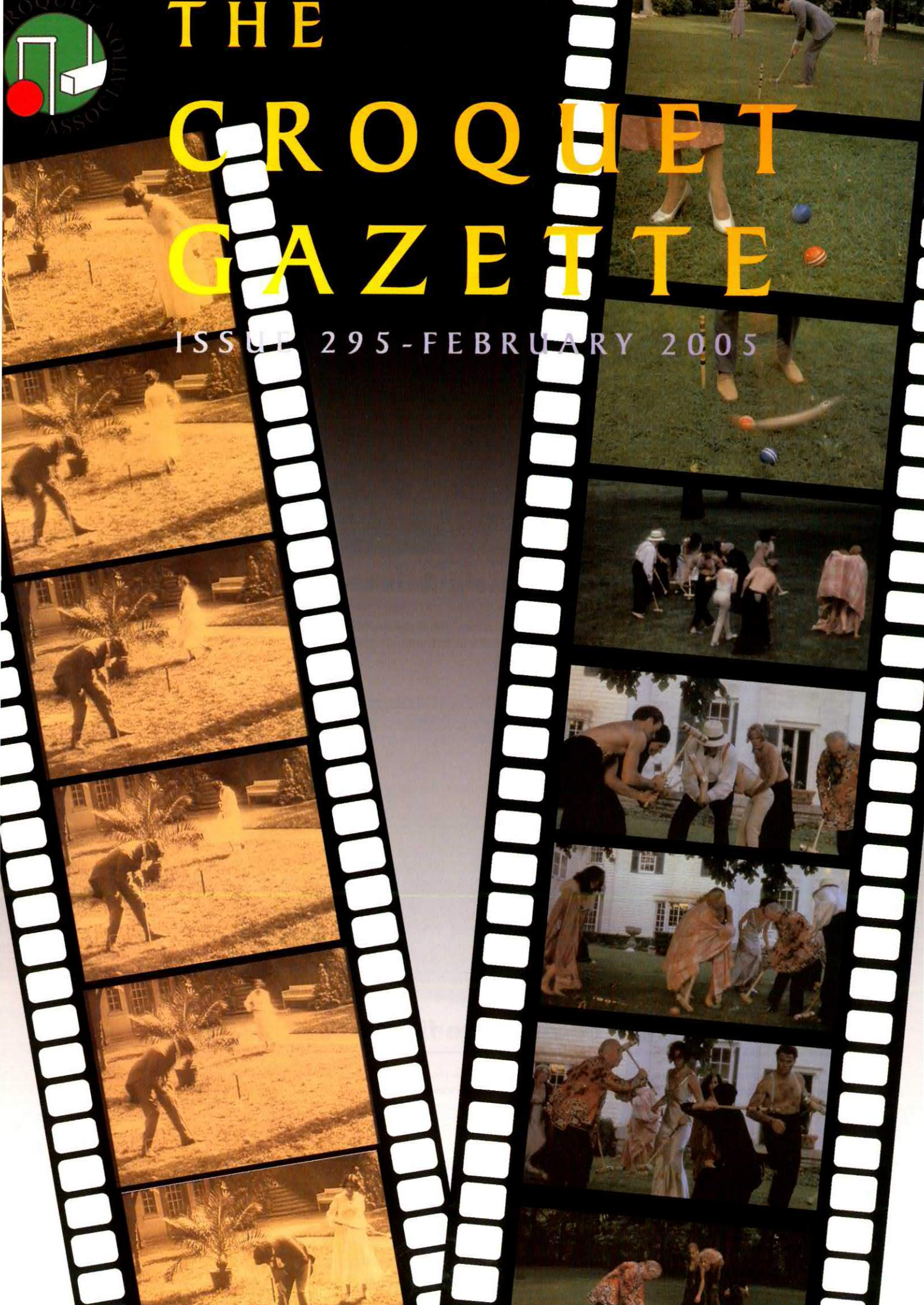




THE CROQUET GAZETTE

ISSUE 295 - FEBRUARY 2005



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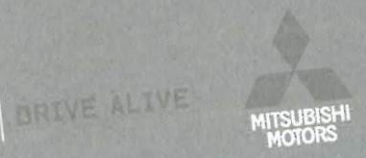


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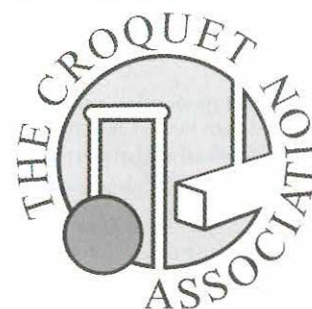
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Both black and white or colour prints of photographs can be used. Slides are no longer accepted. Photocopies of pictures or print-outs of digital images cannot be used. If using digital photography please send in jpeg or tif format files. Resolution 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.

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Editorial



Now is the time of year to get that mallet out of hibernation, dust it down, soak it in linseed oil, re-grip it, re-lacquer it, and prepare for the coming croquet season. Personally, I like to take my favourite mallet, cradle it in my arms, and talk to it, while playing records of Mozart piano sonatas. In this way, I reason, some of my high-minded intellectual rigour will rub off, and make each of us better able to fulfil our roles out on the lawn.

This winter has been different. What with moving house and all, my standard routine is on hold while everything remains in part-storage. My mallet, along with most of my croquet paraphernalia, lies - sad to say - safely stored in my car boot.

'Safely' isn't the right word in this context, as I've just had my car stolen. I heard the engine rev, I looked out of

the window, and there - not twenty feet away from me - is some spotty Scouse teenager driving off at speed. Goodbye to my beloved mallet.

The policewoman asked me if I had any offensive weapons in the vehicle. Is it a weapon? Is it offensive? I kept quiet, assuming that any villain would die of embarrassment before robbing a bank or assaulting passers-by with so middle-class a weapon. And, I supposed, the black market re-sale of a bespoke mallet, fine though it is, would be unlikely.

I was proved right, and the car was recovered intact, and with all its contents, later that evening.

The vehicle was found abandoned, and much the worse for wear, in - and you've got to admit this is suspicious - Mulliner Street. Appealing though it is to imagine our own Vice President, Stephen Mulliner, holed up in the pub which bears his name, directing a team of mallet thieves around the city, I can assure you categorically that this is not the case.

While I'm unable to speak from personal experience, I don't believe The Mulliner public house is the sort of establishment to extend a warm welcome to out-of-towners, whether they share a name or not. As a general rule, I make it a policy not to make

eye contact in any pub where there are iron bars on the inside of the windows.

Thankfully, it was the police who ran the gauntlet of retrieving my car. The mallet is now safely back, and under my pillow. Everything is well.

You may have heard on the grapevine that this is to be my penultimate edition as Editor of the Gazette. All being well, I should have vacated my offices here at Gazette Towers on or before 1st April, so the CA is on the lookout for someone to take over the reins for the magazine due in June onwards.

It had always been my plan to continue in service for a minimum of three years. In fact I secretly intended to continue until I reached that mystical score of 26, then retire victoriously. Disorganised as ever, I miscalculated my notice date, and am tied to carrying on until my 27th edition in April.

If anyone does fancy the challenge of producing the Gazette, I'd be happy to fill them in on any details about the role. The CA does provide a fee for each edition, as well as all necessary hardware and software for the task. If you need guidance on what's involved, you know where I am, so don't hesitate.

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Letters

The Toss of a Coin

I read with great interest "All on the Toss of a Coin" (*Gazette* 294, December 2004), not least because I was captain of the Blewbury team that won the Longman Cup and was the subject of the article.

The statistical analysis that Dr. Gugan has performed on 550 Longman Cup matches suggests that "something is badly wrong". With respect, I think that something is badly wrong with Dr. Gugan's approach. Statistical analysis of this kind is relevant only when the conditions for each occurrence are identical, such as when drawing cards or tossing a coin. This is never the case in sport. Let's consider two factors that will have a big impact on the outcome of each game.

Form: We all have good and bad days. Over the course of a season this should even out but on any specific occasion it is often hard to stop 'playing badly'. This fact is well accepted in many coaching books and means that it is quite possible for one player to thrash an evenly matched opponent on one day and for the opposite to happen on the day after.

Motivation: People who try harder are more likely to win than those who don't really care. The Ryder Cup in 2004 was a wonderful example of how a committed team of individuals can overcome odds that Dr. Gugan might have calculated as millions to one against. In the case of the specific match that generated his interest, I can confirm that the Blewbury team was extremely keen to win the match. As a young and ambitious club we recognised that it would be an important step in gaining wider recognition. We practised hard and arrived early. In contrast, my opponent in the Bristol match didn't even reach the club until ten minutes after the game was due to commence!

Furthermore, in the case of Longman Cup matches it is unrealistic to expect players to have the same mental approach once the overall result has been determined and their club has lost. This would also suggest

a much higher proportion of 5-2, 6-1 and 7-0 results than Dr Dugan might expect.

There are a number of other considerations (such as ground conditions and the weather) which can wreak havoc with the bookmaker's odds.

Finally, I'd like to defend the Blewbury handicapping committee (of which I am not a member). This is comprised of three highly experienced and respected players, very conscious of their reputations and prepared to take radical action whenever they become aware of it. In the course of one club tournament last year they reduced the handicap of one player overnight from 16 to 12. That person subsequently played in our two final Longman matches and only won one out of four games.

I do agree that it can be hard to determine the handicap of players who are enjoying a phase of rapid improvement. One of our team won 8 out of 8 Longman Cup games (odds of 255 to 1 against according to Dr Dugan). He played over 40 ranking games in 2004, in the course of which his handicap reduced from 11 to 4.5 by the time of the Longman Cup final but appeared to be just as hard to beat at the end of the season as at the beginning. It would be harsh to suggest that someone who had to adjust to seven reductions of handicap in one season was gaining an unfair advantage.

In conclusion, I don't see any convincing evidence that there is much wrong with handicaps in general, or Blewbury's in particular. The two clubs that we defeated by the narrowest possible margin would hopefully agree.

John Spiers
Oxfordshire

The eminent physicist Dr Feynman once remarked; "I saw a car this morning whose registration number was AXW 348. What an amazing thing! The odds against its happening were 17575999 to 1 against."

In the statistical analysis of the

Longman Cup results contained in his article, 'All on the toss of a coin' in the last issue of the *Gazette*, Dr Gugan makes the same mischief, though not, I think, as deliberately as Dr Feynman. He says that, with fair handicaps, the odds against a whitewash (in a 7 game match) are 127:1 against, the same as for tossing seven heads in a row. (Actually it should be seven heads or seven tails, so 63:1, but let that pass.)

He might as well say that the probability of a particular team's achieving a score of 5-2 in a particular match is 21/128. The probability of doing that in 3 successive matches in the Longman Cup is approximately 0.00442 - and Colchester did it! Wow!

But wait: the probability of a particular team's achieving a score of 6-1 in a particular match is 7/128. The probability of its doing that in 3 successive matches in the Longman Cup is approximately 0.00016 - and Nottingham did it! Even more wow!

The probability of both happening (and they did) is 0.000000727 (less than one in a million). Treble wow!

Now for reality. In the Longman Cup this year there were 34 matches played. The probability of there being a whitewash in one of these matches is 34/64, or just over 50%. That is to say one should expect one to turn up in the results just about as often as not. This year, unsurprisingly, it did, and the lot fell on Dr Gugan's team. Tough, but no need therefore to talk of weighted coins or to imply the absence of 'fair' handicaps. No wow at all.

Jolyon Kay
Blewbury

Inter - Counties Teams

In reply to Tom Anderson's letter in the last *Gazette* [regarding the incorporation of two CA teams in the Inter-Counties Championship], I would like to ask Tom why he feels those players who make up the CA Select team(s) should be treated like second class citizens. After all their only crime is

being borne or living or playing in a county which already has a surfeit of superstars or does not have enough to raise a team. By the rules of the competition they have to be full members of the association and their team is limited to nine members in exactly the same way as all the other 'county' teams. Why their background should make them any more variable than many other teams is rather mystifying.

Let face it, there is nothing magical about the way we divide our players into the various county teams. With the demise of many counties, it becomes almost an arbitrary method of division but it has one very major attribute. It is a formulae that works extremely well in bringing together, year after year, around 150 of the better croquet players in the country for four days of competition. As recent results show it does not allow one team to dominate the scene for long. Since divisionalisation was introduced, it has ensured that fierce competition is maintained throughout the full four days and there have been many instances where the final games

have serious consequences in the promotion/relegation stakes. Thus I feel it would be a very retrograde step to have games that did not matter in the final league tables. If for any reason the formulae does not continue to produce such a well supported festival of croquet, then I feel the Tournament Committee must have the right and also the duty to tweak that formulae to maintain the standard of the tournament.

If there are many others as Tom says that disagree with this point of view, let's be hearing from you.

Bill Arliss
Tournament Director, Inter-Counties Championship

Relieving the Tension

If croquet was a professional game, coaches would be attending to just about every aspect of their client's performance, including the ability to relax. Most croquet players would

agree that physical relaxation is an important pre-requisite for success, and some might even claim that their failure to achieve is due in part to an inability to cope with tension at critical stages of play.

According to a sports psychologist, who has been advising professional golfers on ways of overcoming the problem in their game, tension within the body as a whole can be eased, if tension within the muscles of the face is reduced. Within this context, it's further suggested that facial tension is reduced, when the lips are kept slightly apart and the tongue remains loosely in contact.

This appears to run counter to the conventional wisdom, which holds that performance is enhanced when the lips are sealed, and the teeth are clenched firmly together in a posture of determination! So is it "tongue in cheek" for us? Or do we favour being "tight in the jaws"?

