

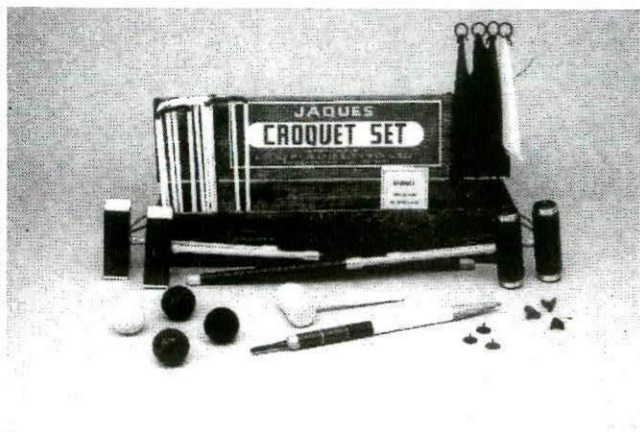
The Croquet Gazette

Issue 266 March 2000



GB Retains Shield

The MacRobertson Shield



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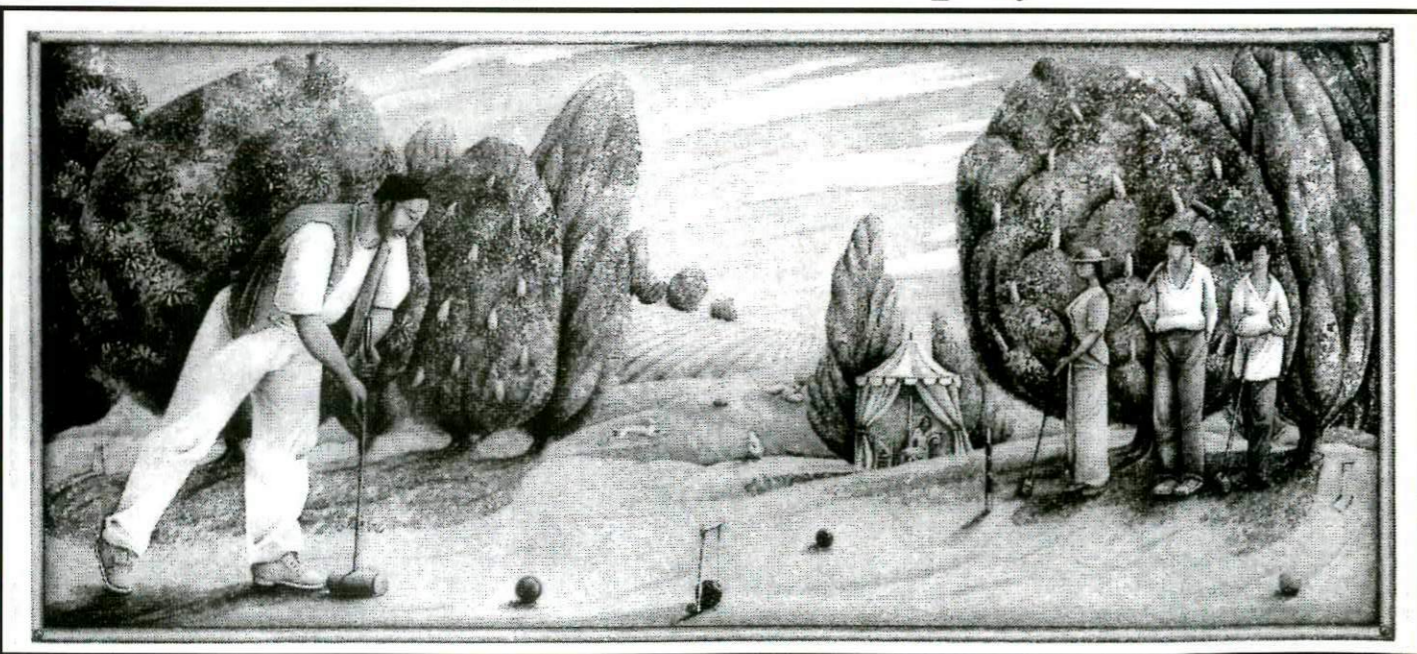


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Specific Questions & Queries

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

Copy Details

General copy and contributions should be sent direct to the editor. Email contributions, including tournament reports, should be sent direct to the editor, or copied to the editor if they are being 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 sheets. 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. Hand written reports can no longer be accepted.

Delivery Queries

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

THE CROQUET GAZETTE



Issue 266 March 2000 £3.00

Front Cover: The GB team which retained the MacRobertson Shield in New Zealand during January & February this year. (L to R) Chris Clarke, David Maugham, David Openshaw (capt.) Colin Irwin, Robert Fulford & Stephen Mulliner. *Photo by Chris Irwin.*

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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.

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EDITORIAL

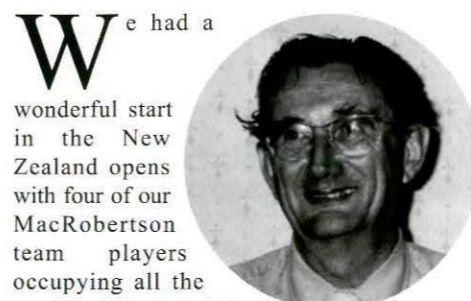


After the initial attention grabbing burn of compulsion to play croquet has died down it is my belief that many players find a more defined element of the sport to focus upon to hold their attentions. For some it is the competitive cut and thrust of the tournament circuit from Easter until October, for others it is perhaps the struggle to improve their handicap. Some fortunately give their time to administering the sport for the benefit of others, some glean their enjoyment from the many friends they have made in various areas of the country whilst playing at our array of calendar events. There are probably many other reasons why the sport of croquet holds the attraction it does for so many players, I know one of the reasons why I find the sport so appealing is the number of true characters I have heard about, read of, or been lucky enough to meet. Let's be honest here, I think it is true to say we have had, or indeed have, more than our fair share of interesting personalities.

The idea of 'Talking Croquet' has, since its conception in 1995, finally, thanks to Neil Williams, been able to move from the drawing board to the Gazette. However there is a limit to how many interviews Neil, or indeed any one person could cover. So, rather than twist the arms of others I decided to see if anyone on 'my hit list' would be willing to let me interview them. Fortunately, last summer, William Ormerod acceded to my request and the clubhouse of the Parkstone Club was, for all too brief a time, transformed into a window on the past of our sport which resulted in the most entertaining and amusing morning's work for this editor.

Both Neil and myself have some ideas for future subjects, but the 'hit list' is still open to suggestions. If you have any suggestions for future subjects of 'Talking Croquet' or perhaps would even like to conduct one of the interviews, please get in touch with me to discuss our ideas.

CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN



We had a wonderful start in the New Zealand opens with four of our MacRobertson team players occupying all the semi-final places. Robert Fulford ending up a worthy winner. They then continued their march forward with what can only be described as a superb exhibition of how to play croquet. Our marketing committee will do its utmost to draw public attention to our superiority in the sport, but how much notice the media will take is debatable. However, we can hold our heads high and say with pride "We are the best!"

You will see in this issue that a new award has been announced. This will give recognition to individuals who have done outstanding work at club level. The actual details of the award are in the announcement. Please give serious thought to this and if there is anyone in your club who, in your opinion, deserves recognition, please draw it to the attention of your club's committee.

I am afraid that things have gone rather awry regarding the fixtures book. In the CA we have to rely for a vast amount of our work being done by unpaid and often unsung volunteers. Sadly it is often only when something goes wrong that attention gets drawn. However, the late appearance of the book has presented serious problems to members and clubs alike and has not done the Council's reputation any good at all. So as Chairman of the CA Council may I sincerely apologise to everyone who has been inconvenienced by this. We can but promise to avoid the problem next year.

Many of you will by now be aware that the CA and Childline will be joining forces this year in a joint fund/membership drive. There will be (I hope!), full details in this issue. We are in great need of new club members (who will I hope, become new CA members) and the Marketing Committee has put in a huge amount of effort to get this scheme together. So come on clubs! Come on members!! Let's put a real effort into this one and see if we can get an urgently needed injection of new members into the CA.

In talking to various people it seems that quite a few of you haven't really hung up your mallets for the winter. Apart from the lucky ones who have had the good fortune to travel to sunnier climes to play (Ah, memories!) there are quite a number of players who have braved the elements to play here. Well done! I have to confess that I haven't picked up a mallet since last September. I wonder how you play.....?

NEWS & INFORMATION

Changes to General Conditions for Tournaments

Near the front of the fixtures book you should find a section entitled General Conditions and Information, which I suspect is not the section that most readers first turn to! It might therefore be useful to highlight a couple of points.

Firstly, by way of background, the General Conditions are a supplement to Regulations for Tournaments (which are to be found at the back of the Laws Book). They also give defaults for various bits of information that would otherwise have to be duplicated for most, if not all, of the events advertised; only exceptions need be shown. So, for example, one of the general conditions states that "Barlow GT Balls will be used". This does not mean that all tournaments will be using Barlow balls this year, but rather that if the advertisement for the tournament you are thinking of playing in does not mention balls, you can assume that they will be Barlows.

One of the changes this year is to try and encourage a more consistent use of the terms "opening" and "closing" dates. There were a number of misunderstandings last year due to the different interpretations used by clubs.

The recommendation is that the opening date should be the date on which entries will first be considered, in other words all entries received by that date will be held and examined together. (It does not mean that you cannot enter before that date!). Having an opening date for popular events means that people who receive the fixtures book later than others, or who happen to be away when it comes out, are not disadvantaged. For events which select on merit, the opening date is also the date on which selection should take place; those who make the cut can then plan accommodation, etc., without risk of being displaced by higher ranked competitors entering at the last minute. For other events, a ballot should be held on the opening date if the event is oversubscribed. It is suggested that the opening date should be four weeks before the tournament for championship events and eight weeks for others.

The closing date is then a backstop, allowing those who fail to get accepted for a popular event, or who are uncertain of their commitments, to enter events that are not oversubscribed nearer the time. It is suggested that this date is set to be two weeks before the event, to allow time for the tournament secretary to inform the manager and for the draw to take place. Some managers may be prepared to take entries after that date, but you should approach the manager directly to find out what the position is (and warn him!).

The other change is to do with hoop setting

(see Appendix 1). Previously, hoops for championship events had to be between 1/16" and 3/32" wider than the largest ball, and for other events between 3/32" and 1/8". However, for a top class advanced play event on easy laws, a gap of 1/16" is considered too large by most competitors; on the other hand, if conditions are difficult, e.g. on a very dry lawn, a setting of 3/16" might be more appropriate for a handicap event, particularly if there is rough ground near some of the hoops.

Since conditions are often at the mercy of weather, and hence cannot be predicted in advance, the manager now has some discretion to vary the width according to the conditions of the lawns and the standard of the entry, but should exercise this judiciously. In particular, hoops should be set so that most of the field, if they approach to good position, have reasonable expectation of being able to get a rush afterwards; it will still be illegal for hoops to be set so that the only way to avoid hitting both wires is to jump them! It should also be remembered that it is the rigidity, rather than the width, of a hoop that really determines how difficult it is to run unless the ball goes through without touching an upright.

Coaching Holiday

South East Croquet Federation's
SUMMER SCHOOL
at
SOUTHWICK SUSSEX
31 July to 4 August

The school is intended for players with handicaps of 14 or over who wish to learn more about croquet, but equally would like an enjoyable holiday with people with the same interest. The Cost including morning coffee, lunch and tea is £90.

A Prospectus and Entry Form is available from David Collins, 18 Vale Road, Bromley, Kent BR1 2AL. Tel.020 8467 8589. E-mail davidcollins@beeb.net

New items on the Oxford website

There are several new items on the Oxford Website which may interest correspondents: <http://users.ox.ac.uk/~croquet>

NEW

- * Calculator for ranking index changes
- * Peeling Opportunities. Points out when the peels of a triple may be done easily.
- * Modifications to the CA Regulations. Statement from Laws bodies.
- * Tournament Management. Currently covering Egyptian and Speed Doubles formats.
- * National Croquet Contacts. Listing of World Croquet Bodies.
- * Croquet Clubs. Known UK Clubs, including those +NOT+ registered with the Croquet Assn. (Please let me know if you would like your club listing).
- * Croquet Etiquette. A guide for new players at Club Fixtures and Tournaments - but generally

applicable. Plus all the usual topics and new material is welcomed.

Upgrade to Nottingham email list software

The mailing list, croquet@nottingham.ac.uk, which has been in existence for over four years and now has nearly 350 subscribers worldwide, is being moved to use new mailing list management software. The current, "Majordomo", software has served us well, but, with the new package, "Mailman", you can subscribe and subsequently control your subscription from a web browser, rather than having to send mail messages. Another advantage is that the authentication message, which must be returned to either system to confirm that you (rather than some malicious third party) actually asked to subscribe, is simpler in format; a large number of potential subscribers have had difficulty with the current software because it has been confused by their mail client inserting newlines or other formatting.

It is intended to make the change in mid-March: existing subscribers will be moved across automatically, and notified by e-mail when this is done. The address for sending messages to the other subscribers on the list remains the same. To subscribe, or modify an existing subscription once it has been transferred, point your web browser (Netscape or Internet Explorer) at <http://lists.nottingham.ac.uk/mailman/listinfo/croquet>. Hopefully, there will be links to this address on the CA (<http://www.croquet.org.uk>) and other croquet web sites, once it has been set up.

New Croquet Association Diplomas

The Croquet Association announces a new Diploma to be awarded to anyone who has made a very significant contribution to croquet by helping at club level.

The Diploma is intended to recognize those members who have been active in club affairs for many years. They need not be Individual Associate Members of the CA.

The Diploma has nothing to do with croquet prowess and everything to do with help given to other club members over a long period - perhaps by coaching, maintaining lawns, organising social activities or serving as a committee member.

Diplomas will be awarded annually at the Croquet Association's Annual General Meeting, and clubs should follow this procedure if they wish to make a nomination:

Nominations must be -
approved by club committees and accompanied by a citation of not more than ten lines;

signed by a club official on behalf of the committee and sent to the Secretary of the CA before 1 August each year.

Diplomas (suitable for framing) will be presented to recipients at Annual General Meetings of the Association, when their family and friends will also be welcome.

VISIT
THE CROQUET
ASSOCIATION
WEB SITE @
<http://www.croquet.org.uk/>

Letters...

Played the sport, read the books, now you can watch the films!

Dear Editor,

While many of us are familiar with the game of croquet as documented in books and pictures, I am unaware of any similar collection based on croquet in films. Some months ago, I was asked about the incidence of portrayals of the game on celluloid.

A quick search through the Internet Movie Database (uk.imdb.com) reveals several unexpected delights. Aside from a couple of obvious *Alice in Wonderland* versions, we find: *Feather Dusted* (1955) - in which loudmouthed cartoon rooster Foghorn Leghorn is soundly thrashed at croquet by Widow Hen's egghead genius son. *I'm Just Wild About Jerry* (1965) - where Tom chases Jerry into a department store's sporting goods section, allowing Jerry "to combine table tennis with croquet". Normally, the prospect of seeing Tom hammered into the shape of a croquet hoop would be greatly enticing. However, by the 1960s violence in Tom and Jerry had been considerably toned down. I somehow doubt this instalment's place among the classics of the series. *Savages* (1972) - reviewed by one website visitor as "One of the most bizarre films ever". The IMDB synopsis is worth reproducing in full: "A tribe of primitive 'mudpeople' encounter a croquet ball, rolling through their forest. Following it, they find themselves on a vast, deserted Long Island estate. Entering, they become civilised and assume the stereotypical roles and dress of people at a weekend party. There follows an allegory of upper-class behaviour. At last, they begin to devolve towards their original status, and after a battle at croquet, they disappear into the woods."

