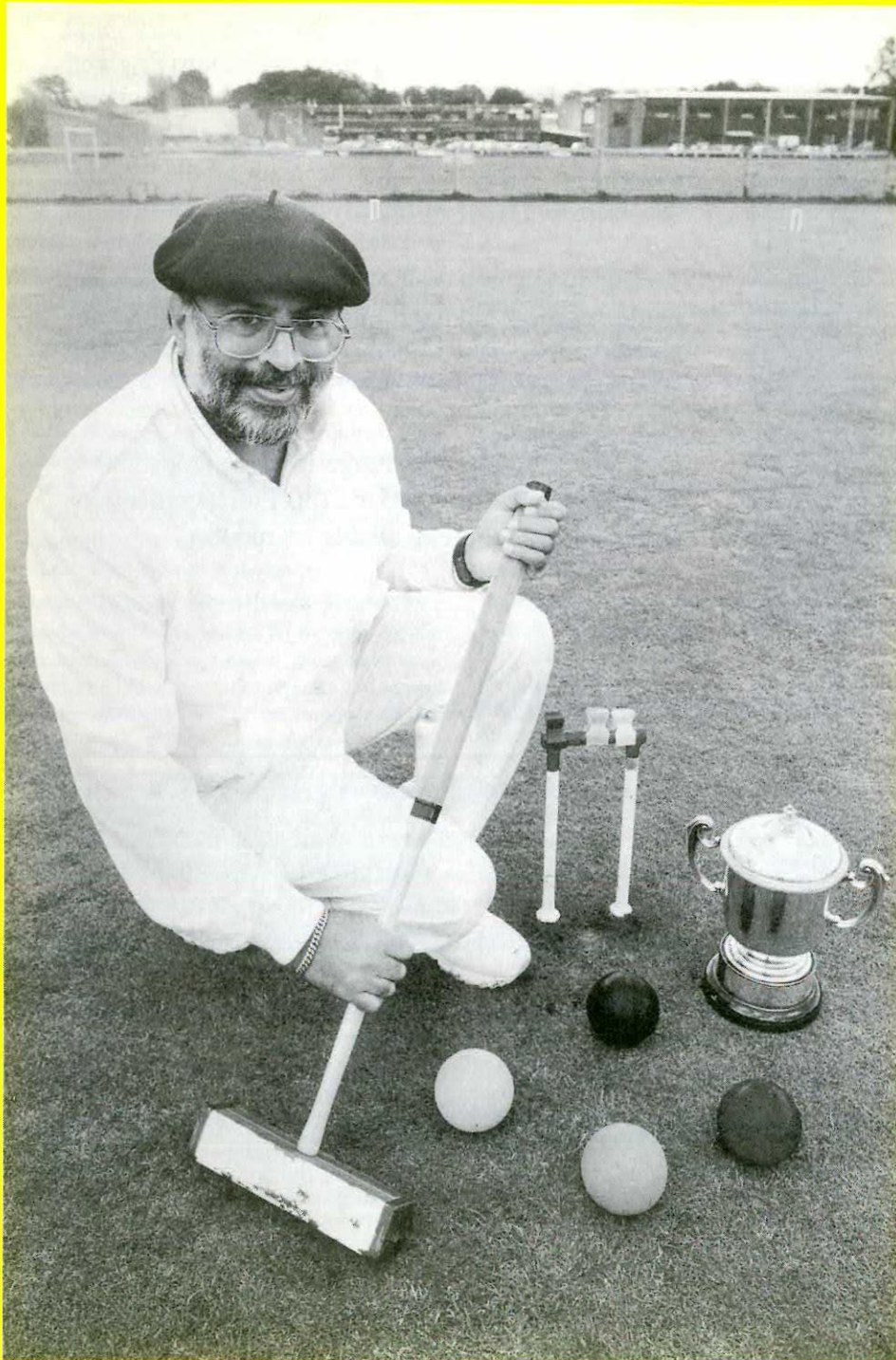


The Croquet Gazette

Issue 264

November 1999



IN THIS ISSUE

Chairman's Column

News
& Information

As It Was

Letters

The Groundsman

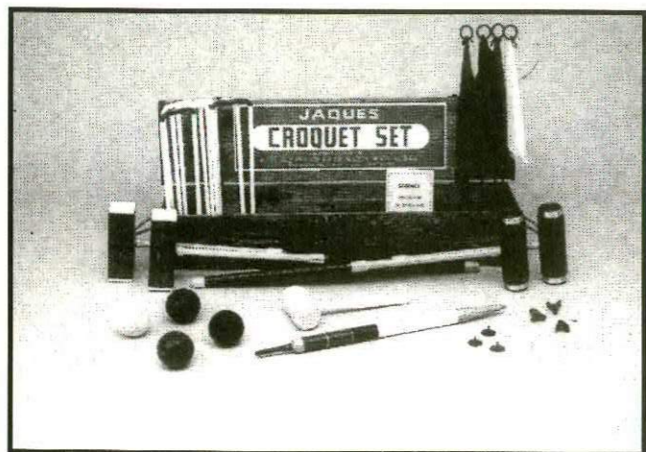
Tournament Reports

Handicap Alterations

End of Season
Rankings 1999

Selection Events

Federation Round-Up



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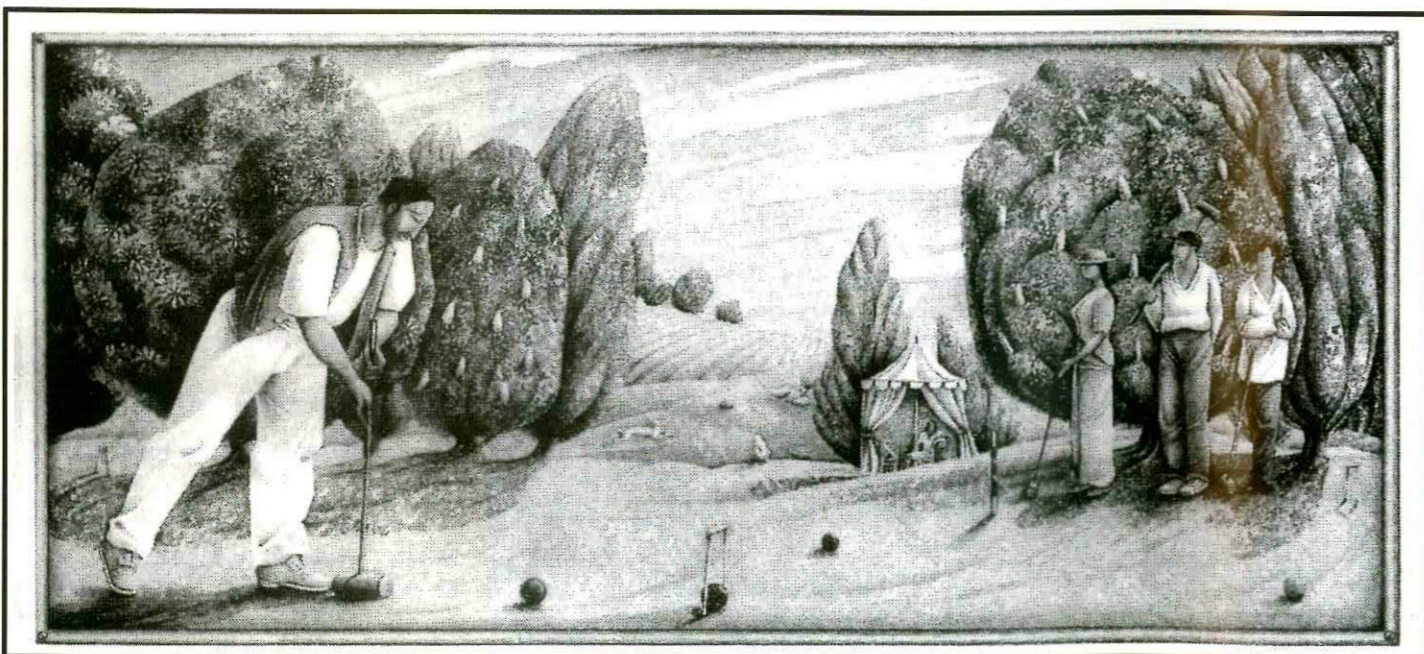


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Specific questions or queries should be sent direct to the relevant CA official, e.g. Laws questions to the chairman of the Laws Committee.

Copy Details

General copy and contributions should be sent direct to the editor. If they are sent on floppy disk please ensure they are in 'text' format. If sent via email please place the contribution in the body of the email, or if an attachment is necessary please ensure that it is in 'text' format. Typed work or clear handwriting is also acceptable. Please note that email contributions should be sent directly to the editor and not posted to the Nottingham list.

Photographs are always required. Both black and white or colour prints can be utilised as well as slides. 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 and that all relevant details are submitted.

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

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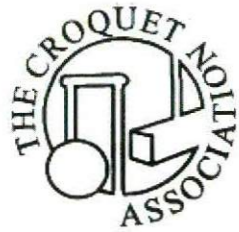
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THE CROQUET GAZETTE



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Front Cover: Abdul Ahmad of the Pendle Club, winner of the 1999 All England Handicap. (Photo courtesy of East Lancashire Newspapers.)

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Disclaimer

The opinions expressed in the Croquet Gazette are those of the editor and contributors. The Croquet Association is not responsible for statements other than those clearly defined as being made on behalf of the Croquet Association.

CONTENTS

CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN	4
CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT	5
GOODBYE & THANKS	6
LETTERS	7
OBITUARIES	8
CROQUET ON THE WEB	8
SELECTION EVENTS	9
FEDERATION ROUND-UP	12
OBITUARY	15
NEWS & INFORMATION	16
LETTERS	17
CA NEWS	18
END OF SEASON RANKINGS 1999	19
TOURNAMENT RESULTS	20
AS IT WAS	22
THE GROUNDSMAN	22
HANDICAP ALTERATIONS	23
AROUND & ABOUT	24

Chairman's Column

Well, once again an annual general meeting has passed and once again we have a new chairman. I would like to pay tribute here to the retiring chairman Bill Arliss for the work that he has done for council. He took over the role of chairman under difficult circumstances with the untimely death of Stephen Badger. Since then he has worked with dedication and enthusiasm during a time of considerable change within the association.

I thought that in my first column I would say a few words about some of these changes. The most significant as far as members are concerned happened at the annual general meeting. Now, as well as an individual membership, clubs themselves can be members and have a vote. This means that ALL croquet players, as long as they are members of an affiliated club will have a voice through their club.

There have been other changes too. The structure of the Croquet Association Council has been modified considerably. The purpose of these changes is to streamline procedures so that things will get done more quickly. Instead of items being discussed in sub-committees then passed back to council who then discuss the whole thing again, often reversing the sub committee decision, the main council will simply decide overall policy. This policy will then be passed as appropriate to committees, who may then work independently of council provided that they remain within the bounds of the policies set. The old finance and general purposes committee has been replaced by a management committee which will oversee and monitor each committee's progress throughout the year. There are also two new committees, administration and membership. The first of these will deal with CA Office matters while the second as its name



implies will deal with the subject of membership. Membership is of particular concern to me because for a number of years now we have seen little or no increase in our membership and this is not good for our future. The membership committee and the marketing committee will be actively searching to find solutions to this problem. They need your help so if you know a way of recruiting new members that has been particularly successful, get in touch, contact points are shown in the Gazette.

Another point of particular concern to me is communication. Communication between council and membership. With modern technology such as the Internet is very easy to express your view. However expressing your view on an Internet board does not guarantee that that view reaches the correct channel. I am not trying to stifle free speech, far from it but if you are just for example, unhappy about the way that the men's and women's championships is run then tell the tournament committee chairman and perhaps something can get done. Communication however is a two-way process so that as well as the members being able to talk to council and its committees I want to see information making its way from council to the membership.

In November we have a new secretary starting, Nigel Graves. I look forward to working with him over the next two years. I would like also to thank the retiring secretary Paul Campion for his sterling work. Paul is not truly retiring, as he has now joined council.

Don Gaunt

When

the mallets are hung up, and tournaments are memories to savour;
When Christmas Pudding and mince-pies have lost their flavour;
When the Bottle palls, and the conversation's turning trivial,
And it's too much bother to keep the company convivial -

Then what you need at hand for creating a diversion
Is CROKEY, a test of skill in hard* or easy version.

When farewells are over, and you consult tomes to ponder
The intricacies of croquet, and your mind begins to wander,
Play CROKEY and investigate the scope for innovation,
To rub off on Croquet and enhance your reputation.

So give a stimulating board game for a Christmas treat.
Send for CROKEY by mail order. Put up those shopping feet.

*with Notation elucidated, and new rules for really clever players. Send for details.

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Chairman's Annual Report 1999

I think I can best summarise 1999 as a year of change. About 30 months ago my predecessor, Stephen Badger, formed the Planning Group whose task was to look at where the CA should be heading in the new millennium. As you will have seen from all the various articles in the Gazette and reports circulated to your clubs, the recommendations from the planning group have been circulated, discussed, disseminated, refined until they were ready for implementation. The second phase of the operation then started last year with the formation of our Constitution Working Party under the Chairmanship of Quiller Barrett. Many hours of midnight oil were spent by this group devising practical ways to implement the proposals. I can only offer Quiller and his helpers a massive vote of thanks for all they had to endure from outright rejections to requests for change upon change. I am pleased to say they survived and have prepared proposals in time for this meeting which have the approval of you Council. The plans are in two parts, those affecting the general membership and those relating to the internal organisation of the Council and its committees.

In the former case you have already received details of the proposed changes and the reasons behind them and we hope you can give your approval later in this meeting. The changes to the Council structure centre around the formation of a Management Committee comprising nine senior Council members. The task of this committee will be to co-ordinate all the activities within the CA on a week to week basis and leave the much larger Council to deal only with matters of policy. The aim of this reorganisation is to speed up the management of the CA affairs whilst still retaining accountability to the members through the Council. I have no doubt we shall find problems with the new structure as we proceed but fine tuning can gradually take place in the light of experience and I am sure we are starting out along the right path.

One of our plans that has come to fruition during the year is our web site. This went on line last March and I am pleased to say that the visits to the site are now running at an average of about 1300 visits per week although in last August we exceeded 3000 in one week. The site now covers descriptions of the game, the laws, a full listing of clubs, the Association and the Federations, the CA shop, tournaments and rankings. During this last season we have managed to keep an up-to-date record of all the national competitions on the site. There are many ways in which we can expand this site and your comments and suggestion are very welcome. The use of the Internet for transmission of emails has grown dramatically during the last year. The use



meetings by using the very rapid transmission of the Internet. This is very applicable to our law makers who have the need to exchange vast volumes of draft text. With the savings in postal charges we make in this area plus the increased product sales that our web site generates, the costs of running our connection to the internet has been saved many times over.

