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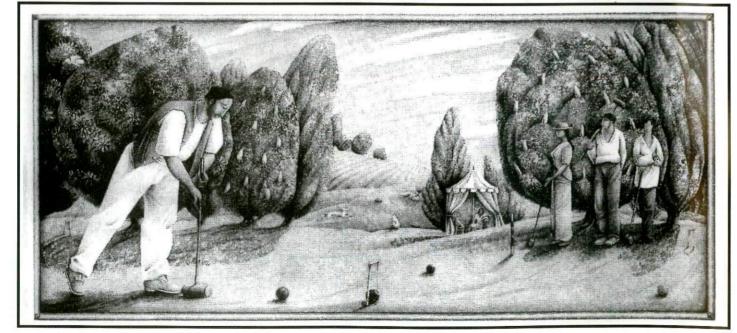
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Tournament Results & Reports

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.

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Front Cover: Ed Cunningham receives the President's Cup from Croquet Association President, John Solomon.

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Disclaimer

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

CONTENTS

EDITORIAL	4
CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN	4
News & Info	5
LETTERS	6
SELECTION EVENTS 2000	8
C.A. News	11
Council Decisions	12
TALKING CROQUET	13
COACHING 2000	15
C.A. DIPLOMAS	16
TOURNAMENT REPORTS	17
TOURNAMENT RESULTS	23
END OF SEASON UK RANKINGS	24

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EDITORIAL

I am sorry for the delay in getting the September issue of the Gazette to you. It should have arrived at the end of September, but for some reason our distributor did not perform their task as quickly as usual, and the result was that delivery was very late. Hopefully normal service will have resumed by the time this issue reaches them, and in turn, hopefully you.

That I am afraid is where the apologies end. It would appear from the responses to my editorial that stirring up a hornets nest is the only way to get some folks to make a contribution, or to make their own views public. I'll have to bear that in mind for future lulls in contributing.

Having not been to the AGM or a Council meeting for some time I and a few others gathered at Hurlingham firstly for the AGM and then after lunch a for a Council meeting. This year for the first time the CA were awarding diplomas to members who had, in the opinion of their fellow players, performed some outstanding services to the game. Listening to the number of services that such a small number of players provide you can begin to appreciate how much work is performed on a voluntary basis in croquet. Tournament management, refereeing, running league teams, catering, grounds maintenance, coaching, administration and development are all carried out in the clubs throughout this country and others. However, all of these tasks, and very probably others, are carried out by a tiny minority of players who are, fortunately for the rest of us, not selfish people. Yes, it is a sad but true fact that the majority of croquet players are very selfish people. They pay their fees and expect that because of this all they have to do is to turn up and play. I don't think so. What I wonder would happen if everyone thought the same? Imagine trying to play your games if the handicap committee wasn't around, your lawn didn't have any white lines, you hadn't had any coaching, nobody had bothered to organise your club competitions - now I hope you are starting to see the wider picture. Of course not everyone can give endless hours of help to the sport, but that is not what is asked of you - all you need to do is to be ale to look back at the end of the season and be able to say that you have enjoyed playing the sport and that you have made a contribution towards running it at either club, federation or national level. If you can do that, then croquet thanks you for your help. If you can't, then perhaps you should be looking for

ways to make amends and share the load of your

Gail Curry

fellow players.

CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN

Chairman's Report from the 2000 AGM, October 14th 2000

Mr President, Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is my pleasant duty to welcome you all to this, the Millennium annual general meeting. I am the first chairman to do this, I wonder if I will be the last!

We certainly got the year 2000 off to a good start with our team's magnificent, if nail-biting win in the MacRobertson Shield in New Zealand in January. Once again our congratulations to the Captain, David Openshaw and his fellow team members.

For me of course, things actually started this time a year ago when I took over from Bill Arliss as Chairman of the CA Council. What was already a traumatic experience for me was made worse by the fact that I was starting with a brand new Council structure. Thanks, however, to the tolerance of Council members and the wise guidance of my vice Quiller Barrett and that of Alan Oldham, I have somehow survived. Any new procedure is likely to have teething problems and there have been and still are, a few, but overall I believe that we now have a smoother, more efficient way of dealing with croquet matters.

One unfortunate hiccup early on was the very late appearance of the fixtures book. My apologies to all those who were inconvenienced by this.

Our worthy Secretary is taking on the job for this coming season. I wish him good fortune. I know only too well what a task this is. Whilst I am talking about Nigel, he of course joined us very soon after I took office. I would like to pay tribute here to the sterling work that he has done. A Chairman could not wish for a better person to support him. Nigel in his turn would like to acknowledge the invaluable support of Janet White.

Something much less happy this year has been the loss of so many players. Some were well known other less so, but the loss of just one person diminishes us all. My condolences go out to those who remain behind.

We continue to move with the times! Our web site under the capable hands of our webmaster Bill Arliss is growing by leaps and bounds. It has had thousands of "hits" (as the terminology has it) and there is no doubt in my mind that the web and the Internet together will play an ever-increasing role in croquet. Certainly, without electronic messaging, my job would be a lot harder. As an example, I was able to arrange for Tony Hall, the WCF president, to give a talk at Southwick, even though at the time, he was

travelling round the world.

This has of course been Millennium year, although I think by now, many will be glad to say goodbye to the word millennium, if only so that they no longer have to find out how to spell it! There are of course, those who argue that 2001 is actually the millennium. For them the whole thing is just about to start! Be that as it may, the Tournament committee under the chairmanship of Derek Trotman plus a number of clubs, produced a whole range of events to mark the occasion, culminating in the millennium team event at Cheltenham.

What are our achievements this year? In terms of the standard of players, this continues to improve. Our top stars continue to shine brightly but they are finding others joining them in the sky. If I might continue the metaphor a little longer, there are whole constellations of second order stars just waiting to burst out. I think that some of this is due to the high standard of our top players setting a target to go for, but not a little is due to our excellent coaching regime, for which thanks must go to Bruce Rannie and his team. It is not only in our Domain, however, that excellence is blooming. Other countries both in Europe and in countries more distant are producing players who can compete at the very top level. We can in no way be complacent about our position at the top of the croquet

If I had to single out a particular area in which great strides had been made this year it would be that of Golf Croquet. From being a backwater of the game, golf croquet has leapt into prominence. Credit for this has, initially to go to the WCF for developing a game based on one played by the Egyptians. WCF or International rules golf croquet has been an overnight success. I would have to admit that the CA was a little slow in taking up the challenge of this new version, but I am delighted to report now that under Bill Arliss we have had this year a positive explosion of golf events. We are lucky indeed to have someone so enthusiastic for the game.

Our commercial activities this year have been somewhat subdued. Brian Macmillan, who ran this side of things for so many years, unfortunately had to give up due to illness at the end of last year. Our efforts to find a permanent replacement this year have not been successful as yet. That we have achieved anything at all is due to the efforts of David Collins who stepped in on a temporary basis and is still there! Many thanks David. A special mention must also go the CA office for helping out with commercial activities even though it is not strictly part of their duty.

Now strictly speaking this is supposed to be an impersonal report with myself being the deliverer. However, just for a couple of minutes I am going to do a bit of tub-thumping! I am not going to bring up a new topic, far from it. I want

to talk about membership. Not just about membership of the CA but croquet players in all forms. After all, CA members come from club members who have found the game enjoyable and want to learn and play more. The fact of the matter is that we are stagnant as far as membership is concerned. We have been stagnating for years and look like continuing to do so in the foreseeable future unless something startling happens. Let me say right away that this is not a criticism of the work of clubs in getting new members, or of our own marketing, membership and development committees, all of whom have worked like Trojans to bring people in. Some clubs, I know have had notable recruitment successes and Tony Fathers has achieved some encouraging results with his Childline project. Nevertheless, overall membership is little changed from that of 5, maybe even 10, years ago. So what can we do? Well, when it comes down to it, the best person to get new members is you. Yes you! You, who need not be a member of any national or local committee, are the best ambassador for our sport. Talk to your friends. Tell them what a great game croquet is. Get them to the club and show them a bit about the game. But your responsibility does not stop there. Do not simply show your friends the rudiments and then abandon them because you want to play a game. If you have a club coach, talk to him/her and arrange for proper tuition. If this is not possible, arrange it yourself. Do not lose your new member! It is a sad statistic that for every ten people who come and try croquet, only about three or four will actually join and only half of them will stay.

What, however about the CA? Where does it fit into all of this? Well, we have a Marketing committee whose job it is to seek out new ways of getting members and to exploit those ways which have been shown to work. This committee WANTS your input and WANTS to talk to you. If you have a recruitment method that works, they want to hear about it, and will tell others about it as well.

While I am talking about communication, let me finish by reminding you all that I am proposing a "meet the membership" series of talks to Federations and Regions in the New Year. I will be talking in more detail about your Association's achievements this year and their ambitions for the year to come. I will also be there as an "Aunt Sally" for any questions you may have. If I cannot answer a particular question I promise to obtain one, if one exists.

Finally, a thank you to all of you, Council members, paid staff, co-optees, regional and club committee members alike - indeed to all who have contributed in some way to the furtherance of croquet - thank you. Please keep on helping!

Don Gaunt

News & Information

2001 World Championship

The 2001 World Singles Championship will be held together with the CA Open Championship from Friday 29 June to 8 July at Hurlingham and other London venues. The event director will be David Openshaw, Tournament Manager will be Richard Hilditch, Colin Irwin will be responsible for the WCF organisation. The singles event will be a combined World Championship and British Opens. 80 places will be available for the singles event. 40 of these will be allocated by the WCF and 40 by the CA. Entries must be made by 31 March. Full details will be in the Fixtures Book.

Get your club details on the Internet

Calling all representatives of UK croquet clubs with internet access. If you click on http://www.sportcom.co.uk/ukmap.htm, then click on your area, then click on Croquet (middle of bottom row of grid) the chances are it will show a large blank. So far the only clubs on the site

Kent (Ramsgate), Surrey (Godalming and Guildford), Bristol (Bristol and Nailsea) and Wales (Dyffryn). I registered Dyffryn last week (I found the site after entering croquet into a search engine) and have had an e-mail enquiry already. It is not necessary for your club to have a website or even an e-mail contact - they will simply print the name and address of the club, as they have with Ramsgate.

Bob Jackson wins New Zealand Presidents 10

The New Zealand Presidents 10 for their best ten players was played in Christchurch in October. Five of their MacRobertson Shield 2000 team were competing together with five other very experienced players. Greg Bryant who played in the 1993 MacRobertson took the early lead. He was caught at the half way stage by Beale and Jackson with 6 wins out of 9. In second phase Bob Jackson won eight straight games to win the event before losing to a Toby Garrison sextuple peel in the final round. Jackson again showed his formidable competitive spirit. An inspiration to all those over 65!

1st Jackson 14/18 2nd Garrison 12 3rd Wislang 11 4th Bryant 10 5th= Beale 8 5th= Skinley 8 5th= R Baker 8 8th= Prince 7 8th= Bulloch 7 10th B Baker 5

Letters...

The smouldering remains of the Hunstanton pavillion. Photo

A can of lighter fuel and a match is all it takes to destroy 90 years of

history. At 3.30am on Friday 29th September the Hunstanton Croquet

Club's Edwardian Club House was burned to a pile of ashes by an

arsonist. All that has been rescued is the Dinner Bell and 5 sets of hoops.

bank should be sufficient to build a new clubhouse, but we will have no

equipment. The 3 CA Tournaments planned for 2001 will take place and

the Council will allow us use of the Cricket Pavillion free. We have started

a Building Fund, and hope our many friends in the croquet world will

put us on their Xmas list. Any donation great or small will be most

gratefully received by the Treasurer. S G Hampson, 23 Sandringham

The Secretary's Shield can be distinguished from the Longman Cup. As

Chairman of a club (Beverley, E Yorks) that took part in the competition

this season and has qualified for next year I would advocate retaining it

· there is a maximum of three matches assuming you got to the final

Of course you have to be prepared to travel. In the first round we

were drawn against Caterham (Surrey) a return trip of 460 miles and in

the second against Sidmouth (Devon) 620 miles. We had no difficulty in

agreeing a search for a mid point venue. May I publicly thank Nottingham

and Cheltenham for their ready provision of lawns and hospitality.

Apparently this is of common occurrence; conveniently situated clubs

All those in favour of the Secretary's Shield

We will rebuild. The insurance money and the little we have in the

courtesy of Eastern Counties Newspapers.

Disaster strikes at Hunstanton

Road, Hunstanton. Norfolk. PE36 5DP.

· there are no restrictions on handicap

opponents you have played many times locally.

Dear Editor

Sarah Hampson

for these reasons:

Dear Editor



recognizing the help they can give to croquet in this respect. Much appreciated. As was the strong black coffee provided by Eileen Magee and Alison Thursfield, Beverley players having been invited the night before, by a wine tasting society that had an excess of supplies, to assist in consuming it.

I trust other clubs will echo my plea for retention of the Shield Michael Evans

Dear Editor.

You question in your lively editorial to issue 269 whether the Secretary's what seem to me the advantages of the Secretary's Shield?

