapped between the mallet and the ground and the contact time is largely at the discretion of the striker. If the inclined mallet is moved parallel to the ground a push is very probable. On the other hand if the movement is mainly tangential to the ball (to give top spin) a push may be avoided.

References

1. Doug Sutherland (Warrawee Club, Sydney) private communication.
2. Daish C B "The Physics of Ball Games" The English Universities Press Ltd. 1972.

## Alternative Games

### Blue Moon Croquet

by Liz Fraser & Peter Wilson

Whilst on a croquet week in Ripon with Croquet for Leisure we devised the following game based loosely on Trivial Pursuit and Croquet. The name derives from the fact that we first played it on July 30th - by the light of the second full moon of the same month (a blue moon).

The game is played between two teams using six balls chosen to match the Trivial Pursuit question categories - Blue, Yellow, Red (Orange), Brown, Green and Pink. The team winning the toss (Team A) picks one ball, the other team (Team B) has the next choice, the third choice reverts to team A and the final choice is with team B. The other two balls are free balls and at the beginning of the game are placed in corners two and four.

Play proceeds as normal croquet play except that there are five available balls on the court instead of the usual three. Any one member of the team may play an individual turn with the remaining team members having to answer questions in the following circumstances:-

Before bringing on a ball at the start of a game a question of the same category colour as the ball must be answered correctly. An incorrect answer means the player's turn is over and he may not bring a ball on.

Before taking a croquet shot (but after placing the balls in contact) the team who has the innings must answer a question of the same colour as the ball from which croquet is being taken. A correct answer allows play to continue, an incorrect answer means immediate end of turn!

Before attempting to run a hoop the striker must announce he is going to try and a question of the same colour as the strike ball must be answered correctly. An incorrect answer means immediate end of turn and the hoop may not be attempted.

Before attempting a peg out a question must be asked. The category to be determined by the opposing team.

The tactics that develop as the inability of teams to answer questions of a particular colour transpire are very different from those of croquet. For instance, it soon becomes apparent that using the opponents balls in a break is more dangerous than using the free balls as an incorrect answer after setting up a croquet shot leaves the opponent with contact. The choice of colours is important as you cant run a hoop with the brown ball if your teams knowledge of History is zero!

We havent tried but it is probable that this could be played successfully with an indoor carpet set. Try it!



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

# GOLF CROQUET



## Issue Number 3

MAY 1997



Golf Croquet in the beautiful gardens of Belsay Hall in Northumberland. An English Heritage venue.

## EDITORIAL

The Golf Croquet magazine comes in a different form this time, by becoming a supplement to the Croquet Gazette.

Generally this issue looks forward to the coming season with tournament details, sorting out the bisques and even a few ideas on tactics. Cartoons as usual by Jack Shotton. Please send in any articles and ideas for future issues, and of course any comments, good or bad.

A Golf Croquet Intercounties event is now offered. So get together and form a team of four for the 27th July, entries as soon as possible please or this might not go ahead - it's up to you

The competition in the last issue had some excellent entries but very contrasting answers, many thanks to you all. The winner is J. Monro of the Thames Valley Croquet Club. As promised a very small prize is on its way. The answers (according to me anyway, are: 1. Non-runner. 2. Yes 3. No 4. (b) I bet you've forgotten the Questions!

Hope you will all have a brilliant season of croquet, lots of hoops and lots of sunshine, and lots of luck.

Syd Jones

ISSUED BY THE GOLF CROQUET COMMITTEE AS A COMMUNICATION BETWEEN GOLF CROQUET PLAYERS, AND WITH THE CROQUET ASSOCIATION



## COMMITTEE NEWS

Meeting held on Monday 24th March 1997

Small attendance but a long and lively day. Those present were Rosemary Longbottom, James Wankling, Brian Macmillan and Norma Rayne with myself as Chairman.

Main points were:

1. In spite of a reduced budget it was agreed that we could complete most of our plans for the coming year.

2. It was agreed that this issue of our magazine would be as a supplement to the Croquet Gazette.

3. All C.A. Golf Croquet competitions are being managed by members of this committee and are proceeding well. We will offer an Intercountries competition for the first time this season.

4. Progress is being made with our suggestions for a complete set of laws for golf croquet. Some points are:

◆ Re-numbering hoops, 1 to 12 and the 7th hoop, of a 7 point game, to be what is now one-back rather than hoop three.

◆ Starting the game from the East Boundary. This enables players to remove preceding players from in front of hoop one.

◆ Defining the Jump Shot

◆ To recommend placing clips on the hoops to keep score. Blue & Yellow for first colours and Pink & Green for second colours.

5. The committee felt that they should have some representation in the discussions to form world golf croquet laws.

6. It was decided to proceed with a scheme to set handicaps, see separate page in this issue.

7. We have written to the Coaching Committee to see if golf croquet coaching courses can be provided.

8. The next meeting will be in October 1997.

Syd Jones - Chairman  
Golf Croquet Committee

## EGYPT THROWS DOWN WORLD CHALLENGE

"Come & Beat Us!"

The Egyptian Croquet Association has opened up the 2nd WCF World golf croquet Championship to all comers, by announcing its intention to hold a qualifying tournament immediately prior to the event. The qualifying tournament will be open to any non-Egyptian player who wishes to compete, the only requirement being that the player comes from a country that is a member of the World Federation.

An exciting time lies ahead, and Cairo looks "the place to be" in October 1997, now that every croquet player has an opportunity to visit Egypt to challenge the world's best.

The top eight players in last year's Championship held in Italy automatically receive an invitation to compete in this year's event. They will be joined in Cairo by 32 players nominated by the WCF and their National Associations. These forty nominated players will be drawn for places in eight all-play-all preliminary championship blocks.

Eight additional places will be awarded (one in each of the blocks) to players who qualify through the qualifying competition.

Preliminary block matches in the Championship, consisting of one game each, will take place on Monday and Tuesday, 13th and 14th October. Subsequent knock-out matches will each be best-of-three games, with the first round knockout of 32 players being held on Wednesday, 15th October. The final, best-of-five game match, will be held on Saturday 18th October.

For details contact Chris Hudson, The Oaklands, Englesea Brook, near Crewe, Cheshire CW2 5QW (Tel: 01270 820296)



No Jones. I made it quite clear, I said could you arrange a handicap meeting for this evening.....

## SOME TACTICAL NOTES

The first record of Golf Croquet tactics seem to be a pamphlet, "The Art of Golf Croquet" by H.F. Crowther-Smith published in 1936 for one shilling. In this he emphasized the need for accuracy and concentration in a single stroke game. He listed the main strokes as:

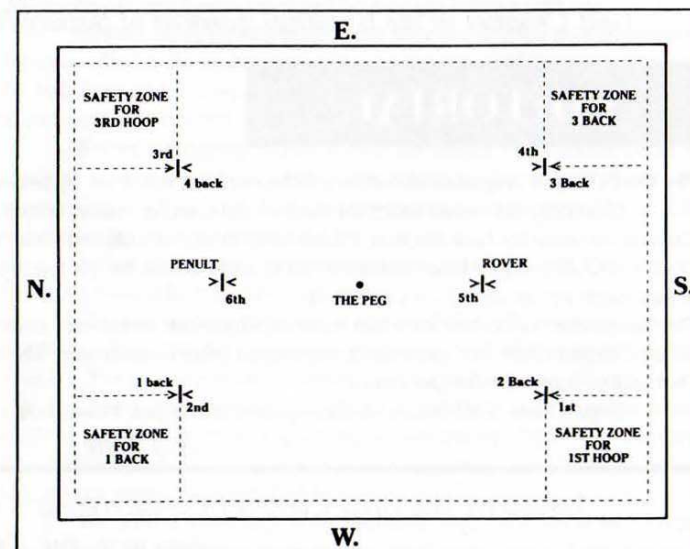
1. Play for position, ( but not too close)
2. Run the hoop ( and try for next)
3. The remove, (opponent away)
4. The rush, ( partner to the hoop)
5. The Stymie, ( block the opponent's shot)

Two points regarding general play are:

1. It is essential to keep a constant eye on the sequence of play.
2. Make use of the 'Safety Zones', ie the corners so that you can remove opponents but not be knocked far away yourself. Note however that there are no safety zones for the hoops down the middle of the court (This pamphlet was reprinted in Issue 203 of "Croquet" in May 1989)

Slightly more recent advice on Golf Croquet was in "Croquet Today" by Maurice Reckitt in the 50's. He made the point that without errors the side that loses a hoop will win the next but commented that happily this is not always so. Extra options to the above shots are 'the in-off' and of course 'the peel'. He again emphasised the use of the safety zones and that trying for long and speculative hoops is good tactic as it is often the case that a missed hoop still leaves the hoop blocked for the other side. If you are never prepared to attempt any hoop until you are absolutely certain of making it, the probability is that a more venturesome policy by your opponent will sooner or later rob you of your opportunity. While there is plenty of scope for ingenious tactics at Golf Croquet, there is much scope for enterprise too. Shots played to protect your partner ball should not be too close or both balls can be removed.

