

THE

October/November 2011

CROQUET

GAZETTE



Issue 334

THE MAGAZINE FOR MEMBERS OF THE CROQUET ASSOCIATION

CA Contacts

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

Hon. Secretary
Dr. Ian Vincent,
21, Cedar Avenue, Bramcote,
Nottingham NG9 2HA
Tel: 0115 925 3664
E-mail: ian.vincent@cantab.net

President
Quiller Barrett
10 Frost House, Chesham Road, Berkhamsted
Hertfordshire
HP4 3AY
quiller3@gmail.com

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

Vice-Chairman of Council
Jeff Dawson, Wildcroft, 112 Potters Lane,
Send, Woking, Surrey GU23 7AL,
01483 770400,
jeff.p.dawson@gmail.com

Hon. Treasurer
Dr Roger Bray
Street Cottage, Polstead Hill, Polstead,
Colchester, Essex CO6 5AH
01206 - 263405
brayrw@tiscali.co.uk

CA Council Committee Chairmen

ICT Committee
Dave Kibble davekibble@ice.org

AC Laws
Ian Vincent ian.vincent@cantab.net

AC Selection
David Maugham dmaugham@ntlworld.com

AC Tournament
David Maugham dmaugham@ntlworld.com

Coaching
Lawrence Whittaker flwhittaker2@waitrose.com

Development
Pat Kennett pat@elterwater.plus.com

Equipment
Alan Pidcock pidcock@manorh.plus.com

Executive
Barry Keen barry.keen1@ntlworld.com

GC Laws
Bill Arliss bill.arliss@ntlworld.com

GC Selection
John Spiers john@spiersfamily.org

GC Tournament
Tim King tmktmk@ntlworld.com

Handicap
Nigel Graves nigel.graves@blueyonder.co.uk

International
Jonathan Kirby pjkirby@googlemail.com

Management
Jeff Dawson jeff.p.dawson@gmail.com

Marketing
Patricia Duke-Cox duke-cox@hotmail.co.uk

Publishing
Charles Waterfield cwaterfield@btinternet.com

CA Federation Representatives on Council

Croquet North - Charles Waterfield
01642 712551

North West - Geoff Young
gandbyoung@btopenworld.com

Yorkshire - Anna Giraud
01484 716663 eag@giraudnet.co.uk

East Midlands - Lawrence Whittaker
0116 270 7396

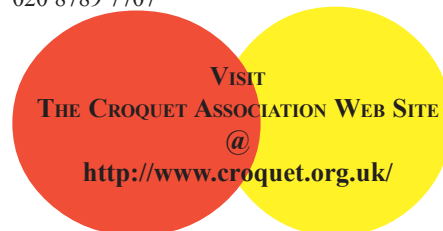
West Midlands & Wales - John Handy
01788 810572

East Anglia - Arthur Reed
01923 445714

Southern - Pat Kennett
01794 322209

South West - Brian Shorney
Home: 01249-783012 Work: 01249-782760
brianshorney@drewassociates.co.uk

London & South East - David Mooney
020 8789 7707



Publication details

Gazette Editor
Gail Curry
127 Haswell Gardens, North Shields, Tyne & Wear NE30 2DR Tel: 07752356880
gazette@croquet.org.uk

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

Publication Schedule

Copy should reach the Editor before the 15th of the month before publication is due. However if you have something that you think

the Editor may be willing to expand this deadline for, please contact her direct before making any assumption.

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.

The Croquet Gazette is printed by Billingham Press, Central Avenue, Billingham, Stockton on Tees.

HOPOPOTAMUS

by Victor



THE CROQUET GAZETTE



Issue 334 October 2011

Front Cover: Mark McInerney, World Golf Croquet Champion 2011
Photo by Chris Roberts

Next Issue Published 15th December 2011
Copy Deadline 21st Nov 2011

Disclaimer

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

CONTENTS

Chairman's Column	3
Editorial	4
Letters	4
Obituary	6
Bestinvest WCF World Golf Croquet Championships	7
<i>Reports and photos from the U21 and Full Championships</i>	
News & Information	11
<i>News of clubs and events from the croquet world</i>	
In Conversation With (part 1)	15
<i>Eileen Magee interviews Andrew Hope & Martin Murray</i>	
Notes from the CA Office	16
President's Cup 2011	17
National Seniors' Championships	18
Grass Roots Golf Croquet Final	19
Student Championships	19
Tournament Round-Up	20

Chairman's Column

Congratulations to Mark McInerney who won the Bestinvest Golf Croquet World Championship in London at the end of July. I would like to record my thanks to John Spiers for his support of the event and the members of his organising Committee for the hard work they put in to make the event so successful. Tim King, the Manager, and Bill Arliss, the Referee of the Tournament, together with the hard working team of assistants including Referees and scorers, also played a major part in ensuring that the competition ran smoothly through to its conclusion. All of these people gave their time willingly which was no small matter as the event ran for seven days. I am sure that the players would join me in thanking them all. Without the support of willing helpers these major events could not take place.



Unfortunately there was one minor blemish when a referee gave a contentious decision against one of the players. The player accepted the decision at the time, after appealing to the Referee of the Tournament, and completed the match. However, this player then published an open letter on a croquet mailing list in which he named the officials and accused them of being incompetent. He then went on to say that they will not be accepted as referees by the player in any future games. I found this behaviour astonishing. In any sport the decision of a referee is always accepted, however wrong the player might consider it to be. Any other response would be anarchic and make the game impossible to play.

Even more important, for an amateur sport like croquet, the public criticism of officials by top players in this way will discourage volunteers from coming forward to become officials and help in tournaments. As a relatively new form of the game at world class level, Golf Croquet is desperately short of experienced officials and it is difficult to see a future at this level if officials are attacked in this way.

With over 40 years experience of competitive croquet at all levels, most of the time as a referee, I can say that I have never come across such behaviour before. I therefore feel confident that I can assure members who are prepared to volunteer their time to help the game that I believe that this bad behaviour is an isolated incident. I cannot promise that players will never question your decision under their breath – after all we are all human – but we will always enjoy a drink together in the bar afterwards.

As a result of the incident, the Golf Croquet Laws Committee has acted promptly by drawing up an action plan to deal with the points raised. This can be seen on the CA web site.

Barry Keen

Editorial



Golf croquet is proving to be very topical in this issue, following the successful staging of the WCF Best Invest World Championships. Congratulations to Mark McInerney of Ireland for winning the main title, and to Moustafa Nezar of Egypt, who won the U21 title a week earlier. Reports of both events can be found in this issue of the Gazette. Tragically WCF President Charles Jones of New Zealand was murdered in Thailand, on his way home after the event.

If I am to believe the first letter in this issue then there may be many disgruntled players, shaking their heads in disapproval at my apparent lack of judgement, given that if I am to take the letter completely as 'gospel' then far from reporting such events I should be actively discouraging any coverage of Golf Croquet.

I refute this for several reasons. Firstly as Editor I value my neutral position as I am not an elected member, and as such I see my responsibility as being impartial and publishing a Gazette for all members of the Association, regardless of which code they play. My personal stance on Golf Croquet is very simple. I don't feel that I have any right to act as the censor on any part of our sport, and refuse to do so.

Some years ago being a member of a club where Golf Croquet was initially brought to wider attention, I am more than well aware that elitism in croquet was used as a means to manipulate and brow beat one code and its players against another. I have no wish to return to that kind of atmosphere. It is all too easy to become embroiled in the negative and waste valuable time and energy decrying something. To my view it is not the game of Golf Croquet that may be the villain of the piece, but more a lack of understanding, education and marketing between codes. The challenge facing croquet should not be to choose one code over another but to work towards a strengthening of, and harmonious future for all codes of croquet.

Letters

Golf Croquet undermining and replacing croquet?

There is considerable anecdotal evidence, supported to some extent by Kevin Carter's report, that golf "croquet" is undermining and replacing Association Croquet in many parts of the country. The Gazette does nothing to counteract this tendency, and indeed appears to give it support. Is it not time that you, as editor, lead a movement to suppress this pass-time, innocent-looking but potentially fatal to our lawns and ultimately to the game of croquet?

Peter Dorke

Has it run the hoop?

Determining whether a ball has run the hoop or not causes constant problems in croquet, all the way up from club days to the highest level matches played. Looking along the plane of the hoop is fine if, say, 4-5mm of ball is showing. However, when we get down to 1mm or even less some thing better is required. So, for those not in the know, may I suggest the following. Arm yourself with a 150mm steel rule, available at DIY stores for about £3. This has the properties of being rigid in the plane it will be used in, dead straight, and with a thin, finely machined edge – all sadly missing in bits of string and £5 notes! Starting at the bottom of the hoop, run the edge of the rule SLOWLY and GENTLY up the hoop. If the ball is protruding by even a fraction of a millimetre, it will be seen to rock slightly. End of test, hoop not run. Conversely, if the rule passes the ball with no discernible movement, the hoop has been run. This method has several pluses and no minuses. Provided it is done SLOWLY and GENTLY and the rule is stopped immediately the ball is seen to rock, the amount of energy transmitted into the ball is minuscule, far less than the moment of inertia that would be required to move it from rest to a new position. It is, in fact, impossible to "move" the ball, or for that matter the hoop either, if it is not set as firmly as it should be. The human eye is quite good at detecting even slight movement, and the results should be plain to all parties involved, whether the match is being refereed or not. Result – a clear decision, harmony reigns on the lawn, and all this for £3! Now if only we could find something as simple for crush shots, double taps, prolonged contact, et al.

Graham Wallin

Difficult to swallow

I have come across two people recently, who have taken down their croquet lawns. The reason for this, apparently, is that it upsets the swallows. I am told that house martins could not care less about the odd hoop, cluttering up their swoop. I would be fascinated to find out if croquet clubs have spotted that they have a dearth of swallows, yours Colin Prichard.

Colin Prichard

Failing referees

I recently attended a golf croquet referees' course in the hope of gaining knowledge and confidence to enable me to run local tournaments more effectively. I have had considerable experience of refereeing other sports and as an ex PE teacher am used to taking practical and theory tests. I was extremely concerned when informed that 75% of applicants fail the theory test after undertaking the training, this indicating that either the training is inadequate, the test is inappropriate or both. It is also not possible to see any sample of the type of test questions so the prospective referee does not know whether it is necessary to write an essay or tick a box!

The course I attended had 2 other recently retired PE teachers attending and at least 3 people who had previously attended training days but had not taken the test. I believe all other applicants played both association and golf although I only play golf.