Perhaps even weirder than the plot itself is the movie's credit list. The film is an early directorial effort by that American master of English country house restraint, James Ivory. Ivory went on to direct such croquetfests as *A Room with a View*, *Howard's End* and *The Remains of the Day*. *Savages* also features noted character actor and Woody Allen favourite Sam Waterston at the bottom of the cast list, in the intriguing role of "James, the limping man".

Browsing my own memory bank, I'm struck by a few other interesting examples of croquet on film.

One of croquet's most notable recent appearances is in Michael Lehmann's 1989 black comedy *Heathers*, in which a young Winona Ryder becomes romantically involved with the unhinged Christian Slater, who carries out the increasingly bizarre - and well-deserved - murders of a group of unpleasant croquet-playing high school cheerleaders. Seeing the film on its original release, I remember hating it for



its backward-looking portrayal of pre-1869 "tight" croquet. Perhaps on reflection this was Lehmann's intention. I anxiously await the imaginatively titled sequel *Heathers 2*, due for release in 2000.

On current general cinema release this Christmas, a publicity still for the musicless Rodgers and Hammerstein remake *Anna and the King* (which I haven't seen) shows Jodie Foster bearing a mallet in the Siamese countryside.

The US TV series *Hart to Hart*, which ran from 1979-1984 features high-living society sleuths Jonathan and Jennifer Hart. I dimly recall

"Not only does this show perhaps the earliest surviving depiction of the game on celluloid, but it shows that croquet's 1920s popularity had spread as far as Germany"

from my (misspent) childhood an episode in which our heroes encounter murderous goings-on among the "lawn-croquet" playing elite of California. I do not intend to resort to watching each of the 111 episodes (synopses on each of the Fan Club sites I found were sketchy) in the hope of finding the relevant scene, but somewhere out there is a recorded piece of footage of organised club play in the early days of North American croquet.

The most unanticipated depiction of the game I've encountered comes from the 1922 F.W. Murnau vampire classic, *Nosferatu, eine Symphonie des Grauens*. In something like a five-second sequence, our heroine awaits her husband's return by passing the time on the croquet lawn. Not only does this show perhaps the earliest surviving depiction of the game on celluloid, but it shows that croquet's 1920s popularity had spread as far as Germany.

Finally, a search on the Internet Database for the word "croquet" in recent movie credits produced only the following reference. Dutch television produced two movies in 1998 entitled *Lolamoviola: Stroop* and *Lolamoviola: Venus*. The caterer for each of these productions was an individual by the name of Marc Croquet. Croquet has since gone on to provide food for the crew of the 1999 film *The Delivery*.

I have a couple of nagging doubts about television screenings. Firstly, I'm positive I've

seen Bart Simpson playing the game, but I don't recall when. Secondly, a recent BBC period drama showed a croquet lawn outside a English country house. I don't remember which serial it was, but I fancy it may have been (anachronistically) *Middlemarch*. Perhaps other readers may shed more light on such references. *James Hawkins, Liverpool*

I wonder if Barry Norman has ever considered playing? Ed.

Good old E.W.

Dear Editor

E W Swanton's reflections on more than seventy years of writing about sport may be of interest to your tournament reporters in the new century. He adopted a three-part reporting pattern, whether asked for five paragraphs or many.

"First, briefly, the basic facts - *what* happened. Next, a critical view - *why* it happened. For many readers that is all they will have time for. One hopes they may read on to discover *how* it happened; a measure of chronological detail to fill in the picture."

Quiller Barrett

The marketing of croquet

Dear Editor

As a person that has become disillusioned with the game of croquet and a paid employee in the area of marketing, I was interested to read articles in the November Gazette that described many of the issues that the sport must address such as its target audience, its format to attract most new players and its way of getting television involved.

I noted the desire to focus advertising of the sport in "The Oldie" (a short term focus I believe and would hope), I noted the Chairman saying that we continue "to suffer from an image problem" and I noted comments referring to the World's top 2 ranked players advocating a shortened version of the game to increase the attraction and involvement of players and spectators alike.

It strikes me that somebody, and this is perhaps Council, needs to be bold and think *radically*. There is too much soft-step discussion when there needs to be strong, creative decisive action ("better to have failed trying than not tried at all"). Why can't somebody say let's get on with it then and give the shortened version some higher status? Why can't we focus once again on youth to give us long term growth (one might argue that the last youth push took the game to a whole new dimension hopefully for the better)? Why can't somebody be pictured playing croquet up Snowdon if it gets away from the stuffy, oldie backgarden image (Southport's radical thinking should be considered seriously)?

My own experience in life is that without making radical large leaps, you run the risk of falling flat on your face like all the other dinosaurs running in the rapidly accelerating world.

Some suggestions or ideas, in order not to

come across as too critical, would be as follows;

(1) partner up with other organisations i.e. speak to the YMCA organisation, speak to the Chess Organisations about "Chess and Croquet" days. Think Novel!

(2) make players wear some form of clothing that immediately links them with the game that a spectator is watching on demonstration days or recruitment drives i.e. players wearing clothing to associate them with the ball they are playing. At the moment a person passing a club sees lots of people, dressed like cricketers.....how dull is that !!! Put character into the sport!

(3) run some serious tournaments under new shortened game rules format for trial purposes, participants being beginners. Do something and give it a go!

That's enough from me because I almost showed too much interest in the sport again...

Mark Saurin

Hoop Refurbishment

Dear Editor

At Parkstone Croquet Club, we are tackling annual re-furbishment of hoops. In this millennium year, it may be that E-mail and the Internet are ideal media for sorting out a specification, or 'best practice', for everyone's benefit, for the treatment and re-painting. (By 'best practice', I mean value-for-money, not necessarily an expensive, permanent solution.) The main problem is the chipping and wear on the inside of the wires caused by constant impact with the croquet ball (3 5/8" diam, 16oz weight, and with a milled composition surface.) The second problem is the chipping and wear on the crown caused by hammering the hoop into the ground. Both top and underside of the crown suffer wear through being constantly knocked into and out of the ground for adjustment of width.

I understand that:

(1) the CA has no specification or recommendations for hoop treatment,

(2) Dr. Ian Plummer's Oxford Croquet web site also has no specification,

(3) the hoop manufacturer, J. Aldridge, Alrincham, Nr. Manchester, is now using a coating of smooth, white powder-paint, and that Prof. Alan Pidcock also suggests powder-coating.

I have discussed the problem with directors of three separate specialist engineering companies in Poole. They all say (a) that powder-coating is not ideal for outdoor use under the conditions described above. It is commonly used for electrical 'white goods', such as tumble-dryers, which are usually used indoors. and (b) that the most effective solution, although not perfect, lies in the pre-painting treatment. This includes the *type* of shot-blasting and the *type* of 'plating'. ('Plating' is an electro-chemical surface treatment *not* like chrome or silver-plating). The type of top paint, they say, is not critical although one director mentioned a 'two-pack' paint which uses a hardener as in Araldite glue. The estimated cost

of re-furbishing to a similar specification from each of the three companies ranged from below £3.75 to over £5 per hoop. One of the directors had personal experience of croquet - Mr. Mike Trim, Production Director of Engineering Metalblast Ltd, who specialise in surface coating and treatments, thermal spraying and impact finishing. Mr Trim gave the problem some thought and he recommends that the most realistic, cost-effective solution (longer life at reasonable cost) is:-

1. Preparation of each hoop by Grit blasting (which gives a less deep 'orange peel' effect than Bead blasting),

2. Hot zinc 'plating' (which is porous and more flexible),

3. Priming immediately with a good, 'yellow' (?) primer,

4. Spray-painting with white top coat.

"My own experience in life is that without making radical large leaps, you run the risk of falling flat on your face like all the other dinosaurs running in the rapidly accelerating world"

This costs just under £3.75 per hoop (Jan.2000 prices).

This club now has a new set of hoops with powder-coating and old sets of hoops re-furbished with the above treatment. Careful observation and notes will be made of the wear and tear and the results are eagerly awaited to settle the bets.

Comment and contributions welcome.

Bob Sharman, EDLT & CC

The old vs the new - Golf Croquet

Dear Editor

Now that I am no longer Chairman of the Golf Croquet committee, and no longer a co-opted member of the CA council, I am at liberty to write to you and express some of my feelings about what has been done to the game of Golf Croquet. I would like point out that were it not for the considerable number of players who have been playing GC in a fiercely competitive way for many years, often in the face of sneers and derision from many Association players, the game of Golf Croquet would no longer exist. The questionnaire which was recently held resulted in an even spread of opinion, with if anything a slightly larger number in favour of the traditional rules than for the new. In view of this result I am very disappointed with the decision taken by the GC committee to impose the new rules on to the All England Golf Croquet Championships. This decision means that there is now no All England Championship Level Tournament available to those players who wish to preserve the traditional

rules. I do not believe that players of many years' experience do not wish to change the rules merely from inertia. I am not impressed by the argument that we must provide play under the new rules for those who are regarded as being our "top players", nor by the argument that traditional players are not competitive and will not enter tournaments run under the new rules. Of course they will not enter, because the game has been made less skilful, less interesting and less enjoyable. I disagree strongly with the suggestion that the WCF game should be called the advanced version, and I can see no reason why both versions of the game should not exist at the same time. It seems to me to be unreasonable that players who have been playing GC for only one year or so should have been allowed to force the new rules on to players who are not concerned with getting games over as soon as possible, but with enjoying them..

Surely Mr.Len Hawkins realises that everyone who has played GC seriously will now and then have run hoop four from the north boundary. What is so earth shattering about that? Does Mr.Hawkins really believe that the new rules have improved the game? Surely if players are shooting at hoops from greater distances then they are not playing well?

Does he really believe that the invention of sliced bread has improved the quality of our lives?

J.L.Wankling

Bad Form

Dear Editor,

Fellow club secretaries, match organisers, team leaders or whoever is responsible for hosting Longman Cup, Secretary's Shield, Inter-Club games, here is a question to which I thought the answer was a universal, unswerving, thumbs up:-

Is it the tradition that the host club, participating in the aforementioned events, (not finals) provide tea for the visiting team (by tea I mean a few sandwiches or cakes, biscuits, and something to drink)?

Well, I thought the answer was, yes. I have played in these events throughout the country over the past 6 or 7 years and not once have I experienced anything short of a warm welcome with refreshments to follow. Sometimes even lunch is provided. At Northampton we too always offer refreshments. Therefore, when a Northampton team played away, visiting an established club with facilities, on one of the hottest days of the year and was not even offered a glass of water between the four of them, I think it isbad form.

My question, of course, does not really call for an answer, but does act as a warning. As for Northampton; we shall continue to serve up teas as usual - especially for clubs who try to beat us through starvation.

Nick Evans

SPORTS INJURIES FOR CROQUET PLAYERS

By Bob Burnett, Dip RGRT, MSCP, SRP Chartered Physiotherapist

Bob Burnett is a Chartered physiotherapist who has specialised in sports injuries at his private practice in Southport for the past 20 years. He has been playing Croquet for three and a half years, is currently handicap 3.5, a Grade one coach and an assistant referee.

In this series of articles he will be outlining the most common injuries affecting croquet players, their management and treatment. They are not written for medics and do not contain a lot of detail. Their purpose is to give the non-medical player an insight into what may be wrong and the course of action to be taken. It must be remembered however that if diagnosis is unsure or if symptoms persist a medical opinion should be sought.

2. FROZEN SHOULDER

Pathology

Frozen shoulder is a term that describes the possible result of a variety of painful symptoms and conditions that may affect the shoulder. The word "frozen" refers to a lack of movement as a result of shortened muscles or adhesions surrounding the joint. These muscles shorten and adhesions occur after a period of enforced immobilisation following injury, e.g. dislocation, or voluntary immobility due to pain.

Conditions which cause immobility due to pain and therefore may lead to Frozen Shoulder include:-

- i) Capsulitis
Capsulitis of the shoulder may result from a sprain in which the ball at the top of the humerus is forced to move outside its normal range within the socket of the shoulder. However, in croquet players it is more likely to occur as a result of excessive (week long tournament, three games a day) or unaccustomed (beginning of season) use. It is characterised by diffuse pain in the joint, particularly on movement, which is difficult to localise.
- ii) Supraspinatus tendonitis (painful arc syndrome)

This condition is an inflammation of the supraspinatus tendon, (fig.1). This structure is responsible for initiating the movement of the arm away from the body. Although discomfort may be present at rest, this condition is usually characterised by the pain on the tip of the shoulder when the arm is moved sideways-upward above the head. The first 40 degrees are pain free, the arm then enters the 'painful arc' and pain diminishes again at around 120 degrees. It is caused by the lesion on the tendon rubbing

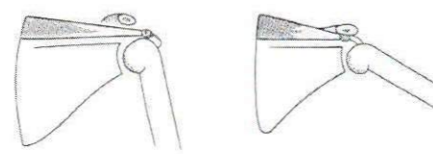


fig. 2

under the acromion process during the middle section of the arc (fig. 2).

In some chronic cases, especially with the older player, ectopic calcification (bone growth) may occur within the tendon. This will be visible on X-ray and surgery may be required.

- iii) Bicipital tendonitis
This is a problem similar to the above, but in this

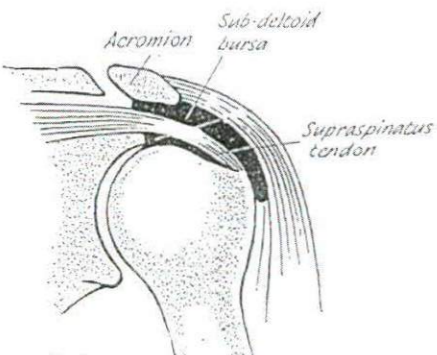


fig. 1

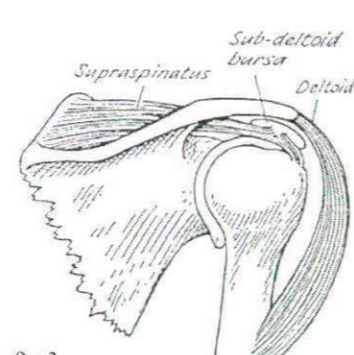


fig. 3

condition the inflamed biceps tendon is running down a groove in the bone on the top of the arm. Pain is felt on the front of the shoulder and top of the arm when it is moved backwards and outwards. The pain is well localised and easily elicited by palpation but on occasions may radiate down the arm into the biceps muscle.

iv) Sub-acromial bursitis
This condition is an inflammation and subsequent swelling of the sub-acromial (sub-deltoid) bursa, (fig.3). The bursa acts to separate some tendons around the shoulder from the bony arch of the shoulder socket.

It can occur as a result of a direct impact injury, over-use or in conjunction with other shoulder injuries especially "painful arc" syndrome. It is characterised by a diffuse pain over the shoulder and a severe lack of mobility.

v) Periarthritis
Osteoarthritis of the shoulder joint, unlike the weight bearing joints (hips and knees), is quite rare. When degenerative changes do occur it tends to be the soft tissues that are affected, this is known as periarthritis. The joint aches and stiffens. Mobility and internal rotation are lost quite early.

