

THE CROQUET GAZETTE

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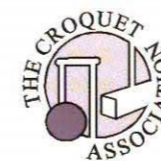
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Issue 323 December 2009

Front Cover: *The Croquet Tree*, by Bob Furniss, of Bakewell Croquet Club, who made his creation for a Festival of Trees event at All Saints Parish Church in Bakewell and Alan Reeves kindly sent the photo.

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Chairman's Column



I would first like to welcome Quiller Barrett as the new President of the Croquet Association. He is the 11th President in our 112 year history, but the first to be elected to the role. At the same time I'd like to reiterate my thanks to Bernard Neal who has served us kindly over the last five years.

I shall stay with the history theme this month. I spoke of my desire to care for our history as one of my twin aims at the AGM, the other being the support of juniors with high potential.

In my last column I referred to the Welsh Croquet Association withdrawing its membership from the Croquet Association. This was incorrect. The Welsh CA have indicated that they will, if necessary, withdraw from playing in the MacRobertson Shield so that they can enter a team in the World Team Championship.

At the Association Tournament committee I made a plea for the Women's Championship to be retained. Historically the Men's Championship was introduced in 1925 as the women were winning so many events. It is sad that the number of entries in recent years has been so low that there has been talk of suspending it. I would like to make a public plea for all of our best women players who can do so to enter it in 2010. It will be held at Budleigh Salterton from 9 - 13 June and there is the opportunity to enter the Mixed Doubles, stating if necessary that a partner is wanted.

I have referred to the Solomon bequest from Tremaine Arkley in the past, and it occurs to me that other collectors may also wish to donate their croquet-related collections to the CA if their families have no special interest in them, or they know that the CA will take care of them and enable future historians or researchers to have access to them. The Archivist, Chris Williams, is currently working on an Acquisition policy with the Chairman of Management, Barry Keen, with a view to establishing which CA-generated papers should be archived and it is an opportunity to think about future collections. If you feel you would like to donate items to the CA, please let Chris Williams know.

It only remains for me to send Season's greetings to all our members as we look forward to planning our tournament entries for 2010.

Patricia Duke-Cox

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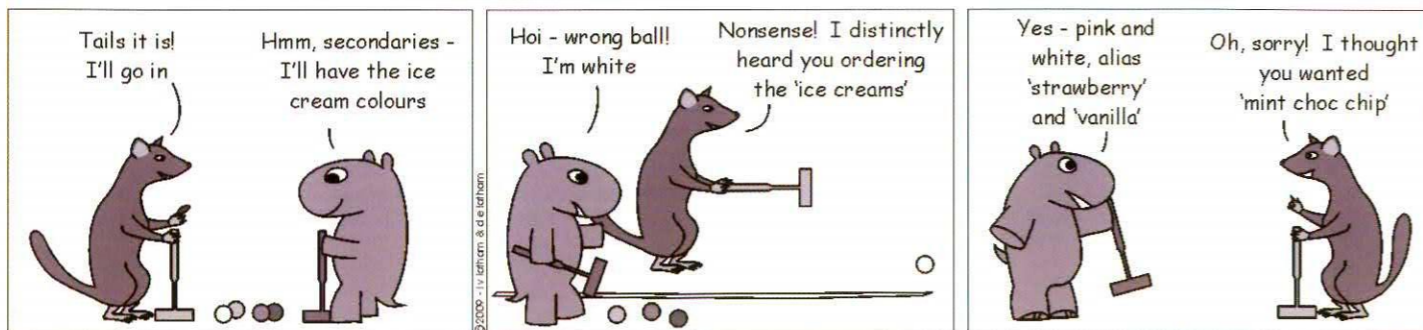
Email contributions, including tournament reports should be sent direct to the Editor, or copied to the Editor if they are being posted to the Nottingham List. Digital images are the easiest to work with, but coloured photographic prints are also acceptable. Please send digital jpeg or tiff format files. Please accompany all images with a description of the subject of the picture. If you require any material to be returned please enclose an SAE.

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 Manager of the Croquet Association and not to the Editor.

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HOPOPOTAMUS

by Victor



Letters

Clarification of my letter

Following my letter on multiswingers and casting in the October issue, I would like to clarify a point. Some comments I have received indicate that my use of the word "standard" might have been interpreted as referring to the grip. The grip is immaterial, I am concerned only with AIMING." I shall compile the results under the headings of SWINGING or NORMAL.

John Solomon

Casting v "Hitting the bloody ball"

I agree with almost everything that John Solomon says in his letter. Where I demur is that I suspect that casting is the optimal shooting technique. Shortly before health issues ended my Croquet career I had decided to adopt the technique and to use a long handled mallet. At the time that I had some success in the President's Cup and the Chairman's Salver various players told me that I was regarded as a pretty good shot. I always considered breath control was important and, like John, tried to follow a set sequence of actions when shooting.

When managing a World Championship at Hurlingham I wandered on to the cricket pitch and discovered the New Zealander Bob Jackson, famous for the accuracy of his shooting, practising casting. He felt it was a sound technique but required plenty of practice. The best shot that it has been my misfortune to encounter is David Maugham, and he is a regular caster.

I particularly agree with John's view that casting is tedious to watch and detracts from the game. There is a precedent for legislation to prevent techniques regarded as contrary to the 'spirit' of a sport. In Golf, the 'between the legs putting style' was banned after Sam Snead won a tournament using the style, and after it was advocated in a book by someone named Trevelyan I believe. For Croquet perhaps we need a law forbidding the mallet head to be advanced beyond the striker's ball more than once.

Eric Solomon

Tolerance is a virtue

Some 20 or more years ago when I was a beginner, I remember one club member (not noted for his good manners) watching a hi-bisquer swinging his mallet over the ball to aim and exclaiming in disgust "what's he doing all that for? If he can't play properly he shouldn't be playing at all!"

I was reminded of this reading John Solomon's letter in the last issue. I agree that more than, say, half a dozen swings are boring, perhaps even excessive but we don't all have the natural ability of a Solomon. Personally, having little physical co-ordination and no eye for a ball, I swing perhaps four or five times normally, hitting when I achieve two successive swings smoothly on the target. Then, if I am on form and there is no crosswind to push my swing sideways, I may achieve a roquet. However I can claim to have watched one player in two successive tournaments swinging regularly more than thirty times! Dreadful! She was at last warned by the Tournament

Referee for slow play and was furious with him as a result.

There is nothing complicated in the purpose of the swing. Its object is simply to ensure that the mallet is moving in the right direction when striking to achieve a hit; nothing more, nothing less.

My object in writing is two fold. Firstly, our abilities vary widely and we can only play the way that achieves results for us individually. We can't all be A class players. The alternative is that only A and perhaps B class players are allowed to play at all and I suspect that even JS might spot the snag in that sort of ruling. Secondly, tolerance is a virtue, particularly when exercised by the naturally talented for those without their advantages.

Tony Backhouse

Association Croquet Automatic Handicapping System (AHS)

In the last issue Geoff Strutt claimed that the average value of handicaps was increasing as a result of index points leaking from the system when an experienced player retires to be replaced by a beginner. The AHS is not a precise mathematical model but it does seem to work well and I am not aware of any general increase in the average value of handicaps. If a high handicapper wins a series of games with bisques standing their handicap should be cut. This provides a balancing effect as index points are imported to the system. My experience and the statistical analysis that I have done seems to suggest that this is not a huge problem as the lower handicap player wins slightly more than 50% of handicap games.

Ian Parkinson, Chairman, CA Handicap Committee

Association handicaps are spreading out

Geoff Strutt is correct in his letter stating that the AHS is causing a gradual deterioration in the fairness of handicaps, and he is correct in attributing this to the leakage of points from the system. I wrote at length about this in Issue 283 (January 2003) and virtually everything I said then still applies today only more so.

Briefly, I demonstrated statistically both that the effect existed, and that there was a deterioration. I did this by analysing the Hurlingham Jubilee Cup results after the AHS was introduced in 1992. This was the largest set of data for a reasonably consistent sample I could get hold of at the time.

At the beginning of the AHS, the sample of 223 games from 1993-1995 showed a swing in favour of the of the player receiving bisques of 1.3%. That was hardly significant, but did suggest that there just might be a slight bias. However seven years later, the sample of 402 games between 1999-2002 showed that the swing had gone up to 4.5% which certainly was significant, and by comparison suggested that the system was slowly deteriorating.

I discussed the causes in the article, suggested that further analysis over a larger sample would be sensible, and I also proposed a modification to the AHS by which the imbalance could be automatically corrected. I received a surprisingly large number of personal letters of support as a result but I don't think any serious action was taken and I have not heard of any other rigorous analysis since then.

However, Geoff's letter prompted me to analyse the results of our season long Association Handicap events this year at Woking.

The sample was smaller (only 105 games, 4 between equals) but the results showed that in 63 games the player receiving bisques won whereas only 38 players giving bisques did so. That is a 24% swing in favour of the receiver! The sample and the number of players is too small to be conclusive, but the swing is so great that it strongly suggests that there really is a problem and that (compared to the 1993-2002 Hurlingham analysis) it really is getting worse.

I suggest that a rigorous analysis over wider population with many more games is needed to quantify the problem and if it confirms my limited results then some action is needed to adjust the AHS. If possible, that action should be a progressive mechanism such as that I originally proposed so that it leads to long term stability. I would be happy to be involved in any serious endeavour if desired.

Finally, if anyone is interested I can email them a copy of the original article – just contact me at Geoffrey@cuttle.co.uk.

Geoffrey Cuttle

Update in progress

I am currently updating the Chapter from 'The World of Croquet' about Croquet in different countries around the world.

I have received updates about Croquet in Austria, Czech Republic, England, Finland, France, Germany, Guernsey, Italy, Jersey, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Norway, Russia, Scotland, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, USA and Wales.

Efforts to get information from Australia, Belgium, Canada, Egypt, Ireland, Isle of Man, Japan, Palestine & Switzerland have so far proved unsuccessful. Can you please ask your readers if they can provide information about Croquet (any variants) in any of these countries or any other countries not listed? Please ask them to reply by e-mail to jjj_mccullough@yahoo.co.uk and provide information about number and location of clubs, number of players, famous players, history and international achievements. Even sketchy information about unlisted countries would be welcome.

Thanking you in anticipation.

John McCullough

P.S. My old friends might like to know that at the age of 59 I have taken up village cricket! I'm a fine leg specialist whilst my son James (just started architecture at Liverpool University) is the demon fast bowler for the team.

Older Adversaries

Laurence Latham's letter in the October issue about old adversaries jogged my memory of the first tournament game I played which was at Budleigh Salterton in 1960. My opponent was Miss Lydia Elphinstone-Stone who John Solomon played in 1948 but by 1960 she had reached the grand age of 95. Thus I can only equal the possible record of the oldest adversary in terms of date of birth and it will probably require a more venerable player to recall an opponent born before 1866. However the tournament report of the Budleigh tournament in the Gazette points out that I was 76 years younger than my opponent. Can any existing Associates recall being involved in a match with a bigger age difference?

