

The Croquet Gazette

Issue 268 ~ July 2000

Which extremes
have you gone to
for Childline?

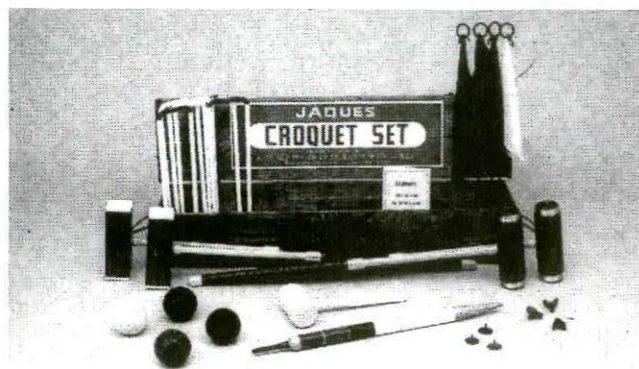
The World Croquet
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The History of
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Tournament Reports &
Results





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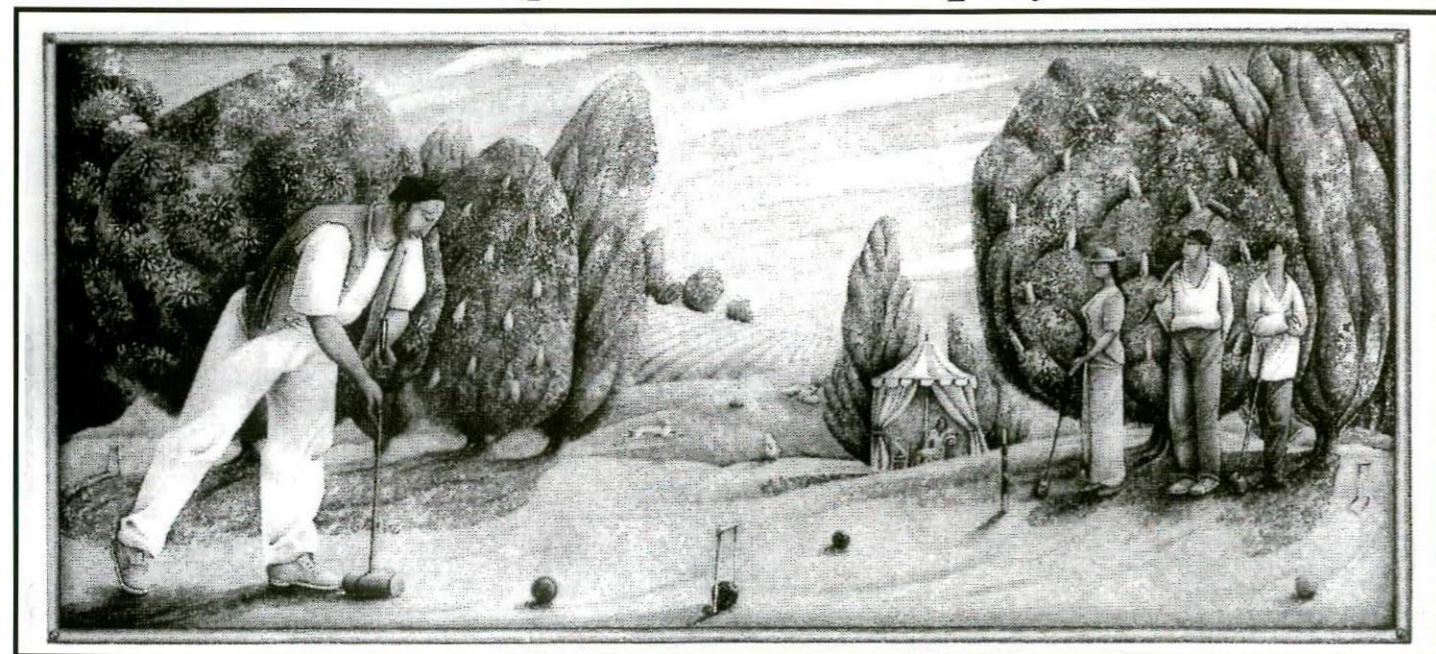


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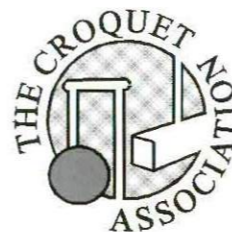
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Specific Questions & Queries

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 sheet. These have been issued in a bid to make the reporting of events and the administration of the rankings easier. Please ensure that the forms are used and that all relevant details are submitted.

Tournament reports should be written and sent to the editor within FOURTEEN DAYS of the completion of a tournament. Failure to comply with this guideline will result in reports failing to be published. Hand written reports are no longer to 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 268 July 2000 £3.00

Front Cover: All in a good cause. Gail Curry in play during the 24hr Crake Valley Challenge.

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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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THE CROQUET
ASSOCIATION
WEB SITE @
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CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN



Recently at Cheltenham I met a New Zealander who is over here for the season. He has hired a campavan to travel around in, which should be very nice if we ever get any summer! The thing which saddened me, however, was to learn that he had been robbed, losing a lot of valuable stuff. I do hope that his experience has not totally ruined his trip to us.

In the years that I have been playing croquet, I have, unfortunately been made aware of many instances of theft. A few years ago a player had her purse stolen while play was going on. On another occasion, the club house where I was playing was broken into three nights running. My own club has been attacked on several occasions and I'm sure there are many more that I do not know about. It seems that the police cannot do anything about it, so all I can say is - be very vigilant. Do not leave valuables lying around unattended, either in the clubhouse or your car. If you have to have them with you eg on the last day of an event where you have checked out of your hotel, leave them in the care of a spectator. If we cannot stop them let us at least make it difficult.

On a more cheerful note, I have just got back from the Inter-Counties. What a great event this is! So many players gathered together and such a friendly atmosphere. It seems to me that the two division format is now proving popular, although there were a lot of reservations (including mine) beforehand. It does seem that there is more for teams to go for now, either to win or to get promotion/avoid relegation. Congratulations to Essex and the Channel Islands.

At the Counties this year, I arranged for the President of the World Croquet Federation, Tony Hall to give a talk on the aims and objectives of the WCF. A synopsis of this talk should be in this issue. He has a number of strong views, some of which I agree with, others not. His idea of a world body controlling and leading the way forward for croquet is laudable and I think that most people would support the principle at least of such a concept. However, to achieve this, the WCF has to show itself to be a credible and honourable organisation without bias or prejudices. Actions on the past by some members of the WCF have not been encouraging in that respect and there is going to be some justifiable caution particularly by the major croquet-playing nations to hand over the control

of croquet to another body.

As promised in an earlier column, I have met with Hamish Hall regarding his survey of clubs. A copy of this survey has gone to all Council Members so that individual points can be taken into account by them. More directly, two things came from the meeting. Firstly, Hamish will produce a digest of the points arising from the survey which will be published in the Gazette in due course. Secondly, I plan this winter to undertake a "meet the clubs" exercise. In co-operation with the Federations I will travel to each Federation's territory at an arranged time and venue. All croquet players (including those from non-affiliated clubs) will be invited to attend.
Don Gaunt

EDITORIAL

If all goes according to plan this issue will reach you a little later than usual. I apologize for this but like so many other players I have been playing in some very enjoyable events.

My thanks go to those of you who kindly sent in your contributions before the deadline for this issue, for those who did not - please read my editorial in the May issue again.

There have been some very positive comments about the new look to the cover of the Gazette, and of course a few negative ones. All views are welcomed but those of a negative nature should really offer a positive alternative. So if you don't like the cover photos, or think the quality is not up to scratch, please feel free to send some that meet higher standards. I will be only too happy to use them.

Scattered throughout this issue are reminders of the various places that you can send results, reports and news. This has been necessary as a large proportion of the above items are still only being sent to the Nottingham Discussion Group. If you wish to send your results and reports etc to that list, please also copy it to one of the CA addresses, preferably news@croquet.org.uk or alternatively results@croquet.org.uk. By doing this you ensure that your information gets to everyone who needs it.

The Childline initiative seems to be gathering momentum and elsewhere in this issue you will be able to read about how clubs are raising funds, for what is a very important and worthwhile charity. If you club has not yet planned an event to benefit Childline it is not too late. I am sure even the smallest of donations would be welcomed - your efforts may help to change a child's life.

Gail Curry

CLUB NEWS

Ashby's Astroturf warm-up

by *Barrie Marsh*

Ashby Croquet Club, like many others, often have difficulty at the beginning of the season with poorly drained lawns being unavailable for play if the weather is poor. Keen to start their playing season as early as possible, Ashby organised a tournament on March 26th, played on an Astroturf pitch at Shobhall Leisure complex, Buxton.

Using the special hoops developed by the Woodhall Spa Club at Lincoln as part of the East Midlands Federation, three lawns were set up on the Astroturf at Shobhall with the helpful support of the centre staff. This included allowing us to put down paint markers for the corners and the hoop positions a few days in advance so that setting up time on the day was reduced to the minimum. Hiring only half of the Astroturf hockey pitch, it was possible to lay out to scale three lawns at 90% of full association size.



Event winner Bill Sidebottom with his fellow competitors at Shobhall. Picture by *Barrie Marsh*.

With the always present possibility of cold weather in March, the tournament was organised to keep everyone playing as much as possible. Ashby club players, together with visitors from Woodhall Spa and Kenilworth making 12 players, had three rounds of time limited, 18 point handicap singles double banked. After some 6 hours of competition, four players each tied with an equal number of wins. Using the total points scored as the decider Bill Sidebottom of Kenilworth was the winner with Jean Ackerman of Nottingham coming second.

The astroturf pitch at Shobhall is in very good condition, so the balls can run very true, but kept rolling for much longer than on grass. Conditions were a test of technique, but players adapted very quickly and some delicate play was evident. Talking to players afterwards, the reaction was very favourable in that whilst the play was

obviously different from grass, it made an enjoyable event and an opportunity to play croquet much earlier in the year than normal. We were even fortunate with the weather. It is, therefore, most likely, that Ashby will run a similar event next year, and also a second one for our very enthusiastic golf croquet players.

Fire at Watford Club

By *Arthur Reed*



On the evening of 4th April the Watford Club's small pavilion in Cassiobury Park was razed to the ground. Fire completely destroyed the structure in spite of the efforts of eight fire fighters. The leading fire fighter was of the view that the fire had been caused deliberately. In addition to the structure all the contents were lost except the hoops which were retrieved and have now been refurbished. This was not exactly an ideal start to the season, the lawns having been available to play for only three days.

The pavilion was built in 1938 when the lawns were laid by the Watford Council and the Club was formed. It is sad to think that this piece of croquet history has been lost including an original letter from the Town Clerk setting out the terms on which the club should operate at its inception. However those readers who have had occasion to use the pavilion will know that it was not a grand or particularly well appointed building and this misfortune is also an opportunity to make improvements for the future. The pavilion was leased from Watford Council and we are in active negotiation with them regarding a replacement and in the meantime temporary accommodation will be provided.