Recruitment to the Association is always difficult and this year's figures are far from satisfactory. In the reorganised Council committees, the existing Publicity Committee is now replaced by a Marketing committee with a much broader role, as its name would imply. Although some members believe that reducing costs of membership will increase numbers, I very much doubt this is true and believe that we still suffer from an image problem. In some ways I feel we are a victim of our own success. Our very top players are now so accomplished and almost faultless that top class games can very often appear to the layman totally boring. To really appreciate the game at the top level, one must have a knowledge of the scoring process and the difficulty of many of the shots, but even then the games become very predictable with the outcome really depending on possibly only two shots. I regret this simply does not impress the uninitiated and is not likely to bring many youngsters into our sport. I accept I may be considered heretical to some of the die-hards of Association croquet, by suggesting that golf croquet with its hard hitting and long distance shooting is more likely to raise initial interests. Get more people with mallets in their hands and I am sure those who want the more tactically demanding game will transfer to Association croquet. There are several amongst us who believe that golf croquet may also be more suitable for televising but this has still to be proved and is a task for our Marketing committee in the next year.

As some of you may know, we have had to recently move our office within the Hurlingham club. The club is undergoing a very major redevelopment of its facilities, which has meant that our present office will be required for other purposes. The move has only just been completed and we are now installed in a small office and a Portacabin at the rear of the club. Our space has increased slightly and our office staff appear quite happy with their new surroundings. In connection with our move I

of emails for committee work has expanded considerably during the last year. Not only can we save on postal charges by sending documents by email, we can in some cases remove the need for face to face

would like to pay tribute to the Hurlingham Club management who have helped considerably with the move and thus reduced the trauma that any move generates.

You will no doubt have seen our advertisement in the Gazette for a new Secretary. After four years in the job Paul has decided he wants to move on and I am pleased to be able to report the appointment of Nigel Graves as the new Secretary. Nigel started with us at the beginning of October and will take over the reins from Paul within the next few weeks. I would like to thank Paul for all his contributions to the Association, particularly the work he did with the media and the very good exposure we obtained during the last two years.

This is our first year for some time without governmental assistance. Every indication is that our budgeting is about correct and we can be self sufficient without grants, but I will leave our Treasurer to let you have more detail on this subject.

As many of you may have noticed from the Internet and other publications, the International Laws Committee (ILC) ran into some serious problems earlier this year on the revamping of the Association croquet laws. This body which has representatives of the big four croquet nations, England, Australia, New Zealand and the USA had been charged with updating the laws and removing anomalies. Basically the problems arose from a fundamental difference in philosophy between ourselves and the Australian representative on the committee. In essence the CA's view is that the laws should be relatively simple but backed up by a series of published case law decisions. The Australians on the other hand wanted to rewrite the laws to be complete in themselves and cover every possibility. Whilst this may be an ideal concept we believe it is far from practical and can never be achieved. After a series of long distance phone calls and emails, agreement was reached with all four parties to adopt the CA's suggested approach and hopefully their work may be brought to a conclusion at a meeting during the Mac Robertson Shield next year in New Zealand.

The holding of the World Golf Croquet Championships in October 98 at Leamington most certainly stimulated the general interest in Golf croquet. With the more flamboyant style of play that was seen at these championships, I believe many more croquet players came to realise that golf croquet could be a game in its own right with its own tactics and not simply a game for those who wanted only social croquet or a starter game for Association croquet. The situation was also somewhat clouded by the introduction of the WCF rules for this format of the game. Whilst it was realised that if we intend to enter international golf croquet competitions, our players will have to be fully familiar with these new rules and develop the tactics to suit, universal introduction of the new rules at this stage would bring some fundamental changes into the game which may not be acceptable to all. To ensure the new rules were not rejected

purely because they were changes, the CA introduced a trial of the WCF rules for one year in all CA competitions. A questionnaire has been circulated to all clubs to gather views on the new rules and as a basis for recommendations for future play in this format of the game. We have already received many replies and will be publishing any analysis of the replies and the recommendations of the golf committee in the Gazette early in the New Year. I am fully aware that there are very passionate views held both for and against the new rules and have no doubt that we may face some questions at the end of this meeting. I can only assure you that all views will be taken into account and the needs of both the competitive and social players will be considered.

To meet the needs of the increased interest in golf croquet, new competitions will be introduced next year. A new Open Golf Croquet Championship is planned for June to be held at Southwick; an inter-club golf croquet tournament along the line of the Association Inter Club event is instituted; the normal internal championships will take double the number of entrants and will be played on four lawns at Nottingham at the end of July. We are also aware that a number of clubs are introducing golf events as part of existing tournaments but also as new tournaments. With all the additional games of golf croquet, we hope that some meaningful ranking of golf croquet players' performance may also be possible next year.

The tournament programme this year has not included any world championships for either Association or Golf croquet, the only addition to the normal CA programme being the European Croquet Federation's Golf croquet championship which was run by the CA on behalf of the ECF at Leamington Spa earlier this month. Whilst October may not be an ideal time of the year for such an event, the event was held on bowling greens and had to be played after the bowlers had finished their season but it does show the possibility that the two sports can live together. Possibly of more import, the event was sponsored by the Warwickshire District Council. This is their second venture into croquet and could open up other possibilities for the promotion of croquet events by similar bodies.

The Association Croquet Inter Counties Championship was over subscribed this year with a ballot having to be made for the spare places. With the extreme popularity of this event, the tournament committee has made changes to the eligibility criteria which gives priority to counties within the domain of the CA. (Please note the CA rules changes on which you will be voting later in this meeting will include Wales in the Domain of the CA) Whilst your tournament committee would like to expand this tournament further, the practicality of obtaining more lawns local to Southwick/Eastbourne and of devising a workable programme that would include the divisional format does not seem possible. Twenty two entries would seem at present to be the maximum we can handle.

This year's Open Championship was won by Reg Bamford in a five game finish against Robert Fulford. In the open doubles, the number one seeds, Fulford and Clarke were put out in their second game by Farthing and Patmore who eventually went on to claim the title. Reg Bamford was also successful in the Men's Championship with Beatrice McGlen claiming the Ladies' title. David Maugham did not manage a clean sweep this year in the area championships and only claimed the East and West with Simon Williams from Ireland taking the Southern and Robert Fulford the Northern.

Our indoor programme last winter was somewhat curtailed when the RAF decided to carry out major maintenance on their gymnasium at Innsworth and this limited our 'On the Mat' tournaments to one but it provided an exciting weekend.

As all tournament players will know, almost all of the major competitions this year have been played with the Barlow GT balls which the CA has adopted as their standard following the loss of the Jaques Eclipse balls. I have been informed by our Equipment Committee Chairman that a new Jaques ball has now passed its acceptance tests and will be available as an alternative to the Barlow GTs. I must however point out that the new Jaques ball is a solid plastic ball as is the Barlow and is not a revival of the old Eclipse ball.

The CA has now purchased two of the mini-mats for use by all registered clubs, one of the mats being based in the south and one in the north. For practical purposes these are controlled by the SE and Croquet North Federations. They are 18ft x 24 ft but are fitted with full sized hoops. Surprisingly all varieties of shots can be played on these carpets and they are ideal for demonstration of the game and even indoor competition. Several clubs have borrowed the carpets during 1999 and these same clubs are the first to be making bookings for 2000. My own club, Southwick, used one of these mats located in a shopping centre atrium as a croquet promotion and it proved a very successful recruitment tool.

Next year will of course herald in the new millennium and the CA is proposing to repeat the very successful handicap doubles tournament that was held during our Centenary year at Cheltenham.

This report will virtually be my last major task as Chairman of your Association. It has been a very hectic period but I have thoroughly enjoyed it. I would like to thank all those who have worked with me for the last two years, advised me when they felt I was on the wrong path and generally given me their support. May I wish my successor all the very best for the next two years.

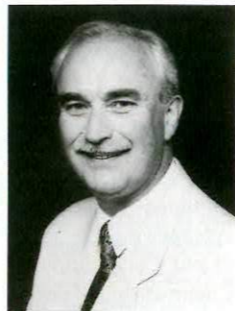
Before I close, I have one very pleasant duty to perform. This year sees the retirement from Council of a member who has given many years of service to croquet. His name has become almost synonymous with the Veterans' tournament and although he has retired from

Council, we hope to meet him around for some time to come, especially at the 'Vets'. To recognise his services to croquet, Council would like to award him the Council Medal and I would therefore ask Paul MacDonald if he would come up to receive this award.

Bill Arliss

Chairman of Council

Goodbye & thanks from Paul Campion



As many of you know, I shall be leaving my post as Secretary of the Croquet Association at the end of November, after almost six years in the office and three as Secretary. Over that time I have met so many helpful, friendly people in our sport around the country, and I take this opportunity to thank you all for making the years enjoyable and stimulating. I leave you in the capable hands of Nigel Graves, the new Secretary, who joined us in the office at the beginning of October; I am sure he will receive from all members the same support that you gave me.

My work as Secretary has been made all the easier by the help of my colleagues, Brian Macmillan the Commercial Agent, Janet and Shirley my assistants and members of the Council. I now join Council for a three-year term in my own right, so will still be at the centre of the Association's organisation at an exciting time in its development! I hope, too, to return to the tournament circuit, which I have neglected for some years, so look forward to meeting yet more players - specially new ones - actually on the lawns.

For the help of all readers who might be visiting our office and shop at the Hurlingham Club, please note that we have recently moved and you will no longer find us in the familiar green pavilion facing the cricket field. For the time being we have a new home in an office and spacious Portakabin at the eastern boundary of the club, just beyond the large white expanse of the indoor tennis courts. If in doubt, please check with any member of Hurlingham's staff who will direct you. As usual, it will be a good idea to phone before you plan a visit, just to ensure that one of the CA staff will be here to help you.

So, as I take my leave of the Secretary's chair, I send good wishes for a successful croquet future to you all and thank you again for a great six years, helping everyone to enjoy 'the best game in the world'!

Paul Campion

LETTERS

More variety means more contributions

Dear Editor

As a novice who has been playing spasmodically for only five years at a club of the same age, may I suggest the magazine might contain a bit more material aimed at beginners like me?

Our club operated for three years in someone's garden before the local council last year turned a corner of some playing fields into two presentable if sloping courts. We haven't been large enough up to now to affiliate to the CA or local federation, but hope to do so next year. We are recruiting hard, and I have suggested to other members that they might also join the CA as individual members. But I find it hard to interest people in the magazine, which would be their only direct benefit, as all the tournament reports and results and lengthy technical articles are quite beyond us.

It is my guess that half the readership must be of lesser mortals like us. So I would like to propose more 'people' features, some simple coaching articles with diagrams or photos, and 'development' articles like more ideas for publicising new clubs and attracting new members and an outline for inducting coaching programmes.

A review of available videos would be very helpful, as the ones formerly advertised in the magazine seem to have gone to ground. I would like to purchase some coaching videos for our club but know of none.

I hope these comments may be useful to you, thanks for all the hard work.

Sheila Page

Thank you for your comments. I fully agree with you, unfortunately it is very difficult, for some unknown reason, to get the type of articles that you and so many others would like. I won't promise to be able to instantly provide everything you have on your wish list but I will try to persuade the coaching committee to put some items together, likewise the Development Committee. The people articles will continue, even though Talking Croquet has taken a break in this issue. Perhaps this is the time I should make my annual plea for clubs and Federations to try to publicise what they have been doing. Your experiences, both good and bad, can be helpful to others - but only if you tell us about them.

Unfortunately the videos which were formerly advertised have for technical reasons been withdrawn from sale in this country, but I think they are still available

from Australia.Ed.

The wrong misconception

Dear Editor

It is with dismay and disbelief that we read the comments and criticism from Edgbaston on your choice of cover photographs for the May issue of the Gazette. Quite apart from the choice of language, which left a lot to be desired, the sentiments expressed are stupid and extreme.

The photograph taken on the summit of Mount Snowdon formed part of a publicity drive undertaken by the Southport and Birkdale club to attract new members for 1999. The Snowdon climb was chosen, and undertaken by five club members, precisely because it contradicted the conventional view of croquet as being played by a bunch of elderly elitists. We wanted to demonstrate that croquet players were capable of climbing Snowdon, and therefore appeal to a younger more active age group.

Other pre-season "prattish" activities included setting up an indoor carpet for a weekend in the middle of a shopping arcade and setting up short lawns on the playing field of the local girls' High School during an Open Day. None of these activities were "serious" or particularly "dignified" but they resulted in dramatically increased media coverage compared to previous years. By the end of the season we had increased our membership by twenty seven new members, all paid up and actively involved in club activities. If Edgbaston have attracted more this year I'm sure every club in the country would be interested to hear how they have done it!

Congratulations on the way the Gazette is presented, it stimulates debate and breathes new life into a sport that undoubtedly has an image problem, perpetuated, in part, by remarks akin to those of your correspondent. If croquet seriously wants to appeal to a larger audience and attract new players to the game it really must distance itself from this Luddite attitude displayed from the Midlands. Keep up the good work.

The Mountaineers
Southport & Birkdale

More mallet restrictions or no mallet restrictions?

Dear Editor

I refer to the letter/article suggesting amendments to the rule governing croquet mallets which would control their shape and possible construction, and so fall in line with the tight manufacturing or performance specification of all of the equipment.

The rules state that the end faces must be parallel and identical and have no playing advantage over a head made entirely of wood. It can be made of wood or any other non-metallic material.

These rules leave some room for development especially by players who enjoy making their own mallets.

First the construction of the mallet head. "It can be made of any wood or other non-metallic material". This presumably rules out any head made with a frame of any metal. Does this non-metallic rule outlaw the use of any metal either to bind the ends, such as brass bands, or inserts such as large pellets placed in the base or weights stuck to the top, or even loose pellets within the hollow head, a technique used in some hammers to improve the drawing force?

The current specification does not rule out solid nylon or other plastic material or resin impregnated material such as Tufnol as long as the required weight is achieved.

The first part of the rule covers the faces, which must be parallel and have identical playing characteristics, which rules out hard and soft ends. These identical playing characteristics can be achieved with nylon or Tufnol pads being glued to the end faces. But has any one measured whether these comply with the remainder of the specification "They must not give any playing advantage over a head made entirely of wood"? This not only brings into consideration the face but the whole mallet.

Of its own, the specification does not consider any particular aspect of the wood. Would a hardwood body faced with a softwood ply that could be easily removed have the same playing characteristics as an end grain faced solid boxwood mallet? If no metal of any sort was allowed in the head, there are only some 4 or 5 woods dense enough to provide the weight for a normal range of mallets.

Why should not the characteristic playing faces be put through the same bounce responses that the balls are made to undergo? I doubt if anyone has tested mallets in this way.