I read the law book thoroughly and watched the recommended training DVD prior to the training day and, as I have experience in running interclub tournaments and EACF indoor tournaments, I felt reasonably well prepared for the training day. Unfortunately I

very soon became frustrated and felt inadequate as the discussions frequently referred to association strokes and laws which did not appear relevant in a golf referee course. It was also obvious that the target was for all participants to be qualified for international standard competition and, when this was challenged as being a level too high for many of us, we were told that this was a frequent comment but that standards should not be lowered.

The presentation of the training day did not include any practical demonstrations or the chance to observe and assess in play situations. It was based entirely on talk, discussion of the laws and snippets of the DVD we had all been asked to watch before attending the course. By lunchtime I felt that I had learnt very little and was becoming rather frustrated by the general presentation, but felt that this may be an individual assessment of the course. It was soon evident that this was not the case and that others were also disappointed but we hoped the afternoon would prove more invigorating. Unfortunately our hopes were not fulfilled and I drove home very despondently. I was quite pleased when family circumstances meant I was unable to attend the next day for the test. I do know that the 3 people I knew who also attended found the test day quite daunting and all failed the theory test.

I therefore read the article in the Croquet Gazette about the need for more referees with great concern. There is unlikely to be much improvement in the situation unless changes are made to the course. The training days need to be more practical and the overall presentation needs to be revamped. There needs to be more openness about the style of the tests. But the biggest change needs to be in the establishing of 2 or 3 different levels of referees. All other sports have different grades of referees or umpires depending upon the level of competition. This is not a lowering of standards but a means of allowing people to gain experience and confidence at appropriate levels before stepping onto the international stage. We do not expect our novice players to represent their country so why should we expect our novice referees to do so?

Katie Fairbairn

I am sorry you felt so let down by the referees' course but in view of your comments I feel it is essential that I describe exactly what we have always tried to

achieve with our referees' courses. Becoming a referee, worthy of the title of 'referee' is not just a case of attending a one or two day course, it's a real commitment towards learning and understanding exactly what the laws say and mean, and I would suggest this is not a few hours task but with most players will involve many months of careful study of the laws. The actual course itself has never tried to teach the laws, only how to apply them if you do become a referee. What happens during the course is only the icing on the cake. Please look at your course brochure which clearly spells out a 'health warning' "Would be candidates must be really keen to become qualified referees and already have a good grasp of what each law entails. Therefore, a good working knowledge of the Laws of Croquet is essential." The written examination after the course is simply a test on how well the candidate knows the laws of Golf Croquet and thus their suitability to become a referee. Unfortunately many do not heed this warning which results in the quite low pass level. Incidentally at Colchester, we had a 50% pass rate. The course is not designed to help you pass an exam, it is basically how to apply the laws and a review of the latest rulings. Once you have the title referee and go out on the lawn, you will face a far worse examination than we set and I can assure you the players always expect you to get it right. The answer is very simple: learn and understand the laws book and there should be no problem with the written examination.

You mention running local tournaments as one of your requirements from the course. Sorry but that is a totally different set of skills which we just do not cover in a referees' course.

I am also rather mystified why you consider the course was aimed at refereeing at an international level. One would hope that at both international and local level we use the same laws books. The first few hours until after lunch on the first day followed the normal procedure of reviewing law by law and covering such mundane items as faults, wrong balls and offside balls. Do you not consider these important for play at local levels? We fully accept that the majority of our course participants will never go near an international event and most will not even referee at any A Class CA event. Our aim is to ensure that all qualified referees are well versed in the basics of the laws. The point

is that most A Class players have a good working knowledge of the mechanics of the laws and refereeing at the higher levels is more likely to involve fault recognition. It is at the local level, where the player's knowledge of the laws is much weaker, that the referee has the harder job and has to explain clearly and accurately just how to put things right when something has gone wrong.

Yes, it is quite likely that we would refer to croquet strokes (as in AC) on the odd occasion during the course. In a touching ball situation, the ability to play a two ball stroke is extremely important in GC as the problems of double taps are removed. I can only add that most of my local club players realise the significance of touching balls in GC. You mention practical training and I admit there was very little on the first day but as this was a two day course, the practical side was held on the following morning and we all spent about one and a half hours in practical demonstrations covering all the theoretical aspects discussed on the previous day. As course Manager I reserve the right to move sections around to best suit the conditions at the time and I am sorry that you were not able to partake on the second day.

We accept that most sports have different levels of referees as do our Association colleagues. But please stop to consider that eleven years ago, there was no such animal as a Golf Croquet Referee and we have worked up to over eighty at this time. In my estimation, this is the entry level for referees and eventually we will get round to instituting higher grades, but that is a task for the future. The examination concentrates on the four basic laws, striking and non-striking faults, wrong balls and the half way law with over 70% of the marks going on these four laws alone. It is my belief that if the player cannot demonstrate a firm understanding of the basic laws at this stage, it is not something that is likely to happen in the future. Without the basic knowledge, I do not believe a player can be described as a qualified referee and would be accepted by most players as a referee. Accepting lower standards would be an insult to those who have gained their qualification.

If you still feel the course was wrongly directed, may I suggest you talk to one of the players who has passed the exam and get their views on its suitability for ordinary club play

Bill Arliss, Chairman GC Laws

Puzzling matters

The August/September Gazette had some interesting information, but parts were so confusing that I think you could start a "Puzzle Corner"!

For example, on page 10 in the report of the Midlands Golf Croquet Championships at Kenilworth we read: "Kenilworth ...finished fourth with victories over Woodhall Spa from Lincolnshire and Himley (West Midlands). The Derbyshire team from Bakewell were third...The Broadwas team from Worcestershire took the trophy with five wins. The Edgbaston team were second." So who were fifth and sixth? And how many wins did Edgbaston have? This reads like a school question: "If John had five apples and four pears, ate two pears and gave three apples to Joan, and Joan had six apples and five pears, ate two apples and gave two pears to John, how many apples and pears did ... ? I think your readers will get the idea. This is not the only example in the Gazette of such wordy writing, using two words where one would do to give more and clearer information. May I suggest that you apply the editor's pen more forcefully, but also that any such reporting should end with a clear league table giving wins, draws and losses and points won. At a glance, the reader could see the result of the tournament.

Having waded through this and similar tournament reports I was then presented with the diagram on page 19. I thought I knew what tp meant, but qp, otp, sxp, tpo and t had me completely flummoxed. Once again the text was prolix, so skipping to the end to see if I could find out the result I found the phrase "... succumbing to James Death (who went on to win the Z) in the second round of the knockout, and racking up his first tournament TP in the process - what on earth Z and TP could be I have not the faintest idea, so I gave up altogether.

May I suggest that you open up the Gazette to a wider audience, not just the "in" crowd, with a glossary or key to articles such as this. Being a fair mathematician, I might then be able to work out the answer to $-18TP + 26SXP + 17 + 26SXP$ on page 17!

Ralph Timms

I accept that some of the tournament reports can be a little out of the ideal 'who, what, why, when, where' ideal, and some are edited. However, if I or my proof readers wield the editorial pencil too much then I have letters which threaten the withdrawal of any future contribution, so it's a fine line my pencil draws in order to keep the majority happy.

I'm sorry you did not understand the recording of the scores, but to draw the conclusion that the Gazette is an elitist publication because of the use of standard scoring formats in reporting the results of an event seems somewhat unfair. I agree if you are unused to such formats that they can be a little puzzling, but all of the initials and lots of other croquet terms can be found in a comprehensive glossary at <http://www.croquet.org.uk/?p=tech/gazette.asp>

Gail Curry
Editor

Obituary



Charles Jones, President of the WCF, presenting Mark McInerney with the World Championship trophy. Photo by Liz Larsson.

Charles Edmund Jones, Queens Service Medal, Justice of the Peace

Charles was elected to the WCF Presidency in December 2009 and, until his recent and tragic passing, it was generally assumed that he would have been encouraged to seek re-election for a second four year term in December 2013. He was an active President, both in his travels to croquet playing countries all over the world and in his participation in and guidance of WCF Management Committee meetings. He was a strong supporter of the weekly internet telephone committee conferences that were established in November 2010. His forthright, honest and often colourful contributions to these discussions and to the vigorous e-mail traffic generated by his Management Committee colleagues played a significant part in energising the work of the committee. He deserves much of the credit for the significant improvement in the relationship between the Management Committee and the larger WCF member countries over the last year.

Charles was excellent company and all of us who were privileged to work with him regarded him as a good friend. It was always a pleasure to meet him at croquet events and he could be relied upon to be an interesting and effective communicator, whether in private conversation or when addressing a larger gathering. His speeches at the 2010 MacRobertson Shield opening function and at the recent Golf Croquet World Championship were typical, conveying an effective message while full of interesting anecdotes and ensuring that all those who deserved thanks were appropriately recognised and honoured. He was always willing to shoulder managerial and administrative burdens and it is typical of the man that he volunteered to manage the Plate event at the recent Golf Worlds. It was not a trivial task but he discharged it with his customary efficiency.

Charles will be very greatly missed and the world of croquet is significantly poorer for his loss.

World Croquet Federation Management Committee

2011 **bestinvest** GOLF CROQUET
WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP



Players and officials assembled at Hunstanton for the U21 World Championships. Photo by Samantha Race

2nd WCF U21 Golf Croquet World Championship, Hunstanton - 12th - 15th July Report By Ian Burrige

As part of their Centenary year celebrations Hunstanton played host to the 2nd WCF U21 World Championship. Seven countries were represented Australia, Canada, Egypt, England, Ireland, New Zealand and the United States. At a well attended Opening Ceremony the event was declared open by the Mayor of Hunstanton, Carol Bower. Throughout the week the temperature was cold for the time of year and it was periodically quite windy but this at least meant that the flags flew well throughout the event.

The twenty four players were divided into four all play all blocks of six, playing nineteen point games over the first two days. Three players won all their block games, Will Gee (England), Miss Sahar Ezz (Egypt) and Ryan Cabble (England) following a tie break. Hamish McIntosh (New Zealand) won the other block. All six Egyptians progressed to the knock out phase although Miss Pauline Salib required a play-off to sneak through in fourth place in her block. Local member Tim Race managed to claim the last place in the KO, also with a play-off victory over Jack Gleeson. Several players stood out, Moustafa Nezar, Will Gee and in particular Hamish McIntosh seemed to be playing well. Previous finalist Hesham Shaker didn't seem to be on top of his game.

