

# The Croquet Gazette

Issue 252

November 1997

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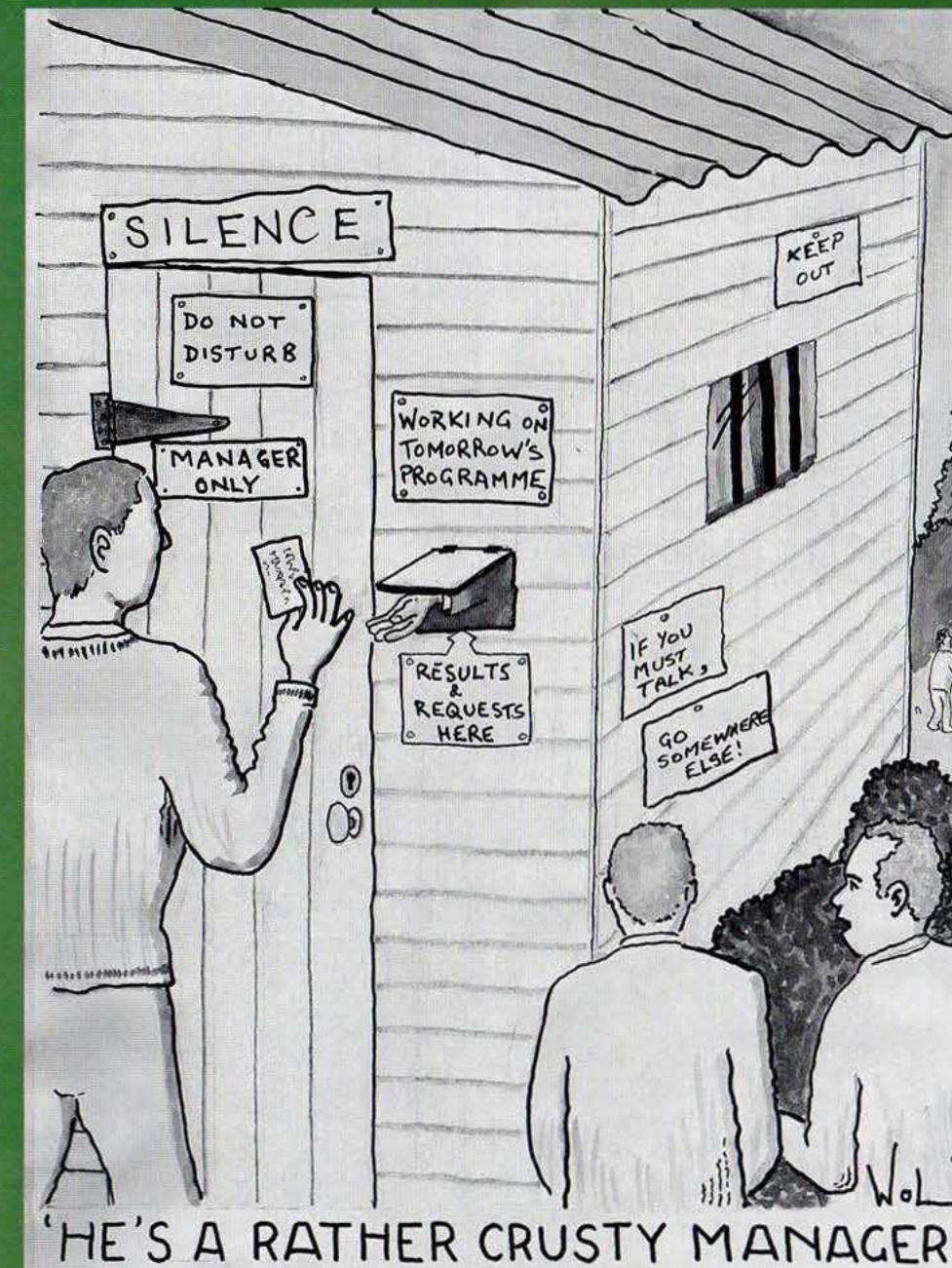
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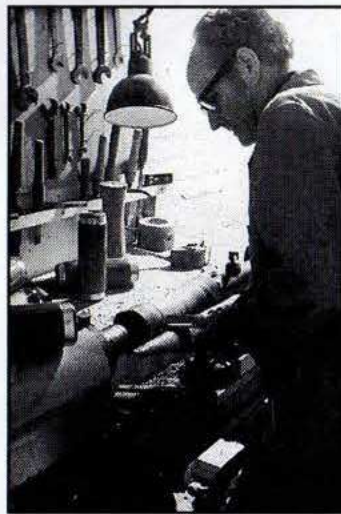
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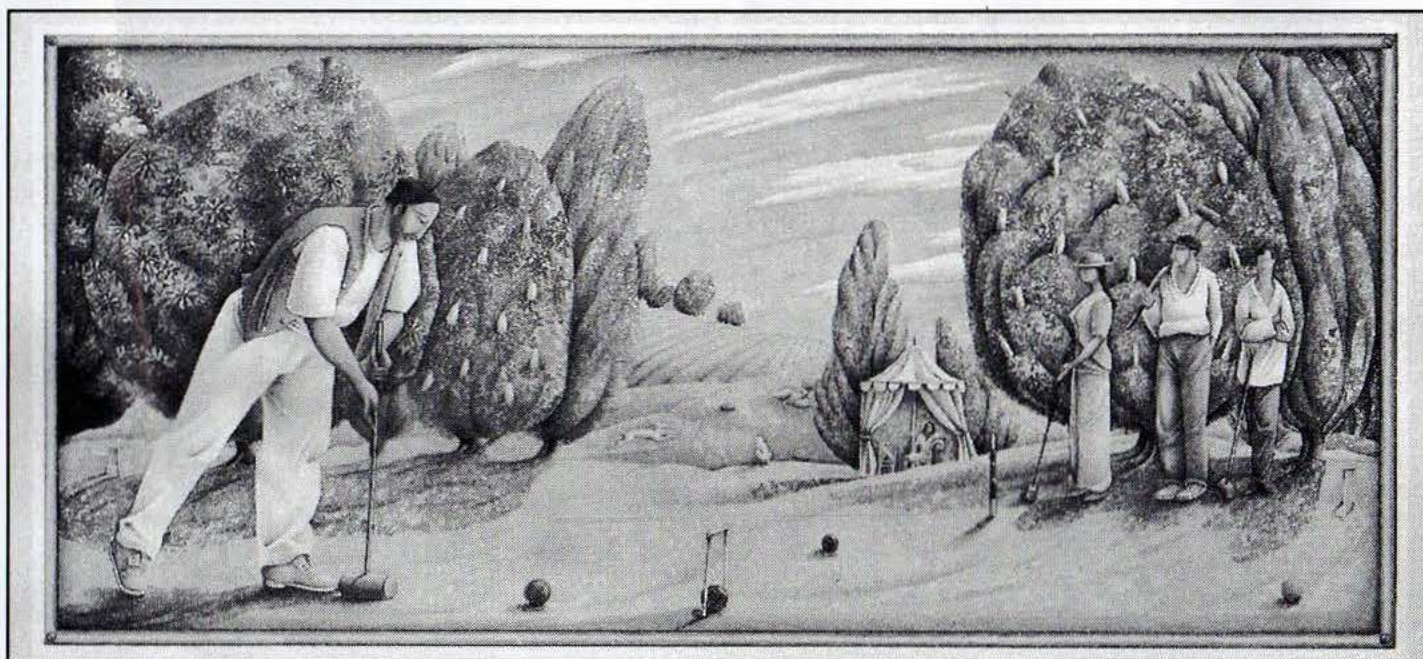
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**Publication Schedule**

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**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.

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Editorial

It would appear that from the many comments I have heard regarding the centenary doubles held at Cheltenham that the tournament was a resounding success and that all those who played in it thoroughly enjoyed the experience of mass participation. Not having been there myself I can only guess that the atmosphere must have been similar to that of the

Chairman's Column

First, news of two of our most eminent associates. Cpt Forrest Tucker (USN ret'd) recently reached his 100th birthday and is almost certainly therefore our senior associate. Our president sent him appropriate greetings and I am sure you would all wish to join him in this. Sadly however our longest standing associate, Maj. Freddie Stone who first joined the CA in 1912, died in early September. I was able to visit him shortly beforehand in his nursing home in Exeter. He was in good heart and looking forward to his own centenary. Unfortunately this was not to be, but I cannot conceive that anyone else will ever be an associate for 85 years as he was. On behalf of all croquet players I extend our condolences to his family.

On other fronts, the centenary doubles tournament took place at Cheltenham on 30/31 August and involved as many as 200 players. It was won by a Cheltenham team captained by Peter Leach and including Bernard Neal. Despite less than perfect weather my impression was that it was generally regarded as a great success that could bear repeating before the next centenary. If you have views on this please make them known either to me or to the tournament committee. In any event thanks are due to Ian

Inter Counties, and therefore hope that the experience gained at Cheltenham will spur on improving players to compete for their counties in a future event, as well as perhaps encouraging a repetition of the doubles event before the bicentenary.

On a slightly different note, but still on the subject of the centenary, it is my intention to make the January issue of the Gazette the focus for centenary events. So if your club or federation held an event of any sort during this season please make sure I have the necessary reportage and photos by the end of November.

Burridge, who planned and managed the event, and to all Cheltenham members who helped with the arrangements in advance and on the day.

By the time you read this we will have passed the actual day of our centenary, that is 15th October when the predecessor of the present Council first met. However the events marking the centenary are not over yet. The last magazine contained details of the centenary indoor series of tournaments which will culminate in an overall final in March, so do enter. And the Wimbledon exhibition is due to be extended until the end of February 1999. This of course will depend on the continuing goodwill of all those who have loaned exhibits. May I thank them for their help and crave their indulgence.

Associates may also like to be aware that Chastleton House in Oxfordshire, now owned by the National Trust, was re-opened to the public in September. It is currently closed for the winter but will open again next March. This was the first home of Walter Jones Whitmore who according to one contemporary 'transformed the game of croquet from the silliest of open-air games to the most intellectual'. His lawns are to be re-established.

Stephen Badger

I am happy to be contacted by anyone with comments or suggestions to make of any kind. 0171 2748126 or 01242 516603.

Subscription Renewals 1998

During November every associate will be sent a letter about subscription renewals. I hope that any of you who do not currently pay by Direct Debit will consider doing so. Two thirds of our membership have adopted the method - well over one thousand of you! If you would like a Direct Debit form, please just contact the office and one will be sent to you.

Below are listed membership categories and subscriptions for 1998

Membership Category	Subscription by Direct Debit	Subscription by other means
Tournament	£22.00	£25.00
Veteran (over 65 on 31/12/97)	£18.00	£21.00
Junior (under 21 on 31/8/97)	£11.00	£11.00
Husband & Wife (tournament)	£35.00	£40.00
Husband & Wife (non-tournament)	£19.00	£22.00

Please note that for payment by methods other than Direct Debit there is a marginally higher subscription - an encouragement I hope to you all to adopt the newer method.

Secretary's Notes

During the summer and early autumn I had the good fortune to visit several more clubs and to get to know many club members and CA associates around the country.

In the north I spent a very happy and warm afternoon at Belsay Club, in their beautiful historic surroundings. I even managed to win one of the games I played. The following afternoon I visited the mist-shrouded Tynemouth Priory - one of the most dramatic settings of any club I know, perched as it is among old ruins overlooking the North Sea. Newly affiliated to the CA, this club has an enthusiastic membership which meets regularly, specially at weekends, to play golf croquet.

From there a further tour organised by John Beech of the North West Federation took me to Crake Valley in Cumbria. Over the last few years enthusiasts have cleared and levelled old courts and made them into fine playing surfaces again. Members were discussing their recent Centenary 24 hour Croquet challenge, which had proved a great success and received much publicity. Pendle Club was my next stop, situated in the grounds of Nelson and Colne College. The club's weekend tournament was imminent and proved to be a great success, with players travelling long distances to take part. My final call on this trip was to Bowdon, where the North of England Week was taking place. Under torrential rain the lawns were flooding and one particular final had to be transferred to another court as we watched; nevertheless, my welcome was warm and the excellent tea very much appreciated. It was an honour to be asked to present the trophies to the happy but sodden winners!

I thank all those who invited me for their kind hospitality and look forward to several more club visits soon including Bristol, Phyllis Court, Roehampton and a return to Belsay for their annual dinner in October.

Paul Campion

Obituary

Major G.F.J.P. Stone

The death occurred recently of Freddie Stone at the age of 98. Freddie was a bright star of the Budleigh Salterton club in the 1950's, at a time when that club was full of bright stars. He was taught to play by his father and became an infant prodigy, winning a silver medal in 1912 when he was 13. At that time there were numerous tournaments in the south west, and Freddie appeared in many of them, not always with the unqualified approval of other competitors. Some elderly gentlemen did not take kindly to being defeated by a small boy in knickerbockers!

His army career in the Devonshire Regiment put a stop for many years to most of his tournament activities, but in retirement he re-emerged and swiftly reached the top of the tree. He was three times invited to play for Great Britain but was only able to accept in 1956 when he played in all five matches for his country against New Zealand. All through the fifties he competed for and won innumerable trophies, both in club competitions and CA tournaments.

Unfortunately he had to give up the game altogether at a comparatively early age. He explained that it was his habit to hit the ball so hard that he eventually "did his knees in". He was, in fact, renowned in the croquet world as being the hardest hitter ever known. A favourite story - most likely apocryphal - is that he hit a shot so hard on lawn three at Budleigh that the ball took off, sailed over intervening obstacles, and eventually landed in the High Street!

Regrettably I was not acquainted with Freddie in his croquet days, but sat at the bridge table with him over many years, both as a partner and opponent, and I am in no doubt that his immaculate play of the cards, his devilish cunning, his impish sense of humour and his perfect sportsmanship were all a mirror of his former play on the croquet lawns.

He was very proud of being granted Honorary Life Membership of the Croquet Association earlier this year. Freddie was a unique character who will long be remembered with affection by all who knew him. Diana Perry.



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# Letters...

