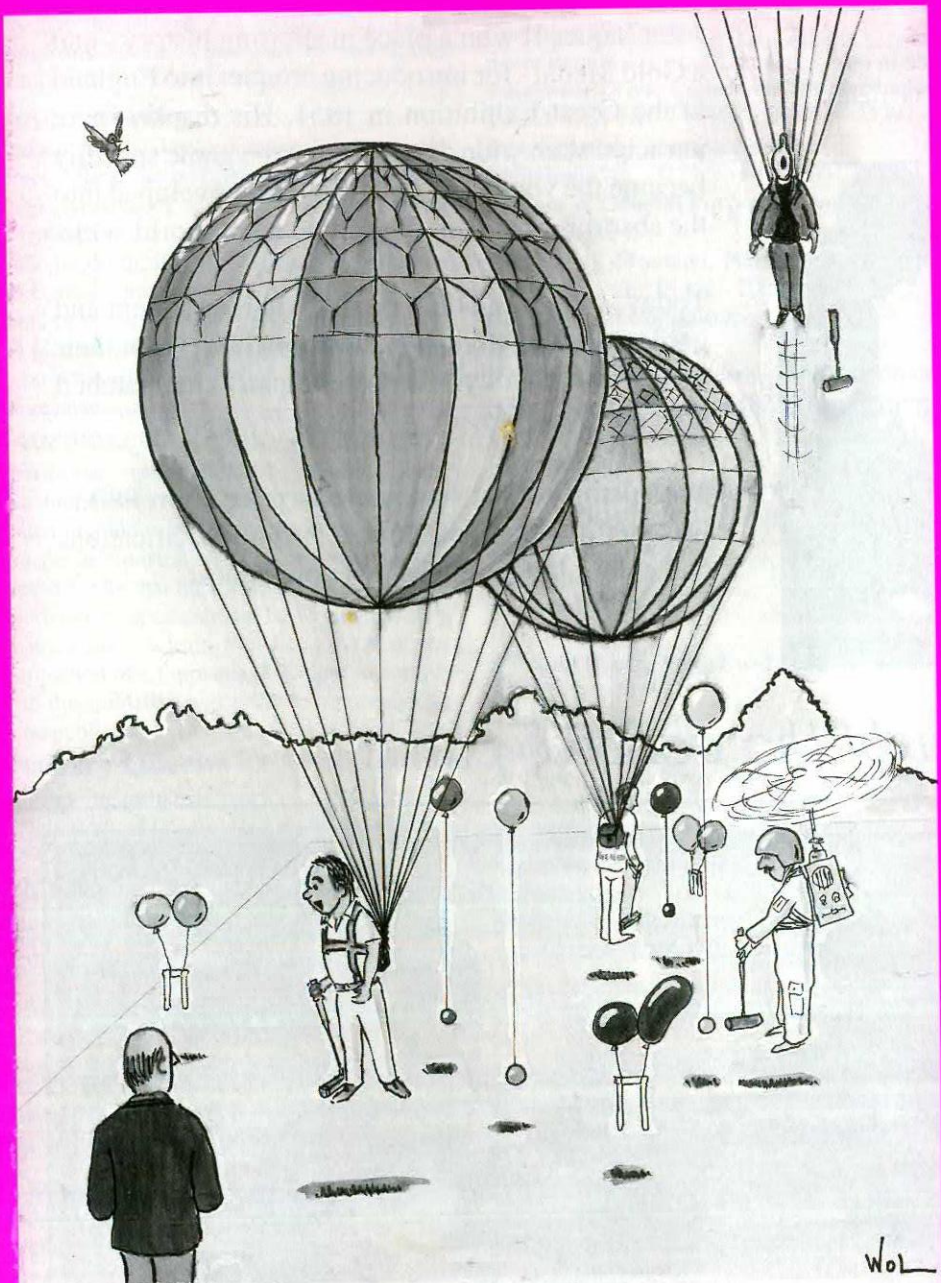


The Croquet Gazette

Issue 255

May 1998



'IT'S THE INTERNATIONAL DAY
OF THE GRASS'

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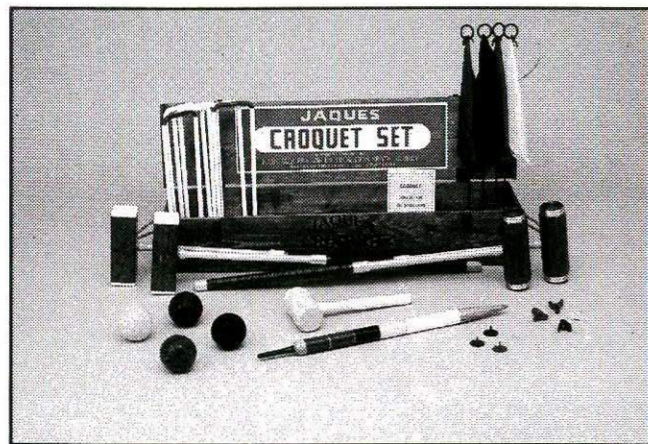
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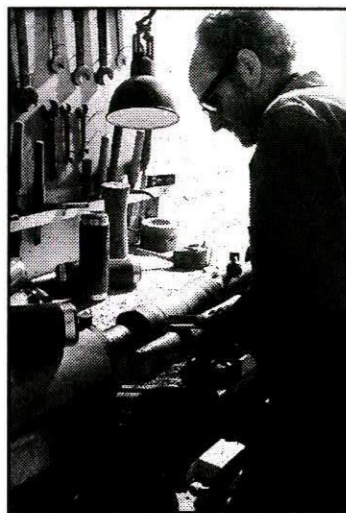
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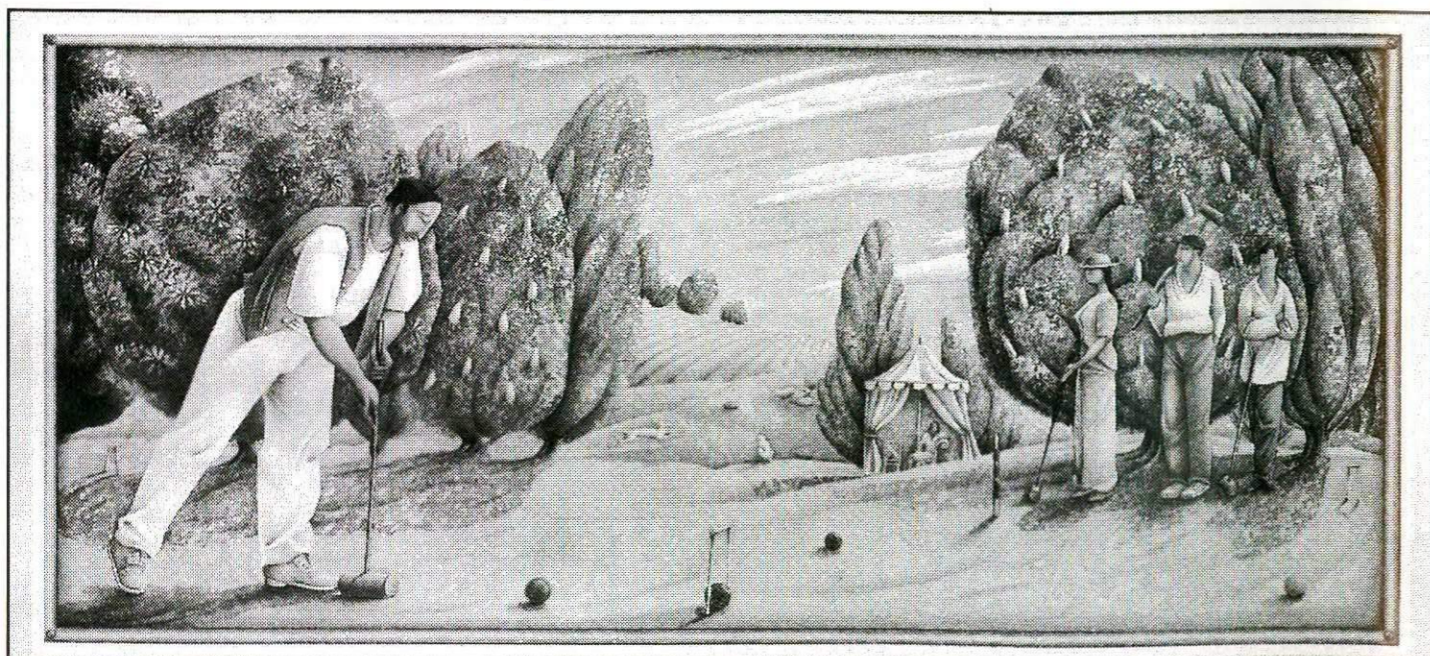


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PUBLICATION DETAILS

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

Publication Schedule

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

Advertising

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

Specific Questions & Queries

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

Copy Details

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

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

Tournament Results & Reports

Tournament results should be reported on the new tournament return sheet. These have been issued in a bid to make the reporting of events and the administration of the rankings easier. Please ensure that the forms are used.

Tournament reports should be written and sent to the editor within SEVEN DAYS of the completion of a tournament. Failure to comply with this guideline will result in reports failing to be published.

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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Front Cover: Illustration by Roy Wallis

Next Issue Published 14th July

Copy Deadline 22nd June

Editor's Hotline
Monday 27th July
6.00 pm - 10.00 pm

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Editorial

There seems to some confusion, and a certain lack of understanding regarding tournament reports and general contributions to the Gazette. Tournament reports should be forwarded to the editor, not the CA office, within seven days of the completion of the event. Failure to comply with such conditions may result in the report not being published, which may in turn result in some clubs reproaching the editor, so please avoid such problems by only agreeing to write tournament reports if you can comply with the above conditions.

Whilst tournament reporters have been slow off the mark, tournament managers, so far, seem to have grasped the principle of the new

Chairman's Column

As you will see in this issue of the Gazette, the report by our planning group was finalised earlier this year and presented to Council for general publication. Whilst the initial drafts of the report were based on the opinions of the planning groups and a few individual submissions, the contributions made by Council itself and the two regional conferences have been fully taken into account in the final version. I would like to thank everyone who has participated in the preparation of the report and in particular all those who attended the two regional conferences.

The report is however only the starting point for the entry of the CA into the twenty-first century; we have now have to ensure that the planning document does not gather dust in the file. Each proposal must be considered in detail and plans for implementation made and acted upon. At the March Council meeting, the proposals in the report were split into two groups, those concerning the future activities of the CA and those concerning the actual constitution of the CA itself and the way in which it carries out its business.

In the former case, the proposals will in the main affect the activities of the various CA sub committees and these were approved as CA policy. In many cases the proposals have already been taken into account in the pre-season planning by the committees; however the Executive Committee have been charged with reviewing the situation and ensuring that each proposal has a suitable implementation plan.

The Council approved proposals 11, 12



results return form, the fruits of which are reported elsewhere in this issue. General contributions however, appear to be at a particularly low ebb and this trend needs to be addressed within the next week or so if it is not to affect future issues of the Gazette.

Gail Curry



14 and 16 in principle and set up a working party to make recommendations regarding putting them into practice. It is recognised that this will involve legal and economic considerations that must be taken into account. The working party Chairman appointed by Council is Quiller Barrett, the SE Federation representative on Council. Quiller is well known in the SE as Secretary of the SE Federation but may not be so well known in the other Federations. However as previously as a member of the British Gliding Association's national committee and later as its Chairman, Quiller was involved in a constitutional review and change for that Association and is thus eminently suitable to lead our own review team.

