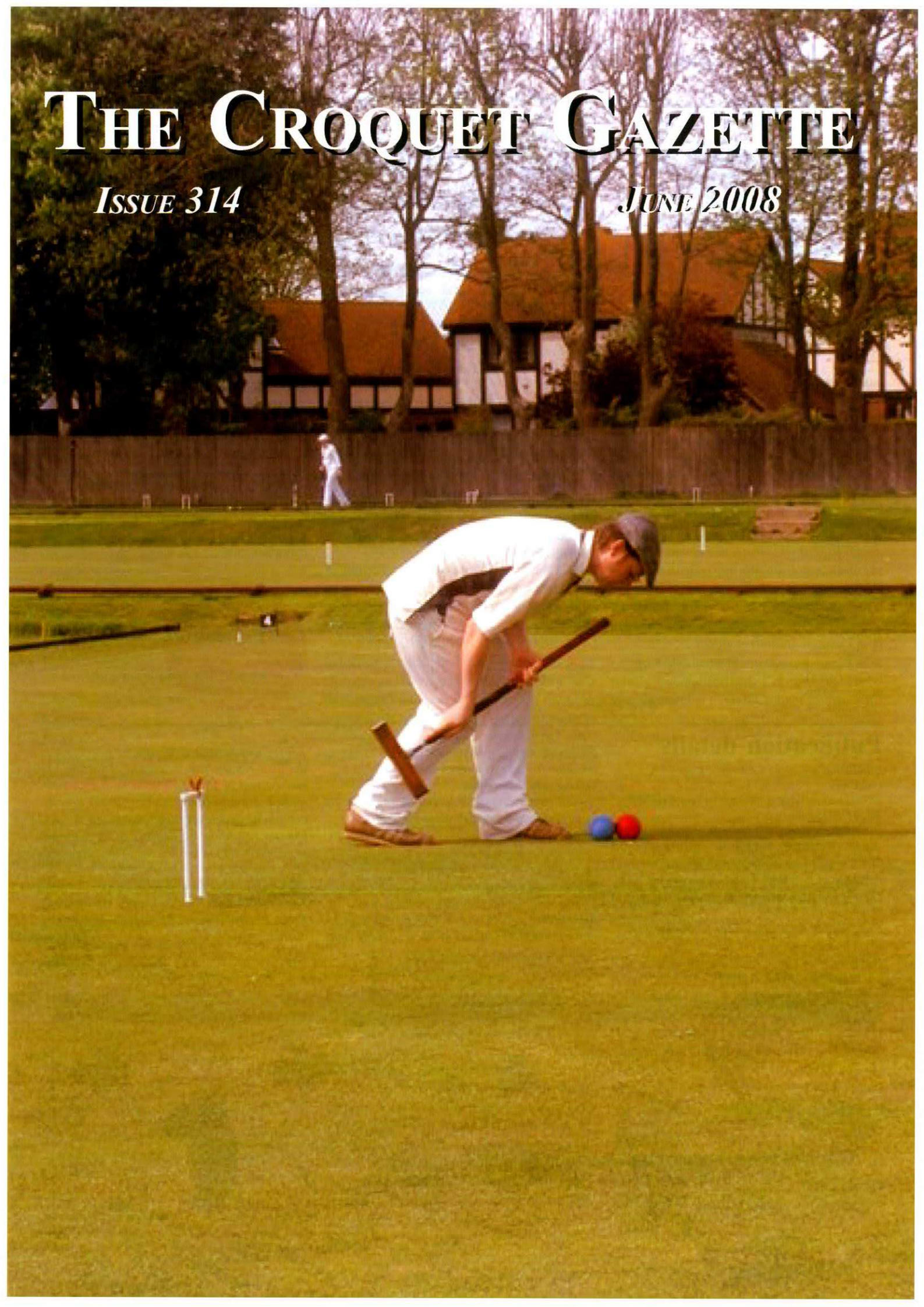


THE CROQUET GAZETTE

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JUNE 2008



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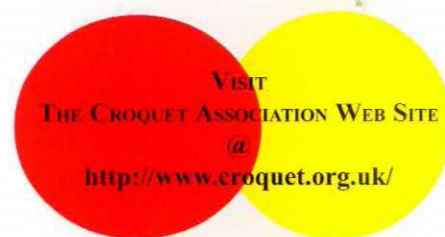
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THE CROQUET GAZETTE



Issue 314 June 2008
Front Cover: Newcomer Matt Dobson, in his first tournament, on his way to winning the Southwick Spring Bank Holiday Handicap.

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Photos in this issue by Christine Constable, Joe Camosy, Tim King, Derek Watts, Kevin Carter, Andrew Winn, Tony Thomas, Geoff Young, Barbara Dutton, Charles Waterfield, Alan Linton, Mike Steer;

Disclaimer
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Chairman's Column



The CA restructuring exercise is now well under way. Liz Larsson took up her appointment as CA Manager on 7th April and has now got her feet firmly under the table. My personal thanks must go to Klim Seabright & Liz Budworth for their excellent support during the first stage of the changes.

By the time this edition goes to print Liz Larsson will have taken over the PR role from ENS. During the last 3 years ENS have served us well and my thanks must go to Rebecca Hopkins for the achievements of her team on what was a somewhat limited budget.

The next phase of the restructuring will involve the integration of the CA Shop into the Cheltenham operation as well as responsibility for the publication of the Fixtures Calendar.

On Council matters, The CA Selection Policy for both Association and Golf croquet has been considered and agreed by Council and can be viewed on the CA website. My thanks must go to the members of the respective committees and especially to Dave Kibble for his excellent work in

coordinating the views and publishing the final document.

With the first 2 months of the season now behind us I'm sure many of you have attended coaching courses or possibly wished you had applied!

The newly formed Croquet Academy kicked off its inaugural season with a Managers Course in March followed by a series of courses in April. The first of these consisted of some 50 students and 16 coaches. It was an amazing sight and must have been one of if not the largest Croquet Training session ever run.

The Academy is running its first Golf Croquet weekend this July and is already totally oversubscribed. I'm told that next year the number of Golf Croquet courses will be extended to meet this encouraging demand.

Jonathan Isaacs

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Tournament Reports & Results
Emailed reports are welcomed. Attachments may be sent in Microsoft Word format, or text format. Handwritten reports are no longer acceptable due to the illegibility of most. Queries regarding the delivery of the Gazette to members should be directed to the Secretary of the Croquet Association and not to the Editor.

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HOOPOPO TAMUS

by Victor



Editorial

It's all about image and perceptions

In recent months, and not for the first time, there has been discussion regarding the image of our game and how 'whites', are perceived. I am sure we all well aware of the friends and acquaintances that say 'oh, croquet that's a cruel sport', referencing shrubs, whacking, snobbery, or my personal favourite - not, Alice in Wonderland. I'd like five minutes in the shrubs with Lewis Carrol and a flamingo. However I digress. The image of croquet is a much wider picture, the advent of the Internet and its ever expanding growth offer opportunities for

minority sports such as ours to gain a wider understanding, audience, publicity, and hopeful through those participation.

During some of the less pleasant evenings recently I have been looking at various croquet websites, and it was an interesting, but sometimes frustrating experience, even though I would consider myself a fairly computer literate.

I think by the end of my 'research' I had come to the conclusion that in most cases the best is yet to come, but there are some noteworthy exceptions. But before you think I am going to launch into knocking any of them, you'd be wrong. I can appreciate the time and effort that is put into websites, and quite often that time has to be found by people who have little of that to spare. So to everyone who is involved in club or federation or national sites, I think you have

Continued on page 11

Letters

Madam Editor, the great white debate, like its namesake with jaws, circles overhead as the top of the croquet food-chain defends the status quo.

Down here in the lower depths, we bottom-feeders take solace that cracks are apparent in the establishment's composure – at least in its mastery of Greek: in your February and April issues correspondents deployed – and you, Madam Editor, condoned – a superfluous definite article before “hoi polloi”.

Shock! Horror! But insufficient, I fear, to shake or stir the citadel.

It may be that Chris Hague's colleagues at Hurlingham do not don their uniform specifically to repel the common herd but the effect, from Belsay to Bournemouth, is, nevertheless, of intimidating white supremacy – and the medium is the message.

To spread croquet's influence, I suggest we adopt the missionary position rather than the thin white line.

Peter Lowe

White or not White

I would like to add my pennyworth on this subject. I am not sure what players are suggesting we wear if not white for official events. Would we all wear another colour, say blue or red or green (shades of school uniform), or will we wear everything and anything? If spectators at a croquet event see a group of variously clad players on the lawns, they might assume that this is any ordinary club day with lots of individuals doing their own thing. The fact that we have all dressed in white (or all in another colour) says that this is a special, meaningful event that we are all taking seriously. I for one will be highly peeved if we were to change as I have spent the last 17 or so years filling a cupboard with every type of white clothing to suit every type of weather.

Lilywhite of Cheltenham

Whites wash

Harking back to an early contribution on this topic, the evidence is not there for whites being used

to keep out 'hoi polloi' in the early days. I have a number of cuttings from magazines and newspapers of the end of the 19thC and all participants are wearing their street clothes, even top hats. Bowdon club have photographs of major competitions in the 20s and 30s, where again competitors are wearing ordinary street clothes. It would seem that whites appeared after WW2, I believe after the MacRob team had been to Australia and saw that there (and in New Zealand) whites are taken seriously, and enhanced by the practice of wearing club colours. The advantage for me is that, sartorially challenged at the best of times, it saves any decisions about what to put on and also saves my ordinary clothes from mud, dye off the mallet handle, grass stains and so on.

As for taking the game seriously, wearing whites is just what it does. In comparison with other games, no village cricketer would be seen dead in anything but whites. In snooker, which is now seen as a very serious yet egalitarian game, competitors wear what has become a very stylised dinner suit.

If whites are banned then I shall have to dig out one of my little organdie numbers.

Nigel Gardner

Hoops not bisques

I have played six friendly games this season following the Winchester System and allowed a two hoop start for each bisque difference and level play. Playing off 7 we have enjoyed every game and both players have benefitted from the experience of level play immediately rather than the comfort or discomfort of bisques. My opponents were 24 24 12 3 and 0 and the high handicapper particularly enjoyed telling me what her next shot would be and accepting any alternative option that I gave her. As a Club we are trying this system at our Club evening sessions which should give working Members better lawn time without bisque watching.

Without suggesting that this is suitable for competitive play, which I thoroughly enjoy, we do perhaps defer too much to the high bisquer learning to build breaks and learn tactics.

Mike Glew East Dorset C.C.

Wharrad turns

The announcement of Lionel Wharrad's death in the last Gazette reminded me of the experimental

games we played when Lionel was formulating Wharrad Turns in order to achieve an alternative ending for timed games.