## Japanese croquet

Dear Editor  
The article by David Drazin on Chinese croquet (Gazette 251, September 1997) reminds me of a recent introduction to "Japanese" croquet, while my wife and I were staying in Fiji. This was an advertised activity one afternoon on the hotel's reasonably kept lawn.

The set-up looked very encouraging: only four very generous hoops, set out in a conventional hoop 1-4 pattern, plus a centre peg. As with Chinese croquet, the game was played between two teams (red and white), using balls numbered 1-10. Players went in strict numerical order, the object being to make each hoop in sequence. An extra shot was given when you ran a hoop, but no roquets or croquets applied at this stage.

So far, it all looked fairly familiar garden croquet stuff. The twist involved the next phase of the game. Having run all four hoops, a player then had to hit the peg. At this stage, rather than finishing, that player now became a "rover", and could hunt the opposition balls. Any ball roqueted could then be sent off the lawn, using the croquet shot (although I have to admit that the foot-on-ball technique was allowed - news travels slowly out there!) If the ball sent off itself was rovet, that ball was out of the game; if not, it missed its next turn. The game was won by the side that eliminated all of the opposition balls from the lawn.

The end game was new territory to us. It certainly introduced the legendary vicious streak into play, and was actually quite strategic. Teams tended to hunt in packs, and to guard any hoop or peg not yet run by the opposition. Certainly, it was good fun, and well worth trying at the end of a club afternoon.

As a postscript, we were promised "English" croquet for the next day, only to find that it was more of the same, except that there were now seven generous hoops, and two pegs - a decided *deja vu* from Victorian days! On enquiring as to its origin, we were assured that visitors had told them that this is how the game is played in England. A case of Chinese whispers, we decided!

John & Doreen Taylor  
Reigate

## Gate ball

Dear Editor  
David Drazin's item in the September 1997 issue mentions the game of Gate Ball and seeks some facts about the game.

Gateball is a derivative of croquet and,

according to our records, was developed in Japan in about 1948; it is now played in Japan, Korea, Taiwan, China and Hawaii. Its rules are clearly based on the sequential play of the US croquet rules. David is right in estimating that there are hundreds of thousands of players.

The game is played by two teams of 5 players, on a court measuring 15/20 metres by 20/25 metres ie a little under half an Association court. The balls are smaller than Association balls and are coloured white or red. They are numbered alternatively so that one team has the red balls numbered 1,3,5,7 and 9, while the other team has the white balls numbered 2,4,6,8 and 10. Players take turns in consecutive order keeping their own numbered ball for the whole game.

Importantly, there is only 10 seconds to play each stroke and the whole game only lasts 30 minutes! It is a fast and furious game. It has an advantage that as long as the two captains know what they are doing, the other eight players can walk on completely cold and just play as instructed - a fun game for new and old members. Because of the nature of the game, 50 to 60 people can easily be involved on only a couple of association courts.

In Australia we have had regular visits by Gate Ball players from Japan, and Dr John Castles, the Immediate Past President of the NSW Association recently visited Japan to discuss further visits. Last year there was a visit from a Chinese group who played in Canberra and Melbourne. As far as I know, all Australian States have had some involvement and have gateball sets available for use.

In China, and I suspect the other countries, the game is played on clay surfaces such as school playgrounds therefore our visitors were delighted to play on real turf, albeit on some 'indifferent lawns'.

It is quite clear that they would like to spread their game to this country (and I am sure to all croquet playing countries). We enjoy receiving these visitors but so far we do not have enough of our own people sufficiently dedicated to take on the game in a big way - this may come.

Peter Tavender

Secretary, Croquet Australia

## Not so quickly

Dear Editor

In the piece on Clock Croquet the use of the word "we" implies that the use of chess Clocks is one practised and approved by Northampton Croquet Club.

To put matters straight only eight or nine of the membership of around 60 have played with

the clocks and many are not in favour and one at least, the undersigned, is strongly opposed to it.

Chess clocks (an apt name) are practicable in Chess where the two players, whether brilliant or incompetent, can only ever have one turn at a time. In croquet the better player, by accurate play, automatically gives himself more shots and therefore longer on the lawn. Why should he be penalised?

I must add that this opinion of mine is not because I am a slow player. On the contrary I am known in my club and at other venues as a fast player.

Owen Bryce

Northampton

## Thanks for the Centenary Doubles

Dear Editor

I am writing on behalf of the two Budleigh Salterton teams who participated in the notable centenary doubles event (the Salterton Sizzlers and the Budleigh Buccaneers).

We would like to express our great appreciation for all those in the CA and in the Cheltenham Club who contributed to the enormous success of the weekend. Our only complaint relates to their lamentable failure to ensure good weather especially on Sunday when we were treated to a truly horrendous thunderstorm! (We looked in vain for the lifebelts and inflatable dinghies so thoughtfully provided by the management of our August tournament.)

We all enjoyed the event and hope that we will not have to wait 100 years before the next one.

Marjorie Scaddan, Budleigh Salterton

## Associate or Affiliate, but not both!

Dear Editor

I have been the Treasurer of Ramsgate CC since it started in 1983 and I paid a Club Affiliation Fee of £5 for the first two years, then it gradually increased to £7 until it became a Member's Affiliation Fee around 1986. Like Topsy the Club grew and so did the Affiliation Fee which I duly paid for all NON CA MEMBERS. There was a drive by the CA to get more members and to this end we discounted the Affiliation from our Subscription (and still do) for all CA Members. This proved successful and in 1987 we won the Apps Heley trophy. When receiving subs I would check members' CA cards and grant the discount. This onerous task was removed when the CA issued Club computer printouts showing individual types of membership. Unfortunately this did not last long and fell by the wayside a couple of years ago. Once again it was left to the Treasurer.

This year I paid the Affiliation fees for our 58 Non CA Members only to get an irate telephone call from the CA saying that I had to pay for ALL MEMBERS. I was so mad I cancelled the wife's subscription. The Joint Tournament Members Fee, although my wife has never participated, plus the 30% levy on Entry

Fees means that I have been paying the CA £50+ for the pleasure of entering tournaments and all I have won this year is two bisques!

In all my years of involvement in various sports I have never had my Association Fee increased in such an underhand manner, I think the CA stands for Crooks Anonymous!

Len Hawkins

## No defence

Dear Editor

It is with deep regret that I inform you that I shall not be defending the World championship in Australia this winter, and feel that I should explain the reasons behind my decision.

Ever since the last Worlds in 1995, I have been in dispute with the World Croquet Federation. The players had been promised hotel accommodation within walking distance of the lawns but instead found themselves in a wide variety of accommodation many miles from the club. My accommodation consisted of a mattress on a floor of a room which everyone else had to walk through to reach the bathroom. The accommodation was 8 miles from the club and had been given to the WCF free of charge. Despite this, we were all charged £200 each for accommodation. No apology or compensation has ever been received.

John Taves was with his wife who was pregnant. Despite this, they were moved four times during the week because the accommodation provided was unsuitable. This was undoubtedly a major cause of John's poor performance during the Championships.

The finals of the tournament were arranged to coincide with kite flying directly overhead, folk dancing, dog agility and many other off-putting events. The players were also subjected to music being played during play and a commentary over loud speakers.

In past years, the WCF has forced players to stop their match to ensure that it did not finish too early. One year, the players finished their first game in 50 minutes, were forced to break for 2 hours and then finished the match in another 45 minutes.

However, it is not simply the ineptitude of the WCF at holding events that I object to. I believe that croquet is an amateur game in the true sense of the word and that the WCF is trying to taint the game we all play with money. For example, the MacRobertson is the most important event in the sport. For governing bodies to receive funding, the event needed to be recognised as a World Team Championship by the WCF, and so we requested that WCF sanction the event. The WCF's reply was that we would have to pay £20,000 for this to happen! By failing to grant the requested recognition, the WCF has cost governing bodies thousands of pounds in lost income - is this the work of a body that has the sport's best interests at heart?

The Croquet Association may not be perfect, but a large proportion of its revenue is made available as grants and loans for clubs both new and well established. Members of council and top players give freely of their time to visit

clubs to give demonstrations, coaching, or open new clubs. The WCF spends its money with paperwork and paying for its committee's expenses when visiting exotic locations.

In my numerous letters to the WCF over the past two years, I have failed to receive either a satisfactory reply to the problems I have encountered, or any assurance that the problems would not happen again. I am therefore unwilling to support an organisation that tries to take so much from the sport whilst putting so little back in.

I wish to make it clear that my decision not to play does not reflect in any way on the Australian Croquet Association who treated the British Team with wonderful hospitality and generosity when we last visited in 1993. I wish the ACA every success in their attempts to hold a good tournament and hope the absence of the WCF, Sonoma, British Open, President's Cup and British Men's Champion does not detract too greatly from the tournament.

Chris Clarke

## In defence

Dear Gail,

Re: Chris Clarke's letter:

The World Croquet Federation was set up in 1986 by twelve national associations to provide a world governing body for croquet. Its main aims were to be the organisation of world championships and the coordination of croquet on a world wide basis.

In the short time of its existence, the WCF and its Member Associations have staged eight world championships, with a ninth taking place in Bunbury this year. These Championships produce worldwide publicity for croquet in each member country. The 1994 Championship at Carden Park, for example, produced enormous coverage in this country, including many full page feature articles with large photos in seven national papers. There was a memorable and lengthy interview on "Sport on 4" on Saturday morning with the "sheep shearer" from Australia - quite one of the most positive and interesting interviews I have ever heard on croquet. The Championship featured on both BBC and ITV, and on TV programmes transmitted to 150 countries worldwide. Any domestic event would have great difficulty in generating such a level of interest.

Communication between associations is very much better than it has ever been, and international contacts and matches have increased considerably. The "Trans-Tasman" Tests between Australia and New Zealand, the "Coupe des Alpes" between Italy, Switzerland, and France, the "Solomon Cup" between England and the USA, the European Championship, and numerous international fixtures between individual countries show how far we have come since 1986.

Since that date, the number of WCF Member Associations has increased to 20. "World Croquet", the WCF newsletter, is published every six months, and a World Ranking system is gradually gaining worldwide

universal support. A growing network of WCF "Friends" is providing financial support for future development, and we should all be particularly grateful to the 57 "Friends", recruited so far in this country and overseas, for the generous support they have given the WCF and its Member Associations.

The policy of the WCF is decided by its Council, and decisions are taken by votes of the nine "Full" members. There is no "them and us" - the WCF is its Member Associations. "Full" members have a number of votes (1, 2 or 3) depending on the size of their association, and can be represented at General Meetings by a number of delegates equal to their number of votes. "Observer" members are entitled to be represented by 1 delegate who may speak but not vote. In between Council meetings, which are held where and when the Management Committee may decide, but no later than 4 years after the previous meeting, the WCF's work is carried forward by the Management Committee, who act in the best interests of world croquet, not as representatives of their national associations.

There are seven members of the WCF Management Committee (the President and six Committee members, three of whom retire in rotation every two years). Bill Berne (USA) was elected WCF President at the recent election, and the six Committee members are currently Rod Williams (Scotland), John Prince (New Zealand), Quentin Macarthur-Stanham (Australia), Colin Irwin (England), Antoine Ravez (France), and myself. As immediate Past-President, Fred Rogerson (Ireland) remains on the Committee for a further year to ensure continuity. Elections take place every two years. Only "Full" members are entitled to vote. Each "Full" member selects a number of candidates to fill the available vacancies, and each of these candidates is then accorded the total number of votes to which the voting Association is entitled.

That is the background. Now to put some of Chris's points in perspective. As many people will know, the hotel that was to have accommodated all the 48 players and officials at Fontenay-le-Comte unfortunately went out of business, causing great difficulties for the French Croquet Federation. Fontenay is a relatively small place and all local hotel accommodation was heavily booked, as the Championship was held during the town's annual Festival week.

The decision to hold the Championship during the Festival week was intended to attract more spectators, but in hindsight, the Festival activities produced more distractions than we had anticipated. As for the timing of the Final matches, this is a problem that has not been satisfactorily solved to date. A compromise has to be reached between the players, the organisers, and the sponsors, and I am afraid that as with all compromises, everyone has to give a little.

Despite the difficulties caused by the closure of the hotel, the French Federation actually found accommodation for all of us, and as the

Continued on page 21.



# THE 107th OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP

**Hurlingham 6th - 13th July 1997**  
**report by Keith Aiton & Richard Hilditch**

The start of the tournament coincided exactly with the start of the hot weather in London. Therefore the lawns were pretty green throughout the event and only started to show some real pace on the final day. A new format for the plate had been instituted by the tournament committee to try to satisfy the following aims:

- ◆ give people more games in the tournament (particularly weaker players)
- ◆ encourage more entries to the event.

The first aim was met, everyone was able to get a minimum of 7 games in the singles, with some getting a lot more. The entry was down on last year at 43 in the singles, although about level when overseas players are discounted (there were none this year).

The format selected by the committee and the manager (Richard Hilditch) was a progressive Swiss for the losers of the first 3 rounds followed by a seeded knock out. In view of this, the tournament started with singles for the first time for many years. Also for the first time the two lawns at Parsons Green were made available for part of the week to play some of these Swiss games. The Hurlingham club were kind enough to allow us access to the gate next to the cricket pavilion meaning that the lawns were just 100 yards past the cricket pitch lawns. A survey of the players on the new plate format was taken. In general most players welcomed having more games (indeed several would have liked more). Several players in the event had been encouraged to enter by the change. A few players preferred the original format and not to use the Parsons Green club. Later in the week there was then a gap of 2 days for players in the main event of the singles that meant that those players got



Reg Bamford & Stephen Mulliner discussing their options during the doubles Championship. (photo by Peter Alvey.)

less play at that time (only playing a doubles match each day).

**Sunday**

The most interesting game saw the holder Fulford playing a previous winner Openshaw, who no longer commands a seeded position, on lawn 6. The first game started poorly but eventually Fulford made a nice delayed triple. In the second game Robert broke down doing a delayed TPO when for 1-b with 1 peel done. Openshaw finished with a double peel. In the third David got the first ball to 4-b Robert completed a TPO. The 3 ball game saw a pair of deems at one point with David in hoop 4 and Robert in corner 3. Robert soon made a 3 ball break to win.