As we were without a Vice-Chairman following my taking over the Chair after Stephen's death, the Council elected Don Gaunt as Vice-Chairman of Council and Quiller Barrett to take Don's place as the elected member of the Executive Committee.

For this issue of the Gazette, many additional copies are produced for circulation at the clubs for their non-tournament playing members so I would like to end my column by asking for their special support.

So many times I hear the comment "Why do I want to join the CA, I am not interested in

playing in tournaments." You may think of the CA as a body only set up for the tournament player, responsible for running tournaments and solving complex rule problems. In fact there is a vast range of other activities covering coaching, equipment development, assistance in forming new clubs and maintaining existing clubs through advice and financial help as well as the necessary involvement in lottery applications to name but a few. Please read the article by Tony Fathers of the Roehampton Club published elsewhere in this issue and you will see how much the CA and its federations contribute to the well-being of croquet as a whole. It is my strong belief that without the central organisation that the CA is able to provide and the complex programme of tournaments that it supports, croquet as we know it today would not survive. The basic economics of many clubs rely on the incomes generated from the tournament circuit for their very survival and it is the equipment requirements for tournaments that stimulate and maintain an equipment supply industry. Without this support, many of the facilities for social croquet would simply not exist.

With the grants we have been receiving from the Sports Council stopping at the end of this year, we are going to be hard pressed financially to maintain the development and coaching activities that we have built up during the last few years but by increasing our membership some of this burden will be lightened. Non tournament membership when paid by direct debit is only £12/year or £19 for husband and wife. For this you will receive your own copy of the Gazette every two months but more importantly will also help to maintain a sport which I am sure gives you much pleasure.

The playing season has now got off to a start despite the best efforts of the British weather and I hope to meet many of you during some of the forthcoming tournaments. However if we don't meet and you have your own personal axe to grind, please get in touch by phone, letter or e-mail.

Bill Arliss
Chairman of Council

Lost property

Following the speed croquet tournament at Maidstone the following items were left behind: one pair reading glasses, a jumper, a light blue windcheater and a timer. Anyone bidding for these please contact Don Beck on 01634 407266.

AGM minutes correction

In the report of the President's closing address on p.21 of the March Gazette the 5th paragraph from the end should have read "I do think that the greater prevalence of automatic watering has made lawns much easier than they used to be".

Fixture book corrections

1. Appendix in Fixture book re ball sizes. Change in specification is a temporary one for this year

NEWS & INFORMATION

only due to the uncertainty of the ball situation from Jaques.

2. South of England consolation events would now be KO & Swiss, not Gregorian as shown. Manager to be Dennis Shaw this year as Roger Wood is unavailable.

Croquet goes pear shaped

The 12th Annual Fallbrook Chamber of Commerce Avocado Festival, will take place in the center of Fallbrook, "The Avocado Capital of the World", from 9AM to 5PM, April 19, 1998.

Activities planned around the Avocado include -- the Avocado 500; a "model" car building event and race using avocados as vehicles; FancyDressed and Decorated Avocado contest; Avocado Dessert, Main Dish, Salsa, and Citrus Pie cooking competitions; Little Miss and Mr. Avocado; children's pageant; and Avocado Olympics, which includes avocado seed spitting, a picking bag relay, and avocado croquet.

New member for Llanfairfechan

Katie-Jo and Brian Murphy announce the birth of Callum John, son of our youngest member here at the Llanfairfechan & North Wales CC. C-J weighed in at 6lbs 10oz on Tuesday, March 24 at Ysbyty Gwynedd, Bangor - mother and son are doing fine and are now at home at Llithfaen on the Lleyrn Peninsula. Grandparents, John (our team captain) and Wendy have already noticed that he has a 'firm grip' which will be put to good use as soon as he can stand!

Croquet trolley

In common with many other croquet clubs Plymouth cannot leave their hoops out overnight and to assist in setting up and clearing the lawns their secretary Arthur Addis designed and built a trolley to transport the equipment. This trolley has proved so successful that other clubs in the area have used the design to build their own. The Plymouth club have now kindly supplied the CA with a copy of the drawings for the trolley which can be made available to any club wishing to construct their own trolley. Applications to the CA Secretary.

Western Province (South Africa) 26th Tournament

The 26th Western Province tournament was played during the first week in March this year, at the Rondesbosch Club, Cape Town and at Somerset West.

Nigel Gray retained the Gordon's Bay Trophy he won last year for the 'B' level singles. Nigel was also runner-up in the open handicap, which was won by tournament manager Carole Knox, playing off -0.5. The open singles was won

by Andy Knox of the Rondesbosch Club and the Veteran's handicap block was won by Rex Davis.

The Western Province Croquet Association would welcome next year more players from the UK. Anyone interested in playing who would like more information about taking part in the tournament is welcome to contact Nigel Gray (01462 - 436430.)

Indoor Croquet at Watford

When John Gibbons joined Watford Croquet Club late in the 1997 season, he quickly realised that he was ensnared by the game, and that he would not be able to play again until six months' time when the new season started. That was not good enough for him, so he set about investigating the opportunities for indoor croquet. Having identified a viable venue he enlisted the assistance of the club's officers, and received enthusiastic support. They in turn asked the Association for the loan of an indoor carpet, which was generously provided.

Thirty-two clubs were circulated shortly after Christmas to invite their participation in the event. The clubs were selected on the basis that they were within one hour's driving time of Watford. This represents some 25% of all clubs, and demonstrates just how central a location Watford is for such occasions.

Eight sessions were arranged, each from 11.30 to 3.30 on eight (nearly) successive Mondays from 10 January to 7 March. Each session was divided into two two-hour slots, each of which was double banked, thus providing for four games each day. Each afternoon session was charged at £18, each morning session at £12. The slots were fully booked within two weeks of opening, by people from Watford, St. Albans, Letchworth, Harrow, Royston and High Wycombe. Subsequently enquiries were received from Chelmsford, Reigate Priory, Newbury, Leicester and others.

Many of the participants expressed their enjoyment, and hoped that the exercise could be repeated. We are therefore now examining the possibility of repeating this very successful project next year.

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Letters...

Thinking handicap tactics

Dear Editor
In reply to the question at the end of Pete Trimmer's article in the last issue of the Gazette, I think the best place for the A class player to put his first ball (blue) is about half way up the East boundary - more specifically at a position on the rush line to hoop one through the anticipated position of the C class player's first ball (a little south east of the peg).

If the C class player now risks putting his first to this position, the A class player should shoot at the boundary ball, and if he hits he has an easy (for him) split shot sending the blue to hoop 2 and getting the rush to hoop 1 and a 3 ball break.

If the C class player sees his opponent open in this way he should not, in my view, put his ball to the middle of the court. There is a safer position which still gives him a chance of getting a 4 ball break with 2 bisques, although not quite so easily.

Allen Parker

Golden Mallet Competition

Dear Editor
I am writing to suggest that the CA might usefully and critically look at the format of the Golden Mallet competition and obviate further ridicule.

In my view we have, at the very least, a farcical, illogical situation in which the single player is presumed to be a national champion yet it is only in the semi-final and final stages of the national final that the person relies on his/her own ability in the game of Golf Croquet. Throughout club, regional and prior stages progressive doubles is the order of the day. No matter how good a player is, his/her progress during those early stages is in large part subject to someone else's playing ability and contribution to the qualifying score. And there lies the problem!

Not only is there a high degree of luck involved regarding play in progressive partnerships but also the attitude and intent of the individuals concerned. The situation is wide open to possible manipulation and, yes, I have had evidence of this reported to me. For instance, one player is scoring well yet his current partner, plumb in front of and close to the next hoop, suddenly knocks his ball away under an excuse that he has not been playing well and is not likely to qualify for the next stage. In that case the unfortunate other player failed to win the local event by one point! In another instance, the two players deemed most likely to contest final

qualifying places meet up as partners. One has so far played particularly well and has a high score yet, for that round alone he plays like the proverbial wally, possibly to reduce the other player's chances - the ruse appeared to have worked.

To compound the difficulties inherent in the competition, there was in 1997 confusion as to whether the games were to be played on a 13 point or 13 hoop basis. The former is, of course, in accordance with the rules of Golf Croquet which provide for a game to be won when one side runs a seventh hoop. The 13 hoop version seems to derive from some cosy garden croquet rules and, again, can be open to suggestions of malpractice. If a player is already winning easily and has the required seven points there is no valid purpose in the game proceeding merely to allow the loser the chance of a more respectable cumulative score - unless perhaps the loser is from one's own club and might benefit from a bonus of up to six extra points.

Surely the Golden Mallet competition in its present form has to be discontinued to preserve the fairness of competitive Golf Croquet and the reputation of the CA.

Jim Wardhaugh

The golf croquet committee only took over this competition from CA development in 1997. The mistakes made last year have been noted, and we hope will not be repeated. All comments and criticisms are welcome.

This is a competition for beginners, it was started to encourage new and high bisque players to enter. The format is not perfect but easy to manage, as groups can be as large as 32 players. It gives players the opportunity to play plenty of croquet, to meet other players and also perhaps improve their skills. Above all to enjoy the game, which maybe needs to be played with a little more joy in the soul.

The golf croquet committee is well aware that progressive doubles is not the ideal way to play a competition where a single player is the winner. This was the reason that semi-finals and a final were played last year, to make the competition fairer and to test the ability of the top point scorers. Five players from the original 16 all had the chance to win. The format for the 1998 competition is to be progressive doubles. The committee will decide if it is necessary to introduce semi-finals and finals to the group and regional finals. The entry fee has been fixed for 1998, so there are no funds available to play extra time at regional venues. To accommodate the extra rounds, the time limit for the progressive

doubles will have to be reduced to 20 minutes per round.

The committee will assess the competition for 1999, to ascertain if it is feasible or necessary to run it as a singles competition. The entry fee would have to be at least double, as it will take longer to play the matches, therefore cost more. In groups with more than eight, the play would have to be in blocks. Please do not even suggest double banked games for the golden Mallet. If this would be your solution to cutting the match time, find another tournament manager.

I am sorry the player feels the reputation of the CA is being called into question by continuing this competition. There was no mention that any change to format was needed when they persuaded me to manage it for them.
Rosemary Longbottom
Golden Mallet Manager

Handicapping reply.....again

Dear Editor
I am pleased to be able to enlighten Diana Brothers (Letter, issue 253). Her suggestion that index points should be changed by the game score up to a maximum of 10 is a variation on the theme that close games should be discounted, and is subject to the same objections. These were explained in section 9 of "Principles of Handicapping" and in previous letters to the Gazette.

Briefly, whenever there is a difference in handicap between the players, the player receiving the bisques is in effect guaranteed to score points, whereas his opponent is not. This is seen most obviously when there is a wide difference as, for example, when an A class player plays a high bisquer. If the A class player wins, it can rarely be by more than a few points; on the other hand, the high bisquer will often win by a large margin. This disparity, if taken into account in changing index points, would affect the neutrality of the AHS, which is based on players whose handicaps are correct winning approximately 50 percent of their games.

It is interesting that suggestions of this type are usually prefaced by the comment that it is unfair that the player who loses a close game should lose 10 index points. When the AHS was introduced, points were allocated to players within the system, and the system changes that allocation. The points do not belong to the players in the sense that the money in their pockets or the blood in their veins belongs to them. They are system points and players have no proprietary rights over them.