It was an interesting if somewhat disconcerting introduction into tournament play for a young man. Before the game I was quietly taken to one side by a club member to be told that my opponent was frail and did not enjoy good sight so could I help her

in distinguishing the colours of the balls (no double banking in those days) and their positions. I understand Miss Elphinstone-Stone played her last tournament the following year at Budleigh and died in 1963
Arthur Reed

Lining up peels

I frequently see a player lining up a peel from a prone position, with his or her eye very close to the ground and within a foot or so of the balls. This inescapably leaves a small margin of error because the nearer ball completely eclipses the farther ball.

My own method is to retreat some 4 or 5 yards and then crouch down until my eye is about 2 feet above ground level, so that the top fraction of the farther ball just appears as a thin crescent above the nearer ball. I then concentrate on the two horns of the crescent, and move my head left or right until an imaginary line between the two horn tips is exactly horizontal. I am then looking exactly along the line of centres of the two balls, with no margin of error, and hence that is the direction in which the farther ball will travel.

It is then a simple matter to adjust your ball left or right until the line of centres goes straight through the hoop (or directly towards the peg). As a final check you can then take the same low-angle view from behind the hoop (or peg), to be sure it looks correct from that viewpoint too. Incidentally this method also keeps my whites cleaner!

Tom Banfield

Bang to rights

It's a fair cop, Mr Arliss (Letters, Oct 09) – you've got me bang to rights. I am honoured that such an august hand is feeling my collar and encouraged by a recent *August* front page picture featuring participants in deck croquet: perhaps my time in the hulks will not be wasted – and surely the Chairman's daughter will wait.

Peter Lowe

The Top Lawn

When you try to run a hoop
And the ball curves in a loop
Towards the car park
And off the sod
Don't blame God

When it curls towards a court
And comes to rest
Not where it ought
Don't curse
Things could be worse

Though the lawn may not be level
Where its edges tend to bevel,
It's still fun to run
A hoop,
And score!

Chris Clark

Obituary

Pat Hague

Pat 'Pattie' Hague, sadly passed away on 25th January aged 71, after an eighteen-month battle with cancer.

Pat was a member of The Ellesmere Croquet Club for over 35 years, having discovered the game in the early seventies. Coached in her early days by the late Nell Tyldesley and Mabel Jackson, she quickly became a proficient player in her own right, enjoying several successes within her own club. Pat's enthusiasm knew no bounds, as she eventually went on to coach other players, actively promoting the game both within 'The Ellesmere' and the Northern Federation. One of her earliest memories was the visit of Prof Bernard Neal and John Solomon to 'The Ellesmere' when they came to give a demonstration of the game, which inevitably turned into an impromptu coaching session.

Pat's enthusiasm for the game took her all over the country, where she played in many tournaments in her quest to become a better player. Whilst on her travels, Pat made countless friends and enjoyed many a weekend away, staying with these friends and playing the game she loved so much.

In 1982, Pat was invited to play in The Ladies 2nd Eight, which she won at the first attempt and in the following year she went on to her greatest achievement, when she



won the Barlow Bowl (formerly The Ladies Field Cup), a title which she regained in 1987, having been runner-up to Debbie Cornelius in 1986. Pat narrowly missed out on retaining her title again in 1988, when she lost to Bo Harris in a hard fought play-off.

Pat's other records of note, include twice being runner-up in the Women's Championship, the first in 1986 when she lost to Susan Wiggins and secondly to the current Editor Gail Curry in 1991.

Pat continued to be an active member of 'The Ellesmere' for many years, enjoying stints as Chair of the Croquet Section and very recently when she was honoured with the Ellesmere Club Presidency, a term of office which she carried out for four years.

Pat will be sadly missed by all who knew her.

R.C. Hague

plenty of time to make alternative arrangements. I would like to thank both Northumberland and Devon for letting us know at this stage.

Our first thoughts are of course to run a CA Select team as there are many in the country who feel this team should have a regular place for players who live or play in counties without a team or players in exceptionally strong counties who cannot quite make the grade for their county. We could of course consider a second CA Select but already there have been several suggestions that due to relocation of some players, there may be possibilities of some counties coming back into the fray. We would also remind players that the conditions allow entry from dual counties where there are insufficient players in a single county. This situation this year is exactly what was envisaged when dual counties were included

in the conditions. The AC Tournament Committee feel that any dual entries should be from adjacent counties.

As it will take time to sort out new combinations, the last two places will not be awarded until the Feb meeting of the AC Tournament Committee. Any suggestions for replacement teams should therefore be made by 18 January 2010. The proposal should be made to the CA Office with a copy to myself please. To be given consideration the proposal must contain the names of players who to the best of their knowledge will be available for the event. In the mean time I would ask all players who would like to be considered for a place in the CA Select team, if it is formed for the 2010 event, to please get in touch with me directly.

Bill Arliss

Director AC Inter Counties Championship

South African Western Province Tournament 2010

The 38th Annual Western Province Tournament is to be held during March 2010. Association croquet events will again be played at Somerset West from Saturday, 6-13 March 2010. Golf croquet will be played the following week at Kelvin Grove Club, Newlands, Cape Town from Monday, 15-20 March 2010. Entries are invited from all countries. For further information/entry forms visit the South African Croquet Association (SACA) website at www.croquet.org.za or contact the WPCA Secretary at camelot@falsebay.co.za

2011 World Golf Croquet Championship

The ninth Golf Croquet World Championship will be held in UK from 18 - 24 July 2011, it has been announced by the World Croquet Federation and The Croquet Association. Sixty four players will be selected to take part and the event take place at the Hurlingham Club, supported by the Surbiton Croquet Club.

Patricia Duke-Cox, Chairman of the Croquet Association, said: "We are delighted to be hosting this event in the UK once again. We are also pleased that two clubs who have not previously hosted this event will be doing so. Hurlingham is very supportive of major croquet events and has hosted many world class events in the past, as has Surbiton. We look forward to welcoming overseas players to these clubs

in 2011"

The championship was last held in 2008 in Cape Town, RSA. The final was won by Ahmed Nasr of Egypt who defeated Reg Bamford of South Africa. Egyptian players have won the championship on every previous occasion but following the success of a Rest of the World team in narrowly beating Egypt in 2008, there are hopes that a local (UK-based) player may triumph for the first time.

David Openshaw, President of the World Croquet Federation, said;

"I am very pleased that the Croquet Association (CA) has put forward a successful bid to hold the World Golf Croquet Championships in 2011. We really appreciate their commitment and enthusiasm to hold such an event. I am sure all other member associations and players will join with me in saying thank you to the CA and the Hurlingham and Surbiton clubs.

"It is part of the remit of the WCF to promote the development of croquet around the world, and holding World Championships is very much part of this aim. We have seen a growth in croquet and international events over the past 10 years and we look forward to an exciting tournament in 2011."

This is the third occasion that the CA has hosted this event, the last being at the Sussex County Croquet Club in 2004, and in Leamington Spa in 1998. The tournament is held every two years on average.

The Hurlingham Club has hosted many world class events including the MacRobertson Shield (World Team Championship) and World Association Croquet Championships. Surbiton has previously hosted a qualifying event for the World Championship and will host the MacRobertson Shield in 2010.

Further details can be found on the WCF website.

James Goodbun named as Thanet Sportsman of 2009

James Goodbun of Ramsgate Croquet Club had had a very good year in 2009 and last month that culminated in him being named as sportsman of the year in the Thanet Sports Awards.

The award sponsor was Thanet District Council "Sport matters" who are committed to developing sport and active recreation opportunities to the local population

Sportsman of the Year is in recognition of a sportsman, aged 16+ years who has



James pictured with Rachel Rowe and William Gee, as the players chosen to represent England at the U21 World Golf Croquet Championships in Egypt earlier this year.

exhibited the highest level of skill, performance, dedication and commitment to their sport in the last year.

The following is an extract from the souvenir booklet given out at the end of the Award Ceremony which took place at the Winter Gardens in Margate on Wednesday 11th November 2009:

"James Goodbun has been playing croquet at Ramsgate Croquet Club since the age of 8 years. In his specialist discipline of golf croquet, James has won all his club competitions and is now competing at national level. To top off a great year James was invited to represent England in the inaugural Under 21 World Championship in Egypt. He finished 5th in the tournament beating a host of higher ranked players along the way and only lost to the eventual winner. He has shown single-minded dedication to the sport and takes new challenges in his stride."

Coach of the Year Nominations

Nominations are invited for the 2009 Coach of the Year award. The Coaching Committee wishes to ensure that suitable candidates are not overlooked through ignorance. So if you know of someone you consider worthy of this award, please send their name to Lawrence Whittaker, Chairman of the Coaching Committee, together with the reasons you consider them special. Nominations close on 31 January 2010.

Anyone for the Uruguay Open in 2010?

The cause of world croquet took a step forward on 19 November 2009 when, with WCF support, a group of players in Uruguay bought a plot of land to house the first croquet club in South America. Chris Williams has added the position of the 45 by 35 yard corner plot to

the Google Earth croquet clubs file on the Croquet Records website www.croquetrecords.com/clubs_earth.htm - it's on the beach front at Solymar, not far from Montevideo's gleaming new international airport, the most modern in the continent. The plot is shortly to be cleared and fenced in. The question then will be whether to put down turves (Uruguay's sandy soil makes for excellent drainage) or a carpet on compacted stone dust, a method pioneered successfully by US farmer Hugh Barger in North Carolina. Either way, the nascent Uruguayan Croquet Federation, headed by ex-Belgian player Jonathan Lamb, would like to hear from players potentially interested in taking part in a Uruguayan Open (Level Advanced) in November 2010. Back-up courts will be available. The country, once described as 'the Switzerland of Latin America' is on the same latitude as Cape Town and Sydney. It is peaceful, friendly, stable and safe, and makes an excellent base for exploring Buenos Aires, the world heritage site of Colonia and the waterfalls at Foz de Iguacu. Hotels cost about £35 a night, and a three-course meal with Uruguayan steak and wine can cost £5. Write to lambfam@adinet.com.uy for more details.

Please send all tournament reports and photos to news@croquet.org.uk

This ensures that your contributions go to the website and the Gazette.

If you upload your own news or tournament reports please remember to forward to the Gazette.

News & Information

AC Inter County Championship 2010

I am pleased to say that the preliminary entry procedure we introduced some year ago has produced dividends this year in that it has already identified two counties who feel they are unable to raise a team for next years event. As I am sure you will all agree we want to continue with the divisional, 22 team format; knowing our problems this early allows

THE CROQUET ASSOCIATION

Unconfirmed Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at 11 am at The Hurlingham Club on Saturday 17th October 2009.

Present: Professor Bernard Neal (President), Patricia Duke-Cox (Chairman of Council), Dr Roger Bray (Hon. Treasurer), Dr Ian Vincent (Hon. Secretary), Elizabeth Larsson (CA Manager) and 70 other Associates.