More recently, 1992, Golf Croquet is briefly covered in "Teach Yourself Croquet" by Don Gaunt. For more recent comment read an article by John Solomon in the last issue of 'Golf Croquet' ( November 1996 ). This describes tactics and expresses his enjoyment of an excellent game.



## GOLF CROQUET TOURNAMENTS

### THE GOLF CROQUET CHAMPIONSHIPS

Sponsored by: The Croquet Association  
Venues and Dates:

Ripon 31 May; Ramsgate 1 June;  
Plymouth 8 June; Phyllis Court 8 June;  
Parsons Green 8 June.

Finals: Parsons Green 12 July.

Manager Syd Jones.

Secretary: The Secretary, C.A., The Hurlingham Club, Ranelagh Gardens, London SW6 3PR. (Tel: 0171-736-3148)

Entries £2.50 (plus £2.50 to play in the final)

Open 1 March. Close 22 May. Draw 26 May

Cheques: Payable to The Croquet Association.

Time limits: If required.

Double Banking: If required

Event

The Ascot Challenge Cup. Open Singles (Holder: Roy Edwards). At each venue players will be drawn into blocks of 4, the winners of the blocks playing off to decide two qualifiers from each venue. The winners will play off at Parson's Green on Sunday, July 7. Single games, 12 or 19 points, or best of three, AMD.

Event 2 The Ranelagh (1913) Challenge Cups. Open Doubles (Holders: Arthur Addis & Syd Jones). Each qualifier from the regional competitions may select a partner from those who have entered Event 1 (at any venue). The eight pairs so formed will play off at Parson's Green on Sunday, 13 July. Single games, 13 or 19 points, or best of three, AMD.

Conditions

Games will be played under the Laws of Golf Croquet. Players should state on their entry form those venues at which they wish to play, in order of preference. Places at each venue will be drawn by lot if any venue is oversubscribed on March 1st. Thereafter places will be allocated in the order that entries are received, but if their first choice venue is oversubscribed players who nominate alternative venues on their entry forms will be allocated places in their other choices as available.

### ALL ENGLAND GOLF CROQUET

Sponsored by: The Croquet Association.

Venues: To be organised by regional managers.  
Dates: See below.

Manager: Syd Jones. (Tel: 0191-252-2962)  
Managers for local areas to be appointed by host clubs.

Entries: £1.50 per player. Fees via club secretary to CA secretary

Cheques: Payable to the CA.

General Competitors, who need not be Associates, or members of a registered club,

must arrange to play in preliminary stages at a Registered club. A competitor may only play at one club. Club secretaries must notify the CA that they are entering their club by 28 May, together with the number of entries and the appropriate fee, see above.

Matches. Will be 13 point games played under the rules of Handicap Golf Croquet (Holder: Jeremy Scott, Letchworth).

Preliminary Stages may be arranged in any way convenient to the club. Details of Area Finalists to Manager by 23 August.

4 - 8 Competitors: 1 Representative

9 - 16 Competitors: 2 Representatives.

17 - 24 Competitors: 3 Representatives.

A club must have an entry of no fewer than 4 competitors to be eligible.

Area Finals. There will be a number of venues advertised in "The Croquet Gazette". Play will be in blocks with play-off to decide the winner. Managers will seed the draw so that players from the same club are, as far as possible, not in the same block.

Finals. Area winners will meet at Colchester on 21 September. Play will commence at 10.00am format AMD.

### THE GOLDEN MALLET REGIONAL COMPETITION

A national tournament for Golf Croquet Players. Sponsored by: The Croquet Association.

Venues: To be organised by regional managers.  
Dates: See below.

Manager: S.R. Longbottom, The Grange, Lower Road, Hockley, Essex SS5 5LE (Tel: 01702-206703).

Entries: £2 per player (any category) CA members, £2.50 non CA members. (max £24 per club). Close 24 May 1997

Cheques: Payable to the CA.

This competition will be played under the rules of Golf Croquet and will be open to anyone who has never been awarded a croquet handicap of 20 or less. Any player who has won or been the runner-up in a National Final of the Golden Mallet is not eligible.

It will be played as a series of regional tournaments, under the supervision of regional managers appointed by the CA. Depending on the size of entry, a number of players from each group in the first round will go forward to a regional final. Entry will be by group and each group will organise its own preliminary tournament in consultation with the manager. Full competition rules and regulations will be provided on acceptance of entry.

A group to be not less than 8 players. A club or organisation may enter more than one group. A player may play in one group only. No follow-on games, the number of players in a group will therefore depend on the number of courts available. Each competitor will play as an individual, and the format of each competition in the series will be progressive doubles, with a change of partner after each game.

The regional finals will be held in July or August. The preliminary group competitions, which should be before the 30 June must be agreed with the regional manager as soon as possible after entry.

Regional winners will be invited to take part in a National Final at 12.30 on Sunday 14 September at Solihull (Holder: Barry Mitchell, Zeneca).

### THE WORLD GOLF CROQUET CHAMPIONSHIPS

Egypt 12-19 October 1997. For further information contact Chris Hudson on 01270-820296. (Holder: Khaled Younis).

### THE YORKSHIRE OPEN GOLF CROQUET CHAMPIONSHIP

Sponsored by Theakstones Breweries  
Organised by Croquet for Leisure

Date Tuesday 3rd & Wednesday 4th June 1997 (Tuesday lunchtime to Wednesday teatime)  
Manager Syd Jones

Entries to Croquet for Leisure, 36 Front Street Monkseaton, Whitley Bay, Tyne and Wear NE25 8DF

Cost £ 80 per person Includes Dinner, Bed & Bre-kfast, 3 Star, En-Suite

Cheques Payable to Croquet for Leisure  
Conditions - Short Courts, Barlow Balls  
Prize Hotel accomodation worth £180 plus winners name on the silver plate.

Holder Roy Edwards

To enter: £20 deposit as soon as possible please as accomodation is limited

### GOLF CROQUET INTER-COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

Sponsored by The Croquet Association  
Venue Stowe School, Buckingham

Date Sunday, 27th July 1997

Director Syd Jones  
Entries To The Secretary  
The Croquet Association

Cost £50 for a team of four  
Will include the competition, tea & coffee and a buffet lunch

Cheques Payable to The Croquet Association  
Double-banking will be used if required

Format AMD  
Accommodation: bed & breakfast available at £30

### THE JERSEY OPEN GOLF CROQUET TOURNAMENT

Will be held on Saturday 12th July 1997  
You are welcome to sunny Jersey, please contact

Richard Sowerby on 01534 483566 for all information on the event, accomodation, etc.



## GOLF CROQUET HANDICAPS

### SETTING GOLF CROQUET HANDICAPS

"Golf Croquet is not well adapted to handicapping and though the C.A. has laid down a handicap scale of a rather restricted kind, this is somewhat illogical, as results sometimes show, for there is no necessary connection between skill at Golf Croquet and skill at the parent game." Quote from 'Croquet Today' by Maurice B.Reckitt. ( 1954)

Experience since shows how right he is and that the table in the Laws is of little use in determining Golf Croquet handicaps from those for Association Croquet.

The system below is an attempt to provide a method of assessing handicaps if the player plays Association or Golf or is a complete newcomer to croquet. The system obviously relies on honesty and assesses only some of the skills, i.e. hitting the ball, running hoops, making decisions based on your own ability and concentration

#### 1. SETTING HANDICAPS

Using a full size court, if possible, get the player to start from the A baulk line and count the number of hits to run hoops one to six inclusive. Players complete this exercise three times to the best of their ability, then add these scores to obtain a 'grading score'

Use this score to assess their Golf Croquet handicap from the table.

Remember this is not a completely accurate handicap as it only assesses some of the skills needed for Golf Croquet but not all the tactics. Players should then play with this handicap and the use of the automatic system will eventually obtain a correct value.

#### 2. THE AUTOMATIC HANDICAP SYSTEM.

To keep and regulate a separate golf croquet handicap use the automatic system. Each competitive game won increases your handicap index by one, each lost game decreases your index by one. The trigger points are given in the table.

