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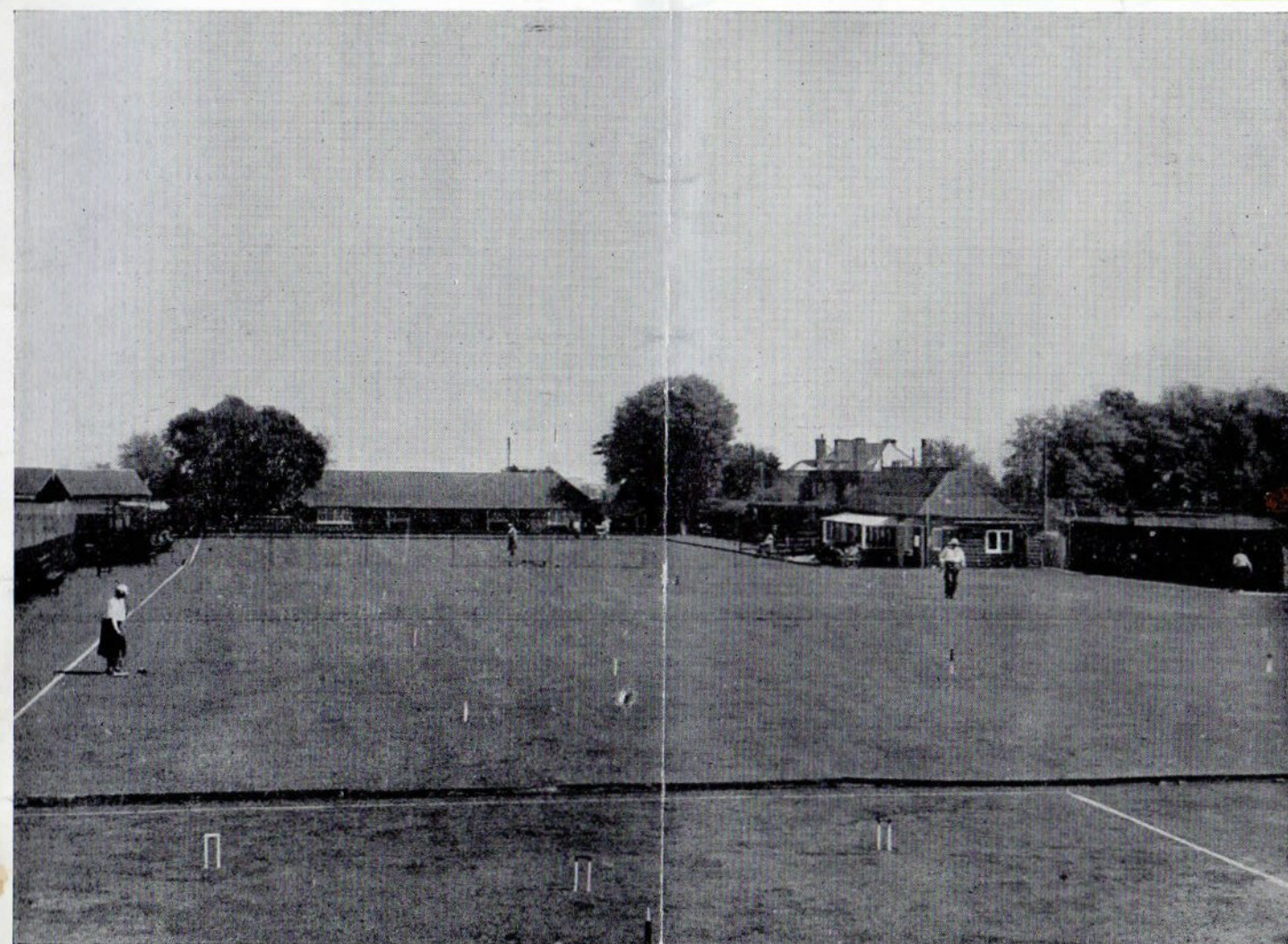
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TOURNAMENT FIXTURES

1957

- July 8 **Open Championships (Roehampton).** *Secretary C.A.*, 4 Southampton Row, London, W.C.1.
- " 15 **Budleigh Salterton.** *Hon. Sec.*, L. G. Walters, 1 Braywick, Budleigh Salterton.
- " 15 **Oxford.** *Hon. Sec.*, Capt. H. J. Pullein-Thompson, 78 Bell Street, Henley-on-Thames.
- " 22 **Cheltenham.** *Hon. Sec.*, Lt.-Col. A. M. Daniels, Croquet Club, Old Bath Road, Cheltenham.
- " 29 **Ladies' Field Cup, Silver Jubilee Cup (Hurlingham).** *Secretary C.A.*, 4 Southampton Row, London, W.C.1.
- " 29 **Leamington Spa.** *The Croquet Sec.*, Guys Cliffe Avenue, Leamington Spa.
- Aug. 5 **Hurlingham.** *Games Sec.*, Hurlingham Club, London, S.W.6.
- " 10 **Championship of Ireland.** *Hon. Sec.*, Mrs. B. T. O'Reilly, Ballynamote, Carrickmines, Co. Dublin.
- " 14-16 **All England Handicap. Area Finals (Roehampton).** *Secretary C.A.*, 4 Southampton Row, London, W.C.1.
- " 15-24 **Challenge and Gilbey Cups, Ascot and Delves Broughton Cups (Roehampton).** *Secretary C.A.*, 4 Southampton Row, London, W.C.1.
- " 26 **Southwick.** *Hon. Sec.*, F. E. Corke, 60 Southwick Street, Southwick, Sussex.
- Sept. 2 **Hunstanton.** *Hon. Sec.*, Mrs. B. C. Perowne, 65 Victoria Avenue, Hunstanton.
- " 2 **Parkstone.** *Hon. Sec.*, Mrs. L. H. Ashton, The Orchard, Parkstone, Dorset.
- " 9 **President's Cup (Roehampton), Surrey Cup (Parkstone).** *Secretary C.A.*, 4 Southampton Row, London, W.C.1.
- " 23 **Roehampton.** *Games Sec.*, Roehampton Club, Roehampton Lane, London, S.W.15.
- " 30 **Devonshire Park (Eastbourne).** *Secretary C.A.*, 4 Southampton Row, London, W.C.1.