At a number of handicap tournaments players were asked to co-operate by timing how long it took to play say 12 Wharrad Turns each. Ordinary time would finish after say two and half hours then Wharrad Turns would start. Lionel used the average time to play these turns over a great many games and I think the average time was about 45 minutes. They weren't called Wharrad Turns to begin with and we sometimes got confused as to how many we had played and who started the first one – you know, typical croquet player stuff. At Roehampton tournaments, we put up matchsticks by the side of the lawn (we had tried bisques but then got confused as to which were proper bisques and which were extra turn bisques – typical croquet player stuff. But then we occasionally stood on the matches or someone nicked one to light a fag with, etc. The adjacent practice putting green at Roehampton has a border composed of seashells, so we grabbed a handful of these (sorry Roehampton) and placed two rows of 12 shells on the side of the lawn. When you went on to play, you picked up a shell and put it in your pocket. It worked and for quite a while they were known as shell turns and I carried a small supply of shells to tournaments in my mallet bag.

Now, not everyone likes Wharrad Turns, but it was a far preferable system to the usual timed games, where a beetroot faced player would be pacing round the lawn pointing to his watch and calling to his opponent, (who was taking the scenic route between hoops), asking him whether he knew there was only 10 minutes left. Said opponent might indicate he didn't hear what was being called and might walk thoughtfully over to his opponent, giving way to the double bankers en route, to ask what the problem was. The opponent expresses surprise that the game is nearly over and walks back on the lawn, giving way again to the double bankers before going round all the balls in his game to see what might be the best line of play. He decides to play red, but at the last moment decides yellow is the better bet and walks round the other three balls again just to check. Then plays yellow into a corner. Time is called shortly afterwards, and the two players walk towards the manager's tent, one about to spontaneously combust the other commenting on what a good game they had just had. This game happened, I

know because I was one of the double bankers. Roll on Wharrad Turns.

Eileen Magee

Badgering to be heard

Over the last six years or so I have repeatedly agitated for a Referee's Badge, claiming that when coaching beginners or acting as a Match Referee for B League, it would be an advantage to have a badge to make ones status clear. I have written, I think, three times to the Gazette and twice to different Chairmen of Council. I have never had a written answer, neither direct from either Chairman nor as a contribution to the Gazette. Cliff Jones, when lobbied, has informed me that one only needs the natural air of authority that having passed the examination should bestow. That may do for him but I remain unconvinced.

And now I find that, quite without fuss, brouhaha or general announcement, a Golf Referee is automatically awarded a beautiful burgundy badge to wear on appropriate occasions. I am considering having a large sandwich board made so that, between matches, I can parade up and down at the National Veterans Championship at Budleigh - or I would if I thought it would do any good!

Tony Backhouse

Seeding and re-seeding

The method of seeding the knockout in the major association croquet championships of the world may be of interest only to a limited number of croquet players. Nevertheless, the question arises again: why is it that players are automatically seeded in the first round of the knockout according to world rankings, regardless of what happened in block play?

Initial seeding into blocks is generally done very evenly according to ranking, but the current system of re-seeding into the first round by world ranking probably started with the British Open some years ago and spread to the World, Australian and New Zealand championships. Previously, the seeding for the first round had usually been determined from the block play results.

So why the current system? Is it to avoid two top-ranked players meeting in the first round? In the recent New Zealand championships, which was very strong, the final was between the fifth seed and the (I think) third seed, but had the draw for the

first round been carried out under the old system, these two would probably have met in the first round, and it is hard to see why this would have been a bad thing. Is it to avoid the possibility of one half of the draw being significantly stronger than the other half? With many very good players taking part in major championships, it would be unlikely to be that unbalanced, and, even if it was, would that not be as interesting as having all the top players go through to the quarter-finals? Is it to try and ensure a final between two top-ranked players? A quality final is good to see, especially with difficult lawn conditions where extra skill is required, but it may also be interesting to see whether another player, who has played well to reach the final can actually win it.

So why the old system, re-seeding according to block results? Should not a player who has won his block earn a seeded place in the first round of a knockout, so that he has a reasonable chance of progressing to the second round? Should not all players need to play well in block play, knowing that a good result in the block is important?

The recent AC World Championship, played in Christchurch, New Zealand, was an outstanding event, mostly on very fast lawns with tight and firm hoops. As there are now so many excellent players, the match results, and which players would go through to the reach the final, were not easily predictable. However had the re-seeding been done on the old system of block results, the first round would have worked out to be just as fair and balanced. Some of the players taking part were asked which method of re-seeding is preferable: the majority felt that re-seeding should be done from the block results as used to be the case.

Surely the current system is unfair, giving a definite advantage to the top ranked players who only have to win two thirds of their games in their block, being assured of their seeded places in the first round regardless. Why should they be given that advantage?

Jerry Guest

Wisdom of the ages

Tony Fathers and Brian Rees may have ages which add up to 161 (see April issue), but Ian Burn and I from Rother Valley will also be at Hurlingham in September (if we live that long) and our combined ages will come to 162, so winning by one. We look forward to meeting Tony and Brian, although I am sure there will be

several other far more mature couples there.

But why should there not be a bisque allowance for the over eighties? After all we are a bit shakey, quite apart from the inescapable 'senior moments'. Could there not be one bisque allowance for every two years over 80? Not only would it even things up a bit, but it would be a nice little reward for perseverance.

Peter Cole

Bisques for 'senior moments' oh now I like that idea. Ed.

Upping the bar

Re the letter from Tony Fathers in the previous issue asking if there was an age record for doubles play. I have been playing with my doubles partner for a number of years and we are still successfully competing in our local competitions. Our combined age is 170. Would this be a record?

Ted Davey & Ron Harris

To Budleigh Salterton Croquet Club.

From an uninvited guest at a Club Open Day in April.

Apologies for sullyng you lawns
Whilst not attired in whites
[Twas the Lord bedecked us pheasants
In multi-hued delights]
And though our natural habitat
Is wood or field or moor
Treading the same old pastures
Becomes a crushing bore

To soar the skies like eagles
Is really quite beyond us
That's flying OUT!... but other sports
Perhaps? – my bird brain ponders
Football? Oh no my dears,
Too physical for words
And all those red and yellow cards
Competing with us birds?

A gentler game like deck quoits
Now that really might be OK?
But with our aristocratic bearing
It surely should be croquet?
So I hope you won't consider me
A frightful nincompoop
But do you mind most awfully

If I just run that hoop.

Pam Moren-Brown



News & Information

3rd WCF Women's World Golf Croquet Championship

The World Croquet Federation has much pleasure in announcing that the Australian Croquet Association (ACA) has been awarded the hosting of "The 3rd WCF Women's World Golf Croquet Championship".

The event will be played from Saturday 21st to Sunday 29th November 2009 at the Victoria Croquet Centre, Cairnlea, near Melbourne, Australia.

There will be an expected entry of 40 players from around the world in the main event.

President of the ACA, Max Murray commented, "We are extremely pleased to be hosting this event in 2009. The last time a WCF championship was held in Australia was in 1997 and this event will give Australians the opportunity to view world class golf croquet. It will also provide an opportunity for the world to view the magnificent new Victorian Croquet Centre at Cairnlea, Victoria with its 12 courts and modern, spacious club rooms".

President of the World Croquet Federation, David Openshaw said, "We are very pleased to have the third Women's Golf Croquet Championships in Melbourne Australia and we look forward to another successful event."

Cairnlea is home to the Victoria Croquet Association and boasts a new purpose-built facility in west Melbourne's with 12 full-size courts for players of all standards and is the venue for the newly formed Cairnlea Croquet Club with a state-of-the-art pavilion. Extensive work has been undertaken on the new courts and a top dressing and laser levelling program is being implemented. The courts are expected to be in prime condition for the event.

Locally, 93 Clubs throughout Victoria offer a variety of games with expert coaching for club members and hire their facilities for meetings, functions, and social events for their local community.

Further details of the 3rd WCF Women's World Golf Croquet World Championship will be released in due course.

Obituaries

LIONEL WHARRAD

Too often we know little of the lives of our fellow croquet players. We peek into the front gardens of their lives and never learn to appreciate their vast hinterlands of interest and achievement away from the lawns and other croquet players. But somehow we all knew that there was a great deal that was very special about Lionel Wharrad, who died on 13 April after a short illness, aged 96. In fact, croquet was but a small part of a long and absorbing life.

To begin at the beginning, Lionel was born in Cardiff of English parents on 26 October 1911 and, after a formative stint at Barry Grammar School, he went to work with a Russian oil company. The war put an end to that career and he joined the RAF in 1940. Ruled out of flying by poor eyesight, he was sent to help Lord Beaverbrook. Oh to have been a fly on that wall in the Ministry of Aircraft Production. I assume that the Ministry wasn't big enough for both of them because Lionel moved to work with data processing and logistics – the kind of stuff that wins wars. First little known fact about Lionel: he was a Wing Commander.

The post-war Lionel was simultaneously in trade and in politics. He worked with a kind of English IBM, helped to run the Raw Cotton Commission and moonlighted with the Fabian Society. In 1950 he nearly permanently impoverished himself by running for the Parliamentary Constituency of Runcorn – second little known fact about Lionel. Fortunately for his family, if not the long-term governance of the nation, he came second to the Tory and he found consolation with the John Lewis partnership. There must have been dozens of croquet players who have stood for Parliament in the Conservative interest but I can only think of three who have stood for Labour.

After Lionel had sorted out John Lewis, he moved to Booker McConnell in 1963; ran various bits of the Bookers empire, including a stint in Africa, and then retired from a top HQ job in 1975. It is now that the story of the Lionel most of us knew begins. He retired with the three-fold ambition of learning to paint, play the clarinet and play croquet - having been advised by his doctor that at his age, he was too old to take up golf. He wrote to the CA secretary for advice. The reply (it must have been from Vandeleur Robinson) concluded that Lionel should not join either Hurlingham or Roehampton (Mr Robinson had no doubt heard of that 1950 General Election) but that he would find Woking the best answer. So Lionel found a house in Woking and became a bandit. He helped to revive the Woking croquet section and was its Chairman from 1976-79. Derek Caporn pushed him into membership of the CA Council. The move was inspired. Bursting with ideas, some of them good, we will for ever remember the eponymous Lionel for Wharrad turns, (Wharrad) short croquet (actually invented by Eric Solomon), advanced handicap croquet, full bisque croquet and, most famously of all, the Wharrad take-off. Inevitably, Lionel became CA Chairman in 1984 and, among other triumphs, founded the Surbiton Club.



Inevitably, as he moved into his nineties, we saw less of Lionel on the lawns but we were able to keep up contact with him and we Surbiton folk were delighted when Lionel accepted our invitation to become the club President; entirely appropriate for the Founder. Although we are sad to have lost a good friend and agreeable companion, the stronger feeling is one of happiness at such a long life of great achievement, and the fun we had from knowing him.