John Hansen
Nottingham

Poetic Recollections by Smokey Eades

Henley 2000

I'm eighty now and time is running short
For sprightly games upon a croquet court.
The active years that blazed the summer through
Are autumn now; yet whilst the beaded dew
Still shows the early morning shots that go
astray,
With escalating handicap I'll try
To make a further hoop or two.

Colchester 2002

"Good Shot", he cries, but thinks, "oh Hell
I never thought he'd hit.
Some people have the devil's luck.
So now I wait and see,
And watch him make the break that I
Took trouble to prepare,
All through a flukey long hit-in.
I ask you
Is it fair?"

Knowledge, Belief and Doubt

Pete Trimmer looks at the all-round game

In some sports, the skill requirements are obvious. Weight-lifting depends upon strength, chess relies upon tactical prowess and darts players need to be consistently accurate.

The most important skills in croquet are less obvious. I have heard it well argued that, breaking activities down into three component parts of physical, intellectual and emotional, croquet is strongly in need of all three; physical consistency in playing strokes, the intellectual ability to make good tactical decisions and the emotional ability to come back from behind.

In this article I intend to consider the mental aspects of the game holistically and leave it to the reader to ponder the physical effects.

I believe that one of the key skills of the game which is often not recognised is the ability of players to deal with belief and doubt appropriately.

Self Belief

The psychological technique of neuro-linguistic programming (NLP) has been used in sports for many years. One of the building-blocks of NLP philosophy is that people tend to achieve that which they believe that they can achieve. It is useful for weight-lifters to believe that they can lift the weight; if they think it is too heavy, they are less likely to be successful. NLP is a useful tool in the armoury of a croquet player but its value is bounded.

Taking the pure NLP view leaves no room for doubt: "Why are you doubting whether you will hit that shot? Just go and hit it!" This is the view that pure NLP would take to any shot, however suicidal. This is where the NLP methodology falls down. It is a useful tool for improving one's odds of success on a given stroke but as a decision-making tool, it is hopeless.

The best approach is to first decide which shot to play, then use NLP to improve one's odds of success with that stroke (single-mindedly). NLP will not help with the decision process. What, then, are we to use?

Decision Making

Most good players are aware of (what I think of as) the *Key Premise*:

The intent of each stroke should be to maximise one's chances of winning. i.e., when in doubt, a good player should ask him/herself, "which option maximises my chances of winning?"

It is not an easy question to answer but first (and to help establish the depth of the question), it is worth considering whether it is the right question at all.

For instance, people often say that it is worth taking a 'wrong shot' or an 'aggressive' shot sometimes to surprise their opponent or to take the initiative. Does this 'sacrificial stroke' go against the key premise (KP)? On reflection, you will find it does not. The very reason for choosing the aggressive stroke is to maximise one's chances of winning. The positional situation may be partially sacrificed in order to gain a psychological benefit, so at the holistic level, the KP correctly prevails - so long as the benefits have been weighed correctly.

The first benefit of understanding the KP is readily apparent. Imagine that a player has three tactical choices, A, B and C. If (at the holistic level), option A is better than option B and B is better than C, then option A must be the best choice; there is no need for the player to compare options A and C. When faced with a multiple-choice situation, players need only compare 2 options at a time.

This sounds easier in principal than it is in practice, especially when there are so many aspects to consider but I often find it a useful method of selection by elimination, especially when feeling overloaded by choices.

Heuristics

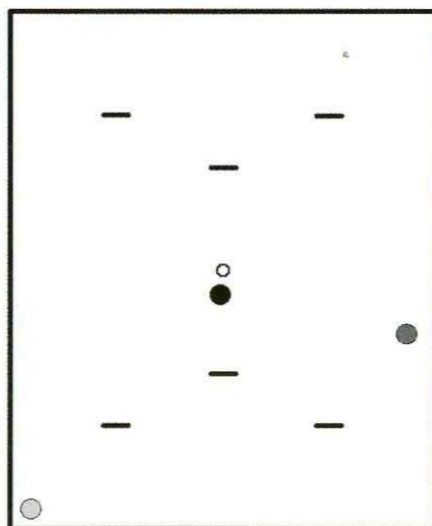
Sometimes, simplification of the KP on tactical or psychological grounds to rules of thumb can be use-

ful, such as 'what maximises my chances of gaining a break first?' or 'what would my opponent least like me to choose?'

However, every heuristic rule has its limitations. For these two examples, the first rule fails in end-games and the second is weak because it favours negative-play options (which do not necessarily improve one's odds of winning).

I had a vivid reminder of the limitations of blindly applying rules of thumb several years ago.

Watching two A-class players in an end-game (renamed to save their blushes), Bob had rolled up to the peg and removed blue, leaving black 5 feet from the peg, as shown.



Opponent has a 95% chance of pegging out next turn. Is the long, defensive join-up really the best shot to take?

Roy shot red at yellow and Bob, one of the most consistent shots I've yet known, calmly hit the centre of the peg, as we all knew that he would.

When they'd shaken hands, I asked Roy why he'd shot red at yellow. "Oh, you'd have shot yellow at red?" They both paused, looking at the lawn.

"No, I was thinking more of red at black?" I proffered.

They turned to me in shock. "You must know to always join up if the opponent is about to try pegging out. Wow, Pete, and you're supposed to be a tactician!"

Comparing Options

It is useful to consider what is potentially gained, lost and the likelihood of success for any given stroke. "Gained compared to what?" the logicians cry. We could start by contrasting each option against deeming, though a useful short-cut is often to contrast options against a defensive cornering option (as most people shoot well enough to get close to a corner without having to think about the likelihood of achieving it).

Mathematically inclined readers will appreciate that for a given shot, there is a particular probability, p , of making a roquet - for a given player at a given time, depending on lawn conditions, etc. When comparing the outcome of a shot with cornering or deeming, there will generally be certain gains if the shot is hit and losses if it is missed. There can also be losses if it is hit and gains if it is missed though these tend to be smaller factors and are often more psychologically based. It is apparent that what you potentially give away (e.g. what counts as a break) will depend upon the opponent's ability. If the gains and losses can be estimated, it is therefore possible to calculate the benefit of a certain shot as a 'leverage' (imagine the gains and losses on a see-saw with the pivot at p).

$$\text{Benefit} = p(\text{Gs} - \text{Ls}) + (1 - p)(\text{Gu} - \text{Lu})$$

Where Gs is what is gained if successful, Lu is what is lost if unsuccessful, etc.

Note that if the benefit is negative, the option being considered is inferior to its alternative. Elegant as this equation may be, it contains 5 variables, 4 of which are often difficult to estimate - especially if the player wants to deal with the gain and loss values as percentage win values (rather than processing them symbolically as break chances, etc.) and take into account of both tactical and psychological effects. I am far too lazy to use this equation in its full form, nor do I know any players who do. I present it here largely to encourage analytical players to think

about the relevant variables and to help explain the difficulty we have in establishing why certain options are inherently better than others. The simplified $B \sim p\text{Gs} - (1-p)\text{Lu}$ can be a useful mental prompt for those who like to analyse situations away from matches.

Even without thinking of success rates mathematically in terms of percentages, your decision-making can be greatly assisted by a sense of 'assured', 'probable', 'unlikely' and 'incredible' for shooting. Similarly, gains and losses can be thought of in terms of a 'guaranteed break', 'break save for a tricky shot' and so on.

Knowledge of likelihoods comes with experience and pattern recognition. For example, it is useful to be able to recognise what counts as a '4-ball break' for various levels of player.

Trading Benefits

Trading tactical position against psychological benefits is a subtle art and can only be sensibly judged with experience. My advice would be to avoid going down an 'external' route of trying to affect your opponent; this not only leads to gamesmanship but, I believe, can easily undermine a player's own self belief in the long-run. It is better instead to focus on the inner benefits of decisions. It can be useful sometimes to decide 'I'm going to do what I want in this turn and to hell with the consequences', especially if you have been feeling tense and errors have been creeping in. It takes the initiative and often leads to improved stroke play. However, adopting this line as a matter of course will soon lead intelligent opponents to choose defensive positions and await your break-down.

In handicap play, some players like to hold on to their last bisque, no matter what. It can help them feel in control and some opponents feel threatened by the remaining bisque, especially when making leaves. Although I in no way condone this from a positional perspective (hanging on to a bisque when it could be used to com-

mandeer your opponent's 4-ball break will not find a better positional use), it is interesting from the psychological perspective. However, if/when this occurs, a 'sound' opponent will spot that the bisque is not being used for positional benefit and can then decide his strokes without further consideration of the bisque - nullifying the psychological effect in that respect.

Multiple Games and Overall Goals

At the top level, most matches consist of more than one game. If a player's intent is to maximise their chances of winning a match then the KP is referring to the match, not individual games. Usually, there will be no difference in outcome choices, but occasionally this understanding can have an affect, e.g., to help establish how their opponents are playing or to demonstrate their own confidence.

Expanding this philosophy, it is also worth noting that as there are many games in a season, if a player's KP is to win a particular event, such as the World's, they may rationally choose to play differently in prior events. For example, by always taking long lift shots, opponents may tend to put the balls further south than they otherwise would - which can be capitalised upon in the event which the player wants to win. Or vice-versa.

Finally, I would point out that the KP I have proposed in this article lends itself to the title 'Playing to Win'. I leave it to your enjoyment to imagine similar articles with philosophies of 'Playing to Learn' and 'Playing to have fun!'

10 Point Handicap Singles Association Croquet

Michael Hague outlines a useful stepping stone to the full game

Early integration of newcomers into a club is an important measure to ensure retention of provisional members. By the end of Lesson 1 of the Beginners' Course as recommended in the CA Coaching Manual, newcomers to croquet should be able to play Golf Croquet with other club members. By the end of Lesson 3, some of the techniques and Laws of Associate Croquet can be introduced with One Ball, a simplified version of Association Croquet that gives newcomers the chance to practise the shots learnt so far by playing competitively.

Lessons 4 to 6 tackle the 4-Ball Break and 14-point Association Croquet. But for other than the fast improvers with natural playing ability and willingness to put some serious practice into mastering skills taught on the Beginners' Course, many average newcomers take some time before feeling up to joining other more experienced club members in playing full Association Croquet. They find that in playing a 14-point game with a 1 1/4 or 1 1/2 hour time limit, they rarely get to playing the end game and the challenge of pegging out, thereby missing

out on the most interesting and satisfying part of the match.

I discussed this problem with John Hobbs and he recommended 10-point Association Croquet as an additional step in progressing to the 14-point game. Readers may be familiar with shortened games; when the striker first runs hoop 1, the *partner* clip is immediately advanced a number of hoops. So, for an 18-point shortened game, running Hoop 1 with our first ball, allows us to put the clip of our partner ball on 3-back. For a 22-point game, the partner clip is advanced to Hoop 5. With 10 point, the partner clip also goes to Hoop 5, but of course the balls are pegged out after running Hoop 6 as in 14 point games. The game is played with full bisques:

Handicap	Bisques
24	10
22	9
20	8
18	7

Using 2 courts for eight players and the 10-point format with a 1 1/4 hour time limit, winner playing winners

and loser losers, one can run a High Bisquers mini-tournament from 1pm to 5.30pm including a half hour tea break. Everyone plays three games in the afternoon. When my club tried it out, we were delighted that although the players (bar one) were all above 18 handicap, almost all the games were won by pegging out, giving those involved a hitherto rare experience and sense of achievement. Obviously with only one court available, four High Bisquers can have a half day tournament, all playing all with who beat whom determining the outright winner in the even of an equal number of games won.

For the coming season at my club, we will run a monthly full bisque 10-point Association Croquet mini-tournament and get competitors to record plus or minus 5 points per game on their index cards. This will assist the club handicap committee in fine-tuning the handicaps of those high bisquers who otherwise have very little occasion to keep their results. Worth a try, I think.

CROQUET GAZETTE

The Editor of the *Croquet Gazette*, James Hawkins, will be stepping down in April 2005, after more than three years' sterling service. The CA is keen to hear from interested individuals who feel suitably qualified to take on this position and who have good contacts around the croquet scene. The Editor reports to and is supported by the Publishing Committee (which is also responsible for the Website) and the position is modestly remunerated.

Initial approaches can be made by contacting the PC Chairman, Charles Waterfield or the Editor (using the links provided on the CA website).

Formal applications should be made by sending a covering letter and CV to reach the office by March 15th.