NON-OFFICIAL FIXTURES

- Sept. 2 **Southwick.** *Hon. Sec.*, F. E. Corke, 60 Southwick Street, Southwick, Sussex.
- " 9 **Cheltenham.** *Hon. Sec.*, Lt.-Col. A. M. Daniels, Croquet Club, Old Bath Road, Cheltenham.

HANDICAPS CONFIRMED OR ALTERED BY THE HANDICAP CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE, June 20th, 1957

SOUTHWICK TOURNAMENT

Lady Ursula Abbey 4 to 3½.
Lt.-Col. F. E. Stobart 3½ to 3.
N. F. Blackwood 7 to 6.
W. P. H. Roe 8 to 7.

RYDE

NEW HANDICAPS

Miss K. A. Wade 14*.
Mrs. E. E. Taylor 14*.

NON-ASSOCIATE

Miss J. Preston 7*.

Miss E. E. Taylor 14* to 13.
Miss J. Preston 7* to 8.
Miss K. A. Wade 14* to 14.
Mrs. J. G. Stevenson 9 to 8.
Miss E. E. Bennett 11 to 10.
F. E. Corke 4½ to 4.

WOKING

Lord Charles Hope 10 to 10 (D 8).

J. F. Dalton 2 to 1½.
Mrs. R. Whitham 9 to 8.
Lord Charles Hope 10 (D 8) to 8.

CROQUET ASSOCIATION NOTICES

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* * *

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* * *

ADDITION TO THE LIST OF OFFICIAL REFEREES

F. Stanley-Smith

* * *

Associates who wish to become Referees should send their names to the Chairman of the Laws Committee (c/o The Secretary, C.A.), who will arrange for their examination.

* * *

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The attention of the Tournament Committees when arranging their programmes is called to the effect of Regulations 2 and 25. Careful reading of these will show that while programmes may include events in which Law 44 is "partially suspended" (in accordance with the former "Variation B") in any level event restricted to certain classes of players, this is not the case for OPEN events in which any competitors of whatever handicap may enter. Should a Tournament Committee desire to suspend Law 44, partially or wholly, in an OPEN Singles, they must apply to the Secretary, C.A., for permission to do so BEFORE advertising such a suspension in their programme. Such permission, however, will only be granted in special cases and for good cause shown, since in the opinion of the Council such a departure from the Laws of the game is not normally appropriate to events in which players with a handicap of scratch or less are eligible to compete.

* * *

NEW VARIATION

The attention of Associates is called to the fact that a new form of shortened game is to be given an extensive trial during the forthcoming season, in which each ball will start at the fifth hoop. In order to give this experiment a thorough try-out for all classes of players the Council has decided that it will be played in the following C.A. events.

May—Peel Memorials, Singles and Doubles.

June—Du Pre Cup.

August—Challenge Cups, and Doubles (not Gilbey Cups).

October—Devonshire Park, Men's and Women's Open Singles, Restricted Handicap Singles and Handicap Doubles.

* * *

ENTRY FORMS FOR TOURNAMENTS

Pads of 25 price 2s., can now be obtained from the Secretary, C.A., 4 Southampton Row, London, W.C.1.

* * *

A.G.M.

We regret it has not been possible to publish an account of the Annual General Meeting in this issue. It will appear in the August issue.

LORN C. APPS,
Secretary.

NOTES by ROVER

A Right to a Bite?

There can be few games to which handicapping is better adapted than it is to Croquet, and none perhaps where the provision made for it is so elaborate, extending as it does from club handicappers to tournament handicappers, and so to the Co-ordination Committee, with a final resort, if desired, to the statutory Handicap Appeal Committee. That this has not had a "case" brought before it for several years is evidence perhaps that no great dissatisfaction with the lower stages of the system exists. Yet there are undoubtedly divergences of opinion amongst us as to the basis on which handicaps ought to be calculated and altered. There are many who regard their handicaps—and even other peoples—as in the nature of a personal right, not to be infringed upon until some indisputable success at a tournament renders such a step plainly unavoidable. A more objective view is claimed by those who reject the idea that an improving player should be held to resemble a potentially dangerous dog who has a justifiable claim to a "first bite" before he is "penalised". Generosity to the biter, it is argued, is likely to involve injustice to the bitten, and according to this school the essential function of a handicap is to represent the facts as accurately as it is possible to estimate them. Wherever the compiler of this column may "rove" he finds these contrasting views having each their supporters, as they have done to his knowledge for half a century, during which time no "authority" has ever succeeded in plainly deciding for one or the other, and presumably never will.

"Give Croquet more pace"

It might naturally be presumed that so old a bird as Rover would be gravely shocked by the revolutionary proposals for "jazzing up" Croquet proposed by our young man of the month in this issue. Perhaps he would be if he had not seen most of the experiments urged on us by Mr. Meachem advanced—and even tried out—at one time or another already. He recalls the "optional panther shot" being given a trial in a war-time "Best Eight"; it certainly created "constant crises and excitements", but it found little favour as an idea for serious play, for it practically destroyed the art of break-laying, which is, even as things are, a too much neglected aspect of the game. However, such a game as Mr. Meachem proposes would be good fun in a club competition, and an enterprising club might well give it a trial. Where our challenger is right, many will think (though not so revolutionary as he may imagine) is in suggesting that the standard court is too large for those beginning Croquet, and the Council has repeatedly urged that neophytes should start on smaller courts; the difficulty has always been to persuade them and other high bisquers that they are not being in some way "humiliated" or done down by being required to do so. On the main issue Mr. Meachem raises, however, i.e. whether Croquet needs to be speeded up and made more dynamic, there are two opinions, even among his generation. A later article in this series praises the game for its tranquility, and yet another pleads for No Change.

