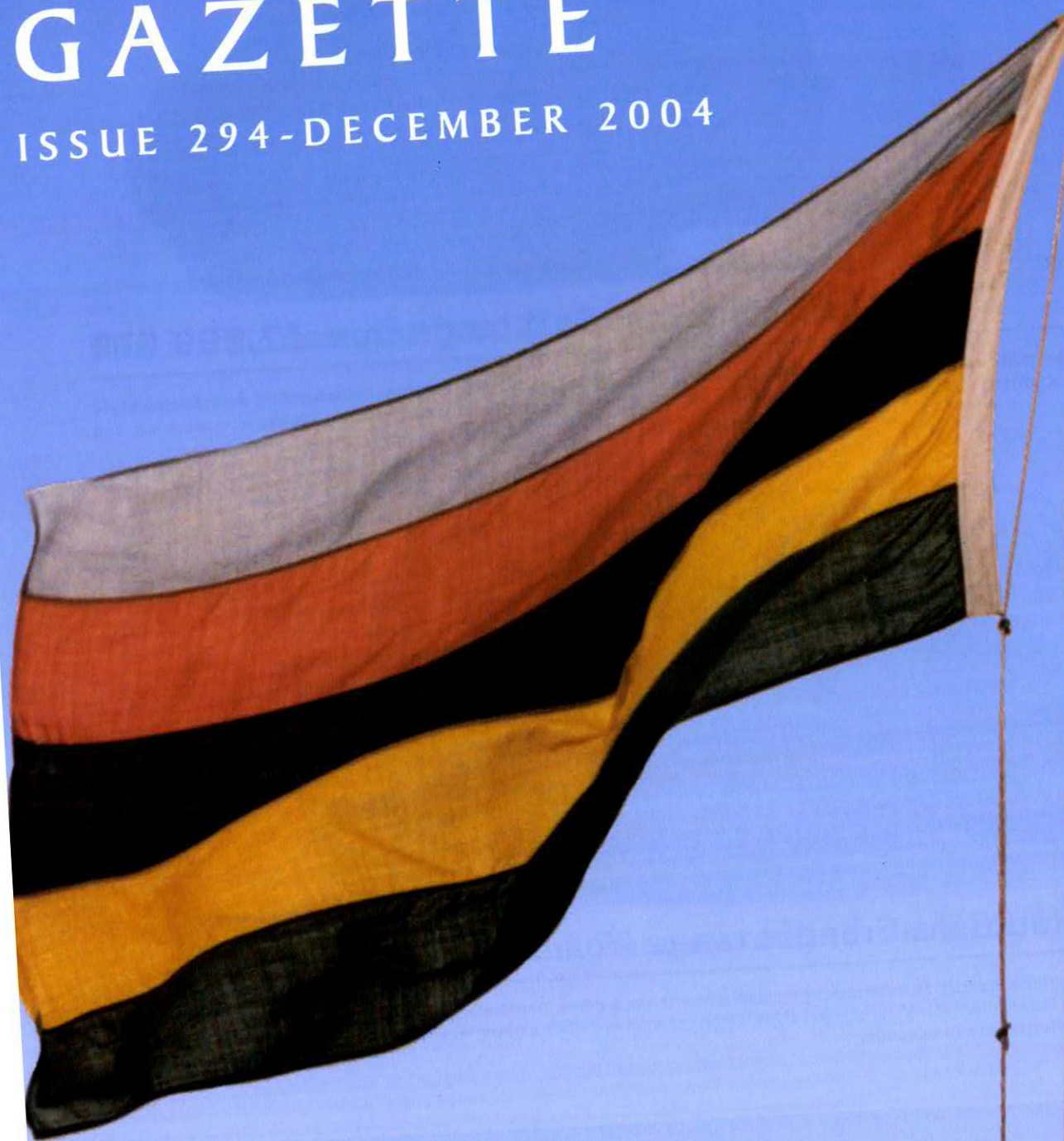




THE CROQUET GAZETTE

ISSUE 294-DECEMBER 2004



Terms & Conditions: To qualify for this exclusive offer you must take a copy of this advert and your Croquet Association membership number to your local Mitsubishi dealer. This offer is open to current membership Mitsubishi from an official UK Mitsubishi Dealer. The OTR price includes the cost of delivery to the dealer's premises, number plates and VAT @ 17.5%, along with Government road fund licence for 12 months, and DVLA 1st

holders only and applies to any new retail sale registered between the 1st October 2004 and the 30th September 2005. There is a maximum of one claim per member. Offer valid to UK residents only purchasing a new registration fee of £38. Offers are correct at time of going to press and may be withdrawn at any time. Models shown for illustrative purposes only.

MITSUBISHI ARE PROUD TO SUPPORT THE 2005 WORLD CROQUET CHAMPIONSHIP



The Mitsubishi Colt range from £7,999 OTR

A chic super-mini with a sleek design and modern attitude. Underneath the clean-cut, contemporary exterior the style continues, creating a relaxing environment in which to enjoy the most spacious cabin in its class.



The Mitsubishi Grandis range from £18,499 OTR

The new Mitsubishi Grandis is as stunning to look at as it is to drive. Concealed beneath its sporty curves is a super spacious interior incorporating our unique Hide and Seat system™ that allows you to transform from a 7 seater into a cargo hauler effortlessly in seconds.



The Mitsubishi Outlander range from £16,999 OTR

The new Mitsubishi Outlander combines safety, visibility and 4-wheel drive power, with the practicality of an estate and the drive of a saloon. You can now also experience the Outlander Dualfuel.



The Mitsubishi Shogun range from £22,999 OTR

The Mitsubishi Shogun gives you the confidence to cope with anything. With a pedigree spanning across 20 years of off roading and reliability that doesn't compromise on power, performance or style. The Mitsubishi Shogun, the full on 4X4 experience.

£500 OFF ANY NEW MITSUBISHI

An exclusive offer open to all Croquet Association Members.

To find your nearest Mitsubishi dealer visit us at www.mitsubishi-cars.co.uk or call 0845 330 2002

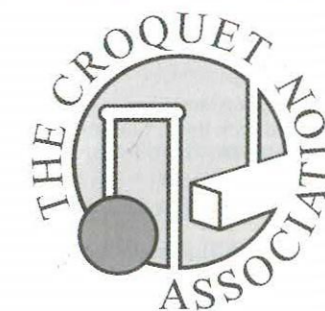
DRIVE ALIVE



THE CROQUET GAZETTE

ISSUE 294-DECEMBER 2004

Price £3.00



Next Issue Published 21st January 2005

Copy Deadline 15th February 2005

Contents

Editorial	7
Letters	8 - 9
President's Address <i>Bernard Neal pays tribute to John Solomon</i>	10 - 12
Review <i>The second edition of David Drazin's Croquet Bibliography</i>	13
All on the Toss of a Coin <i>What advantage is there to playing at home?</i>	14
CA Publications Survey - the results	14 - 15
Electronic Scoreboards <i>A feasibility study into new technology</i>	16 - 17
Obituary <i>Ashley Heenan, former WCF President</i>	18 - 19
English Week in Florida	19
Association Coaching	20 - 21
Inter-Counties Championships 2005	22
News & Information	23
Chairman's Column	23

Front cover photograph by James Hawkins:

Budleigh Salterton's croquet weather vane, with the Croquet Association flag.

Visit the Croquet Association website at www.croquet.org.uk

BELLINGHAM

OUR FOUNDER'S
Shiraz
2001
Made in honour of Bellingham's inspired and passionate
founding father, Bernard Podlashuk, this Shiraz
reflects his ingenuity, vision and love for fine wine.
WINE OF SOUTH AFRICA

Classic, Modern, Exceptional

Bellingham wines are available to buy from Sainsbury's, Tesco, Waitrose and Makro.

CA contacts**Secretary**

Nigel Graves
The Croquet Association, c/o Cheltenham Croquet Club, Old Bath Road, Cheltenham, GL53 7DF.
01242 - 242318
caoffice@croquet.org.uk

President

Bernard Neal, 41 Asquith Road, Cheltenham, GL53 7EJ
01242 - 510624

Chairman of Council

Ian Vincent
29 Thoresby Road, Bramcote Hills, Beeston, Nottingham, NG9 3EN.
0115 - 9253664
ian.vincent@nottingham.ac.uk

Treasurer

Dr Roger Bray
Street Cottage, Polstead Hill, Polstead, Colchester, Essex, CO6 5AH.
01206 - 263405 (H)
rubray@tiscali.co.uk

Gazette Editor

James Hawkins
38 Ballantrae Road, Allerton, Liverpool, L18 6JQ.
0151 - 7242140
gazette@croquet.org.uk

Press Officer

Rebecca Hopkins
ENS Limited, 42 Fullerton Road, London, SW18 1BX
020 8871 3865
rebecca@ensltd.com

Tournament Committee

Richard Hoskyns
25 Burlington Road, London, W4 4BQ
020 8994 3244 (H & F)
richard_hoskyns@compuserve.com

Marketing Committee

Jeff Dawson, Wildcroft, 112 Potters Lane, Send, Woking
GU23 7AL
01483 776971
jeff@wildcroft.fsworld.co.uk

International Committee

Phil Cordingley, 1 Milbro Court, 35 Anson Road
London N7 0RB.
020 7609 3040
phil_cordingley@tiscali.co.uk

Laws Committee

Barry Keen, 20 Grove Park, Knutsford, Cheshire,
WA16 8QA
01565 632420
barry.keen1@ntlworld.com

Equipment Committee

Alan Pidcock
The Manor House, 1 Barn Croft, Penwortham,
Preston PR1 0SX
01772 743859
pidcock@manorh.u-net.com

Coaching Committee

Brian Fisk, 7 Woodfield Drive, Winchester SO22 5PY.
01962 865458
brian@fiskfamily.org.uk

Golf Croquet Committee

Bill Arliss, 30 Hove Park Villas, Hove BN3 6HG,
01273 - 728204
arliss@mistral.co.uk

Selection Committees

Assoc: Phil Cordingley
(details above)

Golf: Bill Arliss
(details above)

Handicap Committee

Cliff Jones, 3 Queen Street, Budleigh Salterton, EX9 6LB
01395 446700

Development Committee

Patricia Duke-Cox
171 Witham Road, Woodhall Spa, Lincoln, LN10 6RB.
01526 354878 (H) 0794 4487880 (M)
dukecox@aol.com

Management Committee

Jonathan Isaacs, Meers Farm, The Hollow, West
Chiltington. RH20
2QA.
01798 - 817326 (H) 01798 - 817393 (F)
isaacs.wapping@virgin.net

Publishing Committee

Charles Waterfield
The Lodge, Great Broughton, Middlesbrough,
N.Yorks, TS9 7HA
01642 - 712551
waterfield@beeb.net

Regional Reps on Council**East Midlands**

Patricia Duke-Cox (details above)

East Anglia

Robert Bateson, 3 Applecroft, Northchurch,
Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire, HP4 3RX
01442 866004 (H) 01494 535011 (O) 01494 452487 (F)

London & South East

David Mooney
121 Highlands Heath, London SW15 3TZ
020 8789 7707
d.mooney@rnjm.com

North West

Barry Keen (details above)

Croquet North

Charles Waterfield (details above)

South West

Cliff Jones (details above)

Southern

Pat Kennett, 7 Woodfield Drive, Winchester SO22 5PY.
01962 865458
pat@fiskfamily.org.uk

West Midlands

No representative

Yorkshire

Julian Tonks, 13 Hobgate, Acomb Road, York,
YO24 4HE.
01904 - 791254

Editorial

Well, there's not much news from me, really. Regular readers will recall my imminent house move three months ago. Few things change, and the move is *still* imminent. My furniture's *still* wrapped in newspaper and bubble-wrap, and I'm *still* having to write my editorials sitting cross-legged on the floor.