Whilst the fire is a grave inconvenience the lawns have not been significantly damaged and the club continues to play. Thanks to some prompt action by our Captain, David Drazin, all necessary playing equipment was replaced within 2 weeks and the club will meet all its competition and match commitments. Our weekend tournament 28th-30th July will go ahead as advertised so those who have entered need not be concerned.

Fortunately the contents of the pavilion were insured but perhaps this incident may prompt some honorary Treasurers to review their insurance cover.

Rother Valley Croquet Club grand opening

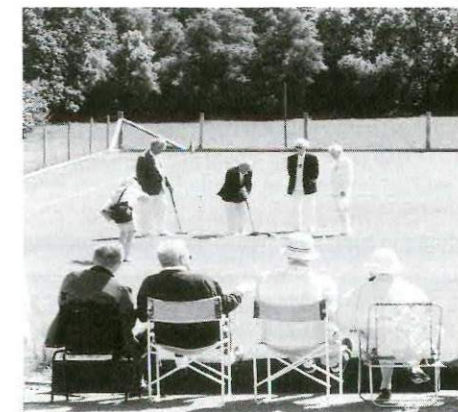
Report by *Pip Calvert*

After rain and cloudy skies on Thursday and Friday, Saturday 20th May dawned fine, and stayed that way until the evening, giving the Rother Valley Croquet Club a beautiful opening day for their new lawns overlooking the South Downs at Ducton near Petworth West Sussex.



Local Journalist, *Ian Burn* - Club Chairman, *John Solomon* - President of the CA, and *Bill Arliss* at the opening ceremony of Rother Valley.

We were privileged to have Mr. John Solomon to cut the tape, wish us well in our new venture and give us sound words of advice about playing the game. The ceremony over, he fought a duel with Mr. Bill Arliss on the north lawn which ended in an honorable draw. Unfortunately, being new, the grass could not be cut too finely and was rather longer than these experts were used to, so that the cut rushes and rolls did not always finish where they were obviously intended to go. Nevertheless the 80 keen onlookers were treated to a rare display of skillful shot making and a demonstration of the attacking game which we are always being urged to play (we have rather too many Aunt Emmas in the club, including the writer!)



The new lawns being put to good use on opening day.

After an excellent tea provided by the Fittleworth Women's Institute out two

Continued on Page 7

LETTERS



In praise of the tournament visitor

Dear Editor
For the last four years Northampton Club has hosted advanced and handicap CA tournaments with mixed success. The most successful and, without doubt, the most enjoyable are those where there are a preponderance of visitors outnumbering the local club players.

For one thing, it brings the opportunity to make new 'croquet comrades' with an ease, which can only be achieved between people who share a common passion. Also, an opportunity to meet old friends. And another is that it is always a pleasure to play host to an appreciative guest.

From the visitors perspective there are quite a few sacrifices to be made. A valuable day, or number of days, holiday from work may be necessary. Some travel many miles for a few days croquet, incurring quite an expense if local accommodation is also taken into account.

Without these dedicated people where would clubs like Northampton be? It is time to redress the balance a little in favour of these dedicated people without whom, croquet would be much the poorer?

At Northampton we believe that the time has come to show appreciation to our visitors, after all we are only a small club and cannot afford to offer the facilities or prestigious trophies which many of the larger clubs can. So, for all of the seasons remaining remaining Northampton tournaments and those in seasons to come, we will be offering a £20 cash prize for the winner if he or she is a visitor to the club. If one of our own members wins, the prize is rolled over until the same event for the following year and so on, until it is claimed, then it will begin again.

This is not a huge amount of cash. when all is said and done, it may only half fill up your petrol tank, but it is a gesture, and it could also amount to a realistic sum if the rollover mounts up.

And to close, may I on behalf of all those at Northampton club, sincerely thank those visitors who have supported our CA events. Thank you.
*Lionel Tibble
Northampton CC.*

Hoop refurbishment

Dear Editor
At Northampton we were in the habit of painting our six sets of hoops annually with Hammerite gloss white smooth; a time consuming task and with not totally successful results, since the enamel did have a tendency to wear and chip.

Towards the end of 1998, when the annual chore was looming again, we made some local enquiries and found a firm that was prepared to refurbish the hoops to what seemed a good specification at reasonable cost. All the hoops were shotblasted, zinc metal sprayed, primed and white powdercoated. The cost in January 1999 was £2.50 per hoop (£90 plus VAT for the 36 hoops). The results were first class; even after a season's hard use none of the hoops has needed any attention this last winter.

The firm involved was NRM Limited, Heathfield Way, Kings Heath, Northampton NN5 7QP

I hope the above information may be of use to some clubs, although I do appreciate that the cost of transport may facilitate against the use of the company.

*Peter Stansfield
Northampton CC*

Hoop refurbishment part 2

Dear Editor
The best treatment we have found for our hoops is a 2 pack white etch primer made by Cortould with stoving quality. The advantage being that the colour is etched into the surface of the metal. It appears almost like a white dye, and dries with a matt finish.

The work was carried out by Inta-Nations Coaters Ltd, Unit 25, Rippers Court, Sible Hedingham, Halstead, Essex CO9 3PY
*Ron Rawden
Bury St. Edmunds CC*

Re the editor's picture quiz

Dear Editor
I have no difficulty in identifying the middle photograph of the three photos on page 23 of the May issue of the Gazette (issue 267).

In 1988 Mr R Britcher donated to the CA various trophies which had been won by Miss R Weightman in the period 1913-1920. Brian Macmillan arranged for them to be displayed and this is a photograph of that display. It is taken at the Hurlingham Club just outside the old CA office looking down the path towards the pergola bordering the driveway. The trophies are:

Back row: Ranelagh Doubles Cups now awarded to the winners of the CA Golf Croquet Doubles championship.

Front row left: Ranelagh Singles Cup now

awarded to the winner of the Selector's Weekend.

Front row middle: Menton Sweet dish now awarded to the winner of the Individual Short Croquet Competition.

Front row right: Ranelagh 1913 championship Cup now awarded to the winner of the National Team Short Croquet Competition.

The board behind the cups carries various photographs etc. and it is possible to identify a photograph of Miss Weightman and the group photograph which you reproduce as your third item.

It is therefore probable that your three photographs are all connected and if that is the case then the obvious inference is that the first photograph is of Miss Weightman herself taken, so it would appear, before World War I wearing a magnificent Edwardian hat, but I am not sure that it is her.

The third photograph is of the competitors in the Ladies Championship Cup - as the 'Ladies Field', Ladies Eight' or 'Barlow Bowl' was called between 1911 and 1925. I can only identify with certainty Miss DD Steel and if by inference Miss Weightman is also in the picture then the photograph must have been taken in either 1913, 1919 or 1920 as only on those occasions did both of them appear together. The style of ladies' dresses and hats suggests 1919 or 1920, with 1920 being slightly more likely. The photograph was taken in the old rose garden at the Roehampton Club.

Alan Oldham

An unusual mallet?

Dear Editor,
I have recently taken possession of a mallet with some unusual features.

It was manufactured by Slazengers. The head is brass bound and appears to be Lignum Vitae.

The overall length is 42.5 inches and the handle has a semicircular groove cut into the end at right angles to the longitude of the head.

It is stamped as weighing 3lbs 8oz. Being of average height, I do find that, with such a long handle, the mallet is not ideal. However, before I alter what may well be a collector's item of sorts, would welcome comments from any member who may be able to throw some light on the item's likely origin.

GDH Rushant

Liverpool poet on croquet

Dear Editor
In the bar of Liverpool's Everyman Theatre on a Monday night, a young man introduced himself to me: "I am Chestnut, the People's Poet." Apparently, an arts grant has enabled this individual to tour the nightspots of the city, extemporising poems on any subject to order. I couldn't resist setting him a tester.

Perhaps the poem which follows fails to capture a rigorous knowledge of the modern game of croquet, but the reader should bear in



mind (a) that it was written in under five minutes, and (b) that its writer's experience of the game probably extends no further than the past viewing of films by James Ivory [qv].

CROQUET

Landed gentry happily while away summer evenings

With wooden puck and hooped rings.

Trying to knock the ball -

in as few tries before they call

Croquet -

And break for Tea

A most refined pastime to be

Put to lawn

Born

out of those with bad backs

that couldn't hack

BOWLS.

James Hawkins

Coals to Newcastle

Dear Editor

Returning home exhausted after setting the hoops one evening in early May, my wife greeted me with the news that a chap on a boat on the River Tyne had phoned asking for a game of croquet. Further enquiry unearthed that Simon, a croquet player from Bury St Edmunds, was stranded for a few days while waiting for his engine to be repaired. He would contact me the next day. When Simon rang I suggested we play the following afternoon on the luxurious lawns at Tyneside Croquet Club. He checked with his skipper and this was OK. I offered to pick him up and asked where he was moored. "At Whitehill Point." "Er... yes, where exactly is that?" I said. "You go down a dirt track road to the right of the shops at Royal Quays and carry on to the end. My boat is the *Sand Heron*." Next day I gingerly turned down the dirt track road and eventually came to a no entry sign that said "Strictly forbidden, Trespassers will be prosecuted, Do not proceed or you will be arrested, etc. etc." So I continued, now shaking with fear, but intent on looking out for the berthed yacht. Imagine my surprise when the only boat at the end of the road was a huge aggregate dredger with... the words *Sand Heron* on its bow. A friendly wave from the bridge comforted me and in a flash Simon was down on terra firma and getting into my car, particularly eager for a game of croquet after three weeks at sea. What better way for a second mate to spend his time whilst waiting for the broken camshaft on his ship to be patched up?

Don Wright

Continued from Page 5

distinguished guest kindly gave tuition to the many beginners and more experienced players who tried out the new lawns.

During the season the Club, which now has nearly 40 members, is playing matches against Littlehampton, West Chiltington, Worthing, Fishbourne and Alton and we hope to award more handicaps and improve our play under the guidance of Nic Waters, our resident coach.

Croquet Association members are welcome to visit us and enjoy the beautiful setting of the grounds of which we are justly proud.

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bruce.rannie@tinyworld.co.uk

John Solomon

jsolomon@waitrose.com

Paul Campion

20 City Harbour

8 Selsdon Way

London. E14 9GR

Telephone 020 7987 7259

Croquet in South Africa

Western Province Championships
Cape Town, South Africa

Golf Croquet to be played at Somerset West Croquet Club from the 1st to 4th March 2001. Association Croquet events will be played at the Rondebosch Croquet club from the 10th to 17th March 2001.

Anyone wishing to enter can contact me at either:
email: KNOXC2@BP.COM

Carole Knox

Late Vintage

10 Rust en Vrede Avenue

Constantia, 7806

South Africa

* 27-21 408-2827 * 27-21 408-2412



Nigel Graves, CA Secretary, (centre) made an early season tour of the northern clubs, and is pictured here at Llanfairfechan with, Georgina Llewellyn, John Finnerty, Elizabeth Ferris and Maltwen Williams.