The Honours List

It is a somewhat unusual set of circumstances which prevents as many as five holders from defending their trophies at a tournament, but such was the case at Hurlingham in the first week of June. Mrs. Kirk (Lady Champion), Mrs. Mackenzie-Smart and Mr. Rowling (Doubles Champions), were in New Zealand, Mr. Tingey (Du Pre Cup) was in Australia, and Mr. Humphrey Hicks (one supposes) in Devon. Congratulations nevertheless to Dr. Wiggins on his first singles championship, to Mrs. Longman on winning the Du Pre Cup for the first time—and to her husband, too, who after a monumental struggle in the semi-final was fresh enough the next day to put up a good fight in the final. Miss Lintern and Mrs. Rotherham, who in the absence of a challenger from New Zealand have divided the women's event between them for a decade, went as near as possible to doing so in the third game of a very well contested final, the loser consoling herself by carrying off the Doubles title with Mr. Cotter. When are some more players going to emerge to dispute this joint supremacy, which is beginning to resemble, in dual form the twenty year dominance of Miss Steel in women's croquet between the wars? It is somewhat curious that a game which is almost a female preserve in many parts of the antipodes seems to be becoming almost a male one in some places here. This is particularly noticeable at Hurlingham.

Members and Titles

It is certainly heartening, however, to see so many enthusiastic men players, most of them still active in professional life, as this club now displays. Indeed some sympathy might perhaps be felt for those on having to surrender their courts for a fortnight to the Association, proud as Hurlingham may well be on possessing a set of lawns so splendidly appropriate to what is surely something of a distinction. "You want the best lawns, we have them," might be this club's boast, and in view of this it is somewhat disappointing that entries for these events were not larger this year. This, of course, has its compensations for members who were generally able to get a game in the long evenings; and who regained almost complete possession on the Saturday—too complete indeed, some associates complained, who had hoped to see more of the final stages of the championships on that day. There is a somewhat complex problem involved here, namely how to adjust the interests of club members to the reasonable claims of an Association anxious to assure due provision for what are, after all, classic and historic fixtures. Championship titles will never be the concern of the majority of players, yet without the incentive which competition for them provides, standards would fall and Croquet would cease to deserve the respect which, even though it may too seldom receive it, we know that now it has every right to claim.

How to wake up Croquet

by J. B. MEACHEM

"IT'S such a spiteful game," they say. "It's on an intellectual level with hopscotch," or, "I have seen it played but it takes hours." These are popular opinions. Comments of the ignorant and prejudiced? False impressions created by the name, are they? Don't believe it. Tennis had just the same start on the Victorian tea lawn and table tennis started as ping pong in the parlour. Is not there really much in popular comment on croquet?

How can the game compare with other popular games? It is far too long and many a high bisquer takes over four hours a game. Its pace is too slow; its excitement subtle and to be savoured rarely by the beginner; mistakes are too expensive: how many games are won 26 to next to nothing? How can beginners develop enthusiasm for a game which they are unlikely to finish and in which each miss is a punishment. Even with bisques croquet is not fun to learn, however worth while later.

Will publicity alone change many minds? To improve the game's reputation and make new recruits change its name if you must but first change the game. Why did snooker take precedence over billiards? Give croquet more pace; create more opportunity for a ding-dong battle with constant crises and excitements; make it shorter. One can always play a rubber of games.

How is this possible without spoiling all and wasting a heritage? Elementary my dear Watson!

One has only to overcome the game's two major defects—its slowness and the out-player's lack of opportunity. The cause is the fantastic size of the court. Pull in all the hoops nearer to each other and reduce the boundaries in length and breadth so that from the yard line there is a tempting split shot for the hoop. Aunt Emma (who is never confident of separating to the maximum distance) will get duodenal ulcers as on the reduced court one has a good chance of roqueting. Next, give the option of beginning every turn by playing as the balls lie or by lifting either ball and playing it from the "B" balk. This will kill Aunt Emma stone cold dead and progress not safety play will be a necessity; it will pay the old girl to take chances. Finally for all Association games make the hoops 3 11/16ths.

There are the cures. See how they work.

The out-player has an excellent chance on the smaller court to roquet as the balls lie or from the "B" balk. Because of the optional panther shot from the "B" balk, tactics are dictated by fear, of immediate interest to the beginner and not merely subtly appreciated by lower bisquers.

The nerve wracking experience of negotiating those hoops within shooting distance of the "B" balk (numbers 2, 3, 5, 6, 1-bk, 4-bk, Penultimate and Rover) creates incentive. Just watch Aunt Emma panicing through hoops three at a time (whoa there Emma!) in order to get out of the danger zone! The difficulty of the hoops and the temptation of approaching from the yard line make break-downs more probable and both parties are virtually guaranteed plenty of play and excitement. Cock an eye at the out player absolutely galvanised when his opponent goes for an awkward hoop because he daren't leave the pilot ball to be shot at from the "B" balk. If the blasé say that all-round breaks with narrow hoops are the regular thing with the experts, don't believe

them. An expert will have a very jittery tummy when trying a fancy peel with narrow hoops and the certainty of an accurate panther roquet from the top balk should he fail. If they say that with a smaller court boundary play will be lost, remember that there will be plenty of fetching balls from the second corner and it is much better for the game that players try sporting approaches to a hoop from a boundary position and fail in the Court than run off or lay-up on a remote boundary and prolong the game interminably. No pessimist will convince me that the long rush will be lost to the game; its former prominence will attach to the rush-roquet: a much more difficult shot. Wiring will be quite as important for protection and may be used to force an opponent to play with a particular ball. Someone good is saying that game is too easy. Well, it's not. These narrow hoops demand perfect approaches and stroke play and the shorter distance between hoop and boundary is a death trap as regards running-off. It's the same game only atom powered with a wider attraction.

Start people playing it at home and they will see what riches lie in playing properly. Clubs draw members from those who play easy Croquet with wide hoops at home and to make breaks which give them the interest and confidence to approach a club.