Professor Neal took the chair and gave a special welcome to John Solomon at his 61st AGM.

1. Apologies for Absence.

Apologies for absence were received from Gail Curry, Colin Irwin, Jonathan Kirby, David Mooney, Tim King, Alan Pidcock, Betty Pritchard and the Littlehampton Croquet Club.

2. Minutes of the previous Meeting held on Saturday 11th October 2008.

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on the 11th October 2008 were signed as a true record of the meeting.

3. Annual Report from Council

The Chairman of Council, Patricia Duke-Cox, presented the following report:

"I would like to commence by saying that not only has it been an honour to serve as your Chairman, but it has been a pleasure. I present the report of Council's activities over the last year.

Members will be pleased to learn that the building works at the Cheltenham office were completed and came within budget. The extra accommodation for the shop stock and the mutual support of the three employees in the office significantly benefits our organisation.

Turning to the activities of our committees, I naturally focus on their highlights but have become more aware of the amount of routine work they do to support our activities.

On the international scene we have experienced mixed fortunes, but success can be interpreted in different ways.

◆ Chris Clarke of England is still the number 1 ranked Association Croquet player in the world. Then at the Association Croquet World Championship, in May 2009 in Florida, Chris Farthing was best British player, getting to the semi-final, whilst CA member Reg Bamford, representing South Africa, won to become world champion for the third time.

◆ We have successfully bid to host the Golf Croquet World Championship in 2011. John Spiers is heading the organising committee, and has also generously offered to underwrite some of the costs.

◆ The committee's work has centred on preparations for the 2010 MacRobertson Shield and the production of a new Policy document for our relationship with the WCF. For the MacRobertson Shield the host clubs were chosen, the schedule

agreed, and an Organisation Committee chaired by Colin Irwin was set up. An exciting related development is that the CA is likely to hold companion events - a second and third tier making the MacRobertson Shield into a full World Team Championship. This has raised the issue of how the Great Britain team playing in the Mac can be reconciled with possible Welsh and Scottish teams in the second tier, and the wider constitutional issues about the relationship between the CA and the Welsh, Scottish, Jersey, and Isle of Man Croquet Associations. These will have to be addressed over the next few months.

◆ The committee has also been acting to make the WCF more accountable to the CA and its other members, and to increase communication between the CA and the other croquet associations around the world.

◆ Our juniors are also competing internationally and it was pleasing to see three of them going to the inaugural Golf Croquet Under-21 Championship in Cairo and gaining creditable placings in the top 13. Bursaries were made available this year and young players who demonstrate potential ability are able to apply for appropriate tournaments. This became a joint committee initiative with representatives from the Tournament, Handicap and International committees awarding the bursaries. For the next step it is intended to allocate mentors who will advise and approve entry to tournaments that might attract a bursary.

Turning to the Development Committee, one of their first tasks at the February meeting was to award the biennial club awards. This year the Townsend award was made to Llanfairfechan and the Apps Heley award was made to Dulwich. Each club also received an improved award of £250. In addition grants ranging from £500 to £5000 have been awarded to member clubs and three new clubs have received start-up equipment.

Three committees have been drafting new information. Coaching committee has drafted "Tips for Coaches" and is also planning the next generation of the Coaching Manual that will include Golf Croquet. The Handicap committee has revised its guidelines and publication is soon. AC Laws committee has drafted and is trialling a Third Lift Variation to increase interactivity in games between the top players.

Staying with the details of our sport, the Equipment committee has given approval to the new cast iron hoops from Jaques.

The Marketing committee had a coup in July of this year with the request to help at the launch of a cruise ship, Celebrity Equinox, that boasts a Lawn Club.

Another initiative that might be beneficial to the Croquet Association was explored by the Executive committee and the CA has now joined the Bingo Lotto organisation that passes a share of the profits to sporting organisations.

The Publishing committee oversees the website used for current awareness and the Gazette which is charged with acting as our permanent record in addition to publishing our own material.

◆ Areas where website developments and improvements have been carried out include several involving posting of news items. Home page text is editable by people with relevant privileges. Major events in the on-line tournament calendar are now shown in the news area and upload of news items from external Personal Computers has been enabled (e.g. as used for most Eights to upload

current positions and commentaries). The general-purpose survey application includes voting options and many of you will have used it for the recent Presidential and constitutional proposals. Golf Croquet rankings now upload directly from Stephen Mulliner's record system.

◆ Club information pages have had much personal information removed for data protection reasons but this is still available to members. A wide range of reports can be accessed in the members' area. I am aware we need to remain alert to the currency of information.

◆ Earlier in the year time was spent compiling a Supplement to the Centenary Yearbook covering 1998-2008. This is available from the CA shop for those interested in CA developments and individual or team achievements over the period (incidentally some GC records from earlier years are included, as these were not in the Yearbook). It is also possible to purchase the original Centenary Yearbook.

◆ A welcome return was Wylie's book on Expert Croquet Tactics to our stock. After an initiative to make the information available on-line was investigated, enquiries were made of Keith Wylie's family and the copyright and their stock of books purchased for the shop.

◆ Distribution costs of the Gazette have been reduced significantly by identifying a more competitive fulfilment company, but postal charges are still significant.

On a personal note I would like to thank all the clubs I have visited, either to represent the CA at a celebratory event or to play in one of their tournaments. I endeavoured to reach every federation and now list the clubs that welcomed me: Tyneside and Belsay Hall in Croquet North, Heaton Park and Bowdon in North West, Kenilworth in West Midlands, Nottingham, Woodhall Spa and U3A Branston in East Midlands, Hunstanton, Leighton-Linslade, Newport, Northampton, Colchester and Watford in East Anglia, Parsons Green and Hurlingham in London, Tunbridge Wells in South East and East Dorset and the CA Office at Cheltenham in South West.

In addition I have also experienced playing on different surfaces. At Burton on Trent the East Midlands Federation held their Astroturf tournament, then at Soham I played on the indoor mat, an event organised by the East Anglia Federation. Finally, I enjoyed the unique experience of playing on grass on a cruise ship.

Some of you may be aware that I have twin aims for my time in office. I am delighted that support of juniors with potential was introduced this year with a bursary scheme. My second target is to collect our history. The Solomon collection from Tremaine Arkley will need special storage and there remains much to be done with regard to the bigger art works. I hope that I can help this progress over the next year. In the meantime I have been delighted to purchase or receive as gifts books from Tyneside, Leighton-Linslade and Bowdon marking their anniversaries and deposit them with our Archivist.

To end I would like to thank everyone in general but some specifically. I will start with Nigel Graves who took over the editorship of the Fixtures Book at a critical stage, introduced improvements and efficiencies in layout and in gathering and inserting updates each year. He worked alone initially but this year saw his final contribution as he co-edited it with the office to

where this function will now rest. My next thanks go to Dave Kibble who has been so able and willing to deal with website matters and who developed the database that enables web-based entry and display of fixtures book information, as well as the application for electronic voting. Jeff Dawson did sterling work on the commercial front and was generous to the CA on relinquishing the role. A presentation will be made later in this meeting. Lastly my thanks to our outgoing President, my Vice Chairman, the Treasurer, Secretary, Manager and all our committees for the support I have had during the last year."

The President thanked her for her report, paying tribute to the amount of work it reflected, the distance she had travelled in visiting clubs and federations and congratulating her on achieving her silver merit award during the season.

4. Accounts for the Year to December 2008 and Treasurer's Report

4.1 The Treasurer, Roger Bray, presented the Accounts for the Year to 31st December 2008 and gave a brief report.

4.2 He noted the significance of the move of the headquarters of the Association from Hurlingham to Cheltenham in 2002, but felt that the recent administrative restructuring would have a greater impact. The benefit of having several staff working from the same location, and thus able to provide mutual cover and support, had already proved its worth. It had, however, come at a financial cost. The increase of £15K in 2008 for staffing had effectively wiped out the surplus in 2007. An extension to the office, for storage of shop stock and facilities for the staff, had been built for £51K, which would be written off over 20 years starting in 2009. We were indebted to the Cheltenham Club for their assistance with this, in extending the amount of land leased, moving the groundsmen's hut and tolerating the inevitable disruption during the building work. In particular, the project could not have been completed so successfully without the effort and attention to detail given by David Magee and Liz Larsson.

4.3 This time last year we had been in the middle of the banking crisis and the CA was in a vulnerable position. This has now been ameliorated by both spreading assets and diversifying banking arrangements.

4.4 This year, subscriptions had exceeded expectations and sales were up so far, although the latter may be adversely affected by postal strikes. The outcome would be largely affected by the total of the grants awarded, several applications having yet to be considered. In 2008, £19K had been disbursed in grants, including awards to 8 new clubs.

4.5 He concluded by saying that he felt that the Association remained in a relatively strong position, continuing to be able to meet the twin financial aims of ensuring a sound foundation and supporting the development of croquet.

4.6 The accounts were adopted on the proposal of Nigel Graves, seconded by David Maugham.

5. Election of President.

5.1 A postal and electronic ballot of individual Associates

had been held to elect the President: Quiller Barrett and David Openshaw both having been nominated. The scrutineers, David and Eileen Magee, had declared that Quiller Barrett had been elected.

5.2 After being congratulated by Bernard Neal, Quiller thanked Associates for their confidence in him and paid tribute to David Openshaw.

6. Election of Hon. Secretary.

There being no other nominations, Dr Ian Vincent was re-elected as Hon. Secretary by acclamation.

7. Election of Hon. Treasurer.

There being no other nominations, Dr Roger Bray was re-elected as Hon. Treasurer by acclamation.

8. Election of Reporting Accountant.

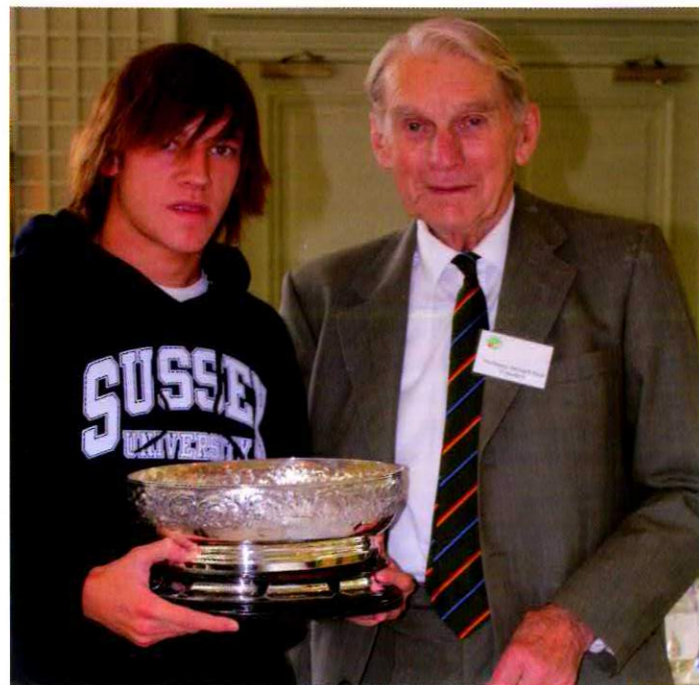
The Treasurer expressed his appreciation of the work of Marian Hemsted during the previous year, in particular her attention to detail. Marian Hemsted was re-elected by acclamation, on the proposal of Bill Arliss, seconded by Nigel Graves.