Wiggins against Brown saw an interesting incident. David had balls cross wired at hoop 1 and one of these balls was also wired from the other two balls behind hoop 3. Hilditch was called on by another referee to check whether the ball was wired. He judged that it was and went away leaving the other referee to replace the test balls. David then took the lift with the other ball which was condoned by the opponent and the other referee, but no damage was done as both balls were for hoop 1.

**Monday**

The second day saw a huge shock as three of the seeds were knocked out. First Johnson the variable NZ test player put out Dawson on lawn 3 with good hitting and accurate but not spectacular play. Next, the biggest upset came from Gregory beating Avery on lawn 4. In the first game both players played quite badly, with Avery playing worse, and the second saw Gregory play well if not brilliantly with Mark continuing his poor form.

Meanwhile out on the cricket pitch (lawn 9) Comish took the first against the up and coming Trimmer in his first Opens. However he failed to take croquet in the next two games which Pete won (somewhat slowly). A further surprise arose from Aiton's pair of successful TPOs against Cordingley, a match in which Phil perfectly demonstrated the old adage that any fool can get the first ball round (his own words).

*Stronger players often do not play in the plate, which is a pity especially when motivated by the desire not to lose precious grading points*

**Tuesday**

The third day saw the fourth of the 8 seeds get eliminated. Maugham was seeded at 3 but succumbed to Robin Brown on lawn 9. His performance in the Opens of recent years has not lived up to his ability and performance



Robert Fulford pegs out during the Opens (photo by Peter Alvey.)

elsewhere.

In the weak part of the draw Southern beat Gregory and the closest result was when Vincent beat Brian Smith in the third by +2 on lawn 1.

The match between Bamford and Aiton was very close, Aiton winning the first and Bamford the second by large margins on lawn 10. The 3rd game started on lawn 10 and saw Keith catching up to 3 and 4-b (with a reasonable spread) against penult and rover just as the rain started. Reg had placed his clip on the peg, rather than penult, an error which Keith was able to correct. The match resumed on lawn 2 before the lift was taken and missed by Reg. Keith made a good break but carelessly failed to finish and laid up on rover and peg with a reasonable leave. Reg hit from 20 yards and took 2 turns to finish giving Keith another shot which only just missed.

The doubles started today, with Comish and Maugham putting out Burrige and Heap. Heap tried to persuade Burrige to stay for the plate but failed, and thus Ian only played on two days. Third round losers were all available at the end of the day, although only 3 of 8 took up their places in the plate. Stronger players often do not play in the plate, which is a pity especially when motivated by the desire not to lose precious grading points. Fortunately this is not something that has ever bothered David Maugham. Of the 35 eligible players, only 27 ended up taking part, the most in any one round was 23 and there were only 18 players left by the end of the Swiss phase as others dropped out.

**Wednesday**

Clarke and Fulford had some fun with their first round opponents, Hilditch and Murray, with Chris getting to penult and peg on a sextuple and Robert demonstrated his greatness by completing a sextuple in the second when he was not really playing well.

In Clarke and Fulford vs Bond and Goddard on lawn 7, Goddard started a break intending to go to the peg but discovered he was playing with the wrong ball after making 3 back. He later made a break to the peg so making 21

hoops in a doubles game!

**Thursday**

On a low-key day Maugham began to look like the favourite in the Swiss. Gregory and Southern beat Noble and Vincent on lawn 8 going to time +2 in the third (the only main event game to go to time). Clarke and Fulford had a quintuple (Robert) and sextuple (Chris) against Gregory and Southern. Avery and Gaunt had a narrow escape +1 in the second when one down against Johnson and Morrow on lawn 3. This was a Riggalled ending where Johnson controversially pegged out 2 balls with Morrow for 4 back and Avery for 1-back.

**Friday**

On paper the four quarter finals looked very one-sided (with four seeds playing non-seeds). In the event three of the matches were indeed one sided with Brown, Farthing and Southern comfortably dispatched. Trimmer put up more of a fight taking the second game from Mulliner and having good chances in all the other games (Mulliner winning +4, +8 and +8).

The doubles semi-finals saw Comish and Maugham fail to take croquet in either game against Bamford and Mulliner. Clarke and Fulford were not as clinical against Avery and Gaunt who were given some play due to errors by Clarke.

The Swiss came to a very late conclusion with the last game starting at 8.45pm (and ending at 9.35pm). The twelve qualifiers for the knockout phase of the plate were calculated by splitting ties by average number of wins of opponents in the Swiss (allowing for players going home). The players with 2 lives were Maugham (undefeated), Dawson, Patmore and Noble (2 defeats). Gale (2 defeats) led the next 8 players given 1 life.

**Saturday**

In the first semi final (best of 5) between Fulford and Mulliner the first game saw Robert make the first break to 4-b, but he left a short lift shot which Stephen hit, picking up a break and going to 4-b himself. His leave put Robert's 4-b ball on the back of hoop 1, but Robert chose to



Chris Clarke attempting a testing hoop 1. (photo by Peter Alvey)

shoot at it from A baulk, missing. Stephen failed to finish his TP, running into partner after making rover, and then failing an ambitious combination peg-out. Robert, after some thought and pacing around, missed a four yard roquet, allowing Stephen to finish. In the second game Robert hit Stephen's duffer tice on the third turn and went to 4-b, taking advantage of his first turn ball deliberately left 2-3 yards off the East boundary. Stephen hit on the fourth turn, started a TPO, but after a careless hoop shot at 3-b, could only attempt to hit a ball left behind at 2-b. When his shot missed, Robert hit his 8 yarder (just) and managed to finish. In the third game Stephen copied Robert's opening, but Robert replied with an A baulk tice (12-13 yards) which Stephen hit, rushing it near hoop 2. A good take off to partner gave a rush to hoop 1 and Stephen proceeded to 4-b leaving all three balls SW of hoop 2. Robert made a double target from near the third corner, but missed, and Stephen completed a TP. Stephen again went first in the fourth game, but Robert replied to the second corner. Stephen shot towards partner from the first corner, but took a divot and barely reached. Robert shot at Stephen's balls from A baulk, but missed and Stephen finished in two turns.

In the second semi final Chris appeared to rely on Reg's poor shooting at the start and obtained the innings. However he then handed Reg a break by sticking in hoop 1. Chris hit the lift from B baulk, but was hampered after making hoop 1 and missed. After one missed shot each Reg finished with a good TP. In the second game Reg hit on the fourth turn and went to 4-b. Chris missed the lift, but Reg failed hoop 1, allowing Chris to make a break to 4-b. Reg missed again and Chris finished with a well played delayed TP.

In the third game Reg hit Chris' duffer tice (the third of the four in the match), but took off the lawn next to his partner on the East boundary. Chris hit, set up a break, but misapproached hoop 2. Reg missed and Chris overcame some poor shots to pick up a break to 4-b. Reg missed again and Chris completed another delayed TP, although this time he needed to cannon the last peel through while getting a rush to the peg. In the fourth game, after Reg had missed the duffer tice from the third corner on the third turn, Chris hit it, rushing it 5 yards SE of hoop 1. Spurning the approach he took off to the ball on the West boundary, hit it and split in front of hoop 1, picked up the break and went to 4-b. Reg shot from the first corner at partner on the West boundary about 11 yards South of the second corner. He missed. Perhaps seeing the winning post a little too soon Chris then played a dreadful turn which included a miraculous jump shot through hoop 1, a take off to the ball in the second corner that hit hoop 2, a failed approach to hoop 2 from 2 yards followed by a missed shot at the ball in the corner, ten strokes of which one was brilliant, three were adequate, and six were atrocious. It did have the merit of suckering Reg into the fatal TPO, which he duly completed leaving balls on the East



Chris Clarke & Robert Fulford deep in thought during the doubles final. (photo by Peter Alvey)

boundary 5 yards North of the fourth corner and in the first corner. Unsurprisingly Chris finished after a superb roll up to hoop 2 from the first corner.

The first game of the doubles final saw Stephen get 1 peel of a TPO going to 1-b and cross wire at hoop 1 (nearly giving a lift, but having to join behind hoop 2). Reg then did a DPO, 3 peels on Stephen and refused an attempt at the clips, after a long discussion. Two balls were pegged off, but Stephen's ball was left invitingly five yards South of the third corner. Robert rushed the ball from the third corner to around the end of A baulk and started a break, which failed with a poor hoop stroke at hoop 4. An impasse was threatened, Bond made DROT, a time limit imposed, and play continued with Robert never threatening again. The second saw a sixth turn TP. Play was suspended at 1-1 in view of the imminent start of the Hurlingham picnic.

**Sunday**

Maugham walked away with the plate, winning both lives against Dawson, thereby regaining a trophy that he last won in 1995.

The final of the doubles resumed and the lads won with a seventh turn TP. This would have won a best of 3, but this was best of 5, and Reg and Stephen came back. Poor shooting by Robert (and Chris a little) was in evidence in the last two games, Robert missing by feet on occasions (or so Richard says). Both Stephen and Chris were not showing good form for their match to come.

The Singles final did not start with a bang as the first roquet was made only on the seventh turn after missed shots on the previous four turns, Chris then making a break to 4-b. Stephen hit the lift but was hampered after making hoop 1 off partner and missed. Chris hit one of Stephen's balls from 5 yards South of hoop 3 and completed a standard TP. In the second game Stephen played first a few yards off the East boundary. Chris laid an A baulk tice of around 12 yards, which Stephen missed. Chris missed his shot from an angle at partner, and Stephen missed



back along the West boundary. Chris made hoop 1 but went off the lawn with a bad split shot going to the as yet undisturbed first turn ball. Stephen made a break to 4-b, but Chris hit the lift, tried to set up a TPO, but rushed the pelee into the back of hoop 3 before making the hoop. I could not see if the Irish peel was "on", but he did a back take off and abandoned the TPO in favour of a ball to 4-b. His leave went wrong and left an open shot on Stephen's 4-b ball near hoop 4. Stephen missed the shot, ending up close to Chris' ball for hoop 1. Chris set up the TP, but stuck in 3-b after completing one peel. Stephen then had all the balls for a standard TP but failed to hit his approach to hoop 3 hard enough, leaving the pelee in angled position. After running the hoop he took on the rush peel which failed, from where the turn degenerated with pioneers refusing to go anywhere near the hoops. However he still managed to leave a straight rover peel to finish, but the peel stuck and the half jump failed. Chris tried to complete a straight double peel but failed to rush in front of rover, so he pegged out Stephen's rover ball, leaving his own balls with a rush into the lawn from the East boundary North of hoop 4. Stephen missed the shot from the third corner. Chris rushed to 2 yards South of the peg and laid a wired rush to rover. Stephen played the spectacular golf style jump shot over hoop 4 but missed the balls by about a foot (and in the air), and Chris finished. The third game started innocently enough with Stephen going to 4-b after a failure at hoop 1 by Chris. After a missed lift Stephen set up a rough delayed TP position but failed the first peel and then misapproached 2-b. Chris hit and went to 4-b. After a missed lift by Stephen, Chris failed an angled hoop 3 after poor approach work. Stephen was in with his 4-b ball and decided to go to the peg. Chris hit with his 4-b ball and pegged Stephen out leaving balls in the second and fourth corners. Stephen hit the peg ball in the second corner, rolled down to 2-b, but failed the hoop. There then followed what the old scribes used to call a period of cat and mouse tactics. In short Stephen did a lot of cornering and Chris did a lot of not very much, but in a very patient way that suggested he knew he had the game in the bag provided he didn't do anything silly. After Chris made 1-b he retired to the second corner with his 2-b ball, leaving partner on the East boundary. Stephen took his first shot for some considerable time, hit the peg ball, but failed 2-b. Chris retired to 2 yards away from the second corner on the North boundary. Stephen hit the ball in the second corner, took off to get a poor rush to 2-b, and failed to make the hoop again. Chris hit Stephen's ball and sent it towards the fourth corner before joining up a couple of yards from partner again. Stephen took the shot but missed, and Chris stopped Stephen's ball out as far as he could (rather than just taking off). This helped him to make 3-b when he rushed near 4-b after making 2-b. He was thus able to finish to avoid further embarrassment for the players or punishment for the spectators.

Chris thus deservedly, in the end,

achieved his ambition of winning the Open Championship, and now holds both World Championships (WCF and Sonoma-Cutrer), the Open, and the President's Cup. "Holds" is perhaps the wrong word as the trophies are in the possession of the WCF and the Wimbledon museum. Hopefully Chris will be allowed to collect them together for a photo-call while he still can.

The usual thanks are due to Hurlingham for the use of their excellent lawns free of charge and to Richard Hilditch for managing with smooth efficiency.

Results:

Round 1

Fulford\* beat Openshaw +12tp, -19, +9tp; Johnson (NZ) beat R Ransom +25tp, +19; Goddard beat Morrow +23tp, +26; Trimmer beat Bennett +19, -8, +7; Comish\* beat Carlisle J +26tp, +25tp; Brown R beat Wiggins +23tp, +6; Aiton beat Guest +26tp, +11tp; Cordingley beat Carlisle V +26tp, +14; Clarke\* beat Gale +25tp, +16tp; Southern beat Ransom F +16, +16; Gregory beat Avery\* +20, +17.

Round 2

Bond beat Mrozinski +3, +16; Fulford beat Liddiard +26tp, +26tp; Farthing beat Browne +15, +15; Johnson beat Dawson\* +14, +26; Mulliner\* beat Gaunt +17tp, +16tp; Goddard beat Murray +14, +20; Burridge beat Smith J +26tp, +24; Trimmer beat Comish -14tp, +26tp, +26; Maugham\* beat Saurin M +19, +26tp; Brown R beat Healy P +26tp, +15; Bamford\* beat Heap +26tp, +25tp; Aiton beat Cordingley +8tp, +7tp; Patmore beat Coles -17, +26, +15; Clarke beat Noble -17, +17tp, +26tp; Vincent beat Smith R -17, +11, +2; Southern beat Gregory +6, -9, +15.