Give it another three months and maybe I'll be hanging pictures in the new place (I've just laid my hands on a rather nice image of kittens playing croquet in a Canadian catfood advert - just the thing for the mantelpiece). But, for the time being, the *Gazette* will continue to be produced from the same address. As I say in every editorial, I'll let everyone know the new address for contributions as soon as I'm in the picture.

Some ongoing correspondence concerns our excessive fondness of jargon. I've some sympathy with Andrew Bennet's complaint (see Letters page) over the usage of the word "Tealady" to describe a corner-to-corner shot. But excising the rogue term from all tournament reports can't be the right solution.

The shot in question has become more and more common at Croquet's top level over the last five years, and it seems evident that the word has now stuck. Like it or not, it's now part of our language, and its inclusion surely hurts no one.

This sets me wondering, though, about how much we talk in code, and how this affects outsiders' perception of the game. I recall a club taster day, many years ago, when one of our newer, elderly members was coerced into explaining the game to newcomers. Her sales patter - and I paraphrase for illustrative purposes - ran something like this: "You hit the ball with the mallet, and that's called a roquet ... and ... er ... there's, like, all different shots and names and everything." The prospective member never came back.

The point is that we're all guilty of dressing the game up in words which are designed to confuse the beginner. Roquet, croquet; rush, crush; half-roll, full-roll, pass-roll; pilot, pivot and pioneer. Given that you're reading this, you've probably assimilated all that jargon, and don't see such a great problem. As coaches, recruiters and ambassadors of the game, we need to be careful that the terminology doesn't become the message, rather than the mechanics of each shot.

I ran a course for aspiring coaches at the start of last season, and asked this question. Should we ditch all our terminology in favour of layman's terms throughout? The answer was a resounding no. A croquet stroke is a croquet stroke, and either I teach my students the vocab, or they'll be lost as soon as they're away from my guidance.

I don't dispute that, but what we

should aim for is a common language spoken by all of us. "Pilot", to describe the ball at the current hoop, is far from universal. "Rigall" (to peg out an opponent), a common enough term 20 years ago, has all but died out with the current generation of players. Words we take for granted such as "pivot" (the "loose ball" in Australia) or even "hoop" ("wicket" in the US) are met with blank looks from overseas players. Where Association players rush or scatter balls, Golfers refer to clearances. Even the hoop numbering is different between the two formats of the game.

One of (Association) Croquet's more bizarre words is "rover". Why not Hoop 12? 6-back? Or "ult", in common with "penult"? The current name is a throwback to the sequence game which died out a century ago. Then, a ball which completed the course would be obliged to play every fourth turn, even if partner was yet to score. The advanced ball would "rove" round the court, improving the team's position, or derailing the opponents.

It's a fact of life. Words fall out of favour. New words come into existence. Original meanings are lost, and pirated for new usage. Croquetese, like English, is full of inconsistencies. If only someone would produce a phrasebook to enable all of us to communicate.

Publication Details

The Croquet Gazette is published six times per year, in February, April, June, August, October and December.

Publication Schedule

Copy should reach the Editor BEFORE the 15th of the month before publication is due, unless otherwise informed.

Advertising

Full details of all advertising rates and data are available at all clubs as well as via the CA Shop and the Secretary of the CA.

Specific Questions and Queries

Specific questions or queries should be sent direct to the Editor. Email contributions, including tournament reports, should be sent direct to the Editor, or copied to the Editor if they are being posted to the Nottingham List.

Both black and white or colour prints of photographs can be used. Slides are no longer accepted. Photocopies of pictures or print-outs of digital images cannot be used. If using digital photography please send in jpeg or tif format files. Resolution of scanned images must be at least 300 dpi. Please detail on the reverse of all photos the subject of the picture, and, if you require the photographs to be returned, please include your address on the reverse.

Tournament Results and Reports

Emailed reports are welcomed. Attachments may be sent in Microsoft Word format, or any other PC-based word processor. Hand written reports are no longer accepted.

Delivery Queries

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

Disclaimer

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

LOOKING FOR A NEW MALLET TO IMPROVE YOUR HANDICAP?

CHOOSE AN MCP MALLET from a wide range of sizes and weights, fitted with a traditional wooden shaft or the increasingly popular lightweight carbon fibre tube with its amazing strength & torsional rigidity. A range of grips and quality mallet bags are also available. Alterations and repairs undertaken to any mallet, please ring for a quotation.

Contact Mike Percival, The Laurels, Heath Road, Hessett, Bury St. Edmunds, IP30 9BJ
Telephone: 01359 270200 Mobile: 07780 677943
Web: www.croquetmallets.co.uk
Email: mike@croquetmallets.co.uk

The John Hobbs Mallet

The mallet that adjusts to your grip.

You set the handle to whatever angle best suits your style of grip and swing.

Optional curved bottom to 12" heads
Easily dismantled for airline travel

Light aluminium shaft, nylon shock absorber, variable weight heads - see web site:
<http://members.aol.com/Hobbsmall>

John Hobbs, The Lewins, Mayfield Road,
Rotherfield, E. Sussex, TN6 3LS
Tel: 01892 852072 Email: Hobbsmall@aol.com

Letters

From John Solomon

May I, through your columns, say how overwhelmed I was at the AGM on the occasion of my retirement as President of the Croquet Association.

Our new President, Bernard Neal, in his closing address, was more than generous in his review of my playing career and also paid tribute to the work I have done as President. He also presented me with the Association's Gold Medal, which is a great honour. He also presented a lovely bouquet of flowers to Barbara who invariably supported me throughout my term of office. It has been a wonderful privilege and pleasure to represent the CA for so long not only in this country but also many times overseas when it was important to wave the CA flag.

It was very moving when David Openshaw read out so many tributes from my friends from overseas, and, at the dinner which followed, presented me with a beautifully mounted Certificate on behalf of the United States Croquet Association.

Ian Vincent presented me with a most original engraved butter dish mounted on four mallets, with balls and hoops on behalf of the CA, and Steve Mulliner, at the end of the meeting presented a video he had managed to salvage from some old ciné films in poor condition, showing also my contemporaries Humphrey Hicks and Pat Cotter.

It is almost impossible to express my thanks and appreciation for a wonderful afternoon and evening and I would like to thank all those who attended the dinner, many from considerable distances.

I hope that you all have a very happy and successful season in 2005.

John Solomon
Past President

Golf Croquet Scoreboards

As visitors to the last Golf Croquet World Championship will know, we manufactured a number of scoreboards. We now have 15 in total. It is extremely unlikely that we will want all of these for one tournament unless we

run another world event at some time in the future. I would like these to be available for clubs around the country to borrow if they are running major Golf Croquet events.

I am therefore proposing that we split the boards into three groups. Six will be retained at Southwick for future major competitions, and two other groups of five and four will be located at other clubs around the country. All boards will be available for clubs to borrow free of charge but they will be expected to pay all carriage charges to and from the host clubs. The group of four are self-standing with their own easels but the group of five require twin posts. The boards will remain the property of the CA who will always have first call.

If there are some clubs around the country who would be willing to act as caretakers for one of these groups of boards, please get in touch with me on 01273 728204 or arliss@mistral.co.uk. Clubs in the SE Federation will not be considered as there are six at Southwick.

Bill Arliss
Golf Croquet Chairman

A Bomb-proof friendly format?

For 'friendly' games, in which it is desirable that both players get some play, I can thoroughly recommend the format that awards 1 bisque per 3 points difference to any player trailing by that amount at the start of a turn. These bisques are only valid for the turn in question and cannot be 'saved': but neither can they be 'lost' - except by making progress and so reducing, or reversing, the points difference for subsequent turns. I have used this format for all my friendly games in 2004, and (so far) it has always yielded plenty of play on both sides and a close final result - against players from 0 to 16 handicap steps better than me. An important additional benefit is that it encourages ambitious play and the properly aggressive use of bisques.

David Wedmore
Ealing

No more jargon

Having been out of tournament play for some time, and having complained in somewhat less than temperate terms some years ago about jargon, may I request a brief, clear explanation of a TEALADY and then plead for its excision from future reports?

Furthermore, may I complain again about jargon? We should be de-mystifying the terminology, which has quite enough officially contained in the Laws to cause information overload for anyone wishing to take up croquet.

Andrew Bennet
Brighton

Golf Croquet Handicap System

The assertion that 90% of golf croquet players have little interest in competitive play [Letters, *Croquet Gazette*, Issue 293 - October 2004] does not match my own experience in the two clubs where I organise singles and doubles competitions. Players at both clubs are mainly high bisquers but keen to be competitive and keen to make effective use of the bisques they are entitled to.

The letter-writer says he is an "active coach of golf croquet". The bisque system has little chance of ever being accepted as the norm if such "active coaches" deliberately avoid using it and substitute bizarre rules of their own. Clubs affiliated to the Croquet Association should accept that it is the CA and not individuals who must set down the standards and rules of play.

It is important that players should be shown, either by example or by being referred to the available literature, how to use their bisques effectively. They should then be encouraged to practice what they have learnt by using bisques at every opportunity whether it be friendly or competitive play.

Players should be taught, and preferably by an "active coach of golf croquet", how they must always try to use a bisque to promote a scoring situation (usually via their partner ball) for a

hoop that would otherwise have been lost. Without coaching, bisque use is misunderstood and often wasted on retrieving a bad situation which is then immediately countered by the opponent's next stroke.

I have witnessed the joy on the faces of those who have successfully used a bisque stroke that indirectly causes a hoop to be scored for their side.

If high bisquers were aware of the special techniques and skills peculiar to bisque strokes, they would be able to add a new dimension to their game and thereby make it much more enjoyable. Conversely, low bisquers would find the games they play more demanding and challenging, and possibly find themselves losing games which they would otherwise have easily won.