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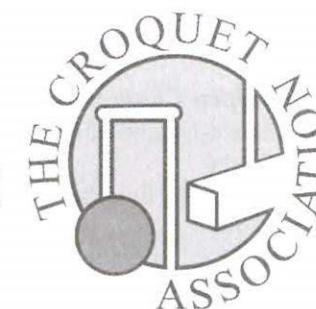
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THE CROQUET GAZETTE

TOURNAMENT DIGEST 2004



Golf Croquet Championships

Inter Club

Final

Colchester bt Ashby 4 - 3

Inter Counties

Dorset

Ascot Cup

David Hopkins

Ranelagh Cup

Samantha Curry & David Hopkins

Open Championship

Singles: incorporated into World Championships

- see page 3

Doubles: John Moore & Samantha Curry

Selectors Weekend

Winner: Ivor Brand

Ramsgate International

Chris Sheen

Surbiton Open

Roy Ware

Handicap, team & other CA events

All England Handicap (Association)

Derek Knight (8) bt Roland Needham (16) +7

Seniors' Championship (50+)

Seniors' Championship (the Trevor Williams Cup)

David Parkins bt David Mundy

The Colin Hemming Cup

Colin Hemming

C Class

Myra Gosney bt Alan Cottle

D Class

Quiller Barrett bt John Gosney

E Class

Jeff Rushby bt Ron Atkinson

Handicap Singles

Alan Cottle bt David Mundy

Handicap Doubles

Ron Atkinson & John Hobbs bt Anne & Bob Stephens

Veterans' Championship (65+)

Veterans' Championship (the Rothwell Challenge Cup)

Don Gaunt bt Tony Hall

The Colin Hemming Cup

Derek Watts bt Don Waterhouse

C Class

D Laney bt Q Barrett

D Class

Mrs GD Harris bt D Moorcraft

E Class

D Trotman bt DNK Taylor

F Class

GPK Miller bt IC Meredith

Handicap Singles

Dennis Moorcraft bt Toby Jessel

Handicap Doubles

Tony Hall & Nigel Graves bt Dennis Moorcraft & Mrs GD Harris

Club Events

Inter Club

Final

Bristol bt Cheltenham 4-3

Mary Rose

Final

Wrest Park bt Surbiton 5-2

Longman Cup

Final

Blewbury bt Surbiton 6-1

Secretary's Shield

Final

Middlesbrough bt Syngenta 4-3

Association Croquet Championships - Level Play

British Open Championships

Cheltenham 4-11 July 2004

Semi Finals

Pete Trimmer bt Reg Bamford +20tp +26tp +26tp
 Robert Fulford bt David Maugham +26sxp +17 +25sxp

Final

Fulford bt Trimmer +26tp -26tp -18tp +16 +26tp

Open Doubles

Semi Finals

Chris Clarke & Robert Fulford bt Jonathan Kirby & Aaron Westerby +12tpo(F) +17
 Reg Bamford & Stephen Mulliner bt James Death & Marcus Evans +17sxp(B) -23 +17tp(B)

Final

Clarke & Fulford bt Bamford & Mulliner +25tp +20tp

Simon Carter Men's Championship

Hurlingham 10-13 June 2004

Semi Finals

PC Trimmer beat J Dawson +25tp +26tp +15tp
 RL Bamford beat CD Clarke +26sxp -24 +18sxp +26sxp

Final

RL Bamford beat PC Trimmer -8tp +17sxp +26sxp -19tp +26sxp
Du Pre Final (plate event)
 SN Mulliner bt R Brown +17

Simon Carter Women's

Championship

Liz Fleming bt Sam Symonds +3 -4 +21tp

Mixed Doubles Champions

David Maugham & Jenny Williams beat Ian Burridge & Ailsa Lines -17, +13tp(M), +25tp(M)

Selection Events (& see pages 4-5)

Selectors' Weekend

Semi-finals

Gerard Healy beat Nelson Morrow +14
 Graham Gale Beat Dave Trimmer +4

Final

Gerard Healy beat Graham Gale +24
Barlow Bowl & Longman Bowl
 Both events cancelled

Regional Championships

South Of England Championship

Compton 17-19 September 2004

Semi-Finals

Peter Trimmer beat James Death -20 +13otp +20tp
 David Maugham beat Ed Duckworth +15tp +26tp

Final

Peter Trimmer beat David Maugham -15, -20tp, +25tp, +18, +17tp

Western Championship

Parkstone 1-3 May 2004

Semi Finals

RI Fulford bt SN Mulliner +14sxp +17 +17tp
 DB Maugham bt JB Gibbons +17tp -17tp -25tp +26 +12tpo

Final

RI Fulford bt DB Maugham +24tp +9otp +2tp

Eastern Championship

Colchester 23-25 July 2004

Semi Finals

Fulford beat Gibbons +10TP +15TP
 Goacher beat Clarke +6 -23TP +16TP
Final
 Fulford beat Goacher +26TP +3SXP

Northern Championship

Bowdon 27-30 August 2004

Semi Finals

Robert Fulford beat Jonathan Kirby +22tp -17 +12tpo +25
 David Goacher beat David Maugham +13tpo +8tp -24tp +24tp

Final

Robert Fulford beat David Goacher -7 +8tpo +24tp +26tp

Coles Championship

Cheltenham 1 - 3 May 2004

Semi Finals

Robin Brown beat Paul Smith +26tp, -17, +26tp
 Don Gaunt beat Bernard Neal +23, +3

Final

Robin Brown beat Don Gaunt +13tp +26tp

Surrey Championship

Surbiton 18 - 20 June 2004

Semi-Finals

Jeremy Dyer beat Kevin Carter +20,+1
 Jeff Dawson beat Jenny Williams +4

Final

Jeff Dawson beat Jeremy Dyer -8,+20,+12

Team Events

Home Internationals

Wrest Park 19-20 June 2004

1 England 3 wins
 2 Ireland 1 win 6 matches
 3 Wales 1 win 5.5 matches 17 games
 4 Scotland 1 win 5.5 matches 12 games

England 4.5 Scotland 0.5

Ireland 3 Wales 2

England 4.5 Wales 0.5

Scotland 3 Ireland 2

England 4 Ireland 1

Wales 3 Scotland 2

Inter Counties Championship

Southwick/Compton 29 May - 1 June

	Matches Won	Games Won
Division 1		
Cheshire	8	24
Lancashire	7	18
Surrey	6	20
Essex	6	16
Avon	6	16
Nottingham	5	15
Gloucestershire	5	15
Hertfordshire	4	12
Dorset	4	12
Middlesex	4	11
Sussex	0	6
Division 2		
Suffolk	9	22
CA Select (Eur)	8	21
Yorkshire	7	20
Glamorgan	7	17
Warwickshire	6	14
Devon	5	18
Bedfordshire	4	16
Kent	4	14
Norfolk	3	12
Berkshire	1	7
CA Select (Eng)	1	4

Dorset, Middlesex and Sussex were relegated to Division 2.

Suffolk, Yorkshire and Glamorgan were promoted to Division 1.

WCF World Golf Croquet Championships

Knockout Stage Results

First Round Draw

Norman Eatough 7 7 -
 Jonathan Lamb 4 6 -

Grahame Tomes 6 3 -
 Chris Daniels 7 7 -

Richard Brand 6 1 -
 Peter Batchelor 7 7 -

Mark McInerney 7 7 -
 Andy Johnson 3 4 -

Kevin Garrad 2 2 -
 Paolo de Petra 7 7 -

Ivor Brand 7 6 7
 John Moore 3 7 2

Evan Newell 7 7 -
 Tom Weston 5 3 -

Roy Ware 2 5 -
 Sherif Abdelwahab 7 7 -

Quarter Final

Salah Hassan 7 4 5
 Dennis Bulloch 5 7 7

Derek Old 5 6 -
 Mark McInerney 7 7 -

Reg Bamford 6 6 -
 Ahmed Nasr 7 7 -

Hazem Mahmoud 4 5 -
 Khalid Younis 7 7 -

Overall Final Placings

1 Ahmed Nasr	17 Stewart Jackson	33 Don Beck	49 Nelson Morrow
2 Dennis Bulloch	18 Marcus Evans	34 Mostaffa Eissa	50 Dick Brackett
3 Khalid Younis	19 Ivor Brand	35 Anton Varnas	51 Rod Williams
4 Mark McInerney	20 Chris Daniels	36 Samantha Curry	51=Owen Edwards
5 Reg Bamford	21 David Hopkins	37 Chris Sheen	53 Bill Arliss
6 Salah Hassan	22 Paolo de Petra	38 Tony Hall	54 Len Canavan
7 Hazem Mahmoud	23 Norman Eatough	39 Don Reyland	55 Tony Falcon Uff
8 Derek Old	24 Evan Newell	40 Sherif Abusbaa	56 Hossam Feres
9 Mohamad Nasr	25 Roy Ware	41 Peter Payne	57 Jean-Yves Guermont
10 Stephen Mulliner	26 Richard Brand	42 Bruno Hess	58 Leopold Walderdorff
11 Peter Batchelor	27 Kevin Garrad	43 Klaus Gollhoffer	59 Carl von Schmeider
12 Mik Mehas	28 Grahame Tomes	44 Paul Strover	60 Hans von Noord
13 Mrs Monal Ali Mohsen	29 Tom Weston	45 Andrea Prevettoni	61 Khalil El-Haj
14 Mrs Naheed Hassan	30 Jonathan Lamb	46 Kevin Ham	62 Michan Yugi Tagao
15 Sherif Abdelwahab	31 John Moore	47 Cliff Jones	63 Jamieson Walker
16 Walid Salah	32 Andy Johnson	47=Alex Kirsten	64 Peter Millson

Selection Events

President's Cup (Hurlingham)

	DBM	RIF	PJK	PCT	MNA	SNM	DJB	CDC	Wins	TPs*	Pos
David Maugham		-24sxp +19	+17tp +25tp	+11 +26tp	+26tp +21sxp	+11tp +6	+26 +26tp	+26tp +3tp	13	9	1
Robert Fulford	+24sxp -19		-20tp +12tpo	+26sxp +20sxp	+26tp +2tpo	+26qp +26qp	+11 +24sxp	+26tp -20	11	10	2
Jonathan Kirby	-17tp -25tp	+20tp -12tpo		+16tp +3tp	-26tp +26tp	+25tp +17tp	-4tp +6	-9 +20	8	6	3
Pete Trimmer	-11 -26tp	-26sxp -20sxp	-16tp -3tp		-26tp +7tp	+4tp +24tp	+26tp +26	+16 +26tp	7	5	4
Mark Avery	-26tp -21sxp	-26tp -2tpo	+26tp -26tp	+26tp -7tp		-17 -17	+21tp +25tp	+26tp +26tp	6	6	5
Stephen Mulliner	-11tp -6	-26qp -26qp	-25tp -17tp	-4tp -24tp	+17 +17		+13tpo -2tp	+2 +22qp	5	2	6
Dennis Bulloch	-26 -26tp	-11 -24sxp	+4tp -6	-26tp -26	-21tp -25tp	-13tpo +2tp		+24tp -9tpo	3	3	7
Chris Clarke	-26tp -3tp	-26tp +20	+9 -20	-16 -26tp	-26tp -26tp	-2 -22qp	-24tp +9tpo		3	1	7

* Games won with triples or better

Chairman's Salver (Hunstanton)

	IGL	DJG	RB	KMA	RJB	TJW	JPD	JCW	Wins	TPs	Pos
Ian Lines		-12tp 26	26 4	+26tp -21tp	10 17	23 +26tp	+16tp 3	24 +26tp	12	4	1
David Goacher	+12tp -26		+26tp -25	-7 5	-26tp -16	3 +25tp	+26tp 10	16 16	9	4	2
Rutger Beijderwellen	-26 -4	-26tp 25		+26qp +26tp	+26tp -24tp	+26tp +26tp	-23 +10tp	-3 -9tp	7	6	3
Keith Aiton	-26tp +21tp	7 -5	-26qp -26tp		+3tp +4tpo	-17tp -26tp	+16sxp -20	-15	6	4	4
Robin Brown	-10 -17	+26tp 16	-26tp +24tp	-3tp -26		-3 -26tp	+8tpo -1	15 25	6	3	4
Tim Wilkins	-23 -26tp	-3 -25tp	-26tp -26tp	+17tp -4tpo	3 +26tp		-25tp 15	12 3	6	2	4
Jeff Dawson	-16tp -3	-26tp -10	23 -10tp	-16sxp +26tp	-8tpo 1	+25tp -15		-10tp 2	5	2	7
Jenny Williams	-24 -26tp	-16 -16	3 +9tp	15 20	-15 -25	-12 -3	+10tp -2		5	1	7

Note: David Harrison-Wood was forced to drop out of the Chairman's Salver at short notice. Chris Williams, as first reserve, declined his promotion, as he'd already travelled to the venue for the Spencer Ell. Ian Lines took up the vacancy as second reserve, and went on to win the event outright.