- Entry to the Secretary's Shield is a reward for winning a local league. Entry is optional, but to judge from this year's entry of 10 clubs, popular.
- In the Longman Cup the draw can bring together neighbouring clubs to do so again. In the Secretary's Shield there is the certainty of playing clubs from other parts of the country.
- · There is no restriction as to handicap. You say that the Longman Cup "offers competitive handicap play across a very broad spectrum of players". Actually the range is quite restricted (individual handicaps greater than 3, team at least 24) and small clubs can find it difficult to meet these conditions. A small club which manages to win its local league can enter the Secretary's Shield with any combination of players. For example, in 2000 Leicester played two Secretary's Shield matches
- · There is no restriction as to who plays in the doubles. While in theory

Your comments concerning the Longman Cup and the Mary Rose are fair as they stand, but there are other reasons for entering competitions and a popular and flexible event such as the Secretary's Shield should be encouraged.

Lawrence Whittaker

This has had the result of getting some very good publicity in the local press, which can only be good for the club and the game.

Personally I would be very reluctant to let any competition disappear - the more we have, the more the game becomes known to the public. From our experience of the Shield we feel that it is well worth preserving in spite of occasional problems.

· the standard is implicitly fairly high as participants are usually federation champions/league winners Put up the prices - whatever the cost? It follows that even in the final round you will not be drawn against

the front cover was: "USA teach us how to market croquet", while inside we had your editorial column roundly criticising Tony Father's suggestion that tournament entry fees should rise and a letter from James Hawkins on the same subject.

The new US National Croquet Centre is not about marketing; it's all

Shield should continue. As one who at some time or other has played in all the National Club events other than Golf Croquet, may I put forward

- who play regularly together but then find that they have each paid £25
- with handicaps of 0, 1, 10, 16 and -0.5, 1, 10, 10.
- the Leicester teams mentioned above could have contested the Inter-Club, the requirement for the strongest players to play in the doubles in that competition means, assuming the certain loss of the games involving high bisquers, that the best result is a 3-4 loss! Thanks!

Dear Editor

I can think of very good reasons why the Secretary's Shield competition should remain. I may be slightly prejudiced because our club has just won it but I feel it is a reward for consistency over two seasons. We won the Beds/Herts League in both 1998 and 1999, then the 1999 play-offs agains the other two East Anglian league winners and then three matches to win the Shield, a total of eleven matches, of which ten were won and the other drawn

Charles Collins

I was dismayed to read the September issue of the gazette. The title on

about money. A multi-millionaire donates ten acres of prime Palm Beach land and there are "more than one hundred donors, including several with contributions of \$100,000 or more". The new twelve-lawn club will employ a professional Marketing and Community Relations Director

Although it has not been announced, annual membership of this club is likely to cost a (golf club-like) four figure sum and tournaments in the USA generally start at about \$250 each, so running expenses are likely to be easily recouped. Good luck to the USCA.

However, croquet in this country is a poor sport. That is not all bad, since ours has no elitism; it is a sport for all. However, our present level of funding is unsustainable. Players complain about poor facilities, lack of CA administrative infrastructure, a low level of marketing and many other things. It is possible to do something about all of these problems - with more money in the game. Increasing tournament entry fees would seem to be an ideal place to start, since it fulfils the 'those who play pay' criterion and the increased funding is shared equitably between clubs and the CA.

James in his letter says that "croquet clubs, almost without exception, employ no full-time ground staff, professional coaches", etc.", like golf clubs. Why is that such a good thing? Golf is a thriving sport in this country; croquet, frankly, is not. James goes on to say that he believes tournament entry fees should be of no concern to the CA Publicity Committee. What he calls the Publicity Committee is actually the Marketing Committee. Is price not a marketing issue?

Furthermore, the CA has little or no cash available to fund marketing. It has a desire to promote the sport and expand membership of both clubs and the CA, and yet barely has funding to begin more than a rudimentary marketing campaign.

If just one donor of £100,000 were to step forward the Marketing Committee would, I am sure, demonstrate what is achievable. Failing that let's gradually raise CA income, from subscriptions, fees and levies. Kevin Carter

Don't put the prices up

Dear Editor,

I agree with you about the idea of raising tournament fees. The whole point of tournament play is to visit other areas and learn from other players. I would find it hard to travel far if fees were much higher.

You mention Club events. I find it hard to raise the energy or enthusiasm to take part in an away game at say Bowdon after a weeks work; again it is expensive to have B&B. Why aren't the Club events run on a regional basis for the early rounds. We could then allocate a weekend at a suitable venue for semi-finals and final. This may encourage more players to participate if the lengthy journeys were cut out. Frances Low

More views

Dear Editor

I would like to comment on a couple of points in your September editorial. I wholeheartedly agree with you that it is wrong for entrants to the Golf Croquet Championships not to have to pay an individual CA membership fee. Whoever decided this is perpetuating the idea that golf croquet is "not proper croquet" and I doubt that is their intention. As you say, the CA has done a lot to raise the profile of golf croquet recently and it is only fair that participants in any CA Championships should support their governing body financially. I also agree with your comments about the Nottingham Board. As it becomes more esoteric, many croquet players are unsubscribing, which makes it an unsuitable sole medium for CA announcements.

Christine Constable

When a home match is not a home match

During our end-of-season review of C.A. club matches, ie Longman Cup etc., a number of our members have raised the issue of lawn hire charges. They were referring specifically to situations where these charges were incurred due to the refusal of the away team to travel to the opponents lawns on the grounds that the distance was too great. In these circumstances, a practice seems to have grown up for the match to be played on hired lawns, midway between the two clubs, and for each club to pay half of the lawn hire charges. The opinion that our members expressed, was that this part charge for lawn hire and the extra travelling costs, borne by the home team, was not appropriate, because the away team have an obligation to travel to the opponents ground and they accept this protocol when they enter the event. Of course, Tyneside, and many other clubs, are, mindful of the difficulties of longer travel times and their members usually offer the hospitality of their homes for overnight accommodation

Abandoning the home match gives rise to other issues, apart from the financial one, which give concern. Tyneside club is not aware if these views are shared by other clubs but would welcome a wider debate and would appreciate your views on this matter. W. E. Hill

Not quite unique

Dear Editor

John Solomon may be correct that Mr Rushant's Slazenger mallet is unique but I have one (handmade) which is almost identical. Mine is 41.5 inches long and weighs 3lb 8oz and has a balance point of 7.5 inches from the base. It is much less tiring on on's back which remains much straighter if, like myself, one is 6ft 1 in tall. The negative aspect of course is control is more difficult when one is stooped, and perhaps that is why my handicap is increasing! Also when I use it after playing with a shorter mallet I have to concentrate hard to avoid catching a divot. There are many taller players than myself and I wonder how their backs stand up to shorter mallets.

Roger Deacon

An avenue worth exploring?

I have just spent the day at the Vale of Glamorgan Show talking about croquet, and it may be worth considering county shows as a potential

Dyffryn Gardens (in which Dyffryn Croquet Club is situated) had a stand at the show and decided of their own accord to include croquet in their display. A wheelbarrow was filled with flowers in the croquet colours with a cane 'hoop', and the club contributed some old balls and wooden mallets. A display board gave information about the gardens and the club, and I was asked to produce an eye catching flyer which I e-mailed to Dyffryn. They printed off 100 copies, and nearly all of them went. I went along in whites and talked to people about the game, handing out leaflets to likely looking recruits. As we were in the horticultural tent there were a lot of people with their own lawns who either had croquet sets and didn't know the rules, or were considering buying croquet sets. These people were given various leaflets which I had obtained from the CA to set them on the right track. Particularly popular were the 'simplified rules' leaflets for association and golf croquet. I don't know yet whether we will see the benefit on next year's coaching course, but I had serious conversations about the game with at least 20 people, and several said they would try to get to Dyffryn to watch the Wales v Scotland match.

I think it should be said that we were given this marvellous opportunity to promote the club purely because of the publicity which Liz Williams got following the Welsh success in Milan. The idea for the stand came from Dyffryn Gardens, not from the Croquet Club, and the Dyffryn display (which won a prize at the show) included a congratulatory rosette. Also a lot of visitors to the stand were moved to come and talk about croquet with me because they had seen the Wales Today item on TV.

Sue Mackay

SELECTION EVENTS 2000



Left to Right: Phil Cordingley, Mark Avery, Chris Clarke, Steve Comish, Stephen Mulliner, Reg Bamford, Ed Cunningham, David Maugham.

Ed Cunningham of Ireland became the first victorious President's Cup débutante for many years Report by Stephen Mulliner

d Cunningham of Ireland became the first victorious débutante for many years. He finished with 11/14, just ahead of Reg Bamford on 10 and David Maugham on 9. Other scores were Mulliner 7, Comish and Cordingley 6, Avery 4 and Clarke 3.

Cunningham, Bamford and Maugham were on 10, 9 and 8 at the start of the final day's play and Round 13 pitched Cunningham against Maugham. Ed's chances were given an early boost when Bamford fell to a Mulliner TP, thus guaranteeing him a play-off at the least.

Ed had the first break against Dave but the lift was hit and followed by a TPO and two balls off. Ed failed hoop 1 giving a wiring lift and Dave reached 5 on a 2-baller before getting hampered and having to retreat. M failed 1-back with C 10 yards away and allowed a C roquet followed by a 2-baller, which also stopped at 5. M now hit and reached 4-b on a 2-ball break, then penult and then missed an 8 yarder into A-baulk giving a lift. C was now for 6, could rush only to a few yards N of 4 and underapproached 6, bouncing off. M hit, made rover and went to 10y N C1. M missed from 10y S C3 and that was that. Now C 10, B and M 9.

Maugham had the first break against Cordingley (whose play in the second series bore no relation to that in the first) but the lift was hit and C won in 2 turns with a neat TP. Bamford had not allowed the pressure to dampen his spirit of adventure and pulled off a sextuple against Avery. Comish had the first break against Cunningham but the lift was hit and, despite an uncharacteristic hoop failure by Cu with one peel done, Co could not hit and Cu completed a double peel to clinch the title.

Conditions were easy despite the best efforts of the Hurlingham ground staff who had to contend with plenty of rain before and during the event and this was reflected in the triple stats. 7 rounds (1, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10 and 13) featured TPs, TPOs or OTPs in all 4 games, 3 rounds (4, 7, 12) featured 3 TPs etc, 3 rounds (2, 11 and 14) featured 2 TPs etc (including Bamford's sextuple in R 14) and only one round (3) had only one. Altogether, there were 35 TPs, 6 TPOs, 1 OTP and 1 SXP.



Chairman's Salver (LtoR) Dave Kibble, Chris Farthing, Robin Brown, Jeremy Dyer, Ed Duckworth, Jeff Dawson, David goacher, Patrick Hort, Pat Hetherington (manager).

The standard of play was generally high as far as the top 3 were concerned, with Reg probably just shading Ed and Dave for solidity and absence of mistakes. Ed and Dave shot better and Reg was perhaps a shade unlucky to attract slightly better hitting from his opponents than they appeared to visit on his rivals. Cordingley v Bamford in Series 2 was particularly choice with Phil hitting the 5th consecutive tea-lady against Reg ("I am not paranoid - at the moment") Bamford and, later in the game, hitting a suicide 27 yarder when Reg was laid to exit with a standard TP if Phil missed. Mulliner and Comish gave more variable displays and Cordingley made a good recovery from 1/8 to 6/14. Avery looked good when he got going but usually inspired the opposition to play well. The unfortunate Clarke, having won 2 out of 3, had a miserable time with his roquets and ended up losing 10 of the next 11.

1st: Ed Cunningham (Ireland) 11 wins

2nd: Reg Bamford (South Africa) 10 wins

3rd: David Maugham 9 wins 4th: Stephen Mulliner 7 wins

5th: Steve Comish, Phil Cordingley 6 wins

7th: Mark Avery 4 wins 8th: Chris Clarke 3 wins

Robin Brown wins Chairman's Salver Report by Robin Brown

Robin Brown won the Chairman's with 10 wins beating Jeremy Dyer with 9 and Ed Duckworth with 8. It was largely a close fought event with 5 players still in contention with 2 rounds to go (although Jeff'required a fairly specific sequence of results ending in a 4 way tie).

Conditions generally easy but many games strewn with errors. Brown won by making fewer errors and being more clinical in completing triples with 6 plus a nztpo (deliberately completing the tpo in 2 turns, 1 peel on first break stopping at 1 back then complete the 2 peels on oppo, 2 peels on partner, double peg out leaving 1 v 3b).

No-one else completed more than 2 tps which given the conditions and standard of players was surprising.

Peter Taylor & Chris Patmore share Spencer Ell at Budleigh

2nd Dyer 9 (1)

5th Farthing 6 (1)

8th Kibble 4(2)

4th Hort 7 (2)

Graham Gale bt Magee +13, Gaunt +26TP = 2 wins

David Magee bt Gale +8, LeMoignan +19, Taylor +6, Mrozinski +6 = 4 wins

Chris Patmore bt Gale +9STP, +4, Magee +8, +25, Heap +4TP +26TP, Mrozinski +7, Taylor +9TP, Gaunt +26TP = 9 wins

Tony Le Moignan bt Gale +3, Patmore +22, Gaunt +3 = 3 wins

Michael Heap bt Gale +21TP, +17TP, Magee +10, +2, Le Moignan +26, Mrozinski +12, Taylor +8, Gaunt +26TP = 8 wins

Tony Mrozinski bt Gale +17, +26TP, Magee +25, Le Moignan +15, Heap +16, Patmore +25 = 6 wins

Peter Taylor bt Gale +22, +13, Magee +26, Patmore +2, Le Moignan +12, Heap +26, Mrozinski +1, +26TP, Gaunt +16 = 9 wins

Don Gaunt bt Gale +8, Magee +23, +22, Patmore +26, Heap +4, Mrozinski +8. +5, Taylor + 14 = 8 wins

Tony Le Moignan did not complete his second series of games, therefore the second series is erased from the event.

