

THE

October 2012 — Issue 340

CROQUET

GAZETTE



RECORD BREAKING RAIN FAILS TO
DAMPEN OUR ENTHUSIASM

IPSWICH CC REVEAL HOW CHANGE
CAN BE A POSITIVE THING

THE MAGAZINE FOR MEMBERS OF THE CROQUET ASSOCIATION

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STOP PRESS.....

Charity One-Ball Championship 2013

Every year in which the Charity One-Ball Championship has been run the number of heats has increased, the number of participating players has risen and the amount raised for charity has gone up. In 2012 we raised £3000 for the Breast Cancer Campaign from 28 heats.

This year the chosen charity is Prostate Cancer UK. We are going for a new record again in 2013 and clubs can help by planning your heat next spring. All that you need to do is organise your local heat(s) by 5th May (and let me know!).

One-Ball is a very social 'winter warmer' or it can also be used as a season opener in the spring. It is a simpler variant of AC which is also accessible to GC players and is great fun. If your heat raises £50 (we recommend £5 per entry) then you can send one qualifier to the final; if you raise £100 then you can send two. The final will be on Sunday, 12th May, at Winchester (there has also been a suggestion that next year could see a Northern Regional Final.)

If you have any questions or need help organising your heat please e-mail or call me.

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THE CROQUET GAZETTE



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Front Cover: Louise Bradforth swinging in the rain at Cheltenham. Photo by Dave Kibble

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CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN

This is my last column as Chairman of Council, as I stand down at the Council meeting after the AGM. It has been a very enjoyable two years for me. I have managed to visit 19 clubs in 2011 and 17 clubs this year. Whether the clubs were big or small, the common link was the enthusiasm for the game and guarded optimism for the future. In the current challenging financial climate, there are various threats to the future of clubs. There have been innovative solutions from various clubs to the challenge of the reduction in support from local government. Where appropriate, the CA has provided support to these clubs to enable them to continue to operate. A further positive is that the quality of lawns has improved greatly thanks to the hard work put in by members, as well as, in some cases, financial support from the CA.



A common theme in my visits to tournaments is that it is apparent that the number of players willing to travel to other clubs for their tournaments has declined in recent years. There are various reasons suggested for this, the most likely being the increase in the number of tournaments coupled with the increase in travelling costs. Hopefully, when the economy picks up things will improve. As you will know from my recent column, I am a keen supporter of making all club members full members of the CA, which should increase the pool of players who will play in tournaments. However, this could be difficult to achieve while still balancing the books.

On my travels, I have been surprised by the geographical divide between the North and South of the country in the use of Short Croquet. In the North of England, this form of the game is taught to newcomers to the game as it gives them full access to Association Croquet but on a half-sized lawn. This reduction in size makes the playing of breaks using bisques a perfect introduction to the game before becoming confident enough to move on to the full-size game. However, there appears to be a reluctance to use this method of coaching new-comers to the Association game in many of the clubs in the South. When discussing this within the clubs I have visited, the reason appears to be that no-one has thought of it!

I am handing over to the very capable hands of Jeff Dawson. He has several major items on the Agenda for his period as Chairman, which have been initiated during my time as Chairman. The biggest challenge is to find ways of bringing new younger players into the game to prevent the threat of croquet dying out through old age! He also will be using the results of the study by the Federation Working Party to reassess the links between the Federations and the CA. One further problem for him is that our hard working treasurer, Roger Bray, has indicated that he wishes to stand down in the near future. Jeff will take this opportunity to review how the role of Treasurer is carried out before he invites applicants to replace Roger. I wish him well for his period as Chairman.

Barry Keen

EDITORIAL

Welcome to the October issue of the Gazette. The front cover photo of this issue tells an all too familiar story of the summer of 2012, the wettest on record this century by all accounts. I am sure many managers have had sleepless nights over the forecasts and how they might best handle the worse case scenario of conditions being unplayable. Thankfully, due to the hard work and expertise of many grounds managers and keepers, any loss of play seems to have been fairly minimal, so aside from some unscheduled waiting around and perhaps an increase in shop sales of waterproofs, we all weathered the storms.

With the domestic season all but over, while play might cease for most of us, the autumn and winter will see the committee rooms become the focus of many clubs, federations and ultimately the CA itself in order to ensure the planning and execution of next season run smoothly. The Publishing Committee is no exception. We hope with the help of new software and encouraging readers to tell us what they want, to produce a visually more appealing magazine that reflects not only what the CA does but also what the reader wants. I am happy to receive suggestions, but would add a note of caution that you check my address, as some items have been sent to my previous address.

While the majority of us are involved in non-playing activities, there are two WCF events that English players will be competing in. Namely the Women's World Association Croquet Championships to be held at the Victoria Croquet Centre in Australia from 21–28 October, where Beatrice McGlen, Ailsa Lines and Frances Ransom will compete and I wish them well. Following this, the England team of Jacob Carr, Will Gee, James Goodbun and Stephen Mulliner (Captain) will be competing in Johannesburg at the Golf Croquet World Team Championship between 26 November and 2 December. I am sure we all wish them well too.

Gail Curry

LETTERS

The Colours of Croquet Clips

The article on the colours of croquet balls was extremely interesting and informative. However, the colour of the balls are not a problem. Bought, they come and we use them. What is often a problem is the colour of the clips supplied by the CA. At a distance many players have difficulty telling the black from the blue and, when double banking, the pink from the red and the brown from the black. Many of us have aimed for the wrong hoop and it is not always 'old age'.

Could Dr. Whittaker and Prof. Pidcock agree on specifications or colour samples to be sent to the clip suppliers?

Ray Clipson

Pegs, Clips and Hoops

I have recently had discussions with other players and referees with regard to pegs or clips on hoops as 'outside agencies'. Golf Law 9.3 says that they should be removed before any stroke played if the ball is likely to hit one, otherwise no point is scored etc.

This is fine for obvious jump shops, say from 2 or 3 yards, but what of a distant bouncing long shot of the 'Egyptian'



Rain stopped play at Tyneside in August

variety? Often, if any hoop is struck hard, a peg jumps off anyway – but did the ball strike the peg first or not?

It has been suggested to me that this is not a worry as in major tournaments pegs are not used and in 'ordinary' games the ball will be along the ground from any significant distance so the pegs are well out of the way; but should we have to worry about the possibility of a foul at all? Banning pegs from hoops is the only answer – but how then do you show the score?

I suggest the answer could be to have an extended version of the Association 'stick' in the top of the centre peg onto which coloured pegs could be placed for each hoop run. This would keep pegs completely away from hoops and possibly even be seen better by spectators.

A name for the new device? How about the 'ear', then we all could give an old fashioned 'clip on the !

Tony Lee

Any solutions?

I purchased three seasons ago a circular headed mallet with circular brass faces on top with square bottom faces. I soon found it impossible to perform stop shots without damaging the lawn and similarly if I lent on the mallet during play. As a result of this limitation I ground off the square brass flanges to create a circular head.

A number of visiting players to our open tournaments with similar mallets have caused damage. This is perhaps more obvious on our lawns since we are lucky enough to have automatic sprinklers which other harder lawns would not show. My cure was radical, perhaps others could suggest another solution?

Mike Glew

Re Croket & Snooker

In the August issue Pete Trimmer failed to mention one of the subtle differences between croquet and snooker. Croquet players are limited in where they can strike the ball so that a single ball should go straight ahead, even in a jump shot. A sideways bend in the ball's trajectory cannot be achieved and only occurs on uneven ground. In snooker, players regularly bend a ball's trajectory by altering where the cue strikes the ball. Perhaps a croquet player would find it difficult to master all the possible striking positions of cue on ball?

This lack of bend is a particular handicap in golf croquet where the peg, or part of another ball, is in the desired line of striking. . . . unless of course there is something I am not aware of?

Jennet Blake

In praise of the volunteer

Thanks to the Olympics, volunteers have been firmly in the news this summer. I volunteered to do a lunch for the 12 players in the CA select versus the SCA select in the match at Middlesbrough. The preparatory work, the cooking and then the washing up was such hard work that without my dear wife's kind assistance the lunch would have been a disaster. If I ever in a weak moment volunteer to do this again it will be a cold meal on paper plates with plastic knives and forks!

I have been on the tournament circuit for the last 12 years and whilst I have always been appreciative of work these ladies do (I make no apologies here - the vast majority of players are men and the workers in the kitchens are nearly all women) I have come to realise just how hard it is. So the next time we enjoy two days of lunches, teas, coffee and biscuits why not express our thanks with a box of choecs, as well.

Peter McDermott

New Zealand Open Centennial

The New Zealand Open is celebrating its Centennial next year and as such, I'd like to encourage CA members to think about a holiday to New Zealand. The event runs from Sat. Jan 19th to Sun. Jan 27th, with the first 3 days being Open Doubles and the final 6 days being Open Singles.

The Championships will be held in Christchurch - the venue of the first ever NZ Open Championship. This year there will be a new trophy awarded to the player with a handicap of 2+ who performs the best. We believe that encouraging this range of players to compete is important to the development of the sport.

Throughout the week there will be social events and a celebration dinner will be held on Friday 25th. We hope that many past champions will again grace the lawns and that it will be a true celebration of croquet. Entries can be made online at croquet.org.nz and I will be happy to help anyone planning a holiday to this beautiful country.

Chris Clarke

CLUB NEWS

CHELTENHAM IN CELEBRATION AND THANKS

BY EILEEN MAGEE

At the Cheltenham Croquet Club we have a custom of celebrating the ninetieth birthdays of our members. This year both Liz and Bernard Neal have turned 90 and so we arranged a party at lunchtime on 11 August during the Club's Trophies event. Over 60 club members attended with plates of food to share and the bar treated us all to a drink. Before the members fell on the food, Eileen Magee said a few words on behalf of club members.

"Good Morning Everyone

We are here to celebrate the ninetieth birthdays of Liz and Bernard. Bernard achieved four score years and ten back in March but we wanted to wait until Liz caught him up which she did just a couple of days ago. But it is not just about celebrating their ninetieth birthdays, it is about celebrating our great good fortune that they are associated with our Club.