Spencer Ell (Southport)

	JDH	CNW	DM	CJD	RJ	DJM	DJN	IH	Wins	TPs	Pos
Duncan Hector		-25tp -14	+16 -10	-18 +9	+22 +16	+25 23-20	+9 +13	-6 +4	9	0	1
Chris Williams	+25tp +14		+16 -2	-16 +16	-12 +23	+18 -3	+14 +4	-17 +8	9	1	2
Dave Mundy	-16 -10	-16 +2		+11 +10	-10 +17	+8 -17	-12 -12	+3 +17	8	0	3
Chris Daniels	+18 -9	+16 -16	-11 -10		+13 -16	+17 -10	+2 +25	+9 -12	7	0	4
Roger Jenkins	-22 -16	+12 -23	+10 -17	-13 +16		-1 15-14	+23 -2	+15 22-13	7	0	4
David Magee	-25 20-23	-18 +3	-18 +17	-17 +10	+1 14-15		+8 -2	-13 +10	6	0	6
Dave Nick	-9 -13	-14 -4	+12 +12	-2 -25	-23 +2	-8 +2		+3 +17	6	0	6
John Haslam	+6 -4	+17 -8	-3 -17	-9 +12	-15 13-22	+13 -10	-3 -17		5	0	8

PlayOff

Duncan Hector beat Chris Williams +9

Treasurer's Tankard (Surbiton)

	PLS	TW	MEH	LB	NH	PC	AD	CSJ	Wins	TPs	Pos
Paul Smith		-3 +19	-16tp +24	+10 +9	-5 +3	+21 -26	+5 +11	+4 +8	10	0	1
Tom Weston	+3 -19		-15 +7	+25 -10	+20 +14	+26 -5	+16 +4	+15 +19	10	0	2
Michael Heap	+16tp -24	+15 -7		-22tp +23tp	+12tp -3	-8 +17	+10 +14	+7tp -3	8	4	3
Louise Bradforth	-10 -9	-25 +10	+22tp -23tp		-13 +25	+1 +19tp	+25 +17	-13 -2	7	2	4
Nick Harris	+5 -3	-20 -14	-12tp +3	+13 -25		+26 +4	-10 -4	+5 -4	6	0	5
Paul Castell	-21 +26	-26 +5	+8 -17	-1 -19tp	-26 -4		-5 +5	+14 -11	5	0	6
Andy Davies	-5 -11	-16 -4	-10 -14	-25 -17	+10 +4	+5 -5		+25 +17	5	0	6
Cliff Jones	-4 -8	-15 -19	-7tp +3	13 +2	-5 +4	-14 +11	-25 -17		5	0	6

Play Off

Paul Smith beat Tom Weston +4

World's Best Triple Peelers

	Total Games			Games with peels		Wins with peels		Sextuples *	
	Played	Won	Triples	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002
1 (3) Robert Fulford [E]	162	135	104	64.2	55.1	77.0	68.6	28	27
2 (1) Trevor Bassett [A]	143	119	94	65.7	63.0	79.0	74.1	1	3
3 (2) David Maugham [E]	165	126	78	47.3	51.3	61.9	69.4	2	
4 (29) Ian Bassett [A]	177	133	44	24.9	13.9	33.1	20.6		
5 (22) Dave Kibble [E]	109	81	35	32.1	18.5	43.2	33.8		
6 (19) Matthew Burrow [Jer]	61	48	34	55.7	34.8	70.8	57.5		1
7 (18) Reg Bamford [SA]	55	41	33	60.0	39.7	80.5	53.5	14	11
8 (51) James Death [E]	63	45	32	50.8	32.4	71.1	54.5		
9 (17) Jonathan Kirby [S]	92	60	32	34.8	26.7	53.3	40.0		
10 (13) Stephen Mulliner [E]	93	63	32	34.4	32.1	50.8	52.0	3	
11 (20) Robin Brown [E]	83	52	31	37.3	31.1	59.6	52.3	1	
12 (37) Brian Cumming [C]	97	70	31	32.0	23.2	44.3	34.0	1	
13 (26) Kevin Beard [A]	130	95	31	23.8	19.4	32.6	28.0		
14 (58) Mark McInerney [I]	46	36	30	65.2	34.4	83.3	68.8		
15 (68) Danny Huneycutt [USA]	88	61	30	34.1	25.0	49.2	41.2		
16 (9) Bob Jackson [NZ]	103	86	30	29.1	38.0	34.9	42.3		
17 (7) David Harrison-Wood [E]	124	77	30	24.2	29.7	39.0	44.9	2	
18 (5) Leo McBride [C]	67	50	29	43.3	52.4	58.0	63.8		
19 (6) Chris Clarke [E]	76	41	29	38.2	43.1	70.7	62.9		1
20 (70) Ian Lines [E]	73	57	27	37.0	9.7	47.4	14.9	1	1
21 (11) Mark Avery [E]	58	36	25	43.1	42.2	69.4	69.2		
22 (42) Peter Trimmer [E]	74	48	25	33.8	25.9	52.1	41.7		
23 (32) Jeff Soo [USA]	79	48	25	31.6	56.2	52.1	75.0		
24 (110) Bob Cherry [USA]	107	69	25	23.4	18.8	36.2	33.3		
25 (115) Harley Watts [A]	53	38	24	45.3	7.9	63.2	15.8		
26 (67) Ian Dumergue [A]	59	42	23	39.0	30.4	54.8	46.7		
27 (8) Bruce Fleming [A]	86	55	22	25.6	33.7	40.0	48.6		
28 (14) David Goacher [E]	92	53	21	22.8	24.5	39.6	37.7		
29 (39) Ken Bald [A]	117	77	21	17.9	15.5	27.3	24.2		
30 (28) Greg Bryant [NZ]	50	31	20	40.0	25.3	64.5	36.4		
31 (53) Jerry Stark [USA]	59	44	19	32.2	26.1	43.2	34.3	1	1
32 (15) Keith Aiton [S]	65	32	19	29.2	35.2	59.4	65.8		
33 (116) Dennis Bulloch [NZ]	104	52	19	18.3	5.5	36.5	10.0		
34 (107) Aaron Westerby [NZ]	81	55	18	22.2	21.4	32.7	23.1		
35 (44) Samir Patel [E]	103	57	18	17.5	14.9	31.6	26.8		
36 (72) Liz Fleming [A]	117	67	18	15.4	8.0	26.9	16.7		
37 (48) Jeff Dawson [E]	64	43	17	26.6	23.2	39.5	34.2		
38 (50) Peter Parkinson [NZ]	70	55	17	24.3	13.5	30.9	19.1		
39 (23) Peter Landrebe [A]	104	69	17	16.3	21.6	24.6	33.3		
40 (4) Rutger Beijderwellen [NL]	108	45	17	15.7	32.4	37.8	52.3		
41 (56) Jenny Williams [NZ]	141	76	17	12.1	6.9	22.4	11.7		
42 (127) David Openshaw [E]	47	28	16	34.0	20.0	57.1	40.0		
43 (52) Curtis Drake [USA]	41	20	15	36.6	31.6	75.0	54.5	1	
44 (27) John Gibbons [E]	47	31	15	31.9	32.3	48.4	50.0		
45 (33) Stephen Forster [A]	70	31	15	21.4	21.4	48.4	36.7		
46 (47) Alan Sands [A]	88	63	15	17.0	17.3	23.8	23.3		
47 (36) Jocelyn Sutton [A]	23	20	14	60.9	43.2	70.0	48.5		1
48 (10) Colin Irwin [E]	41	25	14	34.1	34.1	56.0	48.3		
49 (31) Martin Clarke [A]	55	49	14	25.5	25.3	28.6	35.2		
50 (25) Tim Wilkins [E]	86	49	14	16.3	19.4	28.6	30.4		
51 (45) Ed Duckworth [E]	52	30	13	25.0	35.0	43.3	53.8		
52 (72) Lionel Tibble [E]	65	41	13	20.0	8.0	31.7	16.7		
53 (92) Paul Scott [USA]	26	20	12	46.2	36.4	60.0	57.1		
54 (75) Andrew Johnston [I]	36	26	12	33.3	25.0	46.2	37.5		
55 (151) Tony Stephens [NZ]	39	24	12	30.8	3.2	50.0	6.1		
56 (12) Mark Prater [A]	59	42	12	20.3	30.3	28.6	45.0		
57 (89) Max Donati [A]	69	51	12	17.4	6.3	23.5	10.9		
58 (163) Rich Lamm [USA]	71	41	12	16.9	5.6	29.3	8.3		
59 (34) Tony Hall [A]	121	70	12	9.9	12.2	17.1	20.5		
60 (83) Paul Bennett [USA]	35	28	11	31.4	15.6	39.3	29.4		

Figures quoted are for games with triple peels or better (quadruples, quintuples or sextuples). Bracketed figure gives 2003 ranking.

UK Association Croquet Rankings

	Grade	Pld	Won	Index	%age	Grade	Pld	Won	Index	%age	
											1 (1) Robert Fulford [E]
2 (5) David Maugham [E]	2727	165	126	2816	76.4	62 (89) Paul Stephenson [E]	2146	15	8	2124	53.3
3 (2) Reg Bamford [SA]	2707	55	41	2594	74.5	63 (75) John Toye [E]	2141	21	14	2189	66.7
4 (11) Peter Trimmer [E]	2652	74	48	2718	64.9	64 (24) R Beijderwellen [NL]	2135	108	45	2081	41.7
5 (16) Mark McInerney [I]	2640	46	36	2681	78.3	65 (21) James Dixon [E]	2132	14	10	2224	71.4
6 (8) Jeremy Dyer [E]	2564	11	8	2499	72.7	66 (79) Ailsa Lines [E]	2130	51	25	2125	49.0
7 (12) Mark Avery [E]	2558	58	36	2506	62.1	67 (74) Nick Harris [E]	2124	53	34	2176	64.2
8 (10) Jonathan Kirby [S]	2548	92	60	2536	65.2	68 (97) Ben Ashwell [E]	2120	23	18	2204	78.3
9 (14) Steve Comish [E]	2527	18	12	2467	66.7	69 (41) Strat Liddiard [S]	2118	61	32	2080	52.5
10 (31) Ian Lines [E]	2518	73	57	2626	78.1	70 (57) Phil Eardley [E]	2116	20	11	2131	55.0
11 (9) Matt Burrow [Jer]	2510	61	48	2514	78.7	71 (101) Philip Brabazon [E]	2114	49	28	2182	57.1
12 (4) John Gibbons [E]	2508	47	31	2449	66.0	72 (83) Ian Vincent [E]	2097	34	15	2075	44.1
13 (17) David Goacher [E]	2506	92	53	2407	57.6	73 (70) Jack Wicks [E]	2095	66	43	2138	65.2
14 (21) James Death [E]	2501	63	45	2595	71.4	74 (67) Bob Burnett [E]	2092	43	20	2060	46.5
15 (6) Colin Irwin [E]	2500	41	25	2487	61.0	75 (130) DI Gunasekera [W]	2091	14	7	2007	50.0
16 (7) Stephen Mulliner [E]	2495	93	63	2523	67.7	76 (56) Peter Taylor [E]	2088	44	24	2044	54.5
17 (18) David Openshaw [E]	2473	47	28	2506	59.6	77 (81) Jed Allen [E]	2088	27	15	2102	55.6
18 (15) Ed Duckworth [E]	2471	52	30	2428	57.7	78 (69) Patsy Fitzgerald [I]	2088	28	11	2049	39.3
19 (23) Robin Brown [E]	2466	83	52	2501	62.7	79 (87) Bernard Neal [E]	2074	28	14	2058	50.0
20 (32) Dave Kibble [E]	2459	109	81	2525	74.3	80 (44) Louise Bradforth [E]	2074	110	51	2158	46.4
21 (22) Jeff Dawson [E]	2446	64	43	2381	67.2	81 (95) Andy Davies [E]	2071	91	43	2060	47.3
22 (3) Chris Clarke [E]	2436	76	41	2388	53.9	82 (108) Sarah Burrow [Jer]	2070	56	26	2082	46.4
23 (20) Simon Williams [I]	2410	38	20	2447	52.6	83 (84) William Ormerod [E]	2062	13	9	2086	69.2
24 (27) Andrew Johnston [I]	2409	36	26	2427	72.2	84 (94) Peter Payne [CH]	2059	57	41	2052	71.9
25 (16) Mark Suter [SA]	2382	19	8	2259	42.1	85 (125) Gerard Healy [I]	2051	37	26	2108	70.3
26 (36) Alan McInerney [I]	2340	42	24	2336	57.1	86 (116) David Barrett [E]	2050	47	28	2059	59.6
27 (29) Richard White [E]	2333	20	11	2281	55.0	87 (93) William Prichard [W]	2044	10	7	2090	70.0
28 (26) Tim Wilkins [E]	2332	86	49	2330	57.0	88 (82) James Hawkins [E]	2041	12	5	1988	41.7
29 (47) Jenny Williams [NZ]	2328	141	76	2296	53.9	89 (122) Gary Bennett [E]	2033	62	33	2065	53.2
30 (39) Chris Patmore [E]	2326	61	32	2286	52.5	90 (80) Bruce Rannie [S]	2033	44	25	2061	56.8
31 (19) D Harrison-Wood [E]	2312	124	77	2285	62.1	91 (50) Cliff Jones [W]	2033	84	38	2078	45.2
32 (25) Keith Aiton [S]	2309	65	32	2309	49.2	92 (76) John Surgenor [S]	2026	22	14	1994	63.6
33 (42) Sam Tudor [W]	2301	20	12	2341	60.0	93 (73) E John Davis [Lux]	2026	17	11	2008	64.7
34 (33) John Evans [W]	2293	31	21	2242	67.7	94 (64) John Haslam [E]	2013	32	11	2041	34.4
35 (89) Paul Smith [E]	2285	63	46	2287	73.0	95 (72) Nick Evans [E]	2013	18	10	2012	55.6
36 (38) Don Gaunt [E]	2271	25	17	2248	68.0	96 (99) Jerry Guest [E]	2006	70	42	1972	60.0
37 (68) Roger Jenkins [E]	2266	90	53	2251	58.9	97 (110) Fred Rogerson [I]	2003	18	6	1988	33.3
38 (40) Ian Burrridge [W]	2263	44	22	2350	50.0	98 (100) Jamie Burch [E]	2001	12	10	2150	83.3
39 (53) Duncan Hector [E]	2263	75	45	2272	60.0	99 (105) Paul Castell [E]	1992	113	56	2000	49.6
40 (68) Roger Tribe [E]	2258	21	13	2260	61.9	100 (98) C von Schmieder [I]	1991	18	2	1974	11.1
41 (65) Kevin Carter [E]	2244	62	40	2208	64.5	101 (106) Brian Storey [E]	1989	52	26	1987	50.0
42 (60) Dave Mundy [E]	2229	138	82	2244	59.4	102 (103) C Waterfield [E]	1989	20	8	1915	40.0
43 (37) David Foulser [E]	2226	20	10	2146	50.0	103 (100) James Mackay [W]	1980	13	7	1994	53.8
44 (28) Chris Williams [W]	2216	95	48	2237	50.5	104 (154) Roy Edwards [E]	1978	21	12	2061	57.1
45 (54) Dave Nick [E]	2216	83	51	2183	61.4	105 (127) Andrew Cowing [CH]	1971	14	10	1981	71.4
46 (55) Peter Nash [E]	2203	14	9	2227	64.3	106 (128) Rod Williams [S]	1971	18	14	2026	77.8
47 (30) Ed Cunningham [I]	2203	37	15	2222	40.5	107 (88) L Whittaker [E]	1968	48	23	1976	47.9
48 (-) Chris Daniels [E]	2200	108	60	2217	55.6	108 (90) M Granger Brown [E]	1967	30	13	1962	43.3
49 (51) Samir Patel [E]	2193	103	57	2199	55.3	109 (140) Henry Fellows [E]	1966	11	7	2037	63.6
50 (107) Nick Parish [E]	2189	49	33	2240	67.3	110 (133) Martin Murray [S]	1966	54	14	1963	25.9
51 (45) Chris Farthing [E]	2187	10	5	2150	50.0	111 (110) Evan Newell [I]	1961	10	3	1938	30.0
52 (66) Lionel Tibble [E]	2181	65	41	2230	63.1	112 (86) M O'Shaughnessy [I]	1960	10	4	1898	40.0
53 (48) Phil Cordingley [E]	2179	53	23	2188	43.4	113 (118) George Noble [E]	1948	43	17	1951	39.5
54 (43) Gail Curry [E]	2170	12	6	2083	50.0	114 (113) Beatrice McGlen [E]	1947	10	5	1957	50.0
55 (71) Michael Heap [E]	2168	26	12	2122	46.2	115 (62) Ian Storey [E]	1937	17	7	1856	41.2</