Diana's other point on handicap cards is well made. The HCC has already acted on this and new cards will be introduced next season. Unfortunately, for reasons explained in the 1998 Guidelines, it has not been possible to do so this year. See also the 1998 Guidelines for comments on qualifying games.

Bill Lamb
Chairman, HCC

Handicap Guidelines 1998

by Bill Lamb, Chairman of the Handicap Co-ordination Committee

The Handicap Co-ordination Committee (HCC) has decided that the Automatic Handicapping System (AHS) will be unchanged for 1998 but I should like to take this opportunity to discuss some points that seem to cause confusion. Most have been set out in "Principles of Handicapping" and I have asked the Croquet Association office to distribute an extra copy of this booklet to all registered clubs, so that it may be made available to club members. Individual copies can be obtained from Brian Macmillan.

Qualifying Games - The basic rule is that games must be competitive in the sense that they are part of a recognised competition. As well as tournament games and designated club competitions, all games played in federation leagues, inter-club contests, etc. qualify for the AHS provided that both players belong to a club registered with the Croquet Association. Friendly games, no matter how competitively they are played, are excluded. Games must also be played according to the laws and regulations for tournaments. Council has ratified advanced handicap play and the use of "Wharrad turns", although they do not appear in the current edition of the law book. Attention is drawn to the time limits for games: these should not be less than three hours (or two and a half for weekend tournaments). This is to ensure that games have a reasonable chance of reaching a proper end rather than an artificial conclusion. Games that have shorter time limits and/or are limited by the use of chess clocks do not qualify for the AHS.

Initial Handicaps - Many of the disputes that arise at club and federation level could be avoided if club handicappers would make use of the procedure to set initial handicaps laid out in section 10 of "Principles of Handicapping". Players with handicaps higher than 16 should be encouraged to continue with the exercise and report results to their club handicapper. The test was also described in issue 243 of the Gazette (pp18 and 19, May 1996), although unfortunately with one diagram omitted and one duplicated. The correction was in the following issue. Clubs will be circulated with a master copy, which they can reproduce for their handicap members.

Handicap Limits - In theory, there is no limit to the highest handicap possible within the AHS. Limitations of space have restricted the range shown in published tables of trigger points and handicaps. However, in practice, there is not much point in going above 24. Players with higher handicaps need more coaching in technique and the use of bisques before their handicaps become meaningful.

Note that in Croquet Association events the maximum permitted handicap is 20. Players with higher handicaps are not permitted to enter and play off 20. However, that restriction does not apply to club events advertised in the Calendar: clubs are free to set their own limits. I know that there are some clubs that will not accept entries from players with higher handicaps than 16 and others for whom the sky is the limit. In fairness to all applicants, where these depart from the Croquet Association limits, they should be stated in the club entry in the Calendar.

Handicap Cards - The AHS is mainly a self-regulating system and relies on the integrity of those who participate. However, it is clear that the number of handicap decreases notified to the Croquet Association and published in the Gazette far exceeds the number of handicap increases. Managers are requested to enquire whether players who have lost a lot of games qualify for a handicap increase. Concern was expressed at the Croquet Association AGM that cards should be signed by the opponent. The HCC has accepted this and the provision has been made in a new design, which also gives more relevant information on the front cover. Although the masters were produced in time for printing and circulation this year, unfortunately the office had already ordered a re-print of the old card. In the light of the Croquet Association's reduced circumstances, the introduction of the new card will be delayed until next season.

Encrypted Laws

Answer to puzzle No.1

32(16)(c) "If the striker commits a fault and it is not waived or condoned, the balls are replaced in their lawful positions before the stroke in which the fault was committed, no point may be scored for any ball in that stroke or any subsequent stroke and the turn ends."

Puzzle No.2

(From 5th edition, 1992 reprint.)

In the following paragraph a part of one of the Laws has been encrypted by substituting letters. You are invited to unravel the paragraph, and then identify the number of the Law by reference to the book.

(Clue: to start, think of words commonly used in Croquet and find possible substitutions.)

AB, CDBEFD GEHIJDKALM KND FOLLALM EB P NEEI AL EFQDF, KND RKFASDF'R CPJJ NAKR P CPJJ KNPK TPR GJDPF EB KND NEEI EL KND LEL-IJPUALM RAQD CDBEFD KND GEHHDLDGHDLDK EB KND RKFESD PLQ BALPJJU GEHIJDKDR KND FOLLALM, [.....] AK AR QDDHDQ KNPK P NEEI IEALK AR RGEFDQ PLQ P FEVODK AR KNLD HPQD. P CPJJ AR GJDPF EB P NEEI AB LE IPFK EB AK JADR TAKNAL KND WPTR EB KND NEEI.

(Answer and puzzle No.3 in the the next issue.)

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Schools/Youth Croquet - Where do we go from here?

report by Schools Officer Peter Dyke

Recently I was told that David Haslam no longer had the time to continue as Schools Officer and was asked if I would take on the job. I must admit I found the prospect of being responsible for the development and implementation of a national schools/youth programme somewhat daunting, but nevertheless I have accepted the challenge.

David attempted to do a great deal last year. He was very disappointed in the response from schools and that his efforts did not result in an increased entry in the 1997 National Schools championship. His greatest success was at Ramsgate where members of the club taught the game to 12-year old pupils from three local schools and ran a competition for these schools. I intend to build on what David did last year and eventually I hope there will be an increase in the number of young people taking up the game and more schools playing competitive croquet. However, I do not believe there is a quick solution and it may take a few years before we see much in the way of material results.

One thing is certain - one person cannot hope to effectively cover the whole country, so I am looking for volunteers to act as Regional Schools Officers. I have already addressed the CA Development Committee and I hope that each Federation will be able to appoint their own Schools/Youth Officers. When we have enough volunteers we can arrange a meeting to produce a schools programme and decide how to implement it.

There are a number of ways we can introduce croquet into schools. They include:
(a) as part of the National Curriculum,
(b) as a P.E. option for sixth from pupils,
(c) as an extra-curricular activity,
(d) as part of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme

We should use any opportunity to introduce croquet to young people. Out of the

above options I prefer (c), because by this method croquet can be introduced at any age. I am in favour of teaching croquet to children as young as ten years old and suggest that it is taught in the last two years of Junior School. Younger than that I feel is too young generally, though at Bath they taught children as young as eight last year. I first taught Kristian Chambers how to play the game when he was ten. He has been the National Junior champion for the past two years and last year he became a scratch player at the age of fifteen. Admittedly he is an exceptional player for his age, but it shows what can be achieved.

I am not opposed to using other methods of introducing croquet to schools, but options (a), (b) and (d) are all for older students and in my experience it is more difficult to persuade 13-15 year olds to take up the game. Unfortunately croquet lacks "street cred" and it is difficult to persuade young teenagers to take up the game. There is no such stigma attached to croquet by ten year olds and hopefully if they show promise they will continue in their teens, though unfortunately over the years I have lost a lot of promising young players due to peer pressure. I understand that at Wolverhampton Grammar School they have overcome this problem to a large extent by playing inter-tutor-group competitions - the greater the number of participants, the greater the appreciation of the skills and tactics of the game.

We need to consider who is going to introduce croquet into schools

There is no doubt that the schools which have been most successful in the past are those where there is an enthusiastic teacher who is willing to coach pupils. Unfortunately, there are few schools where such a teacher exists today. One reason for this is that teachers' workloads have increased tremendously over the last ten years, since the introduction of the National Curriculum, and nowadays very few teachers feel

they have the time to take on such extra duties. However, this should not deter us from trying to find teachers willing to take on a job.

The other way which has been successful recently is where a club is willing to "adopt" one or more schools and club members have coached pupils (Ramsgate and Bath have already been mentioned. Nailsea is another example and I hope this club will adopt its local Junior Schools and run a competition similar to that at Ramsgate.)

Here is a summary of what I hope to achieve over the next two or three years:

- 1) Set up a committee composed of Regional Schools Officers to help me produce and implement a schools/youth programme.
- 2) Produce an introductory course for juniors (my approach when coaching juniors is different to that when I am coaching adults - juniors usually pick up the skills and tactics required much more quickly than adults).
- 3) Organise courses for teachers and others interested in coaching juniors.
- 4) Organise courses for juniors with handicaps of ten or more.
- 5) Give support to schools wishing to introduce/develop croquet.
- 6) Increase the number of juniors taking up the game.
- 7) Increase the amount of competitive croquet between schools.
- 8) Increase the number of participants in the National Junior Championships.
- 9) Re-establish the National Junior Squad. Steps were taken towards this last year.

As I mentioned earlier, the job is too much for one person on his own. If you are willing to help in any way or if you have any suggestions of how we increase the number of juniors and schools taking up croquet please contact me:

Peter Dyke, 23 Broom Farm Close, Nailsea, Bristol BS48 4YJ Tel: 01275 854804 or your local Federation Secretary or Development Officer.

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The Croquet Association and the game of Croquet

by Tony Fathers

People new to the game, and indeed not so new, sometimes ask what the Croquet Association (CA) does. This article tries to answer that question.

A) The CA and the game of croquet

The CA was founded in 1897 as a response to the need to regularise a game which had already existed for some time but was in danger flying off in all directions. It had become obvious that the game - like any other - needs an official, regulatory body. Its functions are:-

1. The Game
Generally to regularise the game in all its forms: not just Association croquet but also One Ball, Golf and Short Croquet.
2. Tournaments
Tournaments are a popular and important part of the croquet scene. It is obvious that they need an official body to make the appropriate regulations and this function is served by the CA. Each year the CA publishes a Fixture Book, detailing internationals, inter-County championships, various CA individual championships, Club championships and Club tournaments. It would be impossible to operate the current fixture list without the CA to allocate clubs and dates for the many and various fixtures which are of 2 kinds:-
i) CA Tournaments
ii) Club Tournaments

There is a further point to be emphasised about tournaments; their value in maintaining many clubs in financial health. Indeed so important are they - with up to 20% of club income arising from tournament fees and further benefits from catering and bar takings - that it is not too much to say that without tournaments many clubs would have to raise their membership subscriptions substantially or go under.

3. Laws
To make and to revise the laws governing the game. There have been a number of editions of The Laws since they were first published; the latest edition was published in 1989. There is a long established Committee of the CA which exists solely to keep a watchful eye on the game's laws.

4. Referees
To organize courses for new referees, to appoint referees from those attending referee courses, and generally to supervise refereeing standards throughout the game.

5. Coaching
In this regard the CA has 3 responsibilities:-
i) Generally to organize and be responsible for coaching at all levels of the game
ii) to organize and hold courses for those who wish to become coaches
iii) to publish and update a Coaching Manual

6. Handicaps
To make and to revise regulations governing handicaps.

7. Publicity
To promote the game by actively seeking opportunities to obtain media coverage of croquet events.

8. Equipment
To regulate standards for new equipment and to test such new equipment, especially balls, before it comes onto the market.

9. Commercial Activity
The CA's Commercial Agent offers a wide range of croquet equipment and literature at advantageous prices and organises corporate croquet days at different venues. This important enterprise makes a significant financial contribution to the Association.

10. International
To liaise between the various overseas associations and federations in order to ensure that the game in all its forms is played in a like-minded manner all around the world.