The goal of anyone who is involved in golf croquet and especially "active coaches" should surely be to improve the quality of the game, and in my view the bisque system will help in this by achieving a higher standard of play.

Richard Mills
Bath

There is some merit in Chris Bennett's idea for Golf Croquet handicaps. Any scheme that brings further interest to Golf Croquet is worthy of consideration, but I believe there are also some flaws if we consider the countrywide use of the handicap system. Chris claims his system works for 3-6 handicaps, but I feel that its extension much further would produce some very unacceptable results.

The assessment of who plays GC is I believe the main problem. I agree that the majority of the GC fraternity are not so willing to travel and pay B&B expenses as the Association players, but there is certainly quite a lot of fierce GC competition at local level.

In the SE Federation our local leagues are played on a handicap basis and it is very common for scratch and even minus players to be involved in this league. We also run a Golf Croquet Day once a year and again this is handicap. I had 16 teams of four players entered this year. The CA run the All England GC competition which is a

national handicap event.

We therefore need a system that will work over most of the handicap range. Probably the main factor against Chris's system for national use would be its inability to establish a national standard for handicaps. The present automatic system is designed to respond to level play as well as handicap play. This is essential if we want a consistent standard throughout the country, as the vast majority of national competitions are all level. There may only be one national handicap competition but we believe it is important to maintain this as a help in the general development of GC players. Higher handicappers do also visit other parts of the country and play.

I think we are both tending to seek different goals, Chris with his social aims and me with the competitive approach. Possibly there is room for both.

Bill Arliss
Golf Croquet Chairman

CA Counties Teams

I wish to object about the way CA Select teams are employed in the Inter-Counties.

If the full number of teams, i.e. 22, do not enter I would prefer that the draw was made only with these teams, splitting them as equally as possible between the two divisions. I would be happy to play a few less games, say with 10 teams in each division. Not everyone welcomes eating dinner at 9pm every night.

If it is felt necessary to make the two divisions have the same number of teams only one CA Select team need be employed.

If it is decided we have to have 22 teams, and there is more than one CA Select team required, they should be spread equally between the two divisions. It is not fair to put them all in the second division.

In addition, the result of games against them should not be counted for promotion/relegation purposes. The members of CA Select teams can vary so much from day to day, even game to

game, that, depending on when you meet them, one day you might be beaten thoroughly and the other win convincingly.

I believe from speaking to other Inter-Counties competitors that I am not alone in holding some if not all of these opinions.

I would request that at least some of these changes are implemented for the 2005 season.

Tom Anderson
Sharnbrook, Beds

The Honours List

Having just seen the English rugby team accepting their well-deserved OBEs and MBEs I am reminded of the letter which appeared recently in the Gazette commenting on the fact that when we won the World Rugby Cup there was enormous media coverage, whereas within a week or two we had won the MacRobertson Trophy for the fifth time in succession and this had little or no exposure.

Some may think that the Queen, or the Prime Minister, or the Sports Minister may say "Let's give them an honour", but this is not the case. There is no doubt that many people will have written in, and, most particularly, the Rugby Football Union would have made a strong case for them to be honoured.

We cannot expect the full recognition we believe we should have if we do not take the initiative ourselves. I hold myself partly to blame, as President at the time, for not pursuing this and I would strongly urge that in future the President, Chairman of Council and Chairman of Publicity should seize on any opportunity to draw attention to such successes and put forward a formal request that honours should be considered. I believe such letters should be sent to the Cabinet Office.

John Solomon
Past President

President's Address

Reproduced in full from the CA AGM is Bernard Neal's tribute to his predecessor, John Solomon

You will have gathered from the Chairman's Report that the Council and its Committees have, as always, been extremely active during the past year. I hope that when you return to your clubs you will be able to answer the question "What does the CA do to benefit us"? I thank Council members on your behalf for all the work they do, usually behind the scenes.

Since the last AGM there has been a loss to the world of croquet which I am sure you would wish me to refer to. Ashley Heenan OBE, of New Zealand, who died recently, became the first President of the World Croquet Federation when it was formed in 1989, an office which he held until 1994. He played in the MacRobertson Shield in 1951, where he met a young John Solomon playing in his first Test series. This began a lifelong friendship based on their love of croquet and music. Ashley managed the successful New Zealand Test team in this country in 1986, and the team insisted that he played in the last match. He was President of the New Zealand Croquet Council from 1985 to 1988.

The rest of this Address will be devoted to John Solomon's presidency, his influence on the game, and his prowess as a player, no doubt to his embarrassment.

The Association has been exceptionally fortunate to have had John as President for 22 years. During that time, in addition to normal presidential duties, he has travelled widely to croquet events in other countries, and because of his legendary status his visits have had huge influence.

The Channel Islands, France, Switzerland and Italy have found his visits inspirational; they stimulated exchanges of teams and the development of the game in those countries, with France even staging a World Championship. Other trips were also made to the Republic of Ireland and the Bahamas, and John also coached extensively in South Africa before he became President.

John also attended three of the four World Championships which have



John Solomon, who retired after 22 years as CA President at this year's AGM

been held overseas: Newport R I in 1992, Fontenay-le-Comte, France in 1995 and Bunbury, Australia in 1997. He actually qualified as a competitor in Newport some 15 years after he announced his retirement from competition.

We have received the following message from the Australian Croquet Council.

Can you please pass on to John Solomon the very best wishes for a long and happy retirement, from Croquet Australia and the many croquet players in Australia that over such a long number of years have come into personal contact with John, and also the many, many others, who have known John through various other ways.

Many of us in Australia remember John's attendance, in 1997, at the World Croquet Championships in Bunbury, Western Australia.

The world of croquet has been very aware of John Solomon for such a long time, before in fact several of the current champions in most croquet countries were born.

It must be difficult to think of any croquet player who has had such an impact over such a long period of time in both the areas of playing and administration. The benefit to the sport of croquet from John Solomon's involvement is appreciated in all croquet playing countries.

We owe a debt of gratitude to our

peripatetic President. As his successor, I cannot promise to be such a traveller, but I will definitely attend the 2005 WCF World Croquet Championship in Cheltenham!

John has had a particular influence on the game in the USA. He was a member of the Hurlingham team which visited Westhampton in 1967, encountering a game with balls played in the sequence Blue, Red, Black, Yellow and an unusual court setting. By 1981 the USCA had adopted the standard court layout, equipment and accessories, and had benefited from several visits by Nigel Aspinall, but were playing to 'American Rules'. These involved balls played in sequence, deadness (a ball's deadness after taking croquet only relieved in that turn or a subsequent turn by scoring its hoop), and a nine inch 'yard line'.

An unofficial team, organised by Nigel Aspinall, visited Palm Beach at that time. It consisted of Nigel, John, William Ormerod and myself. A match was played against a USCA team, with half the games played according to American Rules and half Association Croquet 'International Rules'. Our team won decisively, using attacking tactics, and the precision of the play of John and Nigel made a lasting impression on the hosts. The American Rules game had favoured cautious tactics; a failed attempt at a break would render an aggressive player '3-ball dead', unable to make a roquet in a subsequent turn, and was usually fatal. The break-making ability of John and Nigel was a revelation.

John made two further visits to the USA, one a few years later to play in a select international team and the other to compete in the World Championship in 1992.

To foster the development of Association Croquet in the USA the CA's International Committee instituted an annual International Rules match between Great Britain and the USA, starting in 1988. The CA provided an American silver two-handed cup, dated circa 1910, named the

Solomon Trophy. These regular contests were a prelude to the United States joining the MacRobertson Shield contests for the first time in 1993.

At this evening's dinner John will be presented with a Certificate of Appreciation from the United States Croquet Association. The inscription is as follows:

'Presented by the United States Croquet Association in recognition of several years of unselfish service for the development of croquet in the United States of America.'

I must now appear to digress, for a reason which will shortly become obvious, by referring to my very good friend Tremaine Arkley, who is an Honorary Member of our Association. Tremaine is a distinguished player who represented the USA in four Solomon Trophy teams and in their first MacRobertson Shield in 1993. He has a superb collection of croquet art and other memorabilia and many will remember the beautiful paintings he loaned to the Centenary exhibition at the Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Museum in 1997.

Tremaine has asked me to make the following announcement, on behalf of his wife Gail and himself; they deeply regret they are unable to be present today.

We are making a bequest in John's name to the CA of many 19th and 20th century croquet items from our collection. The items include trophies, CA medals and signed first edition books including presentation copies and books from the personal libraries of many famous old English croquet players. We will also give some appropriate pieces of English croquet art. We will endow the bequest with a purchasing fund for future purchases.

During our lifetime we will maintain and continue to add to this Solomon Collection and when the CA is prepared to accept part or all of the pieces we will make the arrangements.

I was asked to make this announcement as a complete surprise, and so Council were only informed today with John absent. Council will express

their gratitude for this wonderfully generous bequest. The naming of the Collection after John shows how very highly he is regarded in the USA.

From the time when he first burst on the croquet scene in 1951 as a 19-year-old member of the Test team travelling to New Zealand in 1951 (by ship in those days), John has exerted a huge influence on the way the game is played. He soon began to promote, by his example, more adventurous play, using the triple peel as a means of winning games in two turns rather than three. A three-ball triple was his answer to Patrick Cotter's defensive ploy in an Open Championship semi-final of refusing a lift shot and placing a ball in corner 1.

Colin Prichard, in the Centenary Yearbook, declared that 'He kept croquet's flame alight through the dark days of the fifties and early sixties, and beyond,' and David Prichard, in his History of Croquet, wrote 'He was constantly trying out new gambits which disconcerted his opponents and astonished the spectators. Subtle leaves, daring openings and a wealth of spectacular feats flowed from his fertile brain.'

John pioneered the concept of the sextuple, although his leave differed from the modern 'delayed' leave. The one disappointment in his astonishing career is that he only completed the six peels and peg out once, in a friendly game in New Zealand. But his most amazing peeling feat was in the Open Doubles in 1972, when his partner Patrick Cotter failed to appear for their first round match. Starting each game by placing Cotter's ball in corner 1, John won the match by the unbelievable score of +24 +21, peeling Cotter's ball through all twelve hoops in both games.

Fittingly, in 1991, John presented a trophy to be awarded to the player completing most peels in the Open Championship.

John became Chairman of Council at the extraordinarily young age of 30. He immediately addressed the problem of excessively long games between high bisquers of similar

handicaps, and advocated the full bisque system. He returned to this theme in his book in 1966, and again in his 1997 Solomon lecture. Alas, games lasting five or six hours still occur, and some full bisque games are played with too high a base. The other theme which he has always pressed is the use of shortened games, and this campaign has met with greater success.