World Association Croquet Rankings

	Grade	Pld	Won	Index	%age		Grade	Pld	Won	Index	%age
1	(1)	Robert Fulford [E]	2802	162	135	2867	83.3				
2	(11)	David Maugham [E]	2727	165	126	2816	76.4				
3	(2)	Reg Bamford [SA]	2707	55	41	2594	74.5				
4	(17)	Peter Trimmer [E]	2652	74	48	2718	64.9				
5	(27)	Mark McInerney [I]	2640	46	36	2681	78.3				
6	(4)	Trevor Bassett [A]	2628	143	119	2498	83.2				
7	(6)	Bob Jackson [NZ]	2607	103	86	2615	83.5				
8	(20)	Martin Clarke [A]	2578	55	49	2573	89.1				
9	(14)	Jeremy Dyer [E]	2564	11	8	2499	72.7				
10	(18)	Mark Avery [E]	2558	58	36	2506	62.1				
11	(16)	Jonathan Kirby [S]	2548	92	60	2536	65.2				
12	(8)	Toby Garrison [NZ]	2535	32	23	2519	71.9				
13	(21)	Steve Comish [E]	2527	18	12	2467	66.7				
14	(65)	Ian Lines [E]	2518	73	57	2626	78.1				
15	(73)	Graham Beale [NZ]	2514	17	13	2408	76.5				
16	(23)	John Prince [NZ]	2513	13	10	2489	76.9				
17	(15)	Matthew Burrow [Jer]	2510	61	48	2514	78.7				
18	(10)	John Gibbons [E]	2508	47	31	2449	66.0				
19	(28)	David Goacher [E]	2506	92	53	2407	57.6				
20	(-)	D Bidence [USA]	2504	14	10	2522	71.4				
21	(43)	James Death [E]	2501	63	45	2595	71.4				
22	(12)	Colin Irwin [E]	2500	41	25	2487	61.0				
23	(13)	Stephen Mulliner [E]	2495	93	63	2523	67.7				
24	(85)	Ian Bassett [A]	2492	177	133	2459	75.1				
25	(35)	Jocelyn Sutton [A]	2489	23	20	2431	87.0				
26	(25)	Wynand Louw [USA]	2480	18	12	2383	66.7				
27	(7)	Aaron Westerby [NZ]	2475	81	55	2522	67.9				
28	(31)	David Openshaw [E]	2473	47	28	2506	59.6				
29	(112)	Ed Duckworth [E]	2471	52	30	2428	57.7				
30	(46)	Robin Brown [E]	2466	83	52	2501	62.7				
31	(56)	Robert Lowe [NZ]	2461	36	26	2466	72.2				
32	(67)	Dave Kibble [E]	2459	109	81	2525	74.3				
33	(41)	Greg Bryant [NZ]	2457	50	31	2392	62.0				
34	(44)	Jeff Dawson [E]	2446	64	43	2381	67.2				
35	(161)	Harley Watts [A]	2446	53	38	2426	71.7				
36	(42)	Jerry Stark [USA]	2438	59	44	2425	74.6				
37	(3)	Chris Clarke [E]	2436	76	41	2388	53.9				
38	(30)	Brian Wislang [NZ]	2434	30	20	2409	66.7				
39	(102)	Max Donati [A]	2429	69	51	2364	73.9				
40	(34)	Ian Dumergue [A]	2424	59	42	2486	71.2				
41	(45)	Helene Thurston [A]	2417	32	26	2400	81.2				
42	(9)	Bruce Fleming [A]	2414	86	55	2412	64.0				
43	(40)	Simon Williams [I]	2410	38	20	2447	52.6				
44	(53)	Andrew Johnston [I]	2409	36	26	2427	72.2				
45	(24)	Jeff Newcombe [A]	2408	56	40	2346	71.4				
46	(22)	Leo McBride [C]	2407	67	50	2404	74.6				
47	(37)	John Taves [USA]	2399	14	6	2367	42.9				
48	(115)	Bob Cherry [USA]	2392	107	69	2295	64.5				
49	(38)	Mark Suter [SA]	2382	19	8	2259	42.1				
50	(55)	Greg Bury [A]	2377	10	6	2356	60.0				

UK Golf Croquet Rankings

	Grade	Pld	Won	Index	%age		Grade	Pld	Won	Index	%age
1	(1)	R Bamford	166.64	24	19	167.85	79.2%				
2	(2)	S Mulliner	151.36	27	20	149.84	74.1%				
3	(4)	I Brand	137.61	50	31	142.28	62.0%				
4	(-)	M Evans	133.98	38	27	136.18	71.1%				
5	(3)	C Sheen	130.05	99	61	125.48	61.6%				
6	(14)	T Weston	128.96	79	44	133.65	55.7%				
7	(8)	E Dymock	127.20	16	10	120.22	62.5%				
8	(27)	C Daniels	125.89	55	39	129.89	70.9%				
9	(15)	D Hopkins	125.72	113	79	122.67	69.9%				
10	(6)	S Curry	123.16	60	38	116.92	63.3%				
11	(11)	R Ware	122.09	101	63	117.96	62.4%				
12	(7)	D Old	118.15	60	37	114.24	61.7%				
13	(-)	R Edwards	118.02	12	10	123.9	83.3%				
14	(12)	A Pidcock	116.97	22	11	112.07	50.0%				
15	(20)	D Beck	116.96	86	41	115.61	47.7%				
16	(26)	R Brand	113.85	53	26	119.7	49.1%				
17	(25)	K Garrad	113.76	26	13	118.98	50.0%				
18	(5)	N Morrow	113.53	63	31	115.92	49.2%				
19	(16)	J Moore	113.14	90	47	121.11	52.2%				
20	(10)	P Payne	110.03	39	18	117.18	46.2%				
21	(-)	F Vitty	108.22	29	17	110.86	58.6%				
22	(21)	D Dray	107.72	17	8	107.6	47.1%				
23	(-)	J Strover	106.72	62	33	111.57	53.2%				
24	(9)	P Strover	104.29	88	45	108.19	51.1%				
25	(29)	T Brant	102.05	11	6	99.84	54.5%				
26	(-)	R Williams	101.39	24	8	92.16	33.3%				
27	(-)	T King	100.58	19	11	111.81	57.9%				
28	(13)	W Arliss	100.45	45	17	102.52	37.8%				
29	(24)	Daphne Gaitley	99.10	38	16	91.96	42.1%				
30	(-)	C Jones	98.39	27	8	92.51	29.6%				

World Golf Croquet Rankings

	Grade	Pld	Won	Index	%age		Grade	Pld	Won	Index	%age
1		K Younis [EGT]	169.30	33	29	174.39	87.9%				
2		R Bamford [RSA]	166.64	24	19	167.85	79.2%				
3		S Hassan [EGT]	156.09	32	24	153.46	75.0%				
4		A Nasr [EGT]	154.98	28	24	170.25	85.7%				
5		W Salah [EGT]	151.43	17	14	150.95	82.4%				
6		S Mulliner [E]	151.36	27	20	149.84	74.1%				
7		M McInerney [I]	150.35	34	24	147.56	70.6%				
8		D Bulloch [NZ]	143.61	31	21	149.89	67.7%				
9		M Mehas [USA]	139.33	54	41	130.84	75.9%				
10		I Brand [E]	137.61	50	31	142.28	62.0%				
11		N Hassan [EGT]	136.57	29	18	137.16	62.1%				
12		M Evans [E]	133.98	38	27	136.18	71.1%				
13		M Nasr [EGT]	133.70	24	18	145.63	75.0%				
14		Mrs M Ali Mohsen [EGT]	131.05	25	17	137.51	68.0%				
15		P De Petra [IT]	131.05	29	18	126.77	62.1%				
16		E Newell [I]	130.42	31	15	116.52	48.4%				
17		C Sheen [E]	130.05	99	61	125.48	61.6%				
18		T Weston [E]	128.96	79	44	133.65	55.7%				
19		S Abdelwahab [USA]	128.13	43	23	123.52	53.5%				
20		H Mahmoud [EGT]	127.95	28	19	137.7	67.9%				
21		E Dymock [E]	127.20	16	10	120.22	62.5%				
22		N Eatough [CH]	126.69	35	19	122.14	54.3%				
23		S Jackson [USA]	125.93	37	23	139.95	62.2%				
24		C Daniels [E]	125.89	55	39	129.89	70.9%				
25		D Hopkins [E]	125.72	113	79	122.67	69.9%				
26		S Curry [E]	123.16	60	38	116.92	63.3%				
27		R Ware [E]	122.09	101	63	117.96	62.4%				
28		A Prevettoni [IT]	121.93	28	15	119.99	53.6%				
29		P Batchelor [NZ]	120.47	30	17	128.08	56.7%				
30		S Abusbaa [EGT]	119.32	31	14	111.95	45.2%				

Chairman's Column

I'm pleased to be able to report that, from a strong field of candidates, the executive committee have appointed Klim Seabright to take over from Nigel Graves as CA Secretary. After many years playing rugby, cricket and hockey, which he has also umpired for many years, Klim came across croquet about four years ago, at a Cheltenham Club Open Day, and got down to 12 after winning the Cheltenham Handicap Bowl last season.

His professional background is in office management, with wide experience of servicing, and indeed chairing, meetings, and in handling enquiries from a variety of people. He is taking early retirement from his current job as a Casework and Assessment Officer in the Education team at Hereford District Council and will shadow Nigel for a couple of months as Secretary Designate, before taking over at the end of March. I'm sure you will join me in giving him a warm welcome.

I trust that Lady Bracknell would not attribute carelessness to us for having to find a replacement Editor, as

well as a Secretary, but you may be aware from the web site, if not from reading on in this edition, that James Hawkins plans to retire after producing the April issue. At the time of writing (about a month before I expect this edition to land on your mat), I'm not aware of anyone in the frame for this, so please contact Charles Waterfield or myself if you are interested.

Although the ideal would be for a single person to undertake the entire role, from planning and commissioning content, through editing that which is submitted, to designing the page layout and submitting the electronic copy to the printers (at which point the editor's responsibility ceases), it might be possible to arrange a "job share", whereby one or more people deal with the content, while someone else does the presentation. I'm sure we have a number of associates (I envisage that our editor would be a croquet player) with a flair for communication: indeed I've seen a number of excellent newsletters produced for both federations and clubs, so please consider whether you could contribute your skills in this area.

The web site celebrating the centenary of Cadbury's Dairy Milk (www.cadburydairymilk.co.uk/EN/CDM100/history) notes that the August 1905 edition of the Bournville Works Magazine featured details of a visit by the company foreman and forewoman to the home of Mr & Mrs W.A. Cadbury. 'Conveyances were sent for the convenience of the guest and a very pleasant drive was taken to their destination. After being received by Mr & Mrs Cadbury a most enjoyable time began. Golf, croquet and other games being indulged in with great enthusiasm'. From the sound of it, a rather select works outing, but it is interesting to note that the idea of croquet being used as entertainment for employees is by no means new. A number of clubs get useful revenue from such entertainment: could yours?

Ian Vincent

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.

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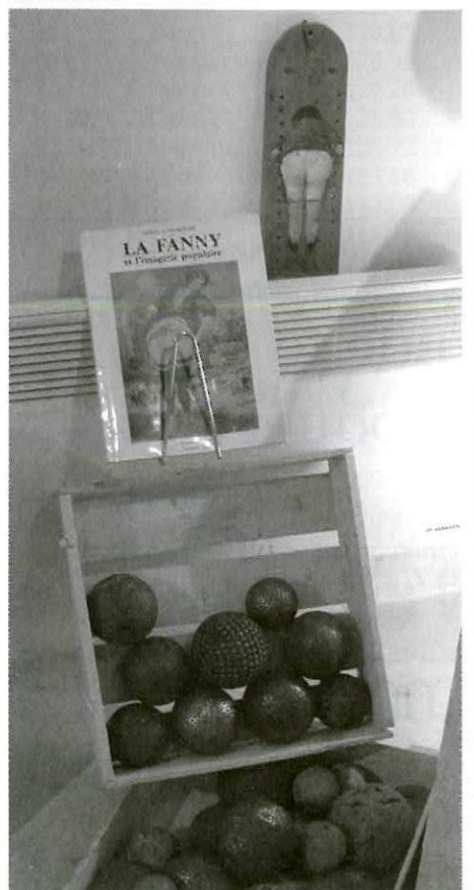
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The Game of 'Mail'

Roy Wallis finds a strange version of Croquet in rural France

In the town of Lodève in the Languedoc-Roussillon region of France where I live, there are many art and history exhibitions. A current exhibition is of various games, both ancient and modern. Aside from the very local game of 'Tambourin', involving hitting a ball with a tambourine - held either by the frame, or by a long handle fixed through the frame and anchored to the opposite side, there is an exhibit of the game of 'Mail'. The mallets, from which Latin roots the game gets its name, are not unlike croquet mallets, though much lighter. The main difference is that they have one face at 45° to the axis of the head. (Just think how this would be an advantage to golf croquet players, given the current laws.) There is a rule book included in the exhibit (which is a private collection, by the way), and it is open at the first page, as can be seen in the photograph.