In the wider world of our sport they have both made a difference to croquet and how and where it is played. In 1970 funds were made available by the Croquet Association to start a development programme and its first officers were Liz Neal and Barbara Meacham. They travelled round the country into the croquet deserts and gave demonstrations. I think this is terrifically brave. You know how it is when you are in some social gathering and you are asked about your hobbies. You mention that you play croquet and the reply is a chortle accompanied by "Oh what a vicious game." If like me you always rise to the challenge of explaining how it really is, you notice after a couple of minutes the person starts looking over your shoulder for possible avenues of escape. So Liz and Barbara arriving at a location and trying to convince the natives that croquet is a good thing sounds challenging to say the least. But they were successful and eventually CA coaching and development committees were formed.

Whilst Liz was sweating away teaching the natives how to swing a mallet, Bernard, in addition to a dazzling international playing career, settled down to Chairing the CA Council and sitting on its various Committees often as Chairman. I have posted up on the notice board a fuller account of Bernard and Liz's contribution to our sport for you to read at leisure.

One of my very first games at Cheltenham was against Liz. It was on Lawn 4 and I remember being particularly struck by the way she attempted any angled hoop. She just jumped them all. I don't think I had seen a jump shot before then. I remember being half out of my seat on several occasions as I thought I was about to play, but not so. I think we may have both been about handicap seven at the time.

But it is their contribution to **our** Club that we look at today. You will find their names in our Candidates Register in 1979—note the name of this device for recording would-be members, a Candidates Register—club membership not a foregone conclusion in those days. Their applications were proposed by Edgar Jackson and seconded by Paul Hands: not a bad start!

On 25 March 1995 at the Annual General Meeting, Dr Roger Wheeler proposed that Professor Bernard Neal be elected President. The Motion was unopposed. Bernard had already been acting President during his predecessor's illness. From that time Bernard has continued Edgar Jackson's tradition of being present at the Club for the end of just about every event or tournament to shake the hands of the winners and those who nearly won. Nearly every photo we have of Bernard is of his shaking hands with someone. There was a period when Bernard used to kiss the lady winners as well but I remember Liz advising Bernard that there was really too much kissing going on and for a while this custom disappeared, but I think of late it has returned!

As President, Bernard has missed very few Committee meetings and over the years has encouraged the Club in its endeavours and inspired us to do more than we thought we were capable of. He has tackled those jobs whose success would depend on diplomacy rather than conflict. He has also not flinched from undertaking those unpleasant tasks, which from time to time arise. And of course both Bernard and Liz are very much works in progress, today we are not marking the end of anything, just a significant milestone.

Both Bernard and Liz are very much hands-on in the Presidential role both at the pleasant occasions at the Club but also at the dirty cloth end of club activities. Just in the



Bernard and Liz in a rare photo of them relaxing at Cheltenham.

last couple of weeks, Bernard has been addressing the tedious problem of rotting woodwork at the base of one of the club house verandah supports. And just as he worked on the troublesome rotting window frame at the other end of the tearoom verandah, he did a proper job which took a lot fiddling about on his knees. I don't think Bernard could bodge a job if he tried.

There are so many areas of club life to which Bernard has made significant contributions over and above the routine. Just for example, referee training and examining, writing of the Basic Laws booklet, enabling the CA Headquarters to move to Cheltenham, raising sponsorship for the World Championships here in 2005, through his own personal contacts. Oh—and did I mention croquet and have I mentioned here Bernard's generosity? Most of the entries on his bar card I would venture are for the enjoyment of others.

During the recent Open Championship, when I challenged the Committee to do the teas, whose were the first names to appear on the list? Bernard and Liz Neal, and for two days. The second names to appear, by the way, were Dab and Roger Wheeler—our Vice-Presidents. Bernard and Liz also volunteered for teas two weeks later during July week, our other large tournament.

Whenever we stop to admire a shining light amongst us, we should realise that in order for this light to shine so brightly, there

is a capable someone in the background, polishing that lamp, keeping it well trimmed and filled with oil enabling it to gleam. A small example of this support occurred last month when Bernard and Liz were doing teas during the Opens. Bernard was at the serving hatch, teapot in hand, discussing at some length a complicated sextuple leave with one of the players at the head of an ever lengthening queue, whilst in the background Liz was quietly reminding Bernard—“We need to fill the kettles Bernard. Bernard we need to put out more cakes. Bernard, the tea is getting cold”.

Bernard has been awarded the highest honour that the Croquet Association can confer—the Council Medal. In 2010, Bernard was inducted into the World Croquet Federation's Hall of Fame. But as I said earlier, it is his association with the Cheltenham Croquet Club that we think about today and the support that he receives from Liz. Liz and Bernard: ‘Thank you very much’ seems a hugely inadequate sentiment to express the regard of the club members. But it is most strongly felt and we are all so grateful for your commitment to the Cheltenham Croquet Club and its Members. The Club has already successfully nominated Bernard for the Croquet Association's Club Diploma—given in recognition of service to one's own Club. What other honour can the Club bestow?

At the Annual General Meeting in 1980, Mrs Daniels, who had been president of the Club since 1963, was invited to be Patron of the Club in recognition of the outstanding record of service and generosity of both herself and her husband since joining the Club in 1948. That was some years ago now, but the Committee has agreed that as a measure of the esteem in which we hold Bernard and Liz, that it is appropriate to ask you Bernard, if in addition to remaining the Club's President, you will agree to be the Club's Patron. Whilst Bernard thinks about this, will you all raise your glasses and drink to the health of Liz and Bernard?”

I am happy to report that Bernard, in his reply, accepted the invitation to be the Club's Patron.

NEW EQUIPMENT TO MANAGE THE CUTS AT SOUTPORT

BY IAN GOULDEN

Southport and Birkdale Croquet Club has been based at Victoria Park, Southport since 1904. However, our continued presence there—indeed, our very existence—was threatened last Autumn when Sefton Council indicated that because of Government cuts it was proposing to increase the Club's annual licence fee from £1,500 to £22,000 per annum.

The Council insisted this was necessary because it helped maintain the Club lawns. These are extensive—10 full courts in total—and thus the Council's cost of maintenance far exceeded the licence fee. The Council argued that it had historically been subsidising the Club as part of the overall parks amenity but it could no longer afford that.

We realised that even if we negotiated some reduction in the proposed fee, we would still face an increase that could not be absorbed by the membership. We therefore proposed to the Council that we take over the maintenance of the lawns. The Council agreed and in return our licence fee will be reduced to a peppercorn.

Although there was initial anxiety regarding this change, it was quite timely. The quality of Council maintenance had declined over recent years and we had employed outside contractors to supplement the Council's efforts. Under this hybrid arrangement routine work had been done but the work required to bring the

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lawns up to a top standard had often been lacking. It was time for a different approach.

Having all work done by outside contractors would have put too great a strain on Club finances. We therefore decided to buy our own equipment and do most routine maintenance ourselves. However, we knew the cost of buying second-hand mowers fit for purpose would be about £8,000 and utilising only the Club's resources would have reduced reserves to a vulnerable level. We therefore approached 20 funders about grant assistance. Times are tough and funders face many calls but ultimately we received £300 from the Duchy of Lancaster and £3,250 from the Croquet Association. This enabled us to buy a John Deere 2500 ride-on mower, which had been previously used at Royal Birkdale, for £4,200 and a Dennis FT610 push mower for £2,600.



Colin Bridgwood using the new equipment

We trained 12 club members to use the mowers and organised a rota whereby each mows the lawns once a month. This allows the lawns to be cut three times per week, significantly more often than before. In addition the use of our own labour has reduced the cost of contractors' bills considerably. In many ways this sodden summer has been the worst of times to embark upon such a radical change. Cold weather in spring got us off to a slow start and lawns have been flooded on a number of occasions. We have nevertheless already seen improvement and we have been able to successfully host important tournaments including the Home Internationals and the North-West Federation Festival of Croquet. We have every confidence that the lawns will continue to improve, thanks in no small part to the assistance kindly provided by the Croquet Association.

BOREHOLE AT NOTTINGHAM CLUB

BY ROGER BERKELEY

After two very dry summers in the East Midlands the lawns at Nottingham were in a bad way, with large brown patches where the grass was dying from lack of water. There is a mains water supply point alongside the lawns, but this can only be used during the day when park staff are available. Moreover it comes through a half-inch pipe and the pressure is quite inadequate for watering five lawns. The Committee decided that the time had come to look into installing a proper irrigation system, which would provide much improved coverage and more effective utilisation of water. But where would the water come from?

Using mains water was not an attractive option—a new supply

line would be required with a large holding tank (which would probably have to be sunk underground to satisfy the planners). It could be expensive to install, expensive to run, and vulnerable to a hosepipe ban. The nearby stream would appear to be an option, but it is badly silted and might fail completely in a dry summer. A borehole always looked like an attractive option: we would not have to get a licence from the Environment Agency because we would be extracting less than 20m³ per day, but would we get an adequate flow of water? The hockey club nearby uses a borehole, and the geological indications for one close by the pavilion were positive. So a report was compiled with a borehole as the preferred source, and an application for funding sent to Sport England as part of their Inspired Facilities programme. At the same time an application for support was lodged with the CA.

The Sport England application was rejected. The principal reason for rejection was the uncertainty over whether the borehole would produce an adequate supply, and the vulnerability of the whole programme should the supply prove inadequate. The matter was then aired at the club's AGM and it was decided to proceed with the borehole ourselves, supported by the offer of a grant of £2,500 from the CA.

We approached three contractors, two of whom advised us to drill to a depth of about 35m to ensure that we got a good supply from the underlying sandstone aquifer that lies below the surface gravel. We chose one and they arrived on site at the end of May. Progress through the gravel was slow because they had to fit a steel liner, but after five hours they found sandstone at a depth of 12m. Once in the sandstone it took less than an hour to reach the planned depth of 35m.

Three days later, the contractors returned to install a pump and a flow meter, which showed a most encouraging 3.6m³ per hour. We engaged an electrician to connect up the pump, tidied up the site and replaced the railings (which had been removed to give access), and the job was done. The total cost of the project came out at a little over £11,000, about 22% of which was funded by the CA.