~ OBITUARY ~

Captain Forrest Tucker - USA

It is with great sadness that we report that Captain Forrest Tucker, the father of croquet at Birnam Wood, died recently just short of age 103.

He told this story of how croquet got started at Birnam. Bob McLean asked him what he knew about croquet and with whom he had played. Forrest replied that he had played with the British Ambassador - "You're it" said McLean. Thus began Forrest's reign over the Birnam croquet lawns in 1971. He was so successful at recruitment that in the early days reservations were de rigueur. He unselfishly taught dozens of people to play (and tried with hundreds) including the founders of the Arizona Croquet Club who in turn spread the game and became a force in American croquet. He insisted on playing only the proper CA rules, usually Advanced. "We'll have none of that damn dead-ball nonsense here", he would say. As American players compete more on the world stage in CA rules competitions his view appears to have been prescient.

Players all over the country vied for invitations to the annual tournament played at Birnam. Often we had an English player. As players fell by the wayside, Forrest still played every afternoon with a group of regulars. Later, he graciously handed over the reins to a new generation. He was delighted that the lawns were again full.

Forrest once won the English Veterans tournament, showing the 'Limeys' that the Americans could play croquet. Using his considerable powers of persuasion he insisted on bringing the trophy back to Montecito for his one year of possession as champion. In typically optimistic style, he gave himself a 100th birthday present of a new mallet. And he used it.

He was reluctantly inducted into the Croquet Hall of Fame, which he characteristically feared would lend his status to the Hall of Fame rather than the other way around, which indeed is the point of having a Hall of Fame.

He would sometimes get a break going and with all the balls under control an anecdote would come to mind and we would listen with great amusement to his story. He would then continue the break with no apparent loss of concentration. A run to 4-back could entail the telling of the story of the Ambassador's Pajamas at hoop 2, a discussion of the witches' first scene in Macbeth at hoop 6 and How I was Challenged to a Duel on the way to 1-back. Those who knew Forrest well appreciated his sense of humor, which was never far away no matter what the circumstances.

Thanks to Forrest's enthusiasm and his dedication to his sport, we continue to enjoy croquet at Birnam. We owe him a great debt.

*Roger Lenard, Croquet Chairman
Birnam Wood Golf Club, USA*

THE HISTORY OF WOODHALL SPA CROQUET CLUB

By Patricia Duke-Cox

The Woodhall Spa Croquet Club was formed as the result of some local WI members attending a Golf Croquet Demonstrators' Day in 1990. This was organized by Chris Hudson, then National Development Officer of the CA, who had advertised in "Home & Country", the WI magazine. The day's event was held at Jubilee Park in Woodhall Spa. Twelve attended, seven from the Woodhall Spa WI.



Golf croquet demonstrators day, Jubilee Park Woodhall Spa

In the early days, the small group of keen individuals continued to meet at the local amenity park and were considered a WI activity. Soon, however, ladies were asking if husbands could join. An exploratory meeting in April 1991 established enough interest and in November 1991 the club was formed with a proper constitution and had two of the original members as officers. It was affiliated to the CA from whom a great deal of support and guidance was obtained. A key priority for the club has always been to have as much publicity as possible for its activities and



A display in the local library window

the club has always enjoyed the benefit of having good Press officers. Local radio is also used for Open Day events.

In 1992 some members attended a Short Croquet Course with Chris Hudson. The small friendly group blossomed and members from neighbouring towns and villages began to join. Enthusiasm in the early days saw members visiting Hurlingham to see the World Championship, attending the Speed Croquet televised event at Doncaster and accepting a friendly invitation from Hunstanton after a visiting Australian effected an introduction to them when he participated and won a CA competition

there. This visit to Hunstanton is now an annual event on the club's calendar. Members joined who became keen and were prepared to enter competitions. Each year since 1992 Woodhall Spa has entered the Golden Mallet and has usually sent representatives to the Final, three times reaching the final games.

With no local expert to guide the members, the standard of play remained at a very basic level until the group affiliated to the East Midlands Federation of Croquet Clubs in 1996. The Federation has offered the opportunity to meet a wider range of abilities comparatively locally and members have enjoyed league games in Golf, Short and more recently Association Croquet. In return two of its members have been elected onto the Federation Executive as Officers. The club has become adventurous. It was successful in designing equipment, approved by the CA, for use on commercially available-for-hire astroturf. Winter competitions within the Federation have been held at Lincoln the last two years and now at Burton on Trent. A search for new lawns and club house began with a Lottery application, regrettably unsuccessful.

The Club has also embarked on an ambitious plan to attract and recruit youngster into the game with its schools and youth initiative which has been reported previously. One of its members introduced teleconferencing for Federation meetings. The Club now meets at the Golf Hotel in the centre of Woodhall Spa, hence visitors can experience excellent catering facilities! Club sessions are held Tuesdays, Fridays and Sundays, although members can arrange to meet any time.

The Club is proud of its achievements. Although membership is small,



Roy Taylor, Elsie Dickinson, Patricia Duke-Cox and Pam Overton at the Golf Hotel

usually between 20 and 30, most members are active and club sessions are happy and friendly. This does not mean that some serious thought does not occur during competition time. The latest venture is to have our own web page - so look out for www.woodhallcroquet.org.uk and see what we are doing now.

SEND YOUR TOURNAMENT RESULTS TO results@croquet.org.uk

C O A C H I N G 2 0 0 0

Coaching 2000 brings some alternative games that can help to keep the interest in a session running for beginners and recent newcomers. They were originally collected by the CA of Ireland, for use indoors in a small space, or outdoors on small courts. Some of them are ideal for playing when there are several people wanting to join in, and there is not very much time to wait a turn in a full game. We will be publishing the variations over the next few issues, acknowledging the CAI Handbook of 1994, where the collection first appeared.

This issue includes a game that requires use of the croquet stroke, and a shooting game. Other issues will include team games for many players, and competitive practice routines for one or two players.

Bruce Rennie

AUCTION CROQUET

Auction Croquet was described in the CAI Handbook in 1994, designed to include some of the complexities of Association Croquet, without long turns and using a short court. Whether only the four outer hoops or all six are to be used is at the discretion of the organiser. Four (or up to eight) non-expert players play, each playing for himself, with the sequence depending on who wins the auction to take part. The winner is the player with the highest number of points after an allotted time.

This is a handicap game. Beginners receive a number of bisesques for any turn equal to the number of hoops bid. Players with allotted handicaps receive a lesser number determined from their handicap, in a similar ratio to that used for Short Croquet. Start with the balls in the four corners (with more, remaining balls start at the mid-points of the boundaries, E, N, S, W).

The Auction

First, an Auction is held, the players bidding in sequence an increasing number of hoop points they intend to score in the ensuing turn. Bidding continues, as in Bridge, until all players pass the current highest bid. A bid may be doubled; if another player does not subsequently raise it, the original bidder may redouble.

The Turn

The winner of the auction then plays his turn, which can start at any hoop, and proceed in any order of hoops, except that all the hoops must be run (in either direction) before any hoop is run a second time, and no hoop may be run twice running. Otherwise the laws of croquet apply. The turn ends when the player breaks down, or when he has scored sufficient points to satisfy the auction. At that point the balls are left where they lie, and a new auction takes place.

Scoring

The player scores 10 for each hoop point bid and made, and loses 50 for each hoop point bid and not made. If the player makes good a doubled bid, the doubler loses the value of the bid (not including bonus, see below), and the player scores double (including bonus). If successful on a redoubled auction, the player scores

fourfold and the doubler loses twice the value of the bid. Losses for failing to complete a doubled or redoubled bid are increased to 100 or 200 per hoop respectively.

Peeling

Before the start of his turn, the player may place any clip on any hoop, as a token of intention to peel the corresponding ball through that hoop as part of his bid. Any peel scored counts 25, and any peel missed, or remaining unattempted, loses 50 as for other hoop points. The bid cannot be deemed successfully made if sufficient hoops are run to satisfy the auction without the declared peel(s) being included.

BONUS (only scored if the bid is successfully completed)

Any break completed exclusively with only a second ball scores 25 points per hoop instead of 10. Any bisesques remaining unused score 50 points each.

The CAI Handbook suggested as a tactical hint, that a player should consider the leave at the end of the turn, by positioning the balls to favour his chances in the next auction. The skills that are apparently needed are controlled break-building, similar to short croquet, as well as awareness of the position of others. On the face of it, all players should get a chance to participate, but it seems likely that even slightly experienced players could monopolise a session, especially if they understand the recommended "leave" tactic.

Two variations were suggested, either of which may make the game better as a variant leading to improving skills in Association Croquet. One was to use the standard order of clips starting on the first hoop, and proceeding circularly, going back to Hoop 1 after Rover; under this variant, having balls start in various corners or mid-points may not be so suitable. Each bid would commence from the position that ball had reached in previous turns, and peels would be appropriate only for the hoop the ball was naturally "on". The other, suggested for expert players, was to limit any break to two balls, limiting the length of turn, although the standard One-Ball variant of the game seems to be a more suitable option serving a similar competitive-cum-coaching need.

Anyway, why not give it a go in one of your club's coaching sessions, and let us know at Coaching 2000 how you get on.

SEND YOUR TOURNAMENT REPORTS TO gail@cgazette.demon.co.uk

**PRESENTATION TO THE CROQUET ASSOCIATION
SUSSEX COUNTY C.C. 29 MAY 2000
ON
THE WORLD CROQUET FEDERATION
BY
COLONEL A. T. HALL, OBE, PRESIDENT WCF**

*At this year's Inter-Counties I was able to arrange for Tony Hall, President of the World Croquet Federation to give a talk on the aims and objectives of the WCF. A transcript of that talk appears below. Tony was given carte blanche to say whatever he wished so please note that the views expressed are not necessarily those of CA.
Don Gaunt*

Thank you for this opportunity to speak to members of the Croquet Association.

The Current Situation

The WCF was set up in 1986 by twelve countries including the CA. In the fourteen years since then the constitution has not changed significantly but another ten countries have joined, so that almost all significant croquet playing countries are now members. There are now four countries (Australia, England, New Zealand and the USA) with over a thousand players and therefore three votes on the WCF Council, one (Egypt) with two voted and six (Canada, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Scotland and South Africa) with only one vote, making eleven Full Members. The remaining eleven countries are Observer Members and have a voice but no vote on the Council.

The principles and objects of the WCF include encouraging, promoting and developing the three recognised versions of the game, Association, American and Golf Croquet, and "to govern amateur and professional croquet". The day-to-day business of the federation is controlled by an elected Management Committee consisting of a President, six members and the Immediate Past-President and performed by a Secretary-general (currently Chris Hudson, still serving after 14 years) and a Treasurer (currently Rod Williams) chosen from the committee.