It is interesting that nothing is written about the shaft, its dimensions or characteristics. While wood was the norm it made little difference but now that exotic materials are being used, such as carbon fibre and metal, each with varying amounts of spring, it may be time to introduce restrictions before the latest mallet prices players out of the market.

Finally it may be best to leave the specification of the mallet entirely open and see where it leads, after all the other small ball sports are open for development.

Tony Miller

Thank you Brussels CC

Dear Editor

I should like through your columns to express my thanks to the Brussels Croquet Club at Genval & Croquet Federation of Belgium for their hospitality to my wife and me at a "Gastro-Croquet Weekend" over the August bank holiday.

For a fraction of the full cost we enjoyed five star accommodation at the Chateau du Lac, a six course gourmet meal in their two rosetted restaurant, and some enjoyable and most hospitable croquet on their attractively located lawn overlooking the fountain on the lake.

Continued on page 17

~ OBITUARIES ~

David Turner Coates (1942 - 1999)

David died unexpectedly on July 21st 1999, just three days after representing Worcester CC in a South West Federation match against Bristol.

He joined the Worcester club in 1988 after dabbling in garden croquet for a few years and it was soon apparent that he had a natural affinity for the game. David improved steadily over the years, becoming one of the select band of 'minus players' a couple of years ago. His other croquet achievements included playing at the Selectors' Weekend in 1998 and representing the CA against Ireland. Knowing David, though, what gave him most pleasure in croquet was his annual pilgrimage to the Inter-Counties - playing for and latterly captaining his beloved Yorkshire (in fact I can recall David fondly describing his first 'Yorkshire' hoop). Playing cricket for Yorkshire would have been his first choice but croquet wasn't a bad second.

David enjoyed a successful career in the construction and roofing industry, in which he was widely liked and respected. When he was made redundant from British Alcan in his early fifties, a situation that might have fazed a lesser man, David, in his quietly confident and pragmatic way set himself up as a roofing consultant with considerable success until he was enticed back to a full-time Directorship at Kelsey Roofing, just six months before his death.

David was an active player at both Worcester and Edgbaston and a regular at many tournaments around the country. We will miss his genial presence, his wry sense of humour and his many anecdotes and stories

delivered in the inimitable Coates way. Our thoughts go to his family and particularly to his wife Wendy.

Wendy would like to thank everyone for their kind wishes - she will reply to each person individually but there have been so many letters and cards that this may take some time. David put a lot of work into the Yorkshire Inter-Counties team, organising and fund-raising as well as playing and Wendy has expressed the hope that someone will see fit to take over this role so that Yorkshire will continue its presence at the Inter-Counties.

Roy Milner

Pat Woodhams

It is with regret and sorrow that I have to report the untimely death on Friday 1st October 1999 of Mrs Pat Woodhams, Stourbridge Croquet Club's Secretary/Treasurer.

Pat joined the club with Fred her husband in about 1973 and soon fell in love with the game. Although not a great player, never playing in outside tournaments except on a couple of occasions in the Longman Cup when we were short of the required handicaps. If she could have curbed her impetuosity she could have become a player of note: nevertheless she was a popular figure in club competitions on our lawns and in minor league games here in the Midlands. Her dress sense, style and flair on the lawns gave us all pleasure. She was the club's greatest supporter coming to as many games as she could and we all appreciated this.

Eventually she took over the reins of leadership doing both the jobs of Secretary and Treasurer. Most meetings were held at her home, especially the AGM's when we were entertained with simple wholesome refreshments. Pat was a good organiser and for many years arranged the annual club dinner and prize giving. On top of this she represented us on the local Sports Council and has helped gain concessions for the club. How the club is going to replace her I do not know: her example will be hard to emulate.

For a few weeks prior to her death she had been troubled with what was thought to be minor problems, which unfortunately increased and her daughter and son-in-law, both doctors, had her taken to their home so as to arrange further tests and scans: all had high hopes for good results but it was not to be.

The crematorium was filled with family, friends, players and associates testifying to her popularity. Our sincere condolences go out to Fred, Jo Peter and their families and the rest of their relations.

Des Willetts, Club Chairman.

CROQUET ON THE WEB

If you suffer from back problems you may be relieved to learn that the exercise of playing is better for you than sitting around watching. Simply make sure you bend your legs instead of your back and stretch your back periodically during a game.

The difference in standards of refereeing between UK and Australia was explained: down under a referee is assigned to be in charge of each game. This means that a player can't also be a referee so the referees tend to be those who are weaker players with a less firm grip on the laws.

Barlow GTs (the now *de facto* standard tournament ball in England) may be manufactured to include an air pocket that could cause it to roll eccentrically. Hairline cracks have also been observed but they seem identical on all balls and do not affect the playing characteristics. Explanations are sought.

Should practice or warming up be allowed before a match? The vast majority agrees that a 5-minute or so period should be allowed but, to preserve

Continued on page 12

Selection Events 1999

President's Cup

Bowdon 9 - 12 September 1999

Report by Bill Lamb

Robert Fulford won the President's Cup played at the Bowdon Club with a clean sweep. The courts were quickish and the hoops were firmly set and tight (1/32 to 1/16 of an inch). On occasions Robert was pressed very closely and presented with an opportunity to win in otherwise lost games. Nevertheless, a

clean sweep of all fourteen games is rare (only Hicks, Solomon J and Aspinall since the war have performed the same feat) Robert's superb shooting and rushing and overall control were demonstrated with 9 triples and a sextuple as a final flourish.

	Clarke	Comish	Fulford	Irwin	Maugham	Mulliner	Openshaw	Trimmer	Wins	Final Order
Chris Clarke		+6 -26TP	-22TP -24TP	-3 -26	-24TP -25TP	+6OTP -26TP	+16TP +12	+7 +4	6	5th
Steve Comish	-6 +26TP		-17TP -4	-9 -8	-7OTP -26TP	-15TP +26	+26TP -13	+6TP +17TP	5	6th
Robert Fulford	+22TP +24TP	+17TP +4		+10TPO +26TP	+24TP +3OTP	+26TP +1	+26TP +26TP	+2 +26SXP	14	1st
Colin Irwin	+3 +26	+9 +8	-10TP -26TP		-22TP +17	-20TP -26TP	+23TP +19TP	+25 +13TPO	9	3rd
David Maugham	+24TP +25TP	+7OTP +26TP	-24TP -3OTP	+22TP -17		+24TP +7TP	+26TP +5	+24 -11	10	2nd
Stephen Mulliner	-6OTP +26TP	+15TP -26	-26TP -1	+20TP +26TP	-24TP -7TP		+11TPO -17TP	+5 +7	7	4th
David Openshaw	-16TP -12	-26TP +13	-26TP -26TP	-23TP -19TP	-26TP -5	-11TPO +17TP		-6 -26TP	2	8th
Pete Trimmer	-7 -4	-6TP -17TP	-2 -26SXP	-25 -13TPO	-24 +11	-5 -7	+6 +26TP		3	7th

Chairman's Salver

Southport 9 - 12 September 1999

Report by Jeff Dawson

	Burge	Burrow	Cordingley	Cunningham	Dawson	Gaunt	Goacher	H-Wood	Wins	Final Order
Terry Burge			-9 +5	+25TP -3	-26TP +26TP	+5 -16	+16TP +11	-26 +26TP	7	2nd
Matthew Burrow				-20	-26TP	-21		+17TP		
Phil Cordingley	+9 -5			-4TP -23TP	-10TPO -16	+16 -3	-10TPO -26TP	-26TP +16TP	3	6th
Ed Cunningham	-25TP +3	+20	+4TP +23TP		-6 -11TP	-26 +23	-17TP +5	-14 +26	6	4th
Jeff Dawson	+26TP -26TP	+26TP	+10TPO +16	+6 +11TP		+12TP +26TP	+3 -17	+8TP +6	10	1st
Don Gaunt	-5 +16	+21	-16 +3	+26 -23	-12TP -26TP		-23TP +17	+23 +25	6	4th
David Goacher	-16TP -11		+10TPO +26TP	+17TP -5	-3 +17	+23TP -17		+23TP +14TP	7	2nd
David Harrison-Wood	+26 -26TP	-17TP	+26TP -16TP	+14 -26	-8TP -6	-23 -25	-23TP -14TP		3	6th

As I drove past Manchester the evening before we started, the heavens opened. Thoughts of Manchester and the internet discussion sprang to mind, but fortunately by the morning the rain had passed, and Thursday was

a day of brilliant sunshine, albeit with a cooling breeze off the sea. The rain had had an effect on the lawns, however, which started very slow, but sped up a little through the day. Hence the conditions were quite easy, but the hoops were

set tight and firm.

Day 2 got underway with the main drama of the event. Matt Burrow turned up looking like death warmed up, and although he started his game against David Goacher, as soon as he tried to play he had to abandon it. He was taken to the local hospital, where he was diagnosed with appendicitis, brought on by food poisoning from the curry he had the night before (beware of Wetherspoons!). The Doctor advised he would need to have the appendix removed within the next 2 weeks. Although he came back to watch a little at the end of the day, and was clearly beginning to feel better that he had that morning, that was the end of his tournament, and his results had to be scratched. The day was another of bright sunshine, a little warmer and the lawns a little faster than day 1. During the day Dawson remained undefeated, and clearly looked the man to watch with some return to past form. Goacher was also undefeated that day, and looked determined to make a contest of it.

Day 3 The third day was overcast, after a light rain in the night, and cooler than previously. The last round of the day was also affected by rain. Jeff Dawson finally succumbed in round 11 to Terry Burge, who had decided he was no longer in contention, and was relaxed enough to put in a rapid 26TP. However, the last round of the day decided the contest in Jeff's favour as he scraped home against David Harrison-Wood, while at the same time his nearest rival David Goacher was also defeated by Terry. This put him in a 3 game lead, with 2 rounds to play.

Overall, Jeff's solid play on days one and two carried him to a convincing victory, despite his inability to shoot straight on day 4. Of the other players, David Goacher looked the most determined, and completed the most TPs after Jeff (Jeff 7, David 6, Terry 4) but really there was little to separate them. Ed Cunningham was perhaps the most interesting player, as he looked like he could win anything (long roquets, great croquet strokes, easy style), but was prone to silly mistakes (perhaps playing too fast?). If he can overcome this, he should become a player at the very top of the game.

Matthew Burrow flew back to Jersey on Sunday, and immediately went to hospital there. They confirmed a grumbling appendix.

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**Spencer Ell
East Dorset, Parkstone 8 - 11 September 1999**

	Dyer	Kibble	Tibble	Aiton	Heap	Duckworth	Magee	LeMoignan	Wins	Final Order
Jeremy Dyer		-4	+22	+16	+17	-17	-3	+26	6	6th
David Kibble	+4		+3	-9	+16TP	-19	+12	-8	6	6th
Lionel Tibble	-22	-3		-23	-18	-26	-17	-18	2	8th
Keith Aiton	-16	+9	+23		-17	+11	+22	-26	9	2nd
Michael Heap	-17	-16TP	+18	+17		+7	-16	-15	7	4th
Ed Duckworth	+17	+19	+26	-11	-7		+4	-17	10	1st
David Magee	+3	-12	+17	-22	+16	-4		+17	9	2nd
Tony Le Moignan	-26	+8	+18	+26	+15	+17	-17		7	4th

**Selectors' Weekend
Nottingham 10 - 12 September 1999**

Played as a flexible Swis with K/O.

	Won	Played	%won
Richard White bt Robin Brown +6	4	8	50
James Death bt Tom Weston +16	4	8	50
Death bt White -3(t) +13 +26.	4	9	44
	4	9	44
James Death	9	11	82
Robin Brown	8	10	80
Richard White	7	10	70
Sam Tudor	5	8	62
Graham Gale	5	8	62
Roger Jenkins	5	8	62

**Barlow Bowl
Southwick 25th - 29th August 1999**

Report by Sarah Burrow

	Lines	Curry	Magee	Healy	Burrow	Bradforth	Ransom	Constable	Wins	Final Order
Ailsa Lines		+19	+25	+21	+16	-13	+8	-12	12	1st
Gail Curry	-19		+11	+25	+9	+3	+9	+3	10	3rd
Eileen Magee	-25	-11		-5	-16	-3	+9	-23	2	8th
Pauline Healy	-21	-25	+5		-22	-22	-14	+9	4	6th
Sara Burrow	-16	-23	+16	+22		+11	+2	+17	11	2nd
Louise Bradforth	+9	+13	+3	+22	-11		+22	-17	9	4th
Frances Ransom	-8	-5	-9	+14	-2	-22		+19	5	5th
Chris Constable	+12	-7	+23	-7	-17	+17	-19		3	7th



Ed Duckworth receiving the Spencer Ell Trophy from Roy Edwards of the Parkstone Club



James Death with the Ranelagh Weightman Cup, presented to the winner of the Selectors' Weekend. Photo by Tom Weston



Ailsa Lines (left) winner of the Barlow Bowl, with runner-up Sarah Burrow. Photo by Ian Lines

Reading my information sheet for the Barlow Bowl over breakfast I note there are actually eight entrants this year, and there are scheduled to be three games a day. Should be good! But where on earth is Kath Priestley? Has she been abducted by aliens? After her magnificent Longman win in 1998 I thought she would be here come hell or high water, also, as a definite evening partner in crime, I will now have to find some other poor souls to drag out and about after hours. Spirits lifted, or will be, when other names (particularly the party animal Audrey) come into focus and I disappear off in the usual rush along the sea front in the knowledge that whatever the day brings I am assured an evening of entertainment and debauchery.

**Longman Bowl
Southwick 26 - 29th August 1999**

Report by Diana Williamson

	Thursfield	Prichard	Mears	Brothers	Williamson	Whitaker	Wins	Final Order
Alison Thursfield		-15	-11	+12	+11	-9	6	2nd
Heather Prichard	+15		-8	+18	+6	-5	3	5th
Gene Mears	-25	+3		-5	-9	-7	8	1st
Diana Brothers	+11	+8		+10	+7	+9	1	6th
Diana Williamson	-12	-18	-10		-7	-5	6	2nd
Audrey Whitaker	-15	+5	-9		-4	-3	6	2nd

I drove down to Southwick for the Longman Bowl through torrential rain and thought that if the weather was to be like this for the next few days, the Barlow and the Longman would probably be rained off or else none of the games would be finished and we were all mad. I needn't have worried because, although there has been a storm on the first day of the Barlow, the weather wasn't so bad in Southwick and after the first day with hot sun followed by wind and then cold, the weather was sunny and hot for most of the time. The event was very enjoyable as usual and the lunches and teas excellent.

The Longman Bowl was reduced from 5 to 4 days this year as there were only 6 players and in view of the number of pegged down games (5 - 4 of which involved the same player), perhaps it might have been better to leave it at 5

After gabbing away, you know how it is with us ladies, for most of the morning, the Manageress, namely Christine Constable, finally succeeded in persuading everyone to start a game or two. Louise Bradforth had cunningly allowed herself to be poisoned by friends the night before and was seen over the morning demonstrating her sprinting prowess. Didn't seem to stop her playing ability mind you!