Final Order

Final standings: 1st Brown 10 (6)

3rd Duckworth 8 (2)

5th Dawson 6 (2)

5th Goacher 6 (2)

1= Peter Taylor & Chris Patmore 3rd= Don Gaunt & Michael Heap

5th Tony Mrozinski 6th David Magee 7th Tony Le Moignan 8th Graham Gale

Selector's Weekend

Sidmouth, 8 - 10 September 2000

Semi-Final

David Harrison-Wood bt Sam Tudor +17TP

Roger Jenkins bt Gordon Hopewell +14

Final

David Harrison-Wood bt Roger Jenkins +23

Full result win/played

G Bennett 4/10 Ms L Bradforth 4/9 Mrs S Burrows 3/9
K Carter 3/10 J Death 5/10 D H-Wood 6/8
G Hopewell 5/7 R Jenkins 6/10 M Rangelcy 2/8
B Smith 3/8 P Smith 4/10 S Tudor 7/10
I Vincent 4/8 T Weston 4/8 L Whittaker 5/8

C Williams 6/9



Selector's weekend l to r: Sam Tudor, Louise Bradforth, Ian Vincent, Michael Rangeley, James Death, Brian Smith, D Harrison-Wood, Sarah Burrows, Gordon Hopewell, Roger Jenkins, Lawrence Whittaker, Paul Smith, Chris Williams, Ron Selmes (manager), Gary Bennett, Tom Weston.



Barlow Bowl Competitors(Left to Right) Pauline Healy, Alison Thursfield, Christine Constable, Sarah Burrows, Gail Curry, Ailsa Lines, Samantha Symons, Frances Ransom.(Photo by Ray Ransom)

Ladies Event August 2000 – Barlow Bowl, Southwick August 24 - 28, 2000

Report by Sarah Burrows

Is it really a year since I last ventured North to the Ladies event? I ask myself...yes I reply...having reached the point of talking mainly to myself to ensure a sensible answer. Lo and behold the Gatwick runway profers the inviting thump which means yet another weekend of staid croquet and boring nights in...as if!!!!... Southwick here we come. Now, the royal "we" is being utilised as a fellow player, doubles partner and general gad-abouter, namely Pauline Healy, has kindly offered to meet me at the Airport and share accommodation. What a star!!! Does she have any idea of the foolishness of this decision?

Southwick is found the next day without incident and all the Barlow Band get going fairly swiftly, the Longman Lot not having arrived yet due to their competition being one day shorter. The usual croquet was played for hours on end and eventually Christine the Magnificent allowed us to go to the pub and a rowdy social meal with the girls ensued.

Gail Curry was on tremendous form is all I have say about the Friday apart from I once again encountered the madwoman from North of the Border, Charlotte Townsend!!! "Ha Ha" I thought "Oh no" my liver groaned and everything went downhill from about there.

As much as I hate mentioning Croquet in this report, for want of putting off fellow socialisers from entering in years to come, I have to bring to attention a couple of great games in the Longman competition which generally involved the erstwhile Charlotte. One in particular I remember, as we were all waiting to go for a meal, where Charlotte, having been pegged out and wildly slashing around the lawn for some time, was suddenly presented with her opposition, who shall remain nameless.... laid up 5 yards from A baulk having conceded a lift. Charlottes face was priceless with the old "this can't be true" look desperately trying not to peek through in case she had made a mistake. Best of all was same oppodid exactly the same thing, but in corner 3, in the return match.

On a more serious note, the Tournament was run as smoothly and efficiently as ever with Christine Constable at the helm. There was some really good croquet, Alison Thursfield was impressive with a number of wins in succession, Samantha and Ailsa were in fine form throughout. Frances Ransom is always a force to contend with, with splendid roquets and break play. The standard certainly hasn't dropped. I put my pathetic play down to jet lag...any excuse. I did find the grass quite long and the going rather on the heavy side, but when you come from a sunshine island this isn't unusual. I will admit to feeling rather miffed on a couple of occasions when my request for the Hoop carrots to be knocked down was refused, the carrots were rather high and no reasonable attempt could

be made at hitting a hampered shot with them as they were...still that's life!! Having been advised I should have had them levelled before the hoop shot was taken I suggest any club with me on a tournament list has the old hammer ready at the start of each match as I see this as the only solution.

My thanks, yet again, to the Southwick ladies for a lovely time; the lunches, teas and barbeque were splendid, as was the company. I am unhappy to report on a closing note of the apparent lack of interest for the Ladies Events next year. Discussions during the competition have led me to understand very few will attend, mainly due to the events being at different venues. The following year will be even worse with the events being scheduled at opposite ends of the country...obviously arranged by a man!!!! It will be a real shame, dare I say disgrace, if a significant drop in numbers ensues as a result of this arrangement, but, unfortunately, only time will tell. Many feel it is too long a journey and also that the dates clash with other events at their local clubs. It is important to retain the geographic closeness of these competitions as promotion due to illness etc would be more or less down to who lives where and not on ability. I am sure the CA will not cover losses on flights and higher last minute fares for those of us where air travel is probably our only way to reach the chosen destinations.

All in all a wonderful few days with old friends and new, a well deserved winner; Gail Curry, was presented with the Barlow Bowl for the hundredth time on the Sunday by John Solomon with Ailsa Lines a well deserved runner up. Lets hope there is a strong entry next year.....I am sorry to say I doubt it.....but Gail....I'll book a few tables for two in advance shall I????

A bientot

Results:

Frances Ransom bt Healy +12 +17, Lines +11, Constable + 20 +5, Thursfield + 10, Curry +14 = 7 wins

Pauline Healy bt Constable + 11, Thursfield +10 = 2 wins

Samantha Symonds bt Ransom +19 +10, Healy + 14 +13, Lines +4, Constable +13 +26, Burrow +19 = 8 wins

Ailsa Lines bt Ransom +22, Healy +21 +21, Symonds +4, Constable + +21 +18, Burrow +19 +25, Thursfield +16 +7 = 10 wins

Chris Constable bt Healy +3 = 1 win

Sarah Burrows bt Ransom +2 + 14, Healy +16 +22, Symonds +13, Constable +10 +24, Thursfield +12 = 8 wins

Alison Thursfield bt Ransom +16, Healy +7, Symonds +24 +14, Constable +22 +6, Burrow +3 = 7 wins

Gail Curry bt Ransom +1, Healy +22 +21, Symonds +26 +13, Lines +17 +20, Constable +25 +26, Burrow + 21 +12, Thursfield +24 +15 = 13 wins

Longman Bowl, Southwick August 24 - 28, 2000 Report by Charlotte Townsend

he discovery that one of my fellow competitors was a nasturtium-batterer could have been an unfortunate start to the weekend of the Longman Cup, but I decided to reserve judgement. Later inspection showed that the (alleged) damage to my landlady's nasturtiums by Audrey Whittaker's car had been minimal, and Audrey herself proved to be just as good a companion (and competitor) as all the others who gathered at Southwick on the August bank holiday weekend.

The first day of the tournament was hot (very hot, for those of us used to more northerly climates), and play slowed down in reverse proportion to the speed of the lawns. A number of games had to be pegged down, and some of us had the honour, at the end of the tournament, of being given snail and tortoise glasses (kindly donated by Christine Constable, the manager of the tournament, and one of the competitors in the Barlow Bowl, which was running simultaneously), for the most pegged down games. In fact, the maximum number achieved was two, compared with (again, allegedly) far more last year.

From the start, it became apparent that the rest of us were all going



Longman Bowl Competitors 1 to r: Audrey Whitaker, Charlotte Townsend, Gene Mears, Jenny Williams, Diana Brothers, Diana Williamson. (Photo by Don Williamson.)

to have a lot of difficulty beating Jenny Williams, whose ambition appeared to be to peg out her opponent in all her games. She came close to succeeding in this. She came even closer to succeeding in beating us all — modesty should prevent my mentioning that I was the only person to beat her.

Day two brought rain, slower lawns and faster games. Corners one and three on lawn six became possible without either running off the lawn or finding striker's ball circling the target ball. Laying up on a boundary became a real possibility.

Day three, and the weather was almost acceptable. Some sun and a nice sea breeze, and croquet became a doddle. Disappointment loomed, though, when Gail announced that the Women's Syndicate had failed to win the lottery. Even so, Diana Brothers and I managed to finish two games in time for her to get back to her baby sitting duties – this unfortunately meant that she missed the barbecue.

The barbecue! – the time when I was persuaded, foolishly to agree to writing this report. This brings me onto the food generally – superb lunches and teas – go to Southwick! And the barbecue, served in the clubhouse with wine that my next day's opponents were keen for me to drink, was brilliant. (But my croquet improves with a little red wine – future opponents, please note.)

By the last day, we all knew that Jenny had won. I think it's a pity that the Barlow and Longman are apparently going to be split next year – and both in the far south. But that's the opinion of a foreigner, who only entered for the first time this year. To those of you who fancy entering next year – do it!

Results:

Gene Mears bt Brothers +13 +9, Williamson +12 +12, Townsend +9, Whittaker +17 +9 = 7 wins

Diana Brothers bt Williamson +3 = 1 win

Diana Williamson bt Brothers +18, Townsend +4, Whittaker +4+14 = 4 wins

Jenny Williams bt Mears +2+11, Brothers +19+13, Williamson +1+12, Townsend +1, Whittaker +3+5=9 wins

Charlotte Townsend bt Mears +7, Brothers +14 +13, Williamson +11, Williams +1, Whittaker +11 +10 = 7 wins

Audrey Whittaker bt Brothers + 8 + 4 = 2 wins

CA NEWS

New Association Croquet Laws Finalised

A season has come and gone since I reported, in January, that a draft for a new edition of the Laws of Association Croquet was to be discussed by the ILRC during the MacRobertson Shield, but I am pleased to report that, after much discussion, the text has finally been agreed. The new laws are already in use in New Zealand, but Australia decided to defer their introduction until 1st January, 2001, along with ourselves and the USCA.

I have therefore played what I expect to be my last game under the current laws and I trust that my opponent will forgive the somewhat elaborate flourish with which I rolled Red off the lawn after the croquet stroke in which I pegged it out, as required by Law 15(e), before carrying on to peg out Yellow from two inches away (though I confess that I did not also remove the Red clip!). This performance is no longer required by the new laws, one of a number of changes which bring the laws into line with common practice.

As currently formatted, the new Laws themselves run to 53 A6 pages, compared to 33 in the current edition, though the booklet as a whole is only 6 pages longer, as the Golf Croquet Laws, which are now published separately, and most of the Regulations for Tournaments have been omitted. At the time of writing, proofs are awaited from the printers and the new booklets, with a blue, laminated, cover and an index, should be available by the time this is published. Apart from making a good Christmas stocking filler (to remind your loved one of the pleasures of summer to come!), I would expect most tournament or match players to benefit from having a copy, as the wording, if not the practical effect, of most of the laws has changed.

Referees, however, needn't rush to order, as those who are still active will be sent a free copy, as a small token of thanks for their service to the game. All Referees on the official list should receive a letter asking them if they wish to remain on it and inviting them to a seminar where the changes will be discussed. If you think you are a Referee and have not received the letter by the end of November, please contact the C.A. office so that the list can be corrected!

Players who are interested are welcome to attend one of the seminars if space is available.

New Tournament Regulations

Council, at its October meeting, approved a new set of Tournament Regulations, which incorporate the General Conditions previously published in the Fixtures Book, which have rather grown up over the years. It also decided to propose a change the Rules of the Association to enable it to delegate the power to make future changes to the relevant

Manor House Mallets

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committees

The new regulations, which will be printed in full in the CA Calendar each year, incorporate a number of changes to reflect current practice, such as regularising the acceptance of last minute entries on the understanding that the entry fee will be paid when the player arrives at the event, and the fact that most tournaments now start at 9:30 am. They also incorporate some of the recommendations from the report of a Disciplinary Working Party, which was set up by the Management Committee, to consider the bounds of acceptable conduct and how to deal with those alleged to have transgressed them. Others will require changes to the Rules of the CA, which it is planned to put to the 2001 AGM.

Ian Vincent, Chairman Laws Committee

New Golf Croquet Laws

The Laws of Golf Croquet adopted temporarily for the 2000 season are to be revised in the light of experience and for consistency with the new Laws of Association Croquet where appropriate. Council will then be invited to adopt them permanently. No further significant changes in the way the game is played are envisaged: the intention is to consolidate the changes that were introduced at the start of the year.

Year 2000 Awards

A final reminder that applications for any of the Townsend, Apps Heley or Millennium Awards for the year 2000 must be received at the C.A. Office by the 31st December. Details of the awards are in the Registered Club Handbook and are on the C.A. website - www.croquet.org.uk
The awards will be made every two years and the awards have been restructured to ensure that every C.A. club qualifies for one of them and is competing against clubs similar to themselves. Now is the time to apply. We hope that there will strong competition for all three awards. Arrangements can be made to formally present the awards to clubs.