Since formation there have been only four Presidents: Ashley Heenan (NZ), Fred Rogerson (Ireland), Bill Berne (USA) and myself. I stood for election because I thought that the world body was not performing the full functions normally performed by world bodies of other sports and that I could bring some experience to bear. I thought that to do a proper job I needed to be aware of the whole world scene so I promised to visit all member countries and attend all world championships during my term of office. To ensure that my motives were seen to be proper I promised to travel at my own expense.

In the last fourteen years the WCF has achieved an enormous amount, much of which has been carried by Chris Hudson. It has become an organised body with a number of publications expressing its policies, a web-site, a regular newsletter, regular meetings of the Council and constant communication between Management Committee members by email. It has licensed ten world championships which have brought over a hundred thousand pounds worth of grants and sponsorship to the sport. It has recruited more than half the target of 250 "Founder Friends of the WCF", each of whom have contributed at least a hundred pounds as an indication of their support for the Federation and the sport. It has published the WCF Golf Croquet Rules. It has set up the European Croquet Federation and croquet is slowly starting to spread in Europe. A start has been made in Africa.

The Task Ahead

But there is still an enormous task ahead: many things are not as they should be and for our sport to prosper, as it should, we need to correct some things urgently.

The WCF should be the world body - the forum in which decisions are

debated and decided. The associations which set up the Federation and continue as members obviously subscribe to the principles and objects in the constitution. There has been no move to amend them over the years. It is a disappointment to me that the major countries continue to act bi-laterally and quadri-laterally so often. The four major countries have the voting power to prevail in the Council of the WCF if they agree and so choose. By acting outside that forum they merely deny the other countries their voice, their opportunity to influence decisions. The co-ordinating and communication functions that are needed in all sports are impeded and the smaller countries are slighted.

Although the WCF was initially incapable of performing its designated functions it is now organised, and, with some assistance from all concerned, should take up the full workload without delay.

The sport needs a number of standards that are under constant review but which are formally amended only at discreet and not over-long intervals. A game that does not progress dies. In some places croquet is dying. Some of the required standards are as follows:

Specifications for the standard court, equipment and accessories applicable to all versions of the game. With standard specifications manufacturers will have a larger market, clubs can use the same facilities for all versions and players can play different versions with familiar equipment.

Rules and playing regulations for each of the versions. Where possible and where the nature of the game and tactics are not affected there should be standard rules applying to all versions (e.g. Striking faults, when a hoop is scored, discipline). The standard rules and short descriptions of the games must be translated into all languages where it is played, however it should be recognised that if conflict arises the English version is to prevail.

Handicapping. There should be world-wide co-ordinated handicaps in each version of the game. The methods of fixing and varying them may differ but the scale should be standard.

Refereeing. Standard examinations and techniques should be published. World Rankings. Chris Williams and Louis Nel are doing great jobs with the Association and American rankings respectively. I will be speaking to Bill Arliss about Golf Croquet rankings as soon as I can.

World Championships must be scheduled further in advance. I wrote to all member associations on this subject yesterday.

The WCF must incorporate formally so that the excellent organisation is recognised and preserved and to allow its officers to be protected properly.

More "Officers" are needed to do the work. We should formally appoint some of those already doing much of the work and find others.

In the long term a better source of funding must be found. Meanwhile it must be recognised that most functions of the WCF will perforce be done by volunteers. Only the tedious work that no-one wishes to do should attract honorarium.

We must complete the recruitment of the 250 "Founder Friends of the WCF" so that significant sponsorships may be justified. No sponsor will contribute unless a sport can demonstrate that it is well organised and supported by its exponents.

I believe that it is the duty of clubs to constantly recruit new players, for states/regions/provinces to recruit new clubs, for national associations to recruit state/regions/provinces and for the WCF to recruit new countries. Next month I plan to visit Denmark and Luxembourg and I have set time aside in October to visit Libya, if appropriate. Last week we received an application to join from the Croquet Federation of India so I will have to see if I can call in on the way to or from Cairo.

Since being co-opted to the Membership Committee I have been to every world championship and refereed at Sonoma-Sutrer earlier this month. By October I will have visited every Member Association, although I have already spoken to the presidents of all but four. I have been delighted at the degree to which the presidents agree with what I am trying to do although some of them think that it will be difficult.

CA NEWS

Marketing and Publicity Report by Tony fathers

1. Marketing our sport

After nearly two years in the croquet marketing job I now know, what I suspected when I started, what a difficult job it is to recruit new players to our sport. The Childline initiative; the Oldie advertisement campaign; the indoor carpet; various publicity successes: these are all helping. But at the end of the day the effort of individual croquet players is probably the key factor. So I thought you might find it helpful to read the wise words of Dick Knapp, Chairman of the Croquet Section of Roehampton Club, first published in the Roehampton Recorder. He writes:-

"People have said to me," if I had known how much I was going to enjoy croquet, I'd have started it much sooner, even if it meant cutting down on some other activity". Croquet is an unusual sport because it does not require strength, speed, agility or endurance - traits which most better known sports require in varying degrees. Like snooker, the sport to which it is closely allied, croquet required hand-eye co-ordination, concentration and the ability to plan ahead and think strategically. Lest I give the impression that athletic ability is detrimental to the development of a croquet player, I should point out that we count a former Wimbledon Junior Champion and a former county golfer among our players at Roehampton Club. In the United States, two of their outstanding players are former professional baseball player and a world class tennis player who is also a 2 handicap golfer.

While many people think of croquet as a game for older people it is worth noting that in croquet, like most other sports, the top players are in their teens, twenties and thirties and getting younger all the time. It is true that croquet players tend to be older because many turn to it when they find that injury or infirmity has precluded them from continuing in other activities, which brings me to the point of this article: people who are unable to continue with some of the more strenuous sports have found, in croquet, a game which is stimulating, competitive and most important - fun. If you are unable to participate in one of your favourite activities due to injury or illness, perhaps you should try croquet.

The competitive among you will be interested to learn there are over 100 tournaments in the UK between April and October. There are more than 30 within an hour's drive of Roehampton Club. So if you are looking for an activity which satisfies your competitive instincts, or just fancy a knock around the lawn on a Sunday afternoon, please contact anyone on the croquet committee to get started. Croquet. Try it, you might like it!

Dick himself, a former competent tennis player who had to stop because of health reasons, took his own advice and now three years later is a 3 handicap player rushing round the country playing tournaments with his wife Mary who has also started at the same time and has a handicap of 8. Dick's main point - that people who are unable to continue with their more strenuous sports find in croquet a game which is stimulating, competitive and most important fun - is surely a point we should all be making to our sporting friends and acquaintances.

2. Publicity : the Sunday Express.

The first of the Marketing Committee's five objectives is to "develop croquet as a serious sport" (not game, mind you, sport). Well we certainly had a big boost towards the attainment of this objective with the article by Anna Wright in the Sunday Express on 30th April. With circulation of 1 million and readership of over 2 million, the Sunday Express is an

important tabloid. Too many journalists treat our sport frivolously. Anna Wright followed the example of Lynn Truss last year in The Times and did a good serious job in her 1,000 word article. With pictures this amounted to over three-quarters of a page.

3. Funding of Croquet.

We market croquet too cheap. A constant moan, as I visit various clubs, is "how shall we fund the refurbishment of our lawns?" Before I answer this question let me make some observations about tournament fees. This year I am going in for eight tournaments for a total of 29 days. The clubs are Winchester, Roehampton, Surbiton and Hurlingham, all with superb facilities. To my certain knowledge two of these tournaments are oversubscribed. I say this because, in Chapter One in my economics textbook, excess demand for a product or service should result in an increase in price for that product or service. Yet the average price per day is £5.58, or £4.68 after club member discount. What does the day's golf cost?

Going to the fixtures book I find - taking the last 12 clubs in the book - an average pre-discount cost per day of £4.76. What does a day's golf cost?

So - Club Chairman and Committee Members - don't moan to me about costs until you've got your tournament pricing right. Specifically I suggest between £7.50 and £10.00 per day depending on your facilities. This is a suggestion I am confident will ensure a warm welcome for me wherever I go!

4. ChildLine.

With 17 members, "gaining one or two, losing one or two each year", Sindon Croquet Club is not untypical of the many smaller clubs affiliated to the CA. Not surprising therefore that John Eyrie rang me to express his amazed delight that no fewer than 33 non-club members came along on their ChildLine croquet day, of whom 4 signed up for beginners classes. They achieved this by means of articles in local press, pieces on local Wiltshire radio (interesting idea other clubs might like to copy) parish magazines. With a 23.5% increase in club membership I can only say beat that!

Update - The 1999 Shortened CA Survey Report by Hamish Hall

The information gleaned from the Survey has not been filed, simply collecting dust. Rather any apparent inaction is simply due to an inescapable fact that Council and its Committee tend to meet in the winter! However, Don Gaunt and I took the opportunity of Nailsea's Tournament to see whether there were any obvious short comings that could be immediately addressed.

The survey indicated that there is room for improvement in Communication, between both members and the Federation, and the governing body. The club handbook sets out the framework under which we are organised, and in his Chairman's column, Don has told you of his plans for next winter.

It is pleasing to note the substantial number of clubs that are not dissatisfied with either the CA or the Federations but one must not overlook the fact that most returns were completed by the individual.

The practical help provided by Federations varies quite considerably, and is summarized:

Croquet North: Only 4 clubs in this small Federation, but they wrote encouragingly of assistance given.

Yorkshire & Humberside: Appreciated the carpet and coaching.

North West: 5 clubs acknowledged financial assistance and 3 mentioned loan of equipment. Only 2 mentioned coaching.

South West: Only Bath acknowledged assistance - with their lottery grant and help at National Trust and Wells Cathedral school. Possibly the other 13 clubs are sufficiently strong not to need assistance!

Southern: Similarly in this federation. Aldermaston acknowledge a loan, and Littleton mention the help received in their lottery application. Otherwise, no assistance received.

West Midlands: Only 2 replies, neither of which mentioned receiving assistance from the federation.

East Midlands: 'Croquet in the Parks' mentioned by 3 clubs. Clubs recognised that the Federation enabled them to keep in touch.

East Anglia: I get the feeling that clubs appreciate their Federation! 'Come and Try it' at the craft fair, Indoor croquet, loan of equipment and general assistance are all mentioned suggesting real communication.

London & South East: 10 clubs appreciate the coaching, whilst 6 write of 'friendly advice'.

Overall: The stronger clubs do not look to the Federation for assistance, and the underlying requests are for coaching, publicity and recruiting.