Sheila and Bruce were introduced to me, assumed they were Australians, smashing couple but as Sheila had a mallet with her I was slightly mystified as to where she fitted into the Tournament. Stupid me had yet again believed everything our esteemed Editor, Gail Curry, had told me and soon discovered the tall young lady was actually Ailsa Lines from Bowdon. More

**Longman Bowl
Southwick 26 - 29th August 1999**

Report by Diana Williamson

	Thursfield	Prichard	Mears	Brothers	Williamson	Whitaker	Wins	Final Order
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Diana Brothers	+11	+8		+10	+7	+9	1	6th
Diana Williamson	-12	-18	-10		-7	-5	6	2nd
Audrey Whitaker	-15	+5	-9		-4	-3	6	2nd

days to save Chris Constable worries about getting games finished and some of the early starts and late finishes.

Eileen Magee was promoted to the Barlow following Kath Priestley's withdrawal at the last minute due to a back problem and Diana Brothers of Southwick took part in her place. Diana's handicap is 9 but she hit in and played well enough to make us all work hard. Gene Mears hit in consistently well and played very carefully to win 8 of her 10 games, Heather Pritchard and Diana Williamson were the only players to take a game off her. Alison Thursfield won 4 games in the second series to be joint runner-up with Audrey Whitaker and Diana Williamson who both won their last games to bring their wins to 6.

about her later. I would particularly like to mention Eileen Magee who stepped into the breach left by Kath Priestley. Eileen turned out to be an ideal drinking companion who regaled us with all sorts of tales every night, unfortunately all unprintable, and played extremely well over the competition. Her final score of 2 wins did not truly reflect the games played where at least another three games were really tight up to the end. I respect her greatly, it's not easy to be thrown in at the deep end you know, and much enjoyed her company throughout.

Back to Ailsa, answers on a postcard please, how do you beat a player who hits anything and everything, will rush a ball to inch perfect position from anywhere on the lawn with distance no object and will take off over ludicrous yardage to inch perfect position within the yard line? Add to this the fact that she is great fun and game for a laugh and the result is an Ailsa!! Far too nice to go on your "Please not her again" list but too good a player not to be included on the "Groan, do I have to?" list.

Everyone mentions a daft moment, and didn't mine have to involve "let me tell you all about this one" Gail Curry! Having only just succeeded in running hoop three I ended up hampered for the roquet so after dramatically swinging my mallet through the hoop, over the hoop etc etc (you know what I mean) I foolishly decided this was easy and called a referee to watch, enter Gail. A few more practise swings later I eventually play probably one of the worst shots ever, hitting the ball several times in noisy succession, and brightly say to Gail, "Well I expect you're going to have the nerve to fault me on that one then!" to which she replied "Let's just say I'll name that tune in five" and laughed the whole time as she replaced the ball and wandered off back from whence she came still howling like a drain. The shame of it!

Evenings out were all good fun, we had Pauline and aid removal; Eileen and her hall of mirrors; Audrey and Alison who appeared to have taken up residence in a rummage sale and Christine being her usual mad self. All too soon the competition was over, the weather had been kind to us with only myself and Frances Ransom having dragged on a game through a storm and ended up soaked all for a +2. The lack of rain had considerably helped the pegging down situation, Christine handled all the inherent problems with consummate ease and was a marvellous Manageress, many thanks to her and the ladies (and gents) of Southwick for their hospitality. All the catering was excellent and the conditions for play very good.

A popular outright winner in the shape of Ailsa Lines had resulted with a magnificent 12 wins followed by yours truly with 11 and Gail Curry on 10 wins. Thanks to all players for making the event another memorable excursion North for me, let's hope for another strong field next year. The increasing numbers and high standard hopefully sees the future of both events more assured.

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hoop settings, these should be left alone. However, some of the top players believe that part of their advantage is to adjust to the lawn speed more quickly than a less able player can.

A discussion on controlling a triple peel led to some advice that is appropriate to all levels of play: it is often better to take a modest risk to bring more balls into play or to set up a break than to make the next hoop with low risk but little prospect of a break.

An impasse occurs when neither player considers that breaking it will improve their chances of winning, or their desire to win is balanced by their fear of losing. How should it be resolved? One could try to identify who is responsible and force them to resolve it, but of course both players are jointly to blame. In a 3- or 4-ball impasse the majority consider that the in-player must act to break it and in a 2-ball impasse the one ahead should. Stating in advance how an impasse would be resolved actually caused one to occur in a recent Test match when the players were behind having accidentally pegged out both balls in a TPO: creating an impasse gave them the chance to restart the game and a better opportunity to win. In a normal game, the winner is the first to score 26 points, and in a timed game it is the one ahead at the end. It is not fair to give the game to the player ahead at any one moment since many points can be scored in a single turn. Solutions proposed include: declare a draw; toss a coin and move a clip forwards or backwards, possibly including the peg point; manipulate which balls are live for a turn or two; shoot out at the peg to find the winner or to give some choice about clip movements or subsequent playing order; and finally, alternate contact turns until a point is scored. None of these gained anything like unanimous approval.

Laws questions are becoming more esoteric and most discussions are too lengthy to even give a meaningful flavour of here and, whilst the Gazette may be the place for a laws commentary, it should come from a more authoritative source - hint to the Laws Committee. The main laws topic was the definition of quitting the stance which is important since it defines the end of the striking period during

which certain faults can be committed. If, without quitting the stance, the striker plays another stroke then technically that is invalid play, and for example it is a fault if he wipes the mallet head without first moving his feet (touching the mallet head during the striking period). The argument went on and on and got more and more detailed on the English language rather than the practical (non-) problem. Various shots were described including one where the player's feet were in the air at the time he played a (real) jump shot, he landed and played on without moving his feet, again technically invalid play but who would really forestall in a match?

Someone asked if a doubles game could be played with an absent player and of course it can, the ghost ball must be deemed on a baulk line. Our President in a British Opens match famously won 2-0 without a partner by peeling all 12 hoops (he did take more than one turn though!). What happens if you roquet a misplaced ball? This most commonly happens in a double-banked game where etiquette requires you to remove from the lawn any ball you mark but often it is simply moved out of the way or put it into the jaws of a hoop. The striker then approaches the misplaced (marked) ball and plays with it. Once he has played the stroke there is no redress and it stands as if the ball was not misplaced. This is one case where even spectators are encouraged to intervene and make sure people are aware of the situation. If a hoop is broken whilst being run then it should be replaced and the shot taken again. Finally on the law news front, an International Laws meeting will take place in New Zealand after the Test Match but it apparently intends a minor revision of the laws rather than the more wholesale change those who flood the ether with Laws questions would wish.

FEDERATION ROUND-UP

The South West Federation Leagues

Don Waterhouse

Down in the Westcountry where everything is calm and friendly and life goes at its own pace instead of racing along as it does in so many other parts of the country, you would expect friendly meetings and croquet played in a gentle manner. Not so! The meetings are friendly occasions but the matches are anything but.

The 1999 Season has proved to be another full of hard fought encounters with many matches being decided by the odd game of five or seven. In the end, a number of the regional sections of the Leagues had to be decided by the rather complex rules because two or more teams finished with similar records.

The Federation's top level of competition is the Parkstone Trophy. This is for advanced play and its top section is very distinctly "A" Class. Bristol retained the trophy for the third time but by the narrowest of margins. Had Cheltenham beaten Nailsea in the final game that club would have won the trophy instead. Nailsea won but not by enough and so had to be content with second place after a little mathematics by the League Secretary. Worcester Norton suffered a season of misfortunes and were relegated. Their place is to be taken by Dyffryn who beat Sidmouth by 3 games to 2 in a play off after both teams had won their regional competitions.

Sidmouth won the Federation League (A handicap competition for players up to handicaps of 15) by beating Nailsea by a flattering 7-0 in the final. Neither team had an easy passage through its league matches and both only won through thanks to calculations having to be made to divide them from other teams with the same numbers of victories..

The Intermediate League (Handicap range 9 to 18) was played in four regional competitions, semi finals and a final. The sections went to the rule book to determine the winners, the semi finals were very close and the final, played in the beautiful setting of the Torbay Club, was an enjoyable game won by Bath by 5-2 over Kingston Maurward.

The "B" League (Handicap range 16 to 24) played to the same format as the Intermediate League with four regional leagues, was eventually won

by Plymouth on lawns at Taunton Deane which had been subjected to 8 inches of rain in the preceding 10 days. Nobody drowned and the outcome was a win for Plymouth by 5-2 over Bristol.

The Federation Golf Croquet Competition was not played because of the flooded state of the lawns. It may be possible to rearrange this popular event for a date in May.

Parkstone Trophy

	P	W	L	F	A
Bristol*	4	3	1	17	11*
Nailsea	4	3	1	13	9
Parkstone	4	2	2	13	7
Cheltenham	4	2	2	12	10
Worcester Norton	4	0	4	4	17

* Decided by Rule 12

Qualifying competition play - off

Dyffryn A-A Sidmouth

Federation League

Semi-Final North v Central

Nailsea 5-2 Cheltenham

Final: Sidmouth 7-0 Nailsea

Intermediate League

Semi-Final: Taunton Deane 2-3 Kington Maurward

Dyffryn 3-4 Bath

Final: Bath 5-2 Kington Maurward

"B" League

Semi-Final: Bristol 4-1 Bath; Plymouth 4 - 3 Budleigh Salterton

Final: Plymouth 5-2 Bristol

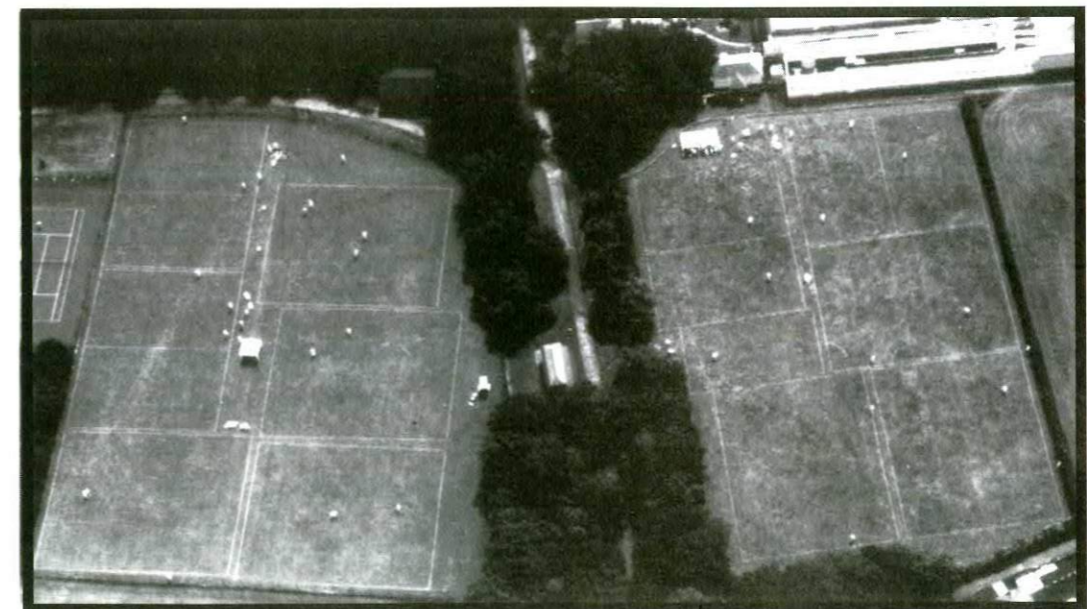
The North West Federation Club Championship

Keith Roberts

The NWF Championships was first held in 1994 and the aim was - and still is - to promote competitive croquet to players at all levels in clubs in the North West. It is a showpiece event and a major gathering.

This year there were 20 teams of three players representing nine clubs. All popular forms of our sport were played with teams from four clubs entering the Golf Croquet competition, five the short, eight signed up for Handicap play and three for Advanced.

The format has a good deal of flexibility whereby players may perform on a single day or in different events on different days but, in general, most stick to the game for which they were selected by their team



A unique view of the North West Federation Club Championship in progress at Southport.

manager and the spirit of the affair remains an enjoyable balance of competitiveness and sociability.

Planning for the tournament is a significant exercise as there were some 250 individual games requiring 13 hooped, pegged, flagged and yard marked lawns (all double banked). Each game needed to start on time and have results correctly recorded. However, the whole thing ran without any apparent effort from Bob Burnett who coolly decided to take Sunday off and play in the Advanced, winning all three of his games. No worries there mate!

The reason for this was that the managers of the individual competitions helped keep everything to time and to plan. A special mention must go to Brian Lewis who also ensured that the Golf Croquet was played with just the right mix of fun and competition for teams largely made up of people new to the sport.

The whole scene looked a treat with gazebos adding to the ambience, the catering was of the highest order - the Gujerati style carrots going particularly well, I understand (thank you Madhur) - and the weather was sunny and hot all weekend.

The newer lawns at Southport are still some way from international standard but were infinitely better than last year, but even the more interesting nuances were viewed more with humour than irritation.

The trophies were presented by the Chairman of the federation, Neil Williams. In a speech of some eloquence he thanked Bob for the excellence of his preparation and his management in general and Southport & Birkdale for hosting the most important event in the NW calendar.

He noted the foresight and courage of the committee and members in taking on the challenge of 11.5 lawns and the Club's current efforts to ensure the success of that venture.

The results:

The most important contest was the Golf Croquet as this form introduces new people to tournament play and many of the people they will meet in other competitions.

Although won by Southport the glory went to Kendal (Est. 1997) who finished second. Pendle were third.

The Short lawn event was also won by Southport, this time heading Pendle and Bowdon.

The largest entry was the Handicap event which was won by Fylde. The total membership of the Club would hardly fill two cars (including the cat) so the result was especially good for croquet. Pendle once again did well finishing one place ahead of Bowdon who were in third place.

The three way Advanced was settled in the last game of the weekend which went to Southport with Crake a close second and Bowdon third.

The Cup for overall victor was, for the fourth time in six years,

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awarded to Southport. Pendle and Bowdon were appropriately rewarded for their consistency in the places.

However, at tea time on Sunday the results and trophies seemed of minor importance. The weekend was a huge success for the NWF, for croquet and for all those taking part. In addition to those clubs already mentioned the Isle of Man entered two teams, Lancaster one, and Bury two.

There were a number of exceptional performances from seasoned players and from some who have been playing only a few weeks. But taking part was what it was all about.



Patricia Duke-Cox receiving the Jim Kirby Cup from Roy Taylor, with Brian Mendham the runner-up looking on.