Grading Score	HANDICAPS			INDEX
	19 point game	13 point game	7 point game	
<46	0	0	0	130
46-50	2	1	0	125
51-55	3	2	1	120
56-60	5	3	1	115
61-65	6	4	2	110
66-70	8	5	2	105
>70	9	6	3	100

#### 3. DOUBLES GAMES.

In golf croquet both balls do not have to run every hoop so it would be unfair for the team's bisques to be available to the lower handicap player. Therefore in doubles play bisques are only allocated to the individual player and not the team.

#### 4. WHAT TO DO NOW.

Please try this scheme with as varied standard of player as you can. Try playing games with half bisques instead of full bisques. (You cannot score a point with a half bisque ). Try also to assess players on short courts and see if it makes any difference. Assess your results and send the information to me so that I can try to get an overall picture and find out if we have a workable method.



This supplement is the result of a collaboration between Syd Jones and Gail Curry

## Golf Croquet

### Contacts

#### Golf Croquet Clubs

Community Leisure Dales	Steve Robson, Middlesbrough, 01642 245432
Littlehampton	Mrs P. Ibbotson, North Yorks, 01748 811406
Solihull	Mrs H.Hing, Sussex, 01903 776241
Thames Valley *	Mrs MD Hemming, Knowle, 01564 775813
Tynemouth Priory Winslow	Mrs N Rayne, Abingdon, Oxon, 01367 870215
	Chuck Ward, Tyne & Wear, A.R.Welford, Oxon, 01896 277428

#### Golf Croquet Groups (in clubs)

All England LT & CC	David Godfrey, London, 0181 8766736
Ashby & District C.C.	Eileen Buxton, Willington, 01283 703585
Belsay Hall	Fred Davies, Northumberland, 01661 825051
Budleigh Salterton	Ron Arnold, 01395 442548
Bury St Edmunds	Mrs E.Robinette, Suffolk, 01284760738
Carrickmines	Alan McInerney, Dublin, 00 353 1 289 2112
Chichester & Fishbourne	Mrs D.Kettle, Chichester, 01243 511203
Jersey	Richard Sowerby, Jersey, 01534483566
Lansdown	Miss M.Catling, Bath, Avon, 01225 425763
Medway	Paul Miles, East Malling, Kent, 01732 845536
Phyllis Court	Mrs J Mulligan, Oxford
Preston	George Halls, Brighton, 01273 551669
Ripon Spa Hotel	Miss S.Curry, Ripon, 01765 602172
Royal Tunbridge Wells	Stanley Purslow, Kent, 01892 532996
Ryde	Mrs M.Robinson, Isle of Wight, 01983611698
Southport	Miss A Dawson, Merseyside, 01704578173
Southwell	Brian James, Nottinghamshire, 01777 705585
Sussex County	Mrs.D.Brothers, Brighton, 01273 591874
Tyneside	Mrs S.Best, Tyne & Wear, 0191 266 5128
Winchester	Jo Burnaby, 01962 865432
Worthing	Mrs D.Walden, West Sussex, 01903240953

\* Closed Club

#### Clubs who play some Golf Croquet

Bath	Mrs Cope, Bath, Avon, 01225 310083
Bowdon	Roy Edwards, Altrincham, 0161 9285988
Bottisham	Mrs M Walker, Cambridgeshire, 01223 811237
Bristol	Miss M Hilton, Bristol, 0117 962835
Brodsworth	Mr J Sweed, Doncaster, 01302 739692
Colchester	Mrs J.A.Hetherington, Essex, 01206 262223
Compton	Graham Thompson, Seaford, 01323 897483
Croquet for Leisure	Syd Jones, Tyne & Wear, 0191 252 2962
Edinburgh	Fergus McInnes, Edinburgh, 0131 6673885
Exeter	Henry Drew, Exeter, 01392 72907
Kenilworth	Doug Taylor, Warwickshire, 01926511705
Kingston Maurward	Mrs T.Burt, Dorset, 01202883835
Merton	Roy Fox, London, 01815404761
Northampton	Mrs N.Smith, Northamptonshire, 01604761552
Plymouth	Arthur Addis, Devon, 01752 661 674
Ramsgate	Len Hawkins, Kent, 01227 793009
Rottingdean	Mrs A.Willshaw, East Sussex, 01273 300857
Tracy Park	John Eastman, Bristol, 0117 967 5715
Zeneca	Mrs L.Mallinson, Huddersfield, 01484863694

### GET REGISTERED !

The Croquet Association has provided you with this magazine and supports and organises all the developments for croquet, rules, coaching, tournaments, handicapping systems, international matters, leaflets and equipment at discount prices.

Show your support now by registering your club, remember Golf Croquet Clubs only pay half the standard rate, i.e. £2.50 per croquet playing member (with a minimum of £25),

Go even one better and join the C.A.yourself and really play your part in the game Give the Secretary a call on 0171 736 3148 for all the details.

## Publicity Briefing

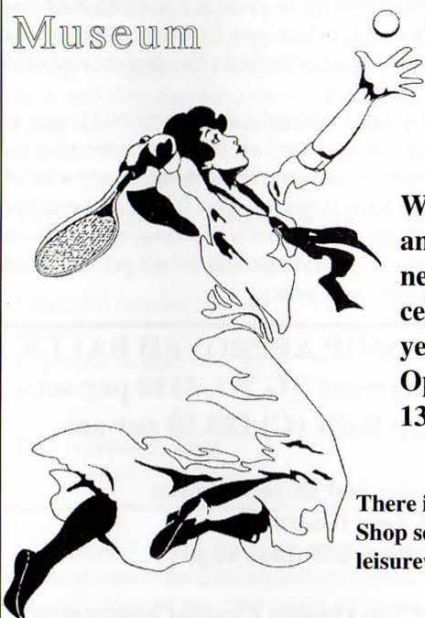
### The Last Word on Publicity by Hamish Hall

This final article from the Centenary Committee addresses Publicity. Undeniably our *piece de resistance* is the Croquet Exhibition opening at the Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Museum on the 13th May, and continuing throughout the season. Sport on 4 have been requested to audition John Solomon, with a view to his being interviewed on that programme. Additionally, we hope to obtain some general publicity in National magazines. Bob Porter, a member at Hurlingham, and a freelance journalist is preparing some general articles which we hope to see in print in the Spring. It is too early to know what success will come out of these initiatives, but, as the great Joe Hogan would say we've given it our best shot.

But don't leave all the action to us. If you want publicity for your club, you must play your part. The least you should be doing is to encourage members to display the 'Croquet is Oquet' sticker - more are available from the CA Office - and don't forget that Paul Campion has some all purpose posters too. Your public library should give you a free ad. And have you thought of asking your health centre or local pub to hang one of our Centenary prints, with a footnote of whom to contact?

Your objective is to reach out to prospective players: whether you are at Torbay, Tunbridge Wells or Tynemouth, be quite certain that there are people just looking for a new interest. As our Association approaches the millenium, countless more of the population are being forced into early retirement, and looking for some activity to get their teeth in to. Just make sure that they know where your courts are!

### The Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Museum



**Visit the Museum at the home of Lawn Tennis and find out why Wimbledon is more than just two weeks of the year**

**Why not come and visit the new exhibition celebrating 100 years of Croquet. Opens Tuesday 13th May 1997.**

**There is a Tea Room, and a Shop selling Wimbledon leisurewear, gifts and books.**

The Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Museum.  
At the All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club,  
Church Road,  
Wimbledon,  
London.  
SW19 5AE

Tues - Sat 10.30am - 5.00pm  
Sunday - 2.00pm - 5.00pm  
Free car park  
For more information and a free colour leaflet  
Telephone : 0181 946 6131

Advertising is obviously the medium through which your message is spread but that costs money - a commodity singularly lacking in the Croquet world. But a similar result can be achieved by creating 'news'. Your local press, local radio and local TV are for ever searching out news worthy items. And it's not difficult to get a 3 to 5 minute slot on radio or television now and again. Here, in the South West, Cheltenham, Dyffryn, Bristol, Budleigh Salterton and Parkstone have all been featured on the box in the past couple of years. They have capitalised upon an event, and invited the producer along.

Nailsea School's matches regularly get a few column inches in the Nailsea Mercury, but we know to our cost that 'action' photos are what interest Sport's Editors and in your wildest imagination, it is difficult to visualise how croquet can conjure up anything other than studied concentration! But of course, it can be done. You only have to remember the 'Beast of Bowdon's' famous Union flag haircut a couple of years back. I imagine that I was not alone in wondering whether that was the image that Council wished to see - but the fact remained. Croquet received unparalleled publicity in the national dailies through this tonsorial irregularity!