Development News

Report by Bill Sidebottom

Lottery News

Unfortunately Cheltenham's reapplication for a lottery grant failed - this time on the basis of their constitution. They were considered not to operate an open access/membership system in that the club committee have the right to refuse admission to the club and that membership requires support from existing club membership. Fortunately, the club have been able to raise sufficient finance to proceed with the levelling of lawns 9 and 10 and the creation of a new 11th lawn. This is excellent news for the many players who take part in the Cheltenham tournaments. The club obtained a grant from the Gloucestershire Playing Fields Association and a grant and a loan from the C.A. The club deserve our congratulations in persevering with their plans in spite of the disappointment of their lottery application.

Last year the CA prepared a Specimen Club Constitution based on the Sport England Model Conditions. It is available from the CA Office and we would expect it to satisfy any queries associated with lottery applications. The experience of Cheltenham once again highlights the focus of Sport England on community issues.

There are several significant lottery applications being considered by clubs. Their experience will sharpen our understanding of what it takes to achieve success. Even when applications are rejected, the effort put in, and the impetus given to development, can lead to a successful implementation. Littleton also failed but found the means to proceed with their project.

Please let the CA secretary and your Federation Development Officer know of any lottery applications, and their success or failure. The more data we can collect the better the advice which can be given.

Awards

This year all three CA Awards will be made. All clubs, of whatever size, are now covered by an award based on an fully comparative basis. All awards have a trophy and a £100 prize. 2000 must be the best year to win an award!

Grants

The CA has available a budget for grants to clubs to help with development projects and schools initiatives. The CA will also consider loans for the development of lawns or facilities. Finance is not available for maintenance expenditure. Now is the time to plan and prepare. Applications must be made through Federation Development Officers to the Development Committee - see the Registered Club Handbook. It is a fact that in the past 5 years at least the CA has never refused a grant because of financial limitations.

Tournament Committee

Report by Derek Trotman

The CA membership are only too aware of the problems caused by the late publication of the Fixture Book in 1999 and 2000. New arrangements have now been finalised for the preparation of the 2001 edition and these include the appointment of a new editor (Nigel Graves) and the production of a revised production schedule which is shown below. You will note that the CA office needs to be informed of any proposed new tournament by 1st August so that the Tournament Committee can ensure they fit into the overall tournament structure without any major clash of events. Elsewhere in this edition is printed the list of CA tournaments for 2001 & 2002 which indicates how full the season is becoming especially with the advent of more Golf Croquet tournaments. The committee are attempting to space the CA events over the season partly for members convenience and also to avoid overburdening the clubs who so kindly make their facilities available for our major tournaments.

Fixture Book Schedule

Notice of all new Tournaments to be received by CA office 1 AUGUST.
1st draft of club entries to be circulated to clubs by 1 SEPTEMBER.
Corrected draft to be returned to Editor by 1 OCTOBER.
Final draft to be circulated to clubs by 14 OCTOBER.
Corrected final draft to be returned to Editor by 1 NOVEMBER.
Fixtures Calendar Published on CA web site 1 DECEMBER.
Final text of book ready for despatch to printers 1 DECEMBER.
Fixture Book printed and ready for circulation 7 JANUARY.

CA Sponsored events Venues and Dates 2001 / 2002

EVENT	2001	2002
Western Championship	East Dorset 5 - 7 May	East Dorset 4 - 6 May
Peels	Southport 10 - 13 May	Southport 9 - 12 May
Inter-counties Championship	Southwick/Compton 26 - 29 May	Southwick/Compton 25 - 28 May
Mens & Womens Championships	Cheltenham 4 - 10 June	Cheltenham 3 - 9 June
Home Internationals	Dublin 16 - 17 June	Nottingham 15 - 16 June
Golf Croquet		
Open Championships	Budleigh Salterton 11 - 16 June	Budleigh Salterton 10 - 15 June
Veterans Championships	Southwick 18 - 23 June	Budleigh Salterton 17 - 22 June
Golf Croquet Championship		
Area Finals	Various Venues June	Various Venues June
Junior Championships	July TBA	July TBA
Schoolboys Championships	July TBA	July TBA
Open Championships	Hurlingham 28 June - 8 July	Hurlingham 8 - 14 July
Seniors Championships	Surbiton 19 - 22 July	Southwick 18 - 21 July
Golf Croquet Championships		
Finals	Colchester 21 - 22 July	Nailsea 20 - 21 July
Eastern Championships	Colchester 27 - 29 July	Hunstanton 26 - 28 July
Inter - Counties	Southwick 11 - 12 August	Southwick 10 - 11 August
Ladies Barlow Bowl	Sidmouth 23 - 27 August	Southport 22 - 26 August
Ladies Longman Bowl	Budleigh Salterton 23 - 27 August	Colchester 22 - 26 August
Northern Championships	Bowdon 24 - 26 August	Bowdon 23 - 25 August
All England Area Finals	Various 25 - 26 August	Various 24 - 25 August
Challenge & Gilbey	Budleigh Salterton 30 August - 2 Sept.	TBA
President's Cup	Nottingham 6 - 9 September	East Dorset 5 - 8 September
Chairman's Salver	Hurlingham 6 - 9 September	Budleigh Salterton 5 - 8 September
Spencer Ell	Southport 6 - 9 September	Hunstanton 5 - 8 September
Selector's Weekend	Surbiton 7 - 9 September	Wrest Park 6 - 8 September
Short Croquet Club Finals	TBA 8 September	TBA 7 September
Short Croquet Individual		
Finals	TBA 15 September	TBA 14 September
South of England Championships	Compton 14 - 16 September	Compton 13 - 15 September
Golf Croquet		
All England Finals	TBA 22 - 23 September	TBA 21 - 22
All England Finals	Roehampton 15 - 16 September	Nailsea 14 - 15 September
Golf Croquet Inter-Club		
Final	TBA 29 - 30 September	TBA 28 - 29 September
CA Club Finals	Cheltenham 29 - 30 September	Cheltenham 5 - 6 October

TOURNAMENT REPORTS 2000

Cheltenham B Level 13th - 16th April 2000

Report by Tal Goleworthy & Samantha Symons

Snow-covered hills, surrounding Cheltenham, greeted the croquet players congregating at the Cheltenham Croquet Club for the April B-Level tournament. The surreal atmosphere of the first day was further enhanced with the meeting of mourners attending Ian Maugham's funeral at the club. Competitors were encouraged to attend the funeral by the management. The mixture of funereal black and croquet whites at Cheltenham Crematorium would probably have amused Ian no end. Notwithstanding Ian's human foibles he will be sorely missed by the croquet world.....

Despite the snow capped Himalayas...er Cotswolds, the actual weather conditions of the tournament were fine, bright and sunny with the only rain shower occurring on Sunday morning. By the end of the tournament many a player sported a lobster red tan on their face and neck. Players revelling in these climatic conditions had a few obstacles to overcome, other than their croquet games.

Due to Severn Trent road works taking place outside the club the water supply was cut off on the Thursday and Friday from 3pm. This meant no running water and no flushing loo's. Needless to say, croquet players are very ingenious people and were not phased by this little inconvenience. Other minor incidents included an intermittent power failure, the misplacement of score sheets and the withdrawal of some competitors.

The tournament was run in three blocks based on handicap. To qualify for a block prize seven block games had to be played. Winners of the three blocks were: Pink Peter Darby, Alison Thursfield and Pauline Healey, Yellow block Samantha Symonds.

A Hand's ladder format was used for the overall prize. This allowed for games to take place between blocks. All games played were taken into consideration in determining the overall winner. The winner of this section was Samantha Symonds.

Pendle Easter Tournament

Report by Nigel Graves

Twenty-two hardy folk from the North were joined on Good Friday by one each from the Midlands and the South to do battle with each other and the elements on the lush lawns of the Pendle club. Despite a period of heavy rain and being surrounded on three sides by



Brian Medley receives his trophy from manager John Beech at Pendle

raging torrents, not to speak of the geese who were observed grazing on lawn 2 one evening, the courts were in remarkably fine condition, and play began on schedule at 1.30.

The format of the tournament was modified Egyptian, a system understood by the Manager, John Beech, and possibly his assistant, Roger Schofield, but probably by no one else. There was no doubting its success, however, and all competitors were able to play as many games as they wished. Games were played with full bisques to a base of 6, and with handicaps ranging from 1 to 24 a number of forests were to be seen, but all games were played in a good spirit. The R.O.T., Syd Jones, was only called for once, when a player attempted to jump through a hoop from a position almost completely wired from his opponent, but failed, with the ball bouncing back into an open position. He then noticed that his mallet had damaged the court, and faulted himself. The question then arose whether his opponent was entitled to condone the fault, or whether the ball had to be replaced in its wired position. Syd ruled that the ball should be replaced, but justice was done when the opponent succeeded in making the roquet nonetheless.

Winner of the tournament was Brian Medley (Bowdon) with 123 points; trophies were also awarded to Syd Jones (Belsay Hall) for the highest rating (119) for a player with handicap under 10, and to Geoff Young (Bury) for the highest rating (120) for a player with a handicap of 10 or over. The Croquet for Leisure Cup for the most games played was won by Derek Old (Belsay Hall), who completed 11 games in three and a half days, and also qualified for his Bronze Award. The Wooden Spoon was retained by last year's holder. And the elements? A mixture of sunshine, light rain, heavy rain, hail, thunder and lightning was, I suppose, par for the course, but failed totally to mar our enjoyment.

CROQUET BALLS FOR CHAMPIONSHIPS, TOURNAMENTS AND CLUBS

The BARLOW GRANDE TOURNAMENT ball, known as the 'GT' will set the standards for Championship and Tournament play into the new century.

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Surbiton Easter Handicap 21 – 22 April

Report by Peter Thompson

Initial crowd excitement over the rumoured appearance of several international superstars was resolved by the arrival of the very English-sounding Jonathan Lamb (Belgium's No 1) and the fairly English-sounding John Davis (Luxembourg's No 1). And so Good Friday morning saw 24 chilly-looking competitors huddled in the Surbiton clubhouse, devouring George and Celia's breakfast offerings and wondering when the deluge would hit. Most surprisingly, it didn't.

Under the genial management of Kevin Carter, games were allocated and completed at a fair lick, with many contestants completing seven games in the two days and only 3 games out of 68 going to time. Most of the spoils went to the up and coming Dulwich contingent, with Richard Bourke winning the event (together with a bronze merit award and a handicap reduction) and Martin Gill following closely in second place. Jonathan Lamb completed his first triple peel, Martin Leech collected a bronze merit award, and Lionel Wharrad, a long-standing star now back nearly at his brightest, achieved 3wins from 5 games.

But I must come back to George's catering. Fetching in his pinny, and hot-wired via head-phones to the Delia Smith Command Centre, George is a culinary giant. For such imaginative menus of such excellent food so impeccably and charmingly presented, it is very nearly worth the trip to Surbiton alone. Actually, I think we will all come back to George's catering.

Surbiton Easter Open

Report by Ian Bond

With only five lawns available this year, the field for this event was reduced to 24 from its normal 30. Heavy rain in the preceding weeks had made the lawns slow, and a hailstorm mid-afternoon on the Sunday left standing water on two of them for the rest of the day which had barely drained by the following morning. But we battled on nonetheless.