Now that we have secured the water supply it is our intention to go back to Sport England for the next round of the Inspired Facilities programme for funding to complete the project. We hope this time that we will succeed and that a reliable irrigation system will allow the Nottingham lawns to be maintained to the highest standards.

FROMUS CC GROWTH

BY GEOFF DAY

It's a perennial problem facing croquet clubs—how do you sell the game to potential new members? At Fromus Croquet Club we have come up with a slogan on our mini-posters—*Gentle Exercise for Mind and Body*. It's too early to tell whether it's working as we've been a bit late getting our posters up. We'd welcome comments from other CA members and there's no copyright on it if you want to use it.

Meanwhile we're enjoying being able to store our mallets, hoops and mowers in a new weather-proof shed. When we took over a disused bowling green in 2008, there were two rotting sheds where we had to store our equipment. We tried to get grants to replace the sheds and after a number of refusals gained promises from our County Councillor, the Britten-Pears Foundation, the Benhall Club (in which we are embedded), the Parish Council and the Croquet Association, with matching funding of 40% from our



The new storage facility at Fromus CC

District Council. Many thanks to the Croquet Association, and others, for so generously supporting this project.

In case you are wondering where Fromus is: it isn't. It's the name of our local *river* that runs, often unseen, through the Saxmundham area of Suffolk. We're actually in the little village of Benhall Green and we are happy to welcome visiting croquet players. Call Geoff Day on 01728 688466 or go to <http://fromuscroquetclub.onesuffolk.net>.

IPSWICH CC - LOOKING FOR A NEW HOME PART 2

By Martin French, Secretary, Ipswich Croquet Club

A year ago, Ipswich Croquet Club's members at an EGM agreed to move the club from its long-term home in a public park in central Ipswich to a golf course just north of the town—see April 2012 *Gazette*. It's been a huge success and we more than doubled our membership in the first three months! We think this is a formula other clubs in public parks or in need of better facilities could copy.

Recap

Ipswich, like many clubs that are in public parks and rented from a local authority, had steadily worsening facilities. Fewer resources were being spent on maintaining the lawns, low-level vandalism was common, parking had become impossible, and the nearby public toilets were frequently shut for repairs. Membership had fallen to the teens, and a big recruitment push only got us back up to 25 members.

With the council unable to tell us their plans for the future and things looking increasingly bleak, we assessed our situation:

- the game of croquet was growing nationally,
- we made a point of being very approachable when new people turned up,
- ...so it must be our poor facilities that were causing the problem with recruitment.

We decided to look into a move, which was described in Part 1. By September 2011, we'd signed an agreement with Fynn Valley Golf Club, two miles outside Ipswich. We would pay £5,000 a year to have an area a little larger than two lawns improved and maintained for year-round play.

Our first season at Fynn Valley Golf Club

During the autumn and winter 2011, the golf club began work on improving the lawns. To start with, just two lawns—there is room for a third later. We investigated what sort of croquet pavilion to choose, and settled on a log cabin design with a deep verandah from the Bespoke Log Cabin Company. It cost £4k to buy and we would have to spend around £700 on timber, paint, screws, concrete and so on. We approached the CA for a grant for half the cost, which was approved (thank you CA!)

Starting at the end of February 2012, five members embarked on a team-building exercise—well, actually, a pavilion-building exercise. We made a timber frame base which stands on concrete



Building the base for the new pavilion

blocks, then erected the log cabin on top. This was fun as there were no instructions, only a set of CAD drawings with a few labels in Latvian. It took a couple of weekends to build the cabin, then two of us spent a month installing windows, painting, making cupboards, benches, and so on. The end result is excellent and also looks attractive. We realised that if our goal was to improve our facilities to attract members, this would even extend to the logo and signage we chose and the finish quality of the pavilion.

The season opened on schedule on Good Friday (6 April)—the earliest we have ever been able to open—and right from day one, the lawns have been quick. There is a slight slope away from



A very smart and welcoming completed pavilion at Ipswich

the pavilion, which becomes something of a challenge during dry spells. We're planning to bring our core season to a close on 7 October, but then continue a winter programme of monthly tournaments right through until next April.

Growth

Our assessment that the problem of recruitment in the park had been down to poor facilities has been confirmed. The game's not changed nor have we—but we seemed to reach 50+ members with relatively little effort. Now as we approach the end of the season, we're still having new people roll up to club nights to have a go. Where are they all coming from? We spent some time last winter planning a number of novel recruitment approaches, but in the end, most of the new members have come through seeing something about the club in local free magazines, from word of mouth and from contact through existing golf club members.

We have made a conscious effort to be welcoming and have put on the same one day GC or AC course half a dozen times, as demand has arisen. By May, we were getting so busy at club sessions we decided to split one lawn into two, partly to give us more capacity and also because coaching and learning was quicker on a half lawn. We've had to keep that lawn split all season apart from during tournaments.

We quickly went from a main club night on Tuesdays and a small group meeting on Wednesday afternoons, to having to start a third club session on Thursday evenings to help spread the load. At peak, we've had 23 people on a Tuesday night and 14 on a Wednesday afternoon. We do regular coaching and informal teaching on Tuesdays. Thursday remains a bit calmer, so is better for playing matches.

Many of our club events (AC and GC one day tournaments) had fallen away in the past decade. We have reinstated them all and now have monthly one day AC and GC events (at weekends), a CA Handicap AC tournament, an AC and GC ladder and a couple of season-long club events. As well as continuing to play in the Essex-Suffolk AC League, we've joined the EACF GC League. We are looking at expanding the number of CA events next season and perhaps returning to the Longman Cup after some 25 years. And this winter will see our first winter play for over 20 years. We've gone within a few years from being almost moribund to a great bustle of activity—the level of enthusiasm is great.

We had a simple business plan when we moved. Our members approved increasing the subscriptions from £75 to £110 as part of the move. We had about £8k in the bank before the move, expected to spend up to half that on the actual move, then thought we'd run at a loss for three years before we built our membership up to around 45 members, at which point we would be breaking even again (as we make around £1k a year from corporate evenings). Our plan was simply to transplant the club in Year 1 without killing it, then grow to 35 members in Year 2, and 45 in Year 3. So reaching over 50 members in Year 1 is fantastic. We've exceeded the target on corporate evenings too.

What has gone well or badly?

In truth, it's difficult to think of anything significant that hasn't gone well. The relationship with the golf club management and members seems very good. We've just joined the golf club social committee for a fun evening of "Hoops and Holes" which involved a putting and croquet challenge for a dozen pairs (one golfer, one croquet player) followed by a BBQ. The golfers have now asked us to run a 'come and try it' day for them.

We're determined to integrate with the golf course and make full use of the facilities, so we're not some odd isolated group. The golf course's business approach has been to charge us only a cost price for the lawn rental, and to hope we'll make use of the excellent golf club bar to buy food and drink, so they see some profit from that. Our members can get a golf club bar discount card which allows 10-15% off all food and drink and we've encouraged our members to make good use of this. Everyone seems pleased with this arrangement.

The lawns have improved quicker than we dared hope, though we are assured they will be better still next year. We've had a few problems with bunnies, ants and fairy rings, but the golf course has taken steps to deal with them all. The slope on the lawns is a bit worse than we first thought. It initially looked to be around two feet—about the same as our old lawns—but as it got drier and therefore faster, it became quite tricky trying to approach hoops 2 and 6 on lawn 2, as the ball would just never stop! So we measured the slope and it seems to be more like four feet. This is making us reconsider whether to go for a third lawn or have the current two lawns levelled as our next

priority.

One risk of moving out of the public park was that we'd lose the "walk by" traffic that meant people at least knew where the club was. But as the new lawns are on the way to the First Tee, we seem to have had more passing traffic from the golfers than we ever had from the public in the park.

So would we recommend it?

Absolutely. Golf courses already have the expertise and equipment to grow and manage really good fast greens on their soil type—they can apply all of this to your croquet lawns very easily. Their investment in very expensive kit, like ride-on three gang mowers, means they get huge economies of scale. Our two lawns are mown in a total of 20 minutes! They have the right kit for everything—like a special machine for spreading a uniform layer of top dressing. I doubt many council parks can match the equipment available.

People nowadays are less willing to put up with poor facilities. If you want to attract and retain new members, you need to offer them great facilities, which doesn't just mean nice lawns. You need a good comfortable pavilion, easy parking, nice toilets and changing rooms, and hot and cold food and drink available at any time. By moving to a golf club, you can take advantage of all these facilities much more cost effectively than if you have to build them all yourself. Growing your membership from 25 to more than 50 in three months shows what a good arrangement this can be. We can heartily recommend it!

Growing your membership from 25 to more than 50 in 3 months shows what a good arrangement this can be. We can heartily recommend it!

OBITUARY

ARTHUR THOMAS “DAVE” DAVIES (ASHBY CROQUET CLUB)

BY DR. TIMOTHY KING

I first went to Ashby Croquet Club in late summer 1999. I turned up and found people on the courts playing a version of croquet that I did not recognize (although this is not the occasion to tell of how eventually I grew to love Golf Croquet). But sitting off the court was Dave Davies, who, with typical selflessness, agreed to amuse this newcomer to club croquet by playing the Association Croquet with which I was previously familiar but was not his own particular favourite. Hence, I had my first experience of one of croquet's archetypal stalwarts: Dave was from a generation where self was never uppermost in the mind.

The Croquet Association honoured Dave with a CA Diploma in 2010, the citation drawing attention to the dedication that he showed to volunteering even when well into his 80s and ever since joining Ashby Croquet Club after his wife died in 1995. He had seen on TV a period drama that included scenes of croquet being played and then the following week came across the Ashby club running a stall at a local event where Dave had stopped for tea. Soon, he was frequently representing the club at such events, including using Target Croquet to raise money for charity.

Without ever seeking the limelight, Dave became a pivotal member of the Ashby Club. He served on the committee and no task was too menial to be the subject of his considerable practical skills. During the winter months, for instance, he would work his way through the equipment store and apply appropriate paint to the various items therein. When the club moved from the centre of Ashby to the mining village of Moira, he was an ever-present pair of hands to do all the different jobs required. Most recently he found the perfect way of signing “Ashby Croquet Club” on the new hut, the result remaining in keeping with the rural surrounds.