One must accept that the Press are only interested in selling newspapers. Human nature being what it is, we are apparently only excited by the sensational. Head butting, professional fouls or red cards are guaranteed headlines. Happily such are foreign to the croquet court: but you can achieve your ends by an alternative route to the Sport's Desk - try the Features Editor.

Inevitably, this will embrace some reference to cucumber sandwiches and Lewis Carroll. But it is still possible to write a few hundred words on how your Club is celebrating our Centenary. A photograph, without being sexist, of a pretty girl is bound to please - or the wizened contentment of any octogenarian will add some interest. And you can be quite certain that the Mayor will be flattered to be seen running a hoop or pegging out.

And there's another certainty - you won't get any local publicity without someone taking on board the task of Publicity Agent. So ..... it's up to you whether your Club capitalises on our Centenary Year. Start on your Action Plan NOW - remember - fortune favours the brave.

# STOP PRESS...

### Centenary Croquet Rally - Hyde Park 7th September

Entries are invited for this new event.  
Format : Teams of 2 players to start at a clubhouse at 08.30am Friday 5th September. In the next 50 hours the pair are to visit croquet clubs playing one game of golf or short croquet each.

Points will be awarded for games won, clubs visited, and distance travelled. These scores will be added to in a competition to be played on short lawns at Hyde Park. Players would report to the lawn by 10.30 am, Sunday morning and play from 11.00am to 4.00pm.

The full format (entry fees, point scoring, details of potential as a fundraising exercise etc) will be in the next issue of the Gazette. Any enquiries or details of potential sponsors to Donald Beck 01634 407266.

### All England Area Finals - Date Change

The area finals of the All England Handicap will now be held on the following weekend: Sat/Sun 6/7 Sept. Area venues will be announced after all entries have been received. Will all club secretaries please make sure these dates are brought to the attention of all entrants. Let's make it the biggest entry ever for Centenary Year!



## Indoor Croquet

### Centenary Indoor Tournament RAF Innsworth 15 - 16 March 1997

Report by Tony Le Moignan

Twelve teams competed in the first tournament of the season and, blissfully, nobody gave a damn what the weather did or didn't do, such is the beauty of an Indoor Centenary Championship.

I say 12 teams, but of course I mean 11 teams and 1 virtual team, which, naturally enough, won the whole bang shoot! Well, mathematically they did anyway. However, much to the joy of the other 11 "real" teams (a bit like a re-draw of a raffle prize, this bit) and not one jot to the disgust of High Wycombe since they only existed in a vacuum, thinly disguised as Alan Oldham and Brian Judson, from somewhere in England, and Aaron Westerby, Paul Duckworth, and Matthew Burrow from somewhere in the Jersey Croquet Club.

Accordingly, it wasn't a decision of cataclysmic proportions that Manager Gaunt had to arrive at during the first morning's play, to disallow dear old High Wycombe from doing any serious damage, other than to just about every team that had the misfortune of confronting them in this Two Day Swiss Handicap Short Speed Croquet Doubles Centenary Tournament, or TDSHSCDCT for short. Catchy huh?

At the end of the first day's play, Don Gaunt & David Magee representing "The Managers" were the only undefeated team, with three wins, while half a dozen teams sat in second place on two wins (Plymouth, High Wycombe, Beverley, Kenilworth, Jersey, and Bristol).

Going into the last round on the second and last day, Beverley and High Wycombe had joined The Managers on 4 out of 5 wins, while Kenilworth and Jersey had 3 wins apiece. The final round saw High Wycombe seal the Virtual Victory with 5 wins, followed nanoseconds later with the announcement of their disqualification from the tournament. Beverley lost to Jersey while Kenilworth defeated Dulwich, thus leaving four teams with four wins each, and The Managers final game in progress.

A stunningly close, tense, and at times mildly heated battle ensued before Gaunt ran hoop 5 to draw his team level with Surbiton's Nelson Morrow & Sue Thurnell thus giving Gaunt & Magee the 1/2 point they needed to take the title. So, a four-way tie between The Managers, Jersey, Beverley, and Kenilworth.

Manager Gaunt devised the rather excellent plot of a drawn semi and final using one ball short croquet, with any mandatory peel translating to an extra hoop (1-back). Gaunt & Magee fairly swiftly polished off Beverley, while Jersey were having a much more drawn out affair against

Bill Sidebottom and John Leader representing Kenilworth. Indeed, Bill, a 6 handicap player, had handed over the reins to his higher handicapped partner having outplayed the might of Aaron Westerby! Upon running hoop 4, Westerby handed over to his partner, Tony Le Moignan, who failed to make hoop 5 continuing the break, only to see Leader hit in and play a superb take off to 6, running it thereafter. It left the Jersey side on hoop 5 with Leader left to hit the peg for a place in the final.

There followed one of those rather insanely bizarre affairs which all readers will be instantly familiar with and relate to, but which really requires no explanation whatsoever. Accordingly, Le Moignan pegged



Wing Cdr Mike Bullock (station commander) and his wife present the prizes to the winning Jersey team.

out some 7 turns later to meet The Managers in the final.

Westerby started to find form after a confident start by Gaunt, handing over to Le Moignan with a good lead. It continued in that fashion with Jersey taking the match and the tournament soon after.

Stephen Badger was responsible for a lot of the administrative organisation, and the only one who got lumbered with both setting up the court and taking it down. Oh the perks of a Council Chairman! Don Gaunt managed the tournament superbly, having been informed he was playing and managing a very short time before the weekend. David Magee organised the complexities of putting on an event at a working RAF base, and did it incredibly well. So well, in fact, you'd think he worked there! Ever thought what a player carrying a mallet looks like at night on an RAF base? No fatalities though. Excellent!

Every player found it extraordinarily difficult to NOT stop and hand back their opponents' balls as they flew off the court (remember each side only have 25 minutes of play each, and the clock stops only when the player leaves the lawn with all balls in place). This fact alone beautifully underlined the spirit in which the tournament was played, and this writer would be very surprised if not every player present did not put their names forward for the same tournament next year.

### 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

### CA CHAMPIONSHIP APPROVED BALLS "Grande Tournament"(G.T.) £110 per set Championship Balls (C) £88.50 per set

Mail Order add £5 per set p&p  
3 Year Guarantee  
Mallets from £58 (plus £6 p+p)

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

## Injury Questionnaire Results

### How's your wrist? Part 2

By David Appleton

Here is the second instalment of results from the survey on croquet injuries. Seventy-six of the 214 players (35% of the men and 38% of the women) reported at least one injury to hand, wrist or forearm caused by striking the ball. Forty-three players had injuries I classified as discommoding (defined as one which had required treatment or which still caused pain or inconvenience). They were mostly described as 'wrist sprain' but occasionally as 'tennis elbow', 'tendonitis', 'teno-synovitis', 'carpal tunnel syndrome' or 'trigger finger', there was one dislocated wrist. Twenty-five players put the injury down to 'playing on slow lawns' or similar. Many of the conditions were said to have 'developed over time'. The main results are shown in the two tables.

Grip	No injury	Minor injury	Discommoding injury	Total
Standard	96 (65%)	23 (16%)	29 (20%)	148
Irish	13 (59%)	6 (27%)	3 (14%)	22
Solomon	24 (63%)	4 (11%)	10 (26%)	38
Total	133 (64%)	33 (16%)	42 (20%)	208

Table 1.

Table 1 shows the injuries to wrist, hand and forearm classified according to the player's normal grip for single-ball strokes, and by severity. There is no association (other than could easily be due to sampling error) between grip and the frequency of injury. Neither was any association found with whether or not the hands were held together or apart, nor was the site of the injury (upper or lower hand) related to grip. Our inability to demonstrate an effect of grip needs to be treated with caution: the sample obtained was relatively small; players change their grips for different strokes, and they may have chosen a grip because they saw it as less likely to cause injury. There is one other reason which we shall discuss later.

Type of shaft	Wood	Metal	Fibre-glass	Carbon fibre	Other	Total
Observed number of injuries	40	12	15	4	5	76
Expected number of injuries	48.0	9.3	8.1	5.7	(5)	76
Risk relative to wood		1.6	2.2	0.8		

Table 1.