Fulford was again outstanding, conceding four points in his first game but then only a single croquet stroke until his last, against Patmore, who was at least able to break the sequence of triples and had Fulford in some trouble. Fulford barely hit the short final lift to gain the innings for the first time, and peeled his partner to four on the way to peg - reducing Patmore to his 4b ball. After a few turns of manoeuvring, Patmore had taken up residence in corner three and Fulford had a tight rush north, wired behind the fourth hoop. From there he proceeded to construct a textbook three-ball break (making fourth off Patmore's ball) to win the Robert Prichard trophy for the fourth time in five years.

The Western Championships 29 April – 1 May

Report by David Openshaw

The first Championship tournament of the season took place at the East Dorset Tennis and Croquet Club in Parkstone. One of the strengths of British croquet is the availability of strong competition on a regular basis. Everyone has the opportunity to play against the world's best players. At this tournament all six of the Great Britain MacRobertson Shield team were playing and the gleaming Shield was on display. It was good to see four of our stronger women players entering this event and playing good aggressive croquet. The lawns were in good condition and reasonably paced in view of the heavy rainfall of the previous few days.

It was no surprise that our four best players reached the semi finals, though Jeff Dawson made David Maugham fight all the way. Stephen Mulliner and Robert Fulford contested the final. This was not without interest which is a nice way of saying there were plenty of mistakes. Even so there was also a lot of good play with a triple in each of the



Robert Fulford receiving his winners prize from Penny Simmonds, with Ian Scott, David Maugham and Stephen Mulliner looking on.

five games(two of them on the opponent). Robert snatched the final game. The critical point came when Stephen declined an eight yard approach to Rover and chose to lay up. But Robert hit a 30 yarder with his ball for four back. He then laid up Stephen missed a 22 yarder and Robert Finished with a standard triple.

Final R 1 Fulford bt S N Mulliner -24tp -9otp +14tp +10tpo +3tp

Coles Cup, Cheltenham 29 Apr - 1 May

Report by David Magee

A disappointingly small band of players gathered at Cheltenham for this year's Coles Cup. The thirteen of us who did participate were all keen to do battle but realistic enough to know that the favorite was definitely odds-on. And the early indications proved our fears as Reg Bamford strode (almost faultlessly) towards the final. Almost, because there was a severe shuddering in the juggernaut's

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passage in Reg's game against Bernard Neal. Reg lost the first game and the wheels were working very loose in the second until Bernard had the misfortune to under-approach one-back on what should have been the final turn.

In the other half of the draw Robin Brown was speeding through in his normally ebullient style, collecting more tps than Reg in the process. However, Reg's remorseless class reasserted itself in the final, winning in three straight games; the third with an effortless-looking sextuple.

The rest of us mere mortals contested the consolation event with equal fervor but somewhat less skill. Nick Evans and David Foulser each ended with six wins, one more than Andrew Cowing, David Magee and Paul Smith. However, proudly sporting his England shirt, Kristian Chambers took top spot with seven victories to carry off *The Second Cup* which, encapsulating the atmosphere of the whole weekend, does not exist.

Peel Memorial Trophies

Southport & Birkdale 11th – 15th May 15, 2000

Report by Arfa Brain & Ivor Mallet

For what is one of the oldest, and slightly different from the usual, handicap event it was somewhat disappointing that there were not more entries. Perhaps CA events should also be listed under the host club in the fixtures book, to say nothing that perhaps a little internal publicity by the CA and the host club would not go amiss.

So it was on the Thursday morning six mixed pairs assembled in contest for the very elegant Lady Murray Vases. The assembled including the defending champions Mary and Richard Knapp, the remaining pairings all being 'Peel virgins' and ever hopeful. The only other point that perhaps requires a mention at this point was the fairly even spread of handicaps, with the highest combined handicap of 11.5 going down to the lowest at 6.5. At the end of the first day play was suspended with the defending champions still in play against Gail Curry and John Wilkinson, both pairs still being unbeaten in the five round American block.

When the round was completed the following day the defending champions came off second best and a win against Liz Fraser and Mike Hammelev in the penultimate round confirmed that Gail and John would be the new champions.



John Wilkinson of Bowdon and Gail Curry of Tyneside, winners of the Peel Memorial mixed doubles. Photo by Mike Hammelev.

The Ladies singles, very disappointingly only contested by four players had its moments. Mary Knapp playing very solidly off a handicap of 8, and sure to drop further, was too accurate for Gail, meanwhile Barbara Haslam proved too good for Diana Williamson. In the following round Gail took the manager to task for congratulating her on a TPO on his wife Barbara, it had after all been a QPO. The final round saw Mary playing Barbara for what effectively was the final, which Mary took convincingly in fine style.

The Men's event was supported better, but there is always room for



Mary Knapp - winner of the Ladies Singles, with manager John Haslam and Roger White of New Zealand - winner of the Mens Singles. Photo by Mike Hammelev.

improvement. Early bookies favourites were Bob Burnett of Southport, Roger White of New Zealand and John Wilkinson of Bowdon. John duly dispatched Bob, and when Roger and John met in the final, there were not too many surprised pundits. Roger had the very 'Skinleyish' style of play, John had the bisques - Roger used his style to good end, John did not, alas, use his advantage in the same way.

Hopefully there will be a much larger entry for this unusual and entertaining event in future seasons now it has finally been allowed out of London. Thanks to the Southport & Birkdale Club for making everyone feel most welcome and looking after us so well - we'll be back for more of a good thing next year, which I know will make manager John Haslam a very happy man.

Surbiton Speed Doubles 13-14 May 2000

Report by Samantha Symons

The 1999 Surbiton Speed Doubles tournament took place on a swelteringly hot summer's weekend. The manager, Nelson Morrow, every mindful of his charges decided that this year a weekend with a more suitable temperature range should be found. Nelson therefore moved the tournament two months forward in the croquet calendar. The 13th May 2000 dawned with a hot misty haze and weather forecasts predicting an early season 'swelteringly hot' weekend. Nelson had been thwarted again. It may puzzle you as to why a report on a croquet tournament should start with such concern about the temperature in which one has to play. Let me explain the essence of a

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Reg Bamford won the Opens with his

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14-point speed doubles tournament: each team has a 30 minute time limit in which to play. Your clock is started at the beginning of your turn and stopped at the earlier of either you quitting the lawn or one of the members of the opposing team stepping onto the lawn. The end of your turn signals the start of your opponent's clock. It is a game where the croquet comes second to the timekeeping. Many a game has been won on the superior time management tactics of one team as opposed to another team. In the Surbiton tournament costume attire is allowed. Teams co-ordinate their colour schemes or dress to some theme. The effort put into this part of the tournament was very impressive. Play started vigorously on Saturday. The rare site of a croquet player sprinting between shots was to be seen in full swing at 9:30am. This soon gave way to jogging, shuffling and walking when teams realised that there was another 5 - 6 hours of play left to go. At 10 o'clock, when the taps were turned on, the combatants repaired to the watering hole to gain some liquid sustenance. The quality of play improved with every pint downed. Does a croquet game always look better when surveyed through the bottom of a pint glass? Phillip..... and Gina took the lead, on Saturday, by winning all of their games. Three other teams were level on four wins each. Sunday dawned with most teams arriving in abridged versions of their costumes after having suffered through the heat on Saturday. Phil and Gina again picked up where they had left off. Winning all their games and assuring themselves of a place in the final. Very fitting, as they were the defending champions from the previous year. The rest of the pairs had mixed fortunes. The final games of the day determining who would have the honour of clashing mallets with Phil and Gina in the final. Kevin Carter and Samantha Symonds gained this illustrious honour after winning all their games played on Sunday. The final drew a good crowd. At first, there was some dispute about the number of bisques to be given to Phil and Gina. Their opponents drew a sigh of relief when their bisque issue was halved from two to one. The crowd commented volubly on the play taking place, with their attempts at *sotto voce* failing dismally. Play began in earnest with Kevin and Sam taking an early lead with two breaks round to six respectively. Gina, using bisque and displaying some fine croquet, went round to the peg. This left Phil with the pressure of finishing off the game with very little time left on their clock. Phil leapt to the challenge and sprinted round, literally, to peg out with 45 seconds to spare on their clock. Phil and Gina, again worthy winners, for the third year running of the Surbiton Speed Doubles tournament.

Results:

Phil & Gina	- 11 wins
Kevin & Sam	- 7 wins
George & Celia/ Ian & Jon	- 6 wins
Jenny & Joe/Chris & Tim Dutton/	
Tim Wilkins & Michael/ Ted & Dennis	- 5 wins
Samir & Doug/Claire & Julian/Andy & Mike	- 4 wins
Nelson & Sue	- 3 wins

The Twilight Zone - Colchester Open 13-14 May

Report by Phil Cordingley

I knew it was going to be a strange weekend when, travelling to a tournament for the first time by bike, I got on the train and there is already a bike with croquet mallet attached on board! It turns out to be Patrick Hort. Realising I may have to play him later, I set a cracking pace from the station to the club to tire him out. To no avail: I did have to play him later but he beat me anyway.

At one stage late on Saturday, only a solitary triple had been completed, by Mark Avery, and thus none by Robert Fulford. This was largely explained by the fact that Robert had already completed three sextuples. The last of these elicited no applause from the crowd! So being the victim I was forced to applaud myself.

Mark and Robert duly reached the best-of-five final of the 'A' Block, with Mark prevailing three games to one from game down in a four TP match. This deprived Robert of his sixth tournament win in a row. (Quite a feat considering we are talking tournaments of the quality of the

President's Cup, NZ Open etc.). The 'B' block was won at a canter by an undefeated Dave Mundy, and Patrick Hort won the consolation Swiss event with 7/10.

Wrest Park handicap 19 - 21 May

By John Bevington.

The three block winners were John Hall (Letchworth), John Wheeler (Wrest Park) and Martin Leach (Ipswich). The outcome of John Hall's block was determined by John Bevington, who lost to John Hall on Sunday morning in a game that went to time and was played for the most part in the rain. John B then had to play John H's rival Rob Edlin-White. Rob got off to a bad start when five of his bisques went down almost immediately. John then picked up a break with the aid of a fortuitous split from near hoop 3 which got behind a ball near corner 4 leaving a rush to hoop 4. Rob never recovered, and finished with 6/8 against John Hall's 6/7 and John B's 5/8. John H picked up a silver award.

John Wheeler showed all his skills in winning his block with 6/7, often sitting and watching while opponents used their bisques to go nearly all the way, and then hitting in or collapsing on a mistake to establish all-round breaks. John's nearest challenger was David Jenkinson who finished with 6/8. In the other block Martin Leach swept nearly all before him with 6/7, followed by Bryan Judson and Ian Mantle with four wins each.