East Midlands Short Croquet Competition

Patricia Duke-Cox

The Jim Kirby Cup is awarded to the winner of a singles short croquet competition in the East Midlands Federation of Croquet clubs. The cup was presented in memory of a Loughborough player who did much to promote the game within the region, acting as league manager for competitions as well as taking on promotion of the game within schools etc.

Played between two representatives from four clubs within the region, the return of the Jim Kirby Cup was the aim of Woodhall Spa Croquet club. Nottingham hosted the event this year and the other clubs were Ashby de la Zouche and Southwell. Two past winners, Gary Norman (1997 Ashby) and Roy Taylor (1998 Woodhall Spa), were competing again.

Each competitor had at least three games - one against a representative from each of the other clubs. The finalists were both unbeaten in the first round. The final game was between Patricia Duke-Cox of Woodhall Spa and Brian Mendham of Southwell. Played throughout a very hot day, Patricia had nearly made it to peg when she left the lawn with bisques to play! This gave Brian the opportunity to take his second ball round but he failed to make a crucial hoop shot which allowed Patricia back in the game with the chance to peg out both balls, which she did. The game was won 14 - 9 and defending champion Roy Taylor presented the cup.

Facilities in the South East improve with a new pavilion and a lawn at Medway

Peter Highton

Obdown Sports & Social Club at Aylesford, Kent has existed for many years on a beautiful site with oast houses, a stream and some magnificent trees. It is a multi-sport club with facilities for football, hockey, cricket, bowls, tennis etc. In 1993 a fledgling Medway Croquet club obtained a single croquet lawn within the site and subsequently added a second lawn. However, the club needed a pavilion alongside the croquet lawns which are situated about 300 metres from the main clubhouse.

The initial problem was to obtain planning permission for a pavilion in a conservation area. This had been attempted for years by the bowls

club without success. After discussions and a site meeting with the local authority our application was finally approved conditional upon the building being of wooden construction, not too large and sited at the lowest position to avoid spoiling the view from the manor house.

A feasibility study was drafted on the basis of sharing the pavilion with the Bowls Clubs. The budget was finalised as £44,000 for the pavilion and £13,200 for one new croquet lawn, a total of £57,200. It was decided to apply for a sports lottery grant of £36,000 (63%) and a local authority grant of 25% leaving us to find 12% or £6,864. In October 1996 it was



Adrian Dickens of Medway in play by the new pavilion.

agreed with the Bowls Clubs that a levy of £10 per head would be needed in the 1997 and 1998 seasons. In practice this levy was extended to the 1999 season.

An application for a lottery grant was made on 20th June 1997 in the name of the parent club because they hold the lease of the sports ground. Approval was received in April 1998. An application for a grant was made to the local authority who approved the grant of £11,173, only 20% of the project cost leaving a shortfall of £3,100. This was covered by a £500 grant and a £2,500 loan from the CA.

The specification of works and other documents for Building Regulations approval were prepared and approval was received in February 1998. Building work started in May 1998 and the pavilion was completed in September 1998. The big roll turf was laid on the new lawn in May 1999. All three lawns have sprinklers which take their water from the stream. This has ensured that the lawns are very green despite the drought conditions in June & July.

Although the new pavilion was used regularly in the winter for committee meetings and social events, the formal opening ceremony was delayed until 15th May after the 1999 season had started. Jonathan Shaw, MP, performed the opening ceremony, assisted by the local mayor. They were both required to run a few hoops under the supervision of John Solomon. This was followed by a short demonstration game with Bill Arliss playing John Solomon.

The John Hobbs Mallet

Reg Bamford won the Opens with his

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~ Obituary ~

Keith Wylie

Keith Wylie died on All Saints' Day, November 1st 1999 at the age of 54, leaving a widow, Helen, and two young sons, Thomas and Peter. Those of us who knew him well treasured him as a brilliant innovator and a wonderful friend. The last Gazette contains the following quote from a recent interview with Robert Fulford, current World Croquet Champion. "Keith Wylie's [book] *Advanced Croquet Tactics* [written in 1985] strongly influences current thinking. Many of the developments now being put into practice were first expounded by Wylie, a croquet thinker for whom Fulford clearly has great admiration. It is Wylie's terminology that is still used."

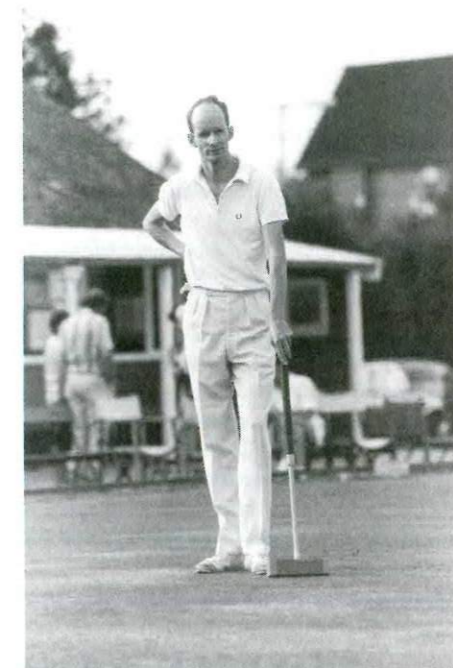
Although Keith was an extraordinarily good croquet player, it is his brilliance as a thinker about the game which will ensure his place in croquet history.

Keith Wylie started playing, like many other players, at Cambridge, where he was a mathematician at Kings. His intellect helped him to master the tactics, and in only his second season, 1965, he was selected for the President's Cup, coming bottom, but next year won, at the age of 21. In 1968 he won the Men's Championship, then in 1970 and 1971 he won the Open Championship, beating Nigel Aspinall, his great rival, on both occasions. In the final of the 1971 Open Championship he completed a sextuple peel, the first ever performed in a tournament in Britain. A sextuple has never before or since been repeated in such an important game, and this feat alone would be sufficient to establish him as one of the game's greats. But Keith's perfectionism was such that he could comment on the sextuple; "It was not a good turn". And he had already, by turning down

the possibility of selection for the Great Britain team which went to Australia in 1969, demonstrated his reluctance to take croquet too seriously or, as some might say, seriously enough. Indeed a continual feature of Keith's croquet career was to be his self-professed lack of interest in actually winning games.

Terms like "shooting star, dazzling, brilliant" were applied to his style, his tactics, his exuberance. Almost the first time I saw him, at Hurlingham, he was whooping with joy and running across the lawn after hitting a critical long shot. His elderly lady opponent was horrified, and insisted he should be banned from the competition for such bad manners. But, always the ascetic, he would constantly claim that croquet is a rather trivial pastime, and he would continually give reasons why he could not play in tournaments. Consequently, having reached such heights so soon, he played little over the following years; in 1974 he did play in two Test matches in England, and offered to play in half of a third; in 1977 he again won the President's Cup, only his second victory in eight appearances. Then in 1982 he was persuaded to join the British team which went to Australia; after the defeat by New Zealand in 1979, and with Nigel Aspinall unavailable, there was a strong feeling that someone of Keith's brilliance was needed. I feel fortunate to have been in that team too, and like the other four members formed a very close friendship with Keith during the tour. None of us will ever forget how his brilliance came to fruit, with perfect timing, as he won the last game of the last match in Melbourne, on which the whole series depended. We could hardly watch, and his response to our congratulations was typical; "It was only another game of croquet". This victory was the perfect riposte to his critics (he had several), and I can do no better than quote some words sent to me by Graeme Roberts from New Zealand: "Some doubted Keith's competitive instinct, considering that he would rather try new ideas than concentrate on winning the game. But that view was decisively countered in the third

MacRobertson Shield test between Great Britain and Australia in 1982. In the singles, Keith beat Neil Spooner, who was himself playing great croquet. It was a difficult lawn, the match and test scores were level, and everything came down to the final game. That was not someone who lacked a competitive instinct!" True words indeed, but I wonder whether Keith would have admitted it!



Throughout that tour, which lasted about six weeks, Keith was a totally loyal and committed member of the team, as well as a wonderful companion, caring, helpful, and witty. On Whale Beach, near Sydney, with the temperature in the 90s, he went swimming for the first time in 20 years. His comment "With weather and beaches like this, it's hardly surprising Australia has such a poor academic reputation".

After we returned from Australia we duly celebrated our victory; for Keith, of course, only the best was good enough; a 1960 Chateau d'Yquem. Keith wrote a delightful poem, entitled "A Modest Song of Victory, with apologies to Flanders and Swann. Two lines will suffice to give the flavour: "And the best of the Poms, we sincerely believe, Are Andrew, Keith, David, Will, Martin, and Steve."

Keith never really played top-class competitive croquet again, but his constant flow of ideas remained an influence on the game. The publication of his book, *Expert Croquet Tactics*, provided endless topics for the discussions of tactics which he so loved. The importance of Keith's thinking, as set out in his book, is shown by more words from Graeme Roberts. "Keith combined a superb touch on the lawn with genius in thinking about the game. Those talents combined to enable him to introduce many of the ideas on openings, leaves, and tactics that others have subsequently developed in taking the game to new heights in the past two decades."

After the 1982 tour I always loved any opportunity to watch or play croquet with Keith. I particularly remember some of the social occasions he took such delight in organising: Humphrey Hicks' 80th birthday party in Bristol, and "Les Vins des Années de Victoire", a dinner before a match between the 1982 team and the 1996 test team. It was Keith's idea that all the wines, going back to 1974, were taken from years

in which the British team had won the MacRobertson Shield (we had plenty of choice).

In 1989 Keith and I (both well into our forties) became fathers for the first time, much to the surprise of our fellow team members, and I found it delightful to see him playing with Peter and Thomas with all the same joy and fun he had displayed during those wonderful weeks in Australia. Whatever his ideas about winning or losing, or the extremely high standards to which he subjected himself and others, Keith had a real sense of fun.

I will finish by highlighting one of his most endearing qualities - his readiness to share his ideas with others - something we can learn from his example. He had more ideas than anyone, and was always sharing these ideas with others, most notably in his book. Many players, including those who reached the highest standards, have told me how he encouraged and

advised them early in their careers. David Prichard's definitive History of Croquet contains the following sentence. "Many inventors jealousy guard their secrets; not so Keith Wylie, who is always ready to impart the benefit of his secrets and discoveries to his prospective rivals". Keith was unique, so we must treasure our fond memories of him, and follow him in sharing freely with others our ideas, our experience, our wisdom, as he always did his.

Martin Murray

1. Some refer to Keith's leave for this break, in the third corner, as a delayed sextuple. I think it appropriate to call this the standard sextuple, the term "lady's sextuple" having become usual for the leave where the peelee is left in the jaws of 1-back.

NEWS & INFORMATION

MacRobertson Shield 2000

The Great Britain team will be competing in the MacRobertson Shield in February 2000. The event which is the most prestigious in the croquet calendar will be held in Christchurch New Zealand from January 24th to February 12th. Great Britain will be competing against New Zealand, Australia and USA. The series will be held at the United Croquet Club situated in the splendid surroundings of Hagley Park.

Each team will consist of six players and will play a test match against the other three teams. Each Test consists of 21 matches, these are nine doubles matches with each pair playing the three pairs from the opposing team and twelve singles matches (each player plays two). All matches are best of three.

Great Britain start with a match against Australia, then play USA and finish with a match against New Zealand. We are holders of the Shield which we have won the event throughout the nineties, firstly in 1990 in New Zealand, then in Australia in 1993 and then in England in 1996. We have a strong experienced team and if we play to form then we should remain Britain's most successful sports team. However we will face strong opposition. New Zealand are keen to win back the Shield which they won in both 1979 and 1986. Any Australian team can be guaranteed to fight all the way and the USA team is improving rapidly.

Our team with previous appearances in brackets is Chris Clarke (1993,1996), Robert Fulford (1990,1993,1996), Colin Irwin (1986,1990, 1993), David Maugham (1993, 1996), Stephen Mulliner (1982, 1986, 1990) and David Openshaw(1979, 1982, 1986, 1990, 1993)who will be captain.

We wish them every success.

Daily results will be shown on the CA website

(www.croquet.org.uk) and we hope but cannot guarantee in the Times and Daily Telegraph.

Council Vacancy

A vacancy has occurred on the CA Council. Applications are sought for a one year co-option to this post from anyone who feels that they could contribute to the advancement of croquet. Interested persons should make their interest known to the Chairman or the CA Office. The Chairman will be happy to discuss the post should anyone wish it.

Lottery News

Lottery Grants - Essentials for Success. There has been some bad news with recent lottery decisions. The applications by Cheltenham and Littleton for large lottery sums have both been turned down. Applications under the Awards for All scheme by Long Eaton and Newport have also been turned down. Decisions are awaited on applications by Rottingdean and Pendle (including a mini-carpet). The rejections have a common theme - the applications did not meet sufficient of Sport England's key criteria. These criteria are well set out in the Sport England documentation and it is now clear that unless these conditions are substantially met the chance of being successful is small. Both Woodhall Spa and Ashby were successful by matching their application to the required criteria. The main objective of the two current lottery procedures is to get grants to the grass roots of the community with as wide a spread as

possible. Any proposal, however beneficial it might be in croquet terms, will almost certainly fail if it fails to satisfy this objective. The first thing is to read carefully the well-presented documentation available from Sport England - see the September issue of the Gazette for details of contacts. Key concepts are:- Value to the community - encourage more girls and women to take part in sport. Increased participation - eg disabled groups and overall numbers. Increasing skill and creativity. Improve standards and encourage ethnic groups. Longer Term Benefit - encourage more young people into sport. Extend the range of involvement - links with schools. The prospects of getting a grant, especially under the Awards for All Scheme, and getting it quickly, are better than ever, but only if the criteria are addressed and met. The Awards for All Scheme has a maximum grant of £5,000. The procedural requirements are simple to follow and the application will be decided quickly. It is ideal for small club projects or outward looking, community-focussed efforts by large clubs.

Indoor Croquet Alteration

Please note that the Speed Croquet Team Championship, Heat 2 and Finals, will be played at RAF Innsworth (near Gloucester) and not at Bath University.

Also please note new dates. Heat 2 will be played on 19 - 20 February 2000, the finals will be played on 18 - 19 March 2000.

Entries & fees to CA Office by February 1st please. Ideally we would like 12 teams. Queries to David Magee (01452 - 700353) or Bryan Judson (01494 - 890 210).

New Features Soon

Following some helpful comments and offers of regular contributions, there will be two new features starting in the next issue of the Gazette. These include coaching items targeted at a mixed range of abilities to help you improve your play, as well as a sports injury clinic written by a qualified physiotherapist to help you treat those awkward aches and pains.

Anyone else wishing to make contributions, regular or otherwise, should contact the editor, who will be happy to discuss items with you.