Round 3

Fulford beat Bond +12, +26tp; Farthing beat Johnson -26tp, +4, +17; Mulliner beat Goddard -17, +20, +25tp; Trimmer beat Burridge +21, +7; Brown R beat Maugham -26tp, +9, +17; Bamford beat Aiton 2-1 Clarke beat Patmore +20tp, -26tp, +17tp.

Round 4 (1/4 finals):

Bamford bt Brown +26tp, +13tp, +8tp; Mulliner bt Trimmer +4tp, -17, +8tp, +8tp; Fulford bt Farthing +12tp, +17tp, +11tp; Clarke bt Southern +26tp, +26, +24.

Semi-finals:

Mulliner bt Fulford +17, -17, +26tp, +26tp; Clarke bt Bamford -25tp, +17tp, +26tp, +14tp.

Final:

Clarke bt Mulliner +25tp, +2, +6.

DOUBLES

Round 1 order is:

Clarke & Fulford\* beat Hilditch & Murray +26, +24xsp(sextuple); Avery & Gaunt\* beat Farthing & Patmore -4tp, +23, +11; Bamford & Mulliner\* beat Brown & Cordingley +17tp, +26tp; Comish & Maugham\* beat Burridge & Heap +26tp, +10.

Round 2:

Gregory & Southern bt Noble & Vincent +5, -3, +2(t); Fulford & Clarke bt Bond & Goddard +26, +11; Johnson & Morrow bt Ransom & Ransom -7, +19, +16; Avery & Gaunt bt Aiton & Saurin -17tp, +50tp, +25tp; Liddiard & Trimmer bt Gale & Mrozinski +3, -w/o, +24; Bamford & Mulliner beat Carlisle & Carlisle +24, +21; Dawson & Wiggins beat Bennett & Smith +19tp, +25tp; Comish & Maugham beat Browne & Guest +15tp, +16tp.

Round 3:

Clarke & Fulford bt Gregory & Southern +18qnp(quintuple), +26xsp; Avery & Gaunt bt Johnson & Morrow -4, +1, +12; Bamford & Mulliner bt Liddiard & Trimmer -4, +16tp, +24tp; Comish & Maugham bt

Dawson & Wiggins +26tp, +7tp.

Semi-finals:

Clarke & Fulford bt Avery & Gaunt +20tp, +24tp; Bamford & Mulliner bt Comish & Maugham +26tp, +26tp.

Final:

Bamford & Mulliner bt Clarke & Fulford +9, -26tp, -26tp, +26, +26tp

PLATE

This started as a progressive Swiss, giving between 5 and 9 games to losers of the first 3 rounds of the singles. In the Swiss, Maugham was unbeaten, no-one else had 1 loss. The top 12 players from the Swiss contested a knock out, the top 4 of these (Maugham, Dawson, Patmore and Noble) were given two lives and were seeded.

Knock out round 1:

Maugham bt Mrozinski +15tp; Gale bt Noble +15; Dawson bt Vincent +25tp; Patmore bt Aiton +26tp; Maugham bt Gregory +26tp; Patmore bt Gaunt +25; Dawson bt Cordingley +26tp; Heap bt Noble +26tp.

Round 2:

Maugham bt Gale +23; Dawson bt Patmore +24tp; Maugham bt Patmore +24; Dawson bt Heap +17tp.

Semi-finals:

Maugham bt Dawson +26tp; Maugham bt Dawson +26.

1st - Maugham 2nd - Dawson

Richard Hilditch (manager)

## STOP PRESS.....

### Attention email contributors

Would anyone sending email contributions to the editor please note that they should be in plain text and sent in the body of the email message in preference to an attachment. If diagrams are sent please also send a hard copy by post, as many are not compatible across different systems.

### Colour photographs required

The stock of good quality colour photographs for use on the back cover of the Gazette is now somewhat depleted. If anyone has any photographs they think may be of use please forward them to the editor. If you wish to have the photographs returned after use please put a return address on the rear of the photograph.

### Centenary Indoor Tournament

Would readers please note that there has been some additional information added to the entry form for the Centenary Indoor Tournament on page 18.

### The Best Ten 1925

The book that was advertised earlier in the year is now complete and very limited copies are available from David Drazin (tel 01923 774048). A review of this book will follow in the next issue.



To improve your play, practising should include both game play and time on your own to improve your stroke play.

### 1. Game practice.

There is no doubt in my mind that the best practice is to play the game. This provides an element of tactical involvement that is impossible to emulate through individual practice routines. Speaking personally, playing a 'friendly' game holds an enjoyment factor which is hard to match with artificial practice situations. The draw-back to this approach is, of course, that you may well spend a lot of your time sitting on the sidelines and not practising at all, and I have suggested below some variations that will help to ensure you make the most of practice games.

The value you get out of playing rather than practising depends very much on your mental approach to the game. There is a difference between playing to win, and playing to develop your skills. Most of us have some types of shot which we shy away from, because we know we are not good at them. Therefore, before you start any game, ask yourself how important it is to you to win. I would argue that if you are playing in an important event, you may wish to stick to your strengths and avoid the 'doubtful' shots. However, this is no way to improve, and if you are playing a friendly game of no particular significance, then you should always play to improve your game. Don't wait until the practice session that you never get around to!

So, how do you play to improve? Here are some general guidelines:

a) Always play the 'right' stroke. By this I mean try to play the stroke that you believe the expert player would play under the circumstances, even if you know that you may have limited chance of success. Above all, be prepared to experiment. It is only by stretching your own boundaries in this way, that you will improve. After the game, if there are one or two strokes which let you down, re-construct the positions and practise those shots a few times, until you get them right.

b) Whenever you make an error, ask yourself what caused it. It is usually not the obvious. For example, you fail to run a hoop. Why? The chances are it is because of a difficult hoop shot, which was caused by a poor hoop approach. But before that, the poor hoop approach was probably caused by having a poor pioneer in the first place. And why was the pioneer poor? It could be because it was placed from too far away, or you had an awkward shot because of a poorly positioned pivot ball. In short, you will often find that the true reason for the error was a stroke you played maybe 10 shots or more beforehand. Now think how the error could a) have been avoided, and b) since the original error was not fatal, how could you have recovered from it better?

c) When you are the out-player, watch your opponent carefully. Before he (or she) plays each shot, ask yourself what you would do. Where your tactics differ, ask yourself why.

d) At the end of the game, be prepared to sit down with your opponent (preferably over a drink!) and review any areas of tactics you did not understand. This may be concerning lines of play your opponent played, or it may be where you were in doubt over what to do for the best. You should also perhaps ask if there are any areas of your game your opponent recognised as weaknesses. Most players are ready and willing to give advice to others if asked; it is up to you how receptive you are! Always bear in mind that the correct tactics for one player may not be correct for another with differing strengths and weaknesses. That being the case, never take tactical advice on trust; think it through. Is it right for you?

e) If you can, agree with your opponent beforehand to play 'retake' bisques. This means that a bisque may not be used for a new turn, but instead is used to re-play a stroke you are not happy with. This gives you the opportunity to try more adventurous strokes, and to correct them when you get them wrong. You will probably find the best way to play with 'retake' bisques is

## SELF-COACHING NOTES

by Jeff Dawson

Part 1 of some coaching advice of how to improve your own game.

to play a full bisque game (both players have bisques, to base 0), and to each take about twice the number of ordinary bisques you would have had (I would be interested in any feedback as to how equitably this works out). You will find that it is usually best to correct small errors early, rather than using several 'bisques' trying the impossible shot you are left with if you don't!

f) Another good practice game variation is to introduce a limit on the number of hoops you may run in one turn (e.g. a maximum of 4 hoops). This is because it forces you to practise laying good leaves, and picking up new breaks. For low handicap players, try experimenting with additional restrictions (e.g. every leave should include a cross-wire, or every leave should be a 'lift' leave).

### 2. Individual practice routines.

Playing games is of course essential, but there is also a need for individual practice. There is undoubtedly a strong correlation between those who take time out for individual practice, and those who improve rapidly. This is because there are only limited opportunities within a game to play certain types of difficult shot, and therefore you need to hone your skills on these shots separately.

From this it follows that each individual's practice routines should normally be different, because what one player finds difficult is easy to another, and vice-versa. Do not waste time practising shots you find easy - practice games will give you plenty of this. Concentrate instead on the areas of your game you find are weak. If you play your practice games as I have suggested above, the areas to be practised on your own should become obvious.

Part two follows in the next issue.



# SELECTION EVENTS 1997

## President's Cup

Nottingham, 4th - 7th September

report by Stephen Mulliner

The 1997 President's Cup field was one of the strongest ever assembled and represented, in world terms, four of the top five and eight of the top twelve. Stephen Mulliner, who made his debut in this event in 1978, added a little bit of history by becoming the first person ever to appear in twenty consecutive President's Cups.

### Round 1

Clarke and Fulford, the pre-event favourites, made fast starts with routine 26tps against Maugham (35 mins) and Comish (55 mins). The other games were a complete contrast and had to be pegged down after 3 hours although Mulliner was faced with a last shot against Goacher who was for peg and peg.

### Round 2

Comish and Maugham were in no mood to be trampled on and repaid Clarke and Fulford in kind. Clarke was first to 4-back but Comish hit and used a 1-back leave and a TPO to gain a winning advantage. Maugham took advantage of Fulford's failure at hoop 2 to win by 25tp. Mulliner TPO'd Bamford and won a scrappy pegged-out game while Goacher and Cordingley irritated the manager by needing to be pegged down again.

### Round 3

Both Clarke and Fulford received the kind of help that often accrues to eventual winners. Mulliner finished on peg and box but Clarke hit to reach peg and 1 and survived two shots at the peg and one at a ball before winning +1. Fulford TPO'd Cordingley but failed 2-back and was fortunate that Cordingley was hampered after 3-back when he had a 3-ball break under control. Comish and Maugham had routine wins over Bamford and Goacher.

### Round 4

Classic 26tps from Bamford and Clarke against Fulford and Goacher and Maugham should have done the same against Mulliner. He missed the peg-out and allowed Mulliner to hit and reach 4-back before an accurate Maugham roquet clinched matters. Comish defeated Cordingley by 7 in a game the players asked not to be described! Mulliner missed his shot against Goacher in their pegged down Round 1 game. Day 1 ended with a triple tie: Clarke, Comish, Maugham: 3; Fulford: 2; Bamford, Goacher, Mulliner: 1 with two games pegged down involving Bamford, Cordingley (twice) and Goacher.

### Round 5

Offered a better class of croquet. Mulliner had a 6th turn TP against Comish,



L to R: Stephen Mulliner, Robert Fulford, David Maugham, Phil Cordingley, David Goacher, Steve Comish, Chris Clarke, Reg Bamford.. (photo by Ian Vincent)

Clarke executed a routine TP against Bamford after the latter sent a ball off when laying a diagonal spread. Fulford reached 4-back on the 3rd turn but Goacher hit and won with a 6th turn delayed TP. Cordingley made his presence felt by winning an interactive 3 ball game after Maugham had done the TPO.

### Round 6

Offered both class and excitement. Maugham finished off the contact from Bamford's TPO, Fulford defeated Mulliner with a 5th turn TP and Comish polished off Goacher with a 6th turn TP. However, all this expertise paled in comparison with Cordingley's heroics against Clarke in yet another 3 ball game. The *piece de resistance* was a jump from Corner I over hoop 1 to hit Clarke's balls on the East boundary. It seemed only right that Phil should edge home +4, having firmly grasped the Openshavian role.

### Round 7

The first series ended with four error-

strewn games. Bamford, now looking distinctly worried about his form, stuck in hoop 1 with a triple in prospect and handed it to Goacher. Mulliner squandered three chances to triple against Cordingley and eventually got what he deserved. Clarke had to stop at 3-back against Fulford who later handed back the innings by failing hoop 1 and Clarke finished in two turns. Maugham failed at hoop 5 on a triple. Comish double peeled him and eventually finished elegantly from three balls in Corner III.

### Round 8

Brought no improvement in Bamford's luck and he did not take croquet against Cordingley. Clarke failed at rover on his second break but fortune smiled and Maugham was hampered after hoop 1. Mulliner had a routine TP after Goacher failed unexpectedly at hoop 4 and Comish also beat Fulford +23tp when his failure at hoop 1 was matched by Fulford's at hoop 4.

	SC	CC	PC	RF	DM	SM	DG	RB	Wins	Final Order
Steve Comish		+13tpo +24	+7 +17tp	-26tp +23tp	+9 -26tp	-26tp -26tp	+26tp +26	+25 +26tp	10	1st
Chris Clarke	-13tpo -24		-4otp +26tp	+17 -17	+26tp+25 +9otp	+1 -24tp	+26tp +9tpo	+17tp +26tp	9	2nd
Phil Cordingley	-7 -17tp	+4otp -26tp		-4tpo +19	-24 -25tp	+15 +16	-8 +7	+4 +26	8	3rd
Robert Fulford	+26tp -23tp	-17 +17	+4tpo -19		+3	+26tp +12tp	-17tp +24tp	-26tp +23	8	3rd
David Maugham	-9 +26tp	-26tp -25	-9otp +24	+25tp -3		+17 -26tp	+17tp +14	+14otp +11tpo	8	3rd
Stephen Mulliner	-26tp +26tp	-1 +24tp	-15 -16	+26tp -12tp	-17 +26tp		-16 +23tp	+5tpo +16tp	7	6th
David Goacher	-26tp -26	-26tp -9tpo	+8 -7	+17tp -24tp	-17tp -14	+16 -23tp		+16tp +2	5	7th
Reg Bamford	-25 -26tp	-17tp -26tp	-4 -26	+26tp -23	-14otp -11tpo	-5tpo -16tp	-16tp -2		1	8th

There was no play on Saturday morning as several players wanted to watch Princess Diana's funeral service.

### Round 9

Mulliner beat Comish with a routine 26tp and, although Bamford hit Clarke's duffer tice on the 3rd turn, Clarke hit on the 4th and dished out a 26tp as well. Cordingley took competent advantage of Fulford's unwonted generosity to win +19. Against Goacher, Maugham successfully approached hoop 1 from north-east of the peg to gain an early advantage but later failed at 2-back with two peels done. Goacher peeled and pegged him out but Maugham finished in the next turn.