The knock-out draw unfortunately pitted all six Egyptians against each other. In the contest between the only two female players in the event, Miss Pauline Salib prevailed over Miss Sahar

Ezz. Sahar's brother Saher lost to Ihab Elibiary and Moustafa Nezar beat Hesham Shaker in the match of the round 7-6, 7-6. Hamish knocked out local boy Tim, overwhelming him in the second game after Tim had managed to hang on well in game one before eventually succumbing. The other four quarter final places were taken by Will Gee, Kieran Murphy (Ireland), Ryan Cabble and Noel Reynolds, who won the all Australian last 16 battle against Roy Smith. Live scoring on the internet was attracting viewers from all over the world, with Noel's mother maybe being the most dedicated viewer.

In the quarters, Will was far too strong for Kieran and Pauline always looked the likely winner against Noel, although she was taken to three games. Moustafa was clearly establishing himself as the favourite after his good win over Hesham and he reinforced this with a comprehensive and controlled victory over Hamish. Ryan Cabble would have been most people's pick to beat Ihab Elibiary, the weakest remaining Egyptian, but failing to win game one which he had control over even in the final stages cost him dearly as he eventually went down 2-1.

The semi-final between Ihab and Moustafa was a one-sided affair with Moustafa showing he was a far stronger player. The semi-final between Will Gee and Pauline Salib was a fascinating battle. Will started as strong favourite but Pauline played well, as did Will, in patches. However, Pauline seemed the more composed during a match where Will's frustration often became evident. The match had an intense atmosphere as the strong Egyptian contingent knew that Will was all that stood between them and a guaranteed Egyptian victory. In the end, Pauline was more consistent and took the match in three games to much bravoing from the Egyptians.

The final was played in front of a crowd of about 50 who gave warm applause to the many good shots played by both

competitors. Fortunately, the weather was better and allowed everyone to sit lawnside without the need for multiple layers. In the end, Moustafa Nezar was simply too strong for Pauline and became a worthy World Champion. It is probable that he will still be young enough to defend his title in a couple of years. He will be a formidable opponent in the upcoming Worlds.

The event was dominated by the Egyptians and they were all eliminated from the KO by fellow countrymen. Moustafa and Pauline gained the additional reward of securing places in the

2011 Bestinvest WCF Golf Croquet World Championship

Report by Stephen Mulliner

The build-up to the 2011 Golf Croquet World Championship was boosted by the decisions to hold an Under-21 World Championship immediately beforehand and to extend the qualifying tournament from 16 places to 32 to meet demand, by the news that the Egyptians were now coming in force and the fact that the English squad contained six young players of great promise. The quality of the entry suggested that the standard of play would be the highest ever and this certainly proved to be the case.

The Under-21 GCWC was held at Hunstanton and, to some surprise among fans of Will Gee and Ryan Cabble, the finalists and main event qualifiers were both Egyptian with the lanky Will being bested in the semi-final by Pauline Salib, a full foot shorter but blessed with excellent positional skills and robust single ball skills. The winner, 18 year-old Moustafa Nezar, was hailed a worthy winner and went on to display his precocious talent by winning his block in the main event.

The qualifying event was held at Roehampton and Surbiton and produced six qualifiers. At Roehampton, Egyptian stars Yasser Esmat and Hisham Aboesbaa, the Over-50 World Champion, were joined by the oldest competitor, Tony Hall. The 79 year old Australian won a key game against 21 year old Rachel Rowe to get into a play-off against Ireland's Evan Newell. At Surbiton, Walid Wahban, another Egyptian, and England's Jeff Dawson and Lionel Tibble were successful.

The field of 64 was divided into eight blocks of eight who played best-of-three 13 point games on an all-play-all basis. The block stage ran from Monday to Thursday and produced a few surprises. The reigning World Champion, Ahmed Nasr, was top seed in Block A but was taken to three games by both Hamish McIntosh, a 21 year old New Zealander, and Mark McInerney, an Irishman who had reached the semi-finals in the 2004 and 2006 World Championships but had played very little since. Reg Bamford (SAf), made serene progress through Block B which produced three qualifiers and five players tied on 2/7, an unusual and managerially inconvenient outcome. Robert Fulford was unbeaten in Block C but dropped a game to John Levick (Aus), an Over-50's semi-finalist, and was twice taken to the 13th by Anton Varnas (Swe). Surprisingly, Helmi Abdelgayed, one of the senior Egyptians, failed to make the cut. Mohamed Nasr, the 2006 World Champion, topped Block D despite losing to Sherif Abdelwahab (USA) and dropping a game to an in-form Marcus Evans (Eng).

Golf Croquet World Championship to be held the following week in London.

Meanwhile those not fortunate to make their way through to the knock-out had been battling away in the plate and in the final Simon Gagnon from Canada beat Josh Smith of New Zealand.

The Hunstanton club with its small army of volunteers did the event proud, leaving no stone unturned in ensuring the event was a complete success and one which the players will remember as they hopefully all graduate to the senior circuit.



Will it go? Mark McInerney checks as Ahmed Nasr looks on during their semi-final. Photo by Eric Soakell

Block E was dominated by the new Under-21 World Champion. Playing with great freedom allied to sound and often conservative tactics, Nezar only dropped one game, to fellow Egyptian and block top seed Sherif Nafee. Ahmed El Mahdi, another senior Egyptian, led Block F which featured a range of interesting results. El Mahdi dropped a game to Ian Lines (Eng) and Dave Underhill (Swi) and lost 2-0 to Rutger Beijderwellen (Eng), who in turn lost to Nelson Morrow (NZ). Block G was won by the Over-50 World Champion, Aboesbaa, with Stephen Mulliner (Eng) and Duncan Dixon (NZ) joint second. Block H was another well-balanced block with Amr Baher (Egy), Will Gee (Eng) and Howard Cheyne (Eng) qualifying, with Yasser Esmat being another surprise departure, losing a play-off to Jonatan Andersson (Swe) who produced a dramatic fight-back from 4-1 down.

The top eight seeds were announced by the Seeding Committee at the public draw in order as Ahmed Nasr, defending World Champion, Reg Bamford, Sherif Nafee, Robert Fulford, Mohamed Nasr, Moustafa Nezar, Hisham Aboesbaa and Ahmed El Mahdi. All eight won their first round matches, although Mohamed Nasr, Nezar and El Mahdi were all taken to a third game. The next eight seeds were Baher, Mulliner, Wahban, McInerney, Dixon, Essa, Gee and Beijderwellen. There were three casualties with Moustafa Essa losing to Evans, Wahban losing to Dawson, and Gee losing to McIntosh, all going to three games. Match of the round was Goodbun-McInerney which featured periods of extraordinarily consistent long clearing by both players. The outcome was desperately close with McInerney eventually prevailing 6-7, 7-4, 7-6 having trailed 6-4 in the final game.

The round of 16 saw the exit of four, and nearly five, of the remaining seven Egyptians. McIntosh held his nerve superbly to defeat the highly-rated Nafee 7-5, 6-7, 7-6 while Mulliner accounted

calmly for El Mahdi 7-6, 7-5. Perhaps more unexpectedly, McInerney recovered from losing the first game heavily to Mohamed Nasr by 7-3 to find his best form, take the second 7-6 and then cruise past the 2006 World Champion by 7-2 in the decider. Dawson took the first game against Nezar by 7-3 as the youngster struggled to adapt to his opponent's penchant for accurate position taking, lost the second by 7-3 and then only fell at the 13th in the third. In the other matches, Beijderwellen produced another surprise by taking the first game against Fulford 7-1 but had to fight hard to squeeze home 7-6 in the second, needing two bouncing bomb attempts from the boundary. In the remaining matches, Ahmed Nasr beat Evans 7-4, 7-3, Aboesbaa beat Baher 7-6, 7-4 and Bamford accounted for Dixon by 7-1, 6-7, 7-3.

The quarter-finals

Mulliner took an early 3-1 lead against Ahmed Nasr but the defending champion recovered strongly to win 7-3, 7-4, finishing game 1 by running 10 from below 9 and game 2 by clearing from the north boundary and scoring 11 via an in-off. McIntosh continued his extraordinary run by beating Nezar 7-6, 7-4 in a close match played at great pace aided by a couple of really excellent jump shots. McInerney overcame Beijderwellen 7-5, 7-5 after another well-matched duel. However, the match of the round was undoubtedly Bamford vs. Aboesbaa. The crowd was convinced that Bamford would be too strong and keep alive his quest to become the first simultaneous holder of both the AC and GC world crowns. The quiet Aboesbaa had other ideas and gained and held a slight advantage from the start. In fact, Bamford did well to take game 1 to the 13th after Aboesbaa ran 11 from the boundary north of 10 but it was Bamford who faltered after a long battle for the last hoop. Game 2 featured a superb shooting duel in front of hoop 5 and, once again, it was Aboesbaa, with his



Players and officials at the Championships gather for a photo. Photo by Tim King.

metronomic, down-hitting style who prevailed, to lead 3-2 and then 5-2. Bamford, in deep trouble, now produced his best form and fought back to 5-5 but seemed to have lost 11 when Aboesbaa jawsed. Bamford now produced a superb angled bouncing bomb from just over 8 yards which cleared the ball in the hoop and ran down to below 12. The crowd cheered this extraordinary shot only to be confounded, along with Bamford, when the referee ruled that his mallet had damaged the turf in executing the shot. Aboesbaa thereby had an easy win of 11 and soon converted the advantage into a 7-6, 7-5 victory. The ruling aroused much controversy, especially when video evidence showed that Bamford's mallet had remained well clear of the lawn surface throughout the stroke.

The semi-finals

McIntosh fought extremely hard against Aboesbaa but the final margin of 7-5, 7-6 was a fair reflection of the calm consistency that the Over-50's World Champion displayed throughout the match. He is not in any sense a showy player but, as befits the runner-up in the first GC World Championship in 1996, his tactical sense is sophisticated and he always knew where to place his balls and, when he chose to clear, seemed almost always to do so centre-ball with the result that his own ball remained in contention for the hoop. McIntosh produced many superb clearances and hoop shots but always seemed the more likely to make a mistake. Nonetheless, he should be delighted with his performance and it will be astonishing if he is not a serious contender in future championships.

The other semi-final is likely to go down in GC history as the match that turned the tide in international GC. Egypt's best met a player for whom the top Egyptians have always had a healthy respect, not only because he can hit just as hard and accurately as they can but is also able to adjust his game to a gentler and more positional mode when conditions warrant it. Just as against Mohamed Nasr, McInerney made a slow start against Ahmed Nasr and lost the first 7-4. But, once again, Mark upped his game and steadily increased the pressure on the World Champion. Mistakes began to appear and game 2 went to the Irishman 7-3. Nasr rallied and reached 3-1 up in the decider but, aided by a fortunate hoop 6, Mark squared the match at 3-3, led 4-3, was pulled back to 4-4 and then promoted partner to in front of 9 and scored both the next two hoops to lead 6-4. Mark won the clearing battle around 11 and closed out an enthralling match 7-4.