Among the other games is an intriguing one called 'La Fanny', which, judging from the exhibit, would not find favour with British feminists.



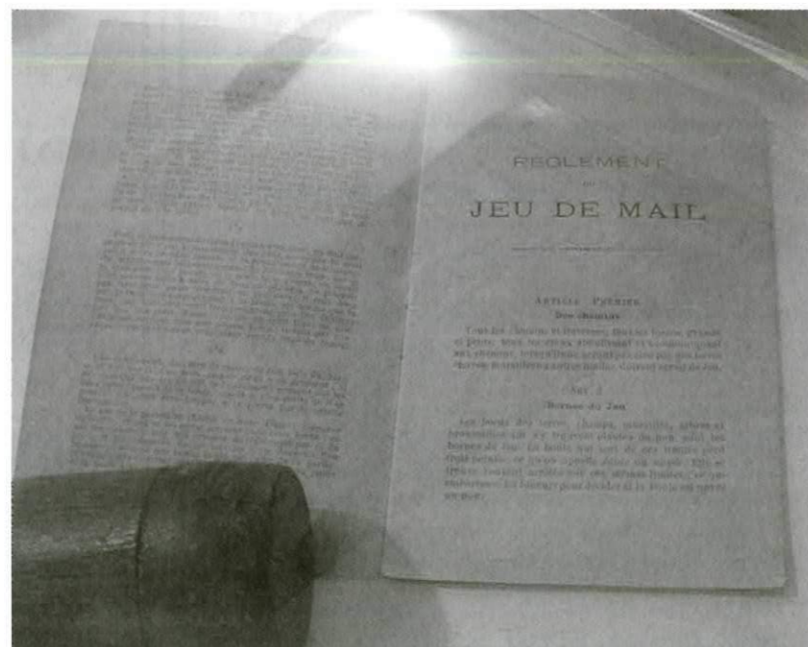
The book of rules of 'Mail' begins:

**"First Article
About the Paths**

All of the paths and crossings, all the ditches, large and small, all the hollows resulting from and communicating with the paths, when they would not be closed by the high ground, walls or other borders must be part of the game.

**"Article 2
Boundaries of the Game**

The banks of earth, fields, walls, trees, undergrowth which are there, planted or not, are the boundaries of the game. The ball that crosses these boundaries loses three points: it is known as 'faulty' or 'drowned'. It is reintroduced, stationary, on these very boundaries; which hampers the players in deciding whether the ball is 'drowned' or not."



As the rule book is under a perspex cover, I was unable to read further, though I doubt that my confusion would have been alleviated by doing so.

The elite croquet players of today are always coming up with suggestions to make the game more challenging. Here, I believe, is the answer. Plant a few more trees, banks of earth etc. and drown a few more balls.

Now, the fact that I have acquired a stand of hazel trees and taken an interest in a landscape gardening business has nothing to do with the case.

Tra la.

I am indebted to Horizons Interieurs of Lodève for allowing me to take the photographs.

Historical Note:

Croquet historians remain at odds over the significance of Mail as a precursor to Croquet. Anthoine Ravez, the former President of the Fédération Française de Croquet, had this to say in 1992:

"Croquet is a very old game, widely known and practised in France since the XI century under the name of 'jeu de mail'. Borrowed by the British around 1300, it was modified over the centuries: the Scots made golf out of it, the Irish turned it into croquet. Louis XIV, suffering from being unable to play mail during the winter, miniaturised it on an indoor table and laid the basis of billiards..."

There's no doubt that Jeu de Mail, or Pall Mall (as its derivative became known), existed in some form a very long time ago. It's questionable in the extreme whether this can accurately be

claimed to be the ancestor of modern croquet.

Apart from the obvious similarity of the equipment, the game described above seems to share few common traits with modern croquet, and might have more in common with Golf.

The defining characteristic of Croquet, as we know it today, is the croquet stroke, apparent in all forms of the game - Association, American Rules, Gateball, Roque, and even Extreme Croquet - but not in Golf Croquet.

While our present-day equipment may have derived from that used for Mail, little else from that earlier game seems to have survived. Perhaps it is time for a revival.

- Ed.

CA Grant application guidelines

The CA Development committee has funds allocated to it each year in the form of a percentage of the Development Fund. The purpose of this fund is to support the development of croquet in the broadest terms at all levels within the CA. For 2005 the sum available is up to £20,000.

A NEW standard form is now available for applications from clubs, but supplementary information should be attached as necessary. Essential additional papers include the latest audited/examined accounts, a copy of the club's constitution and a written report by the Federation Development Officer that reviews the project to be funded and lists the pros and cons separately.

The CA recognises that other grant-awarding bodies will expect to see some input from the sport's national governing body. The CA equally expects applicants to seek additional funding from other sources and suggests Parish, District and County Councils, Awards for All, Playing Fields Association, local charities and

sponsors.

A condition of any grant will be to report back within one year of receipt of the grant to the Federation Development Officer who will report to the committee. In the case of long-term projects, an interim report will be expected. This should detail the benefits received as a result of the grant.

The CA will more readily give loans. Grants will never be more than 50% of the total project cost and will not normally be given for a project, or phase of a project, that has been started before the application has been submitted.

The CA grants programme has the following objectives and applicants should demonstrate that their project meets at least one:

1. To increase club and CA membership
2. To improve lawn quality and/or essential off-court facilities
3. To achieve the standards and number of courts needed to support CA tournaments

4. To prevent closure of an existing club
5. To help establish an existing club

In considering grant applications, the committee will take into account the club's

1. Ability to carry out the project.
2. Its financial state, including subscription level
3. Its membership potential, and the likelihood of its contribution to CA funds through affiliation fees
4. Its security of tenure
5. The retention of its assets within the CA if the club closes.

Federations may use CA funds to support clubs up to a maximum of £150 per club, but the committee would normally expect clubs themselves to make an application direct to the Development Committee (supported by the FDO).

Patricia Duke-Cox
Development Committee Chairman

After the Storm

After its troubled beginnings, Bob Alman sees an optimistic future for Florida's National Croquet Center

In the mainstream national media, Florida's big news of 2004 was all about an unprecedented season of hurricanes, two of which struck Palm Beach County and the National Croquet Center in September. In the hospitality industry, 2004's big story in South Florida was of a near-complete recovery from the post Nine-Eleven depression that created a 40% decline in the tourist and convention economy in 2002 with lingering effects throughout 2003. But in the tiny world of croquet, 2004 may be remembered as the year the National Croquet Center was, at last - after two years of wasted opportunity - financed, staffed and organized to succeed. Why did it take this long?

A synopsis of the decline and fall

In the fall of 2001, the visionary founder of the National Croquet Center suffered a debilitating stroke that rendered him incapable of further hands-on management. His management style had been loose, but also firm, and he could always be counted on to confront his mistakes and take responsibility for making things work. After his stroke and for the next two years, the Center was virtually unmanaged. A number of persons and committees were nominally in charge, but clearly none of them was equipped to do what needed to be done to lay a rational foundation for the Center's growth and survival.

All the managers and "committee members" were part-time or no-time off-site volunteers, so the Center was operated very much like a croquet club would be operated, by the same people who were in many cases quite experienced in running croquet clubs. There was no money for adequate marketing outreach, collateral, or staffing to give the Center the foundation for growth that it needed. There was no viable business or development plan, and the advice of the onsite, fulltime professionals was largely ignored.

Why was this situation tolerated? A willful excess of "positive thinking" is one answer. The Center was widely



regarded as a "white elephant". It had been the product of one man's vision and one man's financing, and the flow of additional outside donations had dried up almost entirely by the time the Center opened in May of 2002, six months after the Steuber stroke. The officers of the Croquet Foundation of America - owners of the project - preferred to take it on trust that the Center was on track to succeed. A number of patently absurd projections, some of them published, were allowed to stand unchallenged, while month followed upon month with the financial situation growing steadily, inevitably, worse.

The Center in the depths of chaos

At the time I was "laid off" [as Director of Sales, Marketing and Development] in June of 2003, the finances of the Center were just about as desperate as they could be. There was even a proposal to sell some of the classic three-stalk palms - the visual signature of the 10-acre facility - in order to provide operating capital for a few months. I desperately enlisted agreement that this would be incredibly damaging. "If you're going to sell the palms, you might as well go ahead and nail a For Sale sign to the front

door," I wrote in one memo, "because nobody will put a deposit down on an event six months in advance at a place that is clearly going out of business." The buzz was already out on the local grapevine. Corporate people at networking events around town - potential clients of the Center - began to ask me whether it was true that the Center was going out of business.

Despite all this, the Center's "management committee" predicted glowing financials by the end of 2003 and breakeven by the end of the year 2004! Once again, incredibly, they were taken at their word. Many informed and intelligent observers knew these pronouncements were fantasies, but they said nothing. To say of a naked emperor that he had no clothes would be "bad PR."

Anatomy of a Greek tragedy

How could this have happened? The reality was that nobody knew what to do. The situation was unprecedented in the croquet organizations, and the financial and legal status of the Center was in limbo. Technical issues of ownership and debt were very murky - to the extent that operating loans could not be secured.

So while all this was being slowly

sorted out, somebody - and it turned out to be a series of somebodies - had to hold the reins of an operating entity that was clearly dying of a lack of nourishing revenue and an overabundance of expenses. If you wish, you can pronounce these somebodies to be heroes for "pitching in" when nobody else would; or you can call them villains or fools for allowing to further persist the illusion that the Center could possibly succeed without resources.

The situation was absolutely hopeless. So in late 2003, perhaps acknowledging the possibility that the Steuber croquet legacy was in danger of being frittered away, Chuck Steuber and his family made it possible for the Croquet Foundation of America to secure a line of credit, so at last - almost two years after the Center opened - it would have a sufficient capitalization to lay the foundations for financial success. In the normal course of development in the leisure and hospitality industry, this would be about a three-year period of investment in staffing, marketing, sales, and carefully planned and managed development and growth.

The new capitalization now meant that the Center could pay lots of bills it had stalled, and it could look for a professional on-site manager who would have the authority and the capital - not even to speak of the professional expertise - to lay a firm foundation for the Center's development.

Enter Jenner

That person turned out to be Mike Jenner, a youthful croquet player and Harvard MBA with ancestral roots in England who had been "retired" and traveling the American croquet circuit for a couple of years and was, in his own words, "looking for something interesting to do." The CFA invited Jenner to come to the Center for a couple of weeks to observe the operation at the time of the Center's second annual "Croquet the English Way" event in February of 2004. What he saw dismayed him, but at the same time he realized that in this situation

he could make something happen. "And frankly," he told me, "I didn't know who else was going to step up to the plate and do it."

So at last, there was somebody with professional business credentials who said, "I can do it," and there was money available for that manager to use to develop the Center. For the Croquet Foundation of America, it looked like an irresistible hire. Perhaps a saviour had come, at last.

In the eight months since Mike Jenner moved to Florida, the accounting has been cleaned up, the finances and bookkeeping put in order, the expenses trimmed, a professional staff has been hired for marketing, sales, and customer service; and a Director of Membership Services has been engaged to work exclusively on membership issues. The front office that had housed only one fulltime and one part-time employee now had desks and computers for two full-timers and three part-timers, with two more part-timers at the welcoming station in the front hall.

All of this has happened just in time for the 2004-2005 "season" in south Florida. In many ways it is the first season of a fully operational National Croquet Center. If the Center is accorded a development time-span of three years (which would be normal in the hospitality industry), taking into account the fact that much of the first two years were wasted, that means the Center could be expected to achieve financial breakeven by 2007.

Making the numbers stand up and dance

Jenner won't predict the breakeven point, but he proudly tracks the income stats in the critical area - events - from December 2003 to December 2004 as the shape of things to come. Revenues in the quarter just ended are 2fi times higher than the same period of 2003. "Don't you think that's incredible?" he asks, and I admit that the numbers look good, presaging a prosperous high season for the January-through-April period when event sales are at their peak.

According to Jenner, the National Croquet Center is really four businesses: "In increasing order of economic opportunity, we have a retail business; a tournament business - including both schools and tournaments; a members club; and an events business - anything from a wedding to a banquet to a birthday party to a novice croquet event on the lawns.

"The biggest short-term profit opportunity - and right now my focus is making as much money as quickly as possible - is in events." He acknowledges the future promise of the membership sector, but sees that as a slow, steady growth over time that could reach as high as 700 in a few years and at that point provide the bulk of the revenue needed to operate the club at a five-star level of service.

Being staffed to succeed costs money. To mitigate the cost of staff, Jenner has hired good people, he says, for under their market value - people who can do very well in the long term but who have agreed to start out on a small salary plus commission. The staff is young, bright, and high-toned - the kind of staff that makes a good impression on any potential corporate client coming through the front door.

Peanuts to save a white elephant

Working for "peanuts", Jenner has put in consistently long hours since his term here started almost eight months ago. And his wife, while taking care of two small children, puts in lots of unpaid time as well, serving as the Chief Financial Officer and overseer of the retail operation and front-of-the-house staff...and as Mike Jenner's loyal helpmate. What do they get out of it, if not riches? "If this place makes it, I'm going to be in the Hall of Fame," he says only half-jokingly.