9. Amendments to the Constitution.

The amendments to the Constitution of the Association published in the August Gazette were approved as follows:

Section A (Election of Members): Individuals 205 for, 4 against; Clubs 10 for, 0 against.

Section B (Renaming of Regional to Federation Representatives): Individuals 201 for, 5 against; Clubs 10 for, 0 against.



Bernard Neal presents James Le Moignan with the Apps Memorial Bowl

10. Election of Council Members

There being no other nominations, the following were declared elected to Council: Jeff Dawson, Patricia Duke-Cox,

Richard Hoskyns, Barry Keen and Tim King.

11. Benefactors' Book.

The names in the Benefactors' Book were read.

12. Presentations of the Apps and Steel Memorial Bowls.

12.1 The Apps Memorial Bowl was presented to James Le Moignan of the Jersey Club.

12.2 The Steel Memorial Bowl was presented to Rachel Rowe of the Ashby Club.



Bernard Neal presents Rachel Rowe with the Steel Bowl.

13. Presentation of a Lifetime Coaching Award

Cliff Jones was presented with a Lifetime Coaching Award.



Bernard Neal presents Cliff Jones with his lifetime Coaching Award

14. Presentation to Jeff Dawson

Jeff Dawson was presented with a portrait of himself by John Prince, the New Zealand artist, in recognition of his service as the commercial officer and in developing the Association's database systems.

15. Presentation of Club Awards

The Apps Heley Award for 2008 was awarded to Dulwich Croquet Club.



Simon Whiteley and Ray Hall of Dulwich Croquet Club receiving the Apps Heley award from Bernard Neal

The Townsend Club Award for 2008 had already been presented to Lanfairfechan and North Wales Croquet Club.

16. Presentations of Croquet Association Diplomas

The President presented CA Diplomas to:

Jack Davies (Sussex County), Pauline Gann (Kington Langley), Donald Gugan (Bristol), Duncan Hector (Letchworth), Pam Hughes (Stony Stratford), Christopher Larsson (Budleigh Salterton), Ann Lee (Colchester), Ivor Meredith (Budleigh Salterton), Rodney Parkins (Medway), Ray Ransom (Bristol) and, posthumously to his widow, Jim Wallen (Kington Langley).

Paddy Booth (Burnham on Crouch), Phil Errington (Belsay Hall), Nick Hurst (Bear of Rodborough), Sue Mackay (Dyffryn), Pamela Mason (Sussex County), Carter Moody (Compton) and Jack Pattenden (Llanfairfechan) were not present and have received or will receive their diplomas on other occasions.

Rosemary Danby of the Bear of Rodborough Club had received a diploma on the occasion of the club's quarter century dinner.

17. Any Other Business

George Noble asked Council to consider whether, in the interests of openness, the number of votes cast in elections should be published and to report back before the deadline for proposing motions at next years AGM.

18. President's Closing Address.

Bernard Neal emphasised the amount of activity by many

people that had been covered in this meeting. A number of awards had been made, but he noted that there was not one for the development of a new club and asked Council to consider establishing such an award. He concluded by saying that it had been great honour and privilege to serve as only the tenth President of the Association and that he now stood down, passing the office to Quiller Barrett.

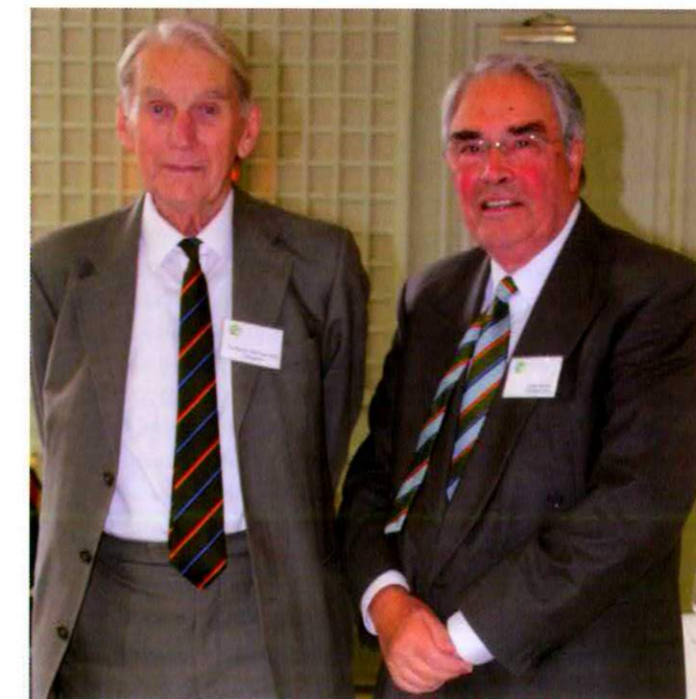
There being no further business the AGM closed at 12.00.

NEW PRESIDENT'S INTRO

by Quiller Barrett

Soon after the result of the election for President was announced at the AGM I attended the lunch in honour of our out-going President, Bernard Neal. I was soon put in my place. A young player sitting at the same table asked me: "Do you play croquet?"

Well, yes I do – at my local clubs, Watford and Surbiton, and at tournaments such as the Veterans and Seniors Championships where I meet old friends and enjoy the social activities as much as those on the lawns.



Bernard Neal 10th President of the CA, and Quiller Barrett, now the 11th President of the CA.

I was surprised to be nominated for President, and even more surprised to be elected, as the other candidate was David Openshaw. David is not only a very distinguished player, he is also someone who has done his time on CA and international committees, working voluntarily for many years administering our sport. I hope he will continue to help us at the CA.

I am only the eleventh President of the Croquet Association in more than 100 years and I am truly honoured. During the election

some members regarded me as "the people's candidate". Whether that is true or not I will do my best to follow in the footsteps of Bernard, John Solomon and their predecessors who contributed so much. I will, of course, represent the CA at significant national and international events. But I will also do my best to visit clubs if they think that the office of CA President can help locally with the development and promotion of croquet. Please regard your new President as being poised to help, just ask me.

AWARDS PRESENTED AT THE AGM

Most Improved Player Awards:

The Steel Bowl 2008 – Rachel Rowe, Ashby Croquet Club

Rachel made significant improvement during the 2008 season. She won 32 out of 43 games resulting in an increase of 200 index points and a handicap reduction from 11 to seven.

The Apps Memorial Bowl 2008 - James Le Moignan, Jersey Croquet Club

James made outstanding progress in 2008. Having been cut from two to 0.5 in November 2007 his index increased during 2008 from 1950 to 2397, only three index points away from -1.5. He also had a grade increase in 2008 on the Croquet Grading System from 1812 to 2370. This progress has continued in 2009 and he is currently ranked among the top two dozen players in the world.

Lifetime Coaching Award – Cliff Jones

Having studied sports psychology and coached rugby and cycling, Cliff took up croquet coaching, and has been associated with a number of clubs in Bedfordshire, Dorset and Devon. He has run many coaching courses for the South West Federation (SWF) and actively helped start up croquet in Cornwall, by running training and qualification courses for coaches. Appointed Chairman of the SWF in 2004 and representing it on Council, Cliff chaired the Coaching Committee. Although ill health curtailed his activities in 2007, he took a keen interest in the Croquet Academy, running the Academy's inaugural Gold and Silver Gilt courses, and developing some excellent course manuals. Appointed SWF Coaching Officer in 2008, Cliff runs courses from novice to advanced and he has recently set up a coaching programme for the Croquet Association of Ireland. Cliff's commitment to coaching has been an excellent example of the level of dedication that many members of the CA give to our sport.

Presentation to Jeff Dawson

Jeff Dawson took over the CA Shop in early 2002 from David Collins, when the CA Office moved from Hurlingham. He developed a database and software to transform it into a web-based business, with a significant increase of in both turnover and profit, before handing it over to the CA Office at Cheltenham last November. He built up an enviable reputation for customer service, with sound advice based not only on having played the game at the highest level but also on a good appreciation of the needs of less experienced players. In addition, he gave a considerable amount of his own time to Council, including chairing the Marketing Committee and developing other IT systems. It was typical of him that he put



Jeff Dawson being presented with his portrait by Bernard Neal

considerable effort into ensuring a smooth hand-over, generously waiving his indemnification fee, before taking a well earned break in New Zealand. It seems particularly appropriate, therefore, to present him with a portrait by John Prince, one of New Zealand's top players, as a token of thanks for his exceptional service.

Club Awards

The Croquet Association has three awards in recognition of a club's progress at national or local level in any two of the previous three years.

Townsend Club Award 2008 - Llanfairfechan and North Wales Croquet Club

The Development Committee was impressed with the progress the club has made in the last few years. It could see that the club is bringing the game of croquet to many sections of the community as well as developing its facilities for the benefit of members.

Apps Heley Award 2008 - Dulwich Croquet Club

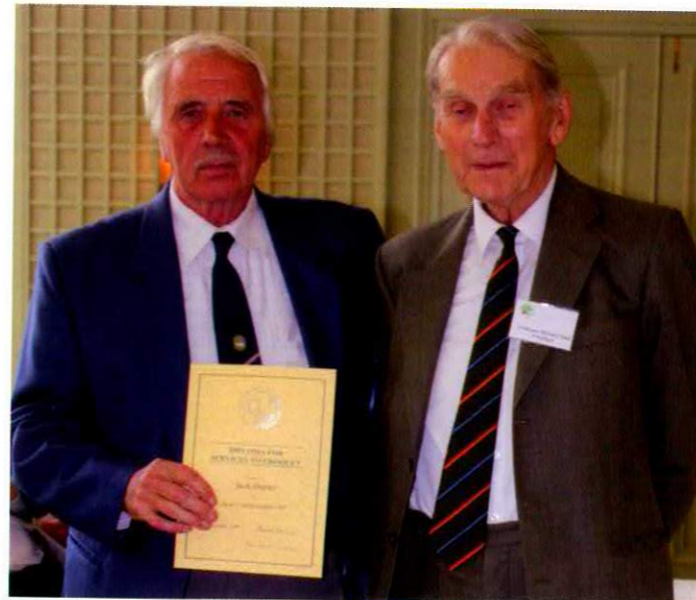
The Development Committee was impressed with the progress the club has made in the last few years. This club has transformed over the last two years into a dynamic organisation with much improved facilities and a much enlarged membership backed by a positive coaching set up. This has taken a united effort from the membership and some determined leadership.