At the Dinner this evening John's playing career will be covered in some detail. Here I will confine myself to pointing out that in the latter half of the sixties, new players of world class calibre were emerging, Nigel Aspinall and Keith Wylie in particular. With a Test Tour to Australia due in January 1969, competition was especially fierce. Yet John won six successive Open Championships from 1963-68. He seemed, and indeed was, unbeatable.

John was a very complete player. His shooting combined great power with accuracy, and his book is well worth reading for his thoughts on this subject. The 1969 Test team met at Hurlingham shortly before departure for Australia, and John took us out to lawn 7 for a brief practice. He placed 4 balls on A-baulk and shot at hoop 1. All four went cleanly through and John pronounced himself satisfied with his swing. He had not held a mallet for three months!

John was also a superb exponent of croquet strokes. I count myself fortunate that when I took up the game in the sixties I could watch him and learn these strokes by imitation; many others also copied John.

In his book John describes at length the 'two main grips, the Irish grip and the standard grip.' He then goes on to say 'My own grip is somewhat strangely neither of these; in fact I am almost alone in adopting it.' This was doubtless true in 1966, but certainly not now.

There are two points which have escaped John's many imitators. The first is that John only used the Solomon grip for single-ball strokes; he played all his croquet strokes using the standard grip. Secondly, he was

ambidextrous; his Solomon grip had the right hand uppermost, while for croquet strokes the top hand was his left. This variation seemed natural to him.

John had the ability of all champions to raise his game when necessary and to bring off the apparently impossible shot. An example comes from one of the finest games I have ever seen. In a Champion of Champions match in 1969, John pegged out two balls against Nigel Aspinall, leaving Nigel for hoop 1 and himself for penult. Playing inspired croquet Nigel had reached rover before John had made that hoop, and was lurking on the side boundary with John in position. John ran rover, finishing about a yard beyond the hoop with apparently no shot at the peg. He turned round and calmly jumped over rover to hit the peg. Perhaps he remembered how, in 1957 at Cheltenham, he had jumped

over hoop 2 to peg out.

John has been a great champion, and like other great champions he always had an impeccable court demeanour. I can only remember one occasion when his feelings showed, when his ball unaccountably drifted over the boundary at Hurlingham. I am sure that I detected one eyebrow slightly raised and the forehead furrowed.

He was a perfect role model throughout his career, and to adapt Kipling's famous words, reproduced over the Centre Court entrance at Wimbledon, he always treated those two impostors, triumph and disaster, just the same.

John has been paid many tributes, but my favourite is by John Prince, of New Zealand, himself a legend of the game, quoted in Mulliner and McCullough's book. "The most complete player I have seen is John Solomon - to watch him play is like lis-

tening to a favourite piece of music; there is an artistic quality about his play".

John Solomon has rendered exceptional, and indeed unique, services to the game of croquet, both in this country and across the world. I now invite him to accept the Council Medal, the highest award which the Council is empowered to make.

Throughout his Presidency John has enjoyed the support of his wife Barbara, and she is much loved by all in the croquet world. I now ask her to accept a bouquet of flowers as a small token of our affection.

Finally, I wish Barbara and John many more years during which they continue to enjoy their musical and theatrical activities.

The meeting closed with a standing ovation for Barbara and John.

Review : Croquet - A Bibliography

by David Appleton

The first edition of David Drazin's *Croquet A Bibliography* was reviewed by Tremaine Arkley in Issue 265 of the Croquet Gazette which appeared in January 2000. The book then had xx + 508 pp; now it has expanded to xvi + 924 pp. In the first edition the main section consisted of 314 books and pamphlets; the second edition has increased this number to 542 (including its own first edition). As the table below shows, the new entries cover all periods, though a substantial part of the increase is due to publications which have appeared in the last few years.

The number of patents has increased rather less, having grown from 125 to 176. As well as this greater coverage two other major changes have taken place: there are now many photographs of the covers of the items

catalogued, which makes the book more interesting and much more attractive, and the second edition has been produced, not on paper, but as a CD.

To read the 13MB file one should preferably have a copy of Acrobat Reader, currently available as version 6.0, though I have tried it with version 4.0 which worked adequately. With the newest version on a modern computer, however, the performance is hugely impressive, because, presented in this way, the whole text is now searchable, and very swiftly so. Not much point looking for "croquet" of course, but anyone interested in the progress of the laws of the game might look for "laws" or "rules". Or, if one wished, one could look for particular words such as "break" or "peel" or "Scotland" or "Australia". One might

do this out of mild interest, but the real value would be to someone who wishes to build up a collection of specialised items in a particular area. (Of course those who regularly search the internet for words and phrases will recognise that what you seek is not necessarily what you get. Similar considerations will apply here: for instance searching for "Scotland" turns up entries about the Royal Bank of Scotland as well as croquet in Scotland.)

The second edition is available slightly more cheaply than the first; the CD will cost you CA members £50 (otherwise it is £54.95 or US\$99.95) whereas the original book was £60. Still too much perhaps for the average croquet player but a must for serious collectors.

This CD-Rom, readable with Adobe Reader 6.0, will be published by Oak Knoll Press, USA, on 1 January, price \$109.95. Members of the CA may buy a copy at the special price of £50, including UK inland postage, from Roefield Press, Roefield, The Green, Croxley Green, Herts, WD3 3HJ.

	1860s	1870s	1880s	1890s	1900s	1910s	1920s	1930s
1st edition	48	34	10	13	12	17	13	12
2nd edition	54	45	11	18	21	23	20	26
	1940s	1950s	1960s	1970s	1980s	1990s	2000s	
1st edition	9	6	9	22	45	64	-	
2nd edition	13	28	16	34	62	137	34	

WOODLANDS CROQUET
SUNSHINY BALLS CHOSEN FOR THE 2003 MacROBERTSON SHIELD AND THE PRESIDENT'S CUP

THESE NEW CA CHAMPIONSHIP APPROVED BALLS AVAILABLE NOW IN PRIMARY & SECONDARY COLOURS

INTRODUCTORY OFFER £117 per set

OTHER BALLS
 BARLOW GT
 £139 per set
 GARDEN CROQUET BALLS
 16oz £46; 12oz £41; 7oz £36
 Postage packing and insurance adds £5 per set. PPI on multiple orders at special rates.

MALLETS, HOOPS, WINNING PEGS, FLAGS AND CLIPS AVAILABLE AT KEEN PRICES. CROQUET SETS FOR GARDENS AND HOTELS.

Advice available from John Beech by phone. Send for a full list of Top Quality Croquet Equipment & Sets.
 Woodlands Croquet, Woodlands, Skipton Road, Barnoldswick, BB18 6HH
 Phone/fax 01282 813070



English Croquet Week West Palm Beach, Florida

5-13/16 February 2005

Enjoy a winter holiday in the sun playing association croquet in America. Next years tournament will include a top class event run in parallel with other class and handicap events suitable for most players. US association players will also participate.

Highlights:

- 8 or 11 night options
- Minimum of 5 full days of croquet on immaculate lawns
- International scheduled economy flights and all transfers
- 4★ hotel on a bed and american breakfast basis
- Free time to relax or sightsee (11 night option)
- Average daytime temperature 76°F

Prices from £949 *

* Per person based on three people sharing a room for 7 nights including early booking discount. Single supplements apply. Excludes airport tax and travel insurance. Extensions and upgrades are available, ask for details.



Tel: 01825 740262 www.diplomatic.co.uk
 Play the World (A division of Diplomatic Travel Ltd)
 Coach Lane, Danehill, East Sussex, RH17 7JJ

Manor House Mallets

The originators of carbon fibre shafted mallets now offer a comprehensive range: from the 'Basic' (£82.50), the well established T-series (£130), and the 2000 mallet at £150 (inc. head wrap). All have heads of fine hardwood with screwed and glued double faces, inlaid sight lines and a high quality finish. Sustainably managed timbers.

Hollow head with brass plate extreme end-weighting (£17.50 extra)
Revolutionary 2001 model £207.50
 Mallet bags (£25), Head wraps (£7.50)

For details or discussion, contact Alan Pidcock,
 Tel & Fax 01772 743859
 e-mail pidcock@manorh.u-net.com
 The Manor House, 1 Barn Croft, Penwortham, Preston PR1 0SX

Essential reading for all golf croquet players!
 The new improved edition of...

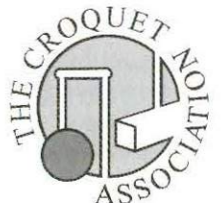
A Guide to Golf Croquet

Available from
 The Croquet Association
 e-mail sales@croquet.org.uk
 CA Shop: 01483 776971

Price £5.00 each inc. UK postage

Special rate for 10 copies

Great value



All on the toss of a coin

Home advantage gives some pretty uneven odds, argues Don Gugan

Our team lost a match last summer, 7-0. Not too surprising in level play, but this was a handicap match where each player should have had the same chance of winning. Some of the games were close, - but home advantage didn't do us a lot of good.



This started me thinking, because with fair handicaps the odds for a whitewash are 127:1 against, the same as for tossing seven heads in a row, and it didn't seem very likely. Of course, people often don't play to their handicap, so individual matches can't be predicted using statistics, but over a large number of matches, this factor averages out. The match odds are also independent of the scores in the individual games; these may matter to the players, but they don't alter the match statistics because close results also average out. If players have even chances of winning, i.e. 50%, match scores should follow a random bino-

mial distribution, - and they can be tested to see if they do.

The argument gets a bit technical (see the Oxford croquet web site <http://www.oxfordcroquet.com/tech/gugan3/>), but some results which may be of interest are outlined below:- basically, one finds that in practice the winning odds are far from even, - it's more like tossing a weighted coin.

A large number of matches is needed in order to apply statistics, but luckily the results for about 550 Longman Cup matches since 1989, and about 400 South West Federation handicap matches since 2000 can be found on the Internet. Using a standard test (the chi-square test) on various groups of these match results, the odds that they conform to the 'even chances' prediction range from 14:1 against, for the best case, to millions :1 against for others. Something is badly wrong.

The SW Federation results give the home teams, and this allows one to test whether there is any 'home advantage'. There is, and it increases a home players' winning chance from 50% to about 57%; this may not seem much, but it is equivalent to about two bisques per player. If one allows for

this effect on the match scores, it turns out that many of them are consistent with a model where the handicaps are indeed fair, provided that the 'home advantage' factor is allowed for, - so there is some good news. But the odds are still about a million to one against the Longman Cup results before 2000 conforming to a model of 'even chances plus home advantage'; if they had been fairly bisqued, those Longman results should not have occurred since the emergence of homo sapiens! The statistics suggest that the winning chance for those matches (405 of them) was not 50%, but close to 67%, which is equivalent to an advantage of about six bisques per player. Those matches had a doubles content of 60% (rather than 14% as now), but can this be the reason for the huge discrepancy in the match statistics, - and if not, what is?