Lure them to the Association game with a variety not difficult or long and specially suited for play at home. Have "Home Croquet" and "Association Croquet" and let the booklets in croquet boxes differentiate very clearly between the two. Suggest that players start with the Home Game and then recommend to them in deservedly glowing terms the pukka game. For heaven's sake omit all reference to Golf Croquet, which is the popular idea of croquet and a cissie, spiteful, tenth rate game properly relegated to the ten minute practice session.

Home Croquet should have four inch wire hoops and a much smaller setting. The other rules would be the same.

Persuade the manufacturers to supply the cheap sets with three piece hoops, the cross-bar having three holes punched, so that one does not have to fight a springy devil when tightening hoops and so that the Association game is indicated to the player of Home Croquet. Please sacrifice the unnecessary smashers, bodgers, pegs and flags for responsive composition balls and give the sufferer from the box wood ball an inkling of what can be done with skill.

What's that? You have ten new members already? Good. Chop one lawn in half for them and set up the four inch hoops on the one half and the narrow ones on the other. Show them the all-round break and the three-ball break, give them gentle tuition and let them play each other. No doubles—all singles. They will have lots of fun and you will soon have to look to your laurels.

Why, the possibilities are huge. More courts in the same club, more members, more money, more local authorities interested, more respect. You need not be too shy to recommend the game to schools and tennis clubs.

Go on—it may be a wrench but we are thinking of the game in a big hearted way; after all it deserves just that and think how fine it will be if many more can taste the pleasures we enjoy.

CROQUET IN AUSTRALIA



This photograph has reached us from Robert Tingey in Australia with the following information: The house is the home of Major-General Sir Reginald and Lady Stanham of Camden Park.

It was built by John Macarthur, who introduced the first merino sheep into Australia at the turn of the 18th century and was responsible for founding the Australian wool industry. The house is situated in a large family estate some fifty miles from Sydney, and was built entirely by convict labour and completed about 1832. It has been handed down from generation to generation in the same family, Lady Stanham being the direct descendent of John Macarthur.

Until a year or two ago croquet was unheard of at Camden Park. Sir Reginald, who is English, a golfer in the single figures, discovered during his many journeys abroad what a good game croquet was. He was a most interested spectator at Hurlingham, Roehampton and Southwick in 1956. The photograph shows the croquet lawn on the official opening day, when my wife had the honour of pouring a glass of champagne on the peg and declared the lawn open. However, judging by the standard of play shown by

Sir Reginald and Lady Stanham and by Quentin Stanham (their son) and Neil Macarthur-Onslow, a cousin, I have a suspicion that they had obtained considerable practice while testing the lawn to see whether it was in a fit state to open. Their keenness is amazing; they have absorbed all the literature I could give them and are crying out for more.

I hear there are other lawns on private estates in the process of creation, and a spirit of friendly rivalry is growing up between them. Matches are already being planned. It is refreshing and interesting to watch this development which is exactly the opposite to what happened in England, where croquet had its birth on private lawns and increasingly developed into club play as large houses became more and more difficult to maintain. In Australia it is at the clubs where croquet started, and it is now spreading to the country houses where land and labour are available.

I am sure England will watch this development with interest and will give these keen people a grand reception when they come over to try their skill against us.

Notes from the Clubs

Roehampton

The outstanding event of interest for Roehampton croquet members in June was the Women's Championship played at Hurlingham during the week commencing 3rd June. This was won by the Captain, Miss D. A. Lintern, the other finalist being Mrs. Rotherham from Budleigh Salterton Club. As each of the finalists had won the event three times in previous years there was keen interest in the result. We congratulate Miss Lintern on her fourth win, making her the holder of the Gold Challenge Casket and Medal for 1957.

A golf croquet match was played at Roehampton on Tuesday, 11th June, against a visiting team from Dulwich. There were six players in each team. Our Dulwich opponents soon showed their knowledge of the game, and won the match by 5 games to 4. Tea was served for the teams in the Roehampton Club restaurant and everyone enjoyed a very pleasant and sunny afternoon.

The Club competitions are in progress. The shortened game is being used in about half the events so that members will have a good opportunity of forming an opinion for or against this game. The results of these competitions will be given in a later issue.

Cheltenham

On the 29th May, the Club held a Fete, organised by Mrs. Mathews, which included a "Bring-and-Buy Sale," a Bridge Tournament and a "Pagal" Croquet Gymkhana, with the object of raising money for its many needs. The enthusiasm and generosity and hard work of our members, aided by good weather, produced results far beyond the hopes of our excellent Treasurer. Everyone had "a go" at the croquet event, organised by Mrs. Elvey, and which was such fun and so unlike croquet that a novice could hold his own against a scratch player.

The Club Trophies Tournament was held from 10th to 15th June, in perfect weather conditions under the able management of Miss Paulley. There were many exciting finishes.

The Club now has a number of new members, who have been designated "workers", because they can only play after office hours. They are, in the main, important officers of a "hush-hush" branch of a Government Department located at Cheltenham. One G. E. P. Jackson in only his second full season won the Club Challenge Cup. Another recruit is C. H. O'D. Alexander, the International Chess Master, who is determined to "master" this game too. Another young man D. G. B. Harries, in his second season, won the Level 3-bisques and over event.

The Committee is doing everything in its power to permit the "workers" to get as much play as possible. They can reserve courts on Saturday, and the Trophies Tournament was deliberately started on Whit-Monday, as they can generally get a "spot of leaf" during that week. What these players require are not tournaments, but matches, which can be played at week-ends or in the long summer evenings after office hours. If croquet is to survive—the supply of retired Indian Army officers is drying up here—every encouragement must be given to the "workers". When they have got their "Old Age Pensions", they will have the leisure to compete for Gold Medals and Caskets.

The "workers" have suggested a match Gentlemen v. Workers, but it is felt that Vermin v. Workers would be more democratic and up to date!