Millennium Club Award – not awarded

CA Diplomas – 2009

Jack Davies, Sussex County Croquet Club

Jack switched his allegiance from playing bowls (at international level) to Croquet in 1998. He became an A Class player in a very short time and then went on to coaching. He spends endless time and patience with club members of all levels, in helping them with their problems, correcting their technique, showing them new strokes and playing points and games with tactical advice. Throughout the winter season Jack runs a weekly alternate stroke morning. Jack is an invaluable club member when he reverts to his former life as a builder and plumber. During the winter, particularly in cold weather, Jack will visit the club daily, if necessary, to inspect the water and heating systems. He gives generously of his time to support the winter working party both with his experience and his ability to acquire appropriate tools and equipment.



Jack Davies with his diploma presented by Bernard Neal

Phil Errington, Belsay Hall Croquet Club

Phil Errington joined Belsay Hall Croquet Club in 2000 and within two years had become its Chairman where his people and organisational skills, combined with his technical abilities, advanced



Phil Errington receiving his diploma from Charles Waterfield, Chairman of Croquet North at the Belsay Hall Christmas lunch.

the development of the club. An AC coach and GC referee, Phil has sought to maintain high standards and has encouraged others to improve their game. He and his wife have ensured a friendly atmosphere at the club and during the winter months Phil organises indoor croquet sessions, which attract players from Belsay Hall and Tyneside clubs and potential new recruits to the game. Phil has contributed greatly to the club and his leadership knowledge, skill, dedication and inclusiveness is exemplary.



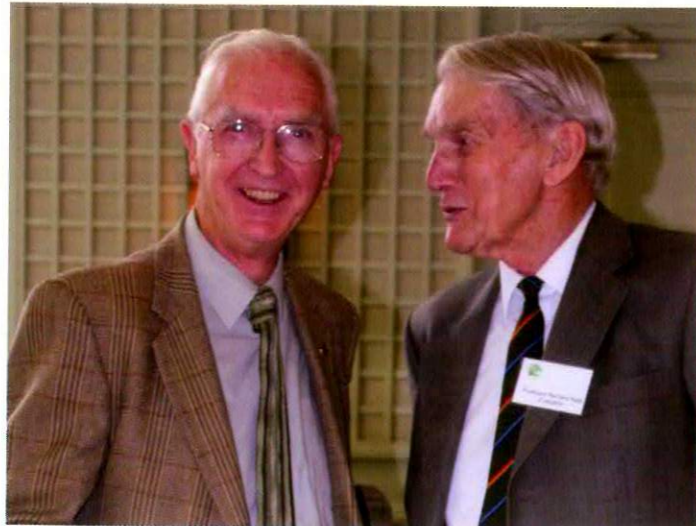
Pauline Gann with her diploma, presented by Bernard Neal

Pauline Gann, Kington Langley Croquet Club

A founder member of the Kington Langley Croquet Club, Pauline Gann has been the Club's Secretary for most of the past 25 years since its inception. Her efforts and enthusiasm in recruiting and coaching quickly brought in new members and she had great success in organising and running events to raise much-needed funds to get the Club started. Pauline and her husband donated a silver plate for the first Club competition, which is still the most prestigious title to win. She was one of the first four to enter and play in League teams, and also one of the first to enter outside tournaments which motivated others to do so. For many years, Pauline represented the Croquet Club on the village Playing Fields Association, and was instrumental in obtaining grants from them which helped to buy various items, including a larger Club Hut. She always ensured that members were involved in all village activities both social and fundraising.

Donald Gugan, Bristol Croquet Club

Donald Gugan was one of the contingent that sparked new life into the club more than 25 years ago. He became a life member, qualified as a coach, and has continuously lead a beginners' course each spring, editing and printing the Club's beginners handbook. He would then monitor their progress with follow-on lessons, through to overseeing the beginners' competition. With Rosemary (his wife) as our Secretary, Donald shied away from serving on the Committee, but this did not prevent him from having firm views on our short comings. Annually he would set out the courts each



Bernard Neal shares a joke with Donald Gugan during the presentation of his dipoma

Spring. As a physicist, he advocated the merits of the Omega hoops, insisting on accurate setting of hoops, in accordance with the law. His counsel has been always worth weighing.



Duncan Hector with Bernard Neal

Duncan Hector, Letchworth Croquet Club

Duncan Hector is a founding member of the 21 year old Letchworth Croquet Club. He has played at county, national and international level and led the club to victory in the 1989 Longman Cup. Duncan was chairman and is now president of the club. He was instrumental in negotiating the club's move to its present advantageous site and has given huge amounts of time to the Club, sourcing finance, producing and maintaining two croquet lawns, becoming an expert in lawn care as a result. Duncan has provided the Club with most of its machinery and his generosity enables the Club to hold its annual dinner and fundraising activities at his home. He has spent much time teaching croquet to members, and his wise counsel has led the club to enjoy an increasing membership and to be the friendly motivated club it is today.

Pam Hughes, Stony Stratford Croquet Club

Pam Hughes has made a major contribution to Stony Stratford Croquet Club over many years. Pam is over 90 years old, drives herself to Club several times a week and regularly plays in Club competitions and Club afternoons. She is a tough opponent and plays both Association and Golf to a good standard, often surprising players from opposing teams by her ability at her age.



Pam Hughes with Bernard Neal

Almost single-handedly kept the Club going and it is largely down to her that the current members owe the existence of the Club. Pam has kept a photographic history of the Club which has been incorporated into an album as part of the Club's archives. Of particular interest was her record of the removal of the old clubhouse, a disused railway carriage, which was transferred by low-loader to the Quanton railway for renovation and preservation.



Christopher Larsson receiving his diploma from Bernard Neal

Christopher Larsson, Budleigh Salterton Croquet Club

Chris has been Club Treasurer for many years. The club has a large budget and his position involves a great deal of work. Chris's accounting, budgeting and financial administration are always of an extremely high quality, and his extensive work in committee and sub-committee has also contributed greatly. The resultant benefits to the club, and consequently to croquet, have been enormous.

Nick Hurst, Bear of Rodborough

Nick is one of the founding members of the Bear of Rodborough Croquet Club and for most of its 25 years he has maintained the lawn. He takes time off work every week to weed, feed, roll and mow the lawn. He sets the hoops and paints the white lines. He does this entirely alone and the quality of the lawn

improves year on year. Nick is so busy he rarely has time to play croquet and does all the lawn work out of sight of members, but because he is so reliable, they know that a pristine lawn will await them.

Sue Mackay, Dyffryn Croquet Club

Sue Mackay has been a stalwart supporter of croquet both at her club, Dyffryn, and more widely in the South West Federation. Sue has been both match secretary and secretary of the Dyffryn Club, is very active at all club events and has donated a trophy to the club. In addition to this, Sue is the publicity officer of the South West Federation and maintains the website, with all results and draws for SWF matches. She also edits, publishes and distributes the SWAN (South West Area Newsletter) throughout clubs in the South West. She also finds time to play in club tournaments and has for several years provided an informative report of the Inter County Tournament – and taken part when Glamorgan have occasionally been short of a player.



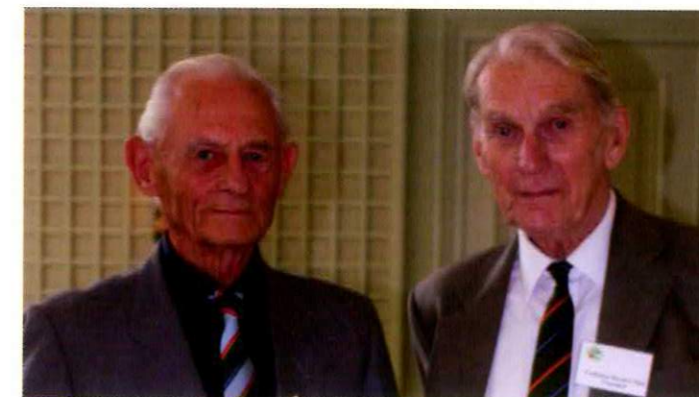
Ann Lee receives her diploma from Bernard Neal

Ann Lee, Colchester Croquet Club

Ann Lee joined Colchester Croquet Club around 25 years ago and has devoted herself to service within the club throughout that time. Her outstanding catering abilities have been apparent to all members and to everyone visiting for CA tournaments and other events, but many of the other tasks she performed quietly and without recognition were known to only a few. Ann has given so much to the club, at the expense of playing as much as she would have liked, that this award is richly deserved. Ann served as Chairman for several years and was a member of the committee for many more, organising amongst other things the annual dinner. The croquet world is indebted to Ann for everything she has contributed to Colchester Croquet Club.

Pamela Mason, Sussex County Croquet Club

Pamela and her husband Ken joined Sussex County Croquet Club in 1997 and they quickly became involved in the Club, Pamela joining a group headed by John Solomon to seek lottery funding. Pamela so impressed everyone with her efficiency and PA skills, she was "headhunted" to be Club Secretary and was responsible for drawing up the Fire Policy and Child Protection Policy. Meanwhile, Pamela was becoming involved also in the catering at the Club, and joined the catering Committee, taking over as head of catering for 2007, after which time she became Tournament Secretary. At the time of writing, she is about to relinquish this position in order to be Club Secretary again!



Ivor Meredith with Bernard Neal

Ivor Meredith, Budleigh Salterton Croquet Club

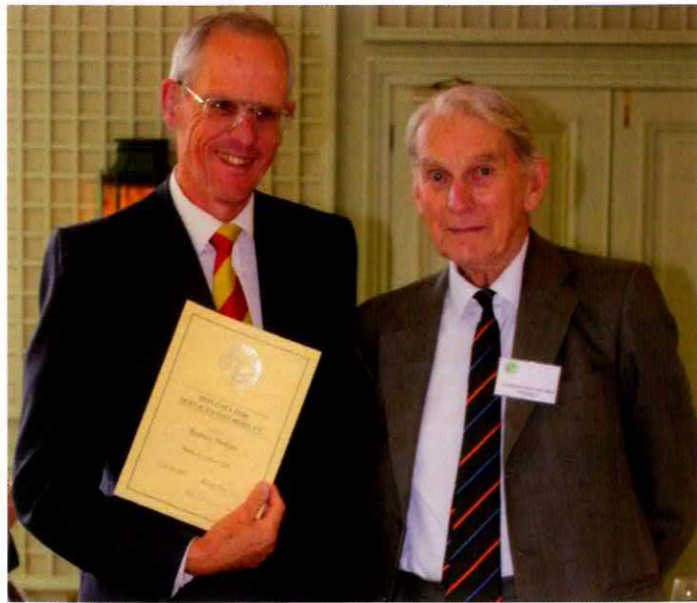
Ivor has been the Secretary of Budleigh Salterton Croquet Club for many years. The club is a large one with many members and visitors, so the amount of work involved for him from day to day is considerable. Ivor keeps his finger on the pulse, and is soon aware of anything that needs to be known within the club; he is always willing to help out at short notice, if he can, in whatever way necessary. Ivor's devotion to the club has made an enormous contribution to its health, and consequently to croquet.