Lottery News

Clubs in Croquet North have been given a lottery grant for a mini-carpet. This follows Pendle's success in getting finance to buy a mini-carpet. The key may be ability to use the mini-carpet to take croquet to all sections of the local community outside the confines of the club. It is also an all-the-year round facility and suitable for schools. Used to its full potential, the mini-carpet can be an excellent tool to get local people interested and break the perceived barrier that people seem to apply to croquet. Southwick and Budleigh have used the SE mini-carpet with great success. It is hoped that details of the recent Budleigh efforts will be published.

There is a lot to be learnt from the experience of clubs applying for lottery grants - both with successes and failures. We want to be able to give clubs applying for grants the best possible advice based on direct experience. We would appreciate all clubs letting the C.A. Office have a summary report on all applications - results, advice and experience, so that we can learn the lessons and maximise the number of successful applications. Lottery grants have become the largest source of finance devoted to the development of clubs.

C.A. Grants

Grants for the development of club facilities are available. In recent years, 4/5 grants of 500 pounds have been made each year. Some are linked to lottery applications. Applications should be made through Federation Development Officers who have copies of the appropriate forms and who can give advice.

Bill Sidebottom, Chairman Development Committee

Success for the carpet

Following Southwick's success in achieving 24 new club members, it is gratifying to record Budleigh Salterton's effort in achieving 48 new members, an astonishing 40% increase in Club croquet players.

The story is a dramatic one so I'll let Roger Bowen of Budleigh tell the

story in his own words:

"Amazingly we achieved 48 new members last year nearly all of them through the use of the mat.

"We got the local district council to fund 2 venues at which we spread the mat. Each was a medium sized hall in different locations, one in Exmouth and one in Budleigh. Using around 25 Club Members in shifts we put on three full days in each location. With publicity the total cost was £480. We used a leaflet put into the daily newspaper at each place three days before the event.

"We had three people recording names and addresses, four people greeting the incomers and the remainder doing instructions and conducting simple games on the mat – all in shifts.

"We did not have all that many visitors – about 150 in all. The conversion rate, however, was fantastic! Sixty five accepted invitations to come to the club for one of two coffee mornings, where they viewed our facilities and were welcomed by members. Forty odd then signed up to our introductory six week membership and subsequently another eight joined. The secret was to follow up the mat with a morning meeting two weeks after and then to hold beginner coaching sessions (several) during the temporary membership period.

"In summary, the mat was great. We met potential new members on neutral ground and they tried out the game under very simple conditions; easy to hit the length of the mat and simple to roquet. Surprisingly we had a steady trickle of folk throughout our open period but there was never anyone waiting though the average time on the mat per new contact was nearly one and one half hours! It was difficult to persuade some to leave!

"We found that many (new) members had the misconception that the club was aloof and elitist. They quoted others as telling them this. They were anxious about knocking on our door fearing rejection or unfriendly reception. When they met actual members this all changed. The coaching was great.

"To any club thinking of using the mat I would advise they first contact their council (district or urban, not parish) and look for a recreational (not Sport for all or Lottery) grant to cover the cost of hall hire and advertising. Forget television advertising or coverage. We tried it and got very little useful – the TV people basically wanted to take the piss out of the game and players and convey the wrong image. The leaflets were good and the posters went up in many shops and public places. It was important to record everyone who showed up and then to chase by phone for the coffee mornings.

"I am very happy to pass on any info or help to other users of the mat."

This is almost certainly the most important marketing achievement this year. Congratulations to Roger, who started the whole thing off. He arranged the transport for the carpet, found and hired the two halls, persuaded the East Devon Council to provide the grant. The other club member who worked his socks off was Peter James who arranged the coffee/coaching mornings and all the essential follow-up. Finally we must not forget the team of 25 Budleigh members who worked in shifts at the two sites, nor indeed the whole Club faced with daunting, albeit gratifying, task of welcoming 48 new members!

When I first heard about Southwick's success in a shopping mall in Brighton, I answered that the carpet would only work in an urban environment. How wrong – I'm glad to say – I was. The church hall in semi-rural Exmouth and the Public Hall in rural Budleigh both proved excellent venues for the carpet.

So there we have it: the answer to the problem of recruiting more club croquet players. The 121 CA Clubs and 320 CA Club lawns ought to support 8,000 Club players (on the basis of 25 players per lawn). In fact we have fewer than half this figure. So go to it you medium and large clubs. Start now in the planning of your Spring 2001 carpet activity. Tony Fathers, Chairman Marketing Committee

Council's Decisions

The CA Council met on 14th October 2000, after the AGM. This report

is based on unconfirmed minutes of that meeting; some decisions from recent committee meetings are also included. If you would like further information on any item, please contact the CA Secretary, Nigel Graves.

The following were elected: Chairman of Council and the Executive Committee, Don Gaunt; Vice Chairman and Chairman of Management Committee, Quiller Barrett. Chairmen of the other principal committees: Administration, David Magee; Development, Bill Sidebottom; Golf, Bill Arliss; International, David Openshaw; Marketing, Tony Fathers; Tournament, Derek Trotman.

The Selection Committees were also elected. Association croquet: Chairman, David Openshaw and Graham Gale, Richard Hilditch, David Maugham and Stephen Mulliner. Golf croquet: Chairman, David Openshaw plus four members from the Golf croquet committee.

Development

Council, Federations and club committees should all have active policies to identify and recruit more members to help administer our sport.

The CA will continue to make grants and loans to clubs (some via Federations). Funds will be allocated to promote Junior and Student croquet, with the emphasis on the development of potential elite players. **Finance**

Council aims to maintain the CA's reserves at the present level. Annual operating budgets will, in future, be 'break even'; reserves will be invested to maintain their value in line with inflation.

Golf croquet

The CA Laws of Golf croquet published in March 2000 will remain in force during 2001.

International

The CA will initiate changes to the WCF constitution concerning its objectives, management committee and presidency.

Laws

Tournament Regulations were approved for publication in the 'CA Calendar and Tournament Regulations' book for 2001.

The regulations will include recommendations made by the Disciplinary Working Party, chaired by Ian Vincent. To put these fully into effect some changes to the CA Rules are required and at the 2001 AGM Council will propose these to members. Council will also propose changes to Rule 27 to allow Council committees to alter the regulations for tournaments without the need to obtain Council's approval.

Marketing

Council is not in favour of altering the laws of the 26pt Association game in order to popularize it. The major priority is to increase the number of people playing croquet in the domain, and to achieve this Council will encourage clubs to introduce beginners to the variations of the game, as well as to 26pt Association. Council will emphasize to clubs the possibilities for recruitment by using indoor carpets in public spaces.

Quiller Barrett

The John Hobbs Mallet Stephen Mulliner won the Opens with his

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TALKING CROQUET

No.8 An interview with Dorothy Rush By Peter Dorke

Mrs. Dorothy Rush was the doyenne of croquet writers. She had few equals but many imitators, not least the present writer, who interviewed her recently for 'Talking Croquet'

Dorothy Rush retired from competition twenty years ago and has played only club friendlies since that time. For many years her stories, articles and coaching tips were an indispensable feature of 'Croquet'. She finally laid down both mallet and pen a few years ago and now lives quietly with her thirty-five year old second husband in Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant in the heart of Wales. There, in the trophylined study of her tiny cottage, I asked her when she first played croquet.

DR: I thought *that* was common knowledge, dear boy. It was at Cambridge in the early Sixties. I once wrote the whole story down for that 'Croquet Gazette'?

PD: No, not for some time.....and it's called simply 'Croquet' now. The present Editor.....

DR: Gone is he? Got the sack, no doubt, for misrepresentin' poor bloody writers like me. Allowed impostors to give a false impression of my views.

PD: Impostors? I hope you don't mean me.....

DR: No, you fool, not you. That damned Peg Howt. A silly name for a silly woman. My articles were always a model of propriety but that blighter Hudson allowed her to go well beyond the bounds of decency. Everybody thought it was me.

PD: So you believed you were making a serious and valuable contribution to the game?

DR: Of course I wasWhat on earth are you getting at? For example, the series of articles entitled 'Winning with Rush' was instrumental in Chris Clarke's rise to the higher echelons of the game.

PD: He was a disciple of yours? I had no idea...

DR: What? No, you idiot, that's not what I meant, at all. Chris never read my articles but his opponents did and that was enough to destroy their game entirely.

PD: Yes, I see. How interesting. Was this something you cooked up between you?

DR: Are you mad? I've never met the fellow. I'd given up competition long before he came on the scene and once I'd hung up my old Solomon I kept very much in the background, except for selectors meetings, of course.

PD: Why did you give up? You must only have been about 40. Many people start to play at that age.

DR: Ah, well....couldn't cope with all the kids, don't you see? They changed the game entirely.

PD: In what way, exactly?

DR: They won...and kept on winning. Blobbing hoops – my own special talent – was phased out of the game entirely. They would run a hoop, *with control*, from ten yards. Outrageous! I tried to get this made illegal but to no avail. Then I tried to introduce an age limit, so that noone under forty could play but that chap Hudson put the mockers on that, too.

PD: Really? He does seem to have been a bit of a nuisance.

DR: Nuisance! That's an understatement. He actually encouraged the young to play. Organised a Schools Championship. Even had the final at



Ms Rush, on a rare visit to the courts, talks our intrepid reporter through the unnecessary risks of the four ball break.

Hurlingham, one year.

PD: Ah...yes...I...er...remember that, now. You saw that as a retrograde step, then?

DR: Certainly. And then came Short Croquet.

At this point Mrs. Rush buried her face in her hands and began to sob quietly. I waited until the crisis passed and asked if she wanted to continue.

DR: Yes, yes. I must. It must be told. You see, this was not the end, nor even the beginning of the end, nor even...well, anyway, next came International Golf Croquet. You look shocked, young man, but surely you remember those dark days.

PD: I have tried to forget them, put them to the very back of my mind....But do go on.

DR: And where did all this lead, you ask.

PD: I do? Well, actually...

DR: It led...(here Mrs. Rush's voice became a harsh whisper) it led to the 14-point game.

PD: What, exactly, was your objection to that?

DR: Objection? My objection? Don't you see, you clown? All these changes were leading to shorter, faster games. Gone forever were the leisurely 4-hour marathons, with lunch *and* tea taken during the game. They even began playing best of five games. And finishing the whole match in a couple of hours!

PD: Surely this points to a general raising of standards and a greater expertise at the top end of the game.

DR: What has expertise to do with this? We're talking about a pastime. Let the damned snooker players display their ruthless expertise. Croquet is for the halt, the blind and the lame.

PD: The blind?

DR: Haven't you ever played at...(At this point Mrs. Rush became so excited that her chair tipped over sideways, throwing her into the fireplace, and the name of the venue to which she referred was lost in the horrendous crashing of fire-irons. When Mrs. Rush recovered consciousness she was unwilling to confirm that she had intended to name any particular club.)

PD: I shall not keep you much longer, Mrs. Rush, but there is one more question that the readers of 'Talking Croquet' would like answered.

DR: Fire away, dear boy, fire away. I've nothing to hide.

PD: Well, it's just that...um...it has been suggested...there was a rumour, as it were, that ...er... you are in fact a...man. Would you care to comment on.....?

Here the interview ended abruptly as Mrs. Rush seized her old Solomon mallet from its place of honour above the mantelpiece. I made an excuse and tried to leave, but was brought down by a vicious blow to the left shin. Notwithstanding the pain of my injury – in fact, not with standing at all – I managed to crawl out of the house and down the garden path. As Mrs Rush whistled up her dogs I took shelter behind the blackthorn hedge.

So far this dramatic interview with Dorothy Rush had given rise to more questions than it had answered and I knew that croquet players from Colwyn Bay to Colchester would besiege the Editor of *The Croquet Gazette* with frantic requests for more information. I therefore attempted to continue to conduct the interview by loud hailer from the front gate of Mrs. Rush's picturesque cottage.

I began by trying to find out which writers had most influenced her prose style.

DR. You just put one foot inside that gate and you'll get both barrels. I've told already – I've given up croquet for good and I don't need to be reminded that I was once daft enough to waste time and typewriter ribbon on silly stories for that ridiculous magazine. Now sod off before I set the corgis on you.

PD. I see. All right, how do fifty quid and a bottle of Glenfiddich sound to you? *After* you've answered a few more questions of course. (I hope you are forking out for this, canny lad! Ed.)

DR. (after a very long silence) Influences, you say? Well, my sparse, terse, unadorned, vigorous sentences are pure Hemingway, of course. My unfortunate tendency to produce several thousand more words than an article merits emanates, probably, from my encounter, in later life, with the oeuvre of another croquet writer, S. Mulliner. You may have heard of him but it is unlikely you have ever read one of his articles all through......Look, why don't you come up and we could open that Glenfiddich. You did say fifty pounds, didn't you? Goodness me, dear boy, that's a nasty limp you have. Nothing to do with my old Solomon, I hope.

PD. That's okay, Mrs. Rush. The leg's probably broken but it was really my fault: I should have had the shot watched. Do you think you could ask your dogs to let go of my ankle..........Aaaargh!.