### Round 10

Comish despatched the hapless Bamford +26tp and Mulliner continued his run by beating Clarke +24tp after sadness at hoop 3. Maugham reached peg and penult against Cordingley who hit the lift but missed a 4 yarder to return the innings. Goacher had an early chance against Fulford but failed to make progress and paid the usual penalty, +24tp to Fulford.

### Round 11

Comish beat Cordingley +17tp in a good shooting contest. Clarke won +9 TPO against Goacher who got away on the contact but was hampered after hoop 4. Bamford had a triple under control against Maugham but hampered himself after hoop 5 and it was Maugham who won 11tp. Fulford reached 4-back on the 3rd turn but Mulliner hit the lift, reached 4-back himself and soon had a standard triple under way. However, he missed a 3 yard trickle before hoop 5 and Fulford took full advantage to win 12tp. Comish advanced his cause by hitting two good shots against Cordingley and winning 17tp.

### Round 12

Was rather quick. Clarke and Mulliner had routine 26tps against Cordingley and Maugham. Comish could not complete his triple but Goacher could not hit. Fulford beat Bamford +23 in a generally poor game.

### Round 13

Provided the key game between the leaders, Comish and Clarke and both players seemed somewhat affected by the situation. Comish had the early play but had to settle for peg and 4-back. Clarke missed his lift but Comish collided with 3-back on his way to 4-back where he failed. Clarke now sealed matters by failing hoop 3 off the Comish 4-back ball!

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Mulliner and Bamford exchanged breaks to 4-back but Bamford's miserable luck continued when he went off in Corner IV attempting to dig a ball out for the triple and handed the chance to Mulliner, 16tp. Cordingley and Goacher had a splendidly messy encounter in which the latter had at least three finishing breaks, ending with clips on 6 and the peg. Eventually, Cordingley hit and pegged out Goacher's forward ball. Goacher rolled up to hoop 6 from 20 yards away, ran the hoop from 5 yards and then just missed a 10 yard return roquet! Cordingley +7. Fulford and Maugham had a quality encounter in which Fulford's sextuple foundered at 1-back and 4-back. DM reached 4-back and later failed a straight rover peel to hand the game back to Fulford.

### Round 14

A funeral day and some funereal play from Goacher had left Bill Lamb praying for an outright winner. However, if Maugham beat

Comish and Clarke beat Fulford there would be a tie on 10 wins. Maugham offered Clarke a lifeline by countering Comish's 3rd turn hit by his own in the 4th and a 6th turn triple. Fulford began with a super-shot assisted break to 4-back in the 3rd but failed hoop 4 for no good reason with one peel done. Clarke reached 4-back and Fulford missed the lift into Corner IV leaving his other ball by the peg. Clarke now decided that this was the perfect time to experiment by leaving partner on the East boundary, taking-off to Corner IV and playing a big half-roll to send a ball to hoop 2 and get a rush to hoop 1 on the ball by the peg. He got the rush but unfortunately sent the other ball off the North boundary. Fulford went to 4 and peg with a cross-wire at hoop 4, Clarke missed and Fulford finished to thrust the President's Cup into the arms of a grateful Steve Comish.

The players expressed their gratitude to the Nottingham club in general, to Ian Vincent



Chairman's Salver competitors: L to R Pete Trimmer, Jeff Dawson, Brian Hallam, Keith Aiton, Chris Patmore, Ian Burrridge, Don Gaunt, Terry Burge. (photo by Roy Wallis)

	DG	JD	TB	PT	KA	IB	BH	CP	Wins	Final Order
Don Gaunt		+26tp +7	+10tp +8	+15 -8	+12 +5	-4 -3	+14 +26	+26 +21tp	11	1st
Jeff Dawson	-26tp -7		+19tp -24	-25tp +26tp	-8tpo +24	+10 +8tp	+26tp -2	+13 +2	8	2nd
Terry Burge	-10tp -8	-18tp +24		+22 +16tp	+15 +10	+24 -3	-24 +26	+24tp -4	8	2nd
Pete Trimmer	-15 +8	+25tp -26tp	-22 -16tp		-17tp +25	+20stp -18	+3tp +11	+17 +3tp	8	2nd
Keith Aiton	-12 -5	+8tpo -24	-15 -10	+17tp -25		+24 +25	+4 -9tp	+17tp +19tp	7	5th
Ian Burrridge	+4 +3	-10 -8tp	-24 +3	-20stp +18	-24 -25		-16 -23tp	+24 +23	6	6th
Brian Hallam	-14 -26	-26tp +2	+24 -26	-3tp -11	-4 +9tp	+16 +23tp		+12 -2	6	6th
Chris Patmore	-26 -21tp	-13 -2	-24tp +4	-17 -3tp	-17tp -19tp	-24 -23	-12 +2		2	8th



and Gordon Hopewell in particular and to Bill Lamb for managing the event. The conditions were very reasonable (lawn 3 ?) and, in the end, play was accommodated comfortably enough within three and a half days.

**Chairman's Salver**  
**Compton 4th - 7th September**  
*report by Roy Wallis*

Unseasonal and unforecasted sunny weather brought global warming to Eastbourne for the event - or perhaps it was Ian Burrige's forcing drives that heated the balls. A more heterogeneous group of players could hardly be imagined. Keith Aiton, probably the pre-tournament favourite, played some precision (to adjectivise a noun (to verbalise a noun (to verbalise an adjective))) croquet, and could never be given up for lost however far ahead his opponent. Don Gaunt kept up a dogged attack throughout. Jeff Dawson was up and down, but when up, played some attractive croquet. Ian Burrige had the appeal of Hurricane Higgins with some magnificent hits-in and some just as disastrous blobbed hoops. On some strokes, the only parts of Ian's body which don't move are from the tips of his toes to the balls of his feet! Brian Hallam spent a lot of time narrowly missing (I know the feeling well), but also producing some fine croquet when he didn't. Memorable was his 6th round game against Keith when, with careful croquet he looked like beating him by 26 in record time, only to be overtaken and beaten by 4. So, when in the 12th round, depressingly missing and being whitewashed by Keith, he complained that he wasn't going to get a look in, I reminded him that what Keith had done to him in the previous match, he could do to Keith. He did and won by 9. Peter Trimmer seemed to enjoy his croquet immensely, whether winning or losing, and his straight triple was a rare treat to watch. Terry Burge didn't hang around and played some good croquet and some bad, but never dull. Chris Patmore plays back to front. Unlike most players, he uses a standard grip for his upright strokes and a Solomon for his rolls. Not being consistent during this tournament, nobody expected him to win it, but his tally of 2 wins didn't reflect his ability to produce some good croquet.

Some other highlights of the tournament were:

One of the most competent performances (in my opinion) was Pete Trimmer's win in the 4th round by +3TP after Brian Hallam broke down on Rover with Peter a virgin.

Terry Burge pegged out his & Don Gaunt's balls in the 6th round, with Don on 5 and himself on 2-back. They both crept steadily round with Don narrowing the gap. Both hit in and both blobbed hoops. With Tel for the peg and lurking 4yds North of the peg, Don ran Rover, took careful aim and smacked the peg plumb centre.

Chris Patmore, determined to break his duck in the 9th round, got in with Brian Hallam

on peg and rover, and, though Brian made rover, won by 2, finishing on the stroke of 8 o'clock.

Terry Burge, in a controlled triple on his way to whitewash Keith Aiton, went off the lawn trying to get behind the ball he wanted to use to promote his other rover ball. With both opponent's balls on the peg, Keith started a sextuple with some entertaining croquet, but failed the 2-back peel, allowing Tel to win by 10.

**The Spencer Ell Cup**  
**Budleigh Salterton, 3rd - 7th September**  
*report by Tom Browne*

	AL	DK	TB	AM	ED	DH-W	MH	MB	Wins	Final Order
Alex Leggate		+26 +20	+8 +23	+26 -26	-16 -26	-4 +9	-21 -24	-17 +26tp	7	4th
David Kibble	-26 -20		+3 -13	-11 -17	-17 -19	-2 +2	-4 +26tp	+12 +14	5	6th
Tom Browne	-8 -23	-3 +13		-11 -25	+17 -21	+3 +6	+17 -26	-24 -16	5	6th
Tony Mrozinski	-26 +26	+11 +17	+11 +25		-9 +26tp	+4 +18tp	+14 +22	-16 -23	10	2nd
Edward Duckworth	+16 +26tp	+17tp +19	-17 +21tp	+9tp -26		+17 -19	+25 +14	+11 +2	11	1st
David H-Wood	+4 -9	+2 -2	-3 -6	-4 -18	-17 +19		-17 +17	-26 -16	4	8th
Michael Heap	+21 +24tp	+4tp -26	-17 +26tp	-14 -22	-25 -14	+17tp -17		+3 -26	6	5th
Matthew Burrow	+17tp -26	-12 -14	+24 +16	+16 +23tp	-11 -2	+26tp +16	-3 +26tp		8	3rd

The eight players in this year's Spencer Ell held in the delightful Budleigh Salterton Club provided a perfect mix of youth and experience. The extremes were represented by the very promising Matthew Burrow from Jersey who at only 17 playing was playing in the eights for the first time, and Michael Heap with around 36 croquet seasons under his belt.

The experience of the other six competitors fell somewhere between the two. David Harrison-Wood the current holder, the Bristol lawyer Ed Duckworth, Tony Mrozinski who has always been there or thereabouts, David Kibble and Alex Leggate, again both from Bristol. The final member of the group was

myself playing in the Spencer Ell for the second time.

Play commenced on a rather gloomy and progressively wet Wednesday under the watchful eye of the manager John Mc Burnie Wood a.k.a. "Mac". After completion of four rounds on day one Ed Duckworth had managed a very worthy 4 wins out of 4. These included a significant win over Matthew and a triple against Tony. The holder had a disappointing first day with only one win and was on the receiving end of triples by both Michael and Matthew. Thankfully though by the end of the day everyone had at least one win to their credit, and 5 triples were testament to the high standard of play.



Spencer Ell competitors: L to R Tom Browne, David Harrison-Wood, Mac (manager), David Kibble, Michael Heap, Tony Mrozinski, Ed Duckworth, Alex Leggate, Matthew Burrow.

The second day was a far more pleasant occasion with plenty of glorious Devon sunshine in a perfect setting. In round 5 Ed managed to lose the first game, with a below par performance considering the high standards he had set on the previous day. Matthew was unable to take advantage losing to David, but Michael did with a convincing win over Alex.

On to round six and normal service was restored with Ed beating David, while Tony started to show signs of life by beating Michael. Matthew walloped me, bringing my three wins on the trot to an end.

Round seven produced the match of the competition between Matthew and Michael which I was only able to watch from afar, but I did hear the 'roar' from the numerous spectators at the end. Basically my understanding is that Michael went for a sextuple which developed into an unsuccessful straight triple. Michael turned to plan B and attempted to peg out Matthew's peg ball. Unfortunately for Michael he rushed Matthew's backward ball to the peg, but nevertheless pegged out his own ball while he still had to run rover with the other. I am not sure how much progress Matthew made with his contact, but I do know that the turn ended with his balls in the vicinity of the fourth corner. Michael's ball was close to the second hoop, and as one would expect from a player of Michael's experience he ran rover from there. He then shot across towards the fourth corner and hit one of the opponent's balls to finish.

More mundane games saw Ed take a two game lead by beating David H-Wood, and Tony move into joint second place with Michael by eating yours truly.

The interest in the last round played on Thursday was the match between Ed and Matthew. Matthew had the game all but sewn up, with Ed still on his starting blocks. Matthew attempted a long peg-out from just outside first corner which was right on line all the way to the peg, but just short on pace. The striker's ball ended up being stymied from the peg, and Matthew attempted some sort of promotion but needless to say neither of them hit the peg. Ed hit the lift and went round to 4-back. Matthew missed the lift, Ed continued, Matthew missed again and Ed finished. Elsewhere Tony beat Alex to go into clear second place.

Friday was again another glorious day and rounds 9 and 10 contributed no fewer than 6 triples being added to the total. Ed moved into an almost unassailable position as his nearest rivals Michael & Tony were now 3 wins behind. In round 11 the key match was between Tony & Ed. Tony won +26.

Saturday was a solemn occasion throughout the country with the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales and as a mark of respect there was no play in the morning. We were nevertheless still on schedule to finish a day early, although Ron Selmes the lawn manager had to carry out some emergency repairs to one or two lawns following a minor act of vandalism during the night by some undesirable characters who

surprisingly live in these parts.

Ed needed a win to clinch the title in his penultimate match against Michael. He had a few wobbles here and there, but fortunately for him so did Michael, who missed a short roquet just at the wrong time. Ed wrapped up the match to claim the Spencer Ell, and there was nothing Tony could do to lose his "nearly man" tag.

In the final round despite the obvious disappointment, Tony very nearly completed a straight triple. Unfortunately however the striker's ball ended up against the wire at rover, and the words, "there are eleven things that can go wrong with a straight rover peel" bellowed

out from the club house. Needless to say the new champion relaxed in his final game against David Harrison-Wood and promptly lost.

The presentations were made to a very worthy winner and the tournament had been completed a day earlier than originally planned. All the competitors contributed to a high standard of play throughout the four days, that produced no fewer than 15 triples. The players expressed their thanks to all the members of the Budleigh Salterton Club, in particular the manager "Mac", the catering team, and the ground staff who were ably assisted by Ron Selmes the lawn manager.

**The Barlow Bowl**  
**Southport & Birkdale, 10th - 14th September**  
*report by Bo Harris*

	Curry	Harris	Healy	Mears	Ransom	Williamson	Wins	Final Order
Gail Curry		+22 +8	+26 +26tp	+26 +21tp	+21 +17	+23 +24	10	1st
Bo Harris	-22 -8		+10 +6	+17 +24	+4 +21	-3 +19	7	2nd
Pauline Healy	-26 -26tp	-10 -6		+11 +2	-8 -13	+11 +12	4	4th
Gene Mears	-26 -21	-17 -24	-11 -2		-12 -15	-3 -9	0	6th
Frances Ransom	-21 -17	-4 -21	+8 +13	+12 +15		+8 +13	6	3rd
Diana Williamson	-23 -24	+3 -19	-11 -12	+3 +9	-8 -13		3	5th

Southport welcomed the ladies with sunny skies, soaring temperatures even paced lawns and double banking.