'Dave' who will be sadly missed at Ashby

For many years, Dave also faithfully attended the Yorkshire International Golf Croquet Open Championship at the Ripon Spa Hotel. He would operate scoreboards and bring his lively (but never spiteful) humour to the social scene at the tournament.

Beyond croquet, Dave had various ways of filling his time, having retired to Overseal after a career in electro-chemical engineering. He sailed with his son Adam, was a fan of the Goons and collected diligently for the Poppy Appeal. Three years ago, he was still found in the orchard up a ladder with a chainsaw.

Dave was cremated at Bretby Crematorium on 10 August. Fellow members of the Royal British Legion attended and honoured his passing. After a simple service, family and friends retired to Moira Miners' Welfare to celebrate his life. Every croquet club has their “Davies” and our sport would not survive without their contributions.

Window on the World Croquet Federation



BY MARTIN FRENCH, SECRETARY-GENERAL

The WCF Management Committee comprises nine people, four of them from the UK: Keith Aiton, Ian Burrige (Treasurer), Stephen Mulliner and Martin French. The President is Amir Ramsis from Egypt, and the other members are from USA, South Africa, Australia and New Zealand. We run the Management Committee by email, plus weekly Skype calls.

What's been happening in July and August?

The 2012 Hall of Fame inductees have been announced: Garth Eliassen (USA), Charles Jones (NZ), Stephen Mulliner (England) and Ian Wright (Scotland)—congratulations to them all.

The Women's AC World Championship takes place this October in Cairnlea, Australia. We've been finalising arrangements, including chasing after biographies and photos for the 48 players, to go into the printed programme. The Charles Jones Memorial

Trophy will be presented for the first time at this event, in memory of our President who was murdered last year. I'm pleased his sister is travelling from NZ to Cairnlea to make the presentation.

The inaugural GC World Team Championship takes place this November/December. England play in the First Division in South Africa and are ranked, second close behind Egypt. David Openshaw has kindly donated the *Openshaw International Shield* and we've commissioned some new shield-shaped medals for the winners. Scotland and Wales play in the Second Division that takes place a couple of weeks later in Cairo.

We publish a 10 Year Schedule of future events, but we've had some problems finding a host for the proposed 2013 GC World Championship. It looked like it would be held in California in April, but that fell through. We're hoping Egypt will shortly be able to confirm they can stand in, but are well aware this could be rather a rush to arrange. The CA has submitted a bid for the 2013 AC World Championship which will be centred at Surbiton in August, and also use Woking, Roehampton and Hurlingham. Look out for more news on this over the coming months.

Finally, we have almost finished a complete re-write of the WCF Sports Regulations and Event Regulations. These are currently two huge documents and we have made both much shorter, despite including additional material on the format and

arrangements for events. I hope these will be published very soon—it has been a mammoth task running for over 18 months!

Our new website is at <http://www.wcfcroquet.org/joomla/>.

We're looking for a volunteer who could step in as Web Master and help us develop the new site into something really useful to croquet players around the world—please contact me if you could help.

CROQUET ASSOCIATION EVENTS

NATIONAL VETERANS' CHAMPIONSHIP

Sussex County 11-16 June

Report by Richard Hoskyns

The 2012 National Veterans' Championship was held at Sussex County Croquet Club (Southwick) from 11th to 16th June. The weather on the first day was terrible, with the rain causing considerable problems with hitting balls across the lawns; however all games were finished before the lawns became totally unplayable. Despite poor forecasts, the club avoided most of the rain during the rest of the week, at least during the day, and play was not interrupted. The wind on the last day caused problems for players on unsheltered lawns, including our charming Australian veteran who joined us for the class event. Entries were not good, although similar in number to last year.

The Doubles were played on the Monday and Tuesday. Richard & Pat Jackson (Sussex) won the Sussex Trugs with Harry Bruford and Neil Chalmers (Hunstanton) the runners-up. Quiller

Barrett (Watford) and Richard Hoskyns (Hurlingham) won the Gilbert Spoons with Robert Bateson (Guildford & Godalming) and John Taylor (Sussex) as runners-up.

The Unrestricted Handicap Singles was played as a single-life knock-out with an Egyptian consolation. One highlight was the straight triple accomplished by Bob Stephens (Hurlingham) against Neil Chalmers. However Bob was to become another victim of Pat Jackson who went on to beat Richard Hoskyns in the final. Pat played beautifully, taking her first ball round to peg fourth turn with only two bisques and her second with four bisques, thus winning sixth turn with two bisques still standing, forgetting that the manager should not really be treated like that! Unfortunately he could not think of a suitable punishment. Pat certainly earned her handicap reduction. There was not enough time for players to play sufficient games in the consolation Egyptian, so no winner was able to emerge.

The Veterans' Championship (The Rothwell Cup) was played as an American block of six and was won by Dave Mundy

(Cheltenham) with Alan Cottle (Sussex) runner up. Both had won 4 out of 5 matches but Dave won on the 'who beat who' basis. The Over 75s Championship (The Pidcock Trophy) was played as a 5-round Swiss (10 players) and was won by Paul Castell (Sussex) with 5 wins out of 5, with Bill Arliss (Sussex) runner up with 4 wins out of 5. The Advance Play Singles (The Felixstowe Cup) was also played as a 5-round Swiss (12 players) and was won by Jonathan Isaacs (Sussex) with 5 wins out of 5, with Daphne Gaitley (Sussex) runner up with 4 wins out of 5.

The Sussex Club were excellent hosts and put on a Jubilee-themed dinner on the Friday night which was much enjoyed by all those who attended.

CA vs SWISS CA 4-5 July at Bowdon

By Klim Seabright

A convincing 13- 8 win in a match made up of both Association and Golf Croquet. I set off from Cheltenham to meet up with my CA team mates at Bowdon. I



Photo: Friendly rivalry at Bowdon, L to R Richard Williamson (loaned by us to the Swiss), Gordon Weir, Francois Garcia, Des George, Klim Seabright, Jerry Guest, Barry Keen, Norman Eatough and Dave Underhill.

travelled about 10 miles in about the same time it took me to play my first game of Association Croquet! Having transferred eastwards to pick up the M6 Toll I arrived too late to take part in a practice session. Barry Keen's welcome wine tasting event was very interesting and a most convivial means of inter-team bonding before battle commenced. Barry presented six bottles from his collection and we had to guess the price in a range from about £12 to about £50. It was necessary to take quite a few samples from the £50 bottle.

Bowdon has very good lawns and they were running quite quickly on the second day, despite heavy rain which has fallen all summer! Did you know that Bowdon sits on National Trust Land?

The Swiss team sent over two of their stalwart Association players (Dave Underhill and Norman Eatough) and Des George as their GC player. I think Des should be recruited by the CA as their marketing expert. Mind you he only has one method, which is to stand in from of anyone and keep saying 'Golf Croquet' until they give in! One such person was a lovely Bowdon member (sorry lovely Bowdon member but I did not get your name) who carries out many everyday tasks around the club. I do not think it is an exaggeration to state that she was 'persuaded' onto a lawn and looked very perplexed about the whole thing.

We 'loaned' Richard Williamson to the CA and he played very well. The score was level-pegging at the end of the first day (5-5) and we retired to a very good restaurant (Earls). By the way, team members, I did eventually find my car and got back to my accommodation at 11.45! This had nothing to do with alcohol but everything to do with a senior moment (always carry a ball of string).

It looked as though the CA team was in for a bit of a drubbing on the second day when the doubles (Francois Garcia and Gordon Weir) lost to Williamson and Underhill. This was shortly followed by another loss when Seabright lost to Eatough in a nail-biting finish.

Things started to improve when Jerry Guest won all his afternoon games and Seabright found some form in the Golf Croquet. After the CA team reached ten points it was agreed that the remaining games would start and play would stop as soon as the result of the final GC was known. This pushed the CA team over the line and the remaining games were scored on hoops gained at that point, giving a 13 -8 overall result.

The homeward journey included a possible delay due to a suspected terrorist alert on the M6 Toll – false alarm- such fun!

NATIONAL SENIORS' CHAMPIONSHIP

17-22 July, Budleigh Salterton

Report by Julie Horsley

Forty-one players assembled at the start of the 2012 National Seniors' Tournament, from as far afield as New Zealand, Nottingham and Colchester. It was good to see so many players returning and also to see a few new faces. After the rain and saturated lawns of the last few weeks, the sun and summer decided to appear. Wet weather gear and wellies were put away and shorts and sunblock appeared as the week progressed, so too did the temperature and the speed of the lawns.

The week started with the Handicap Doubles which saw Richard Griffiths (Cornwall) and Peter Miller (Sidmouth) and Alan Cottle (Sussex County) and Avril Rangoni Machiavelli (Blewbury) emerge as block winners. In the Final on Sunday Richard and Peter narrowly beat Alan and Avril +1t.

The Open Handicap Singles started after lunch on Wednesday and within a short space of time all the bisques were re-located somewhere on the lawns. Everyone knocked out of the X was automatically entered into the Y. The Final of the X for the Quiller Cup was between Peter Siddall (Roehampton) handicap 4 and Rosemary Bradshaw (Budleigh Salterton) handicap 16. Rosemary used all her bisques well and won +19.

In the Y, Marie Lester (Budleigh Salterton, HC 14) beat Scylla Blackwell (Exeter, HC 16) +3t.

The Y Class started after lunch on Thursday this saw a number of +26 results, but many ending +1T.

Dave Mundy retained the Seniors' Championship (Trevor Williams Cup) for the third successive year, winning 7/8 games. Andrew Wise (Bristol) on his first visit to Budleigh won the Colin Hemming Cup winning all 7 games. Wendy Betteridge (New Zealand) won the de Ansorena Cup with 6/7 wins and Georgeen Hemming (Colchester) also on her first visit to Budleigh won all 6 games in her block to receive the new Nigel Graves Trophy. Peter Miller (Sidmouth) won the handicap play block with 4/5 wins.