DR. (dispersing the corgis with a vicious swipe of the shotgun) Sit yourself on that sofa and fire away while I'm pouring.

PD. (with a cautious eye on the old Solomon mallet above the fireplace) I am often asked whether you and I were ever involved more deeply than perhaps discretion would allow. May I ask you, now, to confirm for my readers that our relationship was entirely platonic?

DR. Young man, as far as I can recollect, we never even played doubles together, let alone whatever it is you are suggesting. *Honi soit*, Mr. Dorke, is all I have to say to that, *honi soit*!

PD. Horny.....? Madam, if we are to conduct this interview civilly, I must ask you to cast no aspersions.

DR. Ah! You have seen my garden, then. Remind me to pick you some ravioli before you leave.

PD. You seem a shade disillusioned with writing. Was it the advent of the word-processor that put paid to you, finally?

DR. Absolutely not. Computers hold no fears for me. It was not so much 'put paid to' as not paid at all. However persistently I suggested to that Hudson fellow that he should cough up a few pesetas occasionally for the gems of Eng. Lit. that poured from my old *Brother*, he just wasn't having any – and neither, apparently was I.

PD. Your old brother? Are you admitting that the renowned Rush *oeuvre* was produced by your brother and not by you? This is sensational. The croquet world will be rocked. What is your brother's name?

DR. Whatever you're on I'd like a spliff or two, Mr Dorke. A *Brother*, my dear idiot, was a Japanese typewriter, circa 1965. Gave me damn good service until I threw it at Goronwy in a fit of pique, after being beaten by Pat Asa Thomas in the Women's.

PD. Ah, yes, Goronwy. I expect you miss him.

Dorothy's only response to this question was a snort of derision and a sidelong glance at the large photo of her new husband in a leather posing pouch which stood on her desk.

PD. (Hurrying on) Mrs. Rush, why do you think there aren't more top women players?

DR. It's purely and simply a matter of strength.

PD. Oh, surely on the fast lawns of the better clubs a woman is at no disadvantage.

DR. Fast lawns have sweet Fanny Adams to do with it: I was referring to the strength of the feeble liquids taken *post ludum* by your average female player. If more women would follow the example of Gail Curry and allow only Guinness to lubricate their croquet playing, we would see many more of them at the top of the rankings. The lady players of yesteryear, the great champions of the Edwardian era, drank only milk stout. The image of croquet as a game dominated by tea and cucumber sandwiches is a total myth. The vicarage lawns of legend were awash with hard liquor and the fabled visits to the bushes had nothing to do with sexual frolics. Those hardy plants were the vomitoria of their time. You may find something similar at the Oxford University Croquet Club to this very day.

PD. You astound me. I hope – indeed, I confide – that the ladies game may now be enhanced by your advice. As croquet has so often in the past. We are humbled before your wisdom, Mrs. Rush. Look, may I call you Dorothy?

DR. No. Have you any more silly questions before I let the corgis back in?

PD. Perhaps a couple, if I may. There is a glaring shortage of good players in the under thirty range in Britain. How may we correct this?

DR. My position is perfectly clear, as you might have gathered from my earlier remarks: We should not correct it. Indeed, we should see to it that even fewer young men and gels are encouraged to play. They should not be wasting their youth on such trivia. As I once heard dear Edgar say to a brash teenager, as the boy swaggered off lawn eight at Cheltenham after a well-controlled break, "I feel sorry for you, my boy: you've got the next fifty years to get worse." He thought one should take up the game at fifty and I tend to agree with that judgement. Anything else?

PD. Just one more question. Which was your favourite club and which

Again there was a long silence. Then Dorothy Rush began to speak, almost in a whisper.

your favourite lawn?

DR. Ah, my Cheltenham and my Budleigh long ago! And what times we had at Southport. Such lovely people. The fun at Edgbaston at the end of long summer's day; Ken Jones pulling out hoops as he ran them; Alan Girling giving up croquet again as he missed the peg from three inches. What about the Counties at Southwick, playing with young Paul. What a gentleman! And the charm of Hunstanton. The food at Hurlingham. The friendliness of Glasgow, not to mention the cheap taxis. Those awful lawns at Dyffryn would take some beating...no, I don't think my favourite lawn was in Wales. Would I choose Nottingham? Fine people but the noise from the traffic! Wrest Park! Now that was a joy to play at but a lot too far from the loos in my day. What can I say about Harrow...Mr. Hilditch's Harrow? It's all too long ago. That was quite a tournament at Himley, when I won the Advanced and.....Chris....poor Ian....a great time...miss them all....

The whisper had become too faint to understand and Mrs. Rush's eyes had closed as though in sleep. A dampness glistened on her withered cheek. Not wishing to disturb her reverie, I got up quietly and left. Half way down the garden path the corgis attacked in force.

"TAKING THE BISQUE" – POSITIVE PLAY IS FUN By Bruce Rannie

t the AGM on Saturday 14 October, the CA President, John Solomon, based his address (which will be published in full next time) on using the fourteen-point full-bisques full-size game rather than the twenty-six point game, so that croquet remains fun to play, and tournament players are not playing three three-hour games each day of a competition.

The Coaching column is not advocating one game against another, but is taking the opportunity to urge handicap players to get on with the game by using their bisques in a constructive and attacking manner.

If you are playing in a straightforward handicap game, and receiving the net number of bisques from your opponent, it seems politic to use the bisques to set up and continue a break in order to get as far ahead as possible from your opponent as quickly as possible.

Many coaching articles and all coaching courses emphasise that it is much more likely that retrieving the innings after a leave that is hit by your opponent will cost two bisques, whilst continuing a break after a mistake may cost only one. Therefore the decision to stop "not to waste a bisque" is often more wasteful after all.

Using the last one or two bisques on getting the first ball further may be considered risky, but by this stage you have to consider how you are going to get the second ball started anyway, and a tight leave may enable you to change colours without losing the initiative, thus again turning a two-bisque start into a one-bisque break continuance.

If you are playing in a full-bisque base-X handicap game, and both players receive a number of bisques, then there are two markedly different approaches to the game. The first is to conserve your bisques until your opponent has used his, possibly using one or two destructively to try to regain the innings, or at least split him up – the second is to treat the opponent as though he had no bisques, and get on with the game, using the bisques to capture and build the breaks as usual.

Those of you who play short croquet, where both players get all the bisques, and there is really nowhere to hide, will have realised that attack is the best form of defence, i.e. you must win before he does! The same principle can be applied to the full-size game, especially if the base is zero or low, so both players have more than a few bisques.

So how does this make the game more fun? Easy – because whoever is in play is making more strokes, seeing more results, and is getting on with the game. You can even learn as you play, because of the need to keep the break going. And you are not spending all your turns trying to hit a long shot, and, if you do, walking to each of the other three balls without getting anywhere near the next hoop!

The game will be shorter (win or lose), and therefore the time limit does not matter. You can easily play the three games the manager requires, because either all the games are shorter, or you have finished in plenty of time to take refreshment and pleasant company before the next round is due!

Say your opponent does not co-operate? The danger here is that your enterprise gets you to rover and three-back when the bisques run out, and he has used a couple to try to interfere but is still on about two and three. You have had the lawn time –

you know your strengths and weaknesses on the lawn in question — you are more likely to hit the long shot and regain control to make the last few hoops before you opponent can complete his two circuits (remember you are bound to get at least one more shot whilst he changes colour). You are in the positive frame of mind, whilst he is still trying to get to grips with things.

How about it then? Take the initiative, use the bisques for the reason they are intended, get on with the game, and get onto the next one! (Oh, and never ask about the time limit – you will always be finished well before then!)

Then even full-size croquet will be fun, and what's more, your A-class opponent will appreciate being beaten by an enterprising positive player much more than by a dour defensive one who never looks like making any progress in the sport.

JUMP SHOTS

Adapted from Ian Plummer's "Intermediate Coaching Notes" published by Balliol College, Oxford, and previously included in earlier editions of "The Croquet Gazette".

This section is included in Coach 2000 this time because the main reason for introducing the CA Variant of the WCF Rules for Golf Croquet was to avoid the use of the Jump Shot, partly because of the fear of damage to the lawns. As Ian says, the Jump Shot requires skill and practice, but it is possible to learn and play safely given time an effort.

Chapter 8 covers "Special Shots" and includes the following (adapted for Golf Croquet use):

Jump shots are where you deliberately cause your ball to jump when hitting it. The purposes of jump shots are to clear an obstructing ball or to run an angled hoop. After a jump shot the ball will bounce on landing and travel a large distance. Because the shot confers a great deal of spin onto a ball, it is popular for running angled hoops. The intention is that the ball strikes the far upright of the hoop spinning greatly, falls into the jaws and pulls itself through. Hoops are in fact more likely to give a little the higher up you hit them and therefore allow the ball to snake through them.

To play a jump shot, stand well over the ball and hit down on it at an angle of say 30-45°. Making sure that you treat the ball as though it was being hit horizontally, and therefore aim to hit the top half, not to chip it into the air, or take a divot. Keep your hands well down the mallet. The effect is achieved because you are hitting the ball into the ground, which reacts by pushing it back into the air, thus making it jump. The ground must be firm to get a proper jump shot since a spongy lawn will absorb most of the energy — do not try it on a wet lawn.

Jump shots should be refereed. There are several possible faults. The two major ones are playing a crush (maintaining contact between the mallet and the ball for an appreciable time) or damaging the lawn (if you play a shot which is likely to damage the lawn, and it does, then you have committed a fault). To play a fair jump shot you must lift the mallet as soon as it has made contact with the ball. If you cannot play a jump shot without damaging the lawn, then don't.

14

CROQUET ASSOCIATION DIPLOMAS 2000

Report by Quiller Barratt



Award winners who were presented with their diplomas at the AGM. L to R John Airey, Pat Shine, Enid Ross, Dab Wheeler, Lawrence Whittaker and Nigel Gray.

ongratulations to the twelve club members who have been awarded CA Diplomas this year. Nominated by their club committees, all ten have spent many years supporting and helping other members. In this first year the Diplomas have been awarded, the Croquet Association was delighted with the quality of the nominations it received.

If your club wishes to make a nomination in 2001 it must be approved by the club committee and accompanied by a citation of not more than ten lines. Applications should be signed by a club official on behalf of the committee and sent to the CA Secretary before August 1st 2001.

JOHN AIREY

Nominated by Swindon Croquet Club

John has made a tremendous contribution to the club. He coaches beginners, paints hoops, makes trolleys for carting equipment, writes the club newsletters, runs tournaments, gets us publicity in local newspapers and is a very active committee member.

ANNA GIRAUD

Nominated by Zeneca Croquet Club

Anna's achievement is considerable: in 1991 she not only introduced an unknown game into a somewhat indifferent environment but then did a lot of the donkey work associated with competitions and handicapping. Her greatest input has been in coaching many people in the Huddersfield area who now have a knowledge and love of croquet. NIGEL GRAY

Nominated by Letchworth Croquet Club

Since 1987 Nigel has been our energetic Secretary and has turned his hand to organising working parties and club competitions. It is doubtful if the club would have survived and flourished without Nigel's hard work. In recent years he has organised beginner's courses and has arranged special events. His expert knowledge of wines adds an extra dimension to the latter.

RONALD H RAWDEN

Nominated by Bury St Edmunds and District Croquet Club

Mr Rawden was a founder member of the club in 1985 and has been a committee member since then. A retired engineer, he used his many practical skills to make sets of hoops and mallets to get the

club started. Since then he has annually serviced equipment as well as designing all kinds of items for us including the hoops in our artificial surface.

ENID ROSS

Nominated by Sussex County Croquet Club

Mrs Ross joined the club in 1978 and soon organised self-help maintenance programmes - known as "Enid's winter working parties". All clubs depend on a nucleus of unpaid, often unsung, volunteers for coaching, lawns, gardens, catering and general maintenance. In the last 20 years Enid has made substantial contributions in all these areas. In the early 1990's she re-started regular sessions of golf croquet which now leaves the club well placed to take a prime role in the upsurgence of this game.

PAT SHINE

Nominated by Worthing Croquet Club

Lionel Wharrad wrote about Pat:

"Worthing Croquet Club is very much the personal creation of Pat Shine. Certainly I cannot think of anyone else who would have the energy, the persistence and persuasion to convert one small, sloping court into a lively and flourishing club with 4 full size lawns. Pat has done much for croquet as a member of the CA Council and a manager of many tournaments."

BILL SIMPSON

Nominated by The Lym Valley Croquet Club

Bill Simpson was the prime mover in forming our club in 1988: he set up the club committee and was elected Secretary. Bill established the club rules and found a suitable venue and clubhouse. He made himself an authority on the Laws and attended a coaching course so that he could help other members improve their game. To maintain interest in the winter months Bill introduced a tabletop tournament that has been featured on television. He retired after 10 years as Secretary in 1998.

HONOR and ERNEST SMITH

Nominated by Belsay Hall Croquet Club

Both Honor and Ernest have coached new members at Belsay in regular weekly sessions over many years. Ernest has been manager of the lawns and equipment for more than ten years; Honor is now vice-chairman of the club. Honor and Ernest Smith are much loved by the members who all recognize the outstanding contribution they have made. ROY TAYLOR

Nominated by Woodhall Spa Croquet Club

Roy Taylor was the first of our members to become a CA Tournament Member and he organises league games at club and Federation levels. He is a practical man who designs, makes and mends equipment for us. In addition, Roy is the Equipment Officer for our Federation. He is a stalwart of the game and has done much to help and inspire our club.