It will definitely be a first. Wimbledon didn't make it as a croquet center. If the National Croquet Center makes it, Jenner will have made croquet history. He will be credited with saving and restoring to health a white elephant. If others follow the example of the Center, it could revitalize the sport worldwide. The Hall of Fame?

Why not?

Giving the Center new life has required a radical shift in reality that can be described in many ways and from many different perspectives. From the wreckage of the past, valuable lessons will have been learned, old mistakes need not be repeated, and management can chart a fast track to financial self-sustainability.

The Center has only one mission

"There is only one mission right now," Jenner asserts without equivocation: "That is survival. With all respect, I'm not even thinking about the growth and development of croquet overall, I can't afford that. Sure, I can see the mission evolving after two or three years, but I'm not even thinking about that right now."

What will the 2005 high season look like?

Almost everything except the physical facility is new in the National Croquet Center's new beginning. The Center survived the hurricane season with hardly a dent; there's little question now that the clubhouse is solidly hurricane-proof. A rebound from an unprecedented depression in the local hospitality industry will help to show that the Center's financial health is depression-proof - especially if membership continues to grow under the watchful eye of Ron Lloyd, the Center's Executive Director of Membership. The "Executive Management Team" is six-strong, with a varied and impressive skills set, headed by Mike Jenner as CEO. With a free hand to make his own judgments about what works and what doesn't work, Jenner has both the smarts and the financial backing to make a most unlikely and unprecedented enterprise succeed.

From amateur club to professional business

In terms that are more abstract but no less valid, the new beginning represents a radical shift from an amateur club model to a professional management model. No longer is the National

Croquet Center the creature of croquet club committees with lots of "good ideas" and no ability to be responsible for their own decisions. Responsible business management demands an organized, integrated working process pointed at results and committed to rigorous self-critique - not a random collection of throw-away notions produced by committees for which no one needs to be ultimately accountable. To be fair, the latter pattern fits just about every croquet organization in the world, large and small. But it is woefully insufficient for the unique business enterprise called the National Croquet Center.

A year ago, Chuck Steuber's dream of a National Croquet Center that would dramatically heighten the sport's growth curve was all but dead. Now the Center again has a real future. Financial breakeven will not come tomorrow or next month or even next year, but it can be predicted within several years - a prediction based, this time, on real numbers and a genuine integrated plan for marketing and development - not the fantasy projections of the past. It's a future that rests not in the croquet community, but in the larger world where image, conventional business practice, and practical economics rule the marketplace.

Balancing image, membership privileges, and public access

It is Jenner's intention to address every segment of that marketplace, selling the Center by competing on image, not on pricing. It's a five-star image, with pricing to match. Yet ironically, for the first time, "the public" is invited to come to the Center to dine and to drink at the bar - and this is definitely a breakthrough. In the first two years, membership exclusivity was closely protected by the South Florida croquet elite. Social events, designed for younger members and potential corporate clients, were vetoed because they would interfere with membership privileges. Outsiders were required to pay premium rates for entry.

But now, not only can the public

visit the Center without an entry fee or cover charge, they can also, at times, enjoy with members the benefits of "two-for-one" drinks at the cocktail bar and in the restaurant. This turnaround in policy is vitally significant at a time when the Center is in a critical early stage of development.

The previous management never recognized a key factor in marketing a new club: It might be beautiful and special, but the building and the grounds and even the amenities - the quality of the food and drink - do not "sell" the club. What sells the club and the facility, ultimately, is a total environment - a social ambience that depends upon a certain "critical mass" of numbers. Nobody wants to go to a club or a bar that is dead and empty. There is little of value to sell in a club unless the social environment is vibrant, interesting and varied.

A fuller measure of membership exclusivity will come in time - when the numbers permit. Such is the wisdom of the marketplace - and we haven't even talked about the economic desirability of doing enough business to pay the bartender and the restaurant staff.

The new caterer has demonstrated a high level of service and excellence - a crucial element of Jenner's development plan. Excellent food and beverage service, obviously, are vital to the success of a desirable social club.

As for the playing events, Jenner has determined to produce the kind of events that will nail down the Center's reputation as croquet's new Mecca. The events calendar does not merely mirror the traditions of American Rules croquet in the social clubs of South Florida, but reaches out into the broader croquet world to mirror the values of the sport at its highest level. America's first "Selection Eights" event did that at the beginning of the season, and many other groundbreaking programs are planned. Other programs successfully begun are being repeated and expanded - including the English Croquet week and the Croquet Festival (going into their third editions in February of 2005).

With five-star service and presentation, The National Croquet Center as a membership club is now, more than ever, the biggest membership bargain in South Florida. The only thing it lacks is a Palm Beach address - and for many, the West Palm Beach location is an advantage. Nothing remotely like it exists on this side of the Lake Worth divide between Palm Beach and West Palm Beach.

I have seen everything that has happened at the Center for the last four years. I witnessed the clearing of the land, when I came to meet with Chuck Steuber for the first time in 1999 and talk about his dream of multiplying USCA croquet by ten times. I moved into my office in the Utility Building (where I remain) 18 months before the clubhouse opened. With a staff of one part-time assistant, I organized the administrative, sales and marketing structure of the Center and its first membership programs when the clubhouse finally opened in May of 2002. Following Chuck Steuber's stroke in late 2001, I then saw everything go south...and then even further south.

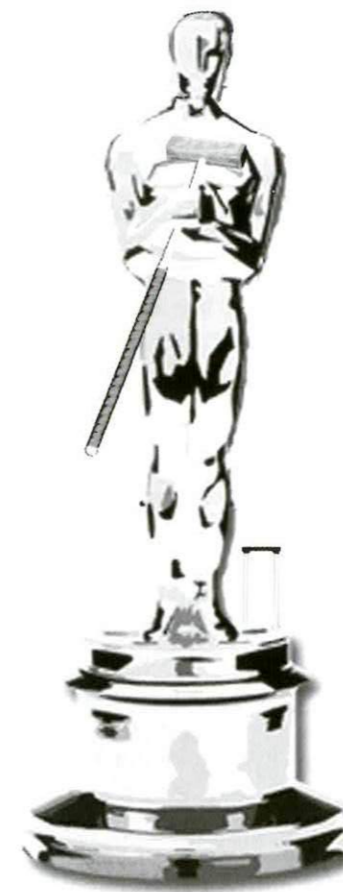
I saw it all from my office overlooking the lawns. Two years on, I am happy to report the good news to you now, without equivocation and in full confidence that the Center's future has been restored.

For the first time, the Center has in place all the resources, the management and the staffing it needs to succeed. I can confidently predict that the National Croquet Center will succeed and even flourish; that lawn tennis will never be played on any of its twelve courts; and that by the end of the decade, the Center's lawns will be filled to capacity with croquet players, even in the doldrums of mid-summer.

Bob Alman is the owner and manager of WicketSports Unlimited at the National Croquet Center, producing Malletball and Golf Croquet events throughout South Florida. He is the founding editor of CroquetAmerica.com and CroquetWorld.com and the editor of Malletball.com.

"And the best film is..."

James Hawkins gives his pick of the best croquet movies available



Five years ago, I wrote an article for the *Gazette* on croquet's various appearances on celluloid. The text subsequently appeared on the Internet, and a flurry of other sightings of the game were spotted, from obscure American cartoons to hackneyed detective shows.

While we're in the midst of the cinematic awards season, perhaps the time is right to provide an update of the game's on-screen appearances.

I've long been aware of that legend among croquet players, the 1972 James Ivory film *Savages*. This remains one of cinema's few productions in which the game takes the central role. It's now available to buy on DVD, as part of a box set (the Merchant-Ivory Connoisseur Collection), or to rent online (it's Disc 6 within that set). Sorry to say, it's too much of an acquired taste for me.

Savages concerns a group of primitive 'mudpeople', who emerge from their forest to find a New England mansion. They play a bit of croquet,

act in a civilized way, before each reverting to their former selves and returning to the forest. The point, I suppose, is that there's some of the savage in each of us, and we can't shake off our natural traits. Within this context, croquet (at least in its public perception) is an apt metaphor, occupying that middle ground between sophistication and vicious savagery.

And that, in two sentences, probably wraps up every shred of meaning from the film. Ivory has grown into a fine film-maker, and you can see that talent emerging in *Savages*. For my money, this was too odd to be fun, and not odd enough to be sufficiently stimulating.

If sophisticated savagery is how other people see croquet, Michael Lehmann's *Heathers* from 1989 is a further case in point. There's little new to say about this movie. As a high school teen comedy, it's top notch. There's lashings of croquet action, but it's a good film rather than a great one.

A greater film, and arguably as great as they come, is something of a surprise on this list. I'd seen Alfred Hitchcock's 1959 masterpiece *North by Northwest* a dozen times and not noticed the croquet scene. And yet, there it is, tucked away like a Hitchcock cameo, in the first five minutes of the film.

At the point where Cary Grant (the hero) first sees Martin Landau (the baddie's nasty henchman), Ernest Lehman's script gives us this:

"...A man is playing croquet all by himself in the fading light. His name is Leonard. Later, we will see him at closer range. He is about thirty, but looks much younger, for he has a soft baby-face, large eyes and hair that falls down over his forehead. His attitudes are unmistakably effeminate."

So what's going on here? There's an element of cultured thuggery within the character for sure, but where does the issue of sexuality come into the picture? Neither Hitchcock in his direction nor Landau in his performance make such an emphatic show of this side of Leonard. Does Lehman

aim to impart a further added layer of metaphorical meaning to the game?

Perhaps so. Croquet was a big feature of Hollywood social life in the 1940s and 50s. In a country with no established class system, the cinema moguls were starting to become the new aristocracy. Croquet became the favoured pursuit of polite society, and its advocates included many of Tinseltown's movers and shakers.

Sam Goldwyn, Daryl Zanuck, the Marx Brothers and Howard Hawks all played regularly. Most notable, in social circles at least, was the director George Cukor. Cukor's croquet parties were famous, and Hitchcock had certainly been on the guest list.

Cukor's own sexuality was no secret, and perhaps the reference in *North by Northwest* is an in-joke among the Hollywood hierarchy. Maybe Hitch and Lehman had less affectionate regard for Cukor, and genuinely believed croquet was a game only suitable for the effeminate. We can only speculate.

In light of this, the 1998 film *Gods and Monsters* is a must-see. It portrays a fictionalised account of the ageing British horror director James Whale, cast aside by Hollywood, and having come to the end of the line, physically and emotionally as well as professionally. Ian McKellen gives an astonishing performance in the central role, but it's for its croquet scene that this film is particularly significant. Whale - in this film at least, if not in real life - skirted along the periphery of the Cukor clique, and attended one of the celebrated parties.

Great croquet moments in history are seldom recorded. Whether Cukor's parties fall into that category or not is moot. That an actual croquet event is committed to film, and in a way which seems to show how it really happened, is something for us to get excited about.

Historical accuracy, for once, failed that perfectionist of cinema, Stanley Kubrick. *Barry Lyndon* (1975) is, perhaps, his most unjustly neglected film. Based on Thackeray's novel, it's the tale of an 18th century chancer who

climbs up European society. This is a movie with everything: beautiful scenery, Leonard Rossiter as a baddie, and a game of croquet. Barry has married well, and his wife has given birth to a son. Father introduces son to croquet at an early age, but it's a long long time before this could have happened.

Dates are uncertain, and not explicit in the narrative, but a fair estimation is that this scene occurs in around 1790, long before the game's invention. I'm sure that historians with an interest in equipment could place the design of the balls much later still.

Perhaps it was the complaints over this anachronistic howler which affected Kubrick's next film. Stephen King's novel, *The Shining*, has its main character on the rampage with a croquet mallet. At some point between page and screen, all references to the game were excised and the weapon replaced with an axe. Our loss is cinema's gain.

That more or less concludes my updated review of croquet on screen. It's still not good news for our image. Kubrick sees croquet as a game for children. Most other film-makers see it as an expression of elegance and cruelty in equal measure. But one film stands apart, and it gets my vote for the best depiction of croquet in cinema.

My previous discussion on this topic yielded an angry email from a group of Canadian university students, who had rented FW Murnau's 1922 silent shocker *Nosferatu*, on my recommendation. Several versions of this film exist, and it's the full 90-minute complete special edition you need to watch.

I said back then that it's an important film, because it shows that croquet had become common currency, even in a country such as Germany, where the game's influence wasn't previously known to be so great. I'd go further than that now. Archive croquet footage of any sort from the early 1920s is rare indeed. It's only by fluke that this film still exists (Bram Stoker's widow had all copies of this film destroyed for copyright reasons; only one print survived). I'd venture to suggest that this is one of the only instances of the heyday of croquet on film anywhere.

Nosferatu is a cracking film. 83 years on, in grainy black and white, and with no dialogue, it remains a profoundly scary piece of horror. And, if it's just the croquet you're after, it's got that too. Two people playing croquet, no hidden meanings, no subtexts, just playing in the garden for fun.



News & Information

Oxford awards Full Blue



Congratulations to Jonathan Kirby (above with John Solomon) who has been awarded an extraordinary Full Blue for croquet by the Oxford University Men's Blues Committee.

The "Blue" is the award for sports men and women competing against Cambridge in the annual varsity match. There are only 14 Full Blue sports, and croquet is considered a Half Blue sport. The Blues Committee, comprising the captains of the Full Blue sports, may award an extraordinary Full Blue to players of any sport if their achievements are considered to be of sufficient merit.