Moments to treasure: Derek Powell making a brave rover to level the score after time, and then watching as Bob Bradshaw hit in from corner 3 to corner 4. Jean Ackermann pegging out one ball when for rover and peg against George Collin, in the same position. George ("I know the rules") called for a referee and Jean's ball was replaced by the peg. George then played his peg ball and roqueted Jean's peg ball... you guessed it. Tom Anderson won the shortest missed roquet prize with a distance of two inches.

Lest we forget - many thanks to everyone who helped with the catering and to those prepared the lawns. Lawn maintenance never stops - as soon as everyone had left it was out with the mower and on with the summer fertiliser (which, as expected, was watered in by more rain the following day).

Harrow Open Weekend 20-21 May

Report by Richard Hilditch

A select group of 8 competed for the prize of the Harrow fiver, this allowed best of 3 to be played throughout. Conditions were slow following heavy rain before and during the event, this allowed a use to be found for the Harrow brick. It became a stepping stone over the large puddle covering the entrance to the lawns. Graham Gale was the comfortable winner scoring 3 TPs during the event. The Harrow catering proved popular again, this time I had just enough London Pride.

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Inter-Counties Championships 2000 27 - 30 May

Report by Sue Mackay

Essex triumphed in the Inter Counties Championship this year, pipping Gloucestershire to the post. They played at Compton on the first day and had an appalling start when they went down 3-0 to Cheshire, but thereafter they did not lose a match, conceding only single games to Dorset, Suffolk and Surrey. Admittedly they had world No.1 Robert Fulford in their team for three days (not a bad man to have in your third pairing!), and Chris Clarke played all four days, but captain Michael Heap was quick to point out that Robert and Chris inspired great performances from the other team members Guy Willard, Paul Stephenson, Geoffrey Cuttle and Jim Potter. On Monday Robert and Chris had a puncture and arrived half an hour late. Apparently their prowess at croquet is not matched by their ability to find the jack, and they arrived breathless and black handed to discover that their balls had long since been deemed on to the lawns in the crucial match against Gloucestershire. Such was the spirit in the Essex team, however, that Jim Potter (playing his first game) had conceded only 5 points and Guy Willard had conceded only 1 point against the Gloucestershire top pairing. Essex won 3-0 and the games were still the first to finish!

It was somewhat amazing that the championships even went ahead,



Mopping up those troublesome puddles at Southwick

let alone as smoothly as they did. Torrential rain on the Friday left huge puddles on the lawns, and a special vote of thanks must go to Jim Mortell, John Gosney and Don Mears for turning out in atrocious weather at Southwick to set the hoops and prepare the lawns. Conditions on the Saturday were cold and windy but mercifully dry, however, allowing play to get underway, but overnight storms saw Lawn 2 at Southwick completely submerged on Sunday. Morning games on this lawn were



One of the best events in croquet - on a sunny day without puddles.



Time for the winners and losers to step forward

postponed until a lawn was free elsewhere, and the indefatigable Jim Mortell and an army of willing outlayers moved in with buckets and brooms to transfer the lake from the middle of Lawn 2 to the shrubbery. Meanwhile on the adjacent Lawn 1 Robert Fulford, playing with Geoffrey Cuttle against Avon, attempted a nontuple peel. He completed three peels before having to attempt an angled 1-back peel (before running 1-back) which jawsed; the break ended with a scatter shot which peeled 1-back, having made the escape ball safe. Geoff then ran 2-back, and Robert started a quad, peeling 3-back before failing to run 2-back. He subsequently finished with a triple, making eight peels in all.

In the second division it was the team from the Channel Islands who swept all before them. Rather a big channel, as captain Tony Le Moignan, Matt Burrow, Sarah Burrow and Paul Duckworth were joined by Ronan Rogerson of Ireland and Kevin Garrad of the Isle of Man - all members of the Jersey Club. They won nine matches, their only defeat coming on the last day at the hands of Devon, who were playing in their first Counties for over twenty years. The second division wooden spoon was won for the third time in four years by Hertfordshire, but this time they achieved two match wins. Yorkshire were without their long standing captain David Coates, who sadly died last summer, but it was very nice to see his widow Wendy at the Championships, and she presented one of David's trophies to the best player from Yorkshire, Alain Giraud. Alain's play was unfortunately insufficient to keep Yorkshire in Division 1, as they only managed one match victory, at the expense of Cheshire. The other teams to be relegated were Northamptonshire (promoted last year) and Middlesex, who slumped from second to second last. Their places in the top division will be taken next year by Channel Islands, Northumberland and Lancashire. Spare a thought for Berkshire at this point. Last year they won the same number of games as Northamptonshire but lost promotion on the 'who beat whom' rule. This year they won four more games than Lancashire, but fell foul of the rule change which puts 'who beat whom' above games won.

The Counties would not be the Counties without its share of incidents. Phil Eardley of Suffolk did not endear himself to his captain when he walked off the lawn in a timed game thinking he had won when in fact he had miscounted the hoops and was actually behind, costing them the match. Norman Hicks of Northamptonshire shot at a green ball in Corner 2 of Lawn 4, sending it down on to Lawn 1. He then mistakenly retrieved Tony Le Moignan's white ball from Lawn 1 and played it into his game, only noticing that he had a five ball break when he had two whites together! Nottinghamshire had to field a late replacement when one of their number tried to climb a statue and broke his hand, and slightly more conventional injuries occurred on Lawn 6 on the last day when Gary McElwain tried to approach penult and his back went. His partner incapacitated, James Mackay of Glamorgan peeled penult from B baulk, but inadvertently caused further

injury when a subsequent roquet shot into the hut and hit an outplayer from the double banked game with such force that the Barlow milling was imprinted on his kneecap!

Thanks are due to all the helpers at Southwick and Compton, especially the catering staff, and to Chris Williams for managing the event. Despite the weather it was a most enjoyable tournament.

Southport Handicap Weekend 27th – 29th May

Report by Peter Fraser

Southport had a full entry for this bank holiday tournament, which was held in wonderful weather (unlike the rest of the country, which was flooded!) The competition was run as an Egyptian with handicaps ranging from 2 to 18. As well as an award for the winner and runner up there were prizes (wine donated by Paul Stoker) for the most hoops run and the quickest game. By the end of the first day it became apparent that Gail and the two local lads Tony Thomas and Ray Belcher were the players to beat. On day two Gail played Ray and Ray won, clocking up the prize for the quickest game in the process. Later he lost a few games and by the end of day two Gail had an unreachable points score. As she had played the necessary number of games to qualify she decided to spend the 3rd day watching, shopping and surfing (the web – not the Southport breakers) leaving Tony Thomas and Ray Belcher to try and out point each other for runner-up place. In the end Tony Thomas pulled through with a win on time in the final game. Ray’s consolation was that he not only won a bottle of wine for the quickest game but also a second bottle for the most hoops scored. The competition was run in a friendly and relaxed atmosphere and was ably managed by John Haslam.

Fog over Budleigh – England cut off

Budleigh Salterton 3-4 June

Report by Richard Danby

Whilst we were grateful for dry weather, the Club was bathed in a pea souper on the Saturday. Sunday saw the sun come out and altogether much better playing conditions. In the knockout, David Trimmer met Martin Gill. David stylishly affected a comprehensive demolition job, 26ing Martin. As someone commented at the time – everyone has a honeymoon period in croquet. Too true.

The Egyptian was won by Richard Danby, winning 5 out of 6 games, who was awarded the honour of writing the match report.

Thanks to Cliff Jones for the smooth management of the tournament. A particular mention is deserved for the Budleigh Club members who provided such excellent sustenance for everybody.

Roehampton 6 – 11 June

Report by Susan Edwards

Tuesday saw the arrival of 13 visitors for Roehampton’s Summer Tournament. The lawns looked magnificent and the weather forecast was promising, perhaps the summer had arrived!

Players were competing for:

The Ranelagh Cup - Open Handicapped Singles

Won by Martin Haggerston R/U Malcolm Bigg

The Brooke Cup - Advanced Play

Won by David Mumford R/U Peter Quinn

The Trevelyan Bowl - Unrestricted Singles

Won by Mary Knapp R/U Ann Robillard

The Creke Cups - Handicapped Doubles

Won by Denis Cross and Peter Jankel

R/U Pat and Paul Macdonald

The tournament opened with the handicapped singles - range -0.5 to 18 and saw 4 26/0 wins on the first day.

After three very pleasant days Friday brought a torrential rain storm which eventually halted play on lawn four for a short time.

The waters had subsided by the afternoon and on lawn 3, Peter Quinn, whose opponent Dick Knapp, had peeled him through rover, pegged

out Dick’s ball with a stop shot from the south boundary near to corner four! Dick’s other ball was for 1 and Peter was now for peg and 5. Just over one hour later and after three excellent hit ins, Dick finally won +5. his resurgence had begun.

Sincere thanks are due to:

Paul Macdonald who, as usual, ran an excellent tournament. If you have not played in a tournament managed by Paul you have missed out on one of life’s pleasures - calm, peace and tranquillity abide. Dick Knapp who willingly and ably set all the hoops each day. The groundstaff who prepared the lawns daily; they were excellent and played true and very fast! This is definitely The Place to be seen next year!

Budleigh Salterton week 8-13 May

Report by Hamish Hall

There were some moments of elation and pleasure, exasperation and frustration, but if not at all times, certainly at most, a week of croquet played in good humour. We missed Martin Granger-Brown who had come off his bike and fractured his jaw. Both Paul McDonald and Mary Goodhart had fallen, and also had to withdraw from the singles, all giving initial hassle to the manager, Mac Burnie Wood.

The doubles typified the good humour. Veronica McClements chortled with unmitigated glee as she and Richard Clark demolished the old enemy - Andrew Potter and Mauren Evans. Margaret Pena and Hamish Hall could not contain their mirth when playing their long standing friends, the Owens. These octogenarians ran around the court, hitting everything in sight, comprehensively demolishing their ‘B’ class opponents. An inspiration as to how the game should be played.

The Scaddons sensibly lost in their first round, and happily collected what looked suspiciously like a couple of bottles of Oxford Landing, which Bunny Porter had judiciously added to her stocks behind the bar.

The ‘X’ demonstrated the handicapper’s problems, as the pirates of Penzance (Tony Backhouse and Malcolm Hooper) cheerfully bought round after round on their way to meeting Sheila Adams and John Gibbons in the final. it might not be so easy next time, as David Purdon, tournament handicapper, axed Malcolm’s handicap by 4.

The Godfrey Turner cup was comfortably won by John Gibbons from Watford. The locals were delighted to see Michael Lester pose with the JK Brown Cup, and Richard Bourke took the Pat Turner Cup.

A notice “Hare around the Court, and win a mystery prize” was to encourage rapid play. David Mumford put down his marker at 1.5 hours. Margaret Pena knocked 15 mins off that, before Sidmouth’s Paul Whittall romped home in 45 mins. The prize was a three foot tall chocolate Hare, won by the manager in a charity raffle. Paul was duly photographed with his prize by the local press before donating it to a children’s hospital.