Jane Babbage congratulates Wendy Betteridge of NZ, the winner of the de Ansorena trophy. Photo by Peter Hardcastle

Saturday evening saw most players attend an excellent Tournament Dinner in the Clubhouse.

Quiller Barrett, in presenting the trophies, thanked everyone at Budleigh for all their efforts during the tournament and in particular complimented the groundsman Chris Root for the condition of the lawns.

THE CHALLENGE & GILBEY 2012

30 Aug – 2 Sep, Budleigh Salterton

Report by Julie Horsley

After a number of withdrawals, mainly due to illness, Thursday saw 24 players entered into the handicap knockout for the Gilbey Goblet. It was good to see most games pegged out; this may have been due to the fact that it was played as full bisque to base 6, enabling players to set up breaks. The semi-finals saw Colin Walls(10) beat fellow Sidmouth player Roger Mills(11) +20 and Cliff Jones (0) beat local player Alan Rush (14) +4. In the final Colin beat Cliff +22.



Colin Walls receives the Gilbey Goblet from Brian Shorney

Thirty one players took part in the Class Events for the Challenge Cups.

In Block A for the Roehampton Cup Sunday morning saw Mike Hann (Roehampton) last year's winner and Gregory Wicksteed (East Dorset) both on 3 wins due to play; Mike winning +4. With Cliff Jones (SWCP) beating Dave Mundy (Cheltenham) and David



Susan Davies, winner of the Reckitt Cup in play

Mooney (Roehampton) beating Tony Bower (Budleigh), and Andrew Willis having his bye that morning, there was all to play for in the last game, with Mike on 4 wins and Gregory, Cliff and David Mooney all with 3 wins. Mike's chance of becoming the outright winner vanished when Dave Mundy beat him +26. In the other games Cliff beat David Mooney and Gregory beat Tony, so Mike, Cliff and Gregory all had 4 wins. Who-beat-who could not be applied; so on quality of wins and then who-beat-who Cliff emerged as the winner.

Block B was played as a 5-round Swiss with Chris Donovan (Budleigh) winning all 5 games for the Council Cup.

Block C for the Reckitt Cup was divided into 2 blocks. In one block Susan Davies (Roehampton) and Roger Hendy (Sidmouth) both had 3 wins, with Susan progressing as the block winner, having beaten Roger. In the other block Peter Nelson (Sidmouth) and Rodney Parkins (Medway) again both had 3 wins with Peter progressing having beaten Rodney. In the Final Susan beat Peter +13

Block D for the Stevenson Cup, Roger Mills (Sidmouth) won the block.

On Saturday evening players were able to relax with an excellent Tournament Dinner in the clubhouse. The weather for the weekend was fine and mainly sunny - rather a rarity this summer, a real bonus.

GB beat IRELAND 8-5 for the MAUGHAM SALVER

Carrickmines, September 1-2

Report by Marcus Evans

Despite all arriving from different airports at different times (and indeed days in a few cases), the GB team successfully congregated at Carrickmines for a weekend of the usual Irish hospitality, but accompanied by the much rarer Irish sunshine. As noted by the most experienced members of the team, GB began with what is fast becoming an unwelcome tradition of losing in the doubles. On this occasion it was 3-0 to the home team shortly after lunch, with the Bowdon partnership of Maugham & Walters putting up most resistance before succumbing to a spirited performance by Simon Williams and Patsy Fitzgerald, both of whom were close to top form. Aiton & Foulser considered themselves a little unfortunate to lose to Ed Cunningham's peg out from the South boundary while splitting to their join, while Brown & Evans never really got back into their match against Ireland's future stars Danny Johnston and Kieran Murphy after Robin had an unlucky breakdown on a TPO in the first game. Both sides had a few chances, but Kieran finished the match in style by running hoop 3 from 3 yards at 45 degrees, before embarking on a delayed triple that never looked like finishing until the immaculate straight double at the end.

Having "played themselves in", the visitors showed their true form in the afternoon singles, and although the top players dropped games most results were convincing. Your correspondent expressed the opinion that Aiton was lucky not to lose off the contact in his decider against Cunningham, who ran hoop 1 to the North boundary but then missed his 6-yarder at Keith's hoop 1 ball in corner II - on the south side, thus leaving a dolly rush to the ball still near hoop 1. However, my advice that a POP was 'compulsory' in these circumstances proved unhelpful the following day when Keith broke down on a TPO attempting said POP, giving Williams a trivial finish to take their match.

Maugham won both his singles matches and, as so often, looked like GB's most solid performer, despite a 4am start on the Saturday morning which resulted in the attached photo, taken at an impromptu 'team meeting' held in the Chinese restaurant on Saturday night. The GB team were generously paid for by the Irish CA but despite the constant flow of wine, GB wins continued the following morning with Evans completing 4 TPs and 104 unanswered points (though the final triple was a little more exciting than his team-mates would have wished), and Robin winning comfortably against Danny after also prevailing in a good battle against Kieran the day before.

It was then left to David Walters to put the winning point on the board with a triple of his own - his attempted straight triple in the first game had come to grief by sending a long, speculative rover peel off the lawn having caught no wire. As the result was no longer in doubt David Foulser's singles matches remained incomplete at 1-1, Irish captain Nathaniel Healy pleading his birthday as an excuse to leave early. David thus joined those Brits who could claim to be undefeated in singles this time round, but we had every faith that this would have been the case anyway.

The lawns were in excellent condition thanks to the attentions of Simon Williams, particularly so given the recent weather, but the softness of the ground did make them easy. Lawns 3 and 4 provided more of a challenge due to their use as bowling greens (for which it appears the hoops are not removed) and, more importantly, tennis (where I guess they are).

The chess contest was won by Aiton, after Cunningham had explained to Evans the art of the 'counter-blunder' before the latter made masterful use of same, and Keith also prevailed in a game of "Seven Wonders" by dint of spotting a simple strategy and running with it, while the rest of us were still trying to work out the rules.

A similar lack of tactical knowledge saw Brown & Evans beat Williams & Johnston in Simon's modified version of croquet whereby each side has a "peeling clip". Before you can peg out, you must advance your side's peeling clip by peeling partner through the hoop on which the peeling clip is placed. In this game each side started with their peeling clip on hoop one, thus playing effectively a 38-point game. It is possible to win in 2 turns by playing two sextuples (with the first of these advancing the peeling clip from hoop 1 to 1-back while taking one ball from hoop 1 to the peg, and the second being a normal sextuple) but this was quickly discovered to be beyond our talents. It is an entertaining game (no need for lifts or contacts as the innings changes hands frequently enough, what with a fair amount of jockeying for position needed in order to get all the peels) and worthy of further trials which Simon intends to conduct. I would suggest it is an order of magnitude more difficult than super-advanced AC but it is also 'more different', so may take a while to catch on. But thanks to Simon for this and to the Irish team as a whole for hosting superbly as usual.

Results: (Irish players first)

Simon Williams & Patsy FitzGerald beat David Maugham & David Walters -7tp(M), +22tp(W), +20

Danny Johnston & K Murphy beat Marcus Evans & Robin Brown +20, +24tp(M).

Ed Cunningham & Nathaniel Healy beat Keith Aiton & David Foulser +17, +15tp(EC).

Ed Cunningham lost to Keith Aiton +26tp, -26tp, -12tpo

Simon Williams lost to David Maugham +26tp, -26tp, -13tpo

Patsy FitzGerald beat David Walters +5, +12

Danny Johnston lost to Marcus Evans -26tp, -26tp

Kieran Murphy lost to Robin Brown -17tp, +26, -13

Nathaniel Healy drew with David Foulser -17, +6

Simon Williams beat Keith Aiton +25tp, +8

Ed Cunningham lost to David Maugham -24tp, -22tp

Kieran Murphy lost to Marcus Evans -26tp, -26tp

Danny Johnston lost to Robin Brown -15, -24tp

Nathaniel Healy lost to David Walters -23, -10tp

Patsy FitzGerald drew with David Foulser +22tp, -17



Phill Scarr in play against the SCA attempting to cannon yellow to rover.

THE CA V SCA

1 - 2 Sept Middlesbrough

CA retain the Glasgow Quaich 22 - 5

Charles Waterfield

The annual contest between representative teams from the Croquet Associations of England and Scotland took place over one of the first really fine weekends of the season, hosted by Middlesbrough CC at Albert Park. The CA had players from Belsay, Middlesbrough and Hull; the Scots came from Edinburgh, Glasgow and Yorkshire. In the event, the CA was able to field a significantly stronger team than the SCA and the end result was seldom in doubt. Having said that, all games were keenly contested and the weekend was a most enjoyable sporting occasion.

By the way it would be encouraging if more players from English clubs, from a wider area over the North, put themselves forward as available for fixtures such as this one. Information on 'selection' events can be found in the Fixtures Calendar under the heading Representative Matches. Registration is straightforward from the Tournaments page of the website; alternatively an email to the Office will do the trick.

CA team: Phill Scarr (0), Charles Waterfield (0.5), Peter Thompson (2), Phil Errington (2.5), Roger Staples (3.5), Andrew Killick (5)

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SCA team: Brian Murdoch (1), Derek Knight (2.5), Alan Wilson (2.5), Fergus McInnes (2.5), Hamish Duguid (10), Joe Lennon (9)

Results (CA names first):

Phill Scarr & Andrew Killick beat Fergus McInnes & Hamish Duguid +21
 Charles Waterfield & Roger Staples lost to Brian Murdoch & Derek Knight -1t
 Peter Thompson & Phil Errington beat Alan Wilson & Joe Lennon +11
 Phill Scarr beat Derek Knight +12
 Charles Waterfield beat Alan Wilson +25
 Peter Thompson lost to Brian Murdoch -17
 Phil Errington beat Joe Lennon +15
 Roger Staples beat Fergus McInnes +3
 Andrew Killick beat Hamish Duguid +15
 Phill Scarr beat Alan Wilson +8
 Charles Waterfield lost to Brian Murdoch -5
 Peter Thompson beat Derek Knight +14
 Phil Errington beat Hamish Duguid +26
 Roger Staples beat Joe Lennon +10
 Andrew Killick beat Fergus McInnes +9
 Phill Scarr lost to Fergus McInnes -5
 Charles Waterfield beat Hamish Duguid +20
 Peter Thompson beat Joe Lennon +10
 Phil Errington beat Brian Murdoch +10
 Roger Staples beat Derek Knight +8
 Andrew Killick beat Alan Wilson +25
 Phill Scarr beat Brian Murdoch +17tp
 Charles Waterfield lost to Derek Knight -9
 Peter Thompson beat Alan Wilson +6
 Phil Errington beat Fergus McInnes +9
 Roger Staples beat Hamish Duguid +17
 Andrew Killick beat Joe Lennon +16

KENT RETAIN GOLF CROQUET INTER-COUNTIES TITLE

Sussex County 15-16 September

by Bill Arliss

The fourteenth staging of the GC Inter-County Championship was held at Southwick over the weekend of 15/16 September. With excellent weather for the two days, the Kent team, anchored by David Dray and James Goodbun, showed their consistent strength with only a single waver when they lost 1-2 to Leicestershire in the sixth round. Following in the wake of Kent were Oxfordshire and Leicestershire, both keeping pace with one another and waiting for the second slip from Kent than never came. Eventually the two were only separated on net games, with Oxfordshire taking second place.