Management & Treatment

The golden rule with all painful shoulder syndromes that may ultimately result in a frozen shoulder, is that prevention is better than cure. Immobility for any prolonged period will result in stiffness. If this stiffness is not addressed a frozen shoulder may result.

With all of the above conditions, in the acute stage, it is important to strike a balance between too much movement which will cause increased inflammation and a worsening of the condition, and too little which will lead eventually to a frozen shoulder. Gentle pendular swinging exercises with the arm, (fig.4) should be performed for a few minutes a couple of times a day. This will gently mobilise the soft tissue structures around the shoulder and increase circulation without inflaming the condition.

As the acute inflammation subsides, the movements may be increased and gravity may be utilised to provide resistance to the muscle contractions. It is still important at this stage not to perform any movements that cause pain or an increase in the level of discomfort. All the various movements of the shoulder must be attempted, not forgetting rotation as this is often the most stubborn. The "good" arm may be used to assist the affected arm into positions it finds painful to attain unaided. It must be stressed that

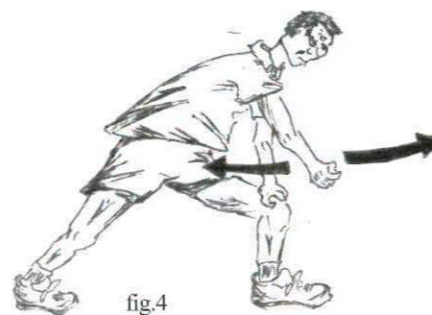


fig.4

activities which increase inflammation and cause pain on movement should be avoided.

Other forms of treatment at this stage include:- painkillers, anti-inflammatory medication, hydrocortisone injections and physiotherapy.

As the condition improves greater ranges of movement are used in the exercises performed together with stronger and faster muscle contractions. If the movements of the shoulder have been maintained throughout, a frozen shoulder will not develop. The condition should progressively respond to treatments and return to normal.

In the unfortunate event of a chronic frozen shoulder developing, vigorous mobility exercises must be performed to stretch the muscles around the shoulder and to break down adhesions that may have formed. In stubborn cases a manipulation may be required, possibly under anaesthetic, or surgery will sometimes be needed to perform a decompression or remove unwanted bone growth.

The longer a shoulder has been "frozen" the more difficult it is to re-establish normal movement. So remember, "prevention is better than cure", don't let it stiffen in the first place.

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THE MILLENNIUM TOURNAMENT

A high - low bisque handicap doubles tournament

Following the great success of the Centenary Tournament held at Cheltenham in 1997 the CA has decided to repeat the event as part of our Millennium celebrations. This will take place over the weekend of 2-3 September 2000 at the Cheltenham Club. Entry forms in the Fixture Book.

It is hoped to encourage teams from as many clubs as possible to compete and that we shall have a maximum entry of 40 teams (160 players) present.

The format will be such that teams will play in alternate rounds on both days, providing a good balance between play and socialising opportunities.

A brief summary of the intended schedule on each day is as follows:

| | | |
|--------------|---------|------------------------------|
| 9.30-11.0 | Round 1 | |
| 11.05-12.35 | Round 2 | (lunch for those in round 1) |
| 12.50-14.20 | Round 3 | (lunch for those in round 2) |
| 14.25-15.55 | Round 4 | (tea for those in round 3) |
| 16.00-17.30 | Round 5 | (tea for those in round 4) |
| 17.35- 19.05 | Round 6 | (Optional on Sunday) |

On Saturday the teams will be split into two groups. These will effectively play separate competitions, with one group playing in rounds 1,3 and 5, and the other in rounds 2,4 and 6. The top 20 teams after Saturday's games will then play in rounds 1,3 and 5 on Sunday and the bottom 20 teams in rounds 2,4 and 6.

For each match a team will consist of 2 doubles pairings (4 players) who will play 14 point handicap doubles game against a pair from the opposing team. Thus a match can be won (2 points), lost (0 points), or drawn (1 point). Pairings for each round will be decided according to a Swiss system. The lowest combined handicap of any team is 24.

If this sounds daunting and your club does not usually enter such events don't be put off, it was a great success in 1997 and I am sure it will be even better this time. Just ensure the entry form is sent in and turn up and enjoy the company of all those other croquet fanatics.

The tournament will be managed by Ian Burrige who ran the Centenary Tournament and he will give you any additional advice you may need or you can contact me, Derek Trotman, on 01670 518228.

A barbecue will be held on the Saturday Evening. This and other food will be provided by that well known Cheltenham catering team organised by Eileen Magee. A word of warning as regards seating. There are only a limited number of chairs at the club so if you have folding chairs bring them with you or sit on the grass!

For those wishing to arrange accommodation the Cheltenham Tourist office is 01242 522878; brochure request line 01271 336090. Cheltenham & Gloucester College may also be able to offer student accommodation - 01242 532774. Breakfast can be arranged at the Croquet Club if required.

I look forward to seeing you there

Derek Trotman - Chairman Tournament Committee



NEWS

Balls Approved for WCF Championships

Testing of equipment for Championship use is carried out for the World Croquet Federation by the English Croquet Association's Equipment Committee, chaired by Professor Alan Pidcock.

Approval is obtained by the submission of a set of balls for testing. The current testing fee is £50 and the balls submitted are retained for archive purposes. If the balls satisfy the requirements, the manufacturer or supplier is entitled to use the description "WCF Championship approved" in advertising, or for other purposes, during the three years following the date of formal approval. A test report is provided. If the requirements are not met, half the fee will be refunded and the balls will be returned.

The requirements for championship balls are constantly under review. The current specification can be obtained from the WCF Secretary-General (chudson@worldcroquet.u-net.com).

Balls currently approved for WCF Championship use are as follows:
Barlow GT 1 Oct 1997 - 30 Sept 2000
New Eclipse 1 Oct 1999 - 30 Sept 2002
Dawson 2000 International 1 Dec 1999 - 30 Nov 2002

WCF Website Enlarged

Work on the WCF's new Internet site will be completed shortly. It can be accessed at <http://www.worldcroquet.u-net.com>

Each page in the new site will have a uniform format, with different colours for easy identification of each section. The section contents will be as follows:

1. Welcome Page.

This includes a "welcome" and broad details of what the WCF is about.

2. WCF News.

This details the WCF's "communications" policy, and gives news of the next world championship, the latest WCF "newsflash", changes to the International Directory, and a list of topics being discussed by the Management Committee.

3. WCF Information.

This lists WCF "achievements", gives details of WCF member associations, and profiles the WCF Management Committee. It contains the WCF "Rules and Constitution", and the WCF's "International Directory".

4. WCF Championships.

This gives the history of the championships to date, and lists World Champions and Runners-up from 1989 to the present day, with profiles and photos of the players. Detailed championship reports and results are provided, with a list of championships planned over the next ten year period.

5. World Rankings.

This explains how rankings are calculated, lists world team and individual rankings for golf and association croquet, and provides a facility to compare one set of rankings with another.

6. WCF "Friends".

This section summarises the "Aims" of the "Friends", invites people to join, and provides a "guestbook" for site visitors. All existing "Friends" are listed on an "Honours Board" in tribute to their generosity.

Hot off the press!

CROQUET: A BIBLIOGRAPHY

Specialist Books and Pamphlets Complete to 1997

Compiled by David Drazin

Co-published by Oak Knoll Press, USA, price \$99.95 net, and St Paul's Bibliographies, Winchester, price £62.50 net

As reviewed in the last issue of *The Croquet Gazette*, this handsome book of 528 pages, the first systematic bibliography of croquet, has a cloth binding and dust jacket. There are over 1000 entries, including works in English, French, German, Italian, Swedish, Afrikaans, Chinese and Japanese.

CA members may order this book directly from the compiler at the special price of £60 inclusive of UK inland postage. Cheque with order please to David Drazin, Roefield, The Green, Croxley Green, Herts WD3 3HJ.

A Message From Childline

Dear Croquet Players,

I write to say how delighted and excited we all are at Childline by the fact that you have adopted us for a very special initiative.

The thought of croquet players and Clubs around the country coming together on May 7th in order both to increase their membership and at the same time raise much needed income for Childline offers the most wonderful opportunities.

Everyday childline receives thousands of calls from children in desperate need for someone to talk to about an incredibly wide range of problems. Lack of funds means that we can only answer a certain number.

Your support will enable us to continue with our aim of one day answering every call the first time it is made.

Please remember, it costs £30 to counsel a child - £30 that conceivably could save a child's life or change his or her life forever.

If you would like to talk to me in more detail or if there is anything I can do to help, please do call me on my direct line 0171 239 1028.

Thanks a million - good luck!

Michael G. Bain
Senior Fundraising Manager

COACHING

2000

TWELVE YEARS OF MERIT AWARDS SCHEME

By Bruce Rannie

The Merit Awards Scheme is the tangible measure of your progress in the game of Association Croquet. A Badge Scheme was launched in the May 1988 issue of *The Croquet Gazette* (number 196) by John McCulloch, Bill Lamb and the CA Coaching Committee of the time as one of the methods of increasing the general skill level throughout the CA domain, to back up the national and regional Coaching Courses. The current Scheme was re-launched the next year, where the badge was posted to the qualifier rather than being available at Tournaments, and that is the arrangement that continues to this day. Successors on the Committee, including Don Gaunt, Tim Haste, Chris Clarke and Bill Arliss, have refined the Scheme and encouraged its use as an incentive to maintain improvement in play.

The way it works is as follows. There are three Badges that can be obtained; each one is a signal of measurable improvement in competitive play. The match has to be in one of the recognised CA Calendar Tournaments or competitions, or in a representative event, with hoops set correctly. You also have to win the match to qualify for any of the Awards.

Originally, there were handicap limits for the first two Awards, so that an established player could not qualify for a full set straight after their introduction, thus removing the means of measuring general improvement in play, but this has now been lifted.

BRONZE Badge

The first one a beginner is likely to obtain is the Bronze Badge, awarded for making a ten-hoop break, using bisques if necessary. This is the usual target once you have grasped the idea of tidy controlled croquet, and the use of bisques to build and continue a break is becoming your normal practice. You will have come past the point of only using bisques in rescue or defensive positions, and will be starting to attack opponents positively and confidently.

The Bronze Badge is often won after a player has attended one of the Regional Bronze or Improvers Courses, which concentrates on setting up and maintaining breaks, and positive use of bisques. Nearly 40 were awarded in 1999.

SILVER Badge

The second Award in sequence is the SILVER Badge, and this comes at the point in your development where you are conceding bisques most of the time, or are taking the first steps into the Advanced game.

Originally the award was given for achieving an all-round (twelve hoops) break without using bisques either to set up the break or to continue it, while winning the game. In more recent times, the criterion has been changed to a break of twelve hoop points, thus allowing one or more peels.

This was done because there are many times when you make the first hoop with one ball, but then have to exit. Later you get the second ball all the way round stopping at rover - a normal leave if you're giving bisques. Then you get another opportunity with the first ball, starting at hoop two and completing the rover peel for the twelfth point (the peg points do not count in the qualification criterion for the Award) and ultimate victory.

Both the National Silver Course and the Silver-Gilt

(Introduction to Advanced Play) Course concentrate on the kind of break management and tactics that naturally lead the player to win the Silver Badge. More than 30 were awarded in 1999.

GOLD Badge

The third Award is the GOLD Badge, which is for your first Triple Peel in qualifying competitions. The manoeuvre is by definition a winning one, as it comprises peeling your first ball through four-back, penult and rover, while playing the appropriate break with the second ball, and pegging both out for the victory.

It is more often seen in Advanced Play, as one of the standard tactics to avoid giving one of the lifts or contact, but it is also one of the weapons in the armoury of the experienced player faced with a fence-ful of bisques in a Handicap Tournament. Naturally bisques cannot be used to hit in, or to set up the break, or to carry it out, but that does not preclude qualification in a game in which the player has previously used bisques.

The National Gold Course is designed to prepare players to achieve this, setting out the tactics for the standard triple, and the delayed triple, and the attacking leaves after the first ball has reached four-back, in order to make the lift shot as difficult as possible for the opponent. 7 Gold Badges were awarded in 1999.

Progress into 2000

The aim set out by the CA Coaching Committee more than twelve years ago was to encourage enterprising play. The number of badges despatched over the past few years has remained consistent, and it is pleasing for the current Coaching Committee, including the Regional Coaching Officers, that your keenness and desire to improve continues apace.

As the current Chairman of that Committee, I would like to see even more of you claiming the Badge in 2000 after successes in Tournaments, because that is one obvious measure of the success of the Coaching policy and of the Coaches themselves. The more players that can show that the enterprising play being taught does lead to success, the better placed we will be in producing a continuance of top class players for individual and team World Championships well into the new century.

CLUB COACH QUALIFICATION

Don Williamson, the North West Federation Coaching Officer, is driving the first of these initiatives. In May, he will be running the first of a series of new courses, aimed at teaching potential coaches a standard approach, enough to qualify them as "Club Coach", and able to take new or recent members of their Club from starting out to a reasonably confident level. The material is adapted from the old "Grade I" Coach course, with significant new material based on the National Coaching Foundation courses, and Don's own experience. The aim is to ensure beginners to all variants of the game are taught in a standard manner, so that students coming onto further courses have a reasonably standard grounding, on which the new material can be based. In addition, "how to teach", "how to maintain interest", and other facets of learning to be a coach are covered, appropriate no matter what the sport is. Don is launching this around the clubs in the North West, and the CA is backing the initiative whole-heartedly. The aim is to launch an official "Club Coach" qualification to supplement the Grade I, II and III badges, in 2001.

COACH QUESTIONNAIRE

All CA-qualified Coaches, whatever Grade, will have received a questionnaire from me via the Office in January. Thanks to all those who contacted me, and have returned the form so promptly – we are heartened that so many continue to take an interest and make the effort for new players, often many years after qualifying. As the form shows, we are trying to ensure the CA holds a register of coaches who are continuing to be active, and therefore are available for leaning on by Federation or even Regional course organisers, or even for contact by a neighbouring club to come and help occasionally. I am also trying to gauge whether existing coaches might be interested in adding a “Club Coach” bar to their existing badge, so that we can aim a version of Don Williamson’s course at existing coaches, or come up with another option, according to demand. If you haven’t yet responded, please take a few minutes to do so, returning the form to the Office (“fax” works, or mark the envelope “Coach”).

COACHING PAGE

The intention of this page is to publish articles or snippets that should interest most players, whether beginner or experienced, whether association, short or golf aficionados. I would not presume to find material that is “new” to our top quality internationals, but I hope to persuade some of these players to pass on tips that are helpful to those who would seek to emulate them.

Over the past ten or fifteen years, *The Croquet Gazette* has run articles and hints from all kinds of source – I will seek to re-publish some of the best of these, with permission from and credit to the original contributor. I will also use the Page to bring information about and ask for reaction to the initiatives the Coaching Committee is bringing to all parts of the country.



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TALKING CROQUET

By Gail Curry

Many readers of the Gazette may not know any details about the careers or views of some of the people who have made a significant contribution to the game, in whatever shape or form. Our chances of seeing them, let alone talking to them, are necessarily few. It is hoped these conversations will bring them a little closer, so that we may benefit from their advice or experience.