Carter Moody, Compton Croquet Club

Carter Moody has been a member of Compton Croquet Club for over ten years. Carter is an all round performer and a pillar of strength. His contribution to recruiting new members and to coaching is inspirational: he runs jamborees, supports visiting social groups, and organizes the attendance and content of practical demonstrations at shopping centres and other venues. He also recruits and coaches youth members. He produces croquet literature including instruction booklets, posters on tactics and letter cards to boost Club funds. He supports CCC winter Bridge Club. A quiet diligent person with dogged determination, Carter is a member of the committee with an excellent knowledge of buildings and can also turn his hand to most maintenance things. CCC hopes to have a new clubhouse and Carter has led in drawing up plans and contacting and informing key professional people who may be involved in the proposed build.

Rodney Parkins, Medway Croquet Club

Rodney Parkins was one of the leading lights of a group who established the Medway croquet Club, having persuaded Rochester Council to allocate them the land in 1991. He was the first chairman of the club and was active in motivating and encouraging people to



Rodney Parkins receives his diploma from Bernard Neal

enter competitions, and his success led the way for others to follow. The club outgrew its initial venue and Rodney helped to secure a new site at the Cobdown Sports and Social Club. The club has since gone from strength to strength with four lawns and the use of a pavilion. Rodney is still very active in the club.



Ray Ransom accepts his CA Diplom from Bernard Neal

Ray Ransom, Bristol Croquet Club

For more than 25 years, Ray, a past Chairman of the club, has been one of the driving forces in bringing the club into the 20th Century. He quickly demonstrated his aptitude for the game, became a qualified coach, and won the Club's over-9 handicap competition in his first year. Since then, the club has benefited from his counsel as he progressed to a Grade 1 coach. In the early days, Ray would be found cutting the courts before going to work, along with emptying the Elsan – in the days when the club collected water from a tap at the gate. Since then, when the Clubhouse was being improved, he demonstrated both his plumbing and electrical skills.



Paddy presented with his diploma by Mrs Carol Noble, Mayor of Burnham-on-Crouch, at the club's annual prize-giving lunch.

Paddy Booth, Burnham on Crouch Croquet Club

In 1989, Paddy Booth persuaded some 30 residents, none of whom had any knowledge of croquet, to form a croquet club. With Paddy as chairman and imbued with his enthusiasm, the club started playing Association Croquet on the cricket outfield of the local sports club. Paddy and his wife Thelma taught the rudiments of the game, and marked out and mowed the lawns. They successfully lobbied for grants, equipment, coaching and the use of a portacabin as a clubroom. Now, after 20 years, Paddy (who is 95) has just stepped down from the committee.

Jack Pattenden, Llanfairfechan Croquet Club

Newly retired, Jack Pattenden and his wife had taken up golf, and at a club Open Day they were shown golf croquet and were quickly hooked. Within 10 months, Jack was elected Chairman and Helen was elected onto the committee. Jack wasted no time in getting things moving to upgrade the Club's off court facilities, negotiating with architects, builders, funders and not accepting 'no' for an answer. The club's new facilities are a tribute to Jack's work and the club is very proud of them.

Manor House Mallets

The originators of carbon fibre shafted mallets now offer a truly comprehensive range, from the 'Basic' at £87.50, the well established T-series (£137.50) to the 2000 mallet at £160 (inc. head wrap). All have heads of fine hardwood with screwed and glued double faces, inlaid sight lines and a high quality finish. Sustainably managed timbers.

Hollow head with brass plate extreme end-weighting (£20 extra)
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3000 model with D-shaped ends £265

Mallet bags (£27) Head wraps (£7.50)

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

Jim Wallen, Kington Langley Croquet Club

Jim Wallen joined Kington Langley Croquet Club in 1999 and his unstinting generosity to the Club in time and effort that made him stand out as someone special. He was a skilled craftsman and, although still working, found time to install a fitted kitchen and running water into the club hut, created a drainage system, made and hung doors, made an honours board and a many smaller items to the benefit of all. He also mowed and white-lined the lawns every week. This year, recently retired, Jim enjoyed playing in several tournaments. He was Vice Chairman and was to have taken over as Chairman next year. It was with great sadness that the club learned the news of the death of Jim whilst on holiday with his wife and two friends. Jim was a popular and much respected member of the Club; a family man, quiet and unassuming but of great character and determination. His contribution to the Club was immense and he will be greatly missed.



Ann Wallin accepts the CA Diploma awarded to her husband Jim, from Bernard Neal.

Rosemary Danby - Bear of Rodborough club

Rosemary is one of three founder members of The Bear of Rodborough Croquet Club which celebrates its Silver Jubilee on Saturday 25th April 2009. For twenty-five years, Rosemary has been secretary and the main driving force of the club. Her loyalty, enthusiasm and dedication are second to none. Although only just over twenty members, Rosemary annually organises league fixtures

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The mallet that adjusts to your grip.

You set the handle to whatever angle best suits
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Optional curved bottom to 12" heads
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for Beginners, Intermediate, Federation and Parkstone Qualifier matches. For twenty-five years, she has taken minutes of meetings and maintained the minutiae of club paper work. She has arranged a programme of social events through winter months and an annual dinner. The success of the club, indeed, its very existence, is due in no small part to Rosemary and our gratitude to her is immense.

This diploma was awarded in 2008, but was not published, so as to keep it a surprise from Rosemary until the Silver Jubilee.



Rosemary Danby receives her Diploma at the Bear of Rodborough Silver Jubilee dinner from Bernard Neal.

Editorial



On starting work on this issue in November things were rather grey, the weather was atrocious up here in the north east, with howling gales and pounding rain, but by comparison to the disastrous effects in Cumbria, I think we all escaped lightly.

However, as I worked my way through all of the incoming mail things brightened up fairly significantly. I had thought that the front cover might be a little trying to obtain for this issue, and was even prepared to get my camera out and create one. However, as you will have seen that was unnecessary, thanks to the creative efforts of Bob Furniss, of Bakewell Croquet Club, who made his creation for a Festival of Trees event at All Saints Parish Church in Bakewell and Alan Reeves kindly sent the photo in. That kind of brightened up my day and then as I continued to work my way through the mail it occurred to me that 'we' appear to be much better at recognising success and celebrating it. I believe that's a positive move and one to be commended and continued.

I could probably be forgiven for nick-naming this issue, the Bernard Neal or Ex-Pres Issue, given that Bernard has made a few appearances in this issue. I don't presume to know Bernard particularly well, but I have always found him to be amusing, accommodating and a fine ambassador for the CA. I'm sure there

were many good words spoken about him at the lunch given for him in October, but I would like to wish him a happy and active retirement and I am sure that many readers would echo those sentiments. I'm sure we would also like to wish Quiller Barrett, the new President of the CA, a happy tenure, and judging from his introduction on page 11, I am sure he will be as amenable and contactable as his illustrious predecessors.

Should the weather take a grey turn during the festive season and you find yourself at a loose end, then of course, please feel free to send in any news, thoughts or contributions, as I am sure there will be some New Years Day events taking place weather permitting, to say nothing of plans for next season or dinners celebrating this past season.

All that remains for me is to wish you all a happy Christmas and a happy and healthy 2010.

Gail Curry

Development News

Nottingham Croquet Club

Report on the building of two replacement lawnside huts

Report by Roger Berkeley

For years Nottingham City Council have provided lawnside huts for the Club. In the last two years two of these huts have been burnt down, whilst a third shows the scars of a firework party and was overturned by vandals last winter. The



One of the completed huts at Nottingham.

City Council refused to provide any more replacements, so the Club resolved to rebuild two huts in brick in the winter of 2008/9.

The Nottingham City planning officer however refused to support the application for brick huts, and a revised plan was drawn up for huts built of wood. Two of the members (Michael Finnigan and Don Martin) offered to build the huts, but to reduce the risk of vandalism they would be bolted down on dwarf walls and coated with flameproofing material: costs were estimated at £2,100 (with labour freely provided by club members). At the same time the Club was planning major expenditure on a kitchen refurbishment and a new set of hoops, so an application was lodged with the CA

for development support and a grant was kindly offered.

Construction

In February the bases were staked out and poured, and a single row of breeze-block wall built round the edges. In March the woodwork was purchased and the roofs and sides assembled in Don's warehouse: they were all coated with three coats of flameproofing and a first coat of preservative, and the roof felt was applied. In April the assembled sections were transported to the Club and they fitted together perfectly.

Costs

The budget for the project was £2,100 and the actual cost was £2,054. These figures do not include approximately 200 man-hours of work put in by club members. If this time had been charged at commercial rates the cost would have been more like £5,000.

Sussex County Croquet Club

New aerator commissioned

Sussex County Croquet Club (Southwick) has been a major croquet venue since 1901 at its current site. Over the years the lawns had become extremely compacted and lawn quality suffered.

Earlier this decade the club appointed a new contractor, John Randall to look after their turf management. John had a long history in fine turf management being responsible for many bowls facilities in the South East of England. He quickly identified that something needed to be done to get rid of this compaction and a programme started which involved the ongoing hire of specialist equipment.

Compaction, caused by intensive play and heavy maintenance equipment is said to be the biggest single problem encountered by sports turf managers.

Grass roots grow in the spaces between soil particles and when these spaces are reduced by surface compaction, the roots are deprived of air, water and nutrients, resulting in a weak, shallow root structure. Without strong root growth, the grass becomes weak and sparse and is prone to excessive wear and turf disease.

Southwick decided that to improve the standard of their lawns that the treatment they were doing out of season was not only expensive in terms of machine hire but also inadequate for their needs. So the decision was taken to try to raise enough money to purchase a good aeration system.

Having taken advice from their Contractors, members of the CA's lawns advisory group and other large clubs, the decision was made to go for a SISIS Arrow vertical action aerator.

An appeal was launched and thanks to the generosity of Southwick's club members, the Contractor and a grant from the CA, the money was raised to purchase the machine.

It's self powered and comes with 3 different sets of tines (solid, pencil and hollow).

A tining programme is now underway and the club is looking forward to seeing a long term improvement in lawn quality.

As part of the purchase arrangement the aerator can be made available to other CA member clubs in the South East via Southwick's Grounds Contractor. The cost would be determined based on the needs and location of the club concerned. Any club's interested should, in the first instance contact Jon Isaacs preferably by email jonathanisaacs@btinternet.com

Sidmouth Sprinkler System

Report by David Temple

Three of our four Croquet lawns in Sidmouth were re-laid in 2001 and it was felt, subsequently, that we needed a more efficient irrigation system to keep them in good order. Our system at that time was cumbersome, labour intensive and expensive to run. It consisted of a number of stationary sprinklers using mains water. We needed a fully automatic "pop up" system using water pumped from a bore hole but the cost of installing this was estimated at £25,000 plus.

We decided to ask the membership, in the form of a circular, how the members felt. We had an overwhelming response in favour of the project.

In the spring of 2006 we sent out "Giving Forms" each of which included a "Gift Aid" declaration. Sidmouth Cricket, Tennis, Croquet & Hockey Club is a Community Amateur Sports Club and as such is able to reclaim tax and therefore boost contributions made from taxed income.