It would be wrong to call the final an anti-climax. It was never destined to produce the fireworks that the Nasr brothers and many of the other top Egyptians habitually display and which McInerney, Bamford and a few others can produce when the need arises. But the tension was palpable because this was undoubtedly the perfect opportunity for a non-Egyptian to take the world title for the first time and there can have been very few whose whole-hearted support for the Irishman was not tinged by the fear that the ultra-steady Aboesbaa would once again work his magic. In fact Aboesbaa took the first hoop and play reached 3-3 before McInerney built a lead of 6-3 and took the game 7-4. Aboesbaa took a 2-0 lead in game 2, was caught up at 2-2 and then emerged from a mistake-prone patch involving both players from hoops 5 to 8 with a useful 5-3 lead and was potentially back in the match. This became 6-4 but McInerney won 11 quickly and 12 after a battle to make it 6-6. Hoop 13 decided the match after an intense 13 minute duel which began with McInerney bringing out his heavy guns and clearing both Aboesbaa's balls from good position in front of 13 to the boundaries. It could undoubtedly have gone

either way but, after 38 further strokes, McInerney ran 13 from 7 feet to take a 2-0 lead. Apparently undaunted, Aboesbaa built a 4-2 lead in game 3 before a short miss in front of 7 let McInerney recover to 4-4. This became 5-4 to Aboesbaa before McInerney equalised at 5-5. The hoop 11 duel took 19 shots to resolve and ended with Aboesbaa attempting to jump a jawsed oppo but only succeeding in peeling it. Seven shots later, Mark completed a close but definitely comprehensive victory by 7-4, 7-6, 7-5. It was a very well-deserved win and a very mature performance. Hearty congratulations are also due to his 58-year old opponent who arrived in the final strictly on merit and gave the new champion a very good run for his money.

The late Charles Jones, then the WCF President, presented Mark with the World Championship trophy and the medals for runner-up and semi-finalists to Hisham Aboesbaa, Ahmed Nasr and Hamish McIntosh and the Plate Trophy to Ben Rothman (USA). Charles expressed the WCF's great appreciation to the Hurlingham and Surbiton Clubs for hosting the event, to John Spiers and his organising committee colleagues and to Tim King and his managerial cohort for the excellent management of a potentially demanding timetable. The introduction of a daily players' newsletter containing the previous day's results and relevant information was especially praised.

It would be wrong to end this report without a warm salute to Charles who was tragically murdered when resisting a robbery in Thailand in August. He was an enthusiastic, social and very popular WCF President who was a keen supporter of both AC and GC and was always willing to get involved at a practical level, typified by his role as manager of the GC Worlds Plate event. He will be greatly missed.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING RATES

Classified lineage (minimum 15 words)

CA members:

First 15 words £5.80

Each further 5 words £1.15

Non-members/Trade/Commercial:

First 15 words £9.25

Each further 5 words £2.30

Series discounts: 3 insertions 10%, 6 insertions 20%

· **All prices include VAT at the standard rate.**

· **Strictly payment with order.**

· **Classified advertisements must arrive not less than 30 days prior to the publication issue.**

Please return the completed classification order form, with cheque made payable to 'The Croquet Association' to:

Elizabeth Larsson

Croquet Association Manager

The Croquet Association

c/o Cheltenham Croquet Club, Old Bath Road

Cheltenham GL53 7DF

Tel: 01242 242318

Email: caoffice@croquet.org.uk

News & Information



Members and friends of Northampton Croquet Club gather to celebrate the 25th anniversary. Photo by Mike Hills

NORTHAMPTON CROQUET CLUB REACHES 25

by Mike Hills

Northampton Croquet Club was formed in 1986 and used a small piece of land in a local park near the town centre. Conditions were primitive with two overlapping courts, neither full size. We paid to play by the hour, car parking was costly and play depended on finding the groundsman, invariably at lunch. In 1992, the move to our present site in the grounds of St. Andrew's Hospital was initiated by the then Chairman, John Anstey. Two courts were set up, a small wooden club-house and later an equipment shed.

The Club now has over 50 members. Although many of the newcomers are Golf Croquet players, the Club boasts several low handicappers, the most notable being Lionel Tibble. One of the original members, Audrey Billingham, is still a member. Several others, including our Chairman, Owen Bryce, who joined soon after, are, despite their years, still very active in the Club.

Our planned celebrations took place on Saturday the 16th July 2011. The morning was perhaps the foulest of the summer with torrential rain. But croquet players are made of stern stuff and turned up, suitably-clad, to erect gazebos and tables for our celebration day. The buffet arrived, decorations were put up, and the lawns set out. All was ready by 11.30.

Despite the weather, the mayor of Northampton, Councillor Jamie Lane, the CA's Chairman, Barry Keen, Professor Philip Sugarman from St Andrew's Hospital, and guests from other croquet clubs and women's institutes arrived. After a welcome drink, the

weather cleared, almost to order and exactly as predicted by the local forecast, thus enabling members and guests to try out the lawns before lunch was served. Mayor Jamie Lane showed a talent for the game and we hope to persuade him to join the Club.

Guests were welcomed by Owen, who gave a brief history of the Club. He especially thanked the Hospital for the use of its facilities and the efforts of the ground staff who maintain our four croquet lawns. To commemorate the occasion, the Club donated a park bench to the Hospital. It has been placed so that staff, patients and Club members can watch the croquet. Professor Sugarman expressed his thanks for the donation and indicated that the club playing here in the grounds was an asset to the environment of the hospital and hoped the Club would continue for another 25 years.

For further information see northamptoncroquet.org.uk

48 HOUR GOLF CROQUET MARATHON

By Freda Vitty

From 6 am on Monday 15th August to 6 am on 17th August, eight members of Ripon Spa Hotel Croquet Club played Golf Croquet continuously to raise money for the Freeman Hospital Heart/Lung Transplant Unit in Newcastle.

Maggie Cowman had a double lung transplant one year ago and started playing croquet in April to help her recuperation. Maggie has always played sport and was a member of junior county teams at badminton, hockey and table tennis. She was selected for the England under 25 Ladies' Cricket team, playing in India and the West Indies.

Her sporting life and career as a police officer was brought



Sam Thompson and Jacob Carr resting between games, a floodlit hoop and Maggie collecting some hard earned sponsorship from Martha Fox.

to an end by increasing ill health; eventually her lung condition was diagnosed and there was no treatment other than a lung transplant. After a long wait and some false hopes, in July last year she underwent a double lung transplant at Freeman Hospital in Newcastle.

The fund raising marathon was completed successfully and was covered by local radio, three slots on Yorkshire Television and local newspapers.

Maggie and seven players from the Ripon Spa CC, played non-stop in two hour slots and completed 87 19 point games, with a total of 1240 hoops scored. Playing throughout the night was made possible by LED lights attached to each hoop. During the 48 hours, the weather conditions reflected the summer – wind, rain, cold and sunshine, so the whole enterprise was certainly challenging.

Up to the beginning of September, over £4000 had been raised and Maggie continues to raise more by giving talks and selling a DVD of the event.

Any contributions can be made by going to www.justgiving/maggielowman

CORPORATE EVENINGS, AN EASY WAY TO RAISE MONEY, A TIP FROM IPSWICH

by Martin French

The following idea isn't new nor unique to Ipswich Croquet Club, but we have talked to people from several other clubs who aren't aware of it. We raise around £1,000 a year for Ipswich CC, just by two club members giving up six evenings during the season. It works like this:

Every town of any size will have a number of larger solicitors' practices, accountants, commercial banking departments, architects practices and so on. We've found many of these already have social events for either their staff, their clients or their business contacts – we've found ones who have cricket games, rounders, ten pin bowling, and so on.

Our formula for a successful croquet evening is as follows:

- with two lawns, charge £160 for "up to 16 guests" (that way, you still get £160 even when only 13 turn up on the night!)
- start at 6pm – it takes 2 to 2½ hours so you probably want to avoid September and pack them into the lighter evenings earlier in the season
- have two club members on hand (1 per lawn)

- the professional practices usually already have their "favourite caterer" whom they will engage and who turns up with jugs of Pimms, wine and a finger buffet, etc.

- start with a quick demo of mallets, stance, grips, striking...
- give them 10-15 minutes practice of just hitting balls back and forth in pairs. Towards the end, get them trying to run hoops. The club members watch and advise.

- then explain the outline of Golf Croquet. Show them the sequence of turns (have a second colour sequence board on display), the correct order of hoops etc.

- divide them into 8 doubles pairs (or ask the main contact from the business to do this in advance)

- get going in two doubles GC games on each lawn. 13 point games – be on hand to explain additional points like tactics, faults, jump shots, the 13th hoop as needed

- as the games finish, replenish glasses and start on the food! The club helpers usually get fed and watered too.

- second round is winners play winners, losers play losers
- there is usually time, after another quick refreshment break, for a final round to give an outright winning pair.

People have a great time – some are very competitive! We have businesses that have been coming back for 4 or 5 years now, and some that came along as guests of the first company, that now hold their own events. We have also had a few people join the club from these evenings. If time, we do a quick demo of an AC 4-ball break while they munch their buffet.

We're moving Ipswich CC to a local golf course next year, and we expect to expand the number of corporate evenings, this time using the golf course catering team to provide the food and drink – so we can offer the client a complete package. If you don't know where to start with an accountants, or solicitors, practice, phone up and ask to speak to the Managing Partner's secretary!

IVYCHURCH CROQUET CLUB, SMALL IS BEAUTIFUL

By Ken Lennon

If you want Croquet at its most rural, then you cannot afford to miss the Ivychurch Club, set on Romney Marsh amongst a variety of agricultural activity. If you are looking for cliff-top splendour such as exists at Ramsgate or a multi-sport facility as at Eastbourne, you will miss it and drive past! Milbank Farm, our current home, is entered down a rather poorly surfaced drive (I suppose like many roads these days!) at



2010 - Club Open Day, shared with special friends from Tunbridge Wells

the end of which you will be greeted by our very own guard dog! Avert your eyes from the dilapidated farm buildings and slip through the gate to our parking lot where you enter a new and more peaceful world of tranquillity. Follow the meandering path to the lawns and clubhouse, bordered by sheep and rabbit proof fencing, enjoying the sounds, sights (and occasionally, smells!) of a farming countryside.

Ivychurch Club, probably one of the smallest clubs in the south east, with approximately fifteen playing members at this time, presents a unique image reflecting the adage that “small is beautiful”!