No. 5 William Ormerod

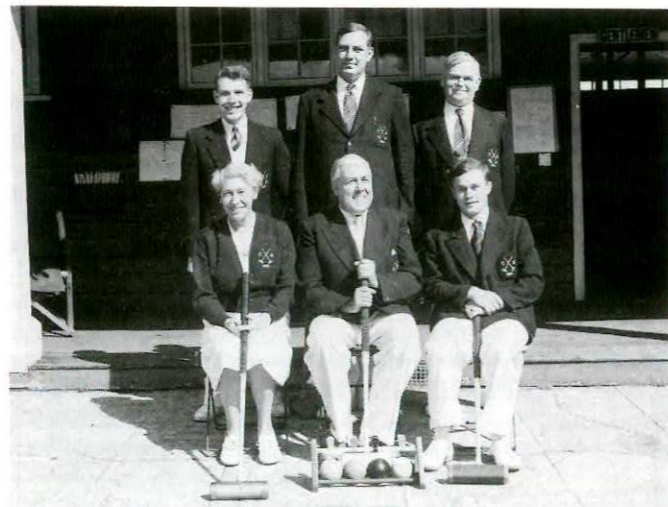
Everyone seems to have an interesting story of how they came to play croquet. How did your involvement in croquet start William?

In 1948 when I was aged 11, my father Dr G L Ormerod twisted his knee playing tennis. He was a Bristol G P and one of his patient's, Kathleen Ault, Secretary of the Bristol Croquet Club also catering manager of Bristol Music Club persuaded him to play.

Most players who know of you will probably be curious about your unusual stance and grip. How did that develop?

I was keen on cricket and it seemed quite natural to hold a mallet like a cricket bat, with my shoulders square to the target. I started with a mallet weighing 3lb 9 ounces for the heavy Bristol lawns, and I think the heavy mallet taught me a rhythmically smooth swing in those early years. Bobby Wiggins told me I would break my wrists one day, but I'm still waiting.

You started your Croquet career at the Bristol club and have had a long and enjoyable playing career. One of the attractions of the game for me today is the abundance of 'characters' in the sport, that is to say people still involved in croquet who add an extra dimension to the game other than just playing it; can you remember any such characters from your long playing career?



The 1956 GB Test Team left to right: William Ormerod, Bobby Wiggins, Freddie Stone, Hope Rotheram, Patrick Cotter (Capt.) and John Solomon.



I have vivid memories of many wonderful people, but I see them now through the eyes of a boy in the late 1940's and 50's. I can name many straight off the cuff. Miss Newman who made teas taking orders through her highly polished ear trumpet. Miss Lewis who chortled and shook who poured the tea “Hold your cup well away, dear” she cried. Dr Veale with half an eye, looking up and down at you. Old Munro who lived in the club shed in the summer.

Some seem Dickensian, others more faded Edwardian. There was old Mr Tivy, a hunchback the chairman - a relative of Peel who founded the CA. He had been a Colonial in India and was full of stories of tiger hunting - fascinating to a boy, but boring to the others. There was Mr Rich, headmaster of Bristol Cathedral School who ran about the court like Stephen Mulliner and jumped over hoops. He had two friends who became stalwart croquet members. Alan Jupe a tall bow-tied stockbroker; “Buy at the next depression - I wish I'd bought in '31". He was a fine Bach specialist pianist, loved his croquet and was the only man I knew who died on the lawn, near the 4th corner.

The Bristol characters seem to be endless, but perhaps one more before we move on My mother was a friend of Maurice Reckitt, they shared an interest in literary competitions in Time and Tide, the Spectator and the New Statesman, also Punch. Maurice once tried to reassure me and quoted from John Clare lines written in Northampton County asylum, ironically now the home of Northampton Croquet Club. “All friends I love the best are strange, nay stranger than the rest”. Admit it or not, there really is a touch of Alice in Wonderland around the croquet world, especially where the soul of croquet lies; the provincial croquet clubs and their members.

You obviously have a clear memory of incidents and the characters involved. Were there any A class players in Bristol, or others who visited the club?

Yes there were several. Pat Cotter used to come. He used to stay with us at home and he loved our local Christian Science Church. He said the Bristol club was the only place where he had completed a triple peel on a ploughed field. Humphrey Hicks came, and in 1953 give an exhibition match with John Solomon. A film my father took shows Humphrey playing all round

to peg, including an amazing fourth hoop jump where the ball hits the top wire and spins through. Then John picked up a fine break, duly pegged Humphrey out and won.

Arthur Ross came to stay on more than one occasion, with his chatty chain-smoking wife Lena. Arthur had read in New Zealand about this strange left-handed cricket grip of a boy. When we finally played our match, we stopped for tea. Arthur flatteringly said: William I've waited five years for this. Dear Miss Newman, brass ear trumpet glowing, wheeled round with her teapot to say “I'm sorry sir, I'm being as quick as I can, Indian on China?”

There certainly were plenty of colourful characters around for you when you were younger William. But which players do you think most influenced your play?

My early years were influenced by two players, together with my father's earlier advice. First a Bristol player F.W. Ward who had been in the President's Cup in 1938. He in effect taught me the advanced game and he seemed to appreciate my interest in strategy. We talked about openings, leaves to 4-back, pegged out games and wirings. What a patient man, and I particularly remember his advice to leave the penult peel of a triple until just before 4 - back “in case of trouble”.

The Revd. Handel Elvey was another player I'm indebted to. He was a friend of my father, and although I didn't see him often, he was most encouraging and father and I followed his advice in his book *Croquet Strokes and Tactics* (pub.1949) and on our drawing room floor used Tollemache's book with plan and coloured counters. Elvey's book is a real 50 year-old gem, with much sound advice and still topical.

I was always rather a slow and dilatory type of player and quite the opposite to my brother Henry. It was around 1954 when I'd won a huge cup at Roehampton, the The Gilbey Cup; the photos just may give the lie to those like Cliff Jones who quip I was born aged 50! Anyway Maurice Reckitt had a quiet word to my father. He said William's inclination to a degree of physical torpor allows his overactive brain to plan traps and leaves and complex wiring tactics to beguile bemused quicker opponents.

Anyone who knows of or has seen William's play will find it probably quite amazing that the previous paragraph holds perhaps the most accurate description of William's stylish play. Slow play seems to always be frowned upon, sometimes this is understandable when the end product is not something that could be described as something that was worth waiting for. On the other hand there is a certain style to the 'Ormerod beguiling', that quite frankly often makes the wait worthwhile.

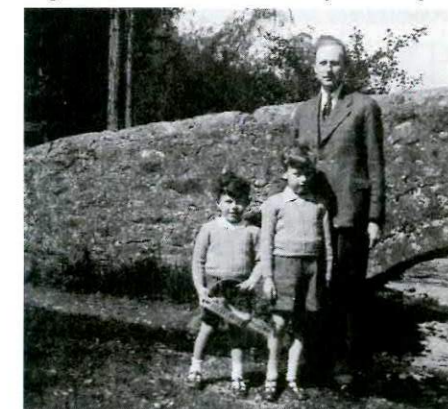
When you were in Bristol presumably you played in some tournaments?

I remember very well my first tournament in 1952 at Parkstone aged 15. We all came as a family and my first opponent in the Halse Salver was Miss Hedges; no Christian names then. She was in fact Lady Barbarolli's aunt, and related to

Richard Rothwell, later CA Secretary. When she discovered that I was interested in music, and at the time was considering a musical career as a cellist, she said “Don't let's play this silly game; let's talk about music”.

Other characters there included Mrs Ashton (Nee Kingsford) Croquet Sec. and ex-international who had played with Humphrey and John in New Zealand in 1950. Poor soul, she had developed tunnel vision which didn't affect her Croquet, but when she drove she would ask you to look left and right for her; quite a dangerous nightmare. Canon Creed-Meredith was chairman, in black suit and a dog collar, like Elvey. But unlike Elvey used to kick his ball into better position with his club foot surgical boot. I remember watching him once with Gerald Williams, the MP who resigned at Orpington causing a Liberal landslide by Eric Lubbock. The Canon kicked his ball into position at the 6th hoop; Gerald who said he far preferred fishing and Croquet to politics, told me, “William, leave him alone - he'll confess and go to heaven anyway!”

The truly most remarkable man I ever met was Monty Spencer Ell. He loved playing croquet at Parkstone, and amazingly had no arms, just rudimentary stumps which he once showed me. He had been badly injured in the Great War, requiring amputations which I think he said were performed by a skilful German surgeon. Later at St Mary's Hospital



William with his brother Henry and his father Dr George Lawrence Ormerod, author of 'Know the Game'.

Roehampton he was fitted with many devices screwed into the stump of his right shoulder, including a detachable croquet mallet. An absolutely charming man he managed to play off scratch; he kept a row of ready filled pipes in his top pocket, and what a pleasure it was to strike a match or lighter for him, one of the few tasks he was unable to deal with.

Do you have many memories of younger players?

Young players did start to emerge from the universities in the late 50's and 60's including Keith Wylie, Gordon Hopewell and others. But in the early Fifties John Solomon and the two Ormerods were the youngest by about 30 years. I remember watching my brother Henry, then a member of the Intelligence Corps, play in the same tournament as General F.H.N. Davidson,

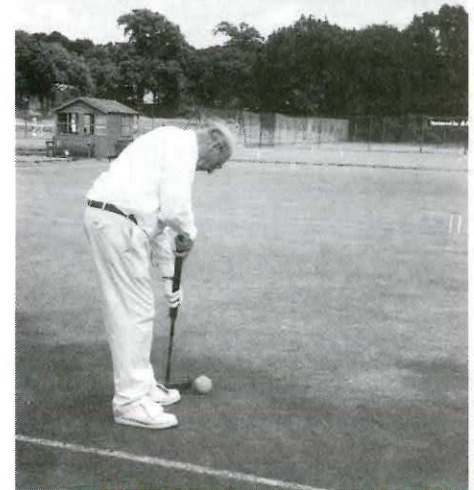
head of the whole caboodle. Maurice Reckitt quipped that he loved to see the General play, as shielded by his shadows, the shrubs and trees moved with him!

Having recalled such colourful memories of the characters that surrounded you while you were playing perhaps we should concentrate a little more on your own accomplishments. You must still have many fond memories of your own distinguished playing career including the President's Cup, Open Doubles and Test Matches.

Yes I did win the President's once, in 1966. I do believe I won on tactics, having previously thought out some outrageous openings and leaves. I was tired of the old stereotyped play, and the short lift shot was hit more often than not, especially by John Simon, John Bolton and Nigel Aspinall. I believed I deceived John Solomon but not Keith Wylie!

The Open Doubles I feel I won on the coat-tails of first Humphrey Hicks in 1960, and in the 70's of Nigel Aspinall - although I may have been a slight foil to Nigel's at times over exuberance. Nigel at his brilliant best was phenomenal; 15 minute triples were commonplace for him, and he, like Pat Cotter at his peak would be true match for today's stars.

I played in four test series. Pat Cotter's superb play was for me the main feature of the 1956 Test versus New Zealand. He struck the ball to perfection with his long slow flat swing from the shoulders. A wonderful sound he conjured



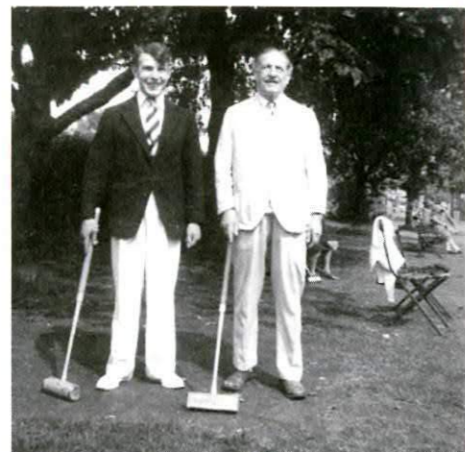
William preparing to play a lift shot.

from his light satinwood mallet. I regret that the term 'Cotter's kiss' has now gone out of Croquet terminology. He would stroke the ball gently studying the borrows, and his ball would just turn on to the roqueted ball at the last second to clip it. Cotter's Kiss was a term invented I believe by a Devon player W.W. Sweet-Escott in the 50's, and mentioned in Pat's excellent obituary in the old St Paul's magazine.

1963 in New Zealand, I remember Bobby Wiggins, my doubles partner playing several hard breath-taking fine cut rushes. Also John Solomon's fine peel at Rover from the north boundary, the opposition and spectators thinking this was a normal feat from such a wizard!

1969 in Australia, brilliantly managed by Bernard Neal, with John as captain, my partner Douglas Strachan at Adelaide played a phantom triple. I had got to the peg, and when Douglas got in he embarked on a perfect triple. We all kept mum and Douglas's concentration was perfection!

In 1974 I remember one shot. Bob Jackson had a rush to the peg, wired from William Prichard's lone ball. William thought hard then gently rolled his ball to stymie Bob's rush. The Budleigh crowd half clapped, but the tactic worked, Bob's rush hit William's ball and William later won the match. In fact he was



William with Major Jack Dibley after the Gilbey Cup final.

undefeated in all his matches, Doubles and singles.

Having had the benefit of so many years' experience of croquet, do you have any final thoughts on the modern game William?

Yes I do worry about the stereotyped play at the top level - the break to 4-back, the diagonal leave (in fact an old modified Whichelo leave that Elvey thought up but discarded as too difficult!) then the inevitable triple. Too many 26's cannot be good, so why not you top players think of new openings, or declare a special advanced rule that if any ball goes off the court a fault is committed, except for the first stroke of a turn?

Fortunately the soul of croquet lies with Clubs and active playing members and the game is quite difficult enough.

One final puzzle. I once saw Jack Dibley my Gilbey Cup opponent aim at a ball only one 8th of which was showing at 4-back. Shooting from the first corner he hit it! How far in yards was the margin of error for that shot? i.e. what is the yardage for a full ball shot for similar margin of error?

And on that note William ceased reminiscing about his croquet experiences of the past in favour of concentrating on the task of the day, a South West Federation Advanced League game against Cheltenham. Mind you I dare say there were a few more stories to be told that day, as Cheltenham had persuaded Paul Hands to come out of 'croquet retirement' to play - but that's another story.

CA NEWS

Marketing & Publicity

By Tony Fathers, Chairman Marketing Committee

Childline

By the time you read this all clubs should have received their briefing pack from Childline and indeed many members will have been briefed. If you have not already done so, may I ask you to make a note in your diary NOW about the date of National Croquet Day: Sunday, 7th May.

The Oldie

We are going from strength to strength, with the magazine taking us to their heart (funny I never realised publishers had hearts); we have been given, quite free, two full pages advertising our sport: one in the January issue, one in the February. This will help to make Oldie readers more aware of our sport and soften them up for the key effort in April. This will take the form of an editorial article, plus a repeat of the Anyone for Croquet advertisement, plus a further page devoted to those clubs who have decided to advertise themselves.

Publicity

At the time of writing the result of the MacRobertson Shield is not known. However we do know that, at the end of week one, Great Britain not so much beat as walked over Australia with a score of 20 - 1.

Everywhere in the country people are fed up with our sporting failures: rugby, football and cricket to mention but three. OK so croquet is not in the forefront of everyone's mind when sport is discussed. But this is no reason to be bashful about our success. If each associate were to mention this to no more than six non-croquet playing friends this would mean 10,000 people nationally have heard of our success. Surely worth doing?

New Initiatives

I am pleased that members are beginning to talk to me about new marketing initiatives. Michael Hague, who plays at Woking and at Surbiton, has come up with two splendid ideas: University of the Third Age (U3A) and the Services. As I

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Email: mike@croquetmallets.com

keep saying we retired folk are the prime target for the CA efforts to expand our sport: U3A must therefore be one of the ways forward. And as an ex-army man, Michael must be well placed to get croquet into the retirement magazines, newsletters and so forth of the three services. I'll let you all know how we get on in due course.