As an end of season note, it turns out that the team which whitewashed us also had two 6-1 wins on the way to winning the Longman Cup. They must have played amazingly well to overcome the odds against such a combination of score lines.

Croquet Gazette and Website Survey 2004

The April 2004 *Gazette* included the CA Publishing Committee's questionnaire, whose sixty-odd questions help in selecting content of and balance between printed and on-line material. Although the returns level (15%) was a bit disappointing, it is sufficient and revealed some interesting results. The author appreciated advice and suggestions from his colleagues and Kevin Carter, and would like to thank all of you who filled in forms.

Profiles

Comparing respondents with CA membership as a whole there is a good match:

	Survey	Croquet Association
Totals	230	1600
Men	171 74%	1,150 72%
Women	59 26%	450 28%
Tournament players	179 78%	1,320 83%
Men	136 76%	960 73%
Women	43 24%	360 27%

Ages range from 27 to 90, with the distribution peaking, as expected, between 55 and 70. CA membership duration ranged widely (in some cases over 40 years), averaging 12 years, which is similar to the 2002 Survey findings. All variations of croquet are played, with Association Handicap the most common. Advanced is played more often by those in the lower age-

range. Golf croquet seems less well represented, as only 22% play regularly.

The Gazette

Members do appreciate their magazine (seen as an important benefit in 2002), possibly a lower-cost format would be acceptable, but not more frequently. Detailed results supplements are approved of by 78%, bearing in mind that 83% still view the *Gazette* as the prime 'journal of record'. Writing to the Editor or submitting material for inclusion is a minority activity. Interestingly, more than 75% of readers refer to back issues (which would be that much easier with a web-based

indexed archive).

On-line

The proportion using e-mail and/or browsing the Web (77%) is higher than in 2002 (60%) and 89% of these browse the CA website (75% in 2002). This is a remarkable result. In two years' time it is likely that 90% of members will be using the web in varying degrees!

Although more than half of you would read news and/or selected articles on-line, most (60%) would not wish to see the whole magazine go that way. Of the 148 tournament players who also go 'on-line', 119 (80%) would book tournament places, at least occasionally. Other individual services that could be offered would be used to some extent by more than half (e.g. updating personal details; although perhaps not 'Ask an Expert'). 'Distance-learning' on the Laws was an interesting suggestion.

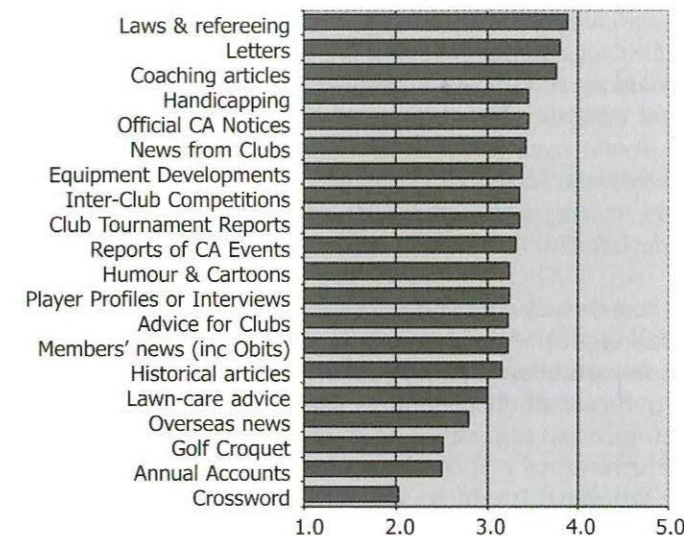
Other croquet websites and the Nottingham discussion board are consulted infrequently. Keeping all CA website archives indefinitely is supported by 54% (with 31% opting for 2-5 years).

Content

Readers were asked to prioritise their main interest areas for *Gazette* and website content. The majority (in the range 70-85%) prefer to read these in the *Gazette*, however there are topics where PC-users would accept or even prefer a website alternative (e.g. results, laws, technical advice). Coaching and Laws-related articles are the most popular features. In separate comments, tactical advice (inc triples) was mentioned, as were better diagrams (particularly using some colour).

Reports of tournament, inter-club and CA Events seem to have greatest 'support' for website presentation (where most are already presented). Golf Croquet is low down on the list (there was some support (50%) for a separate GC section/supplement, coming mainly from regular GC play-

Subject Matter (weighted-average preferences; 1 = 'not interested' to 5 = 'very interested')



ers).

Readers expressed little interest in having the Annual Accounts in their *Gazette*; maybe thought needs to be given to alternative ways of making these available to free up space for other material.

Individuals also suggested other topics (some of which do appear occasionally):

- Reviews of books, software, other websites
- Junior section
- Recruitment ideas
- Croquet-related short stories (e.g. fiction)
- Croquet abroad (e.g. winter-breaks)
- Rankings; Awards; New members
- Club profiles (with pictures)
- Centre-fold 'picture of the month' (hm!)

Conclusions

- The *Gazette* still popular, but contents should be more tailored.
- *Gazette* costs should be kept under review.
- Most popular: Coaching, Laws and Letters
- Least popular: Golf Croquet, Accounts and crossword.
- Internet usage is steadily increasing
- More on-line services would be welcomed.
- On-line *Gazette* archive would be

welcomed.

Publishing, and other CA Committees, will take these findings on board and seek to provide what many members clearly indicate they would like to see. The *Gazette* will continue to provide printed news and articles, in an informative and entertaining way - more a magazine, less a gazette perhaps. Further developments are planned with the website, which is increasingly being used for its immediacy and the services it can offer. "Times they certainly are a'changing", but members' views will not be ignored!

Charles Waterfield
Publishing Committee Chairman

Hansard House Hotel
Budleigh Salterton
Devon
 01395 442773
Beautifully Appointed
En-Suite Rooms
Croquet Players Welcome
www.hansardhousehotel.co.uk

Electronic Scoreboards : time to cast aside the clip?

Chris Hudson puts forward a case for technological advance.

Over the last couple of years, Chris Hudson has been conducting tests into the feasibility of using electronic scoreboards for Croquet. The intention is that these would supersede the use of clips for important matches. Not only would the system handle scoring and timekeeping, but provide useful reports for players, managers, referees and coaches. Here he details the benefits.

The scoreboard controller converts radio signals into commands to control the scoreboard display. There are two forms of display, one used between turns and the other used during the turn.

The scoreboard, which consists of two lines of 20 characters, is about 9 feet wide by 18 inches deep and can be customised to suit a club's needs.

Text displays can be used between turns to display sponsor advertisements and club announcements. They can be pre-programmed before an event to appear at various times during a game.

The text display is also used between turns to summarise the turn just ended (points made, bisques taken, etc.) and to answer any queries during play from the players - for example, how much time is there?, how many bisques are left?, and which is the next hoop for each ball?

At the end of the summary for the previous turn, the display shows the next hoop for each ball, as shown here in the first picture (top left). The second



Wrist-mounted scorepads are common in Japanese Gateball. Could they become widespread in Croquet?



picture (bottom left) is displayed when a signal is received showing which ball is to be played next. The ball to be played is shown by a cross on the left hand edge of the scoreboard.

The scoreboard then features the second type of display ready for the next turn, indicating the next hoop for each ball by a square sign without a centre. When a point is scored, the centre of the relevant square is filled in to show the hoop has been made in this turn, and the "next hoop" marker moves one place to the right.

Thus a spectator coming to watch a game can immediately see who is in play, how many hoops have been made this turn, and which ball is for which hoop. For example, in the third picture (top right) yellow is in play, and has made a break of 10 hoops whilst peeling red through hoop 10. The score is always shown on the right hand column of the scoreboard, and in this case, it stands at 20 - 7. Blue is for hoop 4, and Black for hoop 5.

The internal clock in the scoreboard controller is started as soon as a signal is received for the first ball to play. All the radio signals received by the controller are stored and a marker is recorded on the "history" file every 30 minutes.

The scoreboard display automatically warns the players when time is approaching, and sounds a buzzer when time is up.

At the end of the game, the players can print out the history file as a per-

manent reminder of their game if they so wish. The reports from a typical history file, printed by a small, tally roll printer are shown opposite.

The range of a handheld radio transmitter is up to 75 yards, which is more than adequate for a single croquet lawn. Each controller is coded to accept radio signals only from a transmitter with the same code. A number of scoreboards can therefore be used at the same ground without any possibility of interference.

The display can be read from a distance of up to 80 yards. The LEDs used in the display have a wide angle of view, both horizontally and vertically. The scoreboard can therefore be sited where it can be seen by players anywhere on a lawn, and by spectators sitting at ground level or higher up.

Players can print out a record of their game on a small printer, using a paper roll 2 1/4 inches wide. An average game produces a print about 15 inches long, and more than one copy can be obtained if required. The record of a typical handicap game is shown above.

A header space (not reproduced here) is provided for players to write in any details they wish to record.

The game statistics give an indication of the speed of play and provide other game details. Experience may show the need for other statistics, and these could be easily added to the record.

The "Break Summary" is self explanatory. The "Max. Points/Turn" values include any peels by the ball in play.

When peels have been made in a game, the "Peel Summary" shows the turn number in which each peel was made, together with the number of the hoop peeled in the relevant ball column. A triple peel, for example, would be shown as four lines in the "Peel Summary", each with the same full turn number.

The final game score includes "ON TIME" in any game where time has been called, in between the relevant scores.

If a peel or peels are completed in the final turn, then "nP", "nOP", or "nPO" is printed to the right of the

final score as appropriate, "n" being the number of peels completed in that turn.

The "Point Summary" shows how the score varied during the progress of the game, the centre line showing when the scores were level. Each asterisk represents a point scored.

The turn numbers are shown in the left hand column. "Full" turns are designated by successive numbers, and bisque turns within a full turn are denoted by "a", "b", "c" etc, to indicate a succession of bisques being taken.

The right hand column shows the passage of time in 30 minute intervals. Blue just managed to win in this game after "time" had been called at 3 hours. The game lasted 223 minutes.

The turn summary shows that

STATISTICS				POINT SUMMARY				MINS	
	BLU	BLK	RED	YLW	TURN	DETAIL	B&B	R&Y	
TIME/BALL (MINS)	59.8	58.8	56.5	48.3	4	BLU	*		
TOTAL TIME	118.5		104.8		4a	BSQ	*		
NUMBER OF POINTS	11	9	9	10	4b	BSQ	*		
TIME/POINT (MINS)	5.8		5.5		7	YLW	*		
NO. OF FULL TURNS	14	17	14	17	9	RED	*		
BISQUES: USED	4	1	N/A	N/A	11	RED	*		
LEFT AT END		0		N/A	12	BLU	*	30	
					14	BLU	*		
					14a	BSQ	***		
					14b	BSQ	*		
					18	BLK	*	60	
					23	RED	**		
					25	YLW	***	90	
					28	BLK	*		
					32	BLK	*****		
					32a	BSQ	***	120	
					32b	BSQ	*		
					38	BLU	*	150	
					45	RED	**		
					47	RED	****		
					48	BLK	*	180	
					51	YLW	*		
					53	YLW	*		
					56	BLU	*		
					61	YLW	**		
					TIME CALLED		*	210	
					61	YLW	*		
					62	BLU	**		
					END OF GAME		*	223	
NO PEELS ACHIEVED									

FINAL SCORE	20 ON TIME 19								

Obituary

Ashley Heenan

Ashley Heenan, who died in September, was the first President of the World Croquet Federation and a leading figure in New Zealand croquet for over 40 years.