Manor House Mallets

The originators of carbon fibre shafted mallets now offer a truly comprehensive range, from the 'Basic' at £70, through the well established R- and T- series (£100/115) to the new 2000 mallet at £132.50 (inc. head wrap). All types have heads of fine timber with screwed and glued double faces, inlaid sight lines and a high quality finish. Grips are included, sizes are to your requirements, and despatch is within a few days or sooner! This year we have improved mallet bags (£25) and new quilted head wraps (£7.50), which make excellent presents.

Discuss your requirements with Alan Pidcock, ☎ 01772 743859, e-mail pidcock@manorh.u-net.com
The Manor House, 1 Barn Croft, Penwortham, Preston PR1 0SX

Continued from page 7

If ever they are able to repeat the offer (made through the croquet news group on the internet) we thoroughly recommend it to all who enjoy their food as much as their croquet!

Geoffrey Cuttle

The 14 point debate

Dear Editor

As a disappointed spectator at the Open final in July I was delighted to see both Reg Bamford, in his letter, and Robert Fulford, in his conversation with Neil Williams, advocating the adoption of the 14 point game. Much as I admire and envy the skills involved in winning a game +26 TP, watching five such games in a row was in the end a terrible bore, and I doubt that it was much more interesting for the players themselves. At its highest level croquet desperately needs some modification to bring about a greater interaction between the players, and I believe the 14 point advanced game could provide a solution.

Nor are the potential advantages confined to the top end of the game. As a fairly high-bisque player I personally enjoy both the freedom from the tyranny of the four ball break and the challenge of trying to construct a good defensive leave; I also appreciate the fact that most games can be played to a finish within a reasonable time. I would certainly welcome more 14 point tournaments in the CA Calendar, without necessarily making it the standard version of the game. One day cricket and five day test matches seem to co-exist and both thrive; could we not try a similar experiment in croquet?

Nigel Graves

Dear Editor

I was so thrilled to read Reg Bamford's letter in your Sept issue. I agree, wholeheartedly, with every word he says. I have always thought that the 14-point game is much more stimulating than the 26-pointer - for all the reasons he gives - but I have been far too nervous to say so, for fear of upsetting the purists and making a fool of myself!

I can only take his word that the "14 point game is a better test of skill". As a long bisquer, I applaud his sentiments that: it takes half the time to play; it is simpler to understand; and the out-player does not sit out more than 10 minutes.

In my opinion the 26-point game, whether winning or losing, is just a "marathon" over three hours when the out-player is likely to spend 90% of the time on his bum with only evil thoughts on his mind. Win or lose, it is just boring for all; even the winner.

I totally disagree with your comment that "only six or eight players seek the new challenge". My belief is that the vast majority of players, of all standards, would much prefer the 14-point game.

Croquet is an addictive game which we love, if only for masochistic reasons. It deserves more financial support and media attention, but

this will only happen if people with the class and foresight of Reg Bamford are listened to.

James Malcolm

I understand what has been said here, but unfortunately I think perhaps that not everyone is talking of the same 14 point game. I presumed that Reg was talking of the advanced 14 point game (lifts after hoops 3 & 4), which incidentally has not yet been recognised as an official version of the game, hence my comments on the 6 or 8 players. Meanwhile James has obviously been presuming that Reg and I were talking of the standard, non-boring, only half a game, 14 point version. Ed.

New Golf Rules

Dear Editor

It was refreshing to read the very positive letter from Len Hawkins about the WCF rules.

As requested by the CA we have played under the new rules this year and, with the exception of one member, we have approved them. I believe that we have provided useful input to the various questionnaires that have been circulated.

As a club with about 30 golf croquet players we find that the new rules have made our games more stimulating and interesting. Members who had played under the old rules have found it easy to adapt and new members have no preconceptions. The ability to run hoops in more than one turn and to use jump shots requires more constructive thought, involving defensive positioning and promotions into a jump position.

We consider that there should be only one set of rules played worldwide, as close as possible to Association rules. Having provided the winner of this year's Golden Mallet competition we hope that next year's competition will not revert to the old rules, as rumoured.

Len Hawkins' point about the toss and obligatory start is valid and we would support him. We also recommend a longer start line, from corner 4 to level with hoop 4 on the east boundary, to avoid too much wear in the corner.

The East Anglian Croquet federation proposes to organise a Federation Golf League and day tournaments next year using the handicap system, probably at National Trust properties.

Last year's World Championships and this year's European Championships, both at Leamington, showed those who watched what a good game it can be. It is within our grasp to make Golf croquet as well regarded as Association, not a game played by people who haven't the skills for the real thing.

Edme Robinette, Bury St Edmunds

A Parent's thoughts on the Junior Championships

Dear Editor,

I read with interest the comments in the

September Gazette on the lack of entries for the 1999 Junior Championship. As the mother of one of those who might have been expected to enter, I would like to say that it was not the venue per se that was the problem. James would have liked to enter, and was looking forward to trying out the Northampton lawns. Unfortunately the rest of the family had to be in France during the tournament, and James had the choice between coming with us or, at the age of 16, travelling to Northampton on the train, staying alone in a B&B and negotiating public transport in a strange city. France won!

France might not have won if the Junior Championship had been able to attract all those at present in the CA Under 21 Squad as well as all those youngsters currently being brought on in places like Nailsea and Ramsgate. I think that for the Junior Championships to succeed three things must happen:

1) Any club hosting the championships must be prepared to offer to meet participants from the station and put them up free of charge with local club members, who could feed them and give them a lift to the lawns each day.

2) The qualifying age should be raised from Under 18 to Under 21, or in other words the competition should be open to all those who hold junior membership of the CA. This would mean that students taking up the game at university would have TWO championships they could enter. (Look how many tournaments there are for the over 50s) It would also mean that youngsters from Nailsea and Ramsgate would be able to enter a handicap event and be assured of sufficient games to allow them to improve, and future members of the Under 21 squad could be identified. With a wider variety of handicaps then the level play and handicap events could achieve equal status to the Advanced event and encourage youngsters to enter tournaments knowing that they are not simply going to be humiliated by having three shots against a minus player.

3) Consideration should be given to changing the date. Youngsters are not totally free agents and holding the championships at the beginning of the school holidays will often clash with family commitments. Most juniors play very quickly and think nothing of playing four games in a day, so perhaps a two day weekend earlier in the season would suffice.

Sue Mackay

Are we getting a fair deal?

Dear Editor

At Worthing we have four and a half lawns which we lease from the Council for six months each year. They do the maintenance and the whole thing cost us this summer £3,840. Could other clubs please let me know what lawns they have and what they pay for them and the maintenance costings, as I am wondering if we are getting a fair deal?

Frank Lee

(Tel: 01903 536929)

CA NEWS

Marketing & Publicity Committee

By Committee Chairman, Tony Fathers

What's in a name?

In my September article I spoke about making more people think of croquet "as a serious game; so that when croquet clubs try and recruit new members their efforts are supported by greater awareness of, and better image for, our game".

Two mistakes there or rather one mistake repeated twice.

I believe that croquet as played in clubs is not a game (certainly not a pastime) but a sport. One of the problems in marketing our sport is that the word croquet describes two activities: a garden pastime and a club sport. Anything which readers of the Gazette can do to increase public awareness of our sport please get on with it; and let me know your bright ideas so I can pass them on to others.

Publicity Seminar

The seminar which Liz Williams held at Leamington was a great success. Sadly I was unable to go myself because of illness but all those I spoke to subsequently were delighted.

Those clubs who did not send a delegate can still profit from the



seminar by sending for the booklet "Public Relations Seminar" by Elizabeth Williams. Orders, with a cheque for £15 to cover the cost of the booklet including postage, to CA (cheque made payable to "Croquet Association"). Liz gave her services free so all receipts go to help CA finances.

Childline

Council has agreed a major marketing effort for the year 2000 by sanctioning a year long co-operative campaign with Childline.

Childline is the free national helpline for children and young people in trouble or danger. It provides a telephone counselling service for any child with any problem 24 hours a day every day. All calls to Childline are strictly confidential and are answered by volunteer counsellors who comfort, advise and protect children.

In addition to myself two other members of Council visited Childline and witnessed their operation in action. All three of us were deeply impressed. Because Childline is so good at obtaining publicity,

both at a national and at a local level (not least because of its Chairman, Esther Rantzen, has so high a profile) we believe that Childline and croquet clubs have the ability to feed off each other for the good of both.

Our objectives are to

- * Develop croquet as a serious sport
- * Achieve a national target of 500 new club players of croquet
- * Achieve a national target of £15,000 for Childline.

Early in the new year all clubs will receive details of how we see this co-operation taking place. In the meantime I thought you would like to hear the news about this exciting endeavour.



Sketches by Liz Taylor Webb

Advertising the sport

Tradition has it that the first Lord Leverhulme remarked: "I know that half my advertising budget is wasted. But I don't know which half!" In the 100 years since this comment market research has developed considerably, so have concepts like niche marketing. I would certainly hate to waste half of the modest advertising budget we have for 2000, particularly since we spent nothing at all on advertising in 1998 and 1999. (Expenditure on leaflets, posters etc. - though necessary - is not advertising expenditure as such, it's below-the-line expenditure.)

When we come to advertising our sport it's no good thinking of the national press both because it's too expensive and because the readership is too diffuse. So what sort of people do we want to advertise to? Frankly it's to the retired. The planning group set up by Stephen Badger decided that our main target group should be the over fifties. True in terms of quality of player we have to find them young (it's amazing to think that, in fifty years time Robert Fulford who seems to have been around for so long already will only be 79 and still - one - hopes - showing us all how to play elegant croquet!); but in terms of quantity of player it's the over fifties we have to aim for.

That is why "The Oldie" is such an appropriate magazine for us with 67% of readers being over 55. The Oldie has a particularly high "reading factor" with 79% of readers spending more than 45 minutes reading the magazine, denoting true quality readership.

The deal with "The Oldie" is a good one for croquet, with two full pages in the November issue and two further pages in either March or April, one of which will be reserved for clubs to advertise their name and address, so that we can not only develop the concept of croquet as an appropriate retirement sport but also attract new people to trying our sport in a club environment. "The Oldie" has also promised editorial support in the March or April issue.

Conclusion

Though a good year in publicity terms 1999 has been something of a disappointment in terms of marketing if one thinks that two of our main aims are achieving more club members and more Associate CA members. Spearheaded by our initiatives with both Childline and "The Oldie" I am confident that 2000 will be altogether a better story for our sport.

1999 END OF SEASON UK RANKING LIST

Qualification 10 games since start of November 1998

	Grade	Games	Wins	Index
1 Fulford RI	2855	110	90	2953
2 Bamford RL [SA]*	2724	62	49	2777
3 Maugham DB	2699	126	92	2673
4 Clarke CD	2696	93	70	2569
5 Mulliner SN	2590	85	54	2655
6 Irwin CJ	2569	89	64	2583
7 Avery MN	2517	23	14	2455
8 Williams S [I]	2515	65	50	2504
9 Dawson JP	2492	61	40	2541
10 McInerney RN [I]	2486	33	27	2518
11 Openshaw DK	2484	85	49	2394
12 Cornelius D Miss	2482	11	7	2439
13 Burrow M [Jer]	2445	80	57	2439
14 Trimmer PC	2424	47	22	2392
15 Duckworth ET	2412	60	40	2424
16 Cordingley P	2390	108	63	2293
17 Dyer JS	2383	79	51	2297
18 Gaunt DL	2377	49	29	2351
19 Comish S	2376	75	39	2431
20 Cunningham A [I]	2370	94	60	2408
21 Farthing CN	2360	83	59	2291
22 Heap MEW	2359	26	14	2349
23 Goacher DJ	2347	58	30	2429
24 Aiton KMH [S]	2341	103	54	2315
25 Kibble DJ	2335	127	79	2359
26 Bond ID [S]	2334	27	18	2351
27 Burge TR	2332	76	42	2351
28 Mrozinski AJ [W]	2303	49	27	2342
29 Tribe R	2295	31	15	2205
30 Patmore CJ	2294	74	44	2310
31 Williams CN [W]	2293	69	47	2287
32 Prichard W [W]	2292	23	12	2204
33 Foulser DR	2290	30	23	2421
34 Evans MJ [W]	2288	32	22	2221
35 Leggate ATR	2264	24	15	2276
36 Palmer LJ [W]	2259	15	10	2327
37 Chambers K	2251	48	30	2304
38 Brown RJ	2245	48	30	2293
39 Symons AJ	2243	26	19	2285
40 Le Moignan A [Jer]	2239	82	48	2231
41 Magee DJ	2237	82	49	2258
42 Noble GW	2235	60	35	2245
43 Gale GK	2224	129	65	2269
44 Taylor PM	2219	53	33	2209
45 Linton AM	2215	29	17	2136
46 Curry GE Ms	2214	66	50	2230
47 Death JF	2208	42	26	2289
48 O'Connell MJ [S]	2207	100	61	2167
49 Toye JS	2207	19	12	2179
50 Morgan DT [W]	2204	89	58	2215
51 Storey BJ	2201	10	6	2148
52 Tibble LG	2196	114	70	2223
53 McInerney MJ [I]	2194	33	21	2239
54 Tudor GSJ [W]	2194	69	41	2218
55 Thompson BE	2183	16	10	2168
56 McInerney AE [I]	2178	43	21	2116
57 Surgenor J [S]	2175	49	36	2178
58 Jenkins RS	2162	36	21	2201
59 Plummer IR	2158	34	19	2114
60 Vincent IG	2155	61	35	2097