11. Development
Working with clubs to produce a specification for synthetic outdoor surfaces which will allow play throughout the year. Example is Bury St Edmunds which is using a CA supported lottery grant to install a synthetic lawn.
Also working with clubs to promote the use of indoor carpets of various shapes and sizes.

- B) The CA and croquet clubs
There are 123 CA Registered Clubs. Many of these clubs have received grants or interest free loans from the CA in order to extend facilities and improve lawns thereby helping to make the game even more enjoyable and accessible.

Without the CA Fixture Book it would be virtually impossible for any croquet club to run a tournament since croquet players would have no guide as to when and where tournaments were being held.

The CA is the governing body for lottery grants. In other words without CA approval no croquet club would be able to obtain a lottery grant, several of which have been successfully negotiated.

- C) The CA and individual croquet players
Almost all serious croquet players are members of the CA, as Affiliates (on whose behalf CA registered clubs pay an annual sum to the CA); as Non Tournament Associates who receive the benefit of a bi-monthly magazine; or as Tournament Associates who receive, in addition to the bi-monthly magazine, the benefits of
i) An annual Fixture Book detailing all the tournaments, representative matches and club fixtures
ii) The right to play both in CA and Club Tournaments

Conclusion
Without the CA the game of croquet as we know it would cease to exist. It would soon relapse into anarchy with the various clubs playing to different laws, tournament regulations and so forth. The fortunes of the game and of the CA rise and fall together: they are inextricably interlinked.

Associate Subscription Rates 1998

	Subscription by direct debit	Subscription by other means
Tournament	£22.00	£25.00
Veteran (over 65)	£18.00	£21.00
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The CA Planning Group - Looking To The Future

The planning group was set up by the CA Chairman on the 5th April 1997. A number of CA members were invited to join the Group - see appendix. The brief was:-

To assess the future goals, targets and objectives of the CA.

The Group's main concerns were that the financial support of the Sports Councils, which have funded most of the recent development programmes, will be much reduced in 1998 and no longer granted from 1999, and that there is a perceived lack of understanding of what the CA achieves - especially, perhaps, amongst affiliates.

The past ten years have demonstrated that croquet can respond to, and fill a need in, modern society. As has been the case throughout its history, the sport needs more members, more finance and better facilities. The challenge is how to use the limited financial and people resources to achieve the best future development of our sport.

1. The Nature of the Sport

Croquet is suitable for all ages and both genders; it does not require significant athletic ability; it is an excellent all-round family game and can be enjoyable and entertaining at all levels. At the higher levels of play it requires great skill and tactical awareness. Efforts to attract new members should recognise the different needs and potential of all age groups but we consider that the 50+ age group is the best short term prospect, numerically, for recruitment. For the future of the game, we must do all we can to encourage croquet in schools and universities.

Proposals.

1. The current schools programme should be pushed forward as vigorously as possible. Given the crucial input of teachers for success with schools, effort should be focussed on both existing teachers and university education departments. With the very short playing season available to schools, the linkage of a school with a local club is thought to be highly desirable and should be actively pursued.

2. University croquet appears to be at a relatively low ebb. It is proposed that the CA establish more coordinated links with universities, especially university staff, and help to encourage matches with CA clubs.

3. Efforts to increase membership of clubs and the CA are a priority, with the immediate short term emphasis on the 50+ group.

The difference between level, advanced croquet and social golf croquet is considerable. This is a strength, though it can produce a degree of polarisation amongst club members. The view of the Group is that what matters is that members enjoy whatever they play, at whatever level, and that every player's contribution to their club and to the sport should be seen as having standing and merit.

Proposal.

4. The current efforts at CA, Federation and club levels foster variations of the game, and to bring them into the national framework of competitions, should be strengthened.

Winter brings with it a break in croquet for 5 or 6 months for all but the more fortunate club players. Unfortunately, this break can result in a drift away of club membership and a ragged start to the new season. Given the difficulty in recruitment, the cumulative effect can be significant. To some extent, the gap can be bridged with a well planned social programme, and the concept of a "club year" is a characteristic of most of the successful clubs. We believe that clubs should do all they can to promote winter activities. One potential method of providing winter play is by the use of indoor carpets. There are two types. The CA has owned and used for some years carpets of approximately half-lawn size. Unfortunately, locations are difficult to find, and, for the majority, the fixtures are unattractive mainly due to the travel involved. For those who can take part they remain an attractive option. A much smaller, mini-carpet, 24ft by 18ft, has been developed by Syd Jones. Recent experience with the mini-carpet, especially by the Yorkshire & Humberside Federation, who have bought one, is very favourable and they are recommending other Federations to acquire one, with benefit for established players and as a good introduction to potential new ones. Yorkshire & Humberside expect to quickly recover the cost.

Twenty seven clubs responded to the questionnaire on winter activities. The following conclusions and proposals result from the replies and general discussions.

The final Planning Group report was submitted to the Executive Committee of the CA for their consideration and action at the end of January 1998, nine months after its first meeting.

The first action of the group had been to prepare proposal papers on the issues thought to be important to the future of croquet as a game and as an organisation, which were then co-ordinated into a first draft report. After six months, and re-drafts, the stage had been reached when the proposals could be issued for wider consultation, and this was done at conferences in the north and south. The CA Council members also expressed their views, as did a number of individuals. Several important proposals were significantly amended as a result of these consultations, and the Planning Group wish to express their thanks to all those who contributed to the development of the report.

At the Council meeting on the 21st March, the Council approved the recommendation of the Executive Committee to accept as policy all proposals excluding 11, 12, 14, 16 and 20. Proposals 11, 12, 14 and 16 were approved in principle by the Council, but referred to a constitutional working party for detail study and preparation of a practical implementation plan. The plan to be completed by Dec 1998. Proposal 20 was approved in principle, but referred to the F&GP Committee for further amplification.

Proposals.

5. Events using existing larger CA carpets should be financially self-supporting.

We consider that the flexibility of the mini-carpet offers good potential for winter events and should be supported by the CA and Federations. The CA is in the process of buying one for particular use with the schools programme.

6. The widespread use of artificial surfaces for outdoor use would transform the potential for winter play and the Group strongly supports a positive approach to them.

7. We propose the wider adoption of winter one-ball and golf croquet, but recognise that the availability of outside lawns in winter is mainly centred on large clubs.

8. The survey underlines the obvious point that winter social activities contribute significantly to a successful club. Predominantly they are social and have little croquet content. A winter newsletter has been found to be an effective method of keeping in touch. Social events are specific to club circumstances, but it is proposed that a forum for the exchange of ideas and experience should be established.

A healthy and vibrant sport needs to have strong emphasis on the quality of play, of the provision of good competition at all levels, and have a significant number of players at the highest level. Thankfully, croquet has all these qualities. We considered that the extent of coaching at all levels of the sport is a tribute to the CA, the Federations, the clubs and, of course, the individual coaches who give up so much time to other members.

Proposals:-
9. Coaching should retain a high priority at all levels of the sport. New ideas in coaching should be encouraged. For example, success has been achieved with regular "pro/am" sessions, playing alternate stroke doubles, with the "pro" having a handicap of less than 10. The integration of coaching of the association and golf games should be encouraged.

10. We strongly support the continuance of the Junior Squad training programme.

2. The Organisation of the Sport

The croquet organisation is run by volunteer members who freely give their time for the sport they enjoy. We have been fortunate that sufficient members have been willing to fill the organisational roles. The sport has become more complex. The Sports Councils have been reorganised; the lottery gives us an opportunity, but the complexities of that system have to be mastered, and developments in artificial surfaces offer advantage to us in the future but present technical and contractual challenges which have to be competently dealt with. Maintaining the flow of willing and able volunteers is clearly crucial to the sport's future.

The present organisation of the CA was discussed at some length. Concern was expressed that the CA, and in particular, the policy-making Council, has been unable to convince some clubs, and a too high proportion of club members, of the benefits and importance of the CA to themselves and the sport.

The Planning Group spent considerable time on the membership structure and voting systems of the CA to make the organisation as democratic and accountable as possible. Our original proposals in the Oct 97 consultancy document received lukewarm response and the news that

we shall lose Sports Council money in the future meant that the proposals became impractical on both financial and administrative grounds. In spite, therefore, of their attraction in principle we have replaced them with what we believe will be a simpler and more practical system which will enhance franchise and which we hope will make the linkages between the CA and the clubs and players more meaningful and effective.

From the collective experience of the Group members on Council and its sub-committees, and a consideration of its procedures, we considered that there is a need to improve the way they work to ensure that the important policy issues are given priority and that speedy implementation is achieved. The implementation of proposals may have financial or administrative consequences. The following proposals represent our belief that the organisation and control of the CA and the sport needs some reform.

Proposals:-

11. It is proposed that CA registered clubs become members of the CA with voting rights to be determined. The term "Affiliate" will cease. All club members will have franchise via the clubs.

12. There will be two classes of membership - club and Associate. The present basis for Associate membership to remain unchanged.

13. Communications should be improved, with the CA developing a stronger focus for the flow of information and advice at all levels.

14. The Group consider that there is an urgent need for the Council to review and propose reforms to the CA Constitution (including its relation to the Federations), the Rules of the Association and the need for Standing Orders of Council. The CA should consider becoming an incorporated body.

The Federations differ so much in geographical size, in number of clubs and in members that they are not comparable in any organisational sense. The smaller Federations are incapable of effectively handling any of the functions currently carried out centrally. In spite of the apparent scope for change on paper, the Group is of the view that the Federations have done, and are, doing a difficult job with some success and that they should be left alone. The decentralisation gives a desirable regional flexibility. The establishment of new clubs has been shown to depend on a small number of active people with sufficient organising ability. Availability of money determines the quality of the club's facilities; its location and catchment area will determine its development potential. Support from the sport, and in particular the Federations, has frequently been crucial to the birth of robust clubs. The encouragement of new and recently established clubs must be high on the list of Federation objectives.

Proposals:-

15. The Federations, operating as devolved bodies, should continue but have their operations reviewed periodically. There may be a case for some adjustments to the boundaries of the Federations.

16. Federations should require that all their registered clubs be registered with the CA by the 1st January 1999.

The Gazette is a key communication link in the organisation. The Group unanimously praised the quality of the current publication.

The importance of the internet is growing as a powerful communication link which we need to take full advantage of.

Proposal:-

17. The CA should continue to expand the use of the internet to improve

publicity and communications.

Publicity at national level is increasingly difficult to obtain, though it should be noted that substantial articles have recently appeared in the quality publications as a result of efforts from HQ. The general situation is that all minority sports find cover increasingly difficult to obtain.

Sponsorship is affected in the same way. We are of the view that whilst centralised efforts to obtain national publicity and sponsorship must continue, including help with leaflets, posters and general guidance, the best prospects probably lie with local initiatives undertaken by croquet clubs. For example, success is reported with "media days", contacting features editors as well as sports editors.

Proposals:-

18. That clubs & Federations be encouraged to seek local publicity and sponsorship.

19. An information exchange system between clubs on their publicity and recruitment experiences, including both successes and failures, with back-up guidance pamphlets from the CA is recommended.

3. Finance

There has been a re-organisation of national sports funding. Minority sports, including croquet, will no longer be financially supported. The grants have been critical to the progress we have made during the past decade and the loss of grant money from 1999 will require a basic review of all our sources of income and our expenditure. It will be necessary to set expenditure priorities.