Born in 1925, Ashley was schooled in Wellington and attended Victoria University, prior to two years' study at the Royal College of Music in London. He had joined the New Zealand Broadcasting Service at the age of 17 and returned there in 1951 working with touring overseas artists for the NZBS Concert Section. He worked as Music Assistant to two conductors of the National Orchestra, later becoming the first Musical Director of the Orchestral Trainees, a job he retained for over 20 years. This group was renamed Schola Musica - and many an experienced orchestral player emerged from its ranks.

During a busy administrative life, Ashley Heenan was able to sustain his own urge to compose. Much of his early output was film music, frequently with an indigenous flavour. Most would agree that his musical score for Baxter's *Jack Winter's Dream* was his most significant. But it was part of a large list of compositions.

Ashley lived almost his entire life in Wellington, but his influence radiated widely. He conducted the NZ National Youth Orchestra on a tour of Britain and the Far East; for more than a decade he headed the NZ Composers' Foundation; he was New Zealand's first Writer-Director of the Australasian Performing Rights Association; and, shortly before his death, he saw the publication of *God Defend New Zealand: a history of the national anthem*. This acclaimed and highly readable work was, perhaps surprisingly, the first substantial account of the history of the country's national anthem to appear in the 125 years since its composition.

His services to music were recognised with honours from the NZ Phonographic Industry, as well as the Citation for Outstanding Services from the NZ Composers' Association and



the granting of an OBE in 1983 from the Queen.

He collected first editions of Tchaikovsky and Bernard Shaw, and was a qualified pilot and rugby referee.

As for croquet, Ashley Heenan's career lasted over 44 years. He won his first title - the New Zealand National Tournament - in 1945.

As a young boy, he attracted wide publicity to croquet at a time when youth in the sport was quite unique. His victory in the NZ Opens of 1946 was featured with a full front page photo on the Wellington Sports Post.

He regained the Open Championship title in 1948, 58, 59 and 64, a record only excelled by Arthur Ross, and not exceeded until 1977 by his own pupil John Prince. In 1958 he had the rare distinction of winning in all four events of the NZ Championships for which he was eligible. In 1959 he was again finalist in all four events, and won three.

His lifelong relationship with Arthur Ross (also his father-in-law) had tremendous influence on the direction followed by croquet between 1945 and 1964. Between them, they engineered the tactics that won the 1950 MacRobertson Shield for New

Zealand. However, after that his international career was somewhat restricted by the demands of music, and he was unavailable for the tour of England in 1956. His standing as a player was such that Maurice Reckitt recorded in the *Gazette* his opinion that his unavailability was the difference between NZ winning or losing the MacRobertson Shield.

During this period, Ashley published his own highly successful magazine, *The Croquet World*, and was invited by the NZCC to be editor of the flagging *New Zealand Croquet Gazette*, then on the verge of demise. He was editor from 1957 to 1961, when he became NZ Referee, a position he also filled with distinction.

In 1957, he was appointed to a constitutional revision committee of the NZCC that made several innovative recommendations that were consequently adopted. In 1960, as chairman of the NZ Laws Re-draft Committee, he spent a week in Sydney with Ian Baillieu, working on the finalised draft of the proposed new laws. Baillieu later acknowledged the part Ashley played in resolving the seemingly insuperable differences between the CA and NZCC to produce the laws as we know them today.

In 1963 he was appointed Captain of the NZ MacRobertson team, but was forced to withdraw when awarded a UNESCO travelling Fellowship. On returning from his tour, he played in the 1964 Championships, winning the Open, and with his protege John Prince the Doubles Championship.

The demands of music saw him withdraw from the national scene, and until 1979 his croquet was limited to local club and association events. Following the death of Arthur Ross, and with some persuasive encouragement from John Prince, he once again began competing in national tournaments.

In 1979 he embarked on what virtually became a second career in croquet. In that year he was elected editor of the *NZ Gazette* for a second five year term. In 1984 he became a North Island Vice President, and in 1985 he

was appointed to the role of President. He retired from this office before completing his term, feeling that the incoming President should have a year in office before the 1990 MacRobertson Tour, and that the new constitution should come into effect with a fresh hand on the helm.

During his period of office he saw reform of handicapping, laws and the constitution of the NZCC. He established relations with the Assembly of Sport, the Hilary Commission, and new ventures into international sport. His interests in International Croquet contributed to closer relations with Australia, England and the USA.

In 1986 he managed the NZ MacRobertson visit to England, where the team accorded him the honour of playing in the last test. It was on this visit that the proposed World Croquet Federation project was initiated. In July 1989 he was unanimously elected the first President of the newly formed WCF, the nomination appropriately being put forward by his life long and close friend, John Solomon.

The measure of his wide interest in the game can in part be found in the list of trophies he has presented the NZCC through the years. He also designed the NZ Champion Pocket and Medal.

During the 1950s and 60s he spent much time touring the country often in company with Arthur Ross and later the young players John Prince and Tony Stephens playing exhibition games, giving demonstrations and coaching lessons.

As with music, he brought to New Zealand and to world croquet a sense of purpose that it sorely needed.

He is survived by his wife Maureen, two sons and two daughters.

"English Week" in Florida, 2005

By Jeff Soo

Come February 2005 British croquet players will again have the opportunity to take a respite from the British winter, by travelling to the sub-tropical clime of southern Florida for the third annual "Croquet the English Way" tournament. As usual, the tournament will be held



at the National Croquet Centre (NCC) in West Palm Beach, 7-11 February. Players can expect sunny and mild weather and excellent lawn conditions.

As implied by its name, this tournament is in many respects a typical English "week" tournament transplanted to sunnier shores. The game is Association Croquet - none of that peculiar American-rules croquet. The Tournament Manager (Richard Hoskyns) is English, as are many (perhaps most) of the players. The tournament begins with a handicap singles event and continues with advanced singles in class divisions. As far as the croquet is concerned, the main concessions to American custom will be the use of striped primary balls instead of secondary colours for double-banking, and the daily start time of 9.00am.

The NCC itself has become a bit more British this year, as Mike Jenner - a transplanted Brit - has been appointed CEO of the twelve-lawn facility. Those who have played in this tournament previously will remember the affable and outgoing Jenner, who won the handicap singles in 2004 and the handicap doubles and A-class singles in 2003. Among his improvements to the NCC is the hiring of a new catering service, who have received rave reviews from the NCC's members.

One of Jenner's goals is to develop more Association Croquet play in Florida. Florida is the traditional base of the USCA, and as a result Florida players tend to be wedded to the American-rules game. The NCC has already been the site for several international events, including the 2001 Carter Challenge (USA v. Ireland), the

2002 Solomon Trophy (USA v. GB) and the 2003 MacRobertson Shield. This month the NCC will welcome the USCA's inaugural "Eights Week" tournament, modelled after the CA's selection events. All this high-level play at America's premier croquet venue has helped to generate interest in Association Croquet among American players. Jenner is planning a multi-day Association Croquet clinic in conjunction with the "English Week", to help American players prepare for the tournament. He is also recruiting top players from around the US and Canada to enter the tournament and provide good competition for the visiting Brits.

Jenner and the NCC have faced unexpected challenges from the 2004 hurricane season, an unusually active one with several storms making landfall in Florida. Hurricane Frances brought 100-mph winds and over a foot of rain to West Palm Beach, causing widespread damage. The NCC weathered the storm well, though with the loss of some trees. After the storm passed, the NCC parking lot was turned into an emergency food distribution centre for the Red Cross, the NCC caterers providing 50,000 meals over several days.

Tournament players will be glad to know that hurricane season ends in November.

"Croquet the English Way" is jointly organized by the NCC and by Diplomatic Travel Ltd. Information is available on the WWW at www.croquetnational.com and www.diplomatic.co.uk, or from Diplomatic Travel, 01825 740262, holiday@diplomatic.co.uk

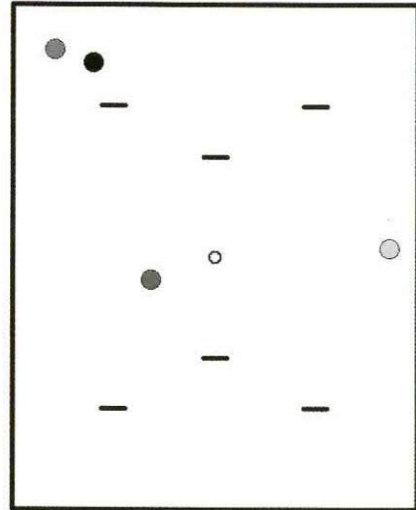
Association Tactics for Beginners and High Bisquers

No 8 - Part 2 : Establishing a Four Ball Break using Bisques (continued from Issue 293)

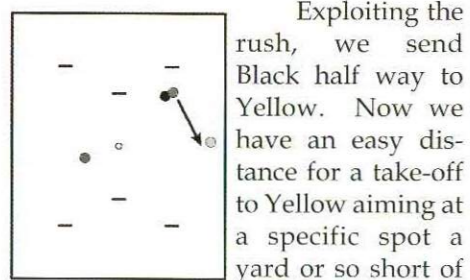
by Michael Hague

Re-use Roqueted Balls

It is important to remember that once a bisque has been taken to start a new turn, all the balls are live once more. Thus not only can we continue to set up the break but also we can if necessary go back to previously roqueted balls to use them as stepping stones and/or improve their positions for a second time in the same innings. Figure 1 sets the scene for a simple example of this added dimension of tactical thinking. Blue is joined up with Black and is for Hoop 1. Try to work out a solution for yourself before reading on.

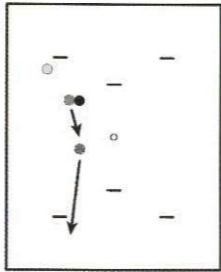
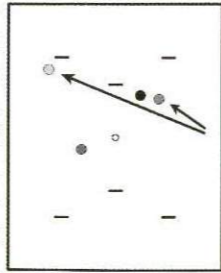


There is more than one way of setting up a 4 BB from this opening situation. What follows is the solution recommended to me by an international player of long standing. Applying the guidelines we have already established, we recognise Red as the nearest ball to Blue's hoop. It will need a dolly rush if we are to have a chance of getting it to a good position for the hoop approach to Hoop 1. We also note that Yellow is the ball out on a limb and should be the first to be dealt with.