61 Harrison-Wood D	2149	115	58	2076	137 Dymock E	1863	74	28	1880
62 Saurin MA	2140	29	14	2163	138 Carter KJ	1863	37	12	1870
63 Guest JE	2138	189	109	2102	139 Newell E [I]	1861	25	13	1926
64 Dixon J	2137	32	21	2228	140 Dustan-Smith AA	1860	19	10	1906
65 Smith PL	2136	43	27	2158	141 Darby PA	1858	32	14	1803
66 White RK	2130	27	17	2198	142 Best R	1857	24	7	1776
67 Hallam BG	2121	30	19	2158	143 Waterfield CG	1854	10	6	1858
68 Watson JPG	2121	13	9	2122	144 Howell P	1853	25	12	1849
69 Burrige IJ [W]	2113	26	9	2068	145 Wheeler JA	1853	22	13	1866
70 Death PJ	2112	17	13	2193	146 Williams R [S]	1852	41	18	1820
71 Evans NE	2093	33	18	2117	147 Ashwell R	1846	17	8	1863
72 Eardley P	2077	36	19	2013	148 Jardine AW	1845	56	25	1892
73 Nicholson DJ	2070	24	16	2103	149 Davis R	1832	42	16	1815
74 Lamb WE	2070	12	6	2046	150 Medley BD	1830	27	12	1812
75 Castell P	2069	114	62	2072	151 Thomas AH [W]	1829	11	6	1838
76 Dent CJ	2066	24	13	2079	152 Rogerson R [I]	1826	30	14	1918
77 Payne PJ [CH]*	2066	37	21	2082	153 Mantle I	1824	20	11	1848
78 Hort PMG	2057	14	8	2058	154 Bond GL	1817	36	18	1799
79 Haggerston MJB	2056	12	8	2073	155 Murray M [S]	1813	20	2	1773
80 Browne TN [I]	2056	31	13	2021	156 Simmonds J	1810	11	5	1840
81 Audsley E	2049	12	3	2000	157 Tutt D	1805	31	18	1803
82 Solomon EW	2049	22	10	2030	158 Edwards RR	1803	31	10	1784
83 Granger-Brown M	2048	41	23	2075	159 Goleworthy T [W]	1802	28	13	1755
84 Bennett GJ	2047	73	38	2011	160 Pristavec P [W]	1797	32	12	1764
85 Weston T	2046	84	39	2009	161 Anderson TW	1796	18	8	1766
86 Whittaker FL	2027	48	24	2138	162 Brooks R	1795	16	9	1841
87 Burrow S Mrs [Jer]	2012	56	32	2076	163 Tuthill CJ [W]	1794	24	9	1785
88 Neal BG	2010	17	7	1943	164 Cornelius DS	1793	31	18	1735
89 Bottomley HJ	2006	20	8	2016	165 Swaffield P	1792	29	12	1815
90 Elwell BA	2005	17	15	2109	166 Strong S [I]	1792	14	10	1803
91 O'Shaugnessy M [I]	2005	13	8	2085	167 Cosier JP	1791	22	13	1847
92 Smith B	1995	54	27	1960	168 Priestley K Mrs	1790	14	7	1819
93 Beech J	1988	10	8	2040	169 Rogers RAG	1789	12	4	1756
94 Bradforth L Miss	1979	99	51	1981	170 Sherlaw-Johnson A	1789	11	6	1821
95 McGlen BA Mrs	1974	48	27	1939	171 Town MD	1788	30	14	1803
96 Low JG	1973	27	16	1969	172 Cooper KB	1782	12	7	1864
97 Price DO	1961	11	6	2041	173 Steward CM Mrs	1781	42	20	1816
98 Grimshaw JE [W]	1959	24	12	1980	174 Percival MC	1780	27	11	1879
99 Blackwell MC	1953	13	7	2026	175 Appleton DR [S]	1778	37	18	1802
100 Duckworth P [Jer]	1952	36	14	1935	176 Latham LV	1778	13	3	1696
101 Maugham FI	1951	30	14	1948	177 Shaw DW	1771	26	8	1761
102 Wainman BR	1944	10	5	1954	178 Cuttle G	1770	18	9	1785
103 Cowing AJ	1942	36	14	1967	179 Carter NB	1768	15	7	1776
104 Ross CJ	1934	64	28	1937	180 Wardle P	1766	16	8	1791
105 Pullin PJ	1930	26	12	1965	181 Murdoch BRP [S]	1762	24	9	1771
106 Lilly DF	1930	27	10	1926	182 Scott JW	1761	38	14	1721
107 Arliss WH	1928	53	24	1921	183 Davies JE	1754	16	6	1746
108 Stephenson P	1928	12	9	2001	184 Hobbs JA	1751	28	9	1713
109 Lines AH Mrs	1926	36	23	1895	185 Townsend C Mrs [S]	1750	23	10	1730
110 Gugan R Mrs	1924	34	17	1903	186 Hicks N	1750	19	9	1773
111 Hammelev MA	1924	46	23	1917	187 Smorfitt HW	1749	20	9	1748
112 Haslam JH	1920	10	3	1913	188 Gregory AK	1746	34	8	1739
113 Jones CS	1917	20	9	1864	189 Humphrey D	1743	16	6	1674
114 Stansfield P	1915	26	16	1896	190 Whittall K Mrs	1742	24	11	1692
115 Campbell A [S]	1914	22	10	1943	191 Constable C Mrs	1740	31	10	1652
116 Morrow NW	1908	53	19	1879	192 Patel SR	1736	33	11	1738
117 Harris NR	1906	10	7	1950	193 Ransom FE Mrs	1736	58	22	1750
118 Hawkins JD	1904	24	7	1860	194 Caldwell JG [S]	1735	21	11	1699
119 Pidcock A	1903	27	9	1796	195 Cunningham J [I]	1729	10	7	1741
120 Southern C	1901	62	24	1909	196 Hilditch JR [W]	1726	49	13	1683
121 Williamson JD	1895	17	8	1892	197 Pawson PR	1726	26	9	1709
122 Sandler MH	1894	20	10	1885	198 Cross DC	1722	14	11	1828
123 King JW	1891	10	9	2031	199 Burnett R	1722	17	7	1727
124 Collin GK	1888	26	17	1894	200 Allnutt PC	1722	18	3	1650
125 Wild CH	1886	12	1	1828	201 Pritchard H Miss	1719	10	3	1643
126 Stephens RT	1885	44	17	1909	202 Thompson PW	1719	23	8	1804
127 Gibbons J	1885	22	20	1961	203 Edwards C	1716	14	8	1706
128 Rangeley MW	1884	33	15	1880	204 Burns D	1716	12	4	1667
129 Roberts MRI	1881	40	13	1822	205 Williams N	1713	21	11	1743
130 Gray SNH	1876	48	26	1919	206 Regan D [W]	1709	10	3	1645
131 Jackman RT	1875	26	11	1853	207 Durward B [S]	1709	29	9	1583
132 Fitzgerald P [I]	1871	19	14	1984	208 Bradley JD	1708	16	7	1705
133 Hopewell CG	1867	50	21	1838	209 Mackay JCR [W]	1708	24	13	1721
134 Schmieder C von [I]	1865	18	4	1815	210 Hoskyns RF	1708	13	7	1747
135 Bigg MD	1865	20	14	1942	211 Potter JG	1704	16	5	1664
136 Lines IG	1865	13	7	1887	212 Knapp RF	1700	23	15	1742

TOURNAMENT RESULTS

Nailsea & District, 5 - 6 June

Advanced Weekend

Manager : Alex Leggate

No. of entries : 10

1st : Deiniol Morgan, 2nd : Alex Leggate, Ed Duckworth, Kriss Chambers

Compton, 14 - 18 June

Summer Tournament

Manager : B.P. James

No. of entries : 21 singles, 20 doubles

Hedges Cup : Paul Miles

Anstey Cup : Arthur Nelson

Kirk Greene Bowls : Doubles B. Kitching and M. Belcham

Hunstanton Over 50's 18 - 20 June

Manager: Sarah Hampson Format: Egyptian

No. of entries: 25

1st Ken Anderton 2nd John Christmas 3rd Paul Hill & John Reeve

Bristol Handicap 19 - 20 June

Manager: H Hall Format: KO & Swiss

No of entries: 16 CA Awards: Silver - Peter Willoughby. Bronze - D Duggan, M Hooper, D Stoaling.

Latham Cup: 1st Tony Backhouse, 2nd Roger Jenkins

Swiss: Deirdre Duggan

Newport Handicap 19 - 21 June

Manager: Bill Tapper Format: Egyptian

No. of entries: 16

CA Awards - Bronze: Angus Bell, Robert Skeen, George Woolhouse.

1st William Windham 2nd Robert Skeen 3rd George Woolhouse

Nottingham 25 - 27 June

Manager: Ian Vincent Format: KO

No of entries: 21

CA Awards: Gold - Richard White

East Midlands Championship: Winner Ian Vincent, Runner-up David Maugham. Plate Event: Jeremy Dyer.

Harrow Oak 26 - 27 June

Manager: Richard Hilditch Format: Swiss

No of entries: 8 Winner: John Boardman

Colchester 26 - 27 June

Manager: Norman Hicks Format: Egyptian

No of entries: 18

CA Awards: Silver - Colin Hemming, Ken Wheeler. Bronze - Terry Sparks, Jonathan Hills.

1st Jonathan Hills, 2nd Colin Hemming, 3rd Terry Sparks

Budleigh Salterton, 26 - 27 June

Manager : John Toye No. of entries : 15

1st D. Kibble, 2nd : P. Taylor

Sussex County, 30 June - 4 July

Summer Tournament

Manager : Bill Arliss/Bryan Teague

No. of entries : 32

Advanced winner : Paul Castell

Maurice Reckett Rose Bowl : Jack Davies

Southwick Cup : Frances Low

Martletts Shield : Ken Mason

Ron Whetstone Cup : Jack Davies & Ken Mason

Surbiton, 1 - 4 July

National Seniors Championships

Manager : I.P.M.MacDonald

No. of entries : 16

Trevor Williams Cup :G.W.Noble

Glass Trophy (advanced) : J.P.Cosier

Glass Trophy (advanced handicap) : R.J.Benson

Glass Trophy (handicap) : R.J.Benson

Wrest Park, 2 - 4 July

Manager : E.Audsley

No. of entries : 48

Winners : D.Openshaw, G.Hopewell, D.Tutt.

Roehampton, 3 - 4 July B Level

Manager: Douglas Gurney Format: American

No. of entries : 48

1st M. Town, 2nd Mrs K. Priestley

Ramsgate, 3 - 4 July Handicap Weekend

Manager : Mary Currie Format : Swiss

No. of entries : 14

1st M. Poole, 2nd D. Mundy

Southport 3 - 4 July Long Bisquers Event

Manager : Neil Williams Format : American/

Egyptian

No. of entries : 18

1st R. Belcher, 2nd T. Thomas

Open Championship

Hurlingham 5-11 July 1999

Manager : Richard Hilditch

Round 1: AE Cunningham beat MEW Heap +15,

-13, +22; SN Mulliner beat CJ Patmore -2,

+26tp, +26; DJ Magee beat RT Stephens +25,

+24; S Comish beat Miss CM Dawson -12, +9,

+25; CD Clarke beat MN Avery +26tp, +17.

Round 2: RI Fulford beat JP Dawson +26tp,

+26tp; JS Dyer beat AE Cunningham -12tpo, +8,

+10; DK Openshaw beat JE Guest +7, +4; GW

Noble beat Mrs S Burrow +4, +19; K Chambers

beat GK Gale -17, +26, +17; SN Mulliner beat

CN Farthing +26tp, +26tp; DB Maugham beat

AS Le Moignan +25tp, -26, +25; DJ Magee beat

C Southern +26, +13; JE Fournier beat Mrs PV

Healy +26, +23; IG Vincent beat WH Arliss -

15, +26, +22; RL Bamford beat B Smith +25,

+26tp; T Burge beat AT Hall +26tp, +26tp; P

Cordingley beat KMH Aiton +17, -4tp, +14tp;

S Comish beat EM Bomford +24, +26tp; AJ

Mrozinski beat GJ Bennett +25tp, +13; MVM

Burrow beat CD Clarke -5, +26, +26.

Round 3: RI Fulford beat JS Dyer +26tp,

+26sxp; GW Noble beat DK Openshaw +7, +4;

SN Mulliner beat K Chambers +26tp, +26tp;

DB Maugham beat DJ Magee +24tp, +15tp; JE

Fournier beat IG Vincent -1, +15tp, +24; RL

Bamford beat T Burge +26tp, +13tp; P

Cordingley beat S Comish +7, +26tp; MVM

Burrow beat AJ Mrozinski +9, +25tp.

Quarter Final: RI Fulford beat GW Noble +14,

+14sxp, -7, +26sxp; DB Maugham beat SN

Mulliner -12tpo, +26tp, +26tp, +8tp; RL

Bamford beat JE Fournier +26tp, +25tp, -14tp,

+5tp; MVM Burrow beat P Cordingley +17, -

5tp, +17, +15.

Semi Finals: RI Fulford beat DB Maugham

+26tp, +26tp, -20, -5, +15; RL Bamford beat

MVM Burrow +26tp, +25tp, +3.

Final: RL Bamford beat RI Fulford +26tp, -

26tp, -26tp, +26tp, +26tp

Doubles Championship

Round 1: Aiton & Avery beat Noble & Vincent

+3tp, +8; Comish & Maugham beat J Dawson

& Mrozinski +2tp, +17.

Round 2: Clarke & Fulford beat Arliss & Hall

+26tp, +17tp; Farthing & Patmore beat C

Dawson & Le Moignan -12, +26, +26tp;

Fournier & Openshaw beat Healy & Sheraton-

Davis +24tp, +23; Aiton & Avery beat Burrow

& Heap +3tp, +26tp; Bennett & Southern beat

Bomford & Morrow -4, +9, +3; Comish &

Maugham beat Chambers & Cordingley +26tp,

+14tp; Cunningham & Gale beat Hilditch &

Burrow -2, +26tp, +22tp; Bamford & Mulliner

beat Guest & Stephens +26tp, +22tp.

Round 3: Farthing & Patmore beat Clarke &

Fulford -26tp, +20stp, +9tpo; Fournier &

Openshaw beat Aiton & Avery +26tp, +26tp;

Comish & Maugham beat Bennett & Southern

+19, +24; Bamford & Mulliner beat

Cunningham & Gale -4, +13tpo, +26tp.

Semi Finals: Farthing & Patmore beat Fournier

& Openshaw +26, -26, +17; Bamford &

Mulliner beat Comish & Maugham +11tpo,

+9tpo.

Final: Farthing & Patmore beat Bamford &

Mulliner +26, -3tpo, +26.

Burrow and Heap beat C Dawson and Le

Moignan in the doubles plate final

Association Plate

Draw: Dawson J beat Burrow S +24tp;

Cunningham beat Bennett +17tp; Aiton beat

Guest +26tp; Clarke beat Burge +26tp; Hall

beat Stephens +16; Farthing beat Dawson C

+26tp; Arliss beat Healy +25; Morrow beat

Smith +23; Vincent beat Chambers +26;

Patmore beat Gale +4.

Bomford beat Southern +24; Heap beat Dawson

J +8; Aiton beat Cunningham +23tp; Clarke

beat Hall +20; Farthing beat Arliss +26; Vincent

beat Morrow +26; Mrozinski beat Patmore

+26tp; Magee beat Le Moignan +5.

Heap beat Bomford +18; Clarke beat Aiton

+26tp; Farthing beat Vincent +17tp; Mrozinski

beat Magee +13.

Clarke beat Heap +20; Mrozinski beat Farthing

+17tp.

Clarke beat Mrozinski +4tp

Process

Arliss beat Bomford +10; Le Moignan beat

Guest +25tp; Vincent beat Burrow S +20; Heap

beat Smith +20; Patmore beat Cunningham +17;

Morrow beat Southern +11; Clarke beat Magee

+26tp; Bennett beat Gale +8; Dawson J beat

Chambers +26tp; Aiton beat Mrozinski +26tp.