Currently the grant is applied towards our expenditure on regional development, publicity, special projects, international events and the schools development programme. The Group concluded that all evidence - factual and anecdotal, - indicates that if the worst situation occurred, and we lost the grant, it would not be possible in the short term to bridge the gap by increasing overall membership to the degree needed, or converting a sufficiently large proportion of existing affiliates into associate members, though, of course, we must try to do both.

In comparison to other sports, playing croquet is inexpensive. Nobody likes to pay more for their sport whether for club fees or in support of the sport's overall organisation. However, unpalatable as it might be, the sport will have to recognise, at individual and club level, as well as nationally, that more internally generated finance will have to be raised if the sport as we know it is to continue.

Proposal:-

20. The CA needs to inform the membership about the financial circumstances of the sport and the options open to it.

4. Looking to the Future.

Croquet can look to the future with confidence and optimism. We have the tremendous asset of the enthusiasm of the people who play the game; we have a tradition of keen, friendly competition and of social fellowship. Of course, there will always be difficulties and, in a changing scene, the sport must be able to react with flexibility and adaptation to meet the challenges of the future. Our objective is to help in that process.

The basis on which we believe croquet should move forward is:-
Increasing the awareness of our sport by targeting discrete groups of the population.

Continuing the pursuit of excellence.

Developing the variations of the game at all levels.

Lengthening the playing season.

Improving communications at all levels of the sport.

Amending the constitution of the CA to improve the democracy and effectiveness of Council, by increasing the visibility of its function and the accountability of its actions.

Appendix

The planning Group members are:- Bill Arliss (Southwick), Quiller Barrett (Ealing), Michael Evans (Beverley), Tony Fathers (Roehampton), David Magee (Cheltenham), Ian Scott (Parkstone) and Bill Sidebottom (Kenilworth).



Thinking Handicap Tactics

by Pete Trimmer

Handicap articles are generally written purely for relative beginners; I hope this may also benefit some better players. As 'ideal' B-class tactics are too complex for my pen, I discuss the simpler case of A-class v C-class. I cannot show that the tactics described here are correct (other A-class players disagree with them); only that they seem to work well for me.

To avoid the interminable references to 'A-class' and 'C-class' players, I shall consider Arthur versus Charles respectively. I will also adopt the convention that the order that the balls are played during the opening is blue, red, black, yellow.

A better position is to lay a tice from corner III, about level with hoop 6. If Charles puts red to the centre of the court, Arthur has a shorter shot than he would otherwise have had, and gives away less if he misses. Worried by this potential three-ball break, Charles will often shoot at the blue, finishing near corner IV if he misses, and not gaining a great deal if he hits. Instead, I would advise Charles to trickle his ball out to near hoop 4 if Arthur were to lay the tice: Charles has an easier break if Arthur misses into corner IV or misses red.

So, in my opinion, a good sequence from Charles winning the toss is: Arthur puts blue as a tice from corner III; Charles puts red near hoop 4; Arthur puts black in corner II, Charles uses a bisque to rush blue south, sends it to hoop 1 going to red, sends red to 2, and goes to black and takes bisque 2 for a break. Difficult, but that's what comes of Arthur not taking a shot.

Finally, note that if Charles is a '3C' player (confident, courageous and cheeky) he will put red into corner I and deem it played. Arthur will not go round from it (hard to believe until you have seen a few failed attempts!), and it is difficult to get the balls away from baulk and make it difficult for Charles to set up a break.

Now assume that Arthur wins the toss. Charles must put blue on the lawn, planning to get going on turn 5, without letting Arthur in on turn 4. Blue to near corner IV (defensive) is as good as Charles can do. If Arthur lays a tice with red, Charles can put black near corner II (preferably diagonally just outside corner II) from B-baulk, giving himself either the innings if yellow misses a short shot or easy break prospects with blue if yellow joins red (starting with blue at black to have rush into lawn). Whatever Arthur does from here, he has very little prospect of getting a break. If Arthur suspects that Charles will shoot at red or go near corner II, he should not lay the tice; if he thinks that Charles may join with blue, he could lay a long tice to encourage that join.

Arthur will usually do well to shoot at the blue near corner IV, hoping to leave a double (even if the shot is hit). The reasoning is that Arthur can usually make a break with four balls together, whereas Charles will generally still spend bisques. Even if Charles hits in the third turn he gains little, and if he misses, he may well leave a 'triple target' and feel compelled to use bisques before the fourth ball is on the lawn.

If Arthur hits with red, he could roll them to the middle and leave a double. This is more aggressive, and more likely to extract bisques in the third turn, but leaves balls in the middle if he misses when black has gone near corner IV. The ideal response to Arthur shooting at blue is for Charles to send black just south of corner II, making it difficult for Arthur to make hoop 2 even if he hits in fourth turn, and allowing Charles: red towards the centre, yellow to hoop 1, shoot into corner II; 4-ball break for 1 bisque if Arthur misses the shot. I've never seen Charles use the 2nd corner reply, though.

Some fascination of opening theory is the psychological factor behind many of the openings. As an up-and-coming 'bandit', I discovered that it was rather amusing to put red in corner III and deem it played (**). I still regard it as a strong reply to blue near corner IV if the weaker player has a reasonable comprehension of how to use bisques effectively.

A psychological option for Arthur is to put the first ball near hoop 1 (refuting

** ?). This may seem ludicrous at first, but actually gives away very little whilst applying considerable pressure immediately in the game.

End of first break for Charles

Charles has got going on a 4-ball break, and is using bisques when necessary to keep the break together; where should he stop? He could go to peg, which would give him an easy finish if Arthur doesn't get in again, but it can be pegged out if Arthur does get in (and go round). Stopping at rover is a mistake: Charles makes it far harder for himself to finish whilst it is still easy for Arthur to peel him through a single hoop and peg him out if Arthur gets in. Stopping at penultimate makes it still harder for Charles to finish, but has the advantage that Arthur is considerably less likely to peg him out. Stopping before penultimate is generally too defensive to consider in a handicap game.

So, it is penultimate or peg. I would almost always advise that Charles should go to peg. If he has enough bisques to go round, then if Arthur misses the shot, Charles should win on his next turn. If he has not enough bisques to finish, he is going to struggle anyway; not making an extra 2 hoops when he already has a 4-ball break will make it still harder to win. Speaking as Arthur, when I see my opponent going to peg regardless, I know I've got a match on my hands; even if he doesn't appear to have enough bisques to finish, one good innings will still see him through.

Another reason for stopping at peg is that it is far easier to construct a good leave; one opponent ball near hoop 1 and the other near hoop 2, leaving your own balls in the third corner is a good leave. A really superb leave is similar, but with both opponent balls at hoop 1, cross-wired from each other. These sound difficult at first, but ask an Arthur at your club to go through the easy ways to set up these leaves and they will soon seem a lot easier.

End of first break for Arthur

Sometimes, through sheer luck (or perhaps a skillful fourth turn), Arthur will get the first break. Where should he go, what should he do? Being an Arthur, he will probably have some pretty good ideas himself, but I'll throw in my thoughts just in case. I have tried stopping at penultimate, rover and peg.

Penultimate is very safe; it will not be pegged out by Charles, and has two hoops of preparation using that ball to peg out Charles if he still goes to peg and Arthur gets in with that ball again. The disadvantages are that only a superb Arthur can be certain of finishing with the double peel, and even if he is such a player, Charles will often not recognise the fact; thus not subjecting himself to the sort of pressure he should be under.

Stopping at rover is virtually as safe from being pegged out, and has the advantage that Charles should recognise that he is a turn from losing; but it is surprising how often the Charleses of the world feel relatively safe.

I go to the peg; even if Charles has dark glasses and a white stick, he will be able to see how close he is to losing. "But wait", I hear you cry: "Charles will surely peg it out using his bisques to get round first?!" Consider whether Charles really should peg Arthur out: it is not straightforward. If Arthur hits a shot, he may be able to get a three ball break going; Charles is unlikely to be very used to the mechanics of the three ball ending, and he will be under pressure, often with a crowd gathering.


One of the reasons I go to peg is that I like to see the sweat starting to pour from my opponent's brow as he goes round, considering whether he should peg the ball out, let alone the pressure when he has done so. (Generally he feels that he 'should', but doesn't actually want to.)

Assuming that Arthur is going to the peg, he has plenty of time to prepare a leave. Knowing that Charles is very likely to start chopping into his forest of bisques (as he should), the leave must be defensive. There is no point in leaving the balls together, it forces Charles to do the right thing. A very defensive leave is to put the four balls into the four corners, but this is sometimes even more defensive than is necessary: by putting opponent balls in corners I and II, I have often found that corner IV and half-way down the east boundary allows me an immediate shot following Charles simply joining up. I generally try to put my ball at the shortest range where Charles will not use his bisques.

As to the question of whether to peg out Arthur's ball, Charles is usually better off just going to peg as though it were the first break, hope that Arthur misses the long shot, and that he is able to finish with the rest of the bisques; as opposed to leaving three balls on the lawn.

Having said that, I reckon that pegging out both Arthur's ball and Charles' ball (which can be pegged out once Arthur's ball has been pegged out) is the best option, although this may appear a little radical at first. If Charles did not have enough bisques to finish in a single turn with his other ball, it is surely a good option, and if he had enough bisques to finish (i.e., he has lots of bisques still), then he should have no trouble winning a one-ball. The advantage of the one-ball game for Charles is that the large tactical advantage held by Arthur in a standard game is vastly reduced, as is the ability to 'play a break'. Arthur's only real weapon now is his stroke play, which can be made to look feeble in the presence of opposing bisques. When I find opponents ready to peg out both balls, I will stop before the peg.

I hope these suggestions may be of some use, even if only to act as a stimulus for better ideas. I look forward to seeing them used against me!



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STOP PRESS...

C. A. Equipment Committee

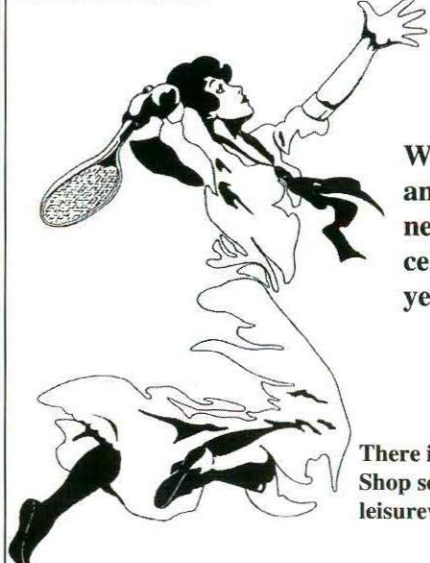
Prototype (Solid State Competition) balls supplied by Jaques have been subjected to the CA Championship Ball Tests and a set will shortly be forwarded to the Sussex County Club for evaluation in play. The results have been communicated to Jaques who have indicated that they now intend to carry out further development.

World Golf Croquet Championships

The 3rd World Golf Croquet Championship is to be held at Leamington Spa: 3rd to 11th October. Plans to stage the 3rd World Golf Croquet Championship are coming along nicely.

There will be room in the Championship for another eight players not nominated by the WCF or their countries. 200 players are expected to compete in Cairo for some of these places, and other countries may also hold their own qualifying tournaments. In England, there will be opportunities for both individual and group entries, with a final qualifying tournament held at the Championship venue on 3rd and 4th October to decide who goes through. (Details from Chris Hudson on 01270-820296.)