Then John Handy of Rugby wrote to me suggesting, in the light of our efforts with The Oldie, that SAGA magazine would be a good thing. And so it would save the cost of a black and white page is £8,000 against my total marketing budget for the year of £3,000. However it got me thinking. Suppose he and I, plus another 158 Associates wrote to SAGA magazine extolling the virtues of croquet for SAGA members; might not that result in someone on their editorial staff sitting up and taking an interest in our sport? And why, you may ask, 158 Associates in addition to John and me? Because that would make 160 or 10% of our Associate membership. "What! One in ten of our Associates spending 20 minutes plus a 19p stamp in writing to SAGA; the man must be mad". Very possibly.

So there are 3 things I want YOU to do to help our sport grow:-
National Croquet Day - Put 7th May in your diary now. Talk about the day to your friends. Turn up and support your club on the day.
Publicity for Croquet - Proclaim our international success.
Write to SAGA magazine - Go on write to SAGA, Middleburg Square, Folkstone, Kent CT20 1AZ

CA COUNCIL & COMMITTEES TASKS FOR 2000

For quite a long time many of those involved with administering croquet recognized that having a Council of more than twenty discussing the details of committee reports is perhaps not the most effective way to manage our affairs. The national governing bodies of other sports have been taking steps to improve their efficiency and the CA Council of 1999 decided it was time to grasp the nettle too. After discussion and some amendments it accepted the Constitution Working Party recommendations and these were put into effect in October last year.

There is now a much stronger emphasis on delegation from Council to committees, and with this, accountability. Committees report to a nine-person Management Committee leaving Council itself to deal mainly with matters of policy.

Revised terms of reference for all our committees are being agreed that take into account, for example, the responsibilities across a number of them for golf croquet including coaching, laws, international relations and selection.

Don Gaunt, Chairman of Council, has asked all committee chairmen to list their objectives for 2000 so that by the end of the year everyone will be able to see what has been achieved and what may remain to be completed.

Council wishes to operate in as open a manner as possible so here are the most important specific tasks for 2000 from those chairmen who have so far completed their lists. If you would like to comment on any of these objectives please contact the relevant chairmen.

Quiller Barrett,
Chairman Management Committee

COACHING
Chairman: Bruce Rannie

← Review the total written material with the intention of publishing a new edition of the Coaching Manual during 2001. Any material produced

by the Golf Croquet Committee will be included, and the material for Club Coach will cover teaching beginners any format of the game in a standard manner.

← Create a course for getting Club Coaches officially qualified for the 2001 season, in the manner that was used for Grade I, before qualifying throughout a season was permissible.

← Publish a COACHING PAGE in each issue of *The Gazette*, mainly aimed at C—Class players downwards.

← Assess the viability of producing a new video and similar coaching aids.

← Send a questionnaire to all qualified coaches, to confirm that they remain active and available to Member Clubs and Federations as Coaches, and to attempt to allocate some of them as "Visiting Coach" to assist Member Clubs where even the new Club Coach qualification is difficult to attain.

DEVELOPMENT

Chairman: Bill Sidebottom

← Incorporate a direct link with the Equipment Committee and a closer co-ordination of the two committees.

← Obtain approval from Council for the proposals contained in the two documents: "Review of Awards - Revised October 1999" and "Guidance on Grants - October 1999", and implement the conclusions.

← To maintain a regular flow of information on development issues to clubs and members, principally through *The Gazette*, but perhaps also through the CA web site.

← To encourage and give support finance to clubs, directly by grants and loans; support in lottery applications and through the Federations, via Federation Grants. To provide advice on how to apply for lottery grants.

← Particular emphasis will be placed on the Awards for All lottery scheme. This has real potential, especially for small clubs. We will establish what successful clubs did well and why unsuccessful applicants are likely to have failed. An interesting case is Pendle's application that includes the cost of a mini-carpet.

← The results of efforts made in 1999 by clubs and Federations with school age children were rather more encouraging than in recent years and we aim to maintain the effort.

← With all development activities in all Federations, in all clubs, and with all school and junior development activities, the key limitation is not finance but people. Our prime objective, therefore, is to encourage and support those people and groups who are actively involved in hands-on development.

EQUIPMENT

Chairman: Alan Pidcock

← Balls

(a) Jaques New Eclipse and Dawson International balls will be tested for comparison with available results for Eclipse balls and Barlow GT balls.
 (b) Liaison with early purchasers of New Eclipse/Dawson International balls to evaluate playing qualities and durability.

(c) Determine whether bounce testing of old balls would be likely to be carried out by clubs if suitable facilities were available at Federation centres.

← Artificial Courts

Take over responsibility for technical advice/specification of artificial surfaces for croquet.

← Courts

(a) Continue to promote the use of the Robolaser surveying equipment (and lawn speed device), possibly leading to criteria for a grading system for courts (suitable for tournaments/championships/international events/golf croquet etc.).

(b) Investigate the possibility of improving the design of clips, their manufacture, marketing etc.

(c) Build up an advice dossier on court furniture and its use (e.g. painting/setting of hoops).

← Clothing

Monitor developments in the evaluation of white clothing in relation to the protection it affords against UV.

← Technical Liaison

Maintain and develop contacts in and out of the domain with persons or organizations interested in technical aspects of croquet.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

At the next AGM, which will be held on Saturday 14 October, five members of Council will have completed their terms of office, and there is a further vacancy following the resignation of Bill Lamb. It is not yet known how many of the retiring members will be standing for re-election, but if any Associates are interested in themselves standing for election to Council, they should notify the Secretary of the CA by 1 June.

Nigel Gray
Secretary

The Croquet Association, c/o The Hurlingham Club, Ranelagh Gardens, London SW6 3PR. Tel/Fax 0171-736 3148

Stop Press: Outcome of International Laws Meetings

A report just received from Stephen Mulliner, our representative on the International Laws Revision Committee, indicates that it had FIVE constructive meetings during the MacRobertson Shield. A revised draft for a new edition of the laws, incorporating the decisions taken, has been prepared and has been circulated to the participants for checking. It is then intended to publish it for general comment, before adoption by governing bodies.

The proposals documented in the January Gazette (Issue 265, p10) have in general been adopted, except that:

1(a) The previous decision to require the striker to replace a ball as near as possible to where it went off has been reversed.

1(c) "An appreciable period of time" has been replaced by "5 seconds" in the definition of a ball at rest.

1(g) Mallets may still be changed between turns, but a test for a wiring must be made with the mallet used in the claimant's previous turn.

In addition, a significant number of detailed drafting changes have been made in an attempt to increase clarity and reduce the scope for mis-interpretation.

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Reg Bamford won the Opens with his

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~ OBITUARY ~

John Simmonds, East Dorset LT & CC

John Simmonds was a very genuine and unassuming man who went out of his way to help others. The news of John's death saddened all who knew him.

To reflect on John's life, I can do no better than to use his own words, written two years ago for the profiles section of the croquet South West Area Newsletter. Since writing the article, John also became chairman of the whole East Dorset LT&CC, with an ability which will be very hard to follow.

Our hearts go out to John's family, most of all Penny.

"I was born on 14th September 1936 in Bermondsey South London.

In September '39 - at the age of 3 years - along with thousands of other children, I was evacuated to Burgess Hill in Sussex where I remained until August 1945.

I returned home to a devastated London and spent the remainder of my childhood enjoying the sport of playing on the many bomb-sites whilst London was being rebuilt.

At 18 years of age I joined the army where I remained for the next 3 years. During this time I saw active service in Malaya where I was attached to a Gurkha regiment. I also acquired a keen interest in sport whilst in the army as I was introduced to boxing, football and cricket. I continued with football and cricket when I was demobbed.

I took up my current occupation of carpet fitting when I was 24, a job which has taken me around the world. I spent 9 months fitting carpets in the university in West Berlin besides fitting out several liners (whilst on the move), despite being a bad sailor.

When no longer able to play active football I took up fishing and ten-pin bowling until Penny and I were introduced (rather reluctantly) to croquet by Bob Carder who was our next door neighbour. After our first lesson we joined East Dorset in 1989 since when I have become a referee and grade 1 coach. I have managed several tournaments over the years and besides a 3 year spell as chairman of the croquet section at East Dorset have now been the chairman of the South West Federation for the last 2 years. I am certainly looking forward to retiring in a few years time when I will be able to play a lot more and continue to promote our wonderful sport."

Pete Trimmer



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The MacRobertson Shield Retained - Stephen Mulliner's MacRobertson Shield Diary

Based on his daily Internet Reports, edited by Bruce Rannie.
Photographs by Christine Irwin

ROUND ONE

Christchurch, Day 1, 24 January 2000
Great Britain off to 4-0 start v Australia, USA lead 2-1 v NZ after doubles

It is very early days, of course, but day 1 suggests that Great Britain have become even firmer favourites to retain the Shield. Maugham beat Fleming 2-0 in less than 2 hours, with one triple. Clarke beat Dawson 2-0 with one straight and one standard triple. Irwin beat Helene Thurston 2-0, and Openshaw beat Donati 2-0 after many many hours.

Meanwhile, the Kiwis, who are the only team expected to be able to mount an effective challenge, have made a disappointing start. However, tomorrow should see the end of early nerves and the brand new GB pairing of Stephen Mulliner and David Openshaw, somewhat unexpected NZ Doubles Champions, will have their hands full against the top Australian doubles pair of Bruce Fleming and Martin Clarke.

Meanwhile, the Kiwis got off to a good start when Steve Jones and Toby Garrison proved too strong for Jerry Stark and Mac debutant Jeff Soo, winning +17TP, +26 in under 4 hours.



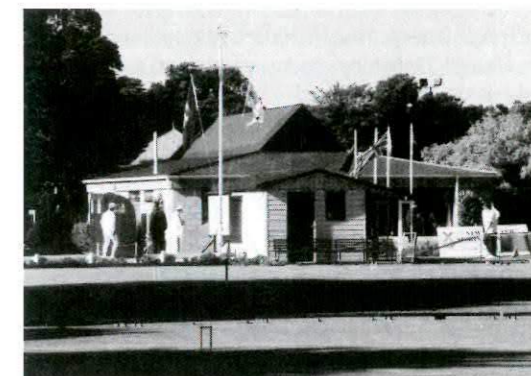
The Australian squad at the opening ceremony (ltoR) Peter Tavender (Manager), John Riches (Coach), Max Donati, Bryan Dawson, Martin Clarke, Helen Thurston, Colin Pickering & Bruce Fleming.

The pairing of John Taves and Don Fournier, Jr. was not expected to prevail against the hugely experienced John Prince and very steady Brian Wislang. It was therefore no surprise when they surrendered game 1 after almost 4 hours. It was news when they squared the match and a bit of a shock when late-night reporting revealed that they had taken the third game as well.

Christchurch, Day 2, 25 January 2000
Great Britain lead Australia 7-0, New Zealand hit back against USA

Despite an improved Australian performance, Great Britain eventually won all three doubles matches to extend its lead to 7-0 in the 21-match contest. Mulliner & Openshaw clinched a 2-0 win against Fleming & Martin Clarke, with Fulford & Chris Clarke taking the decider against Pickering & Dawson. Irwin & Maugham lost the opening game to Max Donati and Helene Thurston but took a tense second game and won the third easily.

Meanwhile, NZ won all four singles but the USA players acquitted themselves well, taking all four to the third game.



The United Croquet Club, Christchurch - Venue of the 2000 MacRobertson.

Christchurch, Day 3, 26 January 2000
Great Britain win test against Australia in 3 days, NZ lead 7-3

Great Britain won all four singles matches today to establish a Test winning 11-0 lead, the first time this has been achieved in three days. Robert Fulford, Colin Irwin and David Openshaw defeated Colin Pickering, Max Donati and Helene Thurston respectively in straight games. Martin Clarke, a newcomer to the Australian team, took the first game against Stephen Mulliner but triple peels from the Briton in the next two games sealed the match and the Test.

The Americans are playing a little better than expected and have given the Kiwis plenty to think about. Jeff Soo began well in Nelson, then lost some form and now is on the ascent again, completing two triples in two matches. Jerry Stark made no error against Toby Garrison yesterday in a match of three triples. Mik Mehas has developed something of a reputation as a single ball expert in pegged out games.

Christchurch, Day 4, 27 January 2000
Great Britain marches on and the USA fight back

GB extended its unbeaten run to 14-0 although Irwin & Maugham left their recovery rather late against Dawson & Pickering. Clarke & Fulford and Mulliner & Openshaw had easy wins against Clarke & Fleming and Donati & Thurston respectively.

The sun shone all day and all the lawns showed some signs of quickening and extra unevenness. If this continues the error rate can be expected to increase markedly. Not surprisingly, the GB v Aus match is hardly tension-filled any more and attention has switched mainly to the tense battle between the Kiwis and the increasingly confident Yanks. Taves simply blitzed Jackson. Mehas did not concede a point in the final two games against Jones. Soo played sensibly and doggedly against Wislang and only Prince looked at all dominant with a neat triple in game 1. The score stands at

8-6 and no one can be certain of the outcome. The Kiwis may have just enough to hold on but it should be very close.

It is believed that the Australians are likely to call up Trevor Bassett from Victoria as a replacement for Helene Thurston who has contracted acute tendonitis. Now ranked 12th in the world, Bassett should be expected to play at No.3 in the Aussie side - which is an interesting place for a reserve!

**Christchurch, Day 5, 28 January 2000
Great Britain lose first point to Australia, lead 17-1, while NZ beat USA**

GB's hopes of setting a new Mac record of 21-0 were dashed when Bryan Dawson beat Stephen Mulliner in a tense final game under hot sunshine and much more testing conditions than had hitherto prevailed. David Maugham and Chris Clarke had convincing wins against Colin Pickering and Martin Clarke while Robert Fulford recovered from a game down against Bruce Fleming.

Meanwhile, American hopes of overhauling New Zealand were also demolished when the home side emerged the winner in three tightly fought contests, to take their score to 11-6.

**Christchurch, Day 6, 29 January 2000
Great Britain claim last three doubles to beat Australia 20-1, NZ win 13-8**

The Canterbury summer obviously feels that two sunny days is enough because today was warm, overcast and spitting with rain. Although GB finished up with a pile-driving 20-1, only Clarke & Fulford had a really easy game and the signs are that NZ will find Australia much tougher next week. The arrival of Trevor Bassett can hardly harm their cause although commiserations are due to Helene Thurston for the bad luck of suffering an injury.

The Kiwis ended up 13-8 victors over the Americans and the score definitely flatters the home side. The Kiwis only edged the singles 7-5 and the top four, namely Taves, Fournier, Stark and Mehas looked well-matched against Baker, Jackson, Jones and Garrison.

The GB side will be taking absolutely nothing for granted next week but we hope we can defeat the USA by substantially more than NZ did, and that they, in turn, will struggle to get anywhere near 20 victories against Australia.