Although we were seeing very confident play from the top three teams, it was certainly not very one-sided throughout and we had to wait until round 5 before the first 3-0 victory was recorded. Overall only 14 of the 66 matches played over the weekend were posted as 3-0 results. Although some of the teams had the services of international players, it was pleasing to note that Glos/Worcs had two players in their first tournament and still managed to avoid the 'wooden spoon'. Speaking to them afterwards about their

experiences, I am sure we now have two new recruits to the regular tournament circuit.



The winning Kent team L to R: Tobi Savage, James Goodbun, Graham Wallin & David Dray. Photo by Dr Tim King.

When this event was moved from August to September there were some reservations about the lateness in the calendar. However this period of the year appears to attract reasonable weather and the end of season flavour adds to the overall success of the event. Also during the move Southwick decided to start an end of the season dinner on the Saturday evening and this year we were treated to an excellent 'Spanish Evening' which was fully packed with players and club members.

This format for this tournament appears to be very popular with its mixture of singles and doubles play but it has to be said that entries are now at a maximum for the number of lawns that are available at one venue and if we want to consider the use of two venues like AC Inter Counties, then we will have to consider a major change in the format with possible increase in the number of days and number of venues. In the mean time if new counties emerge, then there are provisions in the general conditions for a playoff for places with the bottom teams from the previous year. The late staging of this event makes a play off for places later in the year quite feasible.

The full results are as follows. Where teams were equal on matches and net games, the who-beats-who criteria were used to decide placing.

Final placings

County	Played	Wins	Net Games	Posn
Kent	11	10	17	1
Oxfordshire	11	8	7	2
Leicestershire	11	8	5	3
Sussex	11	6	1	4
Glamorgan	11	6	-1	5
Surrey	11	5	-1	6
Co Durham/Yorks	11	5	-1	7
Somerset	11	4	-3	8
Suffolk	11	4	-3	9
Glos/Worcs	11	4	-7	10
Hampshire	11	3	-7	11
Dorset	11	3	-7	12

TOURNAMENT ROUND-UP

Newport Open Weekend

26 - 27th May

Report by Duncan Hector

Mark Avery stormed to an 8/8 victory at Newport (Essex) completing 6 TPs on the way. In second place was Robert Fulford 6/8 with 3 TPs, 1 QP and 1 SXP and in third place the rapidly improving Nick Mounfield 4/6 with 1 TP.

The lawns became faster as the tournament progressed, but the hoops were universally firm and tight, making angled hoops very tricky to negotiate. It was an impressive display by Mark who brushed aside most people, beating Robert +25tp and then +24 in the final. In the middle order Nick Mounfield excelled himself winning a CA gold medal for his TP and he also took Mark and Robert to their closest results, losing by 6 to Mark and 9 to Robert.

The best incident of the tournament was Nick's response to Robert's sextuple leave. The cross-wire at hoop 1 gave Nick a chance of a steeply angled hoop (it looked impossible) which he took successfully. But his take-off to the tea lady was not so good; in fact it trundled into 4 back and came to a stop in a perfect running position with one of Robert's balls temptingly in range if the right amount of wire could be taken. Unfortunately for Nick the shot missed but only by inches. Ailsa Lines completed an excellent straight triple against me which included an 'interesting' rover peel from 6 yards which was the highlight of her tournament and the low light of mine!

This tournament brought Newport back onto the list of




Nick Mounfield in play at Newport. Photo by Duncan Hector.

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worthwhile destinations: great clubhouse, attractive setting and much improved lawns. Two years ago the lawns were dreadful, many said they were unplayable. After a lot of restorative work they are returning to their former glory and with a new maintenance regime firmly in place they will continue to improve. George Woolhouse and I gave initial assistance and guidance back in late 2010, when the lawns had huge bare areas, thick moss and dry patches galore. Newport's Francis Lambert, supported by enthusiastic members, took up the challenge and has achieved a remarkable transformation.

As always Andrew Gregory's quiet management style kept us all in order and playing with little waiting. The amiable Dr Mike Porter used his knowledge of Metal Carbenes, Ylide Rearrangement and Biometric Synthesis to produce tasty lunches and yum-yum cream teas.

Roehampton Club Summer Tournament

30 May – 3 June

Report by Peter Siddall

It is widely reported that the summer weather so far has been wet and windy: during our tournaments we were neither flooded nor rained off and the temperatures were comfortable. Some were even tempted to wear shorts! We were short of entries for the last event owing to competition from the Queen's Jubilee River Pageant on the last Sunday; this led to the Class Singles being reduced to two days - but otherwise everything went according to plan.

The Handicap Doubles was managed by Douglas Gurney - with the Creyke Cups won decisively by Martin Murray (-1) and his partner Brian Russ (18) who were an unstoppable combination! Fittingly this was Martin's 50th anniversary of his first tournament - played at Roehampton, with Brian, in 1962. He went on to win many honours including internationals eg the MacRobertson Shield, when he played with Nigel Aspinall. The runners-up were last year's



Martin Murray and Brian Russ winners of the Creyke Cups

winners, Chris Roberts and Frances Colman from Phyllis Court.

John Pearson won the Unrestricted Handicap Singles in a final against the fast-improving Nicholas Halton who, at handicap 18, had an excellent tournament. Brian Rees, the oldest entrant and a former holder of the Trevelyan Bowl, came third. This clean sweep for Roehampton Club should be celebrated, since it is a rare

achievement! Furthermore, special thanks and congratulations go to debutant Wouter van Moppes (20) for stepping in as a last minute substitute.

Graham Brightwell from Surbiton won the Brooke Cup, B-class advanced singles with four wins out of five. Last year's winner Neil Coote was runner-up on three wins. Nick Furse, Surbiton, also a former holder of the Brooke Cup, had three wins but lost to Neil Coote to come third. Sara Anderson, a first time entry from Woking won the Thorpe Cup for C Class handicap singles, beating Margaret Hampson of Surbiton into second place.

Most importantly, everyone enjoyed themselves and there were many compliments for Roehampton Club on the excellence of the lawns and the warmth of our welcome. Thank you to Nigel Aspinall for refereeing and to Jean Oades for her invaluable assistance.

Colchester Spring Handicap Tournament

8 – 10 June

Report by David Haslam

The later date of this tournament, in order to avoid the Queen's Jubilee celebrations, may have contributed to a smaller entry than usual and so only 12 players assembled in the drizzle on a cold Friday morning. The drizzle soon receded to be replaced by torrential rain, which lasted intermittently for most of the day. The two remaining days were devoid of sunshine but play continued without interruption, other than the delays whilst waterproofs were donned or taken off. The format was Egyptian and after Day 1 only Peter Kenward (5) was on 100% after 26-ing George Woolhouse (2) and edging out Nick Steiner (1) by +2. Four others, namely John Andrews (12), Alan Clark (10), Nick Steiner and Jeff Farrington (7) each had 2 wins out of 3. The second day saw Mike Bowser (3.5) emerge as a likely winner with Alan Clark and John Andrews sharing the lead with 4 from 6. The notable turn of the weekend saw George Woolhouse successfully execute a TPO - well done George. And so to the final day where Jeff Farrington won both of his games to end up with 5/7, Nick Steiner ended with no further defeats giving him 5 from 8 whilst John Andrews was beaten by the manager (a rare win this for David Haslam) thereby being deprived of the cup.

1st Dr Jeff Farrington; 2nd Dr Nick Steiner; 3rd Rev John Andrews

Cumbria Cup, Crake Valley

9-10 June

Prose by Jonathan Lamb

*And it came to pass, that in the Valley of the Crake,
In the year scoredozen, there was marshalled by Dave son of
Nichol*

*An eldritch combat with hammers, a gibbering of the white clans.
They came from the north-eastern shores, Phill son of Dennis
Son of Ecglaf Scarrsson; from the south, the Emperor Burnettus
In his toga and sandals; from the west, ancient sage
Pidcockapocapetl; and from the far north, Alan son of Will,
Bairn of Icgtheow and bane of Edinburgh. Diverse other
Dread denizens of Middle Earth were there, even
From the far south, from the very sump and plughole
Of the world, a swarthy Patagonian. Two days and nights,
In misty swirl beneath the peaks, war hammers waving,
The white clans gibbered. Each in turn fell. The horns last rang*

As Dave son of Nichol locked Paul Riggsboggadottir in mortal strife,

The heavens cracking to their oaths and insults; but Dave Son of Nichol triumphed, and the dark menace was whelmed, And peace returned to the valley of the Crake, where the hills Come down to the meadows, and the brown cows stand.

Watford One-day Event

16th June

Report by Simon Hathrell

Watford club staged its return to the tournament circuit for Association Croquet after a gap of six years, with a change of format to a one-day event which appeared to work out well. In spite of the generally unseasonal weather of late, on tournament day the worst of the weather went elsewhere, leaving Watford lucky enough to stay almost completely dry all day. There was even some occasional sunshine to brighten things up, so the worst that players had to contend with in the end was only some blustery wind and slow courts.