George Noble

Graham Ingrey Fuller (1935-2008)

by Jill Carpenter

Graham was an enthusiastic member of Compton Croquet Club. He died on April 5th after a short period of hospitalisation following a fall at home. He was cremated on April 15th at Eastbourne followed by a packed Service of Thanksgiving at St Andrews Church, Bishopstone, East Sussex.

Graham will be remembered for many things, not least his tenacious spirit. He was a man of many skills and wide interests. He had a great sense of community responsibility and this was clear from the enormous amount of work that he put into his various commitments.

Graham was born on 29th July 1935, and educated at Milton Road School and the Perse Boys' school in Cambridge.

After National Service in the RAF, he then read Law at St. Catharine's College, Cambridge, graduating with a BA and an LLB. Graham met Olwyn while at school and they married in 1961.

He qualified as a solicitor in 1962, working in the Town Clerk's department at Cambridge City Council, before similar roles in York and Solihull. In 1967 a career change saw him join the Department of the Environment and rise to become a Senior Civil



Servant.

Early retirement in 1993 led to five years of working as a planning inspector. In 1998 he and Olwyn retired to Seaford.

In retirement Graham was a leading light in supporting The South Downs Society. He argued most informatively against the proposed football stadium at Falmer, East Sussex. Graham was a Past President of the Seaford Head Probus Club; a particular interest was visiting those who were unwell or no longer able to attend meetings.

Graham was a practicing Christian. He loved music; in early life he played the piano. Later he took up the organ and played at St Andrew's Church, Bishopstone. He was a keen singer and his choral career stretched over fifty years. Graham joined the Seaford Choral Society in 1994, a tenor; he was admired both for his accuracy and wide repertoire. He sang regularly at local choral events and, lastly in March, in a performance of Brahms Requiem, in All Saints Church, Eastbourne.

To help raise money for The Society for Sussex Historical Churches, Graham regularly did the "Churches Walk", walking to various churches, being sponsored for the number of churches visited. Half would go to the above cause and half to St. Andrew's Church.

Graham and I had a long standing 'joke'; each year I would give him £5 towards his Churches Walk and he would give me £5 for a sensory charity!

He had many other interests, was Chairman of Friends of Dulwich Picture Gallery, regional organiser for the Historic Houses Association, Secretary of Dulwich Wine Society and included The National Trust and The Royal National Lifeboat Institute.

Graham and Olwyn enjoyed some interesting travels; among them were trips to Russia, China, Galapagos Islands and Antarctica.

He was interested in Ernest Shackleton, one of the giants of Antarctic exploration. He gave illustrated talks on him, had taken a holiday in the area and even laid a spray of cornflowers on his grave at Grytviken, South Georgia.

Graham celebrated his 70th birthday in style. Friends, drawn from all his walks of life, gathered together to enjoy his party held at The English Wine Centre. Not only were we treated to dinner, but also to a formal talk and wine tasting too.

Graham came to croquet relatively late. At times his thinking was ahead of his

physical game, with this skill he could often pull out all the stops and beat his opponents, as many knew to their cost! One could literally see his determination rise to a higher level!

He first joined Dulwich Croquet Club transferring to Compton. For a short while he was also a member at Sussex County Croquet Club. Having completed various projects including the protests regarding the football stadium, Graham hoped to spend more time in helping Compton; sadly this was not to be.

In 2000 he was the winner of the Z Singles in the Compton CC Challenge Week. In 2001, at The South of England Week, he and I won a doubles event, The Anna Millns Salvagers. In 2000 and 2005, he was runner up in The Erichsen Cup, a club competition at Compton. In June 2003 Graham won the Anstey Cup at Compton Summer Tournament

In 2004 at Sussex CCC he won The Monteith Bowl and was an area finalist in The All England Handicap Championship, held at Nailsea. Graham enjoyed this, even though the rain came down in buckets! He had a 'wicked' sense of humour, which was never far away, and it shone through!

Our deepest sympathy goes to his wife Olwyn, to their two children Adrian and Katharine and to all his family. Graham was kind, capable and far thinking. He had a deep sense of community commitment which he acted upon.

We celebrate his life. He will be sorely missed. May he rest in peace.

M C Percival Mallets

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Thanks for Responding

The WCF "Big Ask" consultation has now ended and special thanks to all those that have responded.

- There were two types of consultation;
- * the last three WCF World Championships of the Women's GC in 2007, The Open AC in 2008 and the Open GC, also in 2008;
- * the WCF Sports Regulations.

The WCFMC will now evaluate all the responses and report back to its membership and the wider croquet community in due course.

During the course of the consultations, the WCF has also received a report from the WCF Ranking Review Committee that will be assessed together with the consultation responses. This valuable report will eventually be made public after that assessment.

4th Egyptian Open Golf Croquet Tournament

The 4th Egyptian Open Golf Croquet tournament sanctioned by WCF is now open for registration. The event will take place at the Gezira Club and Federation Lawns, Cairo from 10th to 15th October 2008.

Confirmed entries are:-

David Openshaw, Mohamed Nasr, Ahmed El Mahdi, Ahmed Nasr, Khaled Younis, Yasser Esmat

The Marriott Hotel, Cairo and entry visa to Egypt will be arranged by Mass Travel.

Players who want to play should contact the Egyptian Croquet Federation President, Amir Naguib via email (amir_ramsis@hotmail.com).

High speed video recordings

In 2006, the Croquet Association (of England) carried out a project to investigate the dynamic of various types of shot that are applicable to Association and Golf Croquet.

The main tools employed were very high speed and standard video recordings of the shots made, with relevant data.

With the kind permission of the Croquet Association, the video recordings have been placed on to the WCF web site and made available to the public.

The WCF regards this video set as an important contribution to the development of referees understanding of dynamic situations hopefully leading to more consistency of decisions taken on the lawn.

There are two sets of video files:-

1. A general view of the playing stroke taken from a longer distance, annotated with the high speed video code.
2. The individual shot, close-up with high speed video.

It is recommended that both sets are viewed to understand the overall context of the shot played and its outcome.

At this time, the individual shot videos are only available in their original AVI format with no compression. This means that they are of high quality but at the expense of larger files and longer download. Each video is marked with the overall file size which varies between 1.14 MB and 81.3 MB. The duration is between 10 and 20 seconds (approximately) each.

The general view is in MPEG-4 format and is 300MB in size and runs for 10 minutes 45 seconds.

The video recordings can be found at:-

<http://www.wcfcroquet.org/Development/developmentreferee.html>

Czech Republic Golf Croquet Tournament

The 2nd Mill Cup Open Golf Croquet Tournament will be held in the Czech Republic in the town of Karlovy Vary at the Hotel Starymlyn, from Saturday 26th July to Sunday 27th July 2008.

The Club will be open to competitors for practice on Thursday and Friday.

Entries will be limited to 24 players. We have the promised presence of some players from abroad. The field will be completed with the top Czech players.

The Tournament will be played on the lawns which are three-quarter size (25 yds x 20 yds).

Transport from Prague Airport to the hotel will be organised. For details email the Hotel Starymlyn

There will be prizes for all participants, the fee to include courtside drinks is EUR 20.

To Participate please contact the manager: Miroslav Pazdora pazdora@atlas.cz

Election of Honorary Secretary

Proposed changes to the Constitution of the Croquet Association have been agreed by Council, which, if passed at the AGM, will create an elected post of Honorary Secretary, as outlined in recent editions of the Gazette.

Ian Vincent has been appointed by Council to act in the role until the AGM and offers himself for election, but other nominations are invited. Please contact me if you wish to enquire about the role and send nominations, with a proposer and seconder, to the CA Office by 1st August.

Jonathan Isaacs

Chairman of Council

Nominations for CA Diplomas

Nominations of members who have performed exceptional service are invited from clubs for the award of CA Diplomas. Diplomas were first awarded in 2000 and are intended primarily to recognise the work done by the many volunteers who do so much "behind the scenes" to provide the facilities, service and organisation that we all enjoy, but so easily take for granted.

Nominations should be sent to the CA Office by 1st August, together with a short citation that will be published when the awards are announced.

Diplomas are normally presented at the AGM (which this year is at Hurlingham on 11th October), but arrangements can be made to present them locally if the recipient is unable to be there.

Ian Vincent

Hon. Secretary

New edition of Know the Game Croquet is on its way

Advance notice for clubs, beginners and improvers that a completely new edition of this longtime favourite book is due to be published on 17 September this year.

Dr G L Ormerod wrote the first edition nearly 50 years ago. Since then John McCullough, Bill Lamb and now Ian Vincent have revised the content to reflect changes in croquet and coaching practice. The latest edition has a new design and

structure: an introduction and the basics that apply to both Golf and Association are followed by sections on both variations of the game covering strokes, tactics and laws.

The new edition is very fully illustrated with many new photographs of contemporary players. It will be available from the CA Shop as well as bookshops and A&C Black's price is £6.99.

John Prescott is not the only Labour MP who plays croquet

Stourbridge Croquet Club plays in the West Midlands Federation League. It rents lawns on Mary Stevens Park, Stourbridge and has about twenty members relatively evenly split between Golf and Association players. This year marks the 40th anniversary of the start of the club and a number of events have been planned to celebrate this. On Mayday Monday (5th May) the club participated in a 'Fun-Day' event on the park giving visitors an opportunity to play a round of Golf Croquet with the possibility of attracting one or two new recruits to the game. To help us to promote the event we were lucky enough to enlist the help of our local Stourbridge M.P. Ms Linda Waltho. She spent some time talking to club members and finding out about the game. She has even promised to attempt to attend at least one club meeting to try her hand at the sport.



The picture shows Linda Waltho with some of the members of Stourbridge Croquet Club:

Left to right: Mike Wills, John Green (Chairman), Rt. Hon Linda Waltho MP, Sian Davies, Margaret Broome (Secretary)

Croquet World Online launches 3rd Photo Contest

Entries are invited for the 3rd Croquet World Online photo contest. The website, run by Bob Alman and fellow editor James Hawkins, together with Adrian Wadley are looking to increase the entry this year, and video entries are now welcome. Bob hopes that the entries from Britain are wide ranging and plentiful and offers the following information to encourage participation.

In the third year of our Photo Contest, we open the gates of eligibility even wider - to include every kind of "croquet-related" image as well as short videos. Up to 100 "eligible" photos will be published, and as many as 25 of them will be featured in the final AWARDS article to appear online in late July or early August. The contest goes far beyond the predictable "action" photos of the game that are published in mind-numbing profusion in the media. Instead, we want to present a global collection of images illustrating the great diversity of the croquet culture as it reveals itself all around the globe in diverse local settings. The deadline for submission is July 14, 2008.