For Jonathan to be awarded an extraordinary Full Blue is not only a great achievement for him, but also for the Oxford University Croquet Club who have raised the profile of croquet within the University to the extent that an application for a Full Blue could have a favourable hearing. The recent huge expansion of the Cuppers competition (208 entries of teams of 4 last year) has been a factor in this.

Even though Jonathan Kirby is now ranked 11th in the World, and made his successful test debut against the USA in 2004, the award is a major step forward in the acceptance of the game. The title remains at the discretion of

the major sports (rowing, rugby, cricket, football), who now seem to recognise the central role of the game in Oxford student life.

Cambridge has traditionally had a much harder time fighting its position. Without a dedicated ground on which to play, the CUCC lacks much of the infrastructure of its counterpart, allowing previous applications for Half Blues to be rejected. Cambridge croquet remains a sport without either Full or Half Blue status.

New lawns for Letchworth Croquet Club

Letchworth First Garden City Heritage Foundation have agreed a grant of over £7000, 50% of the cost, for the construction of two new lawns.

It is an excellent site and, although sheltered, has no overhanging trees. The new lawns will be within the grounds of a £1.5 million Tennis and Squash Club development which has been supported by the LTA to the tune of £500k, backed by a huge grant from the Heritage Foundation. There is a "state of the art" club house, three indoor and seven outdoor tennis courts and two excellent squash courts.

The croquet lawn construction involves the removal of top soil, laser levelling of sub soil, replacement and levelling of top soil with two stone removal stages. 50mm of sand will be incorporated into the surface levels (a staggering 156 tons) to provide a very smooth surface. The lawns will mature for 12 months before use so that the grass roots can grow through the sandy layer into the soil thus forming a solid mat, and promising very flat and very smooth lawns - well worth a visit when they are open for business in 2006.

Dawson Balls to be used in CA Championships

Tournament Committee has agreed to standardise on the use of Dawson International balls in future

CA Championships. In addition to the Western & Northern Championships (which have previously switched to Dawsons), this will apply this season to the Open, Mens & Womens, Mixed Doubles and World Championships, Home Internationals, and the President's Cup & Chairman's Salver. To this end The CA is to purchase ten sets of Dawsons, five each primary and secondary.

Phil Cordingley
Tournament Committee

Inter-Counties Championships

There are two corrections to email addresses for Inter-Counties organisers. Howard Bottomley, the captain of Bedfordshire's Association team, may be contacted at H.Bottomley@talktalk.net. The contact for the Middlesex Golf Croquet team is Peter Quinn, whose address is peter@pquinn19.wanadoo.co.uk.

Golf Croquet Rules

Following the recent deliberation of the WCF Golf Croquet Rules Committee, the revision of the WCF Rules of Golf Croquet (2005 Edition) has been completed.

This is the second major revision of the World Croquet Federation's Rules for playing Golf Croquet. An interim version was released in March 2004 reflecting the progress made to that time. The interim version sparked a large amount of often contradictory comment, all of which was considered, as the Committee balanced the two conflicting aims of removing ambiguity and keeping the game and rules simple.

The Rules will apply to all sanctioned WCF Golf Croquet Championships with immediate effect.

The full Rules can be downloaded from the World Croquet Federation website at: www.wfcroquet.org

Responsibilities of Principal and other Standing Committees

[extracted and summarised from the CA Standing Orders & Council Practice Book 2002]

Executive Committee

- ♦ Matters of an urgent nature which requires executive action before a meeting of Management can be held,
- ♦ Matters relating to CA employees and remuneration of other officers, e.g. Editor of the Gazette and the Commercial Agent.
- ♦ The appointment of members and chairmen of Disciplinary and Appeals Panels

Management Committee

- ♦ All matters relating to general finances.
- ♦ Recommending to Council any changes in general policy or function of the CA..
- ♦ Preparation of draft policy and planning papers for Council.
- ♦ Drafting for Council's approval any changes to the CA Rules, Standing Orders of Council and the Council Practice Book.
- ♦ Ensuring the policies and plans of the Association are carried out efficiently and to the satisfaction of the Council. Communicating with, and co-ordinating the work of, other committees.
- ♦ Receiving and considering minutes of all meetings held by the Executive and other Standing Committees. Deciding which matters concern policy and need to be referred to Council. Ensuring that when any matter of substance is to be considered the appropriate committee chairman or representative shall be invited to attend the meeting.

Administration Committee

- ♦ Supporting the Secretary and other staff, including training and Health & Safety requirements.
- ♦ Policy matters concerning the Tournament Levy.
- ♦ Location of office accommodation and liaison with landlords.
- ♦ Administrative procedures.
- ♦ Office furniture and equipment, including all computer hardware and software.
- ♦ Up-dating the Member Club Handbook
- ♦ The Association archives.
- ♦ A register of the Association's assets.
- ♦ Matters relating to the membership policy of the Croquet Association, including entitlements of, and subscrip-

tions from, different classes of member.

Coaching Committee

- ♦ Matters relating to national and regional coaching, including liaison with the Golf Croquet Committee. Publishing CA standard coaching material, including for Golf Croquet and at elite level.
- ♦ Matters relating to coaching policy, the official list of coaches and the appointment of coaches. Training and examining official Association and Golf Croquet coaches at all levels.
- ♦ The CA Merit Award Scheme.
- ♦ The selection of the Coach of the Year.

Development Committee

- ♦ Matters relating to the policy for development of playing facilities, including relations with Federations and other groups involved with regional development, including liaison with Schools, Universities, Colleges and Local Authorities.
- ♦ Making proposals to Management regarding obtaining development funds from third parties, including Government Departments and the Sport England.
- ♦ Helping regional efforts to increase the number of people playing croquet, and developing new clubs (in liaison with Marketing and Golf Croquet Committees).
- ♦ Making grants and loans, within Management guidelines, ensuring that these are applied only to existing Member Clubs, or new facilities where the club is likely to become a Member Club.
- ♦ The organisation of Federation and Club Conferences from time to time. The selection of the winners of Club Awards.

Equipment Committee

- ♦ Setting standards for playing equipment, including mallets, balls, hoops and other court equipment.
- ♦ Development of testing methods, including ball and hoop gauges, and other ball-testing methods and testing equipment.
- ♦ Development of testing methods for speed of grass courts, and speed and other criteria for approving courts made from artificial surfaces.
- ♦ Research and development of playing equipment, including mallets, balls,

hoops, and court surfaces.

Golf Croquet Committee

- ♦ Golf Croquet tournaments and competitions
- ♦ Laws and Refereeing Regulations, in liaison with the Laws Committee. Liaising with the Tournaments Committee regarding the non-Refereeing Regulations.
- ♦ Examination and appointment of GC referees and examining referees, in liaison with the Laws Committee.
- ♦ Coaching policy, in liaison with the Coaching Committee.
- ♦ GC handicapping, in liaison with the Handicap Committee.
- ♦ International matters (in liaison with the International Committee when appropriate) including arrangements for international championships organized by the CA.
- ♦ Communication with other Governing Bodies, in liaison with the International and Laws Committees, to establish and up-date international laws and regulations.
- ♦ The appointment of four people to the Golf Croquet Selection sub-committee of the Selection Committee.
- ♦ Advising Marketing Committee on obtaining funds from third-parties for GC events.

Handicap Committee (excluding Golf Croquet)

- ♦ Approval of handicaps and changes to handicaps
- ♦ Handicap policy, the official list of Handicappers and the appointment of new Handicappers.
- ♦ The CA Grading System.
- ♦ The selection of winners of the Apps and Steel individual trophies.

International Committee

- ♦ International matters (other than team selection and Golf Croquet) including arrangements for international championships organized by the CA, and representing the CA at international events held outside the domain.
- ♦ Proposing to Management Committee the appointment and nomination of CA representatives to serve as officials and on committees of the WCF and other Associations.
- ♦ Communication with other Governing Bodies, in liaison with the Golf Croquet

and other appropriate committees.

- ♦ Developing an Association Croquet National Team.
- ♦ Making proposals to MC regarding obtaining funds for international events from third parties, including Government Departments and Sport England.

Laws Committee

- ♦ Resolving questions of interpretation, amendment, revision of or additions to the Laws, and the Regulations for Refereeing, of Association Croquet (in collaboration with the governing bodies of croquet in Australia, New Zealand and the USA).
- ♦ The appointment and examination of Referees and Examining Referees for Association Croquet. Liaising with the Golf Croquet Committee regarding GC referees.
- ♦ Collaborating with the Golf Croquet Committee over questions of interpretation, amendments or additions to the Laws and arrangements for the Refereeing of GC.
- ♦ Collaborating with the Tournament, Golf Croquet and Handicap Committees, over questions of interpretation, amendment or additions to the non-refereeing Tournament Regulations.

Publishing Committee

- ♦ The Croquet Gazette and the CA Website. Ensuring that the magazine and website contents accord with agreed policies.
- ♦ Being aware of legal matters relating to the magazine and the website, including copyright, libel, defamation and data protection issues.
- ♦ Liaison with Marketing Committee on advertising, sponsorship and sales from the CA Shop.

♦ Terms of reference and appointment of any volunteers to help publish the magazine and/or the website.

- ♦ Matters relating to the software technology of the website. The design, house-style and promotion of the website, in conjunction with Marketing. Discussion of website contents and design with CA members, and the provision of feed-back to those responsible.
- ♦ Advice to other committees and working parties about the function and purpose of serial and occasional publications, ensuring they meet the requirements of members and others.

Marketing Committee

- ♦ Implementing the marketing, merchandising, commercial and sales policy of the CA.
- ♦ Generating ideas for increasing income from any source (ensuring these are considered by other committees).
- ♦ Publicizing the Croquet Association and its activities to members and to others in all media including the Internet, and Public Relations generally.
- ♦ The preparation and maintenance of the CA's 'house style' and public image.
- ♦ Advertising and sponsorship revenue from CA publications.
- ♦ Helping with recruitment of members, both clubs and individuals (in conjunction with Development Committee).

Association Croquet Selection Committee

- ♦ The selection of players for association croquet invitation and representative events other than the MacRobertson Shield.
- ♦ The selection of players for invitation to specialist golf croquet coaching events, and preparation of the material and coaches for such events, in conjunc-

tion with the Coaching Committee.

Golf Croquet Selection Committee

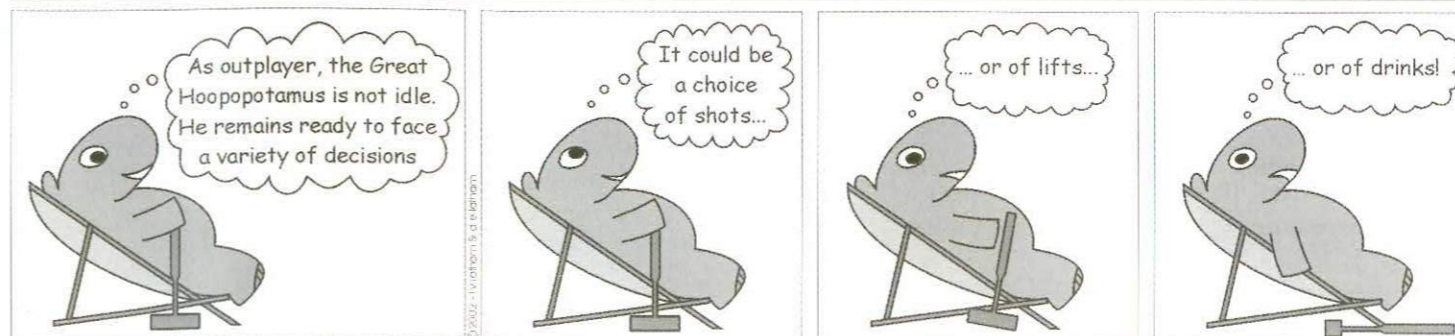
- ♦ The selection of players for golf croquet invitation and representative events.
- ♦ The selection of players for invitation to specialist association croquet coaching events, and preparation of the material and coaches for such events, in conjunction with the Coaching Committee.

Tournaments (including Trophies) Committee

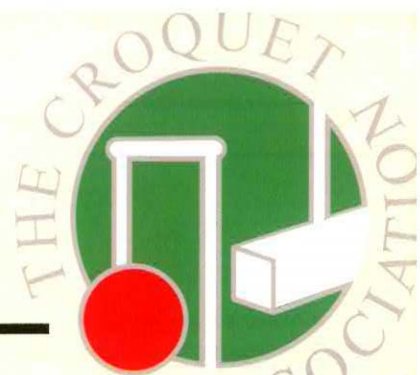
- ♦ All matters relating to CA tournaments and competitions (excluding Golf Croquet) and any questions relating to other tournaments held under the Laws and Regulations.
- ♦ Amendments to the Tournament Regulations in conjunction with the Laws, Golf Croquet and Handicap Committees.
- ♦ Managing the publication of, and all matters (except advertising) relating to, the annual Fixtures Calendar and Tournament Regulations book, which includes Golf Croquet events.
- ♦ Matters relating to the official list of Managers and the appointment of Managers.
- ♦ Liaison with clubs hosting Championships and National Events.
- ♦ Lawn and ball hire charges.
- ♦ Setting entry charges for CA tournaments and competitions.
- ♦ Following guidelines from Management, setting the Tournament Levy and the preparation of the budget for Tournament activities.
- ♦ Responsible for Trophies (including Golf Croquet): care of; inscriptions; maintenance of records; allocation of trophies to specific tournaments; delivery of trophies to venues.

HOOPOTAMUS

by Victor



CROQUET SHOP



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Clothing

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Fleece reversible gilet	£23.50
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Canvas ball carrier bags.	£10.00
Croquet Girl cards - pack of 8, blank inside	£4.50
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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	£5.00
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.