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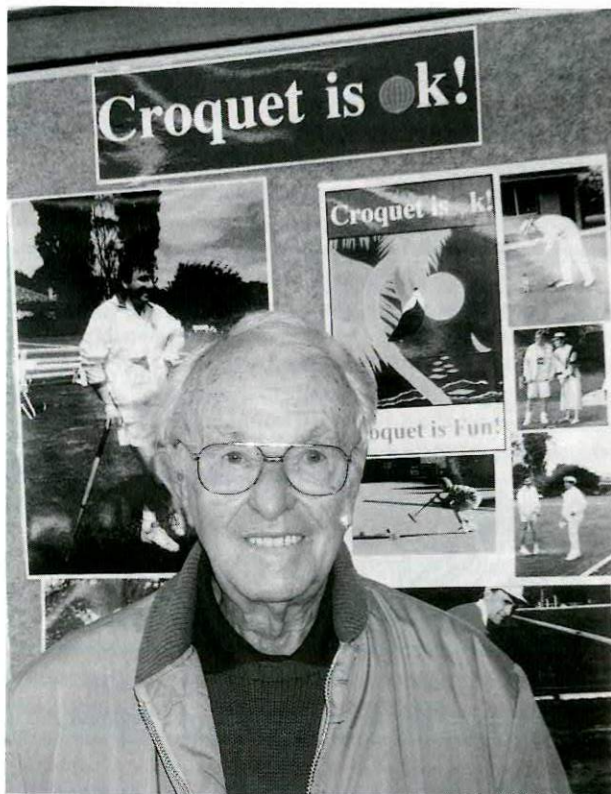
A Game for All Ages

photographs and information kindly provided by Peter Tavender and Owen Edwards

There is probably no better example of the versatility of our game for all age groups than Eddie Hunt, a life member of the CA who lives in Melbourne, Australia, and who turned 90 in January of this year. For almost three quarters of a century, Eddie has been closely associated with the Australian croquet scene and has been a leading international player.

He started his croquet career in 1927 when he joined the Sandringham Croquet Club in Melbourne and still visits this club regularly. He is equally at home discussing detailed tactics with elite players as explaining the basics of the game to raw beginners.

In 1935, Eddie was selected to be a member of Australia's four person international croquet team to play in the MacRobertson Shield series in Australia. This series was won by Australia which was the last time that Australia has won the series although it has been close on a number of occasions. During that series, Eddie's performance was outstanding with six wins and only two losses.



Eddy Hunt pictured on his 90th birthday

As an aside to his early career as an international player, in England in 1937 he played and beat Lord Tollemache, an almost legendary player and author of the first definitive text book on the sport of croquet. Eddie Hunt is the only surviving member of the pre WWII MacRobertson Shield teams.

Well done Eddie, may we wish you well for the next ten years and be able to record your centenary in the Gazette in January 2008.

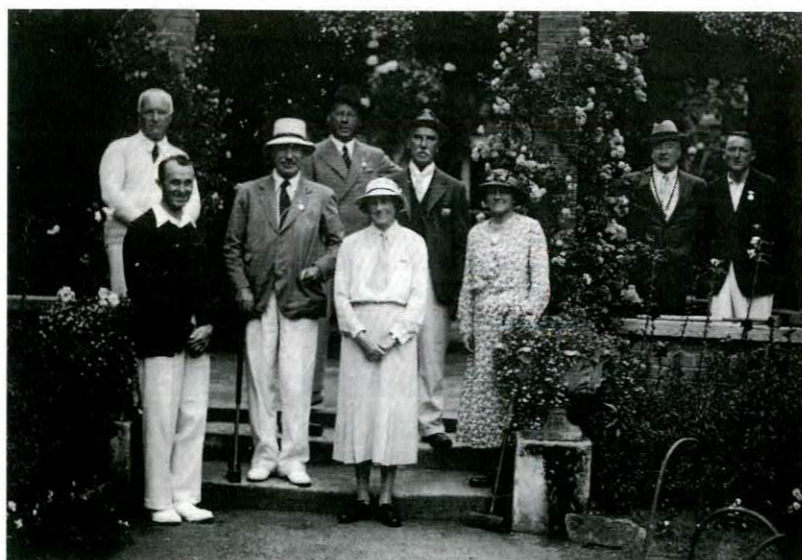


England v Australia June 26th & 27th 1925
D.L.G Joseph (E) G.L. Reckitt (E) F.J. Crabb (A) W.T. McCleery (A) W.A. Stephen (A) E Longman (E, Capt & reserve.) Mrs T. H. Dinsdale (A, reserve.) Miss D.D. Steel (E) J.C. Windsor (A, Capt) Col C.E. Wilson (E).

Eddie was again selected to play in the series in England in 1937. Also in that year, Australia played a series against Ireland for the Eire Cup, winning 4 games to 2. In 1939, Eddie Hunt won the Victoria Open; at that stage there was no national association and the Victorian Open was, in effect, the Australian Open.

After the war, he joined the Gilbert and Sullivan Company and had an unbroken 35 years association with J C Williamson as a stage manager and understudy to many leading actors. While his professional touring duties enabled him to play the game all over Australia and New Zealand it unfortunately prevented him from playing competitive croquet on a regular basis. Nevertheless, he still managed some top level play winning the Gold Medal (played for by the top ten players in each State) in Victoria in 1955 and went on to be runner-up in the play off between the winners of the six States.

In 1963, he won the Australian Doubles Championships. As late as 1980 at the age of 73 years, he won the Victorian Doubles Championship (for the third time), a marvellous feat for a player of that age and a reflection of his all round abilities.



5th Test England v Australia 1937
J A McMordie, Lieut Col. Du Pre, H Coleman, J C Windsor, Sir Francis Wemyss, C J Miller, E M Hunt, Miss A Morrison, Miss DD Steel.

..GOLF CROQUET EXTRA..

EDITORIAL

Here we are again, I hope getting established as a regular part of the gazette.

This issue includes some ideas to try regarding rules and handicaps, please give them a go and let me know your reactions, good and bad, so we can make progress in the development of Golf Croquet. Also note the tournaments being held and get your entries in fast, the players taking part in national competitions are increasing every year. Note all C.A. events are to the existing laws.

If you fancy trying an 'Egyptian Style' event with score board, ball boys, etc. at your club please contact me and I will try to organise a visit. If you want to watch a tournament in this style you are welcome to come and watch the Yorkshire Open Championship at Ripon on June 26th and 27th 1998.

Have a good season, and may the weather and the games be fine.
Syd Jones

COMMITTEE NEWS

We held a meeting Parsons Green on Monday 9th February 1998. Those attending were Brian Judson, James Wankling, Brian Macmillan, Norma Rayne, Connie Chick, Don Beck and myself as Chairman. Also present was the Chairman of The Croquet Association, Bill Arliss.

Main points were;
Handicap ideas were amended in the light of experience during 1997 and these together with laws to try would be published in the Gazette. Hopefully reaction will be received at the end of the season for more formal suggestions to be made.

Coaching is to be developed by the Coaching Committee with the aim of running Golf Croquet Coaching courses in 1999.

Golf Croquet competitions are increasing and plans were made to develop these further this season.

Syd Jones - Chairman, Golf Croquet Committee

FIXTURE CORRECTION

The Golf Croquet Championship Please note that the Ramsgate Venue (13 & 14 June) is now transferred to Medway.



Send a telegram to the CA at once!

YOUR SHOT!

I have compiled this to the best of my ability but comments, insults, but better still good ideas are very welcome. Even better why not write a contribution yourself!

Write to: Syd Jones
36 Front Street
Monkseaton
Whitley Bay
Tyne and Wear
NE25 8DF
Telephone & Fax : 0191 252 2962
Mobile : 0850 609313
E-Mail : SJones3055@aol.com



Pharo seems to think your mind hasn't been on your work these last few weeks.

ENTER A COMPETITION IN 1998!

Have a go in some of the following this season
1. Beginners, try the Golden Mallet, local group, then regional finals and then the National Final in September. Contact the Manager, Rosemary Longbottom on 01702 206703 if you need details.

2. More of a challenge, try the All England Handicap Singles event, first round in your club or group through to a final at Colchester in September.

3. More ambitious, try the Golf Croquet Championships, singles and doubles. Various local venues with finals in July.

4. Your County: the intercounties, North and South venues on the 26th July, teams of four with singles and doubles play.

Please contact me if you need any information or encouragement.
Syd Jones.

SOME NEW LAWS TO TRY THIS SEASON

Many players consider that the laws of GC are in need of revision, the laws as given in the present C.A. book are inadequate, and in many instances can not be applied sensibly to GC. The Australians, the Egyptians and the Italians have already published their own sets of laws without reference to the C.A. Some of their ideas I find are acceptable and others are not. This document is a list of the changes to the laws of Golf Croquet which in some cases have been agreed by the Golf Croquet Committee, and others are still open to discussion. A commentary on the changes is given in order to explain how the new wording of the laws has been decided. I suggest that we should think carefully about what changes should be made to the laws, because the tactics of the game may be materially affected by what may appear to be minor changes. I have indicated those points where I disagree with the majority decision of the GC committee. The committee hopes that during the coming season players will try out the suggested changes, and the GC community can then perhaps begin to formulate an agreed set of laws. It is the opinion

of the Golf Croquet Committee of The C.A. that the laws of Golf Croquet should be published in the form of a booklet similar to but separate from the laws of Association Croquet. Although work on such a set of laws has been started, it will be some considerable time before this project can be completed.

LAW 1. THE STANDARD COURT.

Substantially the same as for AC, except that the 'yard line area' will be reduced to a 'foot line area'. (This is because many clubs play GC on small lawns, and this would make better use of the available area. If the suggested modification to Law 6 is accepted, the baulk lines will be redundant.)

LAW 2. EQUIPMENT.

Hoops. Much as the present law, except that the position of the last hoop to be played will depend on the number of points to be played, and it may become impossible to place a red topped hoop for the last hoop. See Law 4. The GC committee agreed that the hoops should be numbered 1-12, as opposed to 1-back, 2-back, etc. (I am not convinced).

CLIPS.

Seven blue clips and seven yellow clips will be provided for the players using the first colours, seven green clips and seven pink clips for the second colours. The score is to be shown by the placing of the correct coloured clip on the hoop by the side which scored the hoop. Bismques will be indicated by white clips, which will be carried by each player.

THE OBJECT OF THE GAME.

The game is played between two sides, one using yellow and red and the other black and blue (or pink and white versus green and brown). The object of the game is to score a majority of the hoop points before the opposing side. ie. 4, 7 or 10 points in a 7, 13 or 19 point game.

The GC committee agreed that :-

A seven point game should play hoops 1-7.

A 13 point game should play hoops 1-12 and then 1 again.

A 19 point game should play hoops 1-12 and then 1-7.

I disagree with this, I feel very strongly that in the event of a draw in a :-

7 point game, hoop 1 should be played again

13 point game, hoop 3 should be played again

19 point game, hoop 1 should be played again.

LAW 6. THE START OF THE GAME.

At the start of the game, the player entitled to play first plays his ball into the court from any point on a line joining the fourth corner spot to a point on the east foot line defined as the intersection of the east foot line and the projection of a line joining hoop 1 and hoop 4 to the east foot line. (If as at present, the balls are played into the game from the B baulk line, then the first player can strike his ball to go off the court in front of hoop 1. Many players consider that a shot from this position for hoop 1 is not difficult. The remaining players can prevent this shot for hoop 1 only by interposing, which would be a very difficult shot from the B baulk. If the balls are played into the game from the east boundary, then the second and remaining players can at least shoot at the first ball to remove it from in front of hoop



In principal I like the game, but there must be a way of speeding it up.