First, the Q & A

Q: What are your eligibility requirements?

A: Any "croquet-related" still photo is eligible, broadly interpreted. And of course, the submitter must own rights to the photograph or have the permission of the photographer for us to publish it. We always publish the names of the photographers for all the finalists.

Q: What are the categories for submission?

A: We have no categories before the contest. In the process of judging, we create categories based on the qualities of the photos actually submitted. We do everything we can to ensure that ALL croquet-related photos are eligible for submission.

Q: What degree of processing or manipulation of the image is allowed?



Tim King made a beautiful crop to take the "horizontal" award last year.

A: Any degree or none at all, it's up to the photographer. We judge the final product, not the way it was made (although we may very much want to hear about how the finished image was produced). We judge the omelet on its own merits, not the cook or the kitchen or the individual ingredients, or the methods used to produce it. In the service of your art, break as many eggs - or rules - as you like!

Q: How many photos may I submit?

A: No more than four still images, please; and no more than two videos.

Q: Do I retain rights to the photos I submit?

A: Absolutely. CroquetWorldOnline claims one-time publication rights only. When croquet media or mainstream press show interest in publishing one of the contest photos - as they often do - we give them the email address of the person who submitted it, to contact the photographer directly. This would be necessary in any case, because we publish only low-resolution versions of the photographs - allowing us to show a lot of photos in one web file - while print media require much larger digital photo files for good print reproduction.

Q: What does CroquetWorld want to know about the photos I submit?

A: Anything you think would interest readers or other photographers or croquet players. It could be details of a situation in a game being photographed, what circumstances makes the

photo noteworthy, technical comments on the lighting, the shutter speed, the processing. The STORY of the photo - why and how it was snapped and processed and cropped - can be as interesting as the photo itself, and gives it an extra dimension.

Q: Should I provide a caption for the photo, and/or a title?

A: It's fine if you do, but the editors reserve the right to recaption and re-title to fit the categories we choose - and to amuse ourselves.

Q: Must the submitted photos be current or recently taken?

A: Good question! No, they can be photos from any era, from any source, including 19th Century archival images (which would naturally be put into a separate "historical" category). If you have the right to submit the photo, and if you or nobody else has submitted it to us before, it is eligible as an entry.

Q: What are the prizes or cash awards for winning?

A: This is croquet, not horse-racing. Your prize is the same as in most croquet tournaments: Glory. Praise for your artistry. The good opinion of your fellows. And of course, the eternal gratitude of the editors of CroquetWorldOnline for contributing to the quality and variety of the contest. Okay, okay, I get the point! So if you win the OVERALL prize, I will take you to lunch at the National Croquet Center during your visit to South Florida and give you the Special Tour - which includes, of course, a tailor-made lecture on everything right and wrong about the croquet culture in every country of the world.

Q: Is July 14 a real deadline?

A: Yes, it is. On July 15 we will begin a lengthy judging process, so we can publish the results by early August. Many people submitted late last year, and we request those photographers to REsubmit for this year's contest by the July 14 deadline.

Q: In what form should the photos and videos be submitted?

A: We prefer JPEGs of not more than 100k, and videos no longer than 10 minutes. (Adrian Wadley provides much more detail below about the videos.) Both categories should be emailed to BobAlman@aol.com.

Q: Do you have any particular technical guidelines for eligibility?

A: No, the image is everything. Technical guidelines would only put up needless barriers. Each year, we broaden the entry gate, and we want it to be as wide open as possible. This year we are allowing - in addition, of course, to cropping - processing of any type you choose to heighten the visual impact of your photograph. We even allow photo-collages - combining multiple photographic images in the same frame. If you're not certain a photo is eligible, send it and let us decide, and if it's not eligible, we'll tell you why. We want you to challenge our boundaries.



Andrew Winn captured night time croquet in Johannesburg last year.

Adrian Wadley's guidelines for submitting short videos

Videos must be self-produced (either a single videographer/editor, or small team videographer and editor/post-production). This is to allow the submission of older film or video that has been more recently transcribed to the online digital video medium.

Submissions must be publicly available via a common public video-sharing website that does not require subscription or registration to view the files. Examples of such sites include YouTube and Google Video, Metacafe and MySpace. Material previously submitted to CroquetOnFilm.com or posted to the Nottingham list will be considered, provided a request is made to consider the video for this competition.

Submissions of videos in non-streaming formats (i.e. download only) are not accepted. This would include videos sent in via email as attachments. However those who have material that they wish to submit, but who are unfamiliar with uploading to online video sites (like YouTube) should contact Adrian Wadley for limited assistance and advice that may be available, but is not guaranteed.

Videos submitted for inclusion must be less than 10 minutes long.

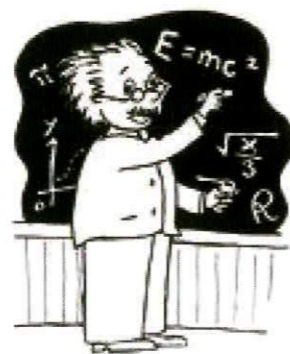
All croquet related video material will be considered. Depending on the quality and quantity of submissions places will be given in one or more categories.

Send your submissions to BobAlman@aol.com, who will forward them to the judges. In your email state that the video submitted is for consideration for the "Croquet World Online Short Video Contest." Include the title of the video, date or dates filmed, all attributions (videographer/photographer, editor, graphic designer, etc., as needed) and the URL (link) to where the video is posted; for example "http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PCjdkRrIOyc" or "http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=-58642097503481498&hl=en".

All material submitted for consideration must be free from copyright restrictions, and if other people's material is part of the submission it must meet the fair use requirements of the Copyright Act of 1976, 17 U.S.C.

So let's see if we can make this the biggest and best contest. All winning entires will be published in the Gazette.

**South East Croquet Federation
Summer school
Mon 21st July - Fri 25th July 2008
At Sussex County Croquet Club (Southwick)**



You don't need to be an Einstein to play croquet. It's relatively easy.

Enrol now in the summer school.

Contact Daphne Gaitley, 38 Monks Close, Lancing, West Sussex BN15 9DB. Telephone 01903 767174 or email daphne.gaitley@virgin.net

Continued from page 3

all made a tremendous start and in some cases further developments, so please continue, as you are part of the bigger picture of our sport. The sites help to represent the 'shop window', and the bigger and better that is, the more prospective customers we have.

For those who are involved in the sites, or perhaps thinking of starting one, here are my overall views of what I experienced. The most frustrating part was finding my way around certain sites. Some were overly complicated, and I think 'surfers' of little experience would find it difficult to navigate their way around and perhaps find what they were looking for. Occasionally I was tempted to go and find my sunglasses - wow, some of those colours on home pages should carry health warnings. There was a noticeable amount of empty space, my suggestion would be not to fill it all, as some is good, but some could be better used with a photo to illustrate, and, now you have the added incentive of the Croquet

The Fun, The Feel, The Photo

By Bob Alman

It's the photograph in most advertising and promotion that's most likely to capture your attention and direct it to the product. The managers of the USCA website, newly redesigned and expanded as a result of grant funding, recognized the primary importance of giving first-time viewers of the website an inviting image of the sport of croquet - one they might comfortably imagine themselves in the middle of. They undertook a comprehensive search of the substantial archives of croquet photography, but no single photo, no matter how excellent, told the story. To present an accurate image of USCA croquet, a single tell-all photo would have to be manufactured! A conversation among founding editor Bob Alman, webmaster Leo Nikora, and photographer Joe Camosy examines the thinking and planning behind the new photographic panorama on the USCA website homepage.

BOB ALMAN: You have managed a great result with a project I was very skeptical about in the beginning, for all sorts of reasons. When I saw Leo's detailed instructions for the photo-shoot, I thought it was going to be impossible for Joe to satisfy the terms - especially because the budget didn't allow for hiring actors. I even regretted that I was going to be responsible for wasting a friend's time by recommending him as the photographer. So I'll begin by asking Leo: How did you come up with that long list of specific requirements, and what made you think Joe was going to be able to pull it off?

LEO NIKORA: I've thought a lot about what attracts people to croquet, especially what is visually attractive about croquet. Working with Jeff Soo on the new USCA website, I discovered that he also had many ideas about it. We often disagreed, but after lengthy discussions, we did hammer out together that long list of specific requirements. Then, with Johnny Mitchell's help, we tried to find an existing photograph that met the requirements. It didn't take us long to realize that such a photograph would have to be professionally created.

Joe Camosy had already done many of the USCA's stock photographs, and I was impressed with his ability to highlight the fun and friendship of croquet. I wasn't sure anyone could pull off this assignment, but I thought Joe had the best shot (no pun intended). I also liked Joe's willingness to do it all - find the people, organize the photo shoot, retouch the image, and put in

World Online competition, there is no excuse really, as digital photos are so accessible with cameras and mobile phones now. And finally, try to ensure that the site is registered with search engines, Google is probably the most widely used, but it can't hurt to use others too.

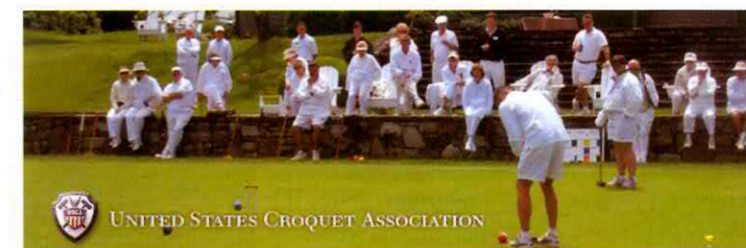
My personal favourite was the Bowdon Club site, and I'd like to congratulate Ken Cooper and John Wastell, who set up and maintain the site between them. If you haven't visited it yet, then please do so at <http://www.bowdoncroquet.co.uk/>

Whilst on the subject of the internet, I'd like to draw your attention to the story of the USCA and its newly designed and expanded website, which was made possible by grant aid and lots of hard work, but I'll let fellow Editor, Bob Alman of Croquet World Online, unfold that story for you.

Gail Curry, Editor



The new image that greets visitors to the USCA Homepage, Joe Camosy's panoramic image



The original website home page was an image from a top tournament the USCA logo and name.

JOE CAMOSY: I was initially intrigued by the idea of creating a home page image for the USCA, as I had already had a lot of fun taking photographs at the National Croquet Center in West Palm, and had even played golf croquet a few times myself. I remember the first time I photographed croquet (Dec 2006) and the challenge that was given to me back then to create images that showed croquet as the real sport that it was.