On the first day Gail showed past form and demolished Bo and Pauline, conceding only four hoops. The rest of the day's play was unremarkable apart from Di and Gene's marathon which eventually ended in a narrow victory for Di.

Day two dawned fine but cooler with strong westerly winds. Gail continued undefeated while

Bo found her touch.

On the third day the temperature plummeted, the rain fell and the westerly wind cut through the lawns and players, to such an extent that balls could be seen to be moving. A somewhat unnerving phenomenon for those ready to run hoops. Gail won again, Di defeated Bo, and Frances was victorious against Pauline. At this half way stage Gail was in the lead with Frances and Bo tying in second place.

Round six saw a reasonably early finish



Barlow Bowl competitors: L to R Pauline Healy, Frances Ransom, Gene Mears, Diana Williamson, Gail Curry, Bo Harris. (photo by Gordon Porter.)



for all of the competitors, with Bo defeating Frances, Di winning against Gene and Gail completing a sixth turn triple against Pauline.

Day four and the weather was still anything but convivial, but everyone battled on. Pauline won an exciting match against Gene by hitting in at the eleventh hour when Gene was peg and peg. Bo had chances against Gail but did not make the most of them, and eventually lost not only the game but also a mallet face. Meanwhile Frances had a comfortable win against Di. Round eight saw Bo and Frances both add to their tally of wins, and Gail completed another TP, this time against Gene.

The final day and a welcome rise in temperature and drop in wind saw players shed layers of clothing and were, once more, recognisable. Gail continued undefeated to retain the Barlow Bowl and Bo recorded her 7th win to claim the silver mallet brooch. Southport members, male and female, provided coffee, lunch and teas, and in spite of the elements it was an enjoyable event.

**The Longman Bowl**  
**Southport & Birkdale, 10th - 14th September**  
*report by Eileen Magee*

	SS	CS	EM	AT	SV	MH	Wins	Final Order
Su Stenhouse		-13 +4	+14 +12	+9 +17	-22 +4	+18 +22	8	2nd
Christine Constable	+13 -4		-2 +2	-1 +23	-13 -13	-18 +8	4	3rd=
Eileen Magee	-14 -12	+2 -2		+13 +20	-13 -16	+20 -3	4	3rd=
Alison Thursfield	-9 -17	+1 -23	-13 -20		-19 -22	+3 -7	2	6th
Shona Vaissiere	+22 -4	+13 +13	+13 +16	+19 +22		+26 +16	9	1st
Marion Hilton	-18 -22	+18 -8	-20 +3	-3 +7	-26 -10		3	5th

**Dramatis Personae**

6 women players: Shona Vaissiere (2) Plymouth  
 Su Stenhouse (5) Tyneside  
 Marion Hilton (6) Bristol  
 Eileen Magee (6) Cheltenham  
 Christine Constable (7) Southwick  
 Alison Thursfield (8) Cheltenham

A calm and competent manager: Diana Williamson

The Crowd: Gordon Porter

Cooks & Bottlewashers: Willing men and women club members

3 swallows: Themselves

**Act I**

Wednesday/Thursday- blue skies, sunshine, swallows skimming dew-drenched lawns. Play begins with nearly everyone underhitting, even the Barlow Bowl lot with whom we are double banked. Wednesday's highlight occurs at lunchtime when supplies of Guinness and wine arrive for Su and



Longman Bowl competitors: L to R Marion Hilton, Alison Thursfield, Su Stenhouse, Eileen Magee, Shona Vaissiere, Christine Constable. (photo by Gordon Porter.)

Eileen.

After the first round of five games Shona is cruising through, the rest of us are hacking about.

**Act II**

Friday/Saturday - serious rain, black skies, swallows still skimming, Shona still cruising, attempting triples here and there and although not quite succeeding, watched by the crowd on the edge of his seat.

More ladies should enter this event, let me whet your appetite. You could be perched in wet clothes on a wet seat in a freezing gale with the occasional bucket of icy rain flung in your face and the odd plastic chair clattering you round the head on its way past.

**Finale**

Sunday - sunshine, blue skies. Everyone has had some success. Su Stenhouse took the last game of the day from Shona to be runner-up and reduce her handicap to 4.5, well done. The winner was Shona Vaissiere with a handicap reduction to 1.5, very well done. This girl will go far - apparently in 2 weeks. But she'll be back and no doubt giving the Barlow Bowl lot a hard time, which she should have been able to do this year.

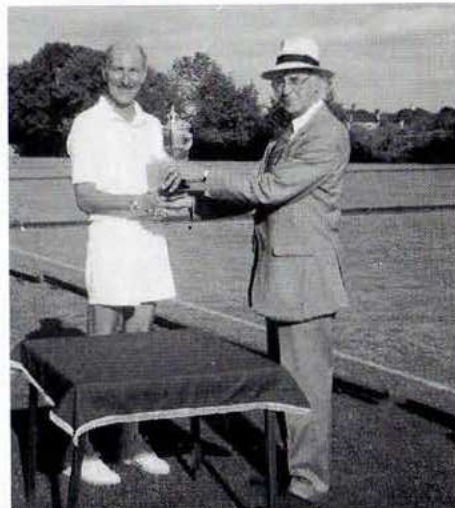
**The Selector's Weekend**  
**Surbiton 5th - 7th September**

*report by George Noble*

Fine weather, conducive lawns and sufficient beer greeted the usual collection of hacks, has-beens, upstarts and gorgeous women selected from thousands of hopefuls to form the 1997 Selectors' weekend. It was the first CA selection event to be held at Surbiton since the infamous wasp nest incident during the ladies' event in 1988.

It was clear *ex ante* that there would be little point in holding the event at all. The prospect of (almost) limitless games and the easy conditions would readily combine to permit James Death to perform numerous triples and win 22 games of his projected 24.

But something went wrong. It was that



David Magee receives the Selector's Weekend trophy from CA Vice President Alan Oldham.

well preserved codger, David Magee, who took on the role of event cruncher and, notwithstanding a few moments of frailty, remained unbeaten at least until he had laid his hand upon the pot.

The highlights were certainly the gold medal turns of Nelson Morrow and Shaun Carter: the latter an occasion of high emotion (it seemed that he would rush into the streets to drag in uncomprehending locals and press beer upon them). Otherwise the standard of play was a coach's dream: it encouraged the locals to believe that the gulf between beginners and the stars was not as wide as they had thought.

Alan Oldham travelled a great distance to see the final rites and present the elegant cup. He did so with an engaging speech containing much abuse about the former Ranelagh club: it appears to have made Hurlingham look like a CCU outfit. Then Malcolm O'Connell did the necessary on Magee.

**Results**

David Magee	10/11	James Dixon	6/13
Nelson Morrow	8/11	Shaun Carter	5/13
Jeremy Dyer	8/13	Alex Jardine	5/11
Graham Gale	7/10	Roger Jenkins	5/11
Julian S-Davies	7/10	Pauline Healy	5/11
M O'Connell	6/11	Kevin Carter	5/12
Jerry Guest	6/9	Roger Jackman	4/9
Gary Bennett	7/13	Paul Smith	4/11
James Death	6/12	Stephen Badger	4/12
Edward Dymock	6/11	Andrew Gregory	3/9
Chris Dent	4/11	Frances Ransom	0/9

**Extracts from the unconfirmed Minutes of the Council Meeting on 5th July 1997**

1 ST Badger (Chairman), AJ Oldham and L Wharrad (Vice Presidents) and 14 other members of Council were present with Ms G E Curry (Editor of the Gazette) and PWP Champion (Secretary CA)

2 From the Executive Committee Report. (i) The Planning Group has made arrangements for discussion of the next Forward Plan to take place at club conferences on Sunday 16th November in Huddersfield and on Saturday 22nd November at Parsons Green. (ii) The national junior squad will be reintroduced in 1998. (iii) A reception was held to inaugurate the Centenary Exhibition at the Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Museum. (iv) The Centenary Year Book and History has been published. (v) Further indoor tournaments are envisaged next winter.

3 From the F & G P Committee Report. (i) In view of the uncertainty surrounding future grants from the UK and English Sports Councils the Committee's request to be allowed to budget, if necessary, for modest overall deficits in 1998 and 1999 was approved. (ii) The sub-committee

advising on Information Technology has been charged with reporting on the best way the CA might make use of the internet.

4 From the Equipment Committee Report. Alan Pidcock has been co-opted to the committee. Investigations into the basic characteristics of croquet balls are envisaged. A standard for a synthetic playing surface needs to be established but this will require professional advice. Volunteers are sought to test out different surfaces.

5 Re the Golf Croquet Committee Report. There was criticism of the intended use of local laws in the forthcoming World Golf Croquet Championships in Egypt. Further discussion of the report was deferred, no member of the committee being present.

6 From the Handicap Co-ordination Committee Report. The Apps Bowl (most improved man) has been awarded for 1996 to A Sherlaw-Johnson (Bowdon Club) and the Steel Bowl (most improved woman) to miss N Green (Bristol Club).

7 Re the International Committee Report. It was noted that the WCF had established a system of postal voting for its management committee but members of Council expressed some concern at the method used and choice of names.

8 Re the Development Committee Report. Derek Trotman drew attention to the paper "The

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## Centenary Indoor Tournament

**A**s a final event of the Centenary celebrations, an indoor croquet tournament will be organised during the 1997-98 winter. Entry will be open to all CA registered clubs who may enter one team at a fee of £25.

The format will consist of a series of doubles matches played under speed croquet rules as formulated by the East Anglia Federation but subject to any changes resulting from a scrutiny by the Laws committee.

Three heats with a maximum of 12 teams will be run on the following dates at the venues indicated:

1	Wolverhampton Grammar School	13-14 December 1997
2	RAF Innsouth, Gloucester	17-18 January 1998
3	Soham Sports Centre	14-15 February 1998

A number of the leading teams from each heat will be invited to compete in a final to be held on 14-15 March 1998 at RAF Innsouth, Gloucester for the Club Indoor Centenary Championship.

Clubs may only enter for one heat and it is suggested that the North & West Midlands clubs enter the Wolverhampton event, East Anglia and E Midlands enter for Soham and the remainder for Innsouth.

Entries together with the appropriate fee should be sent to the CA office and will be accepted in order of receipt. Should there be vacancies at any venue 14 days before a heat, unsuccessful applicants from other heats will be invited to make up the numbers.

Note:

- 1) Teams may consist of squads of 3 players of whom any two can be nominated to play in a match.
- 2) A club may make a second entry and this will be held in reserve and considered in the event of a vacancy occurring at any venue.

### Entry Form

## Centenary Indoor Tournament

**Club:**

(players' names must be given to the manager on the first morning of the event)

**Address of contact:**

**Tel no:**

**Venue: Wolverhampton 13-14 December  
Innsouth 17-18 January  
Soham 14-15 February**

(please tick appropriate venue)

Completed form to be returned to the CA office together with entry fee and a stamped addressed envelope if a list of local accommodation is required. (Cheques made payable to the Croquet Association)

Origins of Croquet Clubs" by Bill Sidebottom which sought to identify the key factors in the establishment of successful clubs.

9 *Re the Trophies Committee Report.*

The stolen Inter-Club salver will be replaced by a wooden shield.

10 *Re the Centenary Committee.*

An engraved pewter salver has been presented by the Swiss Croquet Association to mark the CA's Centenary. In accordance with the donor's intentions the trophy has been offered to Cheltenham Croquet Club on indefinite loan.

11 Reports from the Planning Group, the Schools Development Officer and the Commercial Agent were received and adopted. It was noted that articles in the press, particularly that in "The Times", have stimulated sales of equipment and literature to a considerable extent this year.

12 Changes to standing orders no. 16.3 and 16.6 which had been agreed at the previous meeting were ratified.

13 *Motion to amend Regulation 13 "Time Limits".*

L Wharrad proposed and C Clarke seconded a motion to provide that a Tournament Manager may as an alternative to a one hour time limit imposed under Reg.13(b) or the final hour of a time limit imposed under Reg.13(a), direct that a fixed number of turns - "Wharrad Turns" - be played by each side. The proposal that Wharrad turns be officially adopted in principle was carried, the voting being 9-4 in favour, subject to wording of a new Regulation 13(f) to be agreed between the proposer and the Laws Committee.

14 The Secretary reported that (i) nine clubs had not yet paid their CRF, (ii) he had made Development visits to four clubs in the West Midlands Federation and (iii) visits to a number of other federations had been arranged.

15 Council confirmed the election of 48 new Associates. As at 26th June 1997 the number of paid-up Associates was stated to be 1565 including 65 overseas.

A.J. Oldham  
24 July 1997

## CENTENARY YEAR BOOK & HISTORY OF THE CROQUET ASSOCIATION

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## Schools Croquet

### Ramsgate shows the way

*Report and photos by David Haslam, Schools Officer*

**A**t a time when education league tables are in vogue there is no doubt that the Ramsgate Croquet Club is in top spot this year for their work in promoting the game in schools. Following my provocative article in last January's issue of the Croquet Gazette I have experienced periods of despair mixed with the odd encouraging sign of progress. However Thursday 17 July brought unimagined pleasure as 22 youngsters aged 11 and 12 arrived at the Ramsgate courts for the launch of the new link between the club and local schools.

Earlier this year I met with Ian Price, the dynamic and enthusiastic secretary of the club, Ian Groom the Headteacher of the Hereson School and with the Area Sports Development Officer of Kent County Council. We discussed ways to increase the involvement of youngsters and enlarge the number of schools from the single school already linked to Ramsgate Club. It was agreed that we should target pupils aged 11-12 such that they could develop skills before the dreaded GCSE and A levels take them away from sport, and that we should attempt to involve all five of the Ramsgate secondary schools. Ian Groom is well respected in the fraternity of heads and agreed to approach his colleagues in the other four schools. Ian Price already had the backing of the club which is possibly the most forward looking I have encountered. The Kent Development Officer agreed to contact the media and to arrange sponsorship of the launch day to which six pupils from each school would be invited. I agreed to assist with the provision of extra mallets and to engage the services of Jamie burch, a prominent young player from Reigate who agreed to provide a short demonstration of some shots.