It was some thirty plus years ago that a group of local “Marsh Maidens” from the W.I. of a local village, Brenzett, got together at Chapel Farm (near Ivychurch) and began to play Croquet, using mallets, balls and hoops donated by a family at The Rectory in the village. They played around the lawns of the farmhouse, using the conservatory as “clubhouse”, developing their skills in the finer arts of Golf and Association. Eli Frith, the resident farmer, tended the lawns with his Horti/Agricultural expertise and eventually prepared a three quarter size lawn in the adjacent orchard. I don’t think he was allowed to play at that time (W.I. rules!!) but he was readily accepted as the groundsman and barbecue specialist. The club was, I believe, known as Brenzett W.I. Croquet Club at that time.

As time passed and knowledge of other clubs in the area developed, friendly matches were played and clearly the game was taking a hold on these “mallet-wielding” women to the point where a decision was made to seek premises that could provide a full size playing lawn, or two!

In the late nineties, another local farmer, Ted Price, generously gave the club permission to take over a plot of grazing land at the rear of a property known as Robinson’s Farm on the outskirts of Ivychurch. Eli set to work preparing the land for croquet; no small task, due to the other local residents (sheep, rabbits, moles, ants, etc.) seeking to retain their rights. Eventually, with the areas fenced and secured, a playing surface under development, another generous benefactor offered a “clubhouse”. Tony Hicks, a local craft and businessman, had a spare mobile exhibition trailer which he was delighted to donate to the club and which was set up on the site, following which, Eli, resourceful as ever, added a kitchen area and equipment store. It has be said that services, power and water, were non-existent but we won’t dwell too long on that! The club, under its new title, Ivychurch C.C. began to develop and flourish and membership swelled, with the introduction of “men”. Ken Huckle (ex Tunbridge Wells) joined and shared his playing expertise within the club. Eli also became a valued player and a steady stream of new members has enabled the club to continue and thrive.

In 2009, the club was informed of the sale of the property and, with it, all rights on the land. Immediate thoughts were of the end of Ivychurch C. C. and for a short time a dark cloud hung over our lawns. But one person was busy! Eli, who knew every farm and field in the area had begun discussions with a few local land owners and within a few weeks a plan was coming together and it was the brother of Ted Price who was to pave the way for us to move to a new meadow on a different farm about two miles down the road.

At the end of the season, action began to move the club and

was it coincidence or not that our clubhouse, being an ex-mobile unit, was able to be transported to our new home? We think its original arrival was part of a bigger plan!

Over the course of several weeks, everything was dismantled, including fencing, and moved to Milbank Farm to be re-assembled in a new field. We don't know what the sheep or other creatures think but we are delighted to have a new place to play. What is amazing is that by Spring 2010, Eli with a band of helpers had prepared two new lawns, and the clubhouse was re-sited so that no playing time was lost and our season began as though nothing had occurred. And we now have running water in the kitchen! There are many things about our site that could be said but we also think that we need to have a few surprises that become evident when you visit us.

Although we take our croquet seriously, Ivychurch is a happy and friendly "little" club and so many visiting players express their pleasure at the welcome we provide, when coming to play against us.

Should you ever be passing, keep your eyes wide open or you may miss us!



Sabine and Heinz Hackl explain the origins of the Wine Cup trophy.

CROQUET IN AUSTRIA? I HAD TO INVESTIGATE AND PLAY

by Robert Moss

While on holiday in England Heinz Hackl with his wife, Sabine, were intrigued by a game they had not seen before. Watching garden croquet, they thought they would like to try it out and spent much of the remaining holiday playing it. On returning to their home in Austria, Heinz trawled the internet to find out more and bought a croquet set for them to play with their family and friends at home.

Heinz is something of an ambitious man. His local leisure centre had a rough area of grass used occasionally by the local Fistball Club and they were persuaded to let Heinz use their pitch in exchange for his mowing it. Heinz took his own garden mower and mowed almost daily for a hour or so before going to work and then for another hour after work but when the Fistball Club saw

how much care and effort he had put into preparing the lawns, they said they couldn't possibly play on that surface because their studded boots would ruin it, so the Fistball Club moved and Heinz had the two-lawn space to himself.

He formed a club, secured sponsorship, discovered another club at Salzburg and joined the Austrian Croquet Federation. He then started writing to the top players in the world inviting them to visit their small town, Wolkersdorf, about fifteen miles from Vienna, and play at their new club. He is a determined and persuasive man and many of the sport's top names have accepted his invitations.

Three years ago, Heinz wanted to improve the courts so raised the capital to dig up the lawns and have two full-size courts professionally made.

A neighbour of Heinz became intrigued by what was going on and asked what they did in the winter and after much discussion (with Heinz doing most of the talking!), this quiet neighbour suggested they should have an indoor facility and that the top floor of his house could be converted. This he did at his own expense, and they now have a quarter-size indoor court complete



Robert Fulford is presented with the 2011 Wine Cup trophy from the mayor of Wolkersdorf.

with bar and changing room for training and winter practice. The centre of the court had an immovable pillar (which holds up the roof) so this has been painted with primary colours and forms the big peg. (At two feet square, even this writer was able to peg out!)

The result of Heinz's enthusiasm and drive is a club which is the envy of everyone who has seen it.

The Austrian Open moves between Salzburg and Wolkersdorf on alternate years and adopts the local names of The Beer Cup when in Saltzburg and The Wine Cup when in Wolkersdorf. This year, Robert Fulford beat Stephen Mulliner to win the Wine Cup and Don Gaunt beat Robert Moss (+1t) to win the plate.

Wolkersdorf is on the edge of the wine growing region and has very easy access to Vienna. It is a delightful area and everyone visiting Wolkersdorf is made so welcome that it is a joy to go there and many return.

Find out more at "www.croquet.at/clubs/wolkersdorf.html".

In Conversation With...

A Series of interviews with some of the people who we associate with croquet.

Andrew Hope and Martin Murray *Part 1*

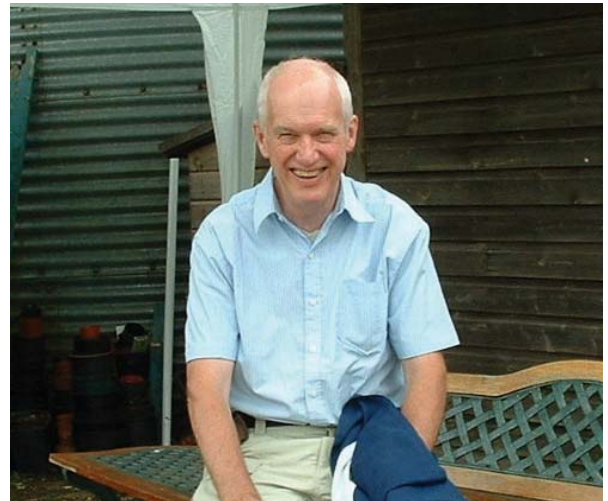
by Eileen Magee

Andrew Hope is sitting in the tea-room at Cheltenham Croquet Club looking out at lawn 8 where the final of the 2011 Coles Championship is in progress (Reg Bamford beats James Death). Martin Murray is still playing.

Andrew Hope: "I was born about 400 metres from where I now live in Witcombe, Gloucestershire, and my family were farmers. The first time I saw croquet was at St Kenelms' School in Cheltenham. The scoutmaster, also one of the parents, lived on Post Office Lane, at about 1 in 4 the steepest lane on Cleeve Hill and the court was some 10 by 5 yards, because it was the only flat piece of ground. I was elevenish and it was just a fun game. Then my parents moved to another house in Witcombe and we had a large enough garden to have a lawn. I remembered the earlier experience of croquet with the scoutmaster and—now aged 16—I said 'Let's have a croquet lawn.' There was just my sister and a few friends playing with a Jaques croquet set containing a rudimentary set of laws. The way we interpreted them was as sequence croquet, American rules, dead-ball croquet. We had a board up on the lawn to remember which were the dead balls. I was friends at the time with Simon Pollock, who was also at St Kenelms', and Nick Norman who became the instigator of the Coles Cup." (*An early major sponsor of croquet—I believe prize money was involved at that time!*)

"I was playing other sports, including Rugby, whilst away at school, and only played croquet when I was at home on summer weekends. My Dad saw an article in the *Echo* about a young man playing in Cheltenham, and said 'Why don't you go along and learn about croquet?' This young man was Paul Hands. I went along to the club with my sister and we were sitting outside the tea-room exactly the other side of this window with some of the stalwarts of the club. Things were still quite old fashioned at that time, with tea being served every afternoon at 4pm. My sister Sally and I were walking down towards the cedar tree, and Sally overheard someone say of me in a stage whisper—'He works!'" (*This is 1970 and Andrew comments that, at that time, a lot of people had private means.*)

Andrew was working as a farmer with his Dad and had been playing Rugby quite seriously for a local club, but says he wasn't particularly good. After an incident where eight people charged towards him for a high ball he ended up in hospital and when you are a farmer you can't afford that to happen. "Croquet seemed less dangerous, so I started playing seriously in 1970. I improved reasonably quickly, because there was someone—Paul Hands—to play with in the evenings, although he was always so much better than I was. I think he was one of the most talented players I have ever seen: such individual flair and spectacular play. In our friendly games, instead of handicaps, he would have to do so many peels and I fewer peels etc. In addition to Paul Hands, Bill Gladstone was a great influence at



Andrew Hope at Cheltenham

Cheltenham. He was a nice old gentleman, an ex-army padre, very strict, but he would come up here and play me in the middle of winter, every day if I wanted to. Edgar Jackson and Tyrwhitt Wheeler were also really very good to me. I travelled to South Africa with Edgar later on, playing in invitation events over there. Although Edgar was my senior by 40 years, he was wonderful company." Both Andrew and Martin have the fondest memories of Edgar.

"I got very keen in my second year and won the club's Willie Green award two years running." (*This award is for the club player who most improves their handicap from August to August, weighting being added for lower handicaps.*) I ask Andrew about his mallet, a singularly antique looking effort, only recently abandoned. "I first started playing with that in about 1976. Sir Leonard (Jack) Stone, a member at Cheltenham, imported some pieces of lignum from Cuba. Graham Martin, a player from Harrow Oak, made me the handle which he carved out of a piece of cherry tree which fell down in his garden. The whole thing cost me about three quid. My first mallets were made from a couple of Spitfire propellers which I cut up." *I comment that the shape must have been quite interesting.* Andrew talks about a thick bit of the propeller stub end made out of a composite wood called Permal, manufactured in Gloucester.