Hurlingham

The two main features of recent weeks have been the County Championship and the Gold Caskets events. Both tournaments were favoured with good weather and the lawns were unusually fast for the time of year. Whether or not this was a contributory cause, much of the croquet was not of the standard to be expected in this company. We are accustomed to see bisque holdings described as 12 (D 10), but after seeing some of the doubles in Counties week we should not have been surprised to hear of rankings such as 1/2 (D 3).

Some of the early eliminating matches in the All England handicap have been closely contested. The holder, D. E. Buckland, defeated General Davidson by 1 point when the latter had appeared to have the game nicely sewn up. Our other finalist of last year, Roger de Wesselow, having got up on the post against S. S. Townsend to win by 1 point, went on to short-head R. J. Pickett in the next round.

Six

BRIDGE

by E. P. C. Cotter, British International

In a tournament for Pairs the following hand was played by twelve different Souths in Three No Trumps. Eleven declarers went one down, the twelfth made ten tricks. Was the twelfth declarer favoured by a lucky opening lead? No, nothing like that. He simply played it better.

Here is the hand:—

S—A, 8, 5, 3.			
H—9, 6, 5.			
D—Q, J, 6.			
C—K, 10, 6.			
	N	S—7, 6, 2.	
S—Q, J, 10, 9.	W	H—8, 7, 4, 3.	
H—K, Q, 10.	E	D—K, 5.	
D—10, 8, 4, 3.	S	C—J, 7, 5, 4.	
C—Q, 9.			
	S—K, 4.		
	H—A, J, 2.		
	D—A, 9, 7, 2.		
	C—A, 8, 3, 2.		

West made the same opening lead as all the other Wests—the natural lead of the Queen of Spades. South let this win. West now led the King of Hearts and South ducked again. West then continued with the Knave of Spades which South won with the King.

What was South's plan? He had six tricks on top. Three tricks must be developed in the minor suits. There was also the possible end-play on West to make two Heart tricks. But the minor suits must be developed without letting East in if possible, for a Heart lead from that side might be fatal. Note South's careful play.

To trick four South led the two of Clubs and won with the King in dummy. The fall of the nine from West was revealing. It was most unlikely that he had Q, J, 9 originally. Most probably he had started life with Q, 9 or J, 9. South then led the Queen of Diamonds from dummy, covered by East's King and won with the Ace. Now South led the three of Clubs hoping that West now had the Queen alone. As this proved to be the case West won the trick. From dummy the ten was carefully played to unblock. West continued with the ten of spades won by dummy's Ace and South discarded the seven (!) of Diamonds. The position now was:—

S—9.		S—
H—Q, 10.		H—8, 7, 4.
D—10, 8, 4.		D—5.
C—		C—J, 7.
	S—	
	H—A, J.	
	D—9, 2.	
	C—A, 8.	

At this stage the contract of nine tricks is "on ice". After the marked finesse of the eight of Clubs and the play of the Ace, South had only to cash the Knave of Diamonds and throw West in with the Spade to collect two Heart tricks. But the declarer saw there was a chance of making an overtrick if West had the Diamond holding as well. As this was so, the Ace of Clubs squeezed West in three suits. West chose to unguard the Diamond ten, and now South played the nine of Diamonds and as the six of Diamonds holds the trick. [See why the seven of Diamonds was discarded?]. West is again subjected to an automatic squeeze.

Thus South made ten beautiful tricks. Study this hand carefully—it is well worth it.

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CHELTEHAM CLUB TROPHIES TOURNAMENT

June 10th-15th

Challenge Cup, Open Singles: G. E. P. Jackson won both Draw and Process.
Stella Cup, Level Singles. Winner: D. G. B. Harries.
Murray-Menzies Cup, Handicap Singles, 7 or over. Winner: Miss R. M. Allen.
Bellairs Bowl, Handicap Singles. 11 or over. Winner: Miss L. Wilkinson.
Challenge Bowl, Handicap Singles. Winner: Miss R. M. Allen.
Peel Memorial Cup, Handicap Doubles. Winners: Comdr. D. W. Roe and Mrs. A. M. Daniels.

OBITUARY

LT.-COL. S. MATHEWS

On the passing of Lt.-Col. S. Mathews last Autumn Cheltenham Croquet Club sustained a severe loss. Last season Col. Mathews acted as Tournament Secretary to the satisfaction of all, and on the resignation of Major R. D. Marshall, the Committee asked him to become Secretary. He took up his new duties with much enthusiasm, spent a great deal of time and energy looking after the lawns, and he had the confidence and affection of the members of the Club. Losing him was a severe blow to the Cheltenham Croquet Club. We offer deepest sympathy to Mrs. Mathews and her sons.

G. W. SOLOMON

With the passing of G. W. Solomon the croquet world has suffered a great loss. He was a good, intelligent player. He won the All-England Handicap convincingly a few years ago and only last year won a level singles at Parkstone. But George Solomon brought more than croquet to the courts. Besides enthusiasm and sportsmanship he brought a kindness and a gentleness which endeared him to the hearts of all right-thinking people. His presence at the various tournaments and his ready wit will be sorely missed.

MRS. A. H. de COURCY HAMILTON

We regret to announce the death of Mrs. de Courcy Hamilton which took place at Cheltenham on 29th May at the great age of 95. To the present generation of croquet players she will be best remembered at the Cheltenham Club following with intense concentration her daughter (Mrs. S. Mathews) play. Before coming to Cheltenham she was for many years a member of the Southsea Club, and it is not long ago she wrote in *Croquet* an account of the game in South Africa, where she won a Championship.

MR. W. E. BELCHER

We regret to announce the death of Mr. W. E. Belcher, of the Chelmsford and Mid-Essex Club. He was a popular and hard working Treasurer and will be very much missed, having been a member since the start of the Club.

CORRESPONDENCE

Another Variation

Dear Sir,

I was interested to read Mr. Behrens' letter in your June issue. I too have found his method of playing what amounts to a doubles, both with and against the same player, to be the most satisfactory way of giving 14 plus bisquers something constructive to do. A modification of this is for a low bisquer to take one ball of each of two learners who are opposing each other; for teaching purposes I think this has some advantage over a proper four.