Three schools participated with 22 boys and girls enthusiastically involved; 15 members of the Ramsgate Club assisting with supervision/coaching and provision of a buffet lunch; a half day of filming for the sports news of Meridian Television and visits from the local press and from Pfizers plc who sponsored the event. The Pfizers Cup for Ramsgate Schools, a gleaming piece of silverware, was competed for and will be the focus of a repeat in 1998. The club provided shields for the individual winner and runner-up to keep as mementos.

The day started with Len Hawkins, a CA coach, giving a brief outline of golf croquet and together with some other members supervised the youngsters, almost all of whom had never handled a mallet before. It was surprising how quickly some took to it. After a time in which to get the feel of things a competition of golf croquet was provided, this ending in heavy rain which failed to dampen the enthusiasm of all concerned. The drinks and buffet lunch proved very popular and at the end of the afternoon

a tentative enquiry from the chairman, Cynthia Street, as to whether anybody wanted to come again was greeted with a forest of hands and shouts of approval.



*The Chatham House School receives the Pfizers Cup*

For the record the school "team" winning the Pfizer Cup was Chatham House School with the Hereson School and The Ramsgate School acquitting themselves well. The individual winner was David Dray, already a member of the Ramsgate Club for 12 months, with runner-up (a total beginner) Andrew Berrit. These are names we may expect to see again in a few years time.

Very interesting you may say, but what follows is the significant part of this article. The club arranged to offer coaching from 2-4 pm each Monday during the school holidays and also 10-12 each Saturday morning. It was hoped that two or three girls would take part. The club has been delighted, if not almost overwhelmed by the response. Each Monday has seen 9 participants with 6 each Saturday, these including the 3 Monday folk. Thus 12 of the 22 who attended the launch day have followed it up and pay 50p per session for the privilege. This is remarkable testimony to the efforts of the members of the Ramsgate Club and shows what can be done.

Already the Medway Club is anxious to follow suit and every support will be given to the plans they are developing for a 1998 launch. Being in Kent they have local authority support and also the opportunity to build on the experience of Ramsgate should they so wish.

If your club is wishing to work positively in a similar direction please get in touch with me and every support will be provided. However, the lessons I have learned to date include one which clearly shows that without active club efforts, progress in gaining more youngsters into the game is almost impossible. The other is that we should primarily target the early teenagers rather than sixth formers. Now is the time to plan for 1998- don't wait until the new season.

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## Alternative Games

### INTRODUCTION

In 'One-Ball' croquet, each player has a single ball, otherwise every law of association applies - roquets, croquets, faults, etc. (including wiring lifts, which occur with much greater frequency than in the two-ball game).

This is one reason why One-Ball is often a better introduction to the game than Golf Croquet - beginners only have one set of rules to master. The other reason is, of course, that the experience of roquets and croquets is a useful stepping stone towards the full game.

However, One-Ball is not just for the beginner. It is also a game of skill and tactical finesse that appeals to a growing band of experienced players. Several tournaments are held in the UK each year, though only one (Winchester's One-Ball Championship) is advertised in the CA fixture list. Many clubs hold members' competitions. Indeed, Surbiton holds a one-day tournament every month through the winter, the highlight being the New Year's Day 'Frostbite'.

These also illustrate two further advantages of One-Ball. Firstly, games generally last just 15-20 minutes, so it is possible to complete an entire tournament in one day. 10+ rounds, though tiring, are perfectly feasible. Secondly, because there is no sitting-out, everybody keeps warm.

Just like the full game, tournaments may be either handicap or advanced level (with one-back and four-back lifts). The best handicapping scheme is to allow one-third of the difference of regular handicaps (do not use the Golf Croquet table since it unreasonably favours better players).

Quadruple banking is perfectly feasible. This illustrates yet another One-Ball plus point: two-lawn clubs can hold tournaments for up to 24 people.

### SKILLS

Ask anybody who has not played One-Ball very much and they will tell you that success depends upon good shooting and being able to run long hoops. While both of these skills are useful, just as they are in the full game, they are by no means the keys to success.

Indeed, more important than being a good shot is to be reliable over four to seven yards, and regularly running four-yard angled hoops is far less useful than running a one-yard hoop hard enough to go down to the next, 21 yards away.

The most important skill of all is to have a good range of solid croquet shots. Rolling up to a hoop from various distances and angles, stop-shot hoop approaches and pin-point take-offs are all valuable assets.

But hold on, croquet strokes are played in breaks. One-ball is not a game of breaks, is

Kevin Carter, a member of the Berkshire and Winchester Croquet Clubs, gives an outline of the the game of One-Ball in a two part series designed to encourage others to explore this often overlooked version of croquet.

it? The answer is, emphatically: yes. In tournaments One-Ball games are invariably won by the contenders who make the most hoops in their breaks. A single break of four or five hoops, which should be well within the compass of a scratch player or of a high handicap player using some bisques, will often put a game beyond doubt.

The One-Baller's equivalent of a triple peel is the all round break.

The skills exercised in One-Ball are extremely useful in the full game. For instance, mastering the stop-shot hoop approach improves breaks, rolling up from all angles helps high-bisquers to maintain breaks without resort to too many bisques, playing two-ball breaks helps better players to 'make a break out of nothing'. So, One-Ball is also an excellent means of 'sharpening up' for the two-ball game.

### THE OPENING

The One-Ball game opening has rather fewer options than in the full game. The player going first dares not lay-up in front of hoop one, and so lays a tice - normally a little beyond opponent's comfortable shooting range, but such that the first player would be happy to shoot if the second laid up in front on hoop one (Figure 1).

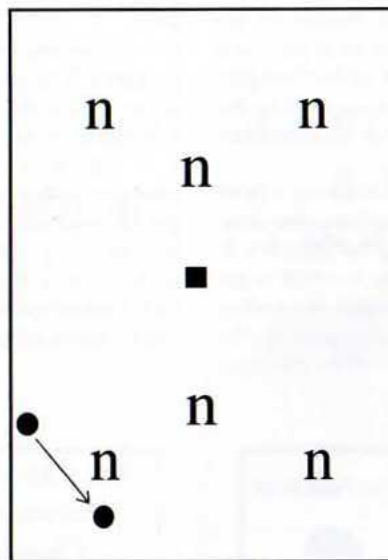


Fig. 1

If the second player shoots hard at the tice and misses then the first player can lay-up in front of hoop one. If the second player ignores the tice and lays-up in front of hoop one, then opponent shoots, going off in the middle of south boundary if missing. This leaves the second player a difficult chance of a break.

Sometimes the second player will neither shoot at the tice nor lay-up for hoop one. Various other responses, such as corner one and wired by hoop one, have their merits.

Some players like to shoot at hoop one when going first. While it is spectacular and satisfying when the ball sails through, perhaps even coming to rest in front of hoop two, the dangers of clanging the hoop and leaving opponent a superb opportunity in return for only a six yard roquet (or a bisque, if applicable), are far too great to make this a winning strategy.

### GENERAL TACTICAL PRINCIPLES

Most tactical principles follow from the premise that breaks win games. If you are ahead strive to be at least two or three hoops ahead. This is because an opponent only one hoop behind will have several opportunities in a game to run a hoop hard enough to come right down to where your ball is sitting.

Conversely, sitting on opponent's tail is an excellent tactic, biding time until opponent takes one more shot to get a good hoop approach than you, then pouncing.

This implies the ability to run hoops hard. This is not a difficult skill to master, follow-through being the essential component.

This waiting tactic, in turn, creates some interesting decision points. For instance, do you chance a difficult hoop or play safe by taking another shot to get right in front of it? If your long hoop is six and opponent is sitting in front of one-back, then the answer is most likely yes, since the reward for running six will be a pot at opponent's ball and an easy chance of a break. If, however, your difficult hoop is three and opponent is for four but not in position then you should not go for your hoop. Instead, improve your position to be certain of running the hoop hard on the next turn (Figure 2). This leaves opponent the unenviable decision of putting his ball in front of hoop four waiting for you to come down to it or retreating, probably to somewhere on the south or east boundaries.

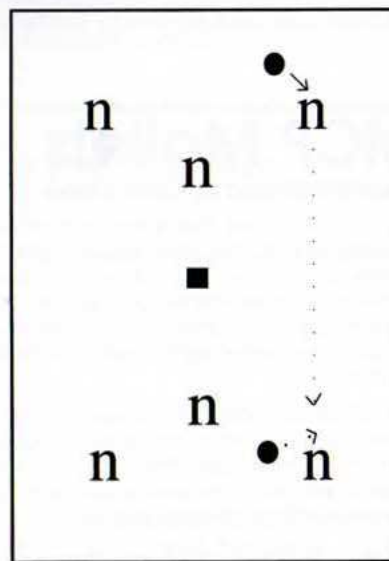


Fig. 2

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#### BOOKS

Taking One Back: a short croquet player looks forward  
"Jam Today, Jam Tomorrow": a croquet lifestory  
Red Rover: the final instalment of our 12 part blockbuster  
Synchronised Croquet: the official report on this Olympic demonstration sport.

#### UNOBTAINABLES

Tickets for 'Roquet!': "...an acknowledged hit" (Croquet Gazette)  
"... but see Laws 15(b) and 16(b)(3)&(4)" (The CA).

#### STICKERS

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Continued from page 7

week progressed, gradually upgraded accommodation for those who requested it. I will not go into individual details, except to say that (unlike John Taves) Chris did not ask for alternative accommodation. The WCF Management Committee took the view, rightly or wrongly, that as all players had been inconvenienced, it would be unfair to give a discount to some of them. Chris, like all the other overseas players, had part of his travel costs funded by the French Federation.

Chris was elected to the English CA's Council on the prospectus that he was intending to obtain increased sponsorship for the MacRobertson Shield, a fact that fits oddly with the general tenor of his letter. It is not true to say that the WCF has cost governing bodies thousands of pounds in lost income; on the contrary, those governing bodies that host world championships create opportunities for themselves to gain benefit either in kind (for example, government grants to fund new facilities), or in publicity or cash. As an example, the French Federation acquired 6 new lawns as a direct result of holding the Championship in 1995.

WCF policy, as agreed by its Member Associations, has always been that a licence fee should be paid to the WCF by any organisation staging a WCF licensed event. This is fixed at present at £1000, a figure that has remained constant since 1989. Chris may be confusing the licence fee with the figure of £20,000 mentioned in an article by Fred Rogerson as the WCF's target sponsorship fee for Championship title rights. (Incidentally, a finder's "fee" of 75% of this total would accrue to the Association that obtained the sponsorship.) The licence fee is to cover costs incurred by the WCF as a whole in staging an event, and to provide a source of income for the WCF independent of membership subscriptions in the hope that these might eventually be reduced.

In considering whether to accord "world championship" status to any event, a number of factors have to be taken into account, but a policy and guidelines are gradually emerging on this. At present, the fact is that many of the WCF member associations do not support the MacRobertson Shield format as being appropriate for a world team event, and their views clearly have to be taken into account.

The suggestion that the "WCF" exists to provide free junkets for its Management Committee is laughable. At least one member of the Management Committee has resigned because of the expense incurred in working on behalf of Member Associations to promote world croquet. Chris's "numerous letters" make it clear that he has little idea of the work carried out by the Management Committee and WCF member associations on his behalf, so how can our communications be improved?

Publicising WCF activities is not straightforward. Items of WCF news submitted to Editors of national croquet magazines cannot always be published in full, or at the appropriate time. WCF information sent to Secretaries of individual Associations does not always reach every relevant person. However, what we can ensure between us is that a WCF "file" exists in the office of each national association, and is available for anyone to access. Recently I have been trying to improve communications still further by arranging for future issues of the WCF newsletter to be distributed to club secretaries (approximately 100 copies are already posted to individual graded players and WCF "Friends" in England).

As for the presence of individual players in WCF championships, National Associations are requested to put forward nominations for their allocated places. Who they send is entirely up to them. In some cases, nominations are requested before particular events occur, and so it may well happen that the winner of some well-known events in the same year are not present at a WCF Championship. For example, Aaron Westerby, winner of the British Men's, was not nominated by the NZCC, and Steve Comish, winner of this year's President's Cup, was not nominated by the Croquet Association.

Chris himself, as reigning World Champion and British Open Champion, was automatically invited to compete, but imposed conditions that were not acceptable to either the WCF Management Committee nor to the Organising Committee in Australia. (To enable people to judge for themselves whether the decision of the Management Committee was reasonable or not, I would be very happy to pass on copies of the relevant correspondence.) Despite his assertion that he is still "in dispute" with the WCF, the Management Committee considered the matter settled over a year ago; otherwise he would not have been invited to the Bunbury Championship.

No doubt Chris will find time to reflect on the WCF and its Member Associations, without whom he would not have had a stage on which to become World Champion. I hope he will be able to join us on a future occasion, but in his absence we shall have a new Champion; one whom I am sure will fully justify the title and bring credit to the game.

Chris Hudson,  
Secretary-General,  
World Croquet Federation.



## Tournament Results

**Roehampton High Bisquers 25th-26th May**  
Winner: Mr R Hutchinson (14) Runner-up: Mr P Quinn (14)

**Southport & Birkdale H'cap Wknd 25th-26th May**  
Winner: D Jenkinson. Block A: J.D. Williamson Block B: Mrs B Haslam

**Plymouth Handicap Wknd 24th-26th May**  
Winner: N Carter. Runner-up: A Treglown

**Tyneside Handicap Wknd 31st May-1st June**  
Winner: A Foster

**Surrey Championship, Surbiton 6th-8th June**  
Semi-finals: T Burge bt D Gaunt -17 +20tp +1; S Mulliner bt A Johnson +6 +14tp. Final: Burge bt Mulliner +20 -17 +17. Consolation winner: C Patmore.

**Bowdon Advanced Wknd June**  
Semi-finals: Brian Storey bt Alan Linton +24 +12; Howard Taylor bt Chris Dent +21 +14. Final: Taylor bt Storey +4 +25 -14 +14. Consolation winner: Ian Lines.