Table 2 shows the same injuries classified by the type of mallet shaft being used at the time. Expected frequencies are based on the numbers of seasons (out of the total of 2130) each type was used. There is a statistically significant association, fibre-glass shafts being worst. The implication that they tend to increase the likelihood of wrist injury may be real, but only half of the players surveyed had kept to one kind of mallet throughout their croquet-playing career, and it is possible that some had moved to fibre-glass in an attempt to compensate for a perceived tendency to jarring with another kind of mallet. The result is also very sensitive to

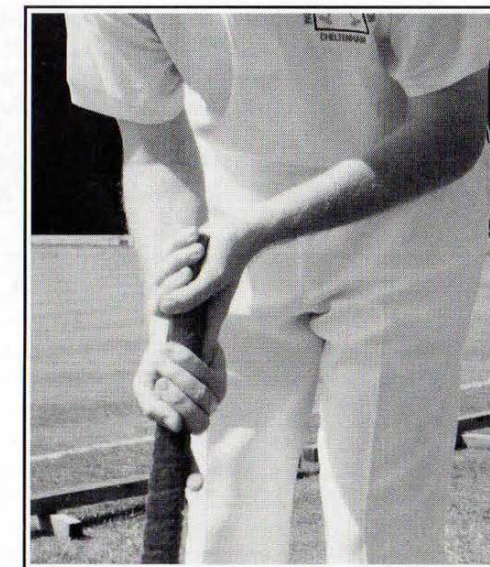


Robert Fulford's 'Irish' Grip

any injured player calling a carbon-fibre shaft a fibre-glass one.

No relationship could be found between propensity to injury and the amount of play or practice a player participated in. Those prone to injury may of course restrict the amount they play.

What I have learned most clearly from carrying out the survey I should perhaps have been aware of! If you have ever compared the photographs of the 'standard' grip in the books by John Solomon and Bill Lamb, you will know what I mean: they are quite different! Also, with our usual description, both Robert Fulford and Steve Comish would be described as having Irish grips. They too, as you can see from the



Steve Comish's 'Irish' Grip

photographs, are quite dissimilar. Since the stresses involved can be entirely different because of rotation of the hands round the shaft, the description we have of grip is entirely unsatisfactory for our present purposes. If further work is to be done, a detailed analysis of the movement of the wrists during the swing and striking period is probably required.

In spite of everything I still believe some grips are worse for you than others, but the most important advice is not to try to play shots which are beyond your strength, particularly big split shots on heavy lawns early in the season. If that message has come a week or two too late for some of you, I apologise!



## 1997 CENTENARY DINNER - THE CROQUET EVENT OF THE CENTURY

Readers will know that the first committee meeting of the CA (or UAECA as it then was) took place on 15th October 1897. We are marking the actual centenary of this event by holding a celebratory dinner in the Debenture Holders' lounge of the All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club at Wimbledon on the nearest Saturday, 18th October 1997. This is also the day of the CA's Annual General Meeting.

The venue is particularly appropriate in view of the All England Club's close connection with early croquet. This will be commemorated by a challenge match between the CA President's side and a team from the croquet section of the All England Club to be played at Wimbledon on Saturday 6th September 1997. Spectators may attend by prior arrangement and tea will be available in the museum tea shop.

The sequence of events on 18th October will be as follows:-

11 am AGM at the Hurlingham Club

The croquet exhibition at the Wimbledon lawn tennis museum will be open from 10.30 am; it will close to the public at 5 pm but will remain open thereafter until 7 pm to those holding dinner tickets who will also be admitted free from 1 pm onwards.

From 6 pm onwards there will be an indoor miniature croquet competition in the Debenture Holders' lounge managed by Bernard Neal.

7 for 7.30 pm Centenary dinner. This will commence with a complimentary drink. Thereafter a full cash bar will operate including wine for purchase with dinner. A vegetarian meal will be available for those who request this with their application. The principal guests will be Sir Peter Yarranton, former chairman of the Sports Council, and Lady Yarranton. Dress will be lounge suits, etc.

Tickets for the dinner (including entry to the croquet exhibition and optional participation in miniature croquet, but excluding wines) are available now from the CA Office price £27.50 per person. Note that after 1st September the price will be £30. The Office also has details of local accommodation for those who request them. To apply for tickets please fill in the form below. This will be repeated in the July Gazette but tickets are limited and will be issued in the order of receipt of applications, so you are advised to act promptly.

### Centenary Dinner Ticket Application

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Tel. no. for any query \_\_\_\_\_

No. of tickets required \_\_\_\_\_

State any seating preference (tables seat 10 so applicants for this number of tickets may reserve a whole table)

Please indicate number of vegetarian meals required

Cheque enclosed for £ \_\_\_\_\_ payable to the Croquet Association

**Please ensure you include your cheque and enclose a SAE. Then return to The Croquet Association, The Hurlingham Club, Ranelagh Gardens, London SW6 3PR.**

## Recruitment

### Hyde Park CC Requires Members

by Philip Joseph

During the mid-summer months of 1996 the Royal Parks Agency established a full size croquet lawn in Hyde Park. First of all it is a beautiful lawn and indeed doubles as a Bowling Green (which is seldom used) and is quite up to the standard of the front lawns at Hurlingham\*. It is situated adjacent to the tennis courts at the Alexandra Gate on the South side of the park close to the Albert Memorial. Parking is easy, if slightly costly.

The captaincy, secretaryship and general dogsbodyship of organising the birth of this club, now named the Hyde Park Croquet Club fell on my shoulders and with the assistance of the S.E. Federation we played our first game of croquet in June 1996.

Now this is a superb set-up: wonderfully maintained lawn, fine equipment (courtesy of S. E. Fed), changing rooms, lockers, tea bar and all within a mallet's throw of Hyde Park Corner. All it needs is a bit of oomph; someone say half my age with a burning zeal to take this over. At the moment, besides me, David Wedmore and Geoff Coker are joint vice-captains, vice-secretaries and of course vice-dogsbodies.

Now there must be hundreds of people living in Central London who would like to play and also play a part in helping, hopefully by usurping the existing Committee en bloc. You see the beauty of the situation is that if the Royal Parks Agency saw there was enthusiasm and frequent use of the court they would respond and build another. One thing they hate is providing facilities and not having them used.

So what do you do? Telephone me, that's all: Philip Joseph 0171 589 7669 at home or Tuesdays and Thursdays at my office 0171 379 7313. Either come and play or if you have a slight touch of megalomania please consider taking over. (\* Hurlingham was most helpful).

## CENTENARY YEAR BOOK & HISTORY OF THE CROQUET ASSOCIATION

A limited number of copies of this excellent book are being printed and will be available for dispatch in May from the Croquet Association office

Order your copy now

Price £12.00 plus 70p postage

Please supply.....copies of the Centenary Year Book & History of the Croquet Association

Name .....

Address.....

.....Post Code.....

I enclose a cheque for ..... made payable to 'The Croquet Association'. Return the is form to: The Croquet Association, c/o the Hurlingham Club, Ranelagh Gardens, London SW6 3PR.

# Tournament Reports

## Cheltenham Five Day Tournament 18 - 22 September report by Andrew Cowing

Asked by the tournament manager, Stephen Badger, to complete this report during my first full CA tournament from a high bisquer's perspective presented an opportunity to demonstrate the wide diversity of reporting the Croquet Gazette gives its readership. Well here goes!

The format was the Egyptian Hands system divided into A - E classes for the singles with a draw and process for the Gladstone Salver and handicap doubles with a change of partner each day.

Wednesday started with the fiercely cold easterly winds blowing away the last remnants of the summer at Cheltenham. The tournament, playing its doubles matches in the mornings and singles in the afternoons, got off to a good start with a healthy number of 47 participants. Conditions on Thursday worsened, if anything, although we were spared the rain until Friday night. The level play format in group E was enjoyed by all the participants, the absence of bisques curiously leading to open, attacking play with many quality breaks being made. Both Les Kershaw and Liz Read had good starts and Gordon Weir progressed with his own distinctive style.

By Saturday afternoon the doubles competition had completed its penultimate matches and Andrew Potter leading the low bisquers and myself in the high bisquers, with both players achieving 4/4. At Saturday tea I was welcomed into the tea room with a chorus of 'Happy Birthday' and a birthday cake prepared by the tireless and much appreciated Eileen Magee who was spotted on Thursday taking a break from organising the coffee, lunches, teas, etc etc to her usual excellent standard we have all come to enjoy at Cheltenham; cutting the grass to the borders of the entire pavilion patio with a pair of scissors! The general consensus was that the club should immediately invest in some suitable shears, although, on reflection, I'm sure more helpers would be better appreciated from Eileen's point of view.

On a sunny but cool Sunday morning the doubles were completed with Andrew Potter winning the low bisquers with 4/5 on points from George Chamberlin. In our doubles match (Veronica McClements and I) against Martin Kolbuszewski and Roger Wheeler, Roger pointed out that I must be an 'Autumnal

Equinoctial Person' (referring to my birthday) and having looked up the definition in the dictionary (broadly meaning the point of 'incipient decline') I couldn't agree more as I was somehow trying to overcome a hangover from my celebrations the night before! This we managed to do (it must have been the reassuring effect of seeing a 'double' on every ball I aimed at) and I completed the high bisquers as the outright winner with 5/5.