DAB WHEELER

Nominated by Cheltenham Croquet Club

Mrs D A Wheeler (known as Dab by everyone in croquet) has handled all the tournament arrangements at Cheltenham for the last 15 years. This is no mean feat involving each year some dozen CA events alone and correspondence with well over 600 players. Dab is an everpresent committee member; she manages tournaments, prepares meals (par excellence) and gives up her time to help coach new players. Supported by her husband Roger, Dab represents the essence of what croquet is about: friendship, support and assistance to all those who enjoy our sport.

Dr F LAWRENCE WHITAKER

Nominated by Leicester Croquet Club

Lawrence founded the Leicester club in 1985 and has been our Secretary ever since. He is active in every aspect of the club's affairs: organising and managing events at national as well as club level, coaching and promoting croquet locally. Lawrence oversees all club activities, chores and the day-to-day running of the club. His contribution to the club is unparalleled.

TOURNAMENT ROUND-UP

East Dorset Open Week June 12th - 17th 2000

Report by Jill Lonsdale

he sun shone benevolently on the lawns at Parkstone which have been well prepared by the groundsman Adam Tidby. This had the effect of making the lawns very fast and quite tricky for controlling the balls around the hoops. In consequence the lower handicap players dominated the Handicap Singles. The semi-finalists were Kathleen Priestley (3) versus John Gibbons (1) and Roy Edwards (3) versus John McMordie (1/2).

The final between Roy Edwards and John Gibbons was won by John who took the Cripps Memorial Trophy as he had done last year playing off (8). He was presented with the cup by Margaret McMordie, a former Croquet Secretary. John also achieved his Gold award. The handicap singles consolation event was won by Andrew Potter.

In the Class events the 'A' Class winner was David Harrison-Wood, the 'B' Class was won by Roy Edwards and the 'C' Class by Vera Henderson.

The Summer Doubles Cups were won by Roy Edwards and Eric Butt and the consolation doubles were won by Rowland and Vera Henderson.

Hunstanton 'Over 50' Tournament 16-18 June 2000

Report by Neil Chalmers

Prompt action in locating a stopcock in some subterranean manhole followed by remedial measures before the start of play on the Sunday left hardly a ripple on the smooth running of this very happy event.

Twenty players (a handy number for five courts) with handicaps ranging from 2 to 18 braved this the hottest weekend of the year to compete for the Jane Neville-Rolfe Salver in an Egyptian Tournament with a minimum 6 games to count. Two stalwarts managed 8 games, another three managed 7 but there was little demand for friendlies! The final shoot out as it were involved Paul Hill (10) and David Waterhouse (11) both from the host Club with Paul winning by +14. David who had been in the lead before playing Paul slipped to third behind last year's winner Ken Anderton (7), who in turn had been defeated by Paul in the previous round. Fourth place was taken by Beryl Gosden, a stalwart of Hunstanton who lost only one game. This success was despite tipping her chair over backwards while watching her opponent and giving herself a nasty bang on the head as well as ending up in a most undignified inverted position unable to extricate herself unaided. In the meantime husband Ron continued his break on the adjoining court unaware, one assumes, of Beryl's plight!

A minor incident occurred in one game when Jeane Ackermann contrived to drop her timer into the glass of lemonade which had conveniently been provided by her opponent! A new finishing time was established using another clock and I understand the lemonade tasted just the same even after the liquid crystals had dissolved! The timer is in intensive care.

To sum up, a very successful weekend. The courts were fast but not too fast, the hoops tight but not too tight, the weather hot - maybe too hot, the catering excellent as always and the management pretty seamless. Nick can now tear up his L-plates! In particular, it was very refreshing to



Ron Atkinson and Paul McDonald enjoying some sunshine at the Veteran's Championship. Photo by Quiller Barrett.

hear some of the less experienced tournament-goers who perhaps had not done too well saying how much they had learned over the weekend. Surely this is what tournaments are about.

Colchester 23 - 25 June

Report by Pierre G. Dunn

t the end of the Colchester Weckend Handicap, the sun came out and shone warmly on Gerry Varndell, playing in his first tournament, who had just plucked the John Foreman Cup from the frustrated fingers of his final opponent (and its previous holder), Jonathan Hills.

The competition was expanded this year from two days to three and attracted 19 competitors from as far as Scotland and Hungary, playing with handicaps from 2 to 20.

By the middle of Day 2, three Goliaths had emerged from the pack: Jonathan Hills, Ron Harris, and Marjorie Boyd. Hicks noted fine play displayed by Owen Bryce and Joan Collis, whose losses were by narrow margins, and sent them in as Davids to bring the giants to their knees. Bryce came close to success with a -1 loss to Hills, and Collis defeated Harris, but Hills and Boyd both entered Sunday's competition unbeaten. With an early (and narrow) loss and a deceptive 20 handicap, newcomer Varndell was not being observed as closely as he might have been, and was thrown into Boyd's first game on the final day as a dark horse. Hills was paired with Reg Girling, another former winner of the event, who had been defeated earlier by Boyd. This time, both leaders stumbled, Hills down to a tournament index of 120 and Boyd to 111. With an index of 114, Varndell was Hills' next logical opponent, while Girling, now at 117, was paired with Collis at 108. Colin Hemming, also at 108 and the tournament winner in 1998, was given the task of coping with Boyd, but the final drama was temporarily delayed to allow the consumption of yet another delicious lunch provided by the catering staff.

The final games saw all of the higher indexers falling again:

Hemming finished in fourth position at 113 while Boyd dropped to 106; Girling dropped to 111 while Collis rose to 114 and third place; and Varndell rose triumphantly to victory at 119 as Hills settled into second place at 115.

Their fine play earned both Varndell and Hills lowered handicaps; Varndell dropped from 20 to 16 and Hills from 7 to 6.

Woking handicap singles 23rd - 25th June 2000

Report by Malcolm Bigg

welve players from five clubs took part in the final event of the Woking Midsummer tournament. The first part was played in format of two American blocks of six. After all these games had been played, the top three players from each block then played each

other making a total of 8 games for each player over the three days. Wharrad turns were used to avoid the frustrations of finishing timed games when double banking.

The clear winner was Steve Woolnough of Reading who swept all before him, winning all his eight games. Runner up was Mick Belcham of Tunbridge Wells. Winner of the consolation event was Liz Batin of Woking, who also won her Silver badge during the event.

Ramsgate handicap 1st - 2nd July 2000

Report by Graham Fuller

Pourteen players with handicaps ranging from 3.5 to 20, including some from as far away as Gloucestershire and Buckinghamshire, came to Ramsgate for the Club's second Handicap Singles Weekend of the Scason. After a wet start, the weather steadily improved, and the newly relaid lawns were bedding down well. At the end of 5 rounds, John Prentice and David Dray, both from the home club, led the field with 4 wins each, and John was declared the winner on total points scored. As both are still in their teens, the long term future of the game in this part of Kent would appear to be in good hands. The communal lunches and teas helped to make a particularly friendly tournament, and our thanks go to Mary Currie and her colleagues for good organisation.



Bill Arliss at the Southwick 14pt tournament. Photo by Quiller Barrett.

Southwick 14pt Advanced 1-2 July 2000

Report by John Low

Bighteen contestants took part in this event, the second season that Southwick has hosted a 14pt advanced tournament. Although most of the players were local, a scattering of other clubs in the South East were represented.

The weather threatened rain early on Saturday, but thankfully the clouds cleared and the weekend remained fine and dry. The Southwick greens were excellent, as they have been all season.

The tournament contestants had a wide range of handicaps (congratulations, Jill Carpenter, for having the courage to enter!) and were initially divided into two groups for an Egyptian style contest. As the weekend progressed however, many players tried their hand at crossing the boundary and several scalps were taken, notably by Ken Mason (h/c 10) who beat John Solomon, Bill Arliss and Peter Howell, going on to win the tournament outright.

The great pleasure of a tournament such as this is the possibilty of playing a large number of quick games, of experimenting with tactics and not worrying too much about the outcome. It is a pity that there are not more 14pt tournaments played as they really are fun and good for your croquet as well!

Altogether a very enjoyable weekend's croquet!

Cheltenham Over 50 Handicap 4th - 6th July 2000

Report by Brian Toomey

It is remarkable how young some of the 50 year olds look these days, especially the ladics. This is always a wonderfully friendly event, always well oversubscribed, and this year 18 Clubs were represented by the 48 players, with handicaps of from 2.5 to 18, so the bucket of bisques was nearly emptied.

Being friendly and competitive is a particular mark of this annual Tournament - the host club and its Members somehow manage to make each competitor feel at home. There is the Cordon Magee catering, those beautiful lawns, the busy bar and the carefully organised weather. Each morning the early forecast sounded dismal, but each day Dennis overruled the meteorologists and provided a Cheltenham magical microclimate.

All 6 Block winners were awarded an elegant engraved Cheltenham tumbler. It was fun; it was competitive; it was managed, as ever with great good humour and tolerance by Dennis Moorcraft. Thank you very much Cheltenham. Here's to 2001 and yet another happy event truly life begins at 50!

The North West Federation Clubs Championships 8 - 9 July 2000

Report by Abdul Ahmad

outhport and Birkdale Croquet Club hosted this annual event. It was efficiently managed by David Nicholson and his assistants. Hospitality and catering were first class.

Glorious weather it wasn't but the lawns were well manicured and 80 players representing 13 clubs made it very successful championships. A. SECTION RESULTS.

SECTION	WINNER	RUNNER-UP	3rd		
Handicap	Lancaster	Ellesmere	Pendle Pendle		
Short Croquet	Bowdon	Kendal			
Golf Croquet	Pendle	Southport & Birkdale	Isle of Man		

Winner's - Pendle; Runner's-up - Bowdon; = 3rd - Southport & Birkdale and Bury; 5th - Lancaster; = 6th - Ellesmere and Fylde; 8th - Kendal; 9th - Isle of Man; = 10th - Culcheth, Crake Valley and Llanferfechan; and 13th - Chester.



David ruscombe-King presents Bob Whitaker with his winners trophy, while Tony Doughty looks on.

A Weekend of firsts for Bath Croquet Club - 8th & 9th July.

Report by Richard Everett.

t was a weekend of firsts for the Bath Croquet Club at their Tournament in July. The tournament was: The first open at Bath for some 50 years.

The first tournament for a new manager (Richard Everett). The first full

use of Richard's new computer program (trialed at Nailsea Aug'99) The first open competitions win for the winner (Bob Whitaker). The first sight of a new cup for the Millennium.

Forecasts of appalling weather did not deter a full entry of 20 from turning up to Bath. Entrants came from as far away as Ipswich and Reigate. Rain held off on the Saturday for what turned out to be a triumph for Nelson Morrow who was unbeaten by the end of the day. The second day started with Richard Wood from the Zen Met club (Zenca and Meteorological Office Club) being blamed for the deterioration of the weather. The quality of play held up though and Alison Thursfield was actively involved in a large amount of work in refereeing decisions. Cups of soup, tea and coffee were in demand Audrey Whitaker being up to the challenge of providing them in a never ending stream.

One refereeing decision of interest arrived in a game between Frank Burch and Nelson Morrow. Following Nelson peeling his opponent through rover when running rover himself he managed to hit both reception balls simultaneously. After some discussion with the referee he nominated which one to take croquet from.

In the afternoon the Manager became worried that a result of a match between Bob Whitaker and Nelson Morrow would result in a nightmare for him. If Bob were to win it would result in a three-way tie for the cup. A number of people gleefully came to the manager to warn him that his nightmare was about to happen. Hurried conversations between the ROT and the manager resulted in three 1 ball games to be played between the 3 pairings as a 'golden goal' method and if that did not get a result a ' penalty shoot-out' option was planned. In the event Bob Whitaker saved the managers blushes and got a result in the second pairing winning two of the 1 ball games against both Nelson Morrow and Tony Backhouse.

East Riding Handicap 8-9 July

Report by Alan Locket

small, but enthusiastic, group braved the inclement conditions to compete for the Paul Iveson Trophy. Chris Dent kindly agreed to manage, after the sad death of Ian Maugham, and proved his skills both on and off the court. His weakness was however revealed at Saturday tea-time - chocolate cake! Play on the Saturday was punctuated mainly by the report writer's inability to run hoops from close range, and a series of defeats ensued. At 2pm the local bowls team appeared, expecting to use one of the shared lawns for a match, but fortunately the small entry left a free lawn to accommodate them. The inaugural simultaneous croquet and bowls competition was thus avoided!

Three clear front runners emerged as we moved to the Sunday, Derek Knight, Julian Tonks and Norman Best. Chris had devised sets of pairings to ensure a clear result, and Derek defeated Norman, to meet Julian in the deciding contest. Julian took an early lead and used his bisques well



Don Wright presents Derek Robinson with his trophy, watched by Derek Watts at Tyneside.

to keep Derek out of play. As time came towards the final 30 minutes Derek had a lot of ground to make up, and became ever more hurried in his movement around the court. A hastily discarded open umbrella took off in the wind, like tumble weed, and became an unexpected outside agency on lawn 3, where its progress was arrested. Derek gradually caught Julian and as time was called had squared the game, leaving his balls joined up and Julian's well separated. Julian hit in, and Derek anticipated his demise, but a momentary lapse of concentration saw Julian miss a simple (no such thing, in these situations) roquet. Derek made the hoop he needed and with it took the trophy. Dry throated and drained, he was glad to see the tea pot arrive. To record such matches as +1T cannot describe the drama, but somehow it says everything.