"My first serious tournament was the Men's and Women's in 1973 and I had my chances against Bernard Neal who was the current Open Champion. I was playing most evenings after work and later that year won the Spencer Ell. Then two years later I played in the President's Cup. Of course in those days invitations were issued for the Eights and if you were invited you were expected to play. It was a great honour and you didn't turn it down. And it was always difficult for me, as the Eights events came at a time of year when harvest was in full swing. Other than the Ell, I never won an Eight, although I played in the Chairman's and the President's a lot. Contemporary players were Nigel Aspinall, Keith Wylie, Stephen Mulliner and Martin Murray. There were older players competing such as Edgar Jackson, Vincent Camroux, Tiny Tyrwhitt Drake, John Solomon and William Ormerod. Martin and I had played doubles in the Opens in 1974 and got to the final narrowly losing to John Prince and Gordon Rowling. This was my first Opens and I remember a singles game against Roger Murfitt when he cross-pegged me. Paul (Hands) and I had often messed about on the club lawns jumping things, so with great bravado I walked onto the lawn, took a massive swipe, jumped the peg, roqueted his ball

to great applause, took off and missed the next roquet! I was hoping to get into the Test team to go to New Zealand in 1978 but didn't get picked, perhaps not enough experience. So my first Test Match was in 1982, going to Australia with William Prichard, Keith Wylie, Martin Murray, Stephen Mulliner and David Openshaw. I was player/manager. At the beginning of the tour we went round several clubs in Perth playing demonstration games and acting as diplomats for British croquet. America wasn't involved at that time. Sydney, Adelaide and Melbourne were the venues. It was a final game scenario, level in the final match, Neil Spooner (Australia) versus Keith Wylie (GB) with Keith winning. Very, very exciting. I was not picked for the next Test in 1986, but did eventually play in one of the rubbers when someone dropped out, although the result had been decided by then. Whilst I continued to play in the 80s I probably didn't have the commitment that some of the current players have. I had played pretty intensively for about ten years, but not like say, Stephen Mulliner, who has maintained that top standard for such a long period of time."

Andrew remembers talking to Freddie Stone from Budleigh who was telling them that he won his first silver medal before the war. "Which war was that then, Freddie?" The reply, with gusto, "The First World War!"

Andrew played a bit in the nineties but stopped playing for business and family reasons for nearly 20 years. Off the courts, he has made substantial contributions to the game at every level. He was a long term committee member of the Cheltenham Croquet Club and a great benefactor of the club in many ways. Amongst many other physical improvements to the club provided by Andrew's generosity are the long benches in front of the clubhouse where we can sit in the shade and out of the rain. Andrew was Chairman of the Croquet Association in 1986-7 following two years as Vice Chairman. Two things of which he is very proud during this time were the formation of the Surbiton Croquet Club and the scrapping of the rule which said a CA member could not receive any financial gain from such enterprises as writing books etc. Andrew was a major force in the formation of the World Croquet Federation in 1986, assisted by Bernard Neal, and he became its Treasurer until he retired in 2010. He is now a member of the WCF Hall of Fame and also a Vice President of the Croquet Association.

Andrew reflects that croquet has given him the most wonderful experiences, a most exciting time and the not inconsiderable bonus that he met his wife, Caroline, at the Cheltenham club.

The second part of this interview will follow in the next issue of the Gazette

DAVID BARRETT
The maker of **POWERFLEX** croquet mallets

NEW MODEL

SP6 Aerotech

Intro' Price £198

Inspired by Aerospace technology the SP6 is 'sculptured' from a solid composite head, the 'wing' shaped holes creating heavily weighted ends with maximum twist resistance. They also help to eliminate any deviation caused by crosswinds and so assist in achieving a perfectly smooth pendulum swing. Head length 11" (280 mm)

POWERFLEX

For details of the full range of mallets **Prices from £148 to £198**

Please contact: David Barrett. 61 Heywood Hall Road. Heywood. Lancs. OL10 4UZ
Tel: 01706 368214 e-mail: davidbarrett.db@tiscali.co.uk

The exclusive **POWERFLEX** shaft enables players to achieve added distance when hitting shots
POWERFLEX can also HELP EASE PROBLEMS WITH ACHING WRISTS & FINGERS

Notes from the CA Office

Now that the summer tournament season is over, we're turning towards our autumn/winter tasks.

Fixtures Book

Entries are now coming in from clubs and the online Fixtures Calendar is being updated with draft entries as clubs send in the details. Draft entries can be seen by clicking on the orange 'twisty' in 'Display options' as seen below: if you tick the 'draft entries' box then all the draft entries that we've received so far will be shown. Draft entries are finalised just before Christmas, when the Calendar is downloaded, formatted and sent to the printers so that the book is ready to be sent out to members in January.

The Croquet Association - Tournament Croquet - Mozilla Firefox

https://www.croquet.org.uk/tournament/

Tournament Croquet

Auto-Login thanks to 'Keep Me Logged-in'

Elizabeth Williams (Logout)

List Calendar

Admin On

Your Handicap

Please note: you have some personal settings affecting how you see this view - to restore the defaults click [Reset Configuration](#).

The calendar contains draft names: select display option [Draft Entries](#) to see them.

Draft items are shown: their purpose is to enable clubs to correct errors, and to spot potentially damaging clashes with events at other clubs. This could lead to changes, so please use the calendar at their own risk.

Display options...

Select Clubs...

Show: AC GC Other Draft Entries Past Dates (1 Jan 2011...)

Checkboxes (for bulk actions)

Unrestricted handicap events

[Reset Configuration](#)

Date	Venue	Event	Type	Comments	Alloc.	Close	Draw
19-24 Sep	Compton	The 104th South of England Week	MSD	Swd	Mar 7	Sep 5	
23-25 Sep	Beehampton	End of Season Handicap Weekend	H	H:20 - 1wd	Aug 11	Sep 3	

Membership Renewals

Letters will be sent to all members in November containing details of their membership renewal, the cost of membership for 2012 and details of member's records. Please do take time to check your record, especially name and address and your bank details if you are paying by DD. If you have changed your bank account in the last year, the latter point is doubly important. Although banks say that they take care of all DDs when accounts are changed, they do not always do this and we've had instances where the new bank account hasn't been communicated to us by the bank.

Shop

The CA shop continues to provide a useful income to the CA and we still have a few souvenier Golf Croquet World Championship Shirts, caps and badges left. We also have a new GC book, *Through the Hoops* by Greg Bury, an Australian croquet player who played in the Bestinvest GC World Championships and who has a wealth of experience in the game. Full details can be found on the website.

2011 PRESIDENT'S CUP

THE PREMIER SELECTION EVENT

NOTTINGHAM, 9 - 11 SEPTEMBER

Report by Ian Vincent

Nottingham had known for eighteen months that it was going to host the President's Cup for the third time, but it was not until the week before that we were tipped off, by Chris Williams, that it would be the 100th time the event had been played. It started in 1901, but eleven years were lost to the two world wars, so this was the centenary. It was originally played

for the Champion, or Beddow, Cup, which was won outright by Miss D. D. Steel in 1933 (in those days, someone who won an trophy three times in succession got to keep it ... but not now or John Solomon would have had it!). The present cup was given by Trevor Williams in 1934.

That meant a rewrite of the media release and a second would have been needed if news of Keith Aiton's withdrawal due to illness had come earlier. Thanks to hard work by Liz Larsson, who should have been on holiday, Ian Lines was promoted as a substitute, with a cascade effect for the other Eights. By coincidence, Ian had joined the club the previous weekend, so Nottingham was still able to claim that it had three members playing in it, the others being Paddy Chapman and James Death. Paddy kindly came in early to do a radio interview.

PLAYER	RF	JB	DM	PC	JD	SM	ED	IL	Won	Tot	Pos
Robert Fulford		+15tp +26sxp	-26tp -15tp	-26tp +6	+26sxp +22	+26sxp +17	+26sxp +26sxp	+11tpo -26tp	5 5	10	1
Jamie Burch	-15tp -26sxp		-8otp +15	+25 -26tp	+15 +25tp	-16 +1	+25tp +4	+20tp +1	4 5	9	2=
David Maugham	+26tp +15tp	+8otp -15		-20 +9	-9tp +7otp	-3otp +7tp	+22tp -12tpo	+18sxp +16tp	4 5	9	2=
Paddy Chapman	+26tp -6	-25 +26tp	+20 -9		-3 -3	-12otp +25tp	+26tp +13	+11tpo +12tpo	4 4	8	4
James Death	-26sxp -22	-15 -25tp	+9tp -7otp	+3 +3		-7 -26sxp	-17tp +7tpo	+20qp +12tpo	3 3	6	5=
Stephen Mulliner	-26sxp -17	+16 -1	+3otp -7tp	+12otp -25tp	+7 +26sxp		-26tp -14	-17tp +20	4 2	6	5=
Ed Duckworth	-26sxp -26sxp	-25tp -4	-22tp +12tpo	-26tp -13	+17tp -7tpo	+26tp +14		-17 +12tpo	2 3	5	7
Ian Lines	-11tpo +26tp	-20tp -1	-18sxp -16tp	-11tpo -12tpo	-20qp -12tpo	+17tp -20	+17 -12tpo		2 1	3	8



Left to right: David Maugham, Ed Duckworth, Paddy Chapman (NZ), James Death, Ian Lines, Robert Fulford, Jamie Burch, Quiller Barrett (CA President), Stephen Mulliner.

The groundsman, Charlie Padget, had done remarkably well to get the lawns as good as they were, given the early season drought and lack of watering facilities. With our best pegs (which Richard Bowen, who came on the Saturday, had kindly made for the Mac last year) and Hopewell hoops firmly set in fresh ground, conditions were looking good, though the increasingly blustery wind as the weekend progressed, and the acorns brought down by it, detracted from them.

So eight players assembled, a mixture of (very) old hands and neophytes. Stephen Mulliner had won well over 250 games in the event, Robert Fulford and David Maugham were both looking for their 200th, whereas Jamie Burch was chasing his 3rd and it was Paddy Chapman's first appearance.

By a curious coincidence, Robert Fulford played the others in their eventual finishing order in the first series. The traditional order of play attracted some comment, because it was clearly designed for three games a day: even with five rounds it was found that players missed one of the lawns each day. The schedule is also very tight, with inadequate time to digest the copious lunches. An attempt to squeeze in a sixth round on the first day was foiled by the lack of light and two games in round 10 had to be pegged down at the end of the second day. The event finished at 6:30 on Sunday, thankfully without the need for a play-off, as both the leader and the only person who could overtake him were beaten in the last round, so the contingency day was not needed.