Gradually the money in our "Sprinkler Appeal" fund built up. The members were very generous indeed. A local charitable trust donated £3,000. Some social events were arranged at the expense of individual members and tickets were sold. Mallets were refurbished and sold.

It was soon clear that at least we would be able to have a system which would use water from a bore hole providing virtually free water and a "walking irrigator" which would be a huge improvement on the previous stationary spray units.

We sought advice from the Department of the Environment and from a geological surveyor as to the feasibility of extracting water from somewhere on our property.

In 2007 we had our 30 metre bore hole drilled by Saxton Drilling of Redruth, Cornwall. The drilling team, and Waterwise Engineering who installed the pump, did the electrics and pipe work and set up the pressure vessel, were very efficient. We built and insulated the housing for the pressure vessel, U/V filter etc ourselves.

The total cost of this part of the exercise and the purchase of the "walking irrigator" (water driven Bedien Rollcart) was £7,629 inc VAT.

Fortunately there is a very large aquifer under Sidmouth. Large volumes of excellent quality water were available. Lab reports from South West Water confirmed the excellence and purity of the water, which is now used in the pavilion for the showers, lavatories and washbasins - to the benefit of all our sporting sections. We still use mains water in the bar and kitchen although there is no logical reason for this.

During this period we still continued to collect money. We also applied to the Croquet Association for a grant. We steered clear of loans, as it was never clear how these could be repaid. The Croquet Association came up with a generous grant which together with help from our parent club, Sidmouth CTC & H Club, made all the difference and made it possible for us to install our fully automatic "pop up" system on three of our lawns. This was completed and tested on May 1st 2009. We are delighted with it so far. The firm who did the installation is ArcPath (formally "iSS solutions for water") from Ringwood, Hants. The team members are very experienced in this type of work and it showed. The pipe work and electric cables were installed around the lawns and up to the pavilion with the absolute minimum of disruption. Turf was all carefully replaced. Because of the very delicate scenic situation of the Sidmouth CTC&H Club we opted for a buried storage tank. This is

under the grassed members' area in front of the pavilion and is a 2,200 gallon sectional tank. All that can be seen is now is a concrete manhole cover. The water from the bore hole is pumped into this reservoir and from there another pump circulates the water at high pressure to the pop-up sprinklers (six around each lawn). This is controlled from a panel in our pavilion and can be operated either manually or automatically.

Everything looks good at the moment. All we need is a dry summer or two or three!

Details of the contractor can be obtained from me, David Temple, at d@dandntemple.co.uk or tel: 01395 513724

Lawn Irrigation at Woking Croquet Club

Report by Bernard Jones

It seems a long time ago that we had a really hot dry summer but as recently as 2006 we had periods of blistering sunshine that turned our lawns a pale shade of brown and parts (usually around the hoops!) into a glass-like surface. Our sole source of irrigation at the time was a long hosepipe fed by a single tap between our two main lawns and a rather crude rotary sprinkler which dispensed water unevenly, usually where it wasn't most urgently needed. It was time to look at better alternatives.

We took advice from fellow members in the club, other croquet clubs who had installed irrigation systems and companies who primarily serviced golf clubs. Although originally and mainly a croquet club, Woking is now predominantly a tennis club. Most of the tennis courts are now of the hard variety but three grass courts have been retained and these are used for fifteen days a year to enable the club to host CA events by doubling our croquet capacity from two to four courts.

So the watering requirement was for a grass area the size of four croquet lawns, and tenders were put out to a number of professional organisations specialising in irrigation systems. Quotations were received and the contract awarded to Rainmaker (they have done that all right!),

Contact Details:- Unit 3B, Modern Moulds Business Centre, Harwood Road, Littlehampton, W Sussex BN17 7AU.

We would certainly recommend them. Other clubs (e.g. Tunbridge Wells and Rother Valley) used them, as far as I am aware with satisfaction.

Financial assistance was sought from the CA who took the view that the club's contribution to the tournament scene over more than a hundred years justified a grant towards the overall considerable expenditure. Without the generous support of the CA Development Committee, the project would never have got through the club's Main Committee.

Work started at the end of 2007 and was completed well before the start of the 2008 season. There have been a few incidences of leakage from the under soil distribution system but the installers have generally been quick to rectify the problem. Ironically, almost from the time of proceeding with the project it seems never to have stopped raining! But we have used the system to soak in fertiliser treatment and in the drier second half of the 2009 season. We look forward to some long, hot, dry spells to really test out the system. But we feel well equipped now to face any long period of dry weather without our lawns withering into grass-less surfaces again.

BRITISH OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS

Hurlingham 4th - 12th July
Report by Marcus Evans

The 2009 British Open Singles Croquet championship was won by Rutger Beijderwellen, after the other finalist, Chris Clarke, was forced to withdraw on the morning of the final due to a back injury that made him hardly able to stand, let alone play croquet. This anti-climax was particularly disappointing given the standard of croquet both players had displayed in winning their semi-final matches (played as best of 5 games) against Reg Bamford and Robert Fulford respectively.

After a flawless first semi-final game, Rutger lost the second after uncharacteristically missing a lift shot. The third game saw Reg go round first, but Rutger then got in and later completed his second triple peel of the match. The fourth game had a few errors, but Rutger eventually won an exciting 2-ball ending, having TPO'd Reg and pegged two balls out, winning the match 3-1.

The other semi-final was better still. Chris and Rob traded the first two games, and Rob won the third with a second sextuple peel. In the fourth game, Chris played the first ball to the middle of the lawn. Rob hit it, played Chris's ball to near corner II, and then hit his own ball off the lawn just

outside corner IV. Chris shot at Rob's ball from corner III (33 yards) on the basis that this was much less likely to leave a double target if missed. However, he hit it, rolled up to hoop one, and embarked on a three-ball break to 4-back. Rob missed the shot on the fourth turn of the game and Chris finished with a triple. Chris then won the fifth game after hitting the "tea lady" shot left by Rob (at a distance of about 30 yards), winning the match 3-2.

The Doubles Championship was won by Ian Burridge & Jonathan Kirby, playing together for the first time and both first-time winners of the event. They beat Stephen Mulliner & Mark Avery in an entertaining final, played as a rare (for doubles) best-of-5 due to the fact that none of the participants was required for the Singles final. After losing a tight, error-strewn first game, both players played extremely well to overcome their experienced opponents by 3 games to 1.

In contrast to the winners, George Noble & Ian Vincent celebrated their 30th consecutive appearance together in the Open Doubles. The real entertainment of the event, however, was provided by Reg & Tony LeMoignan's match against Canadian pair Leo McBride & David Bent. Reg & Tony won the first game, and Tony just had to hit the peg to win the second game (and the match) comfortably. Reg's ball had already been pegged out, and Tony's ball was left less than 6 inches away. However, Tony played the shot so gently that the ball fell short of the peg! This gave Leo the opportunity to take a ball round to the peg himself, and three missed shots later (one in the second game and two in the third), Reg & Tony were out.

The Singles Plate was won by Leo McBride, beating Martin Murray in the final, and David Maugham & Keith Aiton won the Doubles Plate. The "Burridge Swiss" format used to qualify players for the Singles knockout seemed to attract fewer complaints than in its debut year of 2008, and will continue to be used for the 2010 event.

British Opens Singles Results

Knockout Stage:

Jonathan Kirby bt James Death +14otp -26tp +15tp; David Maugham bt Chris Farthing +25tp +3tp; Mark Avery bt David Bent +17tp +26tp; Stephen Mulliner bt Samir Patel -14 +17sxp +12tpo; Tony Le Moignan bt Jeff Dawson +26tp -26 +11tpo; Robert Fulford bt Chris Patmore +26tp +12tpo; Leo McBride bt Dave Kibble -15 +21 -17.

Reg Bamford bt Ian Burridge +26sxp +26qp; Jonathan Kirby bt Robin Brown +14otp -17tp +12; David Maugham bt Mark Avery +10tpo +26tp; Rutger Beijderwellen bt Jared Keeman +20tp +26tp; Chris Clarke bt James Le Moignan +23tp -17tp +15stp; Stephen Mulliner bt Tony Le Moignan -10 +7otp +26qp; Keith Aiton bt Marcus Evans +18 +16; Robert Fulford bt Leo McBride +11 +11tpo.

Quarter-finals: Bamford bt Kirby +26sxp +16sxp -3 -25tp +16sxp; Beijderwellen bt Maugham +25tp -14tp +26tp -12tpo +15; Clarke bt Mulliner +24tp +26tp +26tp; Fulford bt Aiton +25tp +26sxp +26tp.

Semi-finals: Beijderwellen bt Bamford +26tp -16tp +20tp +4tpo; Clarke bt Fulford +26tp -26sxp -16sxp +26tp +20tp.

Final: Beijderwellen - Walk-over due to injury to Clarke.

Doubles Championship

Reg Bamford & Tony Le Moignan bt Jarrod Coutts & Jared Keeman +5tp(LM) +19tp (LM).

Chris Clarke & Robert Fulford bt Phil Cordingley & Jerry Guest +26sxp(C) +25sxp (F); James Death & Marcus Evans bt Chris Farthing & Chris Patmore +4 +8tpo (E); Ian Burridge & Jonathan Kirby bt George Noble & Ian Vincent +26tp(K) +26tp(K); Rutger Beijderwellen & James Le Moignan bt James Hopgood & Martin Stephenson +26tp (B) +26tp (LM); David Bent & Leo McBride bt Reg Bamford & Tony Le Moignan -12 +1 +26tp; Mark Avery & Stephen Mulliner bt Nelson Morrow & Nigel Polhill +17 +3tpo (M); Paul Castell & Dick Knapp bt Andrew Hope & Martin Murray +24 +10; Jeff Dawson & Samir Patel bt Keith Aiton & David Maugham -17tp(A) +26tp(P) +26tp(D).

Qtr-final: Clarke & Fulford bt Death & Evans +26tp(C) +16sxp(F); Burridge & Kirby bt Beijderwellen & J Le Moignan +26tp +26tp; Avery & Mulliner bt Bent & McBride -17 +17sxp(M) +26tp (A); Dawson & Patel bt Castell & Knapp +26 +26tp (P).

Semi-final: Burridge & Kirby bt Clarke & Fulford +13 -26tp (C) +11; Avery & Mulliner bt Dawson & Patel -11tpo (P) +17 +26tp (A).

Final: Burridge & Kirby bt Avery & Mulliner -7 +14otp(M) +26tp (B) +26.

Points Of View

In response to October's Points of View by Bill Arliss

By Zoe Hawkins

At Ramsgate we still don't have the difficulty that Bill wrote about concerning members entering golf level play matches. In fact it's just the reverse.

Due to the time factor and the popularity of our golf playing club days, handicaps are never used. Our beginners never even hear about extra turns as they are introduced to the game on a consistently well attended Tuesday Club morning. Sixteen people waiting for a turn to play a game of double banked level play golf doubles on one of Ramsgate's four lawns is the norm. Even when new members are presented with a handicap card it still doesn't mean very much to them until they enter their first club handicap tournament.