Tyneside Over 50's Tournament 12 - 13 July 2000

Report by David Maddocks

Points to make on the play:- Eight players, mainly middle bisquers, enjoyed a competitive but friendly tournament on superb lawns. The absence of any 'bandits' resulted in closely fought tournament with an even spread of results. John Beech, heavily out-bisqued, may have felt everybody else was a 'bandit', but endured several one-sided results with magnanimity and great good humour.

The tournament culminated in a particularly memorable set of four games:-

Firstly, Don Wright beat John Beech 26-0 in 57 minutes including the rover peel. Then Derek Watts with one ball pegged out and his opponent David Maddocks lined up with a protected rush to peg, managed to peg out his other ball from the boundary in a +2 win. A delighted Bob Vaughan reported that he had overhauled John Grant from a long way back, in the game of his life. And finally, in the game that decided the Tournament result Derek Old, driving long distant hoops and roquets in swashbuckling style, couldn't quite catch Derek Robinson in a +1 on time result.



Frances Low, winner at Southwick and at the Challenge & Gilbey.

Challenege & Gilbey Compton 13 - 16 July 200

Report by David Mooney

he centenary of the Challenge cups, now played with the Gilbey goblet was played in mainly dry if blustery conditions at Compton Eastbourne. The first two days were devoted to the handicap event, the Gilbey Goblet. Although not in its centenary year it seemed rather fitting that the only contestant who was able to remember the year of its inception won the event. Point for the handicappers amongst you; how do you evaluate 25 years of croquet experience and a lifetime of guile? Lionel with a handicap of 8 is a force to be reckoned with by anyone.

Even in the gentle environment of Eastbourne, nature's harsher side

was still in evidence when a wasp took exception to David Magee's referecing by stinging his hand. One wonders whether this wasp wasn't a croquet player in a previous existence. Luckily David was able to continue

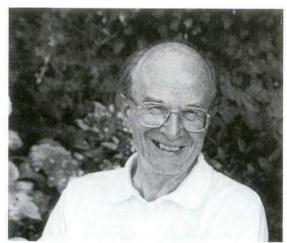
The results were as follows: Gilbey Goblet -Lionel Wharrad

Roehampton Challenge Cup -Lawrence Whittaker

Reckitt Challenge cup - Samantha Symmonds

Stevenson cup -Frances Low

On a more disappointing note it was a pity that Compton members had to be asked to make up the numbers for the Challenge cups. These are the CA Major trophies for class play outside the selection events, and they deserve your support.



John Hobbs, the man behind the mallets

The Veterans Championship Southwick July 17 - 22 Report by John Hobbs

aul Macdonald showed his experience and patience as a manager in coping with the problems of older players. Four withdrew before the match, one doubles team and one single retired part way through and much rescheduling was needed. But the weather was scheduled to perfection, it being the first period of 2000 with six days of (mostly) sunshine and no rain. Eleven lawns were in use and they became faster as the week progressed. The over 70s had an entry of five, with the oldest being 79 and the lowest handicap -1/2. Paul ran the blocks as a Swiss and the handicap was to a base of 10. Several games involved a battle between those who could hit straighter and those who could manage the better tactics, but not the roquets. As usual the doubles involving a strong and a weaker player attracted the most interest, with the agonising waits to see how the high handicappers coped with hoops and medium distance roquets. In all it was a great week in which to meet old friends. It was also important not to suggest that some spectators might be qualified to play, only to discover that they were under the 65 lower limit. We still couldn't believe that Jean Birdseye qualified.

Jersey Week & Championships 17 - 23 July 2000

Report by Don Gaunt

he lawns were beautifully tended and green when I arrived at the Club to run the summer school. The entry for this was small only five people. The advantage, however, was I could give personal tuition.

Sunday evening saw the official opening of the tournament, with a buffet provided by the Club. Tony Le Moignan, Chairman, opened the proceedings and introduced Bob Hill, from Jersey Sports, Leisure & Recreation. Bob gave a short speech welcoming everyone then Bill Lamb, the manager, explained the format for the event. After that, we got down to the serious matter of eating and drinking! The week (Monday to Thursday) contained the normal mix of doubles and singles events.

The favourites for the Open Doubles, Tony Le Moignan and Matt

Burrow, had comfortable wins throughout. Sarah Burrow and I were possible contenders, but were defeated by good play from John Gibbons and Paul Duckworth.

The Y Doubles was a rather brief affair as one of the players in the final had to depart early, leaving Colin and Chris Irwin the winners by default

In the Handicap Singles X Jersey tradition of having a member of the Burrow family in a final was kept with a vengeance since it turned out to be a mother (Sarah) and son (Matthew) final, which Sarah won.

Paul Duckworth won with a convincing plus one on time in the semi- and the final of the Y - I think I'll write a book about it! Also true to tradition, I lost in the X and Y Handicap in two straight games!

The Handicap Doubles X was a happy occasion for Anne and me. After six years of trying we finally made it, beating Tony Le Moignan and Doreen Burrow. The Y Doubles was won by a truly international pair, Toby Garrison from New Zealand and Bernard Witas from France. They beat Kevin Garrad (Isle of Man) and Jersey's Matthew Burrow (another Burrow - see what I mean'?).

The B and C Class events were both held as two blocks with a playoff. Jack Davis played Daniel Mills for the B Class trophy while Gina Lewis played Bernard Witas for the C Class. Jack and Bernard were the respective winners.

The Championships (Friday to Sunday) saw, this year, Robert Fulford and Reg Bamford entering. As seeds 1 and 2, they were expected to meet in the final, and so it proved.

Game one was a straightforward TP to Reg. The second was a little more interactive, but it was Robert this time who completed the triple. In game three, Reg hit the lift after Robert got to 4-back and reached 4-back himself. Both players then failed to get ball two going, leaving each of them with clips on 2 and 4-back. Eventually, Reg made an angled three-yarder on hoop 2 to get the break and the triple, but not without having to do a jump shot through a fearsomely angled rover. In game four Reg did a third turn break to 4-back. Robert missed. Reg's delayed triple failed at penult. Robert went to 4-back but failed to hide Reg's ball behind 3-back. Reg hit and finished three turns later.

The Plate event was won convincingly by Mark Avery with a 26TP over Tony Le Moignan.

The weather was glorious for virtually the whole time, although on Thursday a wind got up and by Friday and Saturday was almost gale force, making play very difficult.

The lawns started out green but got browner and faster as the week progressed, until by Thursday they were becoming a real challenge - especially around those hoops where there were hills.

The players came from all over the world, with New Zealand, the USA, Isle of Man, Guernsey, France, Belgium, England and, of course, Jersey being represented. The 'characters' of the week had to be Yves and Frank Hentic from Southampton, New York. They had a whale of a time, keeping us all amused with their sayings and amazed by their choice of clothes.

As always, the social side of croquet was well to the forc with something planned every night. On Monday and Tuesday there were visits to pubs. As always the Club provided a buffet on the Wednesday and for Thursday and Friday restaurants were chosen. The tournament dinner was held at an Italian restaurant in Jersey's capital, St Helier.

Barclays Group sponsored the event. They made a generous donation to the Club, allowing cash prizes to be given to the winners. The Jersey Club is naturally proud and pleased with Barclays' continuing interest in croquet. Also, as Chairman of the CA Council, it pleases me to see such support for our game.

Pendle: Over Fifties Midweek Tournament July 25th - 28th

Report By Peter Hallett

his increasingly popular tournament attracts a good mixture of local members, satisfied customers returning, and other northern immigrants, some playing in their first tournament. The Egyptian

format suits both those who want to play three games a day for four days, those who can only spare perhaps two days, and those playing in their first tournament who are not used to that much exercise!

The Pendle Club is very friendly and hospitable. Abdul Ahmad, who won the All England last year, managed his first tournament with a good combination of cheerfulness and efficiency. The Club members, assisted by a partial mud covering on the lawn nearest the river some months ago, have during the winter made great efforts to improve the undulations in the lawns, especially those nearest the main road, and have had considerable success in this. In spite of the recent dry weather, the lawns remained green.

Visiting competitors came from Belsay Hall, Bury, Bowdon, Chester, Fylde and Huddersfield. For some, the motivation was not so much winning as improving their game. Towards the end of the week there were more four-ball breaks, and less rolling up to hoops from long distances. Robin Delves, playing in his first tournament, had learned garden croquet fifty years before with a sequence game and a rule about balls going off the lawn becoming dead. Consequently, he began with peeling his partner ball through all hoops, with considerable success. It is much to his credit that he began to try four-ball breaks towards the end of the tournament. Bronze medals were achieved by Lorna Frost of Bowdon, and Denise Hoyle and Marjorie Eldon of Huddersfield.

This friendly tournament sees the award of cups and trophies for all kinds of unusual things. Jack Shotton won the prize for the fastest completed game by twenty-sixing John Beech in fifty-one minutes with three bisques remaining. The overall winner was Geoff Reynolds of Chester, who put considerable thought to his play. Additional prizes for the best with an under-ten handicap went to Derek Robinson of Belsay Hall, and for the over-ten handicap to Margaret Anderton. The Doubles were dominated by the Anderton's and the Young's, the former retaining an early advantage to win the final.

Eastern Championship 28 - 30 July

Report by Richard Hilditch

The Eastern Championships happily returned to Wrest Park this year attracting 26 players without a single club member, of course the club members put in a huge amount of effort to run the event most efficiently.

One of the manager's jobs at a tournament is selecting the reporter, in the modern age of endless tournaments this can be a difficult task so sometimes an excuse is found (e.g. the latest arriver etc). For this event the selection was clear, it fell to the player who had to move his illegally parked car (a 10 minute trek at this club).

True to form we had a severe thunder storm on the first day resulting in a few hours lost play, several of us enjoyed paddling in the warm water collecting it with a pump and shovels into big buckets and a wheel barrow. After this, conditions were hot and often sunny allowing the lawns to speed up a little.

The early rounds saw Tim Wilkins beat David Goacher in three games, the key being a +1 victory in the 2nd game after Goacher had rushed onto the peg with a substantial lead. Tony Le Moignan (who explained how to pronounce his name to me, I think I can nearly do it right) also put out one of the seeds in beating Robin Brown playing very steadily. The quarter finals saw Patrick Hort showing further promise in dispatching Jeff Dawson in straight games without making an error. Le Moignan also started strongly against the holder David Maugham taking the first game easily. However Maugham was able to drag Le Moignan down to his level (Maugham made far too many errors) in order to come back for a win in the third. Wilkins continued his very good progress in knocking out David Kibble although it would be fair to say that Kibble lost rather than Wilkins won this match.

After these interesting matches the semi-finals and final proved to be fairly predictable as Maugham overcame Phil Cordingley with three TPs to retain the trophy. The plate was won by Jeremy Dyer, beating Ian Vincent in the last match, as usual a member of council had failed to return it.

East Dorset August Week - 31st July - 5th August 2000

Report by Rob Edlin-White

he star of the week was undoubtedly Gabrielle Higgins, young enough to be the grand-daughter of many of the field, who charmed everyone from day 1 and had beaten most of us by day 6, carrying off a haul of trophies: the handicap singles knockout, the B-block (despite being the highest bisquer in an advanced level block), and with David Price the doubles "Y" event. Her handicap rightly went down from 8 to 7, and 1 for one as another 8 would have liked 2 or 3 bisques against her. Peggy Nutland also distinguished herself, getting down from 7 to 5 and being runner-up to Gabrielle in 3 events.

The week was managed with clarity and rigour by Hamish Hall who also played and functioned as a referee. David Harrison-Wood was a meticulous and assiduous hoop setter, initially interpreting the range of 3 to 4 thirty-seconds of an inch as meaning exactly 3, because "an eighth is trivial". Later on the request of the manager he painstakingly reset them all to nearer to an eighth, to the relief of many. The 5 lawns provided more than enough capacity for the 20 players given the amount of leave taken. Two hours play was lost on Wednesday in a thunderstorm, but the week was generally hot, sunny and dry.

The A-Block was won by David Harrison-Wood who won all of his 6 games including a straight TP and what he wanted to call an ITP (interrupted triple peel). Dulcie Birrell won a close C block, having the best point scores of the 3 players who won 4 out of 6 games.

50% of the class events went to the 3.25 hour time limit, as did all the doubles but one. The X doubles final was started without time limits; David Harrison-Wood and Jane Matthews eventually won after 5.5 hours play.

Two strokes deserve special comment; firstly the Gugan escape in which a ball hampered at 1-back misses the target ball but runs 2-back; secondly the Crowe roll in which the striker's ball in a pass roll hits the

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For anyone who hasn't sampled Parkstone I should add that there is a well appointed bar and pavilion shared with tennis players, and convivial lunch arrangement in which croquet stops and players eat together. There was no great pressure to fit in lots of games nor to be available to play until dusk. There are pleasant surroundings to visit when not required for play. Club members are welcoming and very friendly.