In both these methods, as Mr. Behrens says, the low bisquer often has several consecutive turns but the reason for this can be explained to his pupils and it has the advantage of enabling him to keep his eye in and so making fewer mistakes himself! The instructor also has the opportunity of playing two different types of game himself at the same time, keeping up with one of his partner's and getting the other round first with optimistic hopes of finishing the game in one or two turns with a peel or two.

Yours truly,

G. L. ORMEROD

Chess

Dear Sir,

As a keen Chess player I was interested to read Mr. A. V. Camroux's article drawing attention to the undoubted affinity which exists between Croquet and Chess, both of which certainly involve a battle of wits.

How pleasant it would be, if, as Rover suggests, the Chess Circle of the C.A. could be revived. Which would be one means of keeping Croquet friends in touch with each other during winter months. Suggestions: Inter-Zonal Chess Tournaments or Postal Chess.

Yours faithfully,

DORIS LOCKS LATHAM

Your Turn to Play

by Tactician

For the June problems Tactician has received but one answer, that from "Dogged" who has demonstrated the fact that his pseudonym has been well chosen, since his dogged determination to face up to the problems set, led him to realize that there was a tiny error in the diagram, i.e. Blue should have been between the uprights of the Penultimate, and not through this hoop. Dogged did not allow himself to be deceived by this error, and his solutions have received full marks.

Tactician much hopes that the problems set have been of interest to a wider circle of players than those who have actually troubled to forward solutions.

Since writing the above Tactician has received two more entries for whom the following marks have been awarded:— Lucky Dip, Question 1, 4; Question 2, 3. Hoopee, Question 1, 5; Question 2, 3.

June Competition

Full marks for question 1, 5. For question 2, 4. Dogged: Question 1—5. Question 2, 4.

Solution to problem 1

Black should play on to West (or East) Boundary, taking care to give his opponent an open shot. This appears to offer the most likely possibility of regaining control.

Solutions to problem 2

(A) Red trickles up to Black, getting if possible about a yard S.S.W. of him and takes a bisque.

(B) Lift Yellow to Baulk A. Roquet Red gently. Send Red to Hoop 4 and go to Black—rush Black towards Hoop 2. Send Black to Hoop 3 and go to Blue. Roquet Blue and send Blue to centre of ground. Join Black and take a bisque.

(C) Try to roquet Black with an exceedingly gentle stroke. In case of failure, take a bisque.

(D) Leave Black at Hoop 5, and Blue at Hoop 3.

(E) Leave Red at Hoop 3, Black W. of Hoop 5 and Blue E. of Hoop 4.

(F) Cross-wire Black and Blue at Hoop 6.

(You will notice that solutions D, E, F, given in brief, unlike solutions A, B, C, need no bisque.)

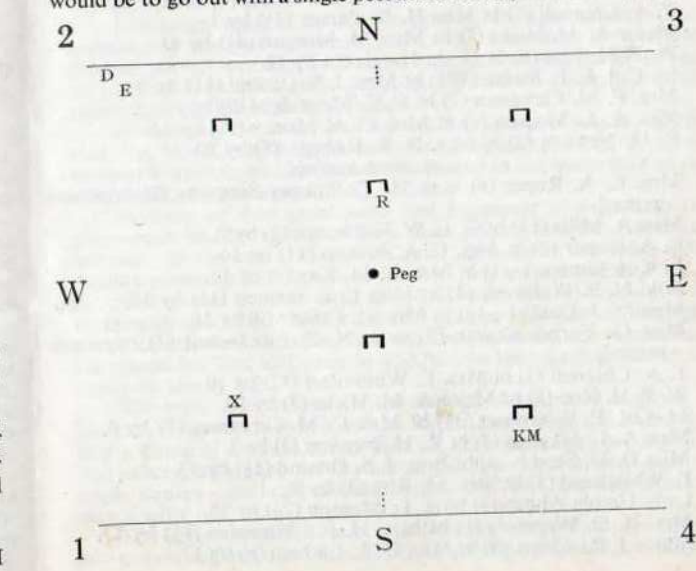
July Competition

Problem 1

Blue is for Hoop 5, with a rush on Black to his Hoop. Blue and Black are at M and K. Red is at R a yard in front of Hoop 6. Yellow is in the second corner at D. Blue intends to go to 4-back, and finish his turn by "cross-wiring" his opponents at the Peg leaving his own balls in the fourth corner. How should Blue play his turn?

Problem 2

"Smith" playing Blue and Black is a scratch player. Blue is for 1-back, Black for the Rover. "Jones" playing Red and Yellow is a novice (handicap ramp of 12!). Having both balls for the Peg, Red has attempted a peg-out, having two bisques in hand. Yellow has missed the Peg and come to rest at X near 2-back. In a fit of mental aberration, "Jones" has pegged out Red. Blue and Black are at D and E in the second corner with a rush on 1-back. In view of "Jones's" two bisques, "Smith's" only chance of winning would be to go out with a single peel at the Rover, how can he do it?



Seven

ENTRIES AND DRAW

All Entries with Fees for Events 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6, with the addresses of the competitors (and telephone number) must reach the Secretary, Croquet Tournament, The Hurlingham Club, Fulham, S.W.6, by first post on **Wednesday, 31st July**. Entries for Events 3, 7 and 8, will close at noon on **Tuesday, 6th August**. The Draw for Events 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6, will take place at the Club on **Wednesday, 31st July**, at 2.30 p.m.; for other Events as announced on the ground.

GENERAL

The Committee reserves the right of altering the conditions and refusing entries without assigning a reason.

Flat-soled footwear must be worn. Play will commence at 10 a.m. daily (except Mondays, 10.30) and continue till 7.30 p.m. if necessary.

Competitors will be made Honorary Members of the Club for the duration of the Tournament.

At least six Lawns will be provided. Luncheons, Teas and Dinners can be obtained at the Club. There will also be a Snack Bar.