The A class singles was won by ROT David Harrison-Wood with the writer witnessing his triple peel on a double banked lawn on Wednesday. The Draw and process was closely contested with David Magee gaining third place with his victory over Bernard Neal. The final of the Gladstone Salver was contested between Michael Rangeley and Roger Jackman. In a match which showed signs of some very nervy moments as well as an excellent exhibition of first class play for all the spectators, the players generously took a short break from play to allow the presentation of the other competitions to take place adjacent to lawn 8. When play reconvened Michael Rangeley finally won to take the title for the third time.

The B class singles Hands was won by Dennis Regan over a close runner-up Richard Wainman. Margaretha Regan decided to keep it in the family by successfully completing the C class singles Hands over the runner-up George Chamberlin. Nigel Walsh narrowly won the D class event, after a recount of the score cards in the Hands system was necessary to decide the overall winner, by a point from Una Atter-Martin who had played consistently well throughout.

Thanks must go to Stephen Badger on both the format and the excellent management of the tournament which I know was enjoyed by all the competitors and to David Harrison-Wood for refereeing the tournament and setting hoops.

Finally, Yours Truly eventually took the E class singles having won six singles, from runner-up Les Kershaw who came close with his last win against Gordon Weir.

## Sidmouth Handicap Wknd 21 - 22 September report by Tony Backhouse

It was raining when I set out on the 90 mile trip east to England for the tournament as it had been all day. The forecast for the weekend was poor so I took the oilskins, sea boots and a full flask. What was the result? Not a drop of rain on either day, even bright and warming sunshine for the

first afternoon.

There was an equally warm welcome from the natives at the splendid pavilion which must be one of the most lovely positions of any club with a breathtaking view over the sports fields to the sea. All mod cons were provided within the spacious, thatched building (listed grade 2) and at very reasonable prices. For an interesting experience, sample the Devon version of Cornish pasty! But visitors beware - parking is a problem.

The tournament was run with genial efficiency by Iris Dwerryhouse. Games, even lunch breaks, were firmly timed, four blocks of four, two games a day. The only scope given was to allow one-ball games after formal play was finished on the first day. A snag of this form of play and its organisation was that the four members of each block all played, double banked, together for the first three games. So the opportunities to meet those in other blocks were restricted as was the knowledge that your reporter has of what went on on the lawns.

There were two finals between the winners of each pair of blocks on the Sunday afternoon, when Elizabeth White beat Ruth Youd and Eric Bevan beat Geoff Youd, surprising results as both Youds had been unbeaten in their blocks. The winners were congratulated and their prizes presented by Len Sage, OBE, President of the Sidmouth cricket, tennis croquet and hockey Club.

Shaun Carter tried to add class to the occasion with a triple peel during his final game with an over-awed and under practised competitor. When he failed the third peel the game eventually became a two ball effort with a not too serious conclusion.

It was an enjoyable, relaxed and well organised meeting in a most beautiful setting. I shall certainly hope to play there again next year and just hope that others are not discouraged by this report to apply and thereby squeeze me out.

## Roehampton End of Season Tournament 26 - 29 September report by Tim Masterton

When I came to arrange some time off work for this tournament I discovered that I had entered for a four day tournament and not a three. It turned out to be well worth the extra day as a means of acquiring lots of serious competition experience without a matching hole in the leave allowance.

Paul Campion used the first round of



games to separate the eighteen competitors into two American blocks "us and The Rabbits" as Neil Jackson (the 1995 winner) succinctly put it. The promised wet and windy weather for Thursday and Friday failed to materialise fully, and the blocks progressed at roughly the planned rate with only the occasional muted curse for a mallet blown off line by a gust of wind.

Tim Dutton claimed the Hussar's cup without a defeat, despite at least six claims that he'd thrown the game away! Jean Ackerman came nearest to breaking his unbeaten run, closely followed by Marjorie Boyd and Jean Oades.

The remaining honours were closely contested, with second, third and fourth place being decided on the peg of the last game, between Vince Corney and Tim Masterton. Vince eventually winning +1 thus securing second place, with Pauline Healy third and Tim fourth. Dick Knapp, a relative newcomer to the sport, delighted everyone with some elegant stroke play and won a CA bronze award.

The combination of high quality lawns and facilities with friendly encouraging company and a chance to improve your handicap by two steps in four days meant that I will be keen to play next year.

### Colchester Over 50's Handicap Wknd 27 -29 September

report by Pat Hetherington

A mixture of warm sunshine, strong breeze and only one or two spots of rain gave the lie to the gloomy weather forecast for Colchester's over 50's Swiss tournament.

Sadly in the four days before the event began, no less than four players had to withdraw, leaving only 12 participants and much tipped draw and result sheets.

Play began slowly, with five of the first round games going to time, but this proved to be an exception. Unfortunately Bill Lamb's arthritis

limited his play to one game per day, so local players boxed and coxed with him to ensure that everyone got six games.

Two visitors, John Wilkinson and Neal Gardner, won five out of six games, John taking the winner's rose bowl by virtue of his defeat of Neal on day two.

### Southwick Advanced Wknd 28 - 29 September

report by David Ruscombe-King

It was a happy tournament, and a busy one. There was a level advanced knockout, a consolation Swiss, and a one ball competition to fill the gaps. Thus there was always a game to be played throughout the shortening autumn days.

The main event did not go entirely according to the form book. Eventually Brian Hallam and Bob Rogers reached the best of three final. Brian took the first game +17, and in the second won +26 with the only triple peel of the tournament.

In the meantime Stephen Badger won the Swiss with victories over Bill Arliss, John Bowman, Nelson Morrow and Peter Howell. In his one ball game with Peter Howell, Stephen also completed a twelve hoop break.

Twenty players took part in this new tournament, which is happily planned to be repeated next year. It had been intended to be the first ever tournament to be managed by John Solomon but unfortunately presidential duties had summoned him to Italy, and he had to manage this tournament in absentia.

### Compton 3 legged Race 5 - 6 October

report by Roy Wallis

Just as 'Nye' was short for Aneurin (Bevan), so 'Niall' is short for Annihilate-all. The 12-year-old partnered his Dad, Kevin Carter, in the end-of-season "Three-legged" Race at Compton CC on 5th and 6th October 1996, and they beat all the opposition to carry off the trophies, made from two halves of a Jaques ball. Niall's style is a carbon copy of Kevin's, and his understanding of the game is mature beyond his years. The proud light in Kevin's eyes as he explained to his son that he is permitted only to advise on points of law and not on tactics warmed spectators and players alike. Niall started the tournament with a handicap of 22 and finished with one of 16 and a CA bronze medal.

The tournament was conceived as a fun event for pairs of players (hence its title). Each pair plays a doubles, an advanced and a handicap singles, and 3 single-ball games each against two other pairs - one on Saturday and one on Sunday. Thus, 4 players occupy a lawn for the whole day and don't have to wait around for other games to finish. They score 5 points for a win within time, 4 points for a win on time and 1 point for each single-ball game, giving a possible total of 42 points for the tournament. Any tie is broken by the longest break by the higher handicapped player of the pair. (So far, this provision has not been invoked.)

Kevin and Niall won with 36 points and the runners-up were Paul Castell and Alex Gerrard with 29 points.

The manager, Roy Wallis, and his partner, Margaret Ward, were in contention until Roy was skilfully beaten in his advanced game after missing the peg-out with his forward ball and leaving it alone near the peg with Marjorie Boyd's balls (both for 3-back) near hoops 2 and 3. Marjorie, handicap 9, hit the lone ball, made a two-ball break to the peg, and, after a couple of near misses by Roy, took the other ball round to finish, raising her handicap index by a well-earned 17.

Though the event is designed for a low-bisquer and a high-bisquer in each pair, three pairs were 'handicap-challenged' and had to play the advanced game for the first time. Nobody disgraced themselves, and Mavis Buist (h/cap 17), who responded to a telephone call at 9.45 to step in for an entrant who couldn't attend, gave a good account of herself in an advanced game, as did her partner, David Connah (18). Low-bisquers and high-bisquers, win or lose, enjoyed the weekend in spite of the cold and wet of autumn.

### October Weekend Tournament

#### Cheltenham 11th - 13th October 1996

report by Andrew Cowing

Dry but cool weather greeted the forty two players in the final tournament of the season at Cheltenham. A large, gallant, entry was made by A class players (including some minuses) for this handicap singles event.