Results Summary

Handicap Singles X (knockout): Gabrielle Higgins

Runner up: Peggy Nutland A block: David Harrison-Wood

knocks it to a favourable spot.

B block: Gabrielle Higgins

C block: Dulcie Birrell

Doubles X: David Harrison-Wood and Jane Matthews

Doubles Y: David Price and Gabrielle Higgins

Tyneside Advanced 12 - 13 August 2000

Report by Barbara Haslam

"Does any body know what time we started?"

The final was in progress on a beautiful Sunday afternoon at the Tyneside club's August advance tournament when all of a sudden both players went into a huddle. After a few minutes they raise a mallet for a referee.

What's the problem?. A referee joins the huddle and after a few more moments approaches the spectators. " Does any body know what time they started? "Answer "No" Great!

The format for the 10 players was a swiz and with time limits so you can play as many games as you like. The 2 high quality lawns were a treat to play on and the clubhouse is first class.

Sheila Watts catering was superb and her husband Derck helped the Manager to provide a very enjoyable weekend.

Winner: Gail Curry Runner up: Lionel Tibble



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Sussex County August tournament 14th - 19th August 2000

Report by Bryan Teague

This six- day tournament, formerly called the Autumn tournament started on a gloomy autumn- like Monday with showers throughout the morning and afternoon. Those playing 3 games that day in the separate Ladies and Mens knockout competitions had a relatively fine evening. Thereafter it was sunshine all the way. The holiday atmosphere was enhanced by the excellent catering and bar support, in the capable hands of Rose Jenner, Barbara Kitching and Hyacinth Coombes.

46 competitors contested the nine events which included 4 divisions of class singles and an X and Y doubles in addition to the two knockouts. A further mixed knockout was generated from the two singles and a Z event from all three. 29 of the competitors had single figure handicaps giving the best quality field for some years.

Andrew Symons successfully defended the Abbey Challenge Cup against nine others in a Swiss, with 5 out of 6 wins. David Mundy was runner-up as one of three on four wins. The Regulations were interpreted liberally to accommodate Andrew playing his fifth and sixth games since he was called away in the middle of his fifth game, his wife having been taken to hospital. The manager was indebted to Paul Castell and Jack Davies in organising a solution.

The second event in the class singles for the Scott Cup was organised as in an american block. It was won by Myra Gosney with four wins out of five and Jon Isaacs was runner-up

The third event for the Daldy Cup, also run under advanced rules found Mary Knapp in very good form, winning all her games. Runnerup was Lionel Wharrad who is certainly improving with age at present, now playing off seven as opposed to ten a short while ago. The other of his two losing games was against Mike Jenner, a young man from Chicago who was utilising a weeks holiday winning by "one wicket". Mike, with a handicap of seven (american) had to struggle a bit early on but by the Saturday was holding his own.

The Monteith Bowl for the remaining competitors played handicap games to a base of eight in a Swiss of six rounds, with Diana Brothers and Peter Highton both winning five. As the winner of the game between them, Diana took first place with Peter as runner-up.

Mary and Dick Knapp, paying their second visit to Southwick, were involved in the Y-doubles with Mary also still contesting the mixed singles, which required some re-scheduling of events to avoid Mary in two finals on the Saturday afternoon. She was indeed successful in the singles for the Harveys Trophy, using her bisques well to leave Bob Rogers too much catching up to do. With Dick in the afternoon she had her third success in winning the Y-doubles against Mike Jenner and Daphne Gaitley.

The mens' singles for the Douglas Jones Cup was won by Jack Davies from Brian Kitching, the latter, in the semi-finals having demolished Andrew Symons by 26. With fewer bisques against Jack he had his first ball round to peg quite cheaply but used the remaining bisques getting the second ball only half way. Jack went to peg and attempted to peg out Brian but failed and then found the tables turned as he was pegged out! However, Jack's accuracy and his shoot-shoot policy allowed him to win in two 3-ball breaks.

The main doubles final for the Howard Austin Cups featured Andrew Symons and Marion Gosney against Gene Mears and Gerald Fuller. Gerald and Marion were nursed round their first few hoops before Gene made a break to 4-back to be followed by Andrew who peeled his partner through two hoops on the way, but stuck in the third. Gene with the aid of their two bisques drew level, only to lose by two in the last half hour of "cat and mouse' type play.

The Ladies singles final for the Sussex Vase was played between Frances Low and Audrey Howell. After a slow start by each, Frances really got going and won by 19.

The Z-event for the Sussex Salver, organised as a modified Swiss, produced a six-way tie on four wins, Pauline Davey taking the trophy on "quality of wins" with Jon Isaacs the runner-up.

John Solomon continues to play enthusiastically in spite of his limited vision and the touches of the master are still to be glimpsed. but he had to wait until Friday for his first win. He kindly agreed to present a tableful of trophies and thanked the manager for his hard work throughout the week and a well organised tournament

TOURNAMENT RESULTS

Budleigh Salterton 8 - 13 May 2000

Manager: J. McBurnie-Wood Format: American Block A: J. Gibbon s Block B: Mrs. M. Pena Winner: J. Gibbons

Block C: Dr. M. Lester Block D: B. Judson Winner: Dr. M. Lester

Block E: R. Bourke Block F: Mrs. M. Smith Winner: R. Bourke

CA Award Scheme: Silver: J. Beech, M. Gill

Sidmouth June Week 4-7 June 2000

Manager: Ron Selmes Format: American Block A: Mary Smith Block B: Sheila Adams Winner: Sheila Adams

14pt Doubles Winners: Margaret Pena & Amanda Prowse

CA Award Scheme: Bronze: Amanda Prowse Silver: Leslie Carrick

Sidmouth June week 8 - 10 June 2000

Manager: Ron Selmes Format: Egyptian

1st Tony Dunstan-Smith 2nd Paul Whittal

3rd Hugh Smorfitt

Rvde 9-11 June 2000

Manager: Philip Kennerley Format: Egyptian 2 Blocks Egyptian Block A 1st S. Comish Block B 1st M. Leach

Nottingham Weekend 10 - 11 June 2000 Manager: P.J. Death Format: Swiss

1st R.K. White 2nd Mrs. M. Boyd 3rd J.G. Allen

Harrow Oak Handicap 10 - 11 June 2000 Manager: Richard Hilditch Format: Swiss

1st John Norris

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Compton 1A & 1B H/Cap 12 - 14 June 2000

Manager: Arthur Nelson Format: American/

Winner David Parkins

Runner Up Robert Alexander 3rd Place Paul Miles

Roy Wallis

David Mundy Graham Thompson

Woking Midsummer Open 16 - 18 June 2000

Manager: Geoff Cuttle Format: Swiss

Singles: 1st Roger Hayed 2nd Nelson Morrow

3rd Malcolm Bigg, Geoff Cuttle Doubles: 1st Andy Davies & Malcolm

Bigg Lamm

Nelson Morrow & Rich

Hunstanton 50+ 16 - 18 June 2000

Manager: Nick Harris Format: Egyptian

Winner: Paul Mill 2ndKen Anderton

3rd David Waterhouse

Bristol Handicap 17 - 18 June 2000

Manager: Hamish Hall Format: Swiss/KO KO Winner: Margaret Pena

Runner Up: Marion Hilton

Northampton Handicap 17 - 18 June 2000

Manager: Norman Hicks Format: Egyptian 1st Nick Evans

2ndOwen Bryce 3rd Norman Hicks

CA Award Scheme:

Bronze - Bryan Porteous

Newport Handicap 17 - 18 June 2000 Manager: Jim Potter Format: Swiss

1st John Rolfe 2ndRoger Ivill

3rd Colin Hemming

Woking Handicap Doubles 19-20 June

Manager: Peter MacGowan Format: American 1st Peter MacGowan & Geoff Cuttle

2ndMalcolm Bigg & Liz Batin

Colchester Handicap 23 - 25 June 2000 Manager: Norman Hicks Format: Egyptian

1st Gerry Varndell

2ndJonathan Hills 3rd Joan Collis

East Midlands Championships 23-25 June

Format: KO

Manager: Ian Vincent 1st Winner Dave Kibble

2nd Nick Evans Plate: 1st Lionel Tibble

CA Award Scheme Silver: Nick Evans, Dave Kibble

Woking Handicap Singles 23-25 June 2000 Manager: Malcolm Bigg Format: American

Main Block 1st Steve Woolnough 2nd Mick Belcham

Consolation Block Winner: Liz Batin CA Award Scheme

Silver - Liz Batin

Crake Valley B Level 24 - 25 June 2000

Manager: David Nicholson Format: American Blocks Winners: R. Brooks, G. Curry

Winner Gail Curry

Runner Un Mike Sandler Southwick 14 pt Advanced 1&2 July

Manager: John Low Format: Egyptian

1st Ken Mason 2ndMyra Gosney

3rd Jonathon Isaacs Ramsgate Handicap 1 - 2 July 2000

Manger: Mrs. Mary Currie Format: Swiss

1st John Prentice 2ndDavid Dray

3rd Peter Highion

Norwich Handicap Weekend 1 - 2 July 2000 Manager: Mr. T. D. Sparks Format: Egyptian

1st Martin Gill 2ndAlec Bell 3rd Neil Chalmers

CA Award Scheme Bronze: William Windham

Tyneside Over 50's Handicap 4-6 July 2000

Manager: D Wright Format: Egyptian

1st Derek Robinson 2ndDon Wright 3rd Derek Watts CA Award Scheme

Bronze D. Robinson

Silver R. Vaughan, J. Grant Cheltenham Over 50's 4 - 6 July 2000

Manager: Dennis Moorcraft Format: American Block A Kenneth Pickett

Block B John Richardson Block C Jean Powell Derek Stoaling Block D

Block E David Waterhouse Block F John Farley

CA Award Scheme

Bronze: Charles Atta Martin Wrest Park July Tournament 7 - 9 July 2000 Manager: E. Audslev Format: Swiss/American

Block A: 1st R. Brown, 2nd N. Evans, 3rd L

Points Prize: I. Mantle Block B: J. Potter

Bath Club Handicap 8 - 9 July 2000 Manager: Richard Everett Format: Egyptian

1st Bob Whitaker 2ndTony Backhouse

3rd Nelson Morrow Challenge Cups, Compton 15 - 16 July 2000

Manager: R. E. Wallis Format : American Roehampton Cup Dr. F. Lawrence Whittaker Reckitt Cup Miss Samantha Symonds

Stevenson Cup Mrs. Frances Low Gilbey Handicap, Compton 13 - 14 July 2000

Manager: R. E. Wallis Format: Swiss 1st L. Wharrad 2nd R. Parkins

2nd S. Symonds Pendle Midweek 50+ 25 - 28 July 2000

Manager: Abdul Ahmad

Format: Egyptian Singles/Knockout Doubles Singles Champion Geoff Reynolds

10+ Winner Margaret Anderton 10- Winner Derek Robinson

Doubles Winners Margaret & Ken Anderton CA Award Scheme

Bronze: Denise Hoyle, Marjorie Eldon, Lorna Frost.

23

UK Rankings

Valid: At 20 October 2000

Qualification: At least 10 games since start November 1999

** (xx) indicates number of games played all time in system when xx is less than 30.

Grade Games Wins Index

	Jiauc (Jame	S 44 11	is much
1 Fulford RI	2772	103	79	2703
2 Bamford RL[SA]*		85	67	2781
3 Maugham DB	2684	131	97	2686
4 Mulliner SN	2670	115	84	2628
5 Cunningham E [I]	2644	91	68	2655
6 Irwin CJ	2593	70	54	2599
7 Clarke CD	2560	83	50	2420
8 Comish S	2520	59	37	2547
9 Avery MN	2505	49	29	2451
10 McInerney RN [I]	2446	20	12	2413
11 McInerney MJ [I]	2445	80	54	2507
12 Cordingley P	2442	97	60	2569
13 Brown RJ	2432	80	54	2489
14 Dyer JS	2420	72	46	2442
15 Trimmer PC	2408	24	13	2323
16 Williams S [I]	2393	62	35	2340
17 Hort PMG	2388	119	76	2372
18 Burrow M [Jer]	2387	47	25	2404
19 Dawson JP	2379	61	34	2331
20 Duckworth ET	2378	33	18	2410
21 Farthing CN	2375	64	37	2370
22 Harrison-Wood D	2374	97	62	2364
23 Le Moig'n A [Jer]	2369	84	51	2357
24 Openshaw DK	2365	63	33	2268
25 Heap MEW	2357	28	18	2394
26 Goacher DJ	2336	51	27	2320
27 Bond ID [S]	2333	16	9	2326
28 Gaunt DL	2331	66	44	2318
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33 Tudor GSJ [W]	2270	56	35	2319
34 Evans MJ [W]	2258	18	13	2311
35 Wilkins TJD	2252	63	40	2273
36 Death JF	2249	36	23	2188
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38 Evans NE	2246	43	31	2269
39 Noble GW	2240	41	25	2212
40 Chambers K	2239	25	16	2220
41 Tribe R	2234	13	7	2199
42 Vincent IG	2232	47	28	2189
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47 Palmer LJ [W]	2207	19	5	2143
48 White RK	2206	17		2212
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