CROQUET PUTTING COMPETITION

There will be a Putting Competition with Croquet Mallets and Balls on the Club Putting Course from 7th to 14th August (excluding the week-end). Entrance Fee, 1s. per round. Prizes will be given according to number of entries.

THE CHALLENGE CUPS, GILBEY CUP AND GOLF CROQUET CUPS

Will be played for at **The Roehampton and Hurlingham Clubs** on **Thursday, August 15th, to Saturday, August 24th**

Committee.—The Tournament Committee of the Croquet Association.

Manager and Handicapper.—Miss D. A. Lintern.

Referee.—F. H. Fisher.

Assistant Manager and Referee (at Hurlingham).—Miss A. E. Mills.

Secretary.—The Secretary, C.A., 4 Southampton Row, London, W.C.1.

EVENTS

OPEN TO ASSOCIATES ONLY

THE CHALLENGE CUPS

- FIRST DIVISION. THE ROEHAMPTON CHALLENGE CUP (Open).** Entrance Fee, 11s. 6d. This event will be played on the "Two Life" system. Holder: W. P. Ormerod.
- SECOND DIVISION. THE COUNCIL CHALLENGE CUP.** Open to Associates handicapped at 0 to 2 bisques inclusive. Entrance Fee, 9s. 6d. Matches of single games except that matches best of three games will be played in the semi-final (if time permits) and final. Level play. Law 44 partially suspended. Holder: Miss E. J. Warwick.
- THIRD DIVISION. THE LUARD CHALLENGE CUP.** Open to Associates handicapped at 2½ to 4½ bisques inclusive. Entrance Fee, 9s. 6d. Matches of single games throughout. Holder: Mrs. H. J. Collins.
- FOURTH DIVISION. THE RECKITT CHALLENGE CUP.** Open to Associates handicapped at 5 to 7½ bisques inclusive. Entrance Fee, 9s. 6d. Matches of single games throughout. Level play. Holder: Mrs. E. Haigh Smith.
- FIFTH DIVISION. THE STEVENSON CHALLENGE CUP.** Open to Associates handicapped at 8 bisques or over. Entrance Fee, 9s. 6d. Matches of single games throughout. Level play. Holder: Major F. Hill-Bernhard.

N.B.—Law 44 suspended in Events 3, 4 and 5. No competitor may enter for more than one of the above events. Events 1 to 5 will be played under the 18-point variation, starting at 5th hoop.

- THE "GILBEY" CUP HANDICAP SINGLES.** This event will be drawn in four blocks. "A", "B", "C" and "D" according to handicaps. Entrance Fee, 9s. 6d. Matches of single games throughout. To qualify for the "Gilbey" Cup the winner of "A" v. "B" will play the winner of "C" v. "D". Holders: The Event, Mrs. E. Haigh Smith; Block "A", W. P. Ormerod; Block "B", Miss E. J. Warwick; Block "D", Major F. Hill-Bernhard.

- HANDICAP DOUBLES.** Combined handicaps of 1 bisque or over. Entries should be made in pairs. Entrance Fee, 9s. 6d. each person. Matches of single games throughout.

- GOLF CROQUET SINGLES. THE "ASCOT" CHALLENGE CUP.** Open to all. Entrance Fee, 4s. 6d. The competition will be played under the Official Rules of Golf Croquet. Played in two blocks according to handicaps; the winners of the blocks playing off to decide the winner of the Cup. Holder: R. Tingey.

- GOLF CROQUET DOUBLES. THE "DELVES BROUGHTON" CHALLENGE CUPS.** Presented by the late Sir Delves Broughton. Open to pairs with a combined Croquet handicap of not less than scratch. Entrance Fee, 4s. 6d. The competition will be played under the Official Rules of Golf Croquet. Entries should be made in pairs. Holders: R. Tingey and Maj.-Gen. F. H. N. Davidson.

CONDITIONS

Hoops 3½ in. wide. Jaques' Championship Balls will be used. Five courts will be provided at Roehampton. Competitors must be prepared to play at Hurlingham if required to do so. Flat-soled footwear must be worn.

ENTRIES

The entries accompanied by the Entrance Fees, for Events 1 to 6, 8 and 9, must be sent to the Secretary, C.A., so as to reach her not later than the first post on **Monday, August 12th**, and for Event 7 (in pairs) by 11 a.m. on **Saturday, August 17th**.

Competitors must give with their entries, the address at which messages will reach them during the Tournament. Standard Entry Forms should be used.

DRAW

The Draw for the Challenge Cups and Gilbey Cup will take place at 4 Southampton Row, London, W.C.1, on **Monday, 12th August**, at 11 a.m. The Draw for Event 7 (Handicap Doubles) will take place at the Roehampton Club at noon on **Saturday, August 17th**.

PLAY

Play will begin at 10 a.m. daily, unless otherwise notified, and continue until 7 p.m. or later if necessary.

HUNSTANTON

THE SIXTIETH HUNSTANTON OPEN CROQUET TOURNAMENT

Will be held on the Club Grounds on **Monday, September 2nd, 1957** and five following days

(Under C.A. Laws and Regulations)

Committee.—Mrs. R. C. J. Beaton, Mrs. Edmund Reeve, C. B. Bird, Miss Gillespie, J. G. Warwick, Dr. Lewis.

Manager.—C. B. Bird.

Referee and Handicapper.—Mrs. Edmund Reeve.

Hon. Secretary.—Mrs. B. C. Perowne, 65 Victoria Avenue, Hunstanton.

EVENTS

- OPEN SINGLES (Class "A").** Draw and Process. The Norfolk Challenge Cup. Entrance Fee, 11s.
 - LEVEL SINGLES (Class "B").** Law 44 suspended. THE HUNSTANTON CHALLENGE BOWL. 2 to 6½ bisques. Entrance Fee, 8s.
 - HANDICAP SINGLES (Class "C").** 7 bisques and over. Entrance Fee, 8s.
 - HANDICAP SINGLES. "X.Y.Z." INGLEBY CHALLENGE CUP.** Entrance Fee, 11s.
 - HANDICAP DOUBLES.** No players of 2 handicap or less may partner each other. Entrance Fee, 8s.
- At the discretion of the Committee, any of these events may be played on the American system if number of entries warrants it. No player may enter for more than one of Events 1, 2 and 3.