The results from the two series were remarkably consistent, with all the players scoring almost the same number of wins in both. The compulsory super-advanced variation led to some variety in tactics, though common patterns emerged: some players electing to go to 4-Back with their first break, conceding contact, whereas others stopped at one-back, with a lift leave, often a tight cross-peg. Only Robert was consistent in finishing with a sextuple from there, but he did so often enough to register a number of games in which his opponent did not take croquet. The other common score was -12tpo: Ian Lines seemed particularly vulnerable to that.

On the final morning the players wore black arm bands in memory of Charles Jones, the president of Croquet New Zealand and the World Croquet Federation, who had been murdered during a burglary in Thailand last month. In accepting the trophy from Quiller Barrett, the CA President, Robert Fulford said how appropriate it was that the event should be dedicated to his memory.

NATIONAL SENIORS' CHAMPIONSHIPS, BUDLEIGH SALTERTON 12 - 17 JULY

Report by Julie Horlsey

After an absence of three years the National Seniors' Championship returned to Budleigh Salterton this year.

The week started with the Handicap Doubles Event. This was played as an X and Y knockout Competition. With only 24 entries (12 pairs) it was easy for the Manager to have the Doubles Finals played on Wednesday morning. The X Doubles saw Tony Bower and Elaine Norsworthy (Budleigh) beat Adam Wimshurst and Scylla Blackwell (Exeter) + 11. The Y Doubles saw Richard Griffiths (Cornwall) and Barbara Thompson (Budleigh) beat Nigel Graves (Surbiton) and Peter Miller + 5T.

The Handicap Singles event was played as an X and Y knockout competition.

In the X semi-finals Adam Wimshurst (Exeter) beat Peter Hills (Sidmouth) and Charles Townshend (Budleigh) beat Quiller Barrett (Watford). Adam beat Charles +8 in the Final.

In the Y semi-finals Peter Siddall (Roehampton) beat Nigel Graves (Surbiton) and Marie Lester (Budleigh) beat Peter Miller. In the Final Marie beat Peter +5T.

The Class Events started on Thursday. All were played as American Blocks.

The Seniors Championship for the Trevor Williams Cup saw Dave Mundy (Cheltenham), last year's winner, and Richard Griffiths (Cornwall) both with 6 wins – Dave only losing to Kevin Carter (Surbiton) and Richard only losing to Dave. In the Best of Three final, Dave won the first game +26, in the second game Richard started well but failed to keep control of the game leaving Dave to win +17. This was the third time that Dave has won the Cup

Block B for the Colin Hemming Cup. The final day saw Michael Lester (Budleigh) and Tony Bower (Budleigh) both with 5 wins and still to play each other. Michael went on to beat Tony +23T but then lost to Chris Donovan (Budleigh) in the afternoon. So with 6 wins Michael won the block.

Block C for the de Ansorena Cup saw Elaine Norsworthy have a clean sweep.

Block D saw three players both with 4 wins – Nigel Graves,

The John Hobbs Mallet

The mallet that adjusts to your grip.

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

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

Light aluminium shaft, nylon shock absorber,
see web site:

<http://John-Hobbs-croquet-mallets.mfbiz.com>

John Hobbs, Lewins, Mayfield Road, Rotherfield, E. Sussex TN6 3LS
Tel: 01892 852072 email Hobbsmallets@waitrose.com

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)

Revolutionary 2001 model £230
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



Dave Mundy receives the Trevor Williams Cup from CA President Quiller Barrett, at the Seniors' Championships

Jane Hull (Kington Langley) and Stephen Custance-Baker (Taunton-Deane). On who beat whom Stephen, having beaten both Nigel and Jane, was declared the winner.

Quiller Barrett presented the trophies and thanked everyone involved in the tournament for their hard work.

GRASS ROOTS, GOLF CROQUET FINAL NORTHAMPTON 17TH SEPT

Report by Richard Field

Richard Field, Chairman of Bishop Monkton Croquet Club, won the Croquet Association's Grass Roots Cup in the national finals held at Northampton over the weekend.

Sixteen players from clubs all over England had won their way through club elimination rounds and regional finals to reach this final stage of the competition. Clubs represented were Bishop Monkton, Bury, Letchworth, North Hykenham (Lincoln), Reigate Priory and Watford.

The competition, which lasted almost six hours, involved seven rounds of progressive doubles to identify the top four players to take part in the afternoon semi-finals and final. Richard led the morning sessions so was one of four to progress first to the semi-finals with the winners going into the final.

Richard scored a narrow victory in the semi-finals, beating Keith Whitelam from the North Hykenham, Lincoln, Croquet Club by 7-6 and then met Hillary Isham from Watford CC in the final, winning this time by 7-2.

The silver cup was presented to Richard by the event Director John Bowcott, as representative of the Croquet Association,

The Bishop Monkton Club already has a previous Grassroots Cup winner, Trevor Wood, who won the title in 2008 when he was a member of the Ilkley Club. He was among the first to congratulate Richard!

Richard founded the Bishop Monkton Club three years ago and it now has a membership of almost 70.



Grass Roots finalists: from left, Keith Whitelam (North Hykenham, Lincoln CC), Mick Sandiford (Bury CC), Hillary Isham (Watford CC) and the winner, Richard Field (Bishop Monkton CC).

WILL GEE WINS THE STUDENT CHAMPIONSHIPS OXFORD UNIVERSITY, 25 - 26 JUNE

Report by Will Gee

A small but strong field of eight contested this year's student championship, the handicaps ranging from -1 to an Oxford 9. The event was run as a straight knockout, each match consisting of a best of three level advanced games, with an optimistic time limit of two hours per game. The lawns were prohibitively slow in places, and the hoops had been set firmly with approximately a 1/16" clearance, which meant some of the games did end on time. The University Championships, run as a doubles competition, took place after the first round matches, although only Oxford and Imperial College had entered teams.

The initial rounds all went according to seeding in straight games, although Eugene Chang found that John Gale's handicap of an Oxford nine did not stop him playing more like a four for much of the match. Harry Fisher then mysteriously disappeared for the afternoon, returning unsteady and in a particularly good mood. Eugene took advantage of this in the first game of the semi, beating Harry +25. On Sunday morning Harry found better form, winning the first game closely, and the second convincingly to secure a place in the final. Meanwhile, Will Gee had stumbled to victory in the other semi final despite several peeling mishaps.

Harry took an early lead in the final, making a controlled break round to 4-back with a good leave. Will hit the long lift, and continued to 4-back. Harry missed the long lift- Will abandoned the triple after the second peel attempt, progressing to peg and finishing the next turn. The second game finished sixth turn- Harry hit the short lift fifth turn, but failed a difficult hoop one off Will's hoop one ball, giving Will the chance to finish.

The university competition was only contested by Imperial College (Eugene Chang and Christian Carter) and Oxford (Will Gee and Luke Valori). Luke had a nervy start to the first game, but eventually rediscovered his form to make a good break, allowing Oxford to clinch the first game. Luke's good form continued into the second game, where a good break to four back allowed Will to finish.

The plate was won by John Wells, who played solidly all

Tournament Round-Up

weekend, beating John Gale in the final.

PARKSWIG

Twas Parkswig and the Ormeroo
did bishopglide acrorst the sward
All Fisky was the Managroo
and the Reeve Dunc unflawed

And hast thou seen the Nicholstew
his beetlebrow mystericoo
Edwardstone with peaky capt
Edwardstwo expression rapt

The Johns are gathered in a throng
McMordant Crows in Lonsadale
and Pollard did swat many a gong
whilst Crispy flayed to some avail

And as in tuneful Pricey gaze
the Daves did Kendrick Willsomely in Hairy-Wood
and all around a Pickett fence of biskies
did the Hacklies rise to greater heights
of GlastonField where virgies lie in Weston wait

And Jane alone did Mathewsly adopt the place
of sole fair face as Woodies battled manfully and
Toysome travelled mightily and sometime won and
sometime lost but always all were wellnistuffed
with greatinosh from superchefs Edian and
sun did blare and shower thrash as one did have a wondertime
at Parkswig.

*Jonathan Toye, Parkstone week June 2011
With thanks to Chas Dodgson*

NORTH WEST FEDERATION CHAMPIONSHIPS, SOUTHPORT 25 - 26 JUNE

Report by Kath Thomas

Many croquet players from all parts of the North West and beyond descended on Southport to take part in the annual Federation championships. Teams arrived from Bowdon, Bury, Chester, Crake, Culcheth, Fylde, Llanfairfechan, Pendle and Westmorland, to join Southport for a festival of croquet. The North West Federation of Croquet Clubs championship cup involves 300 games played in a two day competition, 25 teams from 10 clubs, plus spectators and sumptuous catering. 70 people played each day on the beautiful grass of Southport's sunny lawns for four shields; Advanced, Handicap, Short and Golf Croquet, with many players booking into local hotels in order to play on the second day. The club were pleased that the notorious North lawns showed much improvement this year and although heavy to play, no complaints were received on grass quality. Southport has 12 full lawns and 3 short lawns, more than any other



Eileen Gallagher, prepares to peg out

club in the North West can provide. But in spite of this all lawns had to be 'double banked' with two sets of players using them for their game. Southport's newest members declared it a wonderful event, providing a masterclass in croquet, as experts were demonstrating in play the art of everything they had been practising. There were many individual heroes. Most loudly cheered was Southport's Eileen Gallagher, as she snatched victory from Tom Griffiths of Crake. Taking advantage of his missed final shot at the peg, Eileen split his colours and drove home her brown, to peg out herself in a splendid win. Although by lunchtime on the first day, Southport short team had won two of their block of games, beating Fylde and Culcheth and throughout the weekend many minor victories were achieved in the various forms of play, their results at the end of the tournament were disappointing. Fylde won the Advanced Shield, Crake won the Handicap Shield, Bury the Short Shield and Llanfairfechan the Golf Shield. There was one point between each of the three winning teams for the cup, which went to Bury, leaving Southport in creditable third place, two points below. Southport were highly praised for their organisation, catering and hosting of this prestigious event.



The victorious Bury team at Southport

COMPTON SUMMER TOURNAMENT 22 - 26 JUNE

Report by David Temple

The Compton Summer Tournament was held in Eastbourne "The Suntrap of the South" from Wednesday 22nd June to Sunday 26th June. The Saffrons was looking wonderful and the weather more or less lived up to its reputation.

Hilary Smith managed the tournament with the help of her husband Tim as "general factotum" including running the bar. Hilary was a tower of strength and seemed to be everything to everyone....tournament manager, referee, particularly for the Doubles where there was a shortage of referees, and caterer. The lunches and teas were excellent. Hilary was even seen removing hoops on at least one evening.