**Hunstanton Over 50's H'cap 13th-15th June**  
Winner: Roger Ivill 7/7. Runner-up: Ruth Youd 5/6.

**Harrow Oak H'cap Wknd 14th-15th June**  
Joint winners: Richard Hilditch, John Bowman, John Boardman.

**Parkstone 16th/21st June**  
Cripps Gold Cup: winner - John Beech; runner-up Kathleen Priestley. 'Y' event: winner - Roy Edwards; runner-up Philip Pawson. Dorset Salver: winner - David Harrison-Wood; runner-up - Paul Rowcliffe. Weldon Trophy: winner - Philip Pawson; runner-up Peggy Nutland. Cope Cup: winner - Kathleen Priestley; runner-up - John Lonsdale. Handicap Doubles: final - Jill Lonsdale & Paul Rowcliffe bt David Harrison-Wood & Jane Mathews.

**Surbiton Tournament of the Third Age 17th-19th June**  
Winner: E Mathews 5/6. runner-up: L Wharrad 5/6

**Ryde H'cap W'knd 27th-29th June**  
Winner: M Robinson runner-up - L Toye.

**Budleigh Salterton Advanced W'knd 28th-29th June**  
Winner: P Taylor runners-up: David Price, Bill Arliss.

**Southport & Birkdale Long Bisquers W'knd 5th/6th July**  
Winner - Keith Roberts Runners-up - Anna Giraud, Bob Burnett.

**CA v CA Ireland Southport & Birkdale 19th-20th July**  
D Maugham & D Nicholson bt S Williams & M O'Shaughnessy +25 +22tp. J Haslam & I Maugham lost to R & M McInerney -13 -6. Miss G Curry & J Hawkins lost to Miss J Shorten & R Barklie +17 -2 -6. D Maugham bt R McInerney +18tp +26; J Hawkins lost to S Williams -19 -8; J Haslam lost to M O'Shaughnessy -1 +3 -3; I

Maugham lost to Miss J Shorten -4 -17; D Nicholson bt R Barklie -5 +23 +17; Miss G Curry bt M McInerney +1 +22.

Match Result: C.A. 4 - C.A.I. 5

**Harrow Oak Advanced W'knd 19th-20th July**  
Semi-final: D Openshaw bt M Hammelev +24tp +26tp; R Hilditch bt G Bennett -17 +23 +13. Final Openshaw bt Hilditch +19 +25tp -13 +15.

**Veterans' Tournament Budleigh Salterton 21st-26th July**

Rothwell Challenge Cup: winner - J Solomon; runner-up - N Gray. Over 70's Championship: winner - R Edwards; runner-up A Addis. Over 70's Division 2: winner - Mrs G Dart; runner-up Mrs M Newman. The Felixstowe Cup: winner - Mrs L Nash; runner-up Mrs D Brothers. The Strickland Cup: winner - I Birdseye; runner-up - Miss M Goodhart. The Meredith Cup: winner - G Davis; runner-up P Macdonald. 'Y': winner M Hamilton; runner-up Mrs D Brothers. 'Z': winner - B Rees; runner-up J Hobbs. The Longman Trophies: winners - Mr & Mrs L Nash; runners-up - H Drake & Miss J Goodhart. The Gilbert Spoons: winners - A Addis & Mrs M Newman; runners-up Mr & Mrs P Dwerryhouse.

**Guildford & Godalming Advanced W'knd 9th-10th August**  
Semi-finals: R Hilditch bt C Farthing +3 -7tp +6tp; A Mrozinski bt J Dyer +22tp +14tp. Final: A Mrozinski bt Hilditch +25 +16 +1. Consolation Swiss winner: J Dyer.

**Edinburgh Fettes Week August**

Crammond Cup: B Murdoch. Ian H Wright Trophy: J Potter. Silver Jubilee Salver: J Walker. Walter B Laing Cup: S McCraw bt F McInnes +18. The Edinburgh Croquet cup: J Potter bt S McKendrick +1t. Milne Trophy: F McInnes. The Norton Wright Trophies: S McCraw & J Walker bt E Owen & P Thompson.

**Harrow Oak Handicap W'knd 16th-17th Aug**  
Winner: Miss S Vaissiere.

**North of England Week Bowdon 16th-21st August**  
A Class: winner - B Thompson; runner-up M Grainger-Brown. B Class: winner - Mrs B Haslam; runner-up Rupert Webb. Advanced Doubles: winners - J Hawkins & P Eardley; runners-up R Edwards & B Thompson. Handicap Doubles: winners - J Hawkins & M Cohen; runners-up A Sutcliffe & J Wilkinson.

**Sussex County Autumn Tournament 18th-23rd August**

The Abbey Challenge Cup: winner - J Solomon; runner-up F Reynolds. The Scott Cup: winner D Collins; runner-up B James. The Daldy Cup: winner Daphne Gaitley; runner-up J Davey. The Monteith Bowl: winner - Pauline Davey; runner-up F Low. The Douglas Jones Cup: winner - J Hobbs; runner-up J Low. The Sussex Vase: winner - Catherine Storey; runner-up Christine Constable. The Harveys Trophy: winner - Jean

Nash; runner-up Bill Gillott. The Sussex Salver: winner - P Castell; runner-up R Best. The Howard Austin Cups: winners - Betty Weitz & John Low; runners-up Diana Brothers & Tim Dutton.

**Hurlingham Handicap W'knd 23rd-25th Aug**  
Winner: N Carter.

**Hunstanton 97th Annual Tournament 23rd-26th August**

Egyptian Handicap: winner - D Magee 7/7; 'Y' winner - R Gosden. Advanced block A: winner - G Noble. Advanced block B: winner - Celia Pearce. Handicap block C: winner - B Durward. Handicap block D: winner - Jonathan Toye. Handicap block E: winner - J Davis.

**Parkstone 25th-30th August**

Handicap Doubles: winners - Dr W Omerod & Mrs J Mathews; runners-up Mr & Mrs Henderson. 'Y': winners - Mr & Mrs Parsons; runners-up Mr & Mrs Whitaker. Handicap Singles: winner - Mrs V Henderson; runner-up J Marshall. 'Y': winner - Mrs A Whitaker. 'A' Class: winner - S Carter; runner-up G Fowler. 'B' Class: winner - D Cornelius; runner-up Mrs P Nutland. 'C' Class: winner - Mrs D Parsons; runner-up Mrs D Birrell.

**Ryde Handicap W'knd 29th-31st August**  
Winner: T Doughty (10) runner-up: R Tillock (11).

**Budleigh Salterton Handicap W'knd 14th September**  
Winner: Tony Doughty 6/7; runners-up S Carter, T Danby, Mrs A Price.

**South of England Week Compton 15th-20th September**

Ionides Cup: winner - L Tibble; runner-up G Fowler. Devonshire Park Salver: winner - P Nash Luard Cup: winner: P Tidswell. Trevor Williams Cup: winner - J Nash; runner-up L Nash. Handicap Doubles: winners - M Paton & M Buist; runners-up L Tibble & B Salmon. Gilbert Spoons: winners: R Parkins & D Collins; runners-up R Wallis & E Robinson. Devonshire Park Cup: winner - J Davey; runner-up R Parkins. Britain Porringer: winner - P Castell; runner-up M Hammelev.

**Cheltenham Full Bisque Handicap W'knd 18th-21st September**

Block A: winner - G Chamberlin; runner-up Mrs V McClements. Block B: winner - G Weir; runners-up Mrs M Godson, D Foulser. Block C: winner - Mrs GD Harris; runners-up A Blenkin, G Underwood. Block D: winner - Mrs U Atter-Martin; runner-up G Eccles. Block E: winner - J Godson; runners-up Mrs S Clay, G Edgeler. Block F: winner - A Cowing; runner-up Mrs E Weitz. Block G: winner - C Edwards; runners-up Mrs A Thursfield, L Kershaw.

**Nottingham Handicap Tournament 19th-21st September**

Winner: J Filsak 7/8; runner-up J Soo (USA) 6/8.

## Handicap Alterations

Hurlingham Club June 1997

IPM Macdonald 5 to 4.5  
PJM Quinn 14 to 12

Tyneside 14 - 15 June

R Callingham 5 to 4.5  
D Carpenter 4 to 3.5

B Kennedy 7 to 8  
D Nicholson 1 to 0.5

Bath Club June

T Hudson 18 to 16  
Miss L Bradforth 7 to 6

Mrs A Whitaker 4.5 to 5  
D Stooling 14 to 12

M Cope 9 to 8

Bristol Handicap 21 - 22 June

Mrs A Thursfield 7 to 8  
D Mears 7 to 8

P Dyke 7 to 8  
J Dixon 4.5 to 3

Woking 21 - 29 June

M Bigg 4 to 3.5  
A Davies 14

P Champion 5 to 6  
M Town 3 to 3.5

Mrs J Wankling 12 to 11  
D Ruscombe-King 5 to 4.5

Mrs G Lewis 9 to 10  
T Backhouse 14 to 12

D Mumford 16 to 14  
R Mobsby 14 to 12

Newport 22 June

F Warren 12 to 11  
W Windham 16 to 14

J Rusted 8 to 7

Cheltenham 25 - 29 June

Mrs S Edwards 16 to 14  
J Gosden 11 to 10

A Potter 4 to 5  
G Weir 18 to 16

R Whitaker 14 to 12  
C Atter-Martin 20 to 18

Mrs U Atter-Martin 11 to 12  
A Cowing 5 to 4

Mrs P Crowe 18 to 16  
G Edgeler 11 to 10

C Edwards 20 to 16  
B Weitz 5 to 6

Mrs K Whittall 5 to 4.5  
M Rangeley 0.5 to 1

Nottingham 27 - 29 June

R Davis 2.5 to 2  
J Death 0.5 to 0

P Death 0 to 0.5  
L Tibble -1 to -0.5

R White 1 to 0.5

Ryde 27 - 29 June

Mrs M Newman 8 to 9  
R Newnham 7 to 6

Budleigh Salterton 28 - 29 June

D Price 3.5 to 2.5  
P Pullin 3 to 2.5

Himley Hall 28 - 29 June

Miss H Hewitson 9 to 10  
D Matthews 9 to 8

Colchester Club June

J Williams 10 to 9  
Southwick 5 July

Mrs D Brothers 8 to 7  
P Castell 4 to 3.5

B Kitching 18 to 14  
A Rajotte 4 to 4.5

D Shaw -0.5 to 0  
Mrs C Storey 5 to 4.5

Sidmouth Club July

Miss S Rogers 18 to 16  
R Henderson 6 to 5

Mrs E Owen 11 to 12  
R Clark 18 to 16

E Kitchener 7 to 8  
Mrs S Blenkinsop 18 to 16

A Dustan-Smith 2.5 to 2  
Mrs V Henderson 11 to 10

D Waterhouse 4.5 to 4

Oxford University 4 - 6 July

S Tudor 5 to 4.5  
M Blackwell 4.5 to 4

M Wormald -1 to -1.5

Wrest Park 4 - 6 July

A Brown 3.5 to 4  
G Fowler 0.5 to 0

P Allnutt 1 to 1.5  
Mrs J Anderson 7 to 6

G Collin 3.5 to 3  
Roehampton 5 - 6 July

S Cawdell 5 to 4.5  
J Sheraton-Davis 2 to 3

East Riding (Hull) 5 - 6 July

A Locket 6 to 5  
Mrs E Johnson 18 to 16

Southport & Birkdale Club July

R Burnett 16 to 14  
Mrs B Haslam 5 to 4.5

Cheltenham 8 - 10 July

A Blenkin 20 to 18  
Mrs M Peebles 16 to 18

Mrs E Weitz 14 to 12  
G Gosden 7 to 8

R Young 18 to 16  
G Chamberlin 8 to 9

C Bennett 1 to 1.5  
Mrs M Godson 12 to 11

R Jackman 2 to 1.5  
J Remfrey 18 to 16

Mrs U Atter-Martin 12 to 14  
Mrs J Nash 10 to 11

Miss A Hausserr 16 to 18

Nottingham 11 - 13 July

R Davis 2 to 2.5  
Mrs M Boyd 9 to 8

N Davis 9 to 10

Parson's Green 18 July

Mrs S Davies 7 to 6

Budleigh Salterton Club July

Mrs J Babbage 12 to 11  
I Birdseye 16 to 14

Miss J Goodhart 12 to 11  
Mrs M Selmes 14 to 12

R Selmes 4 to 3  
R Scaddan 5 to 4.5

A Wickham 11 to 12

Edgbaston 18 - 20 July

M Grainger-Brown 1 to 1.5  
I Meredith 7 to 8

P Swaffield 2 to 1.5  
J Smith 14 to 12

Bath Club July

M Beard 9 to 8  
J Touhey 12 to 11

T Hudson 16 to 14

Budleigh Salterton (Veterans') 21 - 26 July

Miss M Goodhart 12 to 11  
J Hobbs 2 to 2.5

Mrs P Macdonald 10 to 11  
Mrs D Miller 6 to 7

Mrs E Owen 12 to 14

Jersey Open 21 - 27 July

Mrs S Burrow 10 to 8  
T Weston 4.5 to 4

Southwick Centenary Week 21 - 27 July

Miss J Carpenter 20 to 18  
G Cuttle 3 to 2.5

Mrs D Gaitley 10 to 9  
J Low 8 to 7



# AROUND & ABOUT



Players assembled for the All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club v the President's team at Wimbledon.



Plymouth CC's Joan Anderson cuts her 90th birthday cake at a surprise party held in the clubhouse. (photo by Geoff Underwood.)



Youth vs Experience? Sam Tudor (17) with John Exell (90) make their way to play at Cheltenham. (photo by Penny Crowe.)



Players & spectators enjoying the Croquet North Centenary Tournament held at Tyneside CC. (photo by Bruce Rannie.)



David Harrison-Wood receiving the East Gloucestershire trophy from Bernard Neal at the Cheltenham July week. (photo by Stephen Badger.)



Budleigh Salterton in August and 3 inches of rain courtesy of nature. Dinghy and ducks courtesy of the management.



Mike Evans, looking prepared for anything, ready to depart from the Northern week held at Bowdon. (photo by Liz Taylor-Webb)