1.)

PLAYING OUT OF TURN AND PLAYING THE WRONG BALL.

These Errors become Faults and will result in the loss of the players turn. The adversary will have the right to choose whether the balls are to be replaced, or will be played from where they lie.

JUMP SHOTS. (Golf Croquet Law 5 (d))

The striker must not play a jump shot which results in his ball jumping over any part of another ball. Since it is impossible to decide what really happened after a stroke has been played, it is suggested that the striker and the adversary should agree before the stroke that the striker's ball has a clear shot either at the hoop or at an object ball. If not, and the hoop is run or the object ball is hit, the shot will be deemed to have been a jump shot and a fault. If the striker and the adversary cannot agree before the stroke is played, a referee should be called to adjudicate. In general a fault is condoned if it is not discovered before the next stroke.

This is not an exhaustive list of the suggested changes to be made, but it is hoped that it will trigger many more players of golf croquet into thinking about what should be done, and letting the Golf Croquet Committee have some of their views.

J. L. Wankling.

GOLF CROQUET - TRIAL HANDICAP PLAY.

By The Croquet Association Golf Croquet Committee

1. Setting Handicaps.

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

Use this score to assess their handicap from the table.

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

2. The Automatic Handicap System.

To keep and regulate a golf croquet handicap use the automatic system for all handicap games. The player's handicap is altered by means of the handicap index, which initially corresponds to the grading score, then each competitive game won increases his handicap index by one point, each lost game decreases his index by one.

The table indicates the trigger points for changing your handicap.

3. Bismques.

(a). DEFINITION. A bismque is an extra turn given in handicap play and can only be played by the striker with the striker's ball of the preceding turn. A half-bismque is a restricted extra turn in which no point can be scored for any ball.

(b). NUMBER TO BE GIVEN. The number of half-bismques to be

given by the lower- handicapped player to the higher is the difference between their handicaps. In doubles play the bismques are to be used by the individual players and not the side.

Two half-bismques may not be added to give a full bismque.

(c). WHEN A HALF-BISQUE MAY BE PLAYED. The player receiving one or more half-bismques may play it or them at any time of the game whatsoever and, if receiving more than one, in succession.

(d). INDICATION OF INTENTION TO PLAY A HALF-BISQUE.

(1) At the conclusion of a turn the striker must give a clear indication of his intention before playing a half-bismque.

(2) If the striker is entitled to play a half-bismque and indicates an intention of playing one, he may change his mind at any time before playing a stroke provided that he indicates his intention accordingly.

(3) If the striker has played his stroke to which he is entitled and indicates that he is not going to play a half-bismque, either by words or by quitting the court, he may not change his mind. The adversary must not start his turn until the striker has so indicated.

(e). PLAYING A WRONG BALL. If the striker plays the wrong ball in a non-bismque turn and the error is discovered, he may play the correct ball with a half-bismque.

4. Golf Croquet Half-Bismque Handicap Table.

Cut this out and stick to on the front of your Croquet Association Handicap Card.

Grading Score	Handicap (Half bismques)			Index
	19	13	7	
<46	0	0	0	>150
46-49	2	1	0	145
50-52	3	2	1	140
53-55	4	3	1	135
56-58	5	4	2	130
59-61	6	5	2	125
62-64	7	6	3	120
65-67	8	7	3	115
68-71	10	8	4	110
72-74	12	9	4	105
>74	Not Graded			100

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Tournament Reports

**Maidstone Centenary Indoor Final
28 - 29 March, Maidstone Leisure Centre**

report by Mike Evans, photos by Bill Arliss

"Stop the clock - I said stop the clock!"

When 16 croquet players are dashing like startled hares about adjacent carpets, in a modern sports hall, shouting out "stop the clock!" by the minute, any misconceived notion that croquet remains a genteel (but not too taxing) pastime for the effete and idle rich is easily dispelled. If sotto voce comments about the timekeeper are picked up the 'language' is more likely expletive 20th century than "cad" or "nincompoop!"

Thus was the scene at Maidstone for the final of the indoor Speed Doubles. On those rare occasions when generous sponsorship is available and both carpets can be used the result is an excellent croquet event but a manager's nightmare.

Fortunately the event had a cool player manager. Bill Arliss resplendent, in shorts sustained by belt and braces remained calm even when his opponent Robin Brown completed a straight triple. Such was his sang froid that the fact that peels on a partner ball are limited to two in the 14 point game was overlooked by him and his co-manager Peter Pullin when they quitted the lawn blissfully confident the game had ended.

**A FEW WAYS TO KILL
A CLUB**

1. Do nothing except what is absolutely necessary.
2. Decline all offices; it is easier to criticise than to do things.
3. When others roll up their sleeves and help, howl about the clique running things.
4. Get sore if you are not appointed to a committee or, if you are appointed don't attend meetings.
5. If you do attend, don't come on time.
6. Miss as many meetings as you can.
7. If the chairperson asks your opinion tell them you don't have one, but later tell others what should have been done.
8. Be sure to find fault with officers and members.
9. Discuss club matters with outsiders. It gets your club in bad repute.
10. Delay paying dues as long as you can.
11. Don't bother about finding new members or supporting others who do.

Courtesy of Croquet Australia.

The event was generously sponsored by Maidstone Borough Council and the management company of the leisure centre which provided the hall free of charge. The format was a combined six-round Swiss for direct entrants and those qualifying for the Centenary Cup via preliminary heats. As it turned out the winners, Wolverhampton Grammar school, represented by Ben Elwell and David Mathews, entered the event via the heat at Wolverhampton and thus secured both the Council Cup and the S.E. federation Trophy. They had five wins out of six. So also did the runners-up Ipswich 2 (Celia Steward and Phil Eardley). Sadly for them, having lost to Wolverhampton they were pipped at the post on 'who beat whom'. Third place went to Kenilworth (John Leader and Robin Brown) with four and a half wins.

The event was very enjoyable. Although the venue was a long haul for those of us from the north east it was well worth the trip. To prove the point I should say that despite having lost 3 games out of 3 on the Saturday my partner and I both claimed to have enjoyed it. Win or lose it is quick and has an indefinable buzz that certainly gets the adrenalin flowing. It has a fast learning curve. We lost 2 of the games by squandering time, sticking slavishly to standard breaks when a 2 or a 3 ball would have taken much less time. Desperate to win a game on Sunday we invented 'Uncle Henry' tactics, playing to make your 'innocent' opponents waste time. We felt rather mean when this enabled us to beat two charming ladies but very pleased when we saw them use the same tactic with consummate guile on some other uninitiates.

Post script

Having been at a very 'hospitable' function in London until the early hours of Saturday morning I went up to the balcony for a sleep. Whilst dozing I overheard a conversation that went something like this. "What do they call this game?" "I am not sure, it's a bit like croquet" "Not much like it really; some of the players are so young!" "Yes I thought that" "Have you noticed it's the old people that are dashing about and shouting 'stop the clock' all the time" "They ought to call it stop the clock" "Who's winning?" "I have no idea". "I think it must be the young lads. They are smiling and don't seem at all bothered about the clock". "I'm not surprised. The old guy playing brown shot at yellow and missed it by a yard". "I wish I knew what it was about, it looks such fun to play - it's got a buzz a bit like Jeux sans frontiere!" I woke up when my partner shook me to say we were on.

Southwick Open Weekend 11-13 April 1998

report by Richard Hilditch

Despite competing with other Easter events we were able to attract a strong entry this year including 5 internationals. The event was mainly played as best of 3 seeded knockout. The weather was very cold but not too wet and certainly better than elsewhere in the country.

The first round (played as a single game) saw the exit of one of the seeds as Avery was whitewashed by Roger Wood. Mark only took croquet twice to play with the wrong ball and take off the lawn. The other seeds were progressing well with triples abounding. The match between Robert Fulford and Symons had 3 triples in a total of only 20 turns. Phil Cordingley and Kibble looked to be emulating this with two 6th turn triples but the third game was less pretty. At the opposite end of the scale was a very close match between Andrew Johnson from New Zealand (via Islington) and Graham Gale. Eventually Andrew emerged as the non-loser.

In the semi-finals Cordingley soon dispatched Bob Stephens and Fulford proved too strong for Johnson who was having trouble getting tight leaves (like the rest of the New Zealand team in 1996). Meanwhile the Swiss saw a late entrant of Keith Aiton who characteristically had triples (or more) in all of his victories but had 'ibble trouble (Kibble and Tibble).

The final saw an excellent 5 game encounter. Throughout Robert struggled with his shooting and both players made a small number of mistakes. In each of the first 4 games Cordingley got the first ball to 4-back but persistently had trouble with the leaves despite the easy paced lawn. After being TPO'd in the first game Phil hit in but failed a key approach to hoop 5 and missed a second double target after making 1-back. The second game was also won by Robert after Phil broke down on

his triple. Phil then did well to take the next two games very convincingly. Robert showed his mastery with a somewhat anti-climactic 6th turn +26 TP in the final game however to regain the prized salver. Johnson meanwhile did just enough to stay ahead of Gale to win the Swiss.

Surbiton Easter Open 12 - 13 April 1998

report by Ian bond

After two days of biting winds and icy showers for the handicap tournament, the weather relented for the Easter Open and we basked (if sheltered from a rather cutting wind) in warm sunshine. Conditions were still soft under foot and the hoops forgiving, but it was the start of the season so nobody really minded the flattery.

The early running was made by Terry Burge, with three triples in three games. but he then lost to Openshaw and Farthing, which put him out of the hunt. Openshaw was solid throughout, and though Jenkins could have put him under pressure in the last round by refusing the temptation of a triple, he never looked like being toppled.

There were good performances too from Pauline Healy 4/7 and Farthing, who continued the form he had shown in winning the handicap the previous two days to score 5/7.

One-Ball Championships

Winchester 18th-19th April 1998

report by George Winter

The fifth One-ball Championship, held at Winchester, had an earlier date this year to avoid clashing with so many other fixtures. This move succeeded, since the entries were of higher quantity and quality than ever before.

The Winchester club had its lawns in excellent condition and not heavy either as we all expected after a very wet Spring.

Saturday saw the Cryptorchid, Handicap, run as a flexible swiss and with 20 entries ranging in (full-game) handicap from -0.5 to 18. After eight rounds at tea-time (!) seven players remained in contention: local player Brian Barraclough, Kevin and Niall Carter, Roy Edwards (three times golf croquet champion), Doug Ironside and Surbiton one-ball aficionados David Mooney and Sue Thrussell.

The penultimate round saw Kevin Carter win his eighth game in a row and become unbeatable, so attention switched to the runner-up spot, with some complex mathematics being required to resolve who should play whom and what were the possible outcomes. In the end it was a tidy result, with Roy Edwards and 14 year-old Niall Carter both finishing on seven wins, but Niall having the ascendancy having earlier beaten Roy.

So, a Carter family 1-2 collected Saturday's engraved glassware.

Sunday's Monorchid, Advanced Level event was a classy affair, with Stephen Mulliner entering for the first time and John Solomon displaying his legendary skills, as well as Lionel Tibble, unbeaten in all three of 1997's Advanced Level One-Ball tournaments (including this event). The fourth seed was the previous day's winner, Kevin Carter.