Prize winners at Budleigh Salterton May tournament.

HANDICAP ALTERATIONS

Cheltenham B Level 6 - 9 April

Alan Pidcock	2	to	1.5
Pauline Healy	3.5	to	3
Jed Allen	5	to	4
Tal Golesworthy	3	to	3.5
Samantha Symons	5	to	4
Joe King	1	to	0.5
David Brydon	4.5	to	4
David Ruscombe-King	4	to	3.5
Peter Thompson	3.5	to	4
Tony Doughty	5	to	6

Hurlingham Club April

P Quinn	8	to	6
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Rochampton Spring Handicap 14 - 16 April

Mrs M Knapp	9	to	8
Mrs R Welch	12	to	11

Southport Advanced Weekend 14 - 15 April

A Sherlaw-Johnson	2	to	2.5
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Sidmouth B Level April

R Henderson	6	to	5
L Latham	3	to	3.5

Surbiton Easter handicap

Richard Bourke	11	to	10
Martin Gill	12	to	11
Martin Leach	16	to	14
David Mooney	6	to	7

Pendle Easter Handicap 21 - 24 April

Mrs D Hoyle	22	to	24
G Young	12	to	11
D Pollitt	10	to	9
D Hoyle	16	to	18
Mrs L Fraser	10	to	9
B Medley	3.5	to	3

Cheltenham Easter Handicap 21 - 24 April

R Harding	9	to	10
M Kolbuszewski	6	to	7
Anglea Martin	18	to	16
Ian Plummer	-0.5	to	-1
M Rangeley	2	to	1.5
Su Stenhouse	5	to	4.5

Sussex Easter Handicap 21 - 24 April

John Solomon	0.5	to	1
Tim Wilkins	2	to	1.5
Roger White	2.5	to	2
Samantha Symons	4	to	3.5
Jon Issacs	6	to	5
Peter Mansfield	9	to	10
Michael Oullin	12	to	11

Hurlingham Handicap

R Bretherton	7	to	6
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M Gill	11	to	10
P McDonald	8	to	9
R Pennant Jones	6	to	7
P Quinn	6	to	5
Mrs A Stephens	9	to	10
T Wilkins	1.5	to	1

Robert Prichard Weekend, Hunstanton

R Gosden	8	to	9
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Colchester Spring Handicap

S Jones	5	to	4.5
Mrs A Fleck	9	to	8
M Percival	1.5	to	1

Bowdon Handicap

Mrs Ailsa Lines	2.5	to	2
Roy Edwards	3.5	to	3
Chris Dent	0	to	0.5
Mike Steer	14	to	10
John Wilkinson	7	to	8

Western Championship, Parkstone

D Ruscombe-King	3.5	to	3
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Letchworth Club

G Woodhouse	10	to	8
R Staddon	12	to	10

Ramsgate Handicap Weekend 6 - 7 May

M Gill	10	to	9
J Bourn	16	to	18
R Ware	3	to	3.5
J Sanderson	6	to	7
M Pulling	11	to	12

Woking Spring Weekend 6 - 7 May

T Moriarty	10	to	9
L Wharrad	6	to	7

Winchester Club

C Crowcroft	9	to	8
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Colchester Open Weekend 13 - 14 May

Colin Hemmings	8	to	7
Richard Hilditch	2.5	to	3
Patrick Hort	0	to	-0.5
David Mundy	2.5	to	2
Michael Percival	1	to	0.5
Chris Ross	2.5	to	3
Paul Stephenson	1.5	to	1

Wrest Park 19 - 21 May

Eric Audsley	1	to	1.5
Ian Mantle	3	to	2.5
Martin Leach	12	to	11
G Youd	7	to	8
Mrs M Boyd	9	to	10

TOURNAMENT RESULTS

Roehampton spring weekend 13-16 April

Manager: Paul McDonald Format: Swiss
Winner: Mrs K Welch

CA Award Scheme: Bronze - Sue Strong

Southport Open 15-16 April

Winner: Colin Irwin

Surbiton Easter handicap

Manager: Kevin Carter Format: Swiss
Winner: Richard Bourke

CA Award Scheme: Gold - Johnathan Lamb,
Bronze - Richard Bourke, Martin Leach

Pendle Easter Handicap 21-24 April

Manager: John Beech Format: Egyptian
Champion - Brian Medley

10+ winner - Geoff Young, -10 Winner Syd Jones

CA Award Scheme: Bronze - Derek Old

Western Championship, Parkstone 29-1 May

Quarter Finals: R I Fulford bt P C Trimmer +5 +26tp, C D Clarke bt C J Irwin +7tp +14, S N Mulliner bt P Cordingley +15 +12, D B Maugham bt J P Dawson -26 +26tp +17tp
Semi Finals: Fulford bt Clarke +15qp +9, Mulliner bt Maugham +6 +26tp.
Final: Fulford bt Mulliner - 24tp -9otp +14tp +10tpo +3tp.

Bowdon Handicap 29-1 May

Format: Egyptian
Winner: Mike Steer
Consolation event: Roy Edwards

Compton Spring Weekend 29-1 May

Manager: Margaret Payton Format: Swiss
Winner: Colin Hemming

Hunstanton Advanced 29-1 May

Manager: Richard Hoskyns Format: American
Winners: Andrew Johnson, David Mundy, Peter Quinn and Brian Rees.

Ramsgate Handicap 6-7 May

Manager: Mary Currie Format: Swiss
Winner: Richard Bourke

CA Award Scheme: Silver - Roy Ware, Bronze - Jeremy Hackett

Northampton Open 6-7 May

Manager: Lionel Tibble Format: Egyptian
Winner: Lionel Tibble

Guildford & Godalming Open 6-7 May

Manager: R Stephens Format: Swiss
Winner: John Davis

Peel Memorial, Southport 11-14 May

Manager: John Haslam Format: KO/Amer
Mixed Doubles: Gail Curry & John Wilkinson

Ladies Singles: Mary Knapp

Mens Singles: Roger White (NZ)

CA Award Scheme: Silver - Mary Knapp

Surbiton Speed Doubles, 13-14 May

Manager: Nelson Morrow Format: American
Winners: Samantha Symons & Philip Eardley

Colchester Open, 13-14 May

Manager: Richard Hilditch Format: KO & Sw
Winner: Mark Avery and Dave Mundy

Wrest Park Handicap, 19-21 May

Manager: Eric Audsley Format: American
Winners: John Hall, John Wheeler & Martin Leach.

CA Awards Scheme - Silver - John Hall

Harrow Oak Open, 20-21 May

Manager: Richard Hilditch Format: KO & Sw
Winner: Graham Gale

Consolation event: Andrew Davies

Classified Advertising

Tournaments

End of season blues ? Chase them away. Come to Northampton handicap and one ball tournaments in October. See fixtures book for details.

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Email: mike@croquetmallets.com



Bristol Members and visitors enjoying some croquet all in a good cause. Photo by Deirdre Duggan.

Bristol hold open day and a quiz to have a good time and raise funds *Report by Sally Green*

Bristol Croquet Club held an open day in association with ChildLine on 30 April, collecting £200 for ChildLine and attracting 45 outsiders to the club. This was the result of a lot of effort by the club, with support from local press and radio.

Further to our successful Open Day, the Bristol Croquet Club ran a quiz night. We all thoroughly enjoyed the evening and a Grand total of £300 can now be sent to Childline.

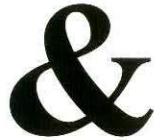
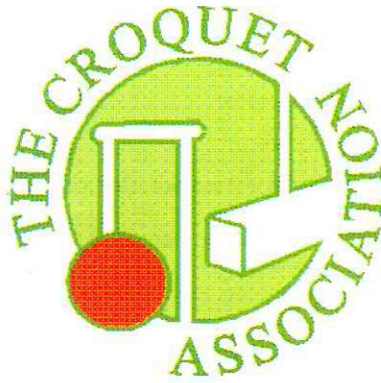
Crake Valley Beat Off Challengers Southport & Birkdale to improve their 24hr World Croquet Record

Report by Gail Curry

On Saturday 10th June at 4.00 pm the second 24 hour croquet match was held at Crake Valley in Cumbria. This time the challengers were the Southport & Birkdale Club from Merseyside. The object for Crake was to extend the record of 372 hoops and beat Southport's score, for Southport to take and extend the record by beating Crake's score.

The match consisted of two teams of players. Each player plays a game to rover, but having run that hoop instead of pegging out they place their clips back on hoop one having scored 24 points and their next team member continues from where their last player left off. Each player can only play once and there is no limit to the number of players in a team. Play is under ordinary level play rules, without bisques regardless of handicap, as players may end up playing multiple opponents during their play. The score is calculated by both teams score being added together to give a total, but with the winner being decided by the team with the bigger score of the two.

Simple enough, but then one has to



consider the added pressures of players playing in front of crowds, often against opponents whom they would usually have bisques against, to say nothing of the strange sensation of playing under floodlights.

After 18 hours play it looked possible that the record could be broken, but it was only possible. However at around 1.30 pm Bob Vaughan of Crake Valley scored 2-back in his game, and a round of applause signalled the record had gone. This was particularly appropriate as it was Bob's idea to hold the initial challenge in 1997.

By 4.00pm on Sunday Crake had held on to their slender lead against the odds and went on to score 208 points to Southport's 194, which gave a new total of 402 points.

The Southport Club raised approximately £1,000 for Medicine for Chernobyl, their chosen club charity, and £100 for Childline in sponsorship, together with over £100 raised for Childline by Gail Curry, who was sponsored to play her 24 points in motorcycle gear complete with helmet.

The event was rounded off by an interview conducted by Radio Cumbria, which was aired the following day.

The members of the Successful Crake Valley team were: Alan Pidcock, Harry Midgley, Peter Wardle, Rob Callingham, Gail Curry, Dave Nicholson, David Maddocks, Bob Vaughan & Neil Williams.

Dyffryn did it on National Croquet Day

Report by Sue Mackay

Dyffryn Croquet Club raised £82:43 for Childline at an open day this afternoon. The club is small and is situated well away from any public transport in gardens which are open to the public, but the daily attendance is not high at this time of year as all the gardeners turn to their own patches. We are also unable to serve teas or set up things like tombola stalls. We were nevertheless able to collect just over £60 in the Childline collection boxes by asking for donations to either watch a demonstration game on a full size lawn or participate in a game of golf croquet on a half size lawn. We had some gymkhana type '10p a go' games for the children which also proved popular with some of our members! In a lull in the proceedings Dyffryn's youngest member, 17 year old James Mackay, was challenged to see how many times he could run the same hoop from either direction in five minutes. He clocked up 107, and earned another £21.40 in sponsorship for Childline, which thankfully he has never had to use. We also gained three definite participants for our beginners' coaching sessions.



Tony Fathers, Esther Rantzen and David Openshaw at The Roehampton Club.