Week 1
GB v Aus (GB names first)
DB Maugham beat B Fleming +25tp, +26
CD Clarke beat B Dawson +12tp, +14tp
CJ Irwin beat H Thurston +14, +16
DK Openshaw beat M Donati +15, +8
4-0
SN Mulliner & DK Openshaw beat M Clarke & B Fleming +17tp, +3
CD Clarke & RI Fulford beat B Dawson & C Pickering +26tp, -25tp, +15tp
CJ Irwin & DB Maugham beat M Donati & H Thurston -12, +13, +25
7-0
RI Fulford beat C Pickering +13tp, +15tp
SN Mulliner beat M Clarke -26, -21tp, +26tp
CJ Irwin beat M Donati +17tp, +12
DK Openshaw beat H Thurston +26, -25
11-0 wins Test

CD Clarke & RI Fulford beat M Clarke & B Fleming +25tp, +25tp
SN Mulliner & DK Openshaw beat M Donati & H Thurston +19, +26
CJ Irwin & DB Maugham beat B Dawson & C Pickering -17, +13, +5tp
14-0
RI Fulford beat B Fleming -17, +24tp, -26tp
DB Maugham beat C Pickering +17tp, +25tp
CD Clarke beat M Clarke +16tp, +21tp
SN Mulliner lost to B Dawson -17tp, -12tpo, -3
17-1
CD Clarke & RI Fulford beat M Donati & H Thurston +25tp, +25tp
CJ Irwin & DB Maugham beat M Clarke & B Fleming +26tp, -26tp, -17tp
SN Mulliner & DK Openshaw beat B Dawson & C Pickering +2, -17
Final Score GB 20 Aus 1

NZ v USA (NZ names first)
TA Garrison & SE Jones beat J Soo & J Stark +17, +26
R Baker & RV Jackson lost to J Fournier & M Mehas -16, -26tp, -2
JG Prince & B Wislang lost to D Fournier, Jr. & J Taves +11, -15, -15
1-2
R Baker beat J Fournier +26tp, -26, +17tp
TA Garrison beat J Stark -17tp, +26tp, -26tp
JG Prince beat J Soo +23tp, -16tp, +26
B Wislang beat D Fournier, Jr. -3, +5tp, +13tpo
5-2
R Baker & RV Jackson lost to D Fournier, Jr. & J Taves +8tp, -13, -17
JG Prince & B Wislang beat J Soo & J Stark -26tp, +24, +26
TA Garrison & SG Jones beat J Fournier & M Mehas +24, -10, +20
7-3
RV Jackson lost to J Taves -25tp, -26tp
SG Jones lost to M Mehas +14, -26, -26tp
JG Prince beat D Fournier, Jr. +17tp, +14
B Wislang lost to J Soo -6, -7
8-6
R Baker & RV Jackson beat J Soo & J Stark +17tp, -2
JG Prince & B Wislang beat J Fournier & M Mehas +18, -6, +10
TA Garrison & SG Jones beat D Fournier, Jr. & J Taves +23tp, +6
11-6 wins Test
R Baker beat J Taves +3tp, +26tp
RV Jackson beat J Fournier -26, -26tp, +4tp
SG Jones lost to J Stark -17, +16
TA Garrison lost to M Mehas +4, -16tp, -26
Final Score NZ 13 USA 8

ROUND TWO

**Christchurch, Day 7, 31 January 2000
Great Britain begin 4-0 against United States, Aus lead NZ 2-1**

GB can be only reasonably pleased with a 4-0 start because the Americans were at one stage all in play with apparently good prospects of being game up in three matches and game all in the other. Fulford had a relatively easy win over Fournier although Jacques had a standard TP on the go in game 2 and came to grief at 2-b quite



The American Team (L to R) Jerry Stark, Mik Mehas, Jacques Fournier, Jeff Soo, Don Fournier, Jnr & John Taves (Capt).

unnecessarily. Although Mulliner reached 4-b early against Stark, the American appeared to be in wonderful touch and his failure at 3-b in game 1 with a delayed TP looking well under control was a surprise. Mulliner produced a trademark TPO in game 2 and won comfortably enough in the end. Irwin seems to like leaving his recoveries late and 4tp in game 1 against Don Fournier denoted hitting a last lift. He won game 2 in a canter with another triple. Openshaw had a similar story against Soo in game 1, producing a triple after Soo had failed penult with the game and Lucky Old Openshaw's unbeaten record at his mercy. That Openshawian Stopping Bisque really is something!

**Christchurch, Day 8, 1 February 2000
GB march on against USA 7-0, NZ overtake Aus at 4-3**

Fulford & Clarke had a comfortable win against Taves & Stark after Stark put down a triple by failing at 4. Taves was TPO'd and the result was never in serious doubt. Game 2 was a 6th turn rapid disposal job.

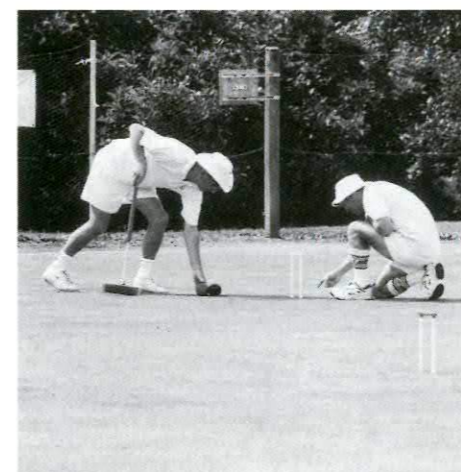
The legend of Lucky Old Openshaw gathered yet more momentum. After an elegant triple by DKO in game 1 (something of a collector's item apparently as he prefers to do them in singles - don't ask me why) against Soo and Don Fournier, prospects for preserving The Unbeaten Record appeared a little bleak as S&F reached peg and 4-back in the 7th turn of game 2. However, Openshaw rose to the challenge by centre-balling a 25-yard lift, going to the peg and pegging out Don Fournier. Mulliner produced an elegant if unusual finishing turn, having to use partner ball in Corner 4 to rescue the situation after coming out of penult hampered! DKO is now on 14-0.

Meanwhile, the New Zealanders had a better day with lots of triples. Prince was a little lucky to win in two against Bassett because the youngster had the misfortune to de-peel his

partner when half-jumping through rover in game 2. Max Donati entertained the crowd in a number of ways. Having dropped game 1 against Brian Wislang by failing a standard TP, he embarked on another in game 2, successfully completed three peels but then rushed partner into rover from a range of two yards! In fact partner ended up just through 5 so that Max could place the striker's ball in the hoop to croquet it onto the peg. He achieved that brilliantly but ended up 3 yards short himself and missed into baulk conceding a lift! He then collapsed on the ground and lay prone for two minutes thus giving Gracme Roberts (RoT) reason to consider applying Law 48 (expedition in play)!

**Christchurch, Day 9, 2 February 2000
GB continue against USA 10-1, Aus peg back NZ at 5-5**

A somewhat warmer day (but nothing remotely to shout about) saw GB win three high-class matches with the Clarke-Mehas duel taking top billing closely followed by Colin Irwin and David Openshaw. Colin had two triples in a good 3-game win over Jeff Soo with both players playing well.



David Openshaw & Stephen Mulliner in play.

John Taves, the highly impressive American captain, punished Maugham's failure at 1 in game 3 with a 2-turn win including a machine-like delayed TP to deny GB its second three-day win.

Meanwhile, the Australians gamely pulled back to 5-5 by winning two out of three doubles today. This makes them 4-2 up in doubles and, as GB regards itself as doubles specialists aiming for 9-0 in each Test, gives us modest grounds for hope. Tomorrow will be crucial for the Kiwis. Anything less than another 3-1 will be very poor but Aussie tails are up and it will not be easy for the home side.

**Christchurch, Day 10, 3 February 2000
Great Britain beat United States 13-1, NZ race ahead of Aus 9-5**

There was a low-key race among the Brits to see who could gain the vital 11th point against USA and Irwin & Maugham made an early move with

a swift Maugham TP against Jeff Soo and Don Fournier. However, David "Speedy" Openshaw was not to be outdone and produced an excellent standard TP against Stark & Taves, arguably the top US pairing, shortly afterwards.

Clarke & Fulford were never in contention for the vital point after Fulford TPO'd Mehas, peeled Clarke through 1-b as well and took two balls off (leaving Clarke for 2-b, Fournier for 1). The ensuing endgame was fascinating and almost led to the first official impasse but Clarke eventually emerged the worthy winner of a game that lasted well over 2 hours.

The second game for Irwin & Maugham degenerated somewhat. All this left the field to Mulliner & Openshaw who wrapped things up with a 7th turn Mulliner delayed TP. Openshaw is now on 18-0.

Meanwhile, the New Zealanders took all four singles against Australia in what must have been a disappointing day for them after the doubles triumphs of Wednesday.

**Christchurch, Day 11, 4 February 2000
GB lead USA 16-2, New Zealand clinch Test over Australia 12-5**

GB extended their lead from 13-1 to 16-2 with Chris Clarke running into Jerry Stark in good form. Robert Fulford sandwiched a Taves straight TP with 7th and 5th turn TPs of his own while Stephen Mulliner stole game 1 from Mik Mehas with aggressive pegging-out tactics and took the second with a 6th turn TP. David Maugham had some early problems against Jacques Fournier but then ground into form and won in two straight as well.

The New Zealanders put their match against Australia beyond doubt by winning all three doubles matches and lead 12-5.

**Christchurch, Day 12, 5 February 2000
Great Britain beat USA 19-2, New Zealand beat Australia 14-7**

GB start off as very firm favourites having conceded only 3 points in two matches as opposed to the 15 conceded by NZ. However, cup-tie rules apply and previous form is not something that should be relied upon automatically. There is no complacency in the GB camp and everything starts again tomorrow with three doubles matches. Objective No. 1 is to win all three and continue our unbeaten doubles record.

GB won its last three doubles against USA comfortably enough although Mulliner & Openshaw lost the second game to a Fournier triple and with it DKO's hopes of 30-0. He had reached 19-0 and is now simply trying for 30-1! Clarke & Fulford used TPO tactics to ensure a straight games win against Don Fournier & Jeff Soo. Clarke took his time about winning the first with the two balls but finished with a spectacular jump over rover to hit the top of the peg after one bounce. He followed this coup with a quadruple on the opponent in the following game and Fulford made much shorter work of finishing

things off. Irwin & Maugham won the daily speed prize with a ruthless display against Stark & Taves.

The New Zealanders did not make a very convincing end to the match against Australia. Clarke disposed of Jones quickly and Pickering outlasted Jackson to win in three. Bruce Fleming and Richard Baker had an error-strewn encounter which either player could have won. Only Toby Garrison produced an emphatic win over Bryan Dawson. They finished 14-7 winners which, having been 5-5, is probably a fair reflection of the two teams.

It should also be admitted that the Australians seemed to play more good croquet this week than they had against GB although croquet is a lot about how much your opponent allows you to do. The general feeling is that the USA team has an excellent chance of not merely beating Australia but doing so by a decent margin and their biggest risk is simply losing confidence if the first couple of days do not go their way. Player for player, the USA seems distinctly stronger at 1,2,5 and 6 and it is only at 3 and 4 where the Aussies have equality.

Week 2
GB v USA (GB names first)
RI Fulford beat J Fournier +26tp, +6
SN Mulliner beat J Stark +7, +12tpo
CJ Irwin beat D Fournier, Jr. +4tp, +23tp
DK Openshaw beat J Soo +4tp, +15
4-0
CD Clarke & RI Fulford beat J Stark & J Taves +7tpo, +26tp
CJ Irwin & DB Maugham beat J Fournier & M Mehas -4, +24, +5tp
SN Mulliner & DK Openshaw beat D Fournier, Jr. & J Soo +25tp, +2
7-0
DB Maugham lost to J Taves +16, -17tp, -26tp
CD Clarke beat M Mehas -12tpo, +26tp, +26tp
CJ Irwin beat J Soo +26tp, -16, +24tp
DK Openshaw beat D Fournier, Jr. +3, +10tp
10-1
SN Mulliner & DK Openshaw beat J Stark & J Taves +14tp, +26tp
CD Clarke & RI Fulford beat J Fournier & M Mehas +9tpo, +25tp
CJ Irwin & DB Maugham beat D Fournier, Jr. & J Soo +21tp, +6
13-1 Wins Test
RI Fulford beat J Taves +26tp, -17tp, +26tp
DB Maugham beat J Fournier +15tp, +26
CD Clarke lost to J Stark -17, -15
SN Mulliner beat M Mehas +4, +26tp
16-2
CD Clarke & RI Fulford beat D Fournier, Jr. & J Soo +6tpo(F), +12tpo(C)
CJ Irwin & DB Maugham beat J Stark & J Taves +17tp(M), +24
SN Mulliner & DK Openshaw beat J Fournier & M Mehas +14, -26tp(F), +17
Final Score GB 19 USA 2

NZ v Aus (NZ names first)
SG Jones & TA Garrison lost to B Dawson & C Pickering +23tp, -24, -16
R Baker & RV Jackson lost to M Clarke & B Fleming -17, +17tp, -16
JG Prince & B Wislang beat T Bassett & M Donati +16tp, +8
1-2
RV Jackson lost to B Fleming +26tp, -20tp, -26tp
SG Jones beat B Dawson +5tp, +16tp
JG Prince beat T Bassett +26tp, +3tp
B Wislang beat M Donati +13tp, +1
4-3
R Baker & RV Jackson beat T Bassett & M Donati +15, +3
TA Garrison & SG Jones lost to M Clarke & B Fleming +18tp(F), -10, +4
JG Prince & B Wislang lost to B Dawson & C Pickering +26, +3
5-5
R Baker beat C Pickering -2, -9, +26tp
TA Garrison beat M Clarke +14tp, +17tp
JG Prince beat M Donati +1, +17
B Wislang beat T Bassett +17, +17tp
9-5
R Baker & RV Jackson beat B Dawson & C Pickering +26tp(J), +25
TA Garrison & SG Jones beat T Bassett & M Donati -2tpo, +9, +26
JG Prince & B Wislang beat M Clarke & B Fleming -17tp(F), +3, +15
12-5 Wins Test
R Baker beat B Fleming -20tp, +11, +14tp
RV Jackson lost to C Pickering -19, +4tpo, +15
TA Garrison beat B Dawson -17, +24
SG Jones lost to M Clarke -26tp, -22
Final Score NZ 14 Aus 7

ROUND THREE – THE FINALS

**Christchurch, Day 13, 7 February 2000
First blood to the challengers as
New Zealand lead Great Britain
2-1, USA lead Australia 3-1**

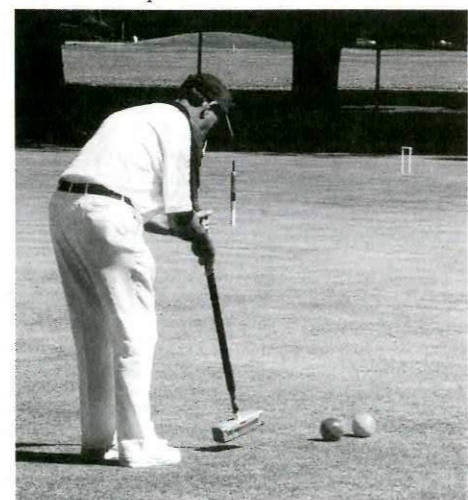
GB made a poor start to the vital Test against New Zealand and, although the Kiwis deserve full marks for coming out fighting, it would be premature to read too much into the first day's play. Clarke & Fulford had a relatively comfortable first game although both Clarke and Baker took time to settle down and a much more exciting pegged-out second game when Baker almost brought off a recovery worthy of Lazarus, epitomized by pass-rolling to 1-b and 2-b from Corner 4, running 1-b from 5yds at an angle to 4yds North of 2-b and hitting Clarke below 2-b before failing the hoop. He ended up running 4-b before missing Clarke at the peg.