The high bisquers generally had the greater success over the lower bisquers extracting a few grumbles along the way, as many players were playing far better than their handicap suggested, which probably indicated a large number of rapidly improving players (four gaining merit awards), rather than a serious flaw in the handicapping system.

By Saturday afternoon the leaders of the seven groups were emerging. In group A Stan Harding was leading with 4/4. Group B was headed by Louise Bradforth who gained +26 victory over the tournament manager Ian Maugham, in her second game, on her way to successfully completing 6/6. In group C Derek Harrison was 5/5 including a +25 win over David Kibble followed by Richard Danby on 4/5 beating Stephen Badger +26. Group D leader was Timothy Danby on 3/4 valiantly attempting triple peels. I headed group E with 4/4 beating Nick Heriz Smith by +26 and gaining the silver merit award. Nick was a close second with 3/4. Group F was keenly contested, Bernard Weitz leading with 4/5 from Eileen Magee on 3/4 following Bernard's much awaited +7 victory over Jean Powell (after about 10 years of trying in handicap play according to Bernard!). John Toughy led group G with 3/3.

All players and officials were invited to a cocktail party at Stephen Badger's home on Saturday evening to mark the beginning of the Croquet Association's Centenary Year. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves and the coming year was very well celebrated indeed. The following day turned out to be quite a festival atmosphere with fireworks and whizz-bangs going off everywhere. Unfortunately for Kismet Whitall, my opponent, (and many others too!) there is no provision in the Laws for being distracted by a firework during a stroke, causing a missed hoop. Perhaps the Chairman of the Laws Committee may wish to address this rare anomaly?!

A special note for Timothy Danby who successfully gained his gold merit award the hard way with a straight triple peel against Peter Bailey on Sunday. In the final match on lawn 7 Bernard Weitz required a win to take group F from a tense Eileen Magee watching the game from the pavilion, although he narrowly failed and Eileen emerged the winner of group F.

The group winners finally were :-

Group A -	D Taylor	Group B -	L Bradforth
Group C -	R Danby	Group D -	V McClements
Group E -	A J Cowing	Group F -	E Magee
Group G -	P Toughy		

The tournament was a great success and many thanks to Ian Maugham and the effort made by all in preparing the lunches and teas.

### PENDLE EASTER H'CAP 28-31 MARCH 1997

report by Brian Medley

To start the croquet season in March requires either a preparedness for hardship or an above-average degree of optimism. For those who entered the Pendle Easter Handicap, the optimists were rewarded with extraordinarily good weather.

Firmly in charge of proceedings was John Beech. With the tournament over-subscribed, he found an intricate way of incorporating 24 players into a tournament originally intended for only 16. All this scheming took its toll. In his opening game against Don Gaunt, John played out of his skin and had an apparently invincible lead, only to forget that the rules only permit one roquet per ball after each hoop point. His leave of 4 balls around penultimate allowed Don to take charge of the game, and John never had the innings again.

The most unfortunate competitor was Joan Welch who was forced to withdraw after the first day with a wrist injury (she faithfully returned as

a spectator on all subsequent days to provide succour and conversation for out-players). The manager sprang once more into action and enlisted Abdul Ahmad from the reserve list, who had as his reward a match against Philip Tidswell, the defending champion and hot favourite. It may be true that there are few sights more impressive than that of a Scotsman on the make but, if so, one of the few must be that of an improving player with whom the AHS cannot keep pace (the term bandit is grossly unfair and I refuse to use it). I shall return to the subject of Philip later in this report.

Chris Dent impressed everyone with his generosity in donating a wooden spoon as the trophy for the bottom player, but recouped his losses by winning it for himself.

Inevitably, Philip Tidswell clinched the trophy for the second year in succession, with Don Gaunt and Myer Cohen runners-up in the under-and-over-10 handicap brackets. Reductions in handicap were triggered by Philip (though 10 is still much too high) and by Len Forkin. The Player of the Tournament award (adjudicated by me) goes to Ron Welch who was the only player to take a game from Tidswell.

I left the tournament having had my best four days since the previous summer. Easter 1998 at Pendle is highly recommended, but be sure to play early!

### Southwick Salver, Southwick 12 - 13 April 1997

report by Andrew Gregory

A large turn-out of 26 players welcomed in the season and the sunshine at Sussex County Croquet Club this weekend. This turn-out was especially impressive given the unavailability of the Solomon Trophy team, including holder for the last three years Chris Clarke.

The field was nominally a strong one (median handicap 1/2), but what with having to sweep away the rust and scrape off the cobwebs, several were out of the main event before they knew it. Terry Burge (last year's runner-up) lost his first game to Graham Gale, Lionel Tibble went out against Ian Scott, while Brian Hallam lost -3 to Kevin Carter.

The only remaining seed was Don Gaunt, who was sufficiently solid to see off all challengers. Graham Gale made good account of himself in the final, and will surely be a minus player ere long.

### Southport Open W/E 20 -21 April

report by Richard Hilditch

Round 1: \*Irwin bt H.Taylor +17 Bell bt Pidcock +23 \*Tribe bt Hilditch +26 Brown bt Sutcliffe +23 \*M.Saurin bt J.Haslam +14 Nicholson bt Hawkins +15 \*Maugham bt Burge +15 P.Taylor bt Williamson +13

Round 2: Irwin bt Bell +17 Brown bt Tribe +6 Saurin bt Nicholson +2 Maugham bt P.Taylor +4

Semi-finals: Brown bt Irwin +23TP, +25TP Maugham bt Saurin +13TP +13OTP

Final: Maugham bt Brown +7TPO, +26TP, +26TP

## WOODLANDS CROQUET

### 'CENTENARY Mallet'

Celebrate the CA Centenary  
with a  
CA CENTENARY Mallet

Hand crafted in traditional and 'hi tec' materials. Bubinga head with impact faces. Graphite shaft with octagonal luxury grip.

Available only from  
Brian Macmillan 0171 - 7363148

or

John Beech 01282 - 813070.

Call now for details

### Manor House Mallets

Originators and specialist makers of finely crafted mallets incorporating carbon fibre rod or tube shafts and choice timbers - for all levels of play. All mallets have inlaid sight line, double composite faces and grips, and are dispatched quickly to your individual specifications. 'Cordura' Mallet bags are also available.

\*\*\*\*\* New for 1997 \*\*\*\*\*

Basic Mallet with carbon shaft £65

Discuss your requirements with Alan Pidcock on  
01772 743859

The Manor House, 1 Barncroft, Penwortham, Preston  
PR1 0SX



# The Solomon Trophy

story and pictures by Bob Alman  
photo processing and layout by Bob Henry

Counting the MacRobertson Shield confrontations in 1993 and 1996, the 1997 Solomon Trophy in Thousand Oaks, California, marked the tenth meeting of six-person teams from the U.S. and Great Britain to test the mettle of their best players in a rigorously exacting 5-day team competition.

The British and American teams arrived at Sherwood Country Club to find ideal conditions for the five-day event: ideal weather - mild, dry, sunny - easy, evenly-textured lawns, and plenty of light until 8:30 PM. Team captains Chris Clarke (U.K) and Jerry Stark (U.S.) recognized an opportunity to play more games; they jointly agreed to play best-of-five matches instead of the traditional best-of-three format. No one can say how this affected the chances of the underdog Americans. On the one hand, given the assumption that the British were better players, the best-of-five format would statistically reduce the odds for American match wins; on the other hand, getting more matches in would give them more practice and more opportunity to "warm up" to the level of the British.

Though the games went fairly quickly, there still wasn't quite enough time to complete the schedule in doubles. On the last day, a best-of-three match format was used, and a doubles match held over from Day One tied at 2-all was never completed.

As America's #1 ranked player John Taves commented, the 1997 Solomon was distinguished not only by excellent selections on both sides, but by a respectable level of performance at all levels. All the players - even the ones said to be off form - were able at least in some games to show their best.

On the British side, the ranking of the team proved fairly accurate in the tournament, with Fulford, Clarke, and Comish playing in top form. Clarke, Comish, and Avery won all their matches in both singles and doubles.

On the American side, Taves and Mehas continued to prove themselves the most consistent top-performing players in America. Don Fournier of Arizona looked good in his Solomon debut, with his two wins and lone American triple in singles. Much was expected of the three Northern Californians based on their records in other international events, but their statistics were a disappointment: Stark, Rodoni, and Arnold won no matches in either singles or doubles.