CONDITIONS

Entries for 1, 2, 3 and 4, must reach the Secretary not later than the last post on **Thursday, August 29th**, and for Event 5 on **Tuesday, September 3rd**, with application for leave, which will not be granted after 12 noon on **Monday**, unless the exigencies of the Draw permit.

Entrance Fees must be paid at the time of entry.

THE DRAW

The Draw for Events 1, 2, 3 and 4, will take place in the Club's Pavilion on **Saturday, August 31st**, at 5 p.m.

Play will begin at 10 a.m. on each day and continue to 7 p.m. Standard setting and Jaques' Championship balls will be used. Five courts will be available.

Hotels.—Golden Lion, Garden House, Ken Hill View, Caltofts, Austin St. There are also the L'Estrange Arms and the Lodge Hotels at Old Hunstanton one mile away.

BRIGHTON, 1957

THE FORTY-FOURTH AUTUMN TOURNAMENT

MONDAY, AUGUST 26th, and FIVE FOLLOWING DAYS

To be held on the Lawns of the Sussex County Croquet Club, Victoria Road, Southwick, Sussex

(Under the Laws and Regulations of the C.A.)

Manager, Handicapper and Referee.—Miss D. D. Steel.

Hon. Secretary.—F. E. Corke, 60 Southwick Street, Southwick.

EVENTS

- OPEN SINGLES ("Two Lives" system). THE SUSSEX GOLD CUP** presented by the late E. R. Harrison. Entrance Fee, 11s.
- LEVEL SINGLES (CLASS B).** Law 44 suspended. THE FRANC CUP presented by Mrs. H. Franc. Open to players handicapped 2 to 5 bisques. Entrance Fee, 8s.
- HANDICAP SINGLES (CLASS 3). THE MONTEITH BOWL** presented by the late G. C. Branthisaite. Open to players handicapped 5½ bisques and over. Entrance Fee, 8s.
- HANDICAP SINGLES. THE MAURICE RECKITT BOWL** presented by Mr. M. B. Reckitt. Entrance Fee, 8s.
- HANDICAP DOUBLES.** Combined handicap not less than 2. Entrance Fee, 8s. each partner.

All games in Event 5 to start at No. 3 hoop.

ENTRIES

Players may not enter for more than one of Events 1, 2 or 3. Entries for 1, 2, 3 and 4, must reach the Hon. Secretary by first post on **Thursday, August 22nd**, but may close earlier if necessary.

THE DRAW

The Draw for 1, 2, 3 and 4, will take place at Southwick on **Thursday, August 22nd**, at 2.30 p.m., and Event 5 on **Tuesday, August 27th**.

PLAY

Play will commence at 10 a.m. and continue till 6.30 p.m. or later if necessary. No leave will be granted later than 12 noon, **Monday**.

GENERAL

Standard setting, 3½ inch hoops and Jaques' "Eclipse" Balls will be used. Ten Courts will be available.

Flat-soled footwear must be worn. Competitors will be made hon. members of the Club during the Tournament.

TRANSPORT

Green buses along Brighton Front leave the Palace Pier every seven minutes. The 9.30 bus arrives Southwick, Grange Road, 9.40 a.m. From Worthing bus service every quarter of an hour and train service to Southwick four times an hour.

BRIGHTON (UNOFFICIAL)

An Unofficial Tournament will be held on **MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 2nd, and FIVE FOLLOWING DAYS** (Under C.A. Laws and Regulations).

Manager and Handicapper.—Major J. R. Dibley.

Hon. Sec.—F. E. Corke, 60 Southwick Street, Southwick, Sussex.

EVENTS

- HANDICAP SINGLES.** 5½ and under. Entrance Fee, 8s.
- HANDICAP SINGLES.** 6 to 8½. Entrance Fee, 8s.
- HANDICAP SINGLES.** 9 and over. Entrance Fee, 8s.
- HANDICAP SINGLES. ("X.Y.")** 0 and over. Entrance Fee, 8s.
- HANDICAP DOUBLES.** Combined Handicap to be not less than 5. Entrance Fee, 8s.

All games in Event 4 will start at No. 3 hoop.

Entries for 1, 2 and 3, must reach the Hon. Secretary not later than **first post, Thursday, August 29th**.

The Draw for Events 1, 2 and 3, will take place at Southwick on **Thursday, August 29th**, and for Event 4 at 2.30, **Tuesday, September, 3rd**.

Luncheons and Teas will be obtainable in the Club canteen. Extra event if time permits.

CHELTENHAM

N.O. TOURNAMENT, 1957

To be held on the Club Lawns, Old Bath Road, on **Monday, September 9th** and five following days

EVENTS

- OPEN SINGLES (Two Lives).** (Law 44 partially suspended.) Entrance Fee, 8s. 6d.
- LEVEL SINGLES (Law 44 suspended).** 3 bisques or more. Entrance Fee, 6s.
- HANDICAP SINGLES.** 5½ bisques to 9 bisques. Entrance Fee, 6s.
- HANDICAP SINGLES.** 10 bisques or over. Entrance Fee, 6s. No competitor may enter for more than one of the above.
- HANDICAP SINGLES (X.Y. system).** Entrance Fee, 8s. 6d.
- HANDICAP DOUBLES.** Unrestricted. Entrance Fee, 6s. each player.

Entries to Comdr. D. W. Roe, Cheltenham Croquet Club, Old Bath Road, Cheltenham, by midday, **September 5th**, Draw 2 p.m. same day. Cheques to be made payable to the Cheltenham Croquet Club.

Manager, Referee and Handicapper.—Miss M. M. Paulley.

Play will begin daily at 10 a.m. or earlier if necessary.

Light luncheons and teas available.



works wonders

After your "Doubles" (and "Singles" too!)
drink a **DOUBLE DIAMOND!**