BOB: All I said was, "Make it look like a sport," and you did. But here's what I was getting at: Leo and Jeff talked a lot about what they wanted to show in the website photograph, and Leo acknowledged that "the perfect photo" had to be created by a professional photographer, but the plain fact is that you came up with a photo that is very, very accurate and very truthful - despite being manufactured! It looks like a photograph that was produced after you gave precise instructions for a particular situation in a game of Golf Croquet at a local club. And this scene could very reasonably be, in every detail (except maybe the palm trees in the background) the final game of a local one-day tournament at just about any club. Is this the specific "plot" you had in mind, Leo, or did it just miraculously turn out that way?

LEO: I didn't really have a "plot" in mind. First, I had to clear my mind of what I personally thought would be a good image. I'm a croquet player, and have my own favorite image of croquet, but we wanted the

website to appeal to non-players. We needed an image that would catch the eye of someone casually browsing the Internet.

So I pretended that all I knew about croquet was its name, that I had typed "croquet" into Google, and then clicked on the fourth listing: United States Croquet Association. What would stop me from pressing the Back button, and looking elsewhere? It would have to be a picture of a person like me having fun playing an outdoor sport in beautiful surroundings. A picture showing more than just a kid's game, more than coat-hanger-wire hoops, and more than someone's garden.

A first-time viewer wouldn't know if it accurately depicted a real game situation or not. They wouldn't know about clubs or tournaments. But the photo should make them wonder why those people are having so much fun. It should pique their interest enough to press the "New-To-Croquet?" button. I think the new picture does just that. My wife, who is not a croquet player, said, "I can see they're having fun, but I don't know why." So maybe we should re-label the button: "Why Are They Having Fun?"

BOB: Actually, that's a pretty good idea. But isn't it amazing that the picture turned out to be so accurate a representation of croquet played at a local club, even though it was so very thoroughly and meticulously "produced" at the National Croquet Center on West Palm Beach, the biggest croquet facility in the world?

LEO: It's to Joe's credit, and to the fact that he has actually played the game, that the picture turned out to be accurate - which also makes it appealing to croquet players. But accuracy wasn't the main consideration; memorability was more important. Even if viewers didn't look any deeper into the website right then, if the picture could insert itself into their brains as the image association with the word "croquet", then perhaps they might get interested later on.

BOB: A little more on the subject of "accuracy." I was talking about the authenticity of the game situation the photograph depicted, but another "accuracy" issue is the processing - the Photoshopping - of the image, which is irritating to some people and so often overdone. But it's not evident in this case.

LEO: To make the picture memorable, though, Joe carefully adjusted the colors and heightened the contrast. There has been some comment that the final photo is not photo-realistic. But I think he struck a good balance, with a final result that does burn the image into one's mind like a laser, but doesn't look like a carnival sideshow under fluorescent lights. After you leave the USCA website next time, close your eyes, and I'll bet you can bring the home page image to mind!

BOB: I'd like to ask Joe what he thinks of this picture as "public image advertising" and as photography - and I'm not sure there's a useful distinction here, but I know Joe wins prizes and awards here and there for "art photography" as well as "live action" photography - that is, not staged or posed or rehearsed - so I have to ask the question...

JOE: My style has evolved over the past few years into

what I like to call "slightly" hyper-real or illustrated. It looks like a real photograph, but I try to put something into the image that's a little bit unexpected and so it arrests the attention and holds the eye. Being able to hold or capture the eye of the viewer for an extended period is the holy grail of the visual arts. If the eye can be held long enough, it can result in the viewer experiencing a reverie.

These eye control elements can be created with composition, with subject, color, shading/value etc... and I try to do these things, but an additional technique I often use is to manipulate the "local contrast" of the image in a different way. In my first published photograph, which was the cover of the Kravis Center for the Performing Arts "Playbill" magazine, I used a method for manipulating contrast and value that revealed greater detail than a normal photograph and which gave it an "illustrated" look. There's just something about giving an image a little bit of a painterly or illustrated look that I've always liked.

This illustrated or painterly style actually goes back to the beginnings of photography itself when you had (and still do have!) the two competing schools of Pictorialism and Naturalism. I used to do figure drawing back in the mid 90's, so maybe a part of me still wants to be the painter.

The "Pictorial" style is very much a force in the advertising world today and can be seen in the recent work of photographers such as Annie Liebovitz, Lynn Goldsmith, Jill Greenberg, and Dave Hill, just to name a few. (You can google their names to see some examples of their work)

Of course my stuff is not nearly as over-the-top as these luminaries, but what I try to do is to give my photographs a realism and yet also give them a light touch of something beyond the real. Like a subtle fragrance to be noticed.

BOB: Okay, let me get this clear. I agree the image is arresting. So, ideally, the first-time viewer's eye is captured and held by the image and he goes into a "reverie," according to Joe. In my dictionary, "reverie" is defined as a "daydream." Leo wants people to hit the button as a result of seeing this image. What kind of

thoughts and behavior and impact do you envision, Joe, coming from this reverie?

JOE: Well, obviously, the idea is for them to daydream or imagine themselves there at that peak moment, experiencing the excitement and joy of playing croquet and having fun. Another way of putting it, is that the goal was to create a compelling image that pulls in the viewer. If it's also an image that gets the viewer to ask questions, wonder, or be curious about something, then even better. A big part of achieving this, is the idea of the "decisive moment" - some peak action, or human drama that adds interest. The initial scenario for what this action would be, came from Leo.

BOB: Joe, I think you just said the magic word: experience! The final image is really a freeze-frame outtake of the essential experience of sport, isn't it? Any sport. The experience is the thing, and everybody's personal experience is in that picture, whether it's the woman who's going for a long-shot score in a do-or-die



Hitting this link leads you to more specific information, including local club contacts.



In his first croquet images, photographer Camosy used various Photoshopping techniques to create images that show the grit and tension of a competitive sport.

situation, or her partner beside her who can easily be imagined saying something like, "You can do it! We can still pull this off!" and is now properly excited that she's on the verge of scoring the tie-breaker. And the opponents - the older couple - know the decisive moment has arrived, that if this shot misses, they'll be able to win easily with the next ball to shoot, the blue ball, right in front of the hoop - and put away the game. And all the spectators are tuned into the moment, the decisive moment, what all the game and all the tournament has led up to, to that point.

Isn't that an accurate way of describing the result you were both after: communicating an actual experience of sport, drawing the first-time viewer into exactly what it feels like? If we could seduce people into the experience shown by that photograph, the popular image of croquet really would completely shift, wouldn't it?

LEO: That's exactly what I wanted the picture to communicate -- how it feels to play croquet. How it feels to be outside in beautiful surroundings, having fun, and making new friends. If Joe hadn't managed to communicate that feeling with his picture, I guess we could have tried an impressionistic painter.

BOB: Not a bad idea. Maybe we should have a contest - in addition to our photo contest. Because, let's face it, one picture can't tell it all. This photo is a kind of common-denominator image that replaces the earlier image of top-level competition - which probably was a turn-off to some potential social players, and I assume social players are the main target market, just as in tennis and golf. Does Joe's picture actually include the players who are most interested, almost from the beginning, in reaching the top? The pair of teenage twins on the right side of the photo are an example. They've achieved the top tier of competition at the age of 17 by learning to play in their local family club. I wonder if people can see that in the photograph...?

LEO: The earlier image did show "top-level competition", which is why we wanted to replace it. But it also showed lots of spectators, which is why we chose that particular image. I'll grant you that those spectators don't look too social, and nobody looks like they were having any fun - except for the drink glass in the lower right corner. I hope that Joe's picture shows both players who will be interested in competition, and players interested in having fun. We need both kinds of players to make croquet more popular.

BOB: Which brings up maybe the last question. This website image and the linked information is designed to make people interested enough to get into contact with the USCA, and in the best-case scenario, that means they'll contact a club in the website directory which will welcome them as a visitor, give them a game of golf croquet, and so on. My question is: Are people going to find a welcome at the local club consistent with the spirit of that picture? I know you can't answer that, but I'd like you to answer it anyway, because that's most of the purpose of the website and it's the reason Joe took so much care in creating USCA croquet's "perfect image."

LEO: Most croquet clubs that I know of are very welcoming to new people. My club in Maui certainly is. I've never been worried that clubs would turn away interested new players, but I've always worried that we weren't getting enough people interested in croquet. I think Joe's picture can help increase interest in croquet.

If you would like to see more of Joe Camosy's work visit <http://www.eloquentimaging.com/>

The 2008 Inter Counties The 'Sue Mackay' report

Somerset (code letter Z for Zummerzet) won the 2008 Inter Counties Championship, though their team of David Goacher (captain), Kristian Chambers, Ed Duckworth, Marcus Evans, Roger Jenkins and Roger Tribe bore a startling resemblance to last year's Avon team. Somerset tried to enter a team in the second division this year, but somewhat controversially the Tournament Committee decided that it was going to adopt the county definitions of the Association of British Counties and that, as Avon no longer existed, a Somerset team would be allowed to play in the first division with all those who had previously played for Avon being eligible to play for Somerset.



David Goacher, capt of Somerset receives the trophy from John Solomon.

Suffolk won the second division trophy. Their team of Steve Comish (captain), Mark Avery, Phil Eardley, Sue Edwards, Chris Farthing, Martin French and Martin Leach had a nail-biting wait at the end of play for news to come through from Compton that Northumberland had beaten Hertfordshire 3-0. Suffolk and Hertfordshire thus finished on 7 match wins each, but Suffolk won two more games. At the start of the final day some six teams had a chance of the final promotion spot, but Northumberland recovered from a shaky start to return to the first division next year. Bedfordshire also rallied on the final day to lift themselves from bottom place, leaving Kent to win the wooden spoon with 3 match wins, surely the highest number of wins for the team in last place for many years.

Things were just as exciting for the final relegation place. Yorkshire sadly did not win a single match, and after surviving in the first division for several years they were certain to be relegated at the start of the final day. So were Middlesex, who had only managed one win, and that against Yorkshire. The final relegation place was seemingly between Glamorgan and Dorset, on 3 wins apiece going in to the final match. Although Glamorgan had a better game count, their final match was against Surrey, whereas Dorset had to play Yorkshire. Dorset duly won 3-0, only to see Glamorgan keep themselves out of the relegation zone by beating Surrey 2-1. David Walters clinched the match by pegging out from the far side of rover, but those who could not see whether the

balls hit could tell from Ian Burrige's leap in the air as he watched the peg. Meanwhile Sussex, who must have thought themselves safe fifth from bottom, suddenly found themselves losing on all lawns against Middlesex. As Dayal Gunasekera pegged out in one of the last games to finish there was a huge cheer from the watching Dorset team. The Southwick spectators seemed genuinely amazed that this actually condemned Sussex to the second division next season.