Suddenly they're being told that although they are receiving all these lovely white sticks known as extra turns [that are kept in the bisque box in our clubhouse] they may only be used in a DEFENSIVE manner. Now they must be sure to do a really effective stop shot - they mustn't forget that a positional shot the far side of the hoop comes in handy for hitting the opponent OUT of the hoop and finally they must not get TOO demoralised if their only good approach shot gets jumped over!! They are given so many instructions in fact that when they play their first match they forget the lot. If only they had bisques instead of extra turns our problem would disappear!

Surely there is something wrong with the golf croquet handicapping at club level when at the All England Handicap Golf Finals, held for the first time at Ramsgate this year, the handicaps ranged from 1-10? There was so much DEFENSIVE play happening that some of the thirteen-point games took over an hour. Fortunately the weather was fine, as the weekend at Ramsgate proved a long one for the twelve finalists.

I know it has taken much planning over the last ten years to get International Rules for Golf Croquet. Isn't it time that Association and Golf Croquet at least had the same language? We still encourage our members to progress to Association. A beginner telling a good friend 'Today at my Croquet Club I learned how to roquet and use a bisque' might claim the interest of a likely new member. Only this morning I was asked by a good new golf croquet player 'What does roquet mean?'

In Association one spends hours learning how to use bisques correctly with the AIM of running all the hoops. Please could we high handicappers return to the number six, call them bisques, and be encouraged to ATTACK! If in my very first match I only received one of those lovely white sticks I'm sure I wouldn't forget to run at least one hoop!

Diary of a CA Committee Chairman

Pat Kennett, Development Committee

End Oct - return from a week's holiday on 27 Oct. I must get on with Development Committee work for the meeting on 21 Nov. I reckon the papers have to be with Liz (CA Manager) by 10 Nov to give her time to collate, print and dispatch them to our 17 Committee members.

1 Nov I must start in earnest. I do an agenda and start to check what information I haven't got and what I haven't done. First off I check what might come up in 'matters arising' from the last meeting's minutes. Send off a few emails. Gratefully I get responses very quickly - people are good. Slight hitch with my computer however as I have been 'updated' by my beloved (Brian) and one of my old documents does not seem to be able to be made compatible with everyone else's programs. And they say we should embrace change - it's a challenge. Hmmm.

3 Nov Update the contacts list. It might be as well to know we can all communicate with one another. Check with Liz that I haven't missed any grant applications since I have only received two. Need to check them and organize them so that the committee can understand them easily. Must grasp the nettle of the budget. Roger (CA Treasurer) is so helpful it's easy to duck all responsibility but that's not fair. My mother rings me (1 hour), a club member is struggling with personal problems and calls for coffee (1 hour), 6 fence panels have blown down in the wind and our neighbour comes round to ask what to do about it. I tell him that my husband has just gone off to buy new posts as we believe it is 'our' fence. Deeds are checked. He is relieved (1 hour). My day does not go as planned.

A bit more time to follow up on projects and check progress in clubs who have been awarded grants but have not yet taken them up. It's a continuing budget problem as we worry each year that we might exceed our budget, but in the event some funds awarded are not taken up in that year. So far we have not had to turn anyone away but sooner or later it will happen. We are trying to be more strict about this and allow only two years from the date of the award. We will then review whether or not the grant is to be renewed.

A panic when I can't find all the work I have done towards a new website for the committee - but all is well... and a swift email to Roger with budget thoughts. As usual he starts off by saying that I have covered just about everything and then lists five that I haven't. He really is super. Especially as it turns out that I hadn't read his first email properly. It's Archers time and Brian has just asked if I'm doing dinner. He politely misses out the 'ever'.

Nothing will be done tomorrow because we are leading a walk for the village rambling group in the morning and a friend is coming in the afternoon to stay over.

5 Nov Afternoon spent getting things together. I print up information for my file to take to the meeting, including the application forms and supporting documents so that I can be sure I have all the information needed to make a decision. I revise the agenda as I add discussion matters to my file. Off to get my 'flu jab.

6 Nov A long day but I think everything is ready to send off to Liz now. There are a few loose ends to tie up but I spent an inordinate amount of time finding my way around this new computer program - I used to know where everything is. I like the papers to be easy for members to access because there is often a big bundle. I've done a

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summary of the grant application papers this time in the hope that that will help. I've also cut out some papers for circulation as I'm very conscious of postage costs. They will be available at the meeting but I don't think it's necessary for everyone to have an individual copy. I wonder if I'll get complaints. Off to the fireworks now.

Grave disappointment – no fireworks. They were cancelled several weeks ago but no one had told us!

9 Nov. I send off a revised contact list to committee members and put the papers on the CA website. The reminder triggers quite a few emails so by the end of the week (13th) I am fairly confident that everything is under control. Just as well because the imminence of my club's AGM is taking my 'spare' time.

I am a member of the CA Coaching committee which is meeting on Sat but the only preparation I have to do is make sure I understand the agenda, read supporting documents and check I've done anything I promised to do. All Council members are asked to serve on committees and these are the two I have chosen and I'm also the CA's representative on the committee of The Academy.

Sat 14 Nov CA Coaching Committee in London. In the event neither the Chairman of the Academy or the Federation Coaching Officer who is also a member of the Academy committee attend so I have to present the report, a copy of which I received earlier in the week. I know very little of what has happened in the summer but fortunately there are no awkward questions. The Academy seems to be an unqualified success.

There should be a lull for a while and my Mum comes to stay. But the club's AGM is on Wed and there are some last minute problemettes. The meeting is successful but I think proves the need for as much organization as possible beforehand.

Sat 20 November Development Committee Meeting. The meeting is in London, but I don't have to leave too early. I arrive exactly on time however, thanks to London Transport, and that's not good. I'm not the last – we all suffer from the vagaries of public transport. The meeting goes well and we finish a little early at 3.40 pm. There's plenty of good ideas which will be taken forward. It's a lovely 'job' because people are so willing to do things if they know what is wanted and the teacher in me has always enjoyed being a facilitator. We decide to recommend two major grants to clubs and these must be put to Major Grants Committee for final checking and ratification. As it happens the members of the committee are present and the applications have been well put together so this committee is able to meet straight away and give the final approval.

But I'm not going home! My other club has its major fund raising event this evening – a bridge evening with dinner – and I am needed to cut the cheeses and serve the food. Home is reached just before midnight.

Sunday morning. My first task is to sort out my scattered family's wishes for Christmas! The pantomime is not being performed on Boxing Day which is the day we always reckon to go. Oh, dear. But then I treat myself to the best part of the work which I will now have to settle down to – 'phoning the respective chairmen of the two clubs to tell them the good news that an award has been made to them.

First up is to amend Minutes of the Feb meeting, then write up yesterday's Minutes. This takes until Archers time and I decide that's enough. At two and a half pages it is too long, so if I sleep on it maybe I can cut it down.

Merit Awards

Concgratuations of the following players for recently achieving Merit Awards.

Bronze

| | | |
|--------------------|------|----------------------------|
| Lucy Beach | Sept | Tonbridge Wells Handicap |
| Patrick Cheyne | Sept | All-England NW Area Final |
| Violet Delmas | Sept | Mary Robinson Shield, Ryde |
| Bernice Gamble | Oct | Cheltenham Handicap |
| Margaret Hampson | May | All England, Purley Bury |
| Ken Harper | May | Peel Memorials |
| Roger Hendy | Sept | Budleigh Handicap |
| Matthew Holmes | Oct | Longman Semi-final |
| Elizabeth Macgowan | Sept | Woking Wknd |
| Maryse Roberts | Oct | Cheltenham H'cap |
| Barbara Thompson | Jun | Veterans Championship |

Silver

| | | |
|------------------|------|---------------------------|
| David Eckford | Sept | All-England NW Area final |
| Francoise Garcia | Jul | Bath Millennium Cup |
| Roger Hesketh | Jun | East Dorset June Week |
| Paul Kenworthy | Sep | All-England NW Area Final |
| John Smallbone | Sep | All-England Wrest Park |
| Julian Stair | Sept | All-England Compton |
| Robert Thompson | Sept | Nottingham Handicap |

Gold

| | | |
|-----------|-----|--------------------------|
| Jeff Race | Aug | Hunstanton Annual T'ment |
|-----------|-----|--------------------------|

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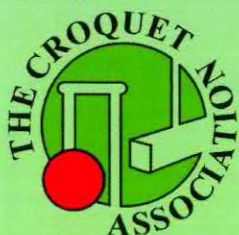
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Shortening the Odds: The Tactics of Golf Croquet - Bill Arliss £9.50

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Croquet Books by John Riches: Valuable insights into key areas of the AC players game .

Croquet: Error Correction, £10.50 Croquet: Technique £10.50, Croquet: Finer Points £15

Croquet: Lessons in Tactics £12.50, Croquet: The Mental Approach: £12.50

Know the Game - A well illustrated guide to the game for beginners £7.00

Golf Croquet Tactics - Michael Hague's guide to basic GC tactics £11.50

Croquet - John Solomon: Play, techniques and tournament strategy explained by a master £9.00

Plus One on Time - Don Gaunt: tactical skills for the 6 to 18 handicap player £10.00

Croquet Skills of the Game - Bill Lamb: Improving play and enjoyment from the game £10

DVDs (free p&p)

Using Bisques - K Brereton: Invaluable guide to offensive and defensive uses of bisques £19

Peeling - K Brereton & R Fulford: mastering the triple peel with R Fulford demonstrating £19

Mastering Golf Croquet - A Westerby & D Bulloch £19

Learn Croquet - K Brereton & R Fulford Outline of AC, stroke play and tactical advice £27

Mallet Covers - Keep your mallet clean and free from knocks and dents. Blue with CA logo

Small Padded 9/10 inch head, 37" length £20 + £2 p&p

Small Unpadded 9/10 inch head, 37" length £24 + £2 p&p

Large Padded 11/12 inch head, 40" length £28 + £2 p&p

Large Unpadded 11/12 inch head, 40" length £24 + £2 p&p

Timers - Count up and down up to 9hrs, 59 mins £11.50 + £1 p&p

Waterproof, Breathable Wet Weather Gear - Jacket, £40 +£4 p&p, Trousers, £21 + £2 p&p

Jacket and Trousers £56 + £4 p&p. Sizes XS to XXXL - see website for size details

Ties - Striped, £12 + £1 p&p; Blue with CA Logo, £14 + £1 p&p

Mallets - the popular GW Original, Particular and new Discovery Mallets available in a range of sizes and weights from £88 + £7 p&p. Percival, Hobbs, Manor House and Jaques mallets also available; .Please contact the shop for details and advice

Croquet Sets from £70 - wide range available to suit all budgets

Balls - wide variety of balls including children's sets, garden sets and tournament balls from £25 per set to £250