Irwin & Maugham did not have their shooting boots on. Irwin had a standard TP running before failing at 4 and a double peel finish which collapsed at rover when his own ball ran too close to a stuck peeler. This allowed a hitherto rather hesitant Jones to reach the peg and the Brits could not find the vital roquet.

Meanwhile, the USA made an excellent start against Australia by winning three out of four singles matches.

**Christchurch, Day 14, 8 February 2000
NZ share singles to lead GB 4-3,
USA further ahead of Australia
at 5-2**

It was disappointing to end up still one down after Irwin and Maugham had regained their normal form with good quick wins over Wislang and Baker. Both Clarke and Openshaw took the opening games against Bob Jackson and John Prince and there were high hopes that 4-0 would be achieved. In the event, Jackson produced a TPO against Clarke in game 2 and won an interesting pegged-out game, and took the third with a TP. Prince was lucky to survive game 2 against Openshaw but then produced the much smoother croquet of the two to take the decider.



John Prince in play.



The New Zealand squad at the opening ceremony (L to R) Paul Skinley, Brian Wislang, Bob Jackson, Toby Garrison, Richard Baker, John Prince & Steve Jones (Capt.).

The American team are playing with increasing confidence and extended their lead over Australia to 5-2.

**Christchurch, Day 15, 9 February 2000
It's Maugham's drama as GB
level with NZ 5-5, USA lead
Australia 7-4**

The Beast is Back! This would be *The Sun* headline if croquet were ever to achieve that sort of media status.

Day 3 started with quick TPs from Maugham and Fulford but an equally quick loss for Mulliner & Openshaw all well before 11am from a 9.30am start. It looked rather better one hour later when Maugham appeared to have a second TP under control, Clarke had a second break going and Openshaw had just done the first peel of a standard TP. Then the wheels fell off the British locomotive for reasons one can only ascribe to good, old-fashioned nerves, very hot weather and difficult conditions, the sort the Mac produces in its role as the unchallenged crucible of croquet.

Maugham and Openshaw both failed easy hoops and Clarke was faulted when playing a hampered shot. Baker pounced on Openshaw's mishap with a triple of his own to give NZ the first point of the day and a 5-3 lead.

Clarke & Fulford had a number of opportunities in game 2 against Garrison & Jones but a Fulford solo effort came to grief at penult after a long roll-up and that was game all. Irwin & Maugham had a hatful of chances to take game 2 against Prince & Wislang, but Maugham's final attempt to finish with a double peel collapsed at rover. Game all there as well.

Clarke & Fulford emerged from lunch refreshed and made shortish work of game 3. Now it was 5-4.

On the remaining lawn, Maugham was not admitting to feeling a nervous wreck and put down another TP at hoop 5. Prince took the opportunity to double peel Irwin out and by doing so set the scene for one of the more gripping moments that I have seen in my 25-year

career. From gibbering idiot to hero of the hour in a few easy (?) steps.

Maugham was for 6 with Red near Corner 4 with Blue (Wislang) for 2 in Corner 3 and Black (Prince) for peg 4yds South of Corner 2, i.e. widely separated. Maugham hit the 38yds Black, took off to Blue in Corner 3, rolled off hoop 6, ran it to the boundary, rushed Blue to Black, rushed Black to 1-b a little strongly and had to run it by 7 yards past Black! Black was centre-balled back to near Corner 2, Red unhelpfully tickling Blue a yard further North. Maugham



David Maugham, 'The Beast' in play.

stopped Black to 6yds West of peg, rushed Blue to 6yds North of 2-b, rolled to 2-b, made it firmly, hit Blue, split Blue to 4yds South of 4-b and got only a flat rush on Black. He cut this a little to 4yds North and 1yd East of 3-b but the take-off was inch perfect to 1 foot. Then it was easy and when the rush to rover, his nemesis of earlier in the day in both directions, landed in the jaws, even DBM admitted to a trace of confidence. The hoop was run from at least 2 inches, the roquet made and the peg point scored. Now it was 5-5, a LOT better than 6-4 down.

Elsewhere, the USA maintained their grip on the Test against Australia by sharing four singles matches 2-2.

**Christchurch, Day 16, 10 February 2000
GB open up lead over NZ 8-6,
Aus catching USA, back to 8-6
down**

At last we are in the lead and with a chance of settling the matter tomorrow. Fulford made a good start with a clinical demolition of Toby Garrison who was playing perfectly well himself. Mulliner strongly fancied to beat Steve Jones took three games to make it 7-5. This was pulled back to 7-6 when John Prince finished off a distinctly patchy Irwin in two games.

The real fun occurred just before lunch at the end of a lengthy game 1 between Openshaw and Wislang. DKO found himself at 1 and 2 against Wislang for 6 and rover and played two careful breaks to reach peg and 4-back, leaving a Horizontal Spread Leave and a 15yds shot for Wizza's backward ball from B-baulk. Was this a good idea? The cognoscenti were divided between those who felt he should have single-peeled and pegged out W and those who felt he was entirely justified in trusting in a very non-flat East boundary. Wizza is a very good long shot, with a slow Solomon-grip type swing and eyes that remain glued to the ground until well after the ball has left the mallet. It is said that he hears 10-yard roquets rather than sees them! Be that as it may, W hit the lift and embarked on a steady break embellished with a straight rover peel.

Alas, he had rushed DKO's Yellow (for peg)



Brian Wislang (NZ).

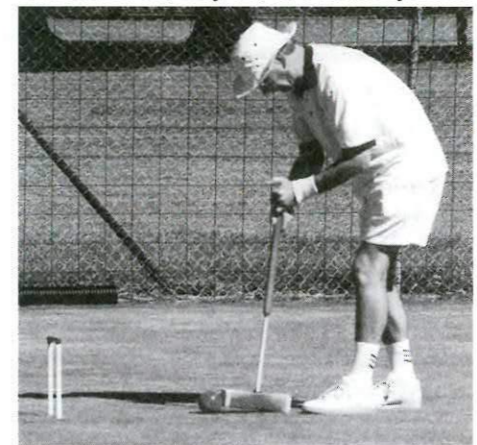
into the back of penult after running that hoop so he was a ball short when sorting out the peel. Even worse, he roqueted Black in the rover hoop stroke and croqueted it gently back to the peg where it came to rest 4 inches due South. Blue roqueted Red, croqueted it to near West boundary and cruised up to 7yds short of Yellow.

Now two rather odd decisions were made. First, Wizza shot with Blue at Yellow, risking missing into B-baulk and giving a lift. It was not obvious that he needed to hit Yellow provided that he pegged out Blue. However, he hit, bouncing Yellow to one side. Now he chose to attempt a peg-out of Yellow from 7yds, no doubt on the grounds that Black for peg should be pretty safe against Red for 4-b alone.

Yes, well. He missed the peg-out and sent Yellow 7-8 yards out of A-baulk, landing 2yds slap behind Black as seen from the peg. Now he had one last chance of glory, the half-jump that pegs both balls out. However, he chose a quieter flat shot, perhaps hoping that Black would hit one side of the peg and Blue the other. Both missed.

DKO now nicked his 8yds with Red at Yellow from A-baulk and finished without drama. Who said the Openshawian Stopping Bisque had lost its potency?

Christchurch, Day 17, 11 February 2000



David Openshaw - does he have the most effective stopping bisque?

**Great Britain lead New Zealand
9-8, Australia tied with USA at
9-9**

The 2000 World Croquet Series faces a tremendous finale tomorrow. New Zealand won two doubles matches today and were within fractions of an inch of winning the third. As it is, GB need two wins from four singles matches tomorrow to retain the Shield.

GB began the day 8-6 ahead and hoped to settle the Shield by winning all three doubles. It did not work out that way. Clarke & Fulford encountered Prince & Wislang in resolute mood. Fulford was rapidly round to 4-b in game 1 but Wislang hit the long lift as he has so often done. However, he missed a return roquet after 1 but the chance was not taken and he reached 4-b as well. Soon, Clarke was in with a chance of a TP but an ambitious roll from 2 to Corner 4 went off and it was Prince who did the TP.

In game 2, Fulford attempted to peel Clarke through 1 while approaching a ball at 5. Alas, he only jawssed Clarke and failed the hoop, allowing Prince an easy break to 4-b. After plenty of interaction, Wislang reached peg but Fulford rose to the occasion, hit the lift and went to peg and pegged out Wislang. Prince could not approach 4-b off the contact and British hopes rose. Sadly, Clarke was hampered after 3, leaving Prince a 12y at Fulford which he rushed to within a foot of 4-b and finished on a 2-ball break. 8-7.

Irwin & Maugham found it difficult to make progress because Irwin was not having a good day, caused in large part by the difficulty in getting rushes to behave consistently. Games 1

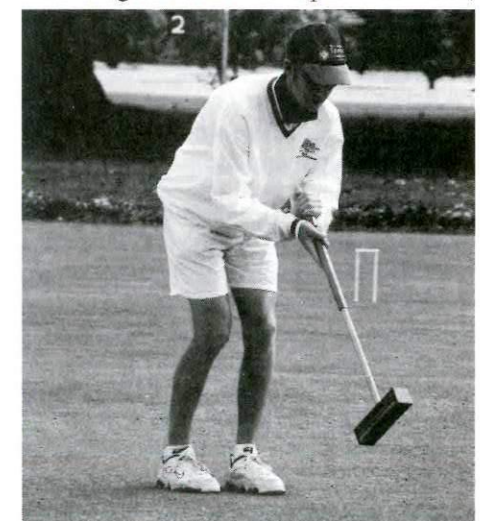
and 2 were shared but the New Zealanders took an early grip on game 3 aided by a remarkable 45-degree hoop 2 from Baker. Despite various innings opportunities, Baker and Jackson finished to make it 8-8.

The last match to finish was without doubt the most dramatic of my career.

Games 1 and 2 were of comparatively minor interest. The first went to Garrison & Jones, the second Mulliner & Openshaw.

Game 3 initially looked set to copy game 2. Mulliner dug a break out of nowhere to reach 4-b with Yellow. The lift was missed and Openshaw played a careful 3-ball break with Red before being caught out by a very fast approach to 2-b and just failing to run the hoop. Garrison now missed the 6y lift from A-baulk and British victory seemed a near-certainty. Openshaw now took Red to the peg, albeit with an indifferent leave which left Yellow with a 4y rush on Red down the West boundary. Now the fun began.

Garrison missed from Corner 1 and Mulliner rushed Red down the boundary by 7yds and promptly played the wrong ball when splitting to behind 4-b and getting rush on Blue some 5yds North of 4! The balls having been replaced, Garrison missed the shot from Corner 2 to Corner 1 and Mulliner had another go at sending a ball to beyond 4-b while attempting to get rush position on Blue. He succeeded, rushed Blue to near 4-b, made the hoop, stopped Blue to near rover and got a rush on Red to penult. However,



Toby Garrison (NZ).

Red was hit in the hoop stroke, the roll down to Blue was too strong and the approach to rover wandered away on the glassy hill that passed for grass.

A very difficult hoop was failed (Yellow should have probably vanished into Corner 4) and Garrison hit with Black and set the balls up for a break, including rushing Yellow to within 2yds of 1. He barely touched his backward take-off and stood open-mouthed as it ran 3yds past the hoop. He ran the hoop at high speed to the North boundary and missed the return back to the West boundary level with Yellow.

Mulliner now hit the sweaty 7-yarder at Black and had a second go at finishing. His take off to Blue near 2 was long, the take off to Red near

peg was short and the approach to rover left a long and angled hoop. He failed and this time Jones hit the 7-yarder and fashioned a skilful break to 4-b with a Diagonal Spread Leave.

Mulliner now hit the lift down the East boundary and had a third attempt. This time he rushed Red to 4 feet South of rover and his take-off, trying to avoid skating past by several feet, fell short, forcing retreat to the South boundary. Jones hit and laid up, then Garrison made 2 but bounced off an angled 3 ending 8yds from Blue. Yellow now joined Red and, when Black missed Blue, Mulliner was able to get a rush to rover, run it to the boundary and separate the opponents. In the next turn, Blue was left 2yds East of Corner 2, Black on the East boundary, 14yds South of Corner 3 and Yellow with a rush on Red at Black (hence cuttable to the peg).

With defeat staring him in the face, Garrison now hit a splendid 30y with Black at Red and, shortly afterwards, took a break round to the peg, leaving Yellow behind penult, Red just in front of rover and Blue with a rush on Black to 4-b from the West boundary. Mulliner missed the lift from Corner 1 to Corner 2 and Jones walked on to rush from the West boundary to 4-b and, he and most of the crowd no doubt earnestly hoped, to give NZ a 9-8 lead.

His approach left a long hoop and he ran it only just, ruling out a rush to penult. He now played the most exquisite approach to penult, sending Black to the peg and getting 1-foot position. Incredibly, he barely ran it at all and the hampered shot at Black was missed and, being hit gently, stopped within 3yds of Red. Openshaw hit, split Blue to near 4, hit Black and pegged it out but, in returning to Yellow in Corner 2, left a large target for Blue.

Jones, no doubt still furious with himself, swung at full speed and hit Yellow to huge and deserved applause. His rush to rover on Red seemed perfect but fell off down the hill to 2yds East of rover. His take-off was good and he ran the hoop smoothly by about 4 yards - but missed the return roquet to about 8yds NE of the peg.

Openshaw now hit one of the best 10-yard roquets of his career after he and Mulliner had discussed the merits of Red at Yellow (28yds) hoping that Blue missed the peg. Blue was stopped to 3yds SW of Corner 3 and Red left Yellow a 2yd rush almost down the West boundary.

Jones now fired at the peg, missing by very little to just out of Corner 1 but still open to the peg. Mulliner attempted to cut Red to near the peg but caught it very thin and instead settled for a rush to the peg behind 2, mainly hidden from Blue. Jones pondered and then called on the referee for another shot at the peg and missed again.

Mulliner now intended to rush Red to 2yds NW (i.e. short) of the peg and, together with his team-mates, had a moment's concern (understatement) as Red veered cheerfully towards the peg before coming to rest 3 yards past. After very careful lining up and coping with balls that would not sit still, the peg-out was



Bruce Fleming (Aus).

completed and GB won +1 NID to lead 9-8. David Openshaw may well play in another Mac but, if he doesn't, this will be an archetypal farewell.

Quite an extraordinary last game (4 hours 15 minutes) and what a compliment to the game that all the NZ team came up to say "well done" after it was over. Tomorrow should be tremendous. As David Maugham is so fond of saying (with a trace of irony no doubt, depending on context), "It's an honour and a privilege to be taking part".

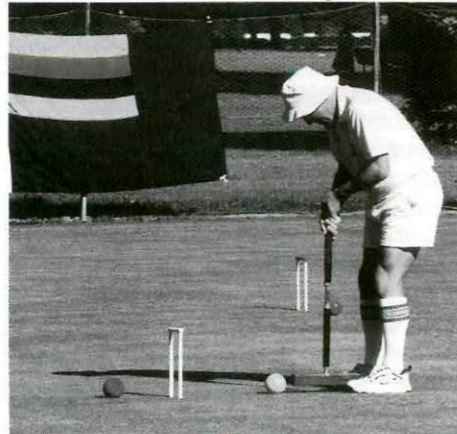
Meanwhile, Australia enjoyed their best day of the tournament to level their match against USA at 9-9, setting up an equally tense day for them.