Winners:

Block A: (Level Advanced, 8 players, 3-round Swiss) - Alfred Purvis Memorial Trophy: Graham Brightwell (3/3)

Jeremy Scott (2/3) won the consolation prize for the player, other than the winner, with the largest index gain in the day.

Block B (Handicap Advanced, 4 players, all-play-all): Geoff Johnson (2/3)



Photo: Letchworth Winner, John Skingsley

Letchworth Golf Croquet B-Level

16th June

Report by Ray Mounfield

Nine players contested the one-day "B" level Golf Croquet Tournament held at Letchworth. With eight participants having a handicap of 2 and the other being a 3 there were many close matches and everyone won at least one game. The lawns were in excellent condition and quite fast, but gusting winds and intermittent light

rain made play tricky at times. Andrew Gregory, more used to playing competitive AC, won his first four competitive GC games, but failed to build on this early success.

After seven rounds of play John Skingsley and Peter Ross each had six wins, Peter having lost a game to John and John having lost to Christine Mounfield (the only lady player). Going into the final round either leader could have won the tournament but neither managed to secure a win, John losing to Mike Huxley and Peter to Christine.

John Skingsley, having beaten Peter, was awarded the Letchworth tankard and bottle of beer.

All agreed that it was a good event which had attracted local players and some from further afield. It was particularly pleasing to see Derek Old and John Moore who had made the long journey from the North East.

Ashby CC "National Forest" GC Open

30th June - 1st July

Report by Ray Mounfield

Players from Ripon Spa, Nottingham, Leicester, Bury St Edmunds and Edgbaston joined Ashby club members to contest the second National Forest GC Tournament. Handicaps ranged from 0 to 8. Despite recent extreme weather conditions, the three courts were all in excellent condition, fast and generally true.

Play began in two blocks of 8, all play all, leading to semi-finals between Tim King and Rachel Rowe, Ray Mounfield and Arthur Rowe. Both matches were closely fought, resulting in a father versus daughter final. Could this be a 'first' for an Open Croquet event?

In the final, Arthur took the first game but Rachel put up a strong response, winning the next two games and thus the National Forest Shield.

Other players competed in two consolation blocks, with Richard Thompson topping the "Headers" and David Crawford the "Footers".

David Bell did very well in his first tournament and a special prize was awarded to Penny Matthews for playing in an event she had initially thought was a "B" Class!

Nailsea B Class Advanced Tournament

30 June/1 July 2012

Report by Kathy Wallace

After a drought-affected tournament last year, this event was most definitely rain-affected. Play had to be abandoned on the Saturday after a downpour at tea-time proved to be the final straw for the ground that was already saturated. Players assembled soon after 8am next morning to try to catch up with the programme, but every lawn had at least one significant lake. It wasn't until 11.30am that the sky finally cleared and play could begin with shorter time limits than originally planned. In the meantime, the competitors played Scrabble, Bridge and Bezique, did crosswords and read the papers. They also took turns at emulating King Canute, trying to disperse the puddles. There was an aroma of Famous Grouse around at coffee time.

By 2pm, the Block play was complete. Andrew Wise (Bristol, 2), Les Bowker (Cheltenham, 2) and Martin Leach (Ipswich, 3) won all their 3 matches. The other block had a 3-way tie with Alwen Bowker (Cheltenham, 2), Chris Donovan (Budleigh, 3.5) and Jaimie Mussi (Cheltenham, 3.5) all on 2 wins. Jaimie snatched the 4th semi-

finals place by virtue of a higher net points score.

The semi-finals started around 2.30 but had to be restricted to 2.5 hours. Jaimie Mussi, whose handicap has dropped from 10 to 3.5 this year, beat Andrew Wise +13t. Martin Leach beat Les Bowker +16. As Martin had to get back to Ipswich and Jaimie's transport was leaving at 6pm, the final is going to be played at a later date. Martin and Jaimie were presented with bottles of Triple-A-Peeling ale. The Manager said she usually looked very small when presenting prizes so it was suggested that she stand on a chair. Jaimie Mussi, in the photograph, looks ready to catch the ale. The other photograph shows Nailsea's Synchronised Water-sweeping team of Peter Dyke and Geoff Hughes in training for the Olympics.



Jaimie Mussi receives his prize from Kathy Wallace

Pat Long and Alwen Bowker won their matches in the competition arranged for block runners-up, so also received some ale. Jonathan Toye (Downham, 8) won the prize for the biggest upset when he claimed 17 index points from Robert Moss (Bear of Rodborough, 3). Andrew Wise had the fastest win of the weekend, beating Jonathan Toye +26 in 1 hour 26.5 minutes. Keith Apperley (Bear of Rodborough, 7), playing in his first Advanced Tournament

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had stepped in to replace a late withdrawal. He deserves a mention for claiming second place in his block.

Colchester Midweek Tournament

3-5 July

Report by David Haslam

The sun still failed to appear but seventeen players from nine different clubs arrived from as far away as Penrith for the start of this over-subscribed handicap singles and doubles event on the lush, if rather slow, Colchester lawns. The singles competition was run as a flexible Swiss and included a significant number of low handicap players who had varying degrees of success. John Andrews (12) drew first blood with a 26 against the in-form Colin Hemming (0.5). Meanwhile the evergreen Terrey Sparks (1.5) was making a solid start with wins over Georgeen Hemming (10) and Terry Mahoney (2.5). A head-to-head between John and Terrey left John the winner. Suddenly it emerged that a dark horse, in the shape of David Bateson, (11) was gathering speed. And so into day 2 when John Andrews tumbled in his clash with the mighty Nick Steiner (1), but Terrey Sparks (1) had a further two wins. The sun had started to shine and this continued into the third day with not only high temperatures but high humidity. John started the final day with a win over Gerry Varndell (12) and Terrey prevailed against David Bateson thereby ending David's challenge. So to the final round, with John and Terrey level. Drama to the last as John fell to the rejuvenated Ron Atkinson (16) and Terrey succumbed to the Lincolnshire poacher, Mike Bowser (4). This left John and Terrey each on 5/7 wins and, having beaten Terrey, John was overall winner. The shot of the tournament must surely have been Colin Hemming's rover peel from a huge distance!

In the doubles competition, organised as two blocks with the winners playing off, the winners were a remarkably agile and jovial pair with an aggregate age of 165 years, namely Ron Atkinson and Terry Mahoney. The half games were judged by most competitors to have been a pleasant and fun end to each of the first two days of the tournament.

Singles: 1st Rev John Andrews; 2nd Terrey Sparks; 3rd Ron Atkinson

Doubles: 1st Ron Atkinson & Terry Mahoney; 2nd Jane Collier & Mike Bowser

Pendle Midweek Tournament

3-6 July

Report by Peter Wilson

Heavy rain preceded the tournament but with a little attention four lawns were available with double-banked doubles being scheduled each morning. Conditions became unusual. We played in warm dry conditions, but each night we received rain of Biblical proportions. Clothing varied from full sailing waterproofs and flat soled deck wellies to short and t-shirt with bare feet. Gradually the water-table rose, making each morning a bit harder to clear the lawns. On day three we lost a lawn. On day four the Met Office issued 1.3 billion severe flood warnings about the impending Jet Stream crisis and the players congregated for the early presentations and to watch as the lawns finally succumbed to the majesty of Mother Nature. Nevertheless we completed everything except the doubles final which will be played at a later date between Peter Wilson & Eileen Rossiter and Liz Wilson & Garry Wilson (no relation!).



*The photo shows:
 David Marsh: Most games played.
 Eileen Galagher: The Irish Cup (Unrestricted Handicap Play)
 Roger Staples: David Jenkinson Trophy (Open Advanced Singles C-Class).
 Paul Rigge: Pendle Rose Bowl, Open A Singles and Egyptian Cup (fastest win)
 Janet Davies: David Hoyle Trophy (Unrestricted HC Runner-up HC 9+)
 Terry Vernazza: Pennine Trophy (unrestricted HC runner-up) - not present*

Quote of the tournament - Peter Moore over-running a hoop approach – “Ooh, I’ve found a dry bit”

Wrest Park Advanced Tournament 6-8 July

Report by John Bevington

I suppose we should be grateful for the fact that the day before the tournament was sunny and we were able to get the lawns cut. They held up pretty well, in spite of the rain which fell during the night, and the following day, and the next day....

The handicaps of the 16 players ranged from -½ to 5, and manager Eric Audsley (himself just down to ½) split them into two blocks, with eight on 1 or lower and eight on 1½ or higher. The format was basically a Swiss with the second block pre-programmed with two initial losses. Prizes would go to the overall winner and the person in each block gaining the most index points.

Of the minus players, both Simon Hathrell and Cliff Jones finished Friday with 100% records, including in Simon’s case a TP at

the expense of Nick Steiner. George Woolhouse was the only other player not to have dropped a game, and Ian Mantle, Bryan Harral and Tom Anderson all had two wins. In contrast, Rod Ashwell and Mike Hills had yet to break their ducks.

Saturday saw Simon’s run ended by John Bevington, who at one point used local knowledge and dead weight to hit a perfectly wired leave. Cliff lost to Bryan, and Rod recovered his form by beating Nigel Polhill. Later in the day Nigel completed the only other TP of the tournament against Simon. At close of play Simon, Bryan, Nick, John, Ian and George had four wins, so there was all to play for.

The first games on Sunday went some way to resolving the issue. Simon beat George, Bryan beat Eric, John beat Nick and Ian beat Philip Windred leaving them all on five wins. Ian did not play in the last round, which had Simon playing Eric, Bryan playing George, and John playing Rod. If they all won John would have had the edge, having beaten Simon and Bryan; but although Simon beat Eric and Bryan beat George, John lost to Rod (who won his last five games), which meant that Simon, who had beaten Bryan

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in his first game of the tournament, was the overall winner (clear now?).

Bryan and George won the prizes for the most index points gained. In Bryan's case there were more than he realised, as he had forgotten the extra points which came his way as a result of beating minus players.

Our thanks, as usual, go to Vic Rees, Cliff Jones and Janice Hayes and club chairman Tim Brewer for keeping us all fed and watered.