Nottinghamshire, who had won the trophy for the past three years, got off to a disastrous start to the defence of their title by losing 0-3 to Essex, and this despite Robert Fulford arriving to play at Southwick by mistake and having to zoom over to Compton. Somerset, by contrast, won all their matches on the first two days. On Bank Holiday Monday, however, torrential overnight rain meant that the Southwick lawns were flooded, with Lawn 8 resembling a lake and being unplayable all day. Manager Chris Williams had cleverly arranged to be at Compton, where the lawns drain much better, leaving Bill Arliss with the nightmare task of trying to get the morning games played. It was decided that the first round of games at Southwick should be played as 14 point games with 1.5 hour time limits. This enabled the tournament to get back on track, but it did not suit Somerset, who had their only loss of the tournament to Nottinghamshire. Mind you, on the first day we were treated to the unusual sight of David Goacher playing speed croquet, as he wanted to finish his afternoon game by 3pm to watch Bristol City try to reach the Premiership - he made it with five minutes to spare!

win 2-1 to take the title, and the Somerset team could only watch anxiously from the club house. Ian Lines started out well but broke down at Hoop 4, allowing James Death an easy break followed by a triple from Patrick Hort. Shortly afterwards a triple peel from Keith Aiton decided the championship, though not this year in favour of Nottinghamshire. Cheshire were thus runners up for the second year running.



Rain stopped play!

As usual the hospitality and catering was superb at both Southwick and Compton and thanks are due to the ground staff who prepared the lawns. Chris Williams once again managed the event and made a plea for punctual starts, though he was very nearly embarrassed on the first day when he realised he hadn't brought his mallet! Fortunately he was in the position of being able to send the new CA Manager back to his room to fetch it! Despite the dreadful weather forecast for the weekend most of the torrential rain happened overnight, and three of the days had sunshine. All in all it was a highly enjoyable weekend for players and spectators alike, with plenty of suspense right up until the last minute.

Division 1	Played	Won	Games
Somerset	10	9	21
Cheshire	10	8	21
Nottinghamshire	10	8	19
Surrey	10	6	19
Essex	10	6	16
Lancashire	10	5	16
Glamorgan	10	4	15
Dorset	10	4	10
Sussex	10	3	13
Middlesex	10	2	10
Yorkshire	10	0	5

Division 2	Played	Won	Games
Suffolk	10	7	20
Hertfordshire	10	7	18
Northumberland	10	6	16
Hampshire	10	5	17
Gloucestershire	10	5	16
Wiltshire	10	5	15
Devon	10	5	11
Bedfordshire	10	4	15
Channel Islands	10	4	14
Warwickshire	10	4	13
Kent	10	3	10



Bruce Rannie, Derek Watts, David Turner, Robin Brown, Martin Stephenson and Phil Errington, better known as Northumberland, celebrate promotion to the first division.

By the start of the last day there was still everything to play for. Somerset had 8 wins but had a bye in the last round, so could only get 9 wins, while Cheshire could match 9 wins with a better game total. Cheshire beat Dorset to move to 8 wins at lunch, but Somerset moved on to 9 wins by beating Middlesex. The third game was remarkable in that Marcus Evans gained revenge on his partner Roger Tribe for leaving him to play a game on his own last year. This year it was Marcus who had to go home early, leaving Roger to play on his own against Phil Cordingley and Nigel Polhill. A fascinating game ensued, in which Roger achieved 7 of the 12 necessary peels on his partner ball, then went round and pegged out as time was called to win +3T.

Everything thus hinged on the final match on lawns 1-3 between Cheshire and Nottinghamshire. Cheshire only needed to

New Rabbit Fence for Tyneside CC

by David M Turner

Before the opening of the 2007 season members working at the club had noticed that a number of holes had appeared at odd places on the Pavilion Lawn and that the lawn was covered with a large number of rabbit droppings. Our two lawns are in a public park which has always had a rabbit population. The most exposed lawn was protected by a rabbit fence several years ago but the other was unprotected. Until last season we only experienced minor damage to the unprotected lawn, but recently there has been unexpected rise in the local rabbit population and also the Council thinned out the hedge that surrounds the lawn on the three sides away from the public path. Rabbit scrapes appeared at the rate of about two per night all over the lawn and not just mainly at the periphery as in previous seasons. Constant repair of the holes, followed by redigging by the rabbits was actually causing small hills to develop on the sites chosen by the rabbits as their territory markers! This resulted in serious deterioration of what was a very good lawn surface.

The ingress of large numbers of rabbits onto the lawn also caused a problem with rabbit droppings, which, as well as being unpleasant on a lawn and liable to affect play, were also a real health hazard, since the faeces become smeared on the balls and is easily transferred to hands when the ball is picked up. An internet search revealed a research paper:-

http://www.hse.gov.uk/RESEARCH/hsl_pdf/2005/hsl0512.pdf

which provides evidence that if rabbits live in close proximity to cattle their faeces should be treated as being potentially infected

with VTEC E.coli 0157 and recommends that "where land in close proximity to cattle is used for recreational purposes prevention measures to deter rabbits entering the land should be considered."

As our pavilion lawn is right next to cattle grazing on Newcastle Town Moor these recommendations provided strong evidence of the need to prevent rabbits from gaining access to the lawn.

The droppings seemed to be concentrated around the holes. It seems that a pile of rabbit droppings in a prominent place is a communal latrine and is also used as a territory marker. Dominant bucks run up and down the boundary lines of their territories, marking as they go; they do this by depositing droppings and scratching out shallow scrapes in the ground. Well as far as Tyneside CC is concerned this was our territory and we were having none of it. The committee decided to approach our landlords Newcastle City Council and ask if a rabbit fence, similar to the one around our upper lawn could be installed. Their response was that they would agree to do it, but it would cost £2000 – a not inconsiderable proportion of our reserve fund. However further negotiations resulted in them agreeing to make a grant of £1000 to the club and so we applied for a grant of £500 from the CA Development Committee to help with the remainder of the cost. This was granted in October 2007. With the permission of the Development Committee the work was carried out in August 2007 as it was an urgent situation. Failing to take prompt action as initiated by the Club Committee would cause major damage to the pavilion lawn at the club which is naturally the one that is most heavily used. Damage leading to the effective loss of use of the lawn would have had a major detrimental effect upon the club and its ability to attract new members.

Naturally the committee and members of Tyneside CC are very grateful to the CA for helping out with our emergency and ensuring that Tyneside CC will be able to continue to run CA Tournaments on two excellent lawns.

SOUTHPORT WIN INAUGURAL CROQUET TROPHY

Report by Tony Thomas

The inaugural Mexico Trophy tournament took place at Southport and Birkdale Croquet Club last Saturday, 31 May, in Victoria Park, Southport. This new Croquet tournament will be played annually between Southport and Fylde Croquet clubs, in memory of the great lifeboat disaster of 1886, when the boats of both Southport and Lytham capsized with the loss of 27 crew, whilst going to the aid of the barque Mexico. The event will raise money for lifeboat charities.

In the heat of an early summer sun, experienced players as well as beginners, rose to the occasion, closely contesting matches in Advanced, Handicap and Short Croquet formats. At lunchtime with Fylde leading 9-4, players retired, appropriately, to the Fishermans Rest for lunch, (this hostelry was used as a base by the Southport Lifeboat in 1886). Suitably fortified, Southport players made an exciting comeback in the afternoon, eventually emerging victorious 20-14.

£405 was eventually raised for the new Southport Lifeboat House Appeal and Keith Broter, Senior Cox was presented with a cheque by Southport Club President Professor Alan Pidcock. The



impressive Mexico Trophy (in the form of a mounted brass Anchor) was then presented to Southport captain Bob Burnett.

Tournament News

Cheltenham's Easter Tournament, 2008

April 6th – 9th

Report by Penny Crowe

Croquet is a summer sport – don't believe it! Forty one players arrived at Cheltenham Croquet Club to play in the Easter Tournament which was held in bitterly cold weather. There were occasional snow flurries, rain showers and hail. Even when the sun came out it was so, so cold. The players put on extra layers and waterproofs (to cut out the wind chill) and gamely played through the lot!

There were two competitions, one for Advanced Play and one for Handicap Play.

The Advanced Play competition was held as a knockout and an Egyptian event. The winner of the knockout was Dave Mundy and the runner-up was Don Gaunt. The Egyptian was won by Andrew Willis with the runner-up being Peter Thompson. The peeling prize was won by Nick Parish who managed thirteen peels which was an impressive number considering the conditions.

The Handicap Play competition was held as two American Blocks. It happened that the players in both blocks with the most wins played each other in the final games in 'who beat who' situations. These games started at tea time as Les and Alwen Bowker had had late starts.

As daylight began to fade Nick Saxton triumphed over Alwen in Block B.

Those staying on to see Block A's deciding game were given a treat as it was very exciting and very close. Unfortunately, daylight not only faded but extinguished. The shivering spectators crept closer to the court. Secondary colours were being used so brown and green blended beautifully with the lawn and there were whispers of, "Where is brown?" or "Where is green?" Even Doug Sinclair playing those balls had to check where they had got to! Someone provided a powerful torch to help Les Bowker in his attempt to hit in. He was close but not close enough, unfortunately, and Doug Sinclair prevailed by three points. Both players deserve congratulations for battling away during those last crucial minutes in the dark.

Grateful thanks, as always, to Eileen and David Magee for providing such nourishing lunches and to the tea ladies for their excellent teas. Also to David Magee and his team for ensuring that the lawns were in such good condition so early in the year.

North West Federation Millennium Adv

5th-6th April Heaton Park

Report by Geoff Young

The Northwest Federation's Millennium Advanced tournament took place once more at Heaton Park on the weekend 5-6 April. Eight contestants each in the A and B categories assembled bright and early on Saturday with a brisk wintry wind blowing. On the Sunday the start was bright sunshine on a scattering of fresh snow, leading to a delay until the green-

keeper gave his go ahead to resume.

In the A class a round robin was completed apart from one game of the last round whose players decided enough was enough. Ian Lines was in commanding form with lots of peels, not necessarily in complete sets. However the manager's plans went adrift when he lost in the sixth round to Andrew Winn, who had won four previous games. At 3 pm the round was completed in quite heavy snow, but the contest was clearly in a critical state. Fortunately it eased while complex sums were being considered. In the last round Lines duly completed a seven-turn 26TP with Bob Burnett not taking croquet. Winn took rather longer to beat Paul Rigge and thereby win the Neil Williams Trophy on who-beat-who.

In the B grade David Walters made few slips in winning all five games that time permitted. In the last round Mark Lloyd nearly came good to sneak in on who-beat-who but David pegged out his front ball, with the other for Rover, and then held out to pick up the Woodlands Trophy.