In the one-day President's Cup postlude to the Solomon Trophy matches, played in American rules doubles, the British showed no fear of deadness: they simply peeled the dead partner ball out of trouble! Midway the Cup event, word spread through the 4-lawn complex that Robert Fulford was playing "the first American rules sextuple." Something went awry after only three peels, so that bit of croquet history will have to wait for another day. Fulford and his partner Openshaw won the game and all their American rules games anyway, as did all their team-mates, for a shut-out score of 9-0.

In fairness, it must be noted that a "fresh" American team was brought in to face the British Solomon team in the one-day Presidents Cup games, a Solomon "tradition" for the hosting country which, in retrospect, looks a little TOO gracious. The British played as if they were well warmed up after five days of continuous top-level competition. The American played as if they had just arrived the day before and weren't ready to take on the world champions of the sport.

## FOR THE RECORD BOOK - GAMES/MATCHES/TRIPLES

Great Britain won 56 games in singles and doubles combined; the Americans won 23.



A relaxed and confident British team poses for croquet history on the final day. L to R: Steve Comish, Robert Fulford, Mark Avery, Chris Clarke, David Openshaw, Ian Burridge.

Great Britain performed 23 triples - 15 in singles and 8 in doubles; The U.S. performed 6 triples - 1 in singles and 5 in doubles.

## FINAL MATCH RESULTS: GREAT BRITAIN 16, UNITED STATES 4

Monday Doubles - GB 2, US 0, Tie 1  
Clarke & Fulford def. Taves & Fournier (+21TP, +26TP, +17TP)  
Avery & Comish def. Stark & Arnold (+18, +10, +15)  
Burridge & Openshaw (+16, +22) tied Rodoni & Mehas (+22, +25TP)(5th game stopped at 25-18 US and never completed)

Tuesday Singles - GB 6, US 0  
Robert Fulford def. Jerry Stark (+3TPO, +22TP, +26TP)  
Chris Clarke def. John Taves (-17, +26TP, +10, +3)  
Steve Comish def. Michael Mehas (+17, +26TP, +25TP)  
Ian Burridge def. Wayne Rodoni (+26TP, +26STP, -20, +3)  
David Openshaw def. Phil Arnold (+26, -15, +15, +13)  
Mark Avery def. Don Fournier, Jr. (+24, +15, +23)

Wednesday Doubles - GB 2, US 1  
Clarke & Fulford def. Stark & Arnold (+7, +24TP, +21TP)  
Avery & Comish def. Rodoni & Mehas (+26, -8OTP, -17TP, +26, +19)  
Burridge & Openshaw lost to Taves & Fournier (-14, +15TP, +26TP, +9)

Thursday Singles - GB 3, US 3  
Robert Fulford lost to John Taves (-26TP, +17, +26, -15TP, +10)  
Chris Clarke def. Jerry Stark (-17, +20TP, +26TP, +7TP)  
Steve Comish def. Wayne Rodoni (+21, +26, +8)  
Ian Burridge lost to Michael Mehas (+20, +20, -26, +17)  
David Openshaw lost to Don Fournier, Jr. (-4, +16, +4TP, -3, +17)  
Mark Avery def. Phil Arnold (+25TP, +22TP, -1, +11)

Friday Doubles - GB 3, US 0  
Clarke & Fulford def. Rodoni & Mehas (+13, -14, +26TP)  
Avery & Comish def. Taves & Fournier (+25TP, +24TP)  
Burridge & Openshaw def. Stark & Arnold (+25, -3, +9)

## Front Page Story

### David Price Wins Vintage Times Pharmaton Senior Sports Award

An 80 year old croquet player from Cromer has won an award in the UK's top senior sports personality honours.

David Price decided he wanted to play Association Croquet, but in Northumberland, where he then resided, the odds really were against him. However with the help of the sport's governing body, he gathered six friends and founded Belsay Hall Croquet Club which today flourishes with 50 members.

Sheer drive and force of personality, together with a gift for making his vision become other people's mission has brought a sense of purpose and excitement to many senior sports people in the area. The Croquet Association remain astonished by his achievement, which they acclaim as a personal triumph against the odds.

A marketing man by profession, David took this as just another project and forged ahead with the concept of setting up a new club. As luck would have it, Belsay Hall local English Heritage property had a 150 year old unused croquet lawn, which was soon to be returned to its original use.

As the game attracted local interest, David produced an explanatory booklet and extended the club so that there are facilities for beginners to play simpler forms of the game. When they needed a new pavilion, David and English Heritage produced a 'period piece' gazebo.

## 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.

## TOURNAMENTS

**Play Croquet In Pendle.** Beginners and High Bisquers welcome at these club tournaments.

**10+ Handicap 7 - 8 June.** Minimum Handicap 10. Entry Fee £8

**Pennine Short 9th August (one day event)** Short Croquet. Entry Fee £5.

**August Handicap 23 - 25 August.** Entry Fee £12 (See Fixture Book)

Phone for further details 01282 - 813070

## BOOKS

### New Thinking From Down Under

**Croquet Booklets by John Riches** (Chairman of the ACA Laws Committee)  
Croquet Technique 22pp £6  
Croquet Coaching 31pp £6 (Error Correction)  
Next Break Strategy 52pp £7.50  
The Mental Approach 46pp £7.50

Lessons in Tactics 57pp £7.50  
Referees Guide 18pp £6  
Finer Points 96pp £10  
These A4 booklets in plastic comb binders are available from David Drazin, Roefield, The Green, Croxley Green, Herts WD3 3HJ. Tel: 01923 - 774048. (Prices include UK inland postage.)

## SERVICES

**Keith Aiton ATT Tax Consultant** For comprehensive and all aspects of Income Tax, Capital Gains Tax, Inheritance Tax and Self-Assessment Tax. Tel: 01623 - 871380 Fax: 01623 - 871414.

## New Associates

Mr J Bryant	Woking
Mrs D Burrow	Jersey
Mrs S Buxton	Bowdon
Ms E Grinnell	Cheltenham
Mrs P Hinton	Purley Bury
Mrs R Nunn	Winchester
Mr S Patel	Surbiton
Mrs G Rushant	
Mr G Rushant	
Mr D Saville	Newport
Mr S Bedford	Compton
Mrs C Chick	Littlehampton
Mr P Duckworth	Jersey
Sr C Farioli	Italy
Mr E Lualdi	Italy
Ms J Lyon	
Mrs B Porter	Budleigh Salterton
Mr N Riley	Pendle
Mr J Robinson	All Eng LTC
Mrs M Rumsey	
Mr J Saxby	Bowdon
Mrs E Smith	East Dorset

Mr J Vinnen	Germany
Mrs V Whittle	Rottingdean
Mr I Winder	
Mr G Winder	
Mr R Burness-Smith	Rottingdean
Mrs B Burness-Smith	Rottingdean
Miss R Elleray	
Mrs M Ansell	Dublin
Mr K Bremner	Beverley
Mrs P Clark	Sidmouth
Mr R Clark	Sidmouth
Mr P Fursdon	Budleigh Salterton
W Lauder	Pendle
Mr F Lee	Worthing
Mr P Muggleton	Compton
Mrs E Nisbet	Belsay Hall
Mr S Oakes	
Mr A Robertson	Reading
Mr L Forkin	Bury
Mrs C Forkin	Bury
Mr S Harrison Jr	USA
Mr W Hill	Tyneside
Mr A Johnson	
Mr A Langdon	
Mrs R Lelliott	
Mrs A Lemm	Compton
Mr D Lycett-Gregson	Woking
Mrs N Lycett-Gregson	Woking
Mr B Nicholls	Compton
Mr D Old	Tyneside
Mr J Smith	Test Valley
Mr A Strange	Sweden
Mr R White	New Zealand

## Handicap Alterations

Sidmouth C.C.			
Mrs S Adams	20	to	18
J.C. Coombs	24	to	18
Mrs M Smith	20	to	18
Mrs B Toyne	20	to	18
Pendle Handicap 31/3/97			
L Forkin	16	to	14
S Pratt	4	to	4.5
J Ruddock	2.5	to	3
P Tidswell	11	to	10
Southport Open Weekend	20/4/97		
David Nicholson	1.5	to	1

## STOP PRESS.....

WANT TO IMPROVE YOUR GAME?  
HANDICAP 18 to 24?  
YOU NEED "IMPROVERS COACHING"!  
WHEN? JUNE 7th to 8th  
WHERE? THE NEW BERKSHIRE CROQUET CLUB at THATCHAM near NEWBURY.  
MONEY? YES PLEASE! 15 POUNDS, CHEQUES PAYABLE TO 'SOUTHERN CROQUET FEDERATION'  
NEED MORE INFO?  
CALL ADRIAN WADLEY 0118 934 0214 OR  
JANET CARTER 01256 881554