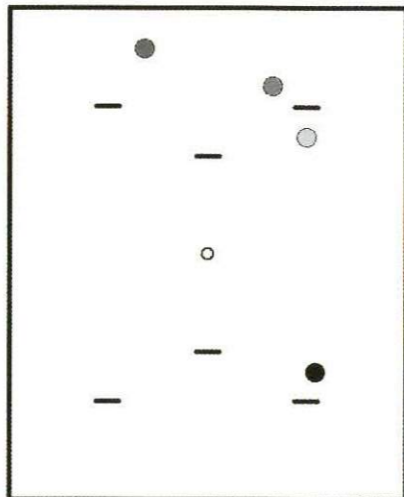
Exploiting the rush, we send Black half way to Yellow. Now we have an easy distance for a take-off to Yellow aiming at a specific spot a yard or so short of

the target ball to avoid any chance of going off. After roqueting, we use a straight half roll to position Yellow on the next but one Hoop 2. SB has a good margin of error in this half roll as we have the continuation shot to set up a dolly rush on Black. The bisque taken, Black becomes live again. It is rushed as close as possible to Red. The take-off from Black leaves Black as pivot and sets up another dolly rush, this time on Red, to send it to Hoop 1. We have created and used the double dolly!



Breaking Down

The next example depicts a very common occurrence where the hoop approach goes wrong and the SB is left unable safely to attempt to run Hoop 3, especially as an opponent's ball, Yellow, is acting as pilot and is poised to pounce on any failed hoop attempt. Partner ball, Black, waits as a good pioneer on the next but one hoop, Hoop 4.



It would seem a good idea to invest a bisque to continue with the innings. The inexperienced may be tempted to

use the continuation stroke to place SB in front of the hoop, take a bisque and continue. Balls run at right angles to in front of a hoop do not have much margin of error and often under or over shoot. It is safer to use the continuation shot to set up a rush on the pilot ball which is anyway not well placed, so that having taken the bisque, it can be rushed to the on-side of the hoop for an easy hoop approach ending with a better positioned pilot.

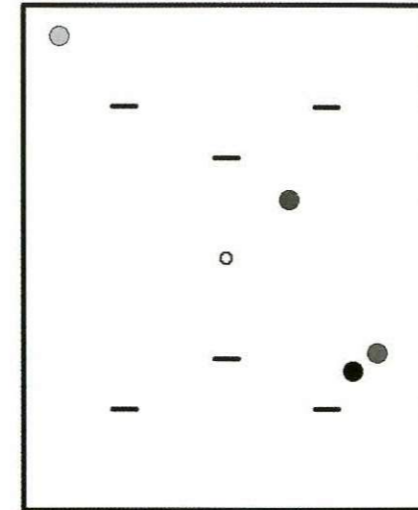
But hang on! A bisque should be used to set up or re-establish a 4BB. The measures discussed so far leave us with no pivot and one ball, Red, out of position.

The best option therefore is to use the continuation shot to send SB to a spot where it can rush Red to the pivot position after the bisque is taken. The accurate placement of a pivot is not as important as that of a pioneer, so a rush is acceptable. If a rush is not achieved, after roqueting Red, a split shot will have to be played to put Red somewhere in the middle but SB to Yellow at Hoop 3. So the lessons here are:

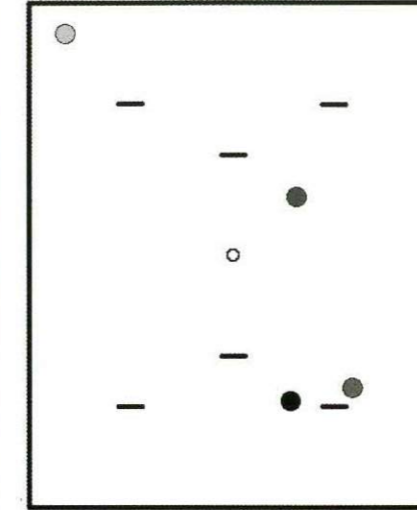
- When you break down, do not rush into the most obvious option.
- Survey the whole court and check whether a better break cannot be set up.
- Use a bisque if you can continue with a 4BB; it may take at least one to establish another break and it keeps the opponent off the court.

Establish the 4BB over several hoops

One should always be on the look out for the possibility of building up a worthwhile break in the course of running hoops as opposed to setting up the break before scoring the next hoop in order. In this illustration, Blue can rush Black to its next hoop in

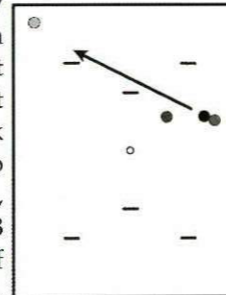


Why take a bisque now? The break is easier to bring under control after Hoop 5. This is one instance where Striker should see what happens on the next couple of hoops before worrying about bringing Yellow into play.



Same example, different outcome. Blue's played the rush to hoop 4, but failed to get position. No fear - use the continuation shot to shoot at the furthest ball, Yellow, which is just outside Corner 2.

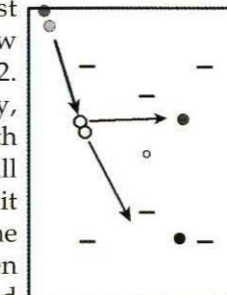
order, Hoop 4. By placing the pilot wide to ensure a good margin of error, another rush can be achieved to rush Black to Hoop 5. Pilot is again carefully positioned so that after running Hoop 5 with a two ball break, SB has a straight rush on Black towards the eastern boundary far enough for a subsequent straight croquet shot to send Black as a pioneer to Hoop 1-back, dropping off SB on the rush line of Red to Hoop 6. We are now playing a three ball break. Can we easily convert it into a 4BB?



Not unexpectedly, the answer is yes! After making Hoop 6 with Red, we just need to take off to Yellow near corner 2. Once roqueted, Yellow can be sent with a stop shot to be the pioneer at Hoop 2-back with SB coming with a bit of a split, within easy roquet distance of Black at Hoop 1-back. The 4BB has been established without using a bisque. It can be kept in reserve in case anything goes badly wrong as in the next, and final, example, where disaster strikes right from the outset!

Striker in concentrating too much on placing a good wide pilot at Hoop 4

for his 2BB to Hoop 5, allows the SB to overrun the hoop. Wisely he surveys the court and goes to plan B. Striker still has the continuation shot and Black can be left behind as a reasonable pioneer on Hoop 4. So he shoots at the furthest away ball, Yellow near corner 2. Missing closely, SB will be north of the Yellow ball with a rush on it to the south. The bisque is taken and the rush used to shorten the distance between Yellow and Red. Yellow can now be roqueted to be pioneer at Hoop 6 with SB ending up within easy roquet distance of Red. Red can be left somewhere near the middle of the court as pivot while SB takes off to rejoin Black and have a second attempt at making Hoop 4 but with a 4BB in place.



A Last Word

This concludes my series of articles on Association Tactics primarily aimed at High Bisquers but with their coaches very much in mind. So may I conclude with a few words directed to the Club Coaches who spend so much

time teaching basic strokes and skills to newcomers to the sport but usually not the same amount of time teaching tactics, which is much more interesting. The trouble is that the beginner has to become reasonably competent in stroke play before it is worthwhile really getting into tactical play. But once that point is reached, progress for the players can be accelerated if they are given understanding of the Principles of Play and the Guidelines outlined in this article for creating breaks with bisques.

The examples I have used are simple and pretty obvious. But they will not necessarily be so to High Bisquers. As long as they bring out the Principles and Guidelines, keep them simple. And do not be reluctant to use the same scenarios (mixed in with others) a second or even third time. Beginners often forget the first time round; the second time confirms in their minds some of the Principles and Guidelines; the third gives them a feeling of achievement and a start has been made to building up the memory bank.

Finally a recommended way of teaching break building with or without bisques is to set up a magnetic board on the edge of the court, display the opening situation and while the class ponders the problem, lay the next one out on the court including positioning the clips. By alternating between board and court, a lot more examples can be covered. The class should be allowed to play through some of the examples for confirmation and a sense of achievement.

If any reader has a particular scenario that brings out useful lessons, I would love to hear about it. Why reinvent the wheel?

Inter-Counties Championships 2005

The County Organisers for the two championships are listed below. If any players would like to be considered for their county teams in 2005, please contact the appropriate Organiser.

The Golf Croquet Inter Counties Championship is still developing and entries will not be finalised until later

in the year. The list below includes several Organisers for Counties that are may not field a full team. Please get in touch with the appropriate Organiser if you would like to play in this event. The Golf Croquet Committee will be happy to accept joint county entries to increase the scope of this event.

If any county Organiser changes his/her email address or telephone number please email changes to arliss@mistral.co.uk immediately.

Bill Arliss
Tournament Director

Association Croquet Inter Counties

COUNTY	NAME	TELEPHONE	EMAIL
Avon	Ray Ransom	0117 9682255	rrbr17928@blueyonder.co.uk
Bedfordshire	Howard Bottomley	01525 374697	h.bottomley@btinternet.com
Berkshire	Joe King	0118 948 1004	jkking@lgc.com
Cheshire	Colin Irwin	01565 722556	Colin@irwin-ce.freemove.co.uk
Devon	Brian Smith	01395 516652	Brsmith2@onetel.net.uk
Dorset	Peter Trimmer	07745 842772	pete.trimmer@ukes.aerospace.gknplc.com
Essex	Michael Heap	01708 728136	michael@roundhouse38.fsnet.co.uk
Glamorgan	Chris Williams	01633 400853	chris@butedock.demon.co.uk
Gloucestershire	David Foulser	01242 580295	davesvolvo@aol.com
Hampshire	Brian Fisk	01962 865458	brian@fiskfamily.org.uk
Hertfordshire	John Gibbons	01442 261146	johngibbons@fsmail.net
Kent	John Hobbs	01892 852072	hobbsmallets@aol.com
Lancashire	James Hawkins	0151 724 2140	james@croquetgazette.fsnet.co.uk
Middlesex	Tom Brown	020 8337 4629	thomasnbrowne@aol.com
Norfolk	Jonathan Toy	01366 382280	Jonathan.wndis@btclick.com
Northampton	Lionel Tibble	01604 493929	Anglion@btinternet.com
Nottinghamshire	Richard White	07932 603366	richard@bandits.org
Oxfordshire	Mark Gooding	01865 717499	mark.gooding@merton.ox.ac.uk
Suffolk	Steve Comish	01394 385551	s.comish@btinternet.com
Surrey	George Noble	07970 880501	karin.n@netcomuk.co.uk
Sussex	Roger Wood	01424 210632	RogerWood@ntlworld.com
Warwickshire	Andrew Gregory	01223 573560	akgregory@talk21.com
Yorkshire	Peter Thompson	0046 8 6418663	peter.thompson@skanska.se
Channel Islands	Mrs Sarah Burrow	01534 732167	pegout@psilink.co.je

Golf Croquet Inter Counties

COUNTY	NAME	TELEPHONE	EMAIL
County Durham	Eugene Brady	01388 488666	embrady@supanet.com
Devon	Roger Bowen	01395 442360	Roger_bowen@budleighs.freemove.co.uk
Dorset	Tom Weston	0771 3056471	topturntom@yahoo.co.uk
Essex	Paul Stover	01787 374006	paulstover@onetel.com
Hampshire	Chris Crowcroft	023 8060 1174	Christopher@crowcroft.freemove.co.uk
Kent	Roy Ware	01843 861109	Roy.ware@btinternet.com
Lancashire	Alan Pidcock	01772 743859	pidcock@manorh.u-net.com
Leicestershire	Ray Mounfield	01530 273098	raychrism@hotmail.com
Middlesex	Peter Quin	0208 788 3636	
Northumberland	John Moore	0191 266 6473	ajmhnn@ic24.net
Oxfordshire	John Munro	01491 651709	joncolmunro@aol.com
Surrey	Don Beck	01932 251178	dbeck@iee.org
Sussex	Bill Arliss	01273 728204	arliss@mistral.co.uk
Yorkshire	Sam Curry	01765 602172	spahotel@bronco.co.uk

News & Information

WCF Secretary General

The World Croquet Federation has just appointed Brian Storey as its new Secretary General.