We, as visitors, enjoyed generous hospitality and it was great to meet friendly players from Compton and other clubs.

The action started with the Handicap Doubles, which was, as usual, a good sociable event and it enabled some of the visitors to get used to the challenges of the Compton lawns. There were eight doubles pairings. Craig Oakley (Hcp 0) was really in a class of his own in this event. His power and accuracy were exceptional. He played in partnership with some fairly inexperienced players (he had a different partner on each of the two days of the doubles) and this evened things up for the rest of us. Richard Platt, one of Craig's partners, only started playing Croquet this year. In their game against Mike Cockburn and John Williams, Craig peeled Brian Ware through hoops 3,4,5 and 6 and won the game +8. However, the Doubles was eventually won by Mike and John, who received the Kirk Green Bowls at the presentation on Sunday.

The Class Singles consisted of handicap play for the Anstey Cup and level advanced play for the Horsburgh Challenge Cup. Several scratch players took part in the latter, including Kevin Carter, Robert Alexander and Alan Cottle, and they showed their superiority on the lawns. Robert Alexander notched up seven wins and Kevin Carter six. Alan Cottle was only beaten once (by Roger Wood +22). He triple peeled at least three times during the competition. Alan finished with seven wins, one of which was against Robert Alexander (+2), and so Alan eventually won the Horsburgh Challenge Cup. His handicap was reduced from 0 to -1/2

The Handicap Singles was won by Nancy Temple (Sidmouth). She won four out of five of her games and received the Anstey Cup.

The cups were presented to the winners by the President of the club, George Williams, on Sunday 26th afternoon.

Everyone enjoyed themselves very much over the five days of the tournament. Many thanks to Hilary and her helpers.

RAMSGATE HANDICAP 9 - 10 JULY

Report by Richard Lea

I had heard long since of the magnificence of the Ramsgate lawns, which must be one of the principal (if least known) jewels in the crown of Kent. On these lawns, all the things one has been taught turn out to be true, and all the shots one had intended to make, actually come to pass. The ball goes where you put it. If you miss, it is because you aimed it wrongly. No longer does the ball undertake mysterious changes of direction

as it approaches the hoop, and decide to look round the corner, instead of going through the middle. No longer is croquet the game described by Lewis Carroll, with the mallet sitting up to stare one in the face, and the balls running off in all directions of their own accord. Here is paradise. All praise to those who maintain these immaculate lawns in such superb condition.

The weather was, on the whole, kind. There was a sea breeze on the first day (which was strong enough to affect the shots) with a brief shower in the afternoon, but plenty of sunny intervals. The second day was still, with cloud at first, but plenty of sunshine later on.

Most croquet tournaments are a gathering of old friends, and this was no exception. Space and time are therefore needed for hospitality and fraternising. These were well provided, with excellent food, a well stocked bar (for losers to drown their sorrows at the expense of the victors), and constant supplies of hot drinks.

Sixteen players filled the four lawns. Each lawn produced a winner on the Saturday, giving four players for the semi-finals on Sunday morning, and two finalists for the afternoon, while the rest of us fought it out among ourselves. Nine of the players came from Ramsgate, five from Medway, one from Canterbury and one all the way from Nailsea. It was not inappropriate, therefore, that the finalists were drawn from the clubs best represented. But the hero of the day was Charlie Martin, in his very first season, with a handicap of 18. On the Saturday, he defeated his three opponents by 17, 17 and 23. His semi-final with Tobi Savage was much closer run, winning by 8. But he delivered a convincing 24 hoop victory in the final match with Liz Maltby. His reward was the victor's shield, and his punishment was a reduction of his handicap by four steps (not nearly enough, said those he had triumphed over!)

It was a very enjoyable weekend, for which we warmly thank our Ramsgate hosts, not least Ron Welch, who travelled all the way from the wilds of Yorkshire to manage the event at his old club.

SOUTHPORT B-LEVEL 23 - 24 JULY

Report by Kath Thomas

Players from many different croquet clubs descended on Southport, from as far apart as Scotland, Yorkshire, Nottinghamshire, Shropshire and Warwickshire. The sun was bright, although the lawns were a little heavy and play took place to the accompanying roar of aircraft as the airshow tumbled and swooped overhead. The B Level Advanced is an open tournament for individuals with a handicap of between 2 and 8, and has been held at Southport for many years. The beautiful trophy is dedicated to the memory Ena and May Hawkins, who were leading members of the club in the 1970s. The tournament was established to provide an opportunity for middle-range players to compete with others of a similar ranking. Southport members Barbara Haslam and Don Williamson came joint second, along with Brian Christmas of Shrewsbury. However, the honours and the trophy were carried off by Derek Knight of Beverley club, winning five out of the six games played. In spite of the noise and interruptions, players enjoyed the airshow; Derek Knight saying that it added to a very enjoyable competition and he is determined to return next year and defend his trophy.

MONTH-BY-MONTH CROQUET LAWN MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE

The Lawn Company have a wealth of experience turning around the fortunes of croquet lawns whether they are managed professionally for a club or privately owned by keen croquet players in the garden at home. It is worth noting that the following should be used as a guide only, but in association with prevailing weather patterns, growing cycles, and ground and soil conditions.

OPERATION	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
Aerate	Solid Tine – two passes	Solid Tine – two passes	None – Keep Traffic on Lawn Minimal	Solid Tine if ground conditions permit
Disease Watch	Red Thread & Fusarium	Red Thread & Fusarium	Fusarium	Fusarium
Fertilising	Slow Release MU – 28-3-8 if not done	None	Slow Release MU – Autumn & Winter	Spoon Feed Sulphate of Iron
Moss Control	None	Spoon Feed Sulphate of Iron	Spoon Feed Sulphate of Iron	Spoon Feed Sulphate of Iron
Mowing	John Deere – 6 mm, 3 times per week	Rotary – 10 to 12 mm when mild & growth	Rotary – 10 to 12 mm when mild & growth	Rotary – 10 to 12 mm when mild & growth
Pest Watch	Worm Casts	Leatherjackets & Chafers & Worm Casts	Worm Casts	Worm Casts if not done
Renovate	Yes – at End of Season – End of Month	Yes – Renovation Programme	None	None
Scarify	Wire Reel or Verti Cut – but not if dry	Thatch Removal Reel – Two Passes	None	None
Seed	None	Mechanical Over Seed – All Areas	None	None
Selective Weed Control	Yes ahead of Renovation so start of month absolute latest timings	None	None	None
Top Dressing	None	Yes – as part of Renovation Programme	None	None
Verti Cutting	Yes	Yes – as part of Renovation Programme	None	None
Watering	Nightly but monitor quantity and adjust	Reduce but promote Seed establishment	None	None
Wetting Agent	Yes – Last Month	None	None	None
Additional Functions	Remove Dew each morning with Dew Switch or Drag Brush. Keep Autumn Leaves Off!	Remove Dew each morning with Dew Switch or Drag Brush. Keep Autumn Leaves Off!	Remove Dew each morning with Dew Switch or Drag Brush. Keep Autumn Leaves Off!	Remove Dew each morning with Dew Switch or Drag Brush. Apply Fungicide before Xmas Holiday

If you require assistance call The Lawn Company on **0870 442 7475** or email Mike Seaton personally on mike@lawn.co.uk

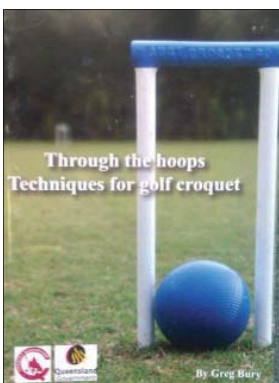
www.lawn.co.uk www.grassclippings.co.uk

Christmas at the CA Shop



*Christmas Cards: Two popular designs: Robin on a Hoop or a Snowman or mixture of the two.
£8 for 10 A5 cards inc p&p*

Croquet cards by Elizabeth Castell. Blank inside. Pack of 4 A6 cards—see right illustration. Subjects are from left to right: Tournament Croquet, Croquet at the Rectory, L'Invitation a Bayeaux and Croquet at Preston Manor Price : £4.00 inc p&p

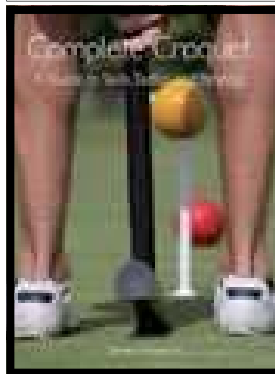


Through the Hoops: Written by Greg Bury, an Australian GC International player, this book is a well illustrated guide to the fundamentals of the game with tips on more advanced play. Published in November 2010 A4 size, 42 pages.

Price : £10.50 inc p&p



*Popular DVDs: Mastering Golf Croquet DVD: £19:
Using Bisques £19:
Peeling £23: Learn Croquet (AC) £27
All DVD prices include p&p*



Complete Croquet: A Guide to Skills, Tactics & Strategy by James Hawkins, published May 2010. A former Coach of the Year, James trains coaches around the country and has a deep knowledge of the game. Learn about improving handicap play right up to top-class croquet tactics.

£16 inc p&p

Also available: mallets from Fenwick Elliott, Manor House, Hobbs, Percival and the popular GW Original Mallet at £117 inc delivery. Wide range of books, DVDs and croquet equipment.

Full descriptions and photographs can be found on the shop area of the CA Website. See website for full range Complete secure online ordering a payment service available on the website.

If ordering by post, please ensure that the correct postage and packing is included. If in doubt please call on 01242 233555. Cheques should be made payable to 'The Croquet Association'. Orders and credit card payments can be taken by telephone.

Opening hours: 9am to 5pm, Monday to Fridays. We are not open at weekends although purchases can be made through the online shop 24 hours a day. Rapid delivery on most items.

Call The CA Shop on 01242 233555
Email: sales@croquet.org.uk

www.croquet.org.uk

The Croquet Association
Old Bath Road,
Cheltenham, GL56 7DF

JAIQUES CROQUET LONDON

The Finest Quality Croquet for 150 years.
'We taught the world to play.'

05



John Jaques II won a place in sporting history and a Gold Medal for introducing Croquet into England at the Great Exhibition in 1851. His display there attracted such wide attention that the game speedily became the vogue and over the years has developed into the absorbing sport enjoyed by so many world-wide.

www.jaques.co.uk gameon@jaques.co.uk

ESTD
LONDON 1795

JAIQUES
LONDON

Jaques New Championship Hoops.
Officially approved by the
Croquet Association for tournament play.