Bury club president David Barrett (left) presents the Lancashire Open Golf Croquet trophy to Tim King, with Geoff Young the event manager on the right

8th Lancashire International Golf Croquet Tournament

12th – 13th April, Heaton Park

Report by Geoff Young

Twenty contenders spent the Saturday in two blocks of ten, in a format giving each 8 games. Block A was won by Ian Lines with seven wins, Brian Storey and John Moore winning six and the fourth qualifier, on who-beat-who from a three-way tie on five, being Freda Vitty. In Block B four six-game winners were similarly put into the sequence Chris Sheen, Samantha Curry, David Openshaw and Tim King.

This meant that in the KO phase on Sunday Ian and Tim met in a quarter-final. Overnight weather had delayed the start so they were put on the first playable lawn, 50 yards from the pavilion, so the disappointed crowd had a poor view. The other three lawns trickled in later, so the average time loss was about an hour. The weather then cleared and progress was steady, the final fittingly being the last game to finish (just before six) with Tim beating Chris 6-7 7-4 7-4. The 12 non-qualifiers played a round robin of doubles won by Dave Turner and Fergus Thompson.

Pendle & Craven Golf Croquet Handicap

19th – 20th April

Report by Abdul Ahmad

The East wind gave Pendle a distinctly wintry and cold feel this weekend. The players came attired in multi-layers of clothes to keep the chill out. They looked more like spacemen, than croquet players in their bulging wind proofs. The conditions didn't deter them from finishing a heavy schedule. They all deserved a medal for braving the elements.

Ros Pimlott from Bowdon won the main event. She beat Pendle's flu ridden Barbara Dutton in the final. David Harkness (Ilkley/Pendle) and Mary Warren (Southport) walked away with the consolation doubles event.



Ros Pimlott, winning at Pendle

Winchester One-Ball Charity Championships

Winchester 21st – 22nd April

Report by Kevin Carter

This year's tournament attracted 16 club heats around the country, from Sidmouth to Southport. Many thanks to all those who organised a local event. 216 players took part and £901 was raised on behalf of Cancer Research UK.

Heat winners gain free entry into the Saturday handicap (Cryptorchid) event, which is inevitably contested very fiercely. This year's fast improver (i.e. bandit) was fifteen year-old Ryan Cabble, winner of the Nailsea heat. He is very accurate and we shall be seeing a lot more of this young man. However, his inexperience told later in the day, when the Swiss format threw him into successive games with masters of the tactics of one-ball.

At the other end of the spectrum, what more can one say about Rutger Beijderwellen? Playing off his own special handicap of -10 he again beat most of his opponents. As it happens, in the ninth and last round Ryan and Rutger were pitched against each other to decide the runner-up spot. All eyes were on this battle of fantastic accuracy vs 10.5 bisques. Ryan kept his nerve and just prevailed.

The winner of the engraved decanter was Barry Gould, from the Guildford & Godalming heat, with a solid and consistent performance - nine wins from nine games, including Ryan and Rutger.

On Sunday the sun came out, and so did sixteen of the country's best one-ball players for the Advanced Level (Monorchid) event. The early rounds went predictably enough, with the four seeds - Rutger, Stephen Mulliner, Jamie Burch and

Marcus Evans - emerging as semi-finalists. Stephen despatched Jamie very swiftly, in the process collected a bottle of bubbly for a second game all-round break.

Ninety minutes later the other semi-final was completed. In the first game Marcus took a lead which Rutger clawed back. In the second Marcus went all the way round in one turn. The third was a slow and very tactical affair in which Marcus again went ahead, but Rutger came back from 6 vs penult and defeated him.

So, for the third year in a row we were treated to a Bodger vs Mulliner final. Rutger won the previous two; could Stephen make it third time lucky? In the first game it looked like it, with Stephen embarking on an all-round break, which only faltered when he was hampered after rover. Then Rutger ran his first nine hoops before an error handed the game to Stephen.

The second game followed a similar pattern. Stephen took his first break to one-back before blobbing a relatively easy hoop. Rutger started his all-round break but when he foundered Stephen hit in and finished off a short but high quality final.

The consolation event went to Lionel Tibble and Jamie won the third place play-off. As everyone drifted away the last game of the day continued: an obviously cat and mouse game between Tom (Weston) and Jerry (Guest).

If any club wants to hold a heat next year, between January and April, then they should get in touch with Kevin 0118-9712948.



Geoff Taylor presents Derek Old with his trophy at Middlesbrough

Middlesbrough One-Ball 20th April

Report by Charles Waterfield

Twelve very hardy souls from Tyneside, Belsay Hall and Middlesbrough competed for the third Golden Ball Trophy on Sunday at Albert Park. The biting east wind didn't seem to affect the accurate shooting and hoop-running displayed, not unexpectedly, by those players with proven GC credentials. Games were triple-banked on two lawns. The event was run as a handicap Egyptian without time-limits (nobody played fewer than 7 games and one managed 10). The winner was Derek Old, only just edging out David Turner (both Tyneside).

Jubilee Tankard Southport 19th – 20th April

Report by Paul Rigge

Ian Lines won the Tankard from David Maugham. 18 Players came to face cold easterly cross winds, and all wrapped up against the wind chill - except 'the Beast', who wore

shorts on both days! Play was 'testing' given the strength of the field with Ian providing the sole TP in the final. Leave was given to Ray Lowe on the Sunday and local member Carol Lewis was woken at 7:30am and pressed into service to even up the numbers for the day.



Prof Alan Pidcock, President of the Southport Club, presents Ian Lines with his trophy.

**Peel Memorials
Surbiton 8th - 11th May**
by Julian Straw

Nigel Graves, Pauline Davey, Nelson Morrow and Sue Strong emerged victorious at the 110th Peel Memorial Tournament held from 8 - 11 May 2008.

The first day dealt the manager a challenging hand of nine pairs for the Mixed Doubles. Deciding to begin with three rounds of a Swiss, he hoped for two finalists for a crowd pleasing play-off on the Sunday. However, the day produced only one pair with three wins, who were duly declared the winners. First spoils to Nelson Morrow (-0.5) and Sue Strong (11).

The Men's event, with an entry of fourteen, was played as an eight-round Swiss over the next three days. Nigel Graves (8) was drawn at the top of the list, and clearly felt at home there. Despite being provided a stream of strong opponents he refused to budge, ending with seven wins out of eight. He was chased all the way by Nick Furse (7) who was defeated only by Nigel.



Peels Winners: Nigel Graves, Pauline Davey, Nelson Morrow and Sue Strong

The Ladies' event attracted fewer entries, and an American block format was used, conveniently with seven games. This event was won by an even narrower margin, the winner having beaten the second place by +1T. Congratulations to Pauline Davey (5), and better luck next time for Sue Strong.

Someone mentioned that early May in Surbiton was hotter than in Marrakech. Those that chose to enter the Peels this year were rewarded not only with almost uninterrupted warm sunshine, but fast, flat lawns, firm hoops and fine food. As temperatures climbed towards 80F following a wet April, the lawns at Surbiton can seldom have looked or played better.

The Peel Memorials deserve to be popular. The silverware is very fine having been purchased through subscription by associates at the time. The format provides opportunities in singles and doubles for both expert and beginner. Let's hope that if it travels to Southport next year as planned even more will enjoy it.

Ramsgate Advanced, 10th - 11th May
Report by Mark Hamilton

The hot weather greeted competitors at Ramsgate for the May Association Tournament. The lawns were looking very good and playing well; the handicaps ranged from -2 to 7. At the start three people had to pull out due to injury so with eight players Dennis Shaw decided on an all-play-all format. At the end of the first day Rutger and Paul Miles tied on four wins each with Rutger completing one exp.

Another hot and windless day greeted the players on Sunday morning with the lawn speed at 10 seconds. Rutger won the tournament overall completing two exp along the way much to delight of the local members who came to watch.

A special mention to the members of Ramsgate Croquet Club for looking after the players so well with teas and coffees and wonderful lunches, also to Dennis Shaw for managing the tournament.

Budleigh Salterton 5th - 10th May
Report by Mike Steer

As we travelled down from Manchester on Sunday 4th May, the prospect of a fine week ahead did not look good. Conditions on the motorway were appalling and it seemed, at times, as if we were driving through some monstrous car wash. As we got nearer to Budleigh, however, the skies cleared and that's the way they stayed for the entire tournament. The weather was glorious.

45 players assembled for what proved to be a most enjoyable tournament, due in no small part to Julie Horsley's excellent management. For anyone wanting to play a lot of croquet, this is the tournament for you. With the knockout event, the Egyptian, the X and Y doubles and the Class events too, the real croquet addict could play all day, every day, as most of us did. The ten lawns have improved steadily over recent years, a testament to the hard work and forward planning by Budleigh that is now paying off.

Dave Nicholson (Winchester), in piratical mode, plundered the silver, taking the Godfrey Turner Challenge Cup beating Cliff Jones (Sidmouth) in a nail biting (I was going to say cliff hanging, but Dave is a gentleman pirate) best of three final. The scores +25tp, -4tp, +7. The last game was absorbing with Cliff using all his considerable skill and guile to progress with a single ball, having had partner pegged out by Dave, who in turn had to use his

considerable skill and guile after he missed the peg-out with the front ball. Now it was a one ball ending and after Cliff's attempt at a long angled hoop, which didn't come off, Dave managed to find a spot on the lawn close enough to peg out from which was hidden from Cliff. The next bit is worthy of the 'What happened next?' slot on A Question of Sport. Cliff played a jump shot which just clipped the top of the hoop and was deflected. The battle of



Dave Nicholson with the Godfrey Turner Challenge Cup

the beards was over.

The Woodlands Quaich was hotly contested by Jim Field (Glastonbury) and Barbara Young (Bury) who had each won their respective blocks convincingly. Barbara was unlucky not to have won the second game but Jim was a worthy winner in two straight games.

The JK Brown Memorial Cup was won by Graham Harford (Sidmouth) beating Ken Wallman (Sidmouth) +23.

Jeanette Pollock (Budleigh) beat Jack Thompson (Budleigh) to take the Pat Tunmer Cup.

The handicap singles knockout was won by Ken Wood (Budleigh) beating David Temple (Sidmouth) +10.

David Barrett

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Jim Field and Ken Wallman were joint first in the Egyptian. The Daldry Cups were won by David and Nancy Temple beating Jim Field and Ian Telfer in the final.

The 'Y' Doubles were won by Martin Granger-Brown (Bowdon) and Jeanette Pollock beating Brian Shorney and Jane Hull in the final.

As always, the hospitality at Budleigh was second to none. A big 'thank you' to all the people behind the scenes providing food (mmm! those cakes!), and great croquet lawns.

East Dorset Handicap Weekend 30 May - 1st June
Report by Alan Linton

Oxford students heist East Dorset silverware

With accommodation in Poole being tight in the holiday season, this event has been improved by offering out-of-town visitors accommodation with club members. Had we known that three bandits from Oxford University CC would walk off with both silver cups, we might have adopted a different policy!