Christchurch, Day 18, 12 February 2000

Now it IS over, and we've retained the Shield – a final drama-filled day

Great Britain beat New Zealand 11-10, USA beat Australia 11-10

GB retained the MacRobertson Shield in dramatic circumstances and by the narrowest possible margin when David Maugham completed a triple peel against Toby Garrison in the final game of the final match. Kiwi hopes had been boosted when Richard Baker and Steve Jones inflicted shock defeats on Robert Fulford and Chris Clarke. However, Stephen Mulliner



Stephen Mulliner in play.

kept the Brits in the hunt by beating long-time rival Bob Jackson in straight games.

Hyperbole should be avoided but it would be difficult not to be hyperbolic about the day's play we have all just lived through. The fate of the Shield was not decided until 4.55pm when David Maugham completed a clinical standard TP against Toby Garrison to give GB the vital eleventh point.

THE 2000 MacROBERTSON SHIELD – THE STORY OF THE FINAL DAY

Based on reports by John Tyler and Tony Hall, edited by Bruce Rannie

Christchurch, 12 Feb 00

Summary

New Zealand, playing better than their individual world rankings suggested they could, pressured the defending champions, Great Britain, all the way, but in the end had to concede the advantage on the final day of the MacRobertson Shield international croquet tournament in Christchurch yesterday.

Trailing 8-9, after five rounds of their test, New Zealand had to win three of the four singles matches, to lift the shield. They went close, drawing 2-2, but the match went right to the last pegging out, made by Britain's David Maugham, in beating Toby Garrison, 11-26 26-9 26-22, with a triple peel in the last game. It was a game that lasted all day, until late afternoon. Much earlier in the day, another young New Zealand player, Richard Baker, beat the worlds No.1 player, Robert Fulford, 26-3 0-26 26-10.

The final result had Britain scoring a clean sweep, winning all three tests, after earlier overwhelming the United States and Australia. New Zealand beat Australia and the US.

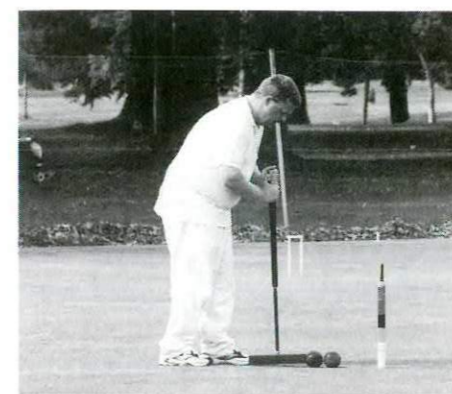
The United States beat Australia by the same margin as the GB-NZ outcome, 11-10. It left Australia to take the wooden spoon, a rare occurrence for teams from the island continent at the change of millenniums.

Introduction to the Last Day's Play

If the organisers had tried to plan it, they could not have got it better than sheer chance and the vagaries of the competitive element have placed the final day of the MacRobertson Shield international croquet series in Christchurch, New Zealand.

In the third round of tests in the series, with Great Britain defending and New Zealand challenging for the right to hold the trophy, the outcome of the doubles has thrown the test between Britain and New Zealand into a decision-making final day. NZ won the doubles round, 2-1, leaving Britain with nine wins, against New Zealand's eight.

Going into the final day, a round of four



David Maugham playing the final shots of the final game to clinch the MacRobertson Shield.

singles, the challengers need to win three to lift the trophy from the holders. With Britain having won 10 of the 16 times the MacRobertson Shield has been played for since 1925, the onus is on New Zealand. It last won the trophy in 1986.

In the United States-Australia clash for third place, the teams are tied, 9-9, also poised for a thrilling final day's doubles encounter.

Great Britain v New Zealand 1:30pm

NZ started with a rush, Richard Baker taking the first game from Robert Fulford 26-3 after Robert broke down in the first break, but Robert came back to take the second 26p-0. In the third game Robert is on 1 and 4-back, starting his second break now, with Richard's clips still on 1.

On the next court Chris Clarke started the first break but missed a short return roquet after hoop 3. Steve Jones won it 26-3 but Chris came back to take the second 26-1. In the third game Chris got the first break and just stuck in 5, with Steve's ball close.

Stephen Mulliner won the first game against Bob Jackson 26-23 after pegging out one of Bob's balls. That match is on court 7, remote from the other courts, so I am relying on verbal reports from people passing.

Toby Garrison won the first game against David Maugham 26-11.

2:40pm

Chris Clarke v Steve Jones: Clarke pegged out Jones' blue ball with black clip on 1. Chris with yellow just ran hoop 1 to the North boundary and went to corner III, red ball in corner IV, blue 3y N of hoop 1.

Fulford v Baker, game 3: Both players, ref and tournament ref are gathered around hoop 6, Baker in play. It's something to do with a scatter shot. Tournament Referee (Graeme Roberts) just told me that Baker played a continuation shot with striker's ball the width of the referee's finger (1.3 cm?) away from a used ball just starting to run hoop 6. Striker played a drive and both balls ran the hoop. Referee ruled no fault. Fulford appealed to TR on grounds that such a shot was impossible without double tapping. After thought, TR ruled that the referee had not interpreted the relevant law correctly. The appeal was allowed. Baker, well stirred up, hit in at next opportunity. Much applause! Seconds later (or before) Jones hit in on adjacent court. Tumultuous applause!

Mulliner v Jackson, second game: A passer-by said "Mulliner's looking good".

Garrison v Maugham, second game: Maugham has made a break, Garrison now in play.

Stop Press: "Jackson's looking good". Why won't passers-by say something more specific?

3:04pm

Flash! Maugham won the second game. Fulford misses hit in. Baker wins, GB 9, NZ 9

C Clarke v Jones: Jones' blue ball has been

pegged out. Clarke, for 4-b and peg, laid up on N boundary, one ball wired from black ball on S boundary behind hoop 4. Jones hit the open ball to amazed applause as the striker's ball drifted across to "hill-on". Jones is for hoop 4.

Maugham is in play v Garrison. No passers by from the Jackson v Mulliner game. Yes there is! Mulliner is in a three-ball break to win the game and match.

All eyes are for the Jones/Clarke game. Jones plays a sweep shot after running 2-b to a hampered position. Ref rules clean. TR called. What goes on? TR, ref, GB Captain (DO) and both players are clustered around 2-b.

3:32pm

Mulliner wins over Jackson, 26-24, 26-16. GB 10, NZ 9

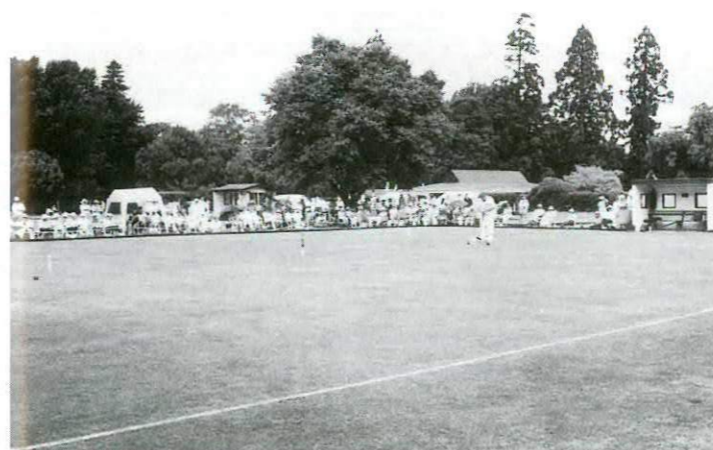
Jones is approaching penult in a three-ball break. He wins 26-21. GB 10, NZ 10, 1 game all in final match.

Garrison's clips are on 2-b and penult. Maugham is in play and just made hoop 4 in his first break. Well poised!

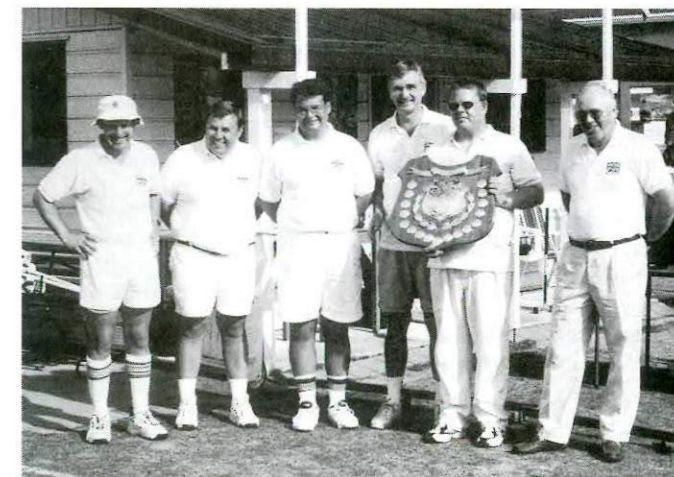
The crowd, which must have exceeded 200, engulfed the court when Steve Jones pegged out the last game 26-21. A few left when that game finished but there are about 150 hoping that Toby Garrison will hit in when Maugham lays up after his first break.

4:32pm

Explanation of the kerfuffle at 2-b as Jones started his last turn against Clarke: Steve Jones played a sweep shot with the hand nearest the



'The crowd' look on at the Christchurch Club as David Maugham puts the finishing touches to the match.



A jubilant GB Team at the end of a very exciting competition.



The US is in full control, one hoop to go.

Taves and Stark beat Pickering and Dawson 26-0. US THIRD, AUSTRALIA FOURTH

Well done the US!

Week 3

GB v NZ (GB names first)

CD Clarke & RI Fulford beat R Baker & RV Jackson -19tp (C), +3tpo(F)

CJ Irwin & DB Maugham lost to TA Garrison & SG Jones -25,+14,-3

SN Mulliner & DK Openshaw lost to JG Prince & B Wislang -4, -9

1-2

DB Maugham beat R Baker +13, -10, +26tp

CD Clarke lost to RV Jackson -25tp, -9tpo, +16tp

CJ Irwin beat B Wislang +26, +9

DK Openshaw lost to JG Prince +17, -5, -20

3-4

CJ Irwin & DB Maugham beat JG Prince & B Wislang +26tp(M), -4,

+13

CD Clarke & RI Fulford beat TA Garrison & SG Jones +18tp(F), -13,

+26

SN Mulliner & DK Openshaw lost to R Baker & RV Jackson -26,

-13tp(B)

5-5

RI Fulford beat TA Garrison +26tp, +17tp

SN Mulliner beat SG Jones +17, -26, +26tp

CJ Irwin lost to JG Prince -13, -14

DK Openshaw beat B Wislang +2, +17tp

8-6

CD Clarke & RI Fulford lost to JG Prince & B Wislang -15tp(P), -11

CN Irwin & DB Maugham lost to R Baker & RV Jackson -16, +23,-23

SN Mulliner & DK Openshaw beat TA Garrison & SG Jones -17, +26,

+1

9-8

RI Fulford lost to R Baker -23, -26, -16

DB Maugham beat TA Garrison -15, +17, +4tp

CD Clarke lost to SG Jones -23, +25, -5

SN Mulliner beat RV Jackson -2, -10

Final Score GB 11 NZ 10

USA v Aus (USA names first)

J Fournier beat B Fleming -4, +26,+24

J Stark beat B Dawson +10, -16, -17

D Fournier, Jr. beat M Donati +10, +26

J Soo lost to T Bassett -8, -3

3-1

J Fournier & M Mehas beat B Dawson & C Pickering +16, +2

J Stark & J Taves beat M Clarke & B Fleming +4, +25

D Fournier, Jr. & J Soo lost to T Bassett & M Donati -22, -10

5-2

J Taves beat C Pickering +2, +12tp

M Mehas lost to M Clarke +17, -20, -16

J Soo beat M Donati +17, +23

D Fournier, Jr. lost to T Bassett +24tp, +26

7-4

J Stark & J Taves beat T Bassett & M Donati +25, +15

J Fournier & M Mehas lost to M Clarke & B Fleming +6, -4, -24

D Fournier, Jr. & J Soo lost to B Dawson & C Pickering +17, +25

8-6

J Taves lost to B Fleming -23, -25

J Fournier lost to C Pickering -12tp, +17, -6

J Stark beat M Clarke +9, +3

M Mehas lost to B Dawson -3tp, -17

9-9

J Fournier & M Mehas beat T Bassett & M Donati -17, +10

D Fournier, Jr. & J Soo lost to M Clarke & B Fleming -26, -14

J Stark & J Taves beat B Dawson & C Pickering -14, +2, +26

Final Score USA 11 Aus 10

Final Table

Great Britain retain the MacRobertson Shield with 3 wins

New Zealand 2 wins

United States of America 1 win

Australia 0 wins

John Taves pegs out in the final game of the match to clinch a very important victory for the USA.

played a sweep shot with the hand nearest the mallet head brushing against the ground over a distance of some nine inches. The GB player appealed on the grounds that the hand was resting on the ground. The TR rejected the appeal, as the hand was NOT resting on the ground.

The applause indicates that Toby hit in. He did! He has now hit 10/12 lift shots, mostly long ones.

Toby is now on penult and penult with David in play, partner ball on 4-b, for hoop 2. He assembled the balls at 4-b for the triple but was well short approaching 2. With a powerful shot he rebounded from 2 but Toby missed the 7-yarder. David hit and is back in play.

Stop Press: Maugham has started a triple.

4:55pm

David Maugham wins 26tp-22. GB WINS and retains the MacRobertson Shield, NZ SECOND. Congratulations to all players for a magnificent tournament! And to NZ for the production! And especially to the NZ players who took the world champions to the very edge of defeat.

Now for the barbecue and presentations ...

Australia v United States

1:30pm

Brian Dawson and Colin Pickering took the first game against John Taves and Jerry Stark 26-12. Brian Dawson made a tidy first nine but there was some nervous croquet after that. In the second game Colin made nine, the lift was missed and they have gone to lunch with Brian Dawson to play with a good rush to one opponent ball on the East boundary and the other in corner IV.

Bruce Fleming and Martin Clarke won the first game against Jeff Soo and Don Fournier, Jr 26-0. I think it was three turns, 9, 12 and 5. In the second game they are at lunch with the Aus clips on 1 and 2-b and the US clips on 3 and 4-b. A US ball is in the jaws of 3 with two other balls close by.

Trevor Bassett and Max Donati lost the first game 9-26 to Mik Mehas and Jacques Fournier but Trevor has made nine in the second game and they are lunching.

2:40pm

CP and BD v JT and JS, second game: Taves on

1, Stark and Pickering on 4-b, Dawson in play just approaching 2-b, starting a break with a pioneer at 3-b.

MC and BF v DF Jr and JS, second game: Clarke is in play for 3-b, US clips on 3 and 4-b, and is ready to peel partner ball through rover.

Stop Press: Aussies win 26-12.

MD and TB v MM and JF, second game: US clips on peg and 4-b, Aus on 1 and 4-b, US has the innings.

3:04pm

Pickering is finishing - two hoops to go. Oh no. Pickering stuck in rover with Stark's ball close. He hit it, Stark now in play, for rover with all the balls, Taves for 3-b.

Stark has pegged out Dawson's ball with Taves for 3-b, Pickering for rover. Taves now on 4-b. (Pickering missed a roquet by yards!)

3:32pm

Stark and Taves win the second game: USA 10, Aus 10, and also 1 game all in final match. Pickering, Dawson, Taves and Stark are taking a break from the almost unbearable tension before starting the deciding game. It may be a long day!

Pickering and Dawson have won the start, Dawson now in control with a rush to hoop 1.

4:32pm

Pickering and Dawson have not made a hoop. Taves made nine and Stark is making 12 without attempting a triple.

4:55pm



The Australian squad congratulating the Americans on their victory.