Le Moignan beat Arliss +25; Vincent beat Hall

+4; Heap beat Burge +25tp; Farthing beat

Patmore +17; Clarke beat Morrow +16;

Dawson C beat Bennett +8; Dawson J beat

Stephens +23; Aiton beat Healy +12tp.

Le Moignan beat Vincent +16; Heap beat

Farthing +5tp; Clarke beat Dawson C +25tp;

Aiton beat Dawson J +26.

Heap wo Le Moignan; Clarke beat Aiton +24tp.

Clarke beat Heap

Cheltenham, 6 - 8 July Over 50's Tournament

Manager : Dennis Moorcraft Format : American

No. of entries : 48

Winners : C. Bailey, D. Moorcraft, Mrs U. Atter-

Martin, B. Pacini, E. Bevan and G. Edgeler.

East Riding, 10 - 11 July

Handicap Weekend Tournament

No. of entries : 14

1st A. Locket, 2nd D. Knight

Tyneside, 13 - 15 July Over 50 Handicap

Manager : D.W. Trotman Format : American

No. of entries : 8 Winner: D. Watts.

Nottingham, 15-18 July Challenge and Gilbey

Manager : Gordon Hopewell

Format : American/Swiss No. of entries : 21

Gilbey Goblet : 1st R.W. Edlin-White, 2nd A.

Campbell

Roehampton Challenge Cup : M. O'Connell

Reckitt Challenge Cup : G. Caldwell

Stevenson Challenge Cup : J. Allen

Golf Croquet Championships

Parsons Green, 17 - 18 July

Singles Championship

1st Ed Dymock, 2nd Tom Weston

Doubles Championship

1st Ivor & Richard Brand, 2nd Samantha Curry

& Andrew Hutchinson.

Surbiton, 17 - 18 July Speed Doubles

Manager : Nelson Morrow Format : American

No. of entries : 24

1st Mrs G. Lewis & P. Eardley, 2nd Ms C.

Steward & G. Noble

Watford, 23 - 25 July

Handicap Weekend Tournament

Manager : R.Bateson

No. of entries : 14

Winner : Alan Newman

Hunstanton, 23 - 25 July The Eastern

Championship

Manager : Richard Hilditch Format : K/O /

Swiss No. of entries 16

Championship Winner: David Maugham, 2nd

Steve Mulliner

Plate: Chris Clarke

Cheltenham July Tournament, 26 - 31 July

Managers : Roger & Dab Wheeler

No. of entries 70

A Class: 1st D. Kibble, 2nd D. Harrison-Wood

B Class: 1st B. Elwell, 2nd K. Whittall

C Class: 1st D. Nicholson, 2nd H. Pritchard

D Class: 1st G. Weir, 2nd B. Weitz

E Class: 1st D. King, 2nd E. Bailey

Daniels Cup winner: D. Nicholson

Cheltenham Challenge Cup: D. Kibble

Pendle Mid-Week Handicap, 27 - 30 July

Manager : John Beech Format : Egyptian

No. of entries 21

Irish Cup: Ms B. Young

10+ Trophy: Ms E. Fraser

-10 Trophy : J. Beech

Handicap Doubles : G. & Ms B. Young

Compton Open Weekend, 31 July - 1 August

Knockout (COWhorn Challenge Trophy)

1st P. Cordingley, 2nd I. Bond.

AS IT WAS

Days gone by recorded in the Croquet Gazette

The Editorial in the Gazette of December 1949 reflected, as is natural at this time of year, on the season that had passed:

"When reviewing the game for the past season, two players stand out with special prominence: Mr H O Hicks, whom again we hail as Open Champion for the third successive year: and Mr E P C Cotter, who won the President's Cup with the loss of only one game - as record for the 'Best Eight'.

"Mr Hicks has never been beaten in Open Singles (Best of Three) since 1947, when his opponent, Mr D J V Hamilton-Miller, won the third game in the second round of the Men's Championship ..."

The President's Cup field had been cut from ten to eight on its resumption after the Second World War (though it has occasionally reverted to ten since: for example in 1956, to accommodate members of the visiting New Zealand MacRobertson team). Humphrey Hicks was the first player to win all 14 games, in 1954 - a feat subsequently repeated by John Solomon (1962), Nigel Aspinall (1975) and Robert Fulford this year. Perhaps the lengthening gap tells us something about the increasing depth of competition at this exalted level.

But what was the standard really like in 1949? The Gazette of October 1949 offers a glimpse:

"It may not be generally known that during the Championship week [today what we know as the Opens], Mr Ashley Heenan, the New Zealand Open Champion, presented a handsome set of silver buttons, with the fern embellishing their centre, to the player who did the most 'peels' during the week. Miss D D Steel was the fortunate winner of the buttons, for having done a triple peel."

This Championship was played as usual at Roehampton, the then headquarters of the CA. And, as the Editor pointed out,

"... it was never considered necessary that the public should be allowed within the grounds of a private club to see the Croquet Championship.

"That word 'necessary' needs some criticism. In those days the financial side of the game was in a very sound state, and it was not urgently necessary to increase the number of Associates. But it was just as necessary then as now, from the point of view of the welfare of the game, that it should have the 'closed doors' flung wide open so that the refreshing breezes of publicity might be allowed to blow upon it and dispel the ignorance and ridicule which smother this highly skilled game. These two baneful influences prevailed 40 years ago and are still rampant and unchecked.

"We have heard it said that there are not many people who would take the trouble to watch a game they know nothing about; but there must be quite a lot who, because they know nothing about croquet, are keen to know something about it. Such would-be spectators of the game are barred from seeing it played and potential Associates are thus lost to croquet."

Wise words. But whether publicity is always refreshing is perhaps still an open question.

THE GROUNDSMAN

Tips For Croquet Lawn Keepers

All clubs should have received the Croquet Association publication "Croquet Lawns" and this column is intended to extend the information provided in that booklet.

Controlling wormcasts on croquet lawns

By John Beech

In ideal conditions up to 4 tons of soil per croquet court can be brought to the surface by casting earthworms in a single year! For those of you who are farmers or gardeners this is good news because their activity is beneficial, but on the croquet lawn it is a real scourge.

Quite clearly every croquet club needs to have an arrangement with local gardeners for transfer of worms. To date however, all worm charmers have remained completely elusive. Until we discover how its done we are stuck with a problem.

One of the warmest wettest winters has left many club lawns with a superabundance of casts. Daily switching will reduce the impediment in play but is time consuming and costly.

The long term answer is to discourage worms by lowering the PH to 5.5 if possible. A long and laborious process, although not expensive, this can be done by Calcined Sulphate of Iron every six weeks at the rate of 7gms per sq.yd. or 7kg per lawn. This can be applied either in solution with a sprayer or dry with a fertiliser spreader. If you spray it is necessary to pre-mix a concentrated solution of hot water, pass through a seive and ensure thorough cleaning of the sprayer after application. If spreading dry a low calibration is essential otherwise bulking up with sand or top dressing may be required. Four dressings at the Pendle Club over the last winter has reduced the PH from 6.9 to 6.0. We have a long way to go but, that together with a proprietary spray 10 days before Easter meant that playing conditions for Easter were perfect. Not a cast in sight.

A short term measure is to spray. Carbendazim seems to be the best spray at present, but on average it will not suppress castings for more than 3 months. Always follow the instructions on the container, but the usual formulation of this chemical requires 1/2ltr in 40 - 50ltrs water per croquet court. The cost of the chemical is about £40 per litre or £20 per court. A second application after 3 months doubles the cost!

Always remember that spraying is a dangerous game and must always be done by a qualified operator. See paragraph 63 in the CA publication "Croquet Lawns". Every club was sent a copy earlier this year.

I look forward to playing on your cast-free turf.

Handicap Alterations

Southport Long Bisquers, 3 - 4 July

Richard Bellwood	14*	to	14
Julian Sneed	14	to	12
Tony Thomas	16	to	14
Jean Wilcock	16*	to	18
Ray Belcher	18	to	14
John Finnerty	18*	to	18
Georgina Llewlyn	20	to	16

Sidmouth, 12 July

P. Whittall	5	to	4.5
J. Coombs	8	to	7
Mrs S. Blenkinsop	11	to	10

Tyneside, 13-15 July

D. Watts	11	to	10
D. Jenkinson	6	to	7

Welsh Championship, 16-18 July

J. Evans	-0.5	to	-1.0
J. Grimshaw	2.5	to	2
J. Mackay	6	to	5
J.S. Dyer	1	to	1.5

Edgbaston, 16 - 18 July

N. Davis	7	to	6
J. Tonks	14	to	16

Jersey, 19 - 25 July

C. Patmore	-0.5	to	-1
D. Lilly	0.5	to	0
S. Burrow	3.5	to	3
K. Garrad	7	to	6
B. Witas	18	to	16

National Veterans, 19 - 24 July

Mrs G. Mears	6	to	5
D. Mears	7	to	6
M. Rogers	14	to	12
J. Solomon	0	to	0.5
B. Teague	1	to	1.5

Hurlingham Club, 20 July

Mrs A. Stephens	10	to	9
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Colchester, July

C. Hemming	8	to	7
C. Sheen	3.5	to	3
C. Sheen	3	to	2.5

Cheltenham, 26 - 31 July

C. Atter-Martin	16	to	18
G. Eccles	7	to	8
Ms A. Martin	14	to	16
Ms H. Pritchard	4.5	to	4
Ms A. Poole	16	to	18
M. Poole	9	to	10
D. Harrison	7	to	8
S. Cawdell	4	to	3
B. Elwell	3	to	2.5
C. Edwards	5	to	4.5
D. King	11	to	10
D. Nicholson	7	to	5
Ms J. Powell	14	to	16

Pendle Mid-Week Tournament, 30 July

L. Ainsworth	14	to	16
P. Hallett	4.5	to	5
Mrs L. Fraser	11	to	10
D. Pollitt	11	to	10

Parsons Green, July & August

K. Miyata	14	to	12
N. Parish	11	to	10
Mrs S. Davies	8	to	9

Compton Open Weekend, 31 July - 1 August

D. Shaw	0	to	0.5
R. Wood	1.5	to	2

Budleigh Salterton, 1 - 7 August

P. Whittall	4	to	3
D. Morgan	0	to	-0.5
P. Death	0	to	-0.5
W. Arliss	1	to	0.5
L. Hawkins	5	to	4.5
R. Essler	6	to	5
G. Dodd	7	to	5
B. Fisk	11	to	7
R. Clark	12	to	11
N. Morrow	0	to	0.5
E. Dymock	1.5	to	2
Rev C. Townshend	2	to	3
R. Scaddan	5	to	6
Mrs V. Henderson	9	to	11

Sidmouth, 6 August

Mrs I. Read	18	to	16
P. Whittall	4.5	to	4
Mrs M. Smith	16	to	18
J. Coombs	7	to	6
Dr E. Owen	18	to	16
Mrs E. Owen	16	to	14

Cheltenham Club, August

A Bogle	4.5	to	5
W Sidebottom	3.5	to	3
Mrs E Weitz	12	to	11
R Selmes	4.5	to	5
C Snowdon	4.5	to	4
P Darby	2	to	2.5
M Blackwell	0.5	to	0
G Eccles	8	to	9
D Foulser	-1.5	to	-2
G Weir	10	to	9

Misc Changes

Michael Taylor	20	to	18
Derek Harrison			8
Dennis King	9	to	10
Martin Kolbuszewski	7	to	6
David Magee	-1	to	-1.5
Eileen Magee	4	to	4.5

October Wknd

Derek Bradley	3.5	to	3
Penny Crowe	9	to	8
Tal Golesworthy	2.5	to	3
Michael Poole	10	to	11
Paul Smith	0	to	-0.5
Michael Taylor	18	to	20

All England Final

A Ahmad	11	to	7
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Secretary's Shield Final

D Hopkins	8	to	5
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Sidmouth Club

Mrs V Collier	11	to	14
J Hatherley	2.5	to	5
P Miller	16	to	14
R Clark	11	to	10

Surbiton 16 - 17 October

Paul Watson	3	to	2.5
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Sussex County

Mrs M Lees	20	to	16
Mrs P Arliss	14	to	12
David Gaitley	18	to	16
Jim Martell	16	to	14

Bristol Club

S Thorpe	9	to	10
Mrs M Pena	7	to	6
Mrs S Bray	6	to	7
Mrs B Evans	12	to	14
Mrs R Guban	1.5	to	1
Mrs F Ransom	3	to	3.5
K Marsh	11	to	10
A Potter	6	to	7
Miss M Hilton	5	to	4.5
Dr G Green	4.5	to	4
E Duckworth	-1.5	to	-2
Rev F Clayburn	14	to	12

Bath Club

D Hutt	20	to	9
M Cope	7	to	6
Mrs C Leach	16	to	18
D Stoaling	8	to	9
R Whitaker	14	to	12

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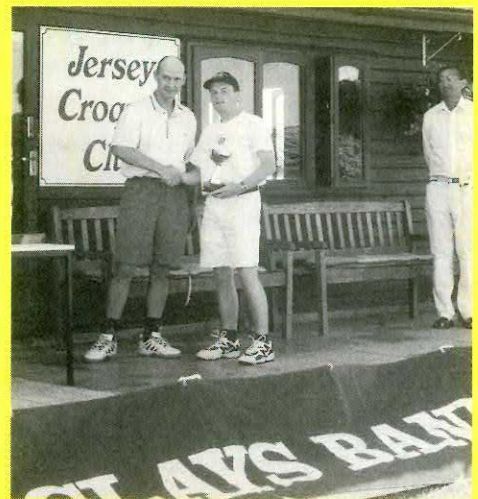
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AROUND & ABOUT



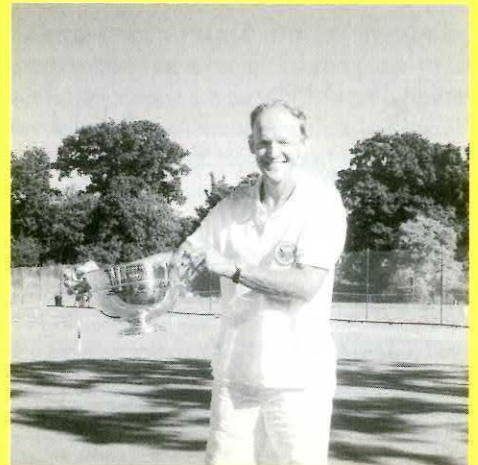
John Beech presents David Pollitt with the trophy for the 10+ handicap at the Pendle tournament.



Ed Duckworth receiving his trophy from tournament sponsor, as winner of the Championship of Jersey



The competitors at the All England Handicap Area final, held at Pendle in September



David Price, winner of the Bournemouth Bowl at Parkstone for A class singles



The University of the Third Age (U3A) enjoying a day's croquet at Parkstone