The Monorchid was a best-of-three knock-out, with an Egyptian consolation event (won mid-afternoon by Bob Stephens). The seeding worked out well, with all four filling the semi-final places, but not without a few frights on the way. In particular, John Solomon survived two long and close rounds against Geoff Cuttle and Ken Smith, Chris Osmond almost toppled Tibble and Niall Carter gave his father a tough time.

Meanwhile, Stephen Mulliner was smoothly making his way through the early rounds and indeed finished the morning's session so early he went for a 12-mile run as a part of his training regime for the following week's London Marathon.

Even after these exertions he swept aside Lionel Tibble in one semi-final with an imperious display of shooting and accurate hooping (the hoops being sent to President's Cup standard).

The second semi-final saw another marathon, John Solomon style, but this time he was on the end of a 2-1 beating by in-form Kevin Carter. Even in the by now poor weather it was good to see so many Winchester members turn out to see John perform.

Tournament Results

CHELTENHAM ADVANCED PLAY 2 - 5 APRIL

Manager - Bernard Neal
Block A - A Cowing, G Curry, P Darby
Block B - T Weston, B McGlen, W Sidebottom
Block C - D Morgan, M Walker, T Golesworthy

SURBITON EASTER HANDICAP 10 - 11 APRIL

Manager - Chris Osmond Format - Swiss
1 Chris Farthing, 2 Claire Heritage
3= Robert Pennant-Jones, Julian Straw

PENDLE EASTER TOURNAMENT 10 - 13 APRIL

Manager - John Beech Format - Egypt
1 David Pollitt, 2 Brian Medley, 3 Jamie Burch

SOUTHWICK ADVANCED WEEKEND 11 - 13 APRIL

Manager - Richard Hilditch Format - KO
Semi-Finals: R Fulford bt A Johnson +9TPO
+23TP. P Cordingley bt R Stevens +23 TP +14.
Final: Fulford bt Cordingley +6TPO +9TP -26TP
-25 +26TP.

Consolation Swiss: A Johnson.

SURBITON EASTER OPEN WEEKEND 12 - 13 APRIL

Manager - Ian Bond Format - Swiss
1 David Openshaw, 2 Jeff Dawson, 3 Chris Farthing, Terry Burge.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

NEW ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITIES

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

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Handicap Alterations

Cheltenham 2-5 April

A Cowing	1.5	to	1
Ms G Curry	1.5	to	1
K Davis	5	to	6
R Jackman	1	to	0.5
Mrs B McGlen	3.5	to	3
D Morgan	5	to	4
W Sidebottom	4	to	3.5
H Smorritt	2	to	2.5
D Taylor	8	to	7
T Weston	3.5	to	3

Cheltenham 10-13 April

A Bogle	4	to	4.5
P Crowe	12	to	14
Mrs S Edwards	11	to	10
Mrs J Powell	18	to	16
M Ranshaw	3	to	3.5
N Stebbing	16	to	11
A Treglown	9	to	8
S Sturevska	10		

Surbiton Easter Tournaments 10-13 April

N Gray	3	to	3.5
J Ruddock	5	to	6
C Ross	3	to	3.5

Pendle Easter Tournament

J Burch	3	to	2.5
B Medley	10	to	9
D Pollitt	20	to	16
J Tonks	12	to	14
G Young	16	to	14

Southwick Open Weekend 12-14 April

R Elleray	7	to	8
L Tibble	-0.5	to	-1
Mrs C Constable	7	to	6
P Pullin	1.5	to	1
W Arliss	0	to	0.5

New Associates

Dr J Bell	Meldreth CC
Mr P Boffey	Solihull CC
Mrs P Crook	Littleton CC
Mr E Davey	Colchester CC
Mr J Davies	Sussex County
Mr P Edwards	
Mr G Farmery	
Mrs J Jarman	Compton CC
Mr B Jarman	Compton CC
Mr B Johnson	Sussex County
Mr A Mayne	
Mrs L Ratcliffe	
Mrs M Smith	Winchester CC
Mr N Stebbing	
Mr P Strover	Colchester CC
Dr S Sturevska	Oxford Univ
Dr B Walker	Oxford Univ
Mrs C Underwood	Nottingham CC

By the time the final started both the rain and the lawns had become heavy. In the first game Stephen took an early lead but Kevin got a lengthy break going to overhaul him and record the day's first win over the England international. The second game was a dour affair, with neither player taking any chances - tactics which suited Stephen well, since every hoop he seemed able to run hard and take position exactly two feet in front of the next.

The third game looked like going the same way and included a spectacular shot from Stephen - after running hoop four straight to the boundary he immediately ran five to avoid his lurking opponent. My trig tables tell me this is a 12-yard hoop at an angle of 54° - remarkable.

However, in the third game Carter came back to life and eventually drew level at four-back. After lengthy tactical manoeuvring, Carter shot, missed and Mulliner picked him up from the boundary. A simple 15-yard roll-up to four-back followed, then the last two hoops finished the match.

So, Stephen Mulliner, perhaps finding the event tougher than he had anticipated, collected the trophy.

The next one-ball events will be in the autumn, at Northampton and Hurlingham. Try them out. Most people who do so get hooked!

Southport Open Weekend 25-26 April 1998

report by Richard Hilditch

A strong 18 player entry enjoyed sunny but slightly windy weather, there was only brief rain. We were all pleased to see Adrian (youngest) Saurin back after several years away, he looked like he might be stronger than the -0.5 handicap that he got from the office. His only defeat was at the hands of the holder David Maugham in the semis who once again won the cup despite not bringing it. Maugham was very lucky to have got that far with his previous match against Gail Curry seeing the need for 2 massive stopping bisques when she was hampered after 4-back and had a bad mis-hit trying to run rover. Maugham was resplendent in his new contact lenses which earned the accolade of 'good looking' from one misguided observer.

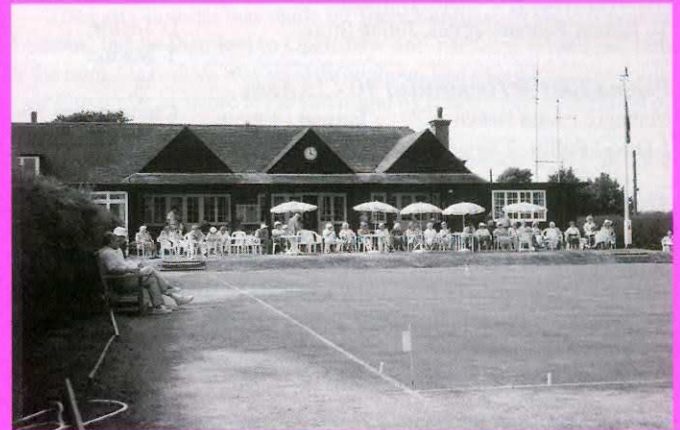
The seeds didn't fare very well with only Maugham reaching his allotted slot. Mark Saurin was lack lustre and did not put up much resistance to Alan Linton. Howard Taylor was narrowly beaten by the other Saurin in a nice Rigalled game. Colin Irwin was unlucky to go down to Alan Linton on a difficult lawn in 3 games.

The visit of Chris Haslam (now playing basketball professionally in Britain) came after the event had finished, although he did get a chance to watch some club friendlies and comment on the aunt Emma tactics on view.

CLUB FOCUS ON Budleigh Salterton

Budleigh Salterton Croquet club is almost as old as croquet itself which was first played in England around 1850 and is known to have been played in Budleigh Salterton in 1870. The first recorded club minutes are dated 1885, when it was known as the Archery & Lawn Tennis club but there was also one croquet lawn. Archery faded away, but croquet prospered and the club held its first open croquet tournament in 1896. Lawn tennis predominated the available space until the 1939-45 war, and although the tennis lawns continued afterwards, the advent of big prize money at Wimbledon and other big tournaments brought an end to lawn tennis at Budleigh Salterton in 1976 and a line was drawn under the last entry on the honours boards which included such illustrious names as Dorothy Round and Jaroslav Drobny.

The Club has only recently deleted "Lawn Tennis" from its name but the tennis lawns were eventually all turned into use for croquet so the old cliché "when one door closes another opens" became very real. High above the town, some of the lawns give a view across the rooftops below to the sea beyond and in the distance the outline of Berry Head is seen on



Spectators enjoying the entertainment of a final outside the clubhouse in typical Budleigh weather:



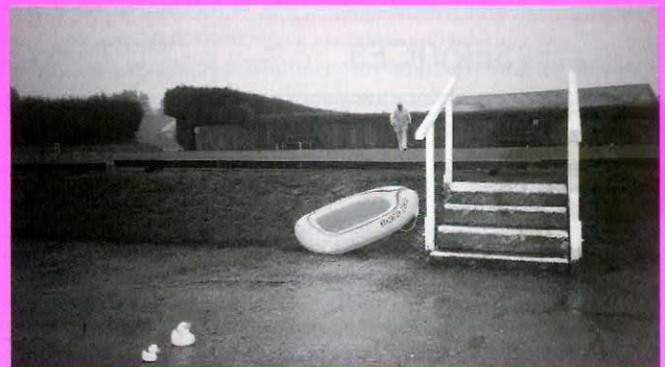
Pirates assembled for the August Tournament Heretics ball, where full use of the well stocked bar and the croquet pavilion is essential.

of the late Freddie Stone's, who in his heyday reputedly hit a ball across the lawn so hard it travelled across the rooftops and landed in the high street below.

The club is working hard to attract new players into the game to ensure that croquet is still played in Budleigh for another hundred years. For the record perhaps it might be mentioned that whereas most members and all visitors tend to refer to the club as "Budleigh", the town itself has been, and still is, called "Salterton" by the generations born and bred in it. This was its original name, derived from the salters who worked on the estuary of the river Otter, and the village two miles away, where Sir Walter Raleigh was born, was called Budleigh. Not until the mid 18th century did the names of Budleigh Salterton and East Budleigh come into official use as the names of the two villages.

clear days. The building of the Clubhouse started in 1922, and now comprises a large clubroom with a well stocked bar in which all tournament lunches are served from the adjacent kitchen, and there are also two large rooms where bridge is played on three afternoons per week. Further down the grounds is the croquet pavilion, always the hub of activity during the season and particularly during tournaments. A vital part of the pavilion is a second well stocked bar, and particular notice is paid to the known preferences of certain visitors - sometimes cider has to be laid on in extra quantity, or maybe Guinness. Adjoining the pavilion is the manager's office which becomes the holy of holies during tournaments, particularly during the August tournament when Gail Curry and Mike Hammelev manage in their inimitable and innovative manner.

The Club now has ten lawns and in 1937 one of the tennis lawns was made into a bowling green. The number of CA tournaments has increased to two of one week, in May and August, and three weekend ones usually run as Egyptians including one advanced. The Club has several prominent members over the years and has been host to the MacRobertson Shield, Home Internationals, Chairman's Salver and Spencer Ell on various occasions. Golf croquet was started several years ago to introduce newcomers to the game and, hopefully, encourage them to move on to association croquet, and this section is now a thriving entity with the exclusive use of two lawns. Like most clubs of long standing Budleigh Salterton has plenty of anecdotes, the most frequently quoted being one



In less typical Budleigh weather, every precaution and eventuality is catered for - no matter how unlikely.