The format of an Egyptian with the top eight, after two days, playing in a knockout on the third day, again proved very popular and the fight for a place in the knockout ended with a shootout at the peg at the end of day two. Helena Urban out-shot David Williams for the 8th place.

Tom Whiteley, playing off 7, proved nearly unbeatable (only the stalwart Roy Edwards took a game from him) and although he lived dangerously at times (he was 24 hoops down at one stage in the quarter final!), he went on to beat David Kendrick in a close final and deservedly take the Bishop Cup. On the way, he knocked out his fellow Oxford University colleague, Rob Wilkinson, who went on to win the Egyptian for the Halse Cup.



Rob Wilkinson and Tom Whitely with their silverware at Parkstone

As always, Parkstone provided good weather, but rain earlier in the week had left easy paced lawns. Consequently, those who wanted lots of play, got in four or five games a day in spite of there being no time limits. However, two of the minus players had a torrid time winning between them only two out of sixteen games. Then there was one!

Moët & Chandon Mansion House GC Tournament
3rd May - 1st June, Newcastle

Report by David Turner

The First Moët & Chandon Mansion House GC Tournament took place in the magnificent setting of

the gardens of the Newcastle Lord Mayor's Mansion House in Jesmond, Newcastle Upon Tyne. The Mansion House possesses a large lawn, flat enough and level enough for one and half Croquet Lawns. We just have to persuade the Mayor to chop down a couple of trees and straighten up the flower beds to make it an excellent site for a two lawn club!

The Tournament was played on 3 half lawns with 15 entrants. The qualifying Blocks consisted of 3 blocks of 5 with the two winners of each block reaching the finals block, plus the best also-ran. The rest of the field played in a runners up competition. Weather on the Saturday was glorious, perhaps because the Shinto Gods were smiling on the Japanese wedding taking place inside the Mansion House and on its other little lawn. A garden croquet set and a child's croquet set were provided for the wedding party, courtesy of Croquet North, and seemed to be much appreciated.

The qualifiers for the final were Derek Old, Eugene Brady, David Turner, Chuck Ward, Jane Pringle, Phil Errington and John Moore. The Finals Day was a complete contrast to the Saturday and it poured all day! The Finals block went to the wire and had to be decided by who beat whom. This tie break awarded the prize - an engraved glass bowl and a Magnum of Moët & Chandon Brut - to Eugene Brady of Auckland CC and the second prize - engraved glass bowl and a Bottle of Moët & Chandon Brut - to Phil Errington of Belsay CC (Croquet North's only teetotaler!).

The Runners up Competition was won outright by Carole Brady of Auckland CC who received a bottle of white wine of some inferior brand!



**Bowdon Advanced Weekend
Bowdon 31st May - 1st June**

Report by Ian Lines

The 2008 Bowdon June Advanced Weekend was won by David Maugham, who beat Ian Lines in the final (+26tp, +16tp, -26tp, +12tp). The consolation Egyptian Event was won by Colin Irwin. Congratulations also to David Walters for completing his first triple peel and gaining his CA Gold Award.

The excellent Bowdon lawns were quite slow and easy at about 10 plummets in the damp conditions, although hoops were set reasonably firmly to 1/32nd.

The Peterson Trophy was presented to David by North West Federation Chairman Barry Keen, and thanks were recorded to John Saxby and his team for the magnificent catering, and to all those involved in preparing and setting the lawns.

**Comments on
the 2007
Croquet
Association
Accounts**



By Roger Bray, Treasurer

Income in 2007 rose by nearly 13%, whilst expenditure increased by just under 6%, resulting in a very healthy surplus after taxation of £17,000. In a change of policy, Council has decided not to use most of this surplus to bolster the Development Fund but to retain it within the General Fund. The accepted view is that over £100,000 in the Development Fund (see Note 3) is sufficient as a reserve for the CA to continue its grants programme in future, possibly leaner, years. In addition, the restructuring plan agreed by Council (and explained elsewhere by the Chairman of Council) is likely to be a major extra cost over the next two years and it is intended to buffer the impact of this by drawing on general reserves.

Nearly all sources of income showed significant increases. Subscriptions rose by approximately £6,000 due to both increased subscription rates and a continuing influx of newly registered clubs. Council is very appreciative of the loyal support of both individual and club members which this represents. The profits produced by the CA Shop grew by £3,000 – sales to non-members continuing to dominate with an 83% share of turnover. We are extremely grateful to Jeff Dawson for yet another excellent year but, with more difficult trading conditions likely at least in the current year, the CA should beware of relying on this activity as an ever growing source of revenue.

The expenditure picture is much more varied. For one, there was no major expenditure such as the MacRobertson Shield held in 2006, so the spending on International activities was much more modest. In contrast, Grants rose by nearly £9,000 to a level more typical of recent years. Development Grants were given to 9 clubs and 4 newly registered clubs benefited from Starter Grants.

Several changes have been introduced in the format of the Income & Expenditure Account. Two require elucidation since they are not apparent from the item headings. Commercial activities now includes revenue from advertisements as well as the Shop and Corporate Events; and the cost of the Fixtures Book has been transferred from Publications to Tournaments. The 2006 figures have been adjusted to correspond to all the changes. Further explanation will be given in the more detailed commentary on the 2007 Accounts which will be published and distributed at the AGM in October.

The Balance Sheet and Note 2 show that a further £20,000 has been invested in Government Stock. This is part of the CA's continuing plan to invest more of its reserves over a period of years. Repayments of loans to clubs exceeded new loans issued during the year, with 8 recipient clubs remaining at the year end. It should be noted that interest-free loans are still available to clubs for purchasing new balls. Loans are also available for other purposes, particularly to help meet the cost of major projects.

THE CROQUET ASSOCIATION

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2007

	2007	2006
	£	£
Income from:		
Subscriptions:		
Individuals	46,422	43,691
Clubs	32,309	29,105
Levies	13,564	13,458
Surplus (deficit) of income from -		
Commercial activities	27,929	25,882
Sponsorship	2,666	633
Tournaments	1,793	(589)
Investments	9,991	7,577
Donations and royalties	1,659	1,148
Total Income	136,333	120,905
Expenditure on:		
Publications	15,931	16,769
Marketing & Development	8,925	6,913
International activities	2,175	11,417
Direct expenditure on Clubs & Federations		
Grants to Clubs & Federations	23,211	14,400
Legal liability insurance scheme	5,501	4,123
Central administration costs:		
Staff costs	36,755	34,433
Office building & equipment depreciation	4,334	4,174
Office overheads	5,109	3,723
Office services	5,483	6,008
Council members' & volunteers' expenses	3,855	2,997
Professional fees	810	650
Sundry expenses	107	320
Direct debit and other Finance charges	755	853
Total Expenditure	112,951	106,780
Surplus for the year before taxation	23,382	14,125
Provision for Corporation Tax		
year ended 31st December 2007	5,267	2,483
adjustment for prior year	1,054	406
	6,321	2,889
Surplus for the year after taxation	17,061	11,236
Net transfer to special funds	(3,697)	(11,452)
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year transferred to General Fund	£ 13,364	£ (216)

**THE CROQUET ASSOCIATION
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2007**

	Note	2007	2006
		£	£
Fixed Assets			
Office Building at written down value	1	41,325	44,080
Office & Croquet equipment at written down value		1,189	2,414
Trophies at valuation		10,000	10,000
Investments at cost	2	78,580	58,468
		131,094	114,962
Current Assets			
Loans to Clubs		8,349	9,955
Stock held for resale	1	15,066	16,944
Debtors & prepayments		7,077	4,919
Cash at bank and in hand		152,948	157,430
		183,440	189,248
Current Liabilities			
Subscriptions & other receipts in advance		3,155	2,524
Creditors & accrued expenses		12,387	22,619
VAT liability		140	-
Provision for taxation		5,172	2,448
		20,854	27,591
Net current assets		162,586	161,657
Net Assets		£ 293,680	£ 276,619
Financed by:			
General Fund			
Balance at 1 January 2007		93,943	94,159
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year from Income & Expenditure Account retained in General Fund		13,364	(216)
		107,307	93,943
Special Funds			
	3	186,373	182,676
		£ 293,680	£ 276,619

**THE CROQUET ASSOCIATION
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS - 31 DECEMBER 2007**

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Accounting convention

The accounts are prepared under the historical cost convention.

Fixed Assets

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life:

- Office Building 5% per annum from 1 January 2003
- Croquet & Office Equipment & Fittings 33% per annum
- Trophies are included in the Balance Sheet at valuation.

Stock

Stock is valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

2 LISTED INVESTMENTS AT COST

15,409	4.125% Index Linked Treasury Stock 2030	2006	2007
4,228	2.5% Index Linked Treasury Stock 2024	£ 18,810	£ 18,810
3,898	2.5% Index Linked Treasury Stock 2016	10,053	10,053
9,733	4.75% Treasury Stock 2020	9,918	9,918
9,344	4.75% Treasury Stock 2015	9,898	9,898
10,157	4.25% Treasury Gilt 2011	9,927	9,927
9,920	4.00% Treasury Stock 2009	9,915	9,915

Investments at cost

Market value of investments at 31 December 2007

3 SPECIAL FUNDS

Fund Name	Balance 1 January 2007		Transfers from/(to) General Fund in year:		Balance 31 December 2007
	£	£	Investment	General	
Benefactors Fund	32,381	953	1,107		34,441
Development Fund	102,000	770			102,000
Duffield Bequest	18,866	867			19,636
International Fund	29,429	867			30,296
Total Special Funds	182,676	2,591	1,107	-	186,373

Allocation (net)

£ 34,441
102,000
19,636
30,296
186,373

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For details or discussion, contact Alan Pidcock,
Tel & Fax 01772 743859
e-mail pidcock@manorh.u-net.com
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Standard blue cover	£20.00
Padded blue cover	£24.00
Large blue cover up to 12" head, 40" shaft	£24.00
Large padded blue cover up to 12" head, 37" shaft	£28.00



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Breathable wet weather jacket	£40.00
Breathable jacket & trousers	£56.00
Fleece reversible windcheater jacket	£37.00
Fleece jacket	£26.00
Fleece reversible gilet	£27.00
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ODDS & ENDS

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Silver Earrings (mallet or hoop & ball)	£12.00
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Croquet Girl cards (pack of 8 - blank)	£4.50
Croquet Christmas cards - 10 pack	£8.00

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
The Laws of Golf Croquet	£2.50
A guide to Golf Croquet	£5.00
Golf Croquet Tactics	£11.00
How to play Croquet	£4.50
Alternative Croquet	£7.00
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
Lawn Management by John Beech	£5.00
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DVDs AND VIDEOS

Learn Croquet (DVD) Association	£19.00
Mastering Golf Croquet (DVD)	£19.00

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

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,
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