Brian was for several years the Administrator of Bowdon Croquet Club, and can claim credit for at least some of the success of the club over the last decade. He subsequently took on the job of running the (now defunct) National Ice Hockey League, before his new appointment.

Croquet in Norway

Word has just reached us of the formation of the Croquet Association of Norway, which held its first meeting on 11th September, 2004 at Jeløy Croquet Club in Moss, just south of Oslo.

The new association plans to develop the rules of Croquet, Norwegian Standard, though no details are available as to what those might be. Nevertheless, the CAN intends to launch its inaugural

national championships in late summer next year, with plans to include Association and Golf Rules as well as their own version.

Drivers wanted

Do you want to watch world class croquet for a week?

Cheltenham Croquet Club need drivers to transport competitors to the satellite clubs during the World Championships, 6 - 14 August 2005.

You will be driving vehicles supplied by Mitsubishi. Accommodation will be provided and a daily food subsidy will be paid.

If you are interested, please phone David Magee, 01452 700353.

Media Coverage

November was a prolific month for mention of croquet in the media.

Television gardener Diarmuid Gavin presented a history of 19th Century gar-

den design on BBC 2, in which he claimed the Croquet was invented in 1867 by John Jacques (*sic*), who saw the game being played by a group of nuns in Ireland. While that statement's accuracy is questionable on at least four counts, the feature painted the game in much more favourable colours than we've often come to expect.

Our relationship with Diplomatic Travel continues to keep Croquet fresh in the minds of the features writers of the national press. The Travel section of the *Sunday Times* (21st November, 2004) ran an item on Prince Harry's trip to Argentina, to sharpen his polo playing skills. Below are listed "four more sports for aspiring bluebloods" - real tennis, rackets, Eton fives and croquet.

Our entry includes adverts for both the CA and Diplomatic, and reads: "Although no longer a country-house preserve - the British No 2 [David Maugham] is a Mancunian skinhead known as the Beast - croquet is still an essential facet of top-notch shire life."

Chairman's Column

As foreshadowed in my last column, the CA AGM saw the retirement of John Solomon as President and the election of Bernard Neal as his successor. Bernard paid tribute to John's contribution to the development of the game in his closing address, which was followed by a video presentation and commentary on his playing career by Stephen Mulliner. Stephen also organised a celebratory dinner that evening at Hurlingham, and found the magnificent silver butter dish which the CA presented to John, who was also awarded the Council Medal and the title of Past President.

What I did not anticipate was the announcement by Bernard Neal of a gift, to the CA in recognition of John's contribution, by Tremaine Arkley of a substantial part of his notable collection of croquet art and history. Whilst we are very grateful for this act of generosity, it is clear that there are a number of practical issues to resolve before we can take delivery of these items, not least where they can be safely kept whilst being accessible for viewing. Please contact me if you have any thoughts on this.

Council welcomed three new members: Ian Parkinson, Brian Fisk and Cliff Jones and elected committee chairmen as

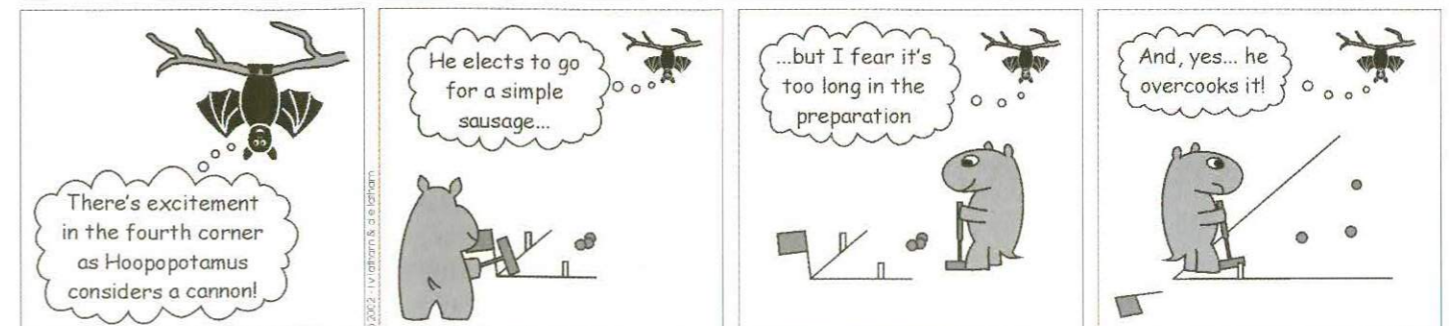
shown on Page 6. I'm grateful to Jonathon Isaacs for agreeing to serve as Vice-Chairman and to Richard Hoskyns who did so last year. Thanks also to Stephen Mulliner and Alan Oldham, who chaired the Management and Golf Croquet committees last year, but stood aside once it was discovered that, as Vice-Presidents, they were prohibited by the rules from doing so.

Finally, now that the *Gazette* is published in even months, I can take the opportunity to wish you all the best for Christmas and the New Year!

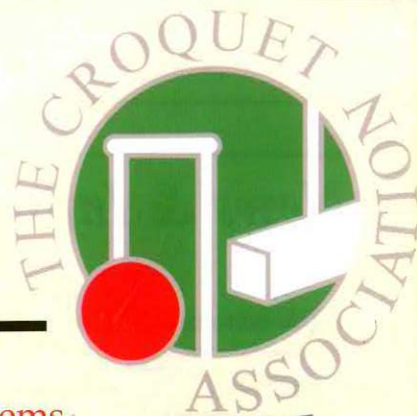
Ian Vincent

HOOPOTAMUS

by Victor



CROQUET SHOP



Expert advice, discounted prices, rapid delivery on most items

Croquet Mallets

A comprehensive selection of mallets, including Pidcock, Percival, Hobbs, George Wood and Jaques. The popular George Wood Original mallet at £71 + delivery is still our best-seller.

Come to us for the widest variety and impartial expert advice.

Also a range of hard and soft mallet covers to suit most mallets, including both padded and unpadded.

Hard leather case, 9.25 x 38 x 2.5"	£69.00
Hard leather case, 11 x 39 x 2.5"	£72.00
Blue cover with Croquet logo	£20.00
Padded blue cover with croquet logo	£24.00
Blue canvas cover for up to 40" shaft and 12" head lengths	£28.00

Clothing

A wide range of white clothing and wet weather gear is available, including:



Breathable wet weather jacket	£34.00
Breathable jacket and trousers	£48.00
Fleece reversible windcheater jacket	£35.00
Fleece reversible gilet	£23.50
Roll-up sports windcheater	£29.00
White trousers	£27.00
Pullover	£25.50
Ladies cardigan	£29.00

Odds and Ends

Timer	£8.00
Silver earrings, hoop and ball or mallets	£12.00
Hoop setting feeler gauge	£2.50
Canvas ball carrier bags.	£10.00
Croquet Girl cards - pack of 8, blank inside	£4.50
Croquet posters - b&w prints, 4 designs available	£6.00ea
Ball markers, pack of 10 assorted plastic markers	£1.00

For more information

Call Jeff Dawson on 01483 776971

Email sales@croquet.org.uk

Or visit our website www.croquet.org.uk/shop

We are based at:

112 Potters Lane, Send, Surrey GU23 7AL

Callers welcome by appointment only, please

Books

A wide variety of croquet publications are available, including: Basic Laws of Association and Golf Croquet

£2.00	
The Laws of Association Croquet	£4.00
Official rulings and commentary	£3.00
The Laws of Golf Croquet	£2.00
A Guide to Golf Croquet	£5.00
Know the game	£5.00
Croquet - The Skills of the Game by Bill Lamb	£10.00
Croquet by John Solomon	£9.00
Plus One on Time by Don Gaunt	£10.00
Expert Croquet Tactics by Keith Wylie	£14.00
Croquet Management by Gaunt & Wheeler	£11.50
Croquet Coaching Manual	£11.50
The Principles of Handicapping by Bill Lamb	£2.50
Challenge & Gilbey book by Alan Oldham	£3.00
Lawn Management by John Beech	£2.00
Croquet: Technique by John Riches	£7.00
Croquet: Error Correction by John Riches	£7.00
Croquet: Next Break Strategy by John Riches	£9.00
Croquet: The Mental Approach by John Riches	£9.00
Croquet: Lessons in Tactics by John Riches	£9.00
Croquet: Finer Points by John Riches	£10.50



Videos

Imported from Australia, these videos were made by Kevin Brereton in the 1990s

Single ball strokes 30min	£12.00
Croquet strokes 30min	£12.00
Tactics parts 1 & 2 60min	£14.00
Tactics part 3 - Peeling 90min	£16.00
Using Bisques 30min	£12.00
Sports Sciences & Croquet 30min	£12.00

All book and video prices include P&P to UK addresses

Complete croquet sets

How about getting a set for the back garden? We sell a wide range of sets at rock bottom prices, and our voucher scheme entitles members to **£20 discount** on their first set!

Club Equipment

This is an ideal time to check over your club equipment, and replace anything necessary. As always, we sell all the equipment your club is likely to need, including:

Balls - Barlow GT, Dawson and Sunshiny

Hoops - Omega, Aldridge, Townsend and Jaques

Corner flags, yardline markers, pegs, clips, gauges.