LAWS

YOU ARE THE REFEREE - III

BY IAN VINCENT AND BILL ARLISS

In this issue we have two completely different situations: the first only applicable only to Golf Croquet, the second to Association.

This issue's Golf Croquet problem comes directly from a player and refers again to the half way law.

GC Situation:

When contesting hoop 5, black was played towards hoop 6 past the halfway line, without hitting another ball. Yellow scored hoop 5 and asked black to go to the west penalty point. Babs played blue towards hoop 6, then walked down and hit black towards the penalty point past hoop 7. Red then played and went through hoop 6 and then asked black to go to the other penalty point. Is he entitled to do so?

GC Decision:

This kind of situation occurs quite often and one fundamental point is often forgotten. As soon as a player directs that an opponent's ball be moved to a penalty point, the ball immediately becomes an outside agency under law 10(c)1 awaiting its turn to play at the directed penalty point. As such it is totally irrelevant when the ball is moved from its offside position to the penalty point unless it is likely to interfere with play. Law 10(b)4 also states that a ball directed to a penalty point is exempted from being an offside ball, thus the player of red has no right to request any penalty point movement.

My correspondent also asked whether a 'Spectator' Referee watching the game had the power to intervene if the owner of red tried to impose his view. Very simply 'Yes'. Law 15(d)(4) i and ii give him the necessary power to intervene if he believes that play is being restarted unlawfully after a fault or a player is heard to be giving his opponent erroneous information on the laws.

The AC situation happened to me near the end of a game on one of the rare warm days in August.

AC Situation:

Having failed to get the balls organised earlier in the turn, Red ended up attempting a straight rover peel on Yellow. In the croquet stroke, Red peeled Yellow about six inches through the hoop, ending with close, slightly angled, hoop position. Red ran the hoop, hit Yellow and stopped there, sending Yellow a couple of feet further on. Relief at having got through the hoop turned to angst as I found I had an awkward hampered shot. I raised my mallet to request a

referee, at which point my opponent, who had been watching with some bemusement, asked why I needed one, as Red should be taking croquet from Yellow. Was he right to tell me this?

AC Decision:

Yes! Red had roqueted Yellow in the hoop stroke, under Law 17(a)(2): in the heat of the moment I had overlooked this. He could see that I was about to commit an error under Law 27(f) (failing to take croquet when required to do so), and so must forestall as required by Law 23(c). Law 48(b) emphasizes this duty, notwithstanding that it was to his disadvantage to do so.

Future Issues

We are sure that there are many situations like the above which regularly cause puzzlement amongst many players and could be helped with simple clarification. Please email your ideas for future columns in this series to either of us using the addresses given on the inside front cover

COACHING

COACHING CORNER

BY ROGER STAPLES

Congratulations to the following people who have gained the Club Coaches awards:

John E Thorp, Leighton-Linslade
 Jean Healey, Maldon
 David Crawford, Bury St Edmunds
 Francois Garcia, Bowdon
 Michael Manning, Maldon
 Marian Manning, Maldon

I would like to draw attention to two situations I have witnessed this season that can be confusing and problematical for less experienced players.

In one recent game, having been jawssed in hoop six, the striker asked his opponent if he could have the peg correctly positioned – it was about two inches outside the line between hoops 5 & 6. His opponent, having recalled reading in the laws 'at any time during the game either player is entitled to require that a leaning peg be straightened' requested a referee make the necessary adjustment. Several referees stepped in to say this was incorrect and the peg should not be adjusted at that stage.

There are in fact two situations, (i) a misplaced peg or (ii) a leaning peg. The relevant Laws in each case are

(i) Law 2(b)(5), which states "Acceptance of Setting: Once players have started a game, it is deemed that they have accepted that the locations of all boundary markings, hoops and the peg are correct. Material discrepancies may be remedied under Law 55.

(ii) Law 3(a)(3): Subject to Law 53(a) (regulations for tournaments), at any time during the game either player is entitled to require that a leaning peg be straightened. Such a request is treated as forestalling play for the purposes of Law 23(d). Any test required for the purpose of Law 13 must be carried out before any adjustment is carried out. Following any such adjustment, the position of the balls must be adjusted if necessary to ensure that the striker gains no advantage thereby (see also Law 15(b)(6))

This can lead to complex situations, but the key words to remember are *the striker gains no advantage thereby*.

In practice in all critical instances (i.e. wiring lifts, hampered shots, or simply being able to hit another ball) the peg is left where it is until the situation is no longer critical, when it may be adjusted. This is the ruling the referee gave in this instance. After a couple of turns, when the ball in hoop 6 had been moved, the game paused while the peg was correctly positioned.

If you are double-banked you should always consider the state of the other game before adjusting the peg. It is also worth noting the etiquette at the beginning of double-banked games. Law 52 is quite specific. It requires that the second game should wait five minutes before starting. Law 52(d)(4) states *One game should not normally be started within five minutes of the start of another game*.

Another observation at a recent tournament involved 'Playing the Wrong Ball'.

Law 26(a)(1) states that if the striker plays a wrong ball and the error is discovered before the first stroke of the next turn to be started by playing a correct ball, the error is rectified and the turn ends. But note the manner in which the error is dealt with if it happened at the start of the game:

Law 26(a)(2) If the error is rectified and was committed in the first stroke of one of the first four turns of the game, the correct ball is placed on any unoccupied point on either baulk line as the striker chooses. That ball becomes a ball in play and the turn ends.

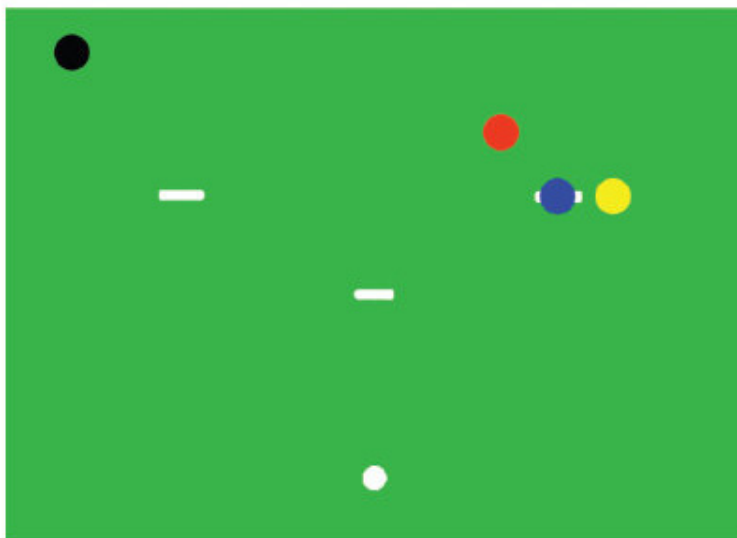
Extract from the second edition of Golf Croquet Tactics

BY MICHAEL HAGUE

An Extra Turn kept back for the 13th hoop is usually a match winner. An example of this in a singles and a doubles game is given below, taken from the 60 tactical problems and suggested solutions in the second edition of Golf Croquet Tactics. The diagram *fig.1* shows that Blue has nestled or jawed in the deciding hoop. Red is next to play and has one Remaining Extra Turn (RET). The narrative discusses how a different technique may be required for the doubles game where the solution will depend on which partner owns the RET.

Problem 5: Hoop 13. Red to play. Score 6 all. 1 x RET

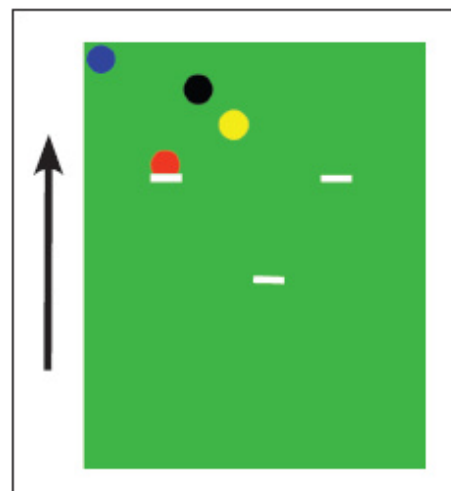
In singles, Red could easily play to



Problem 5 Fig. 1

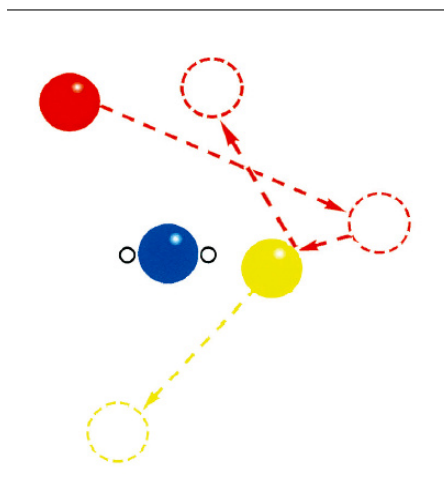
the non-playing side of Hoop 13 and use the extra turn to clear Blue away from the hoop. More decisive is for Red to go to a better hoop running position and leave Yellow to clear Blue using the extra turn. Careful though that Red is not knocked off line at the same time.

The same solution would apply in doubles if Yellow owns the RET. If Red owns the RET, the decisive play is for Red to play to a position for a cut rush which will send Yellow to the non-playing side of Hoop 13 while going at the same time to the playing side (see fig. 2). It is then ready to run Hoop 13 once Yellow has cleared Blue from the jaws of the hoop.



Problem 6 fig. 1

of them to ensure a score whenever a good opportunity arises, which doesn't occur at every hoop. He will probably be planning to hit his ball in the jaws of Hoop 7 right down to Hoop 8 and if things go right for him, to use an extra turn to set up another point. It is imperative that you get Black down to the area of Hoop 8 if you can before Hoop 7 is run. The layout of the balls as shown in fig.1 gives you that opportunity. Black can in fact play off Yellow and get down to Hoop 8 and into a legal off-side position.



Problem 5 Fig. 2

Creating an attacking cut rush.

Problem 6: Hoop 7. Score 3-3. Black to play. Oppo has 3 x RETs.

Suggested Solution: With 3 extra turns remaining at Hoop 7, your opponent will be looking for opportunities to use at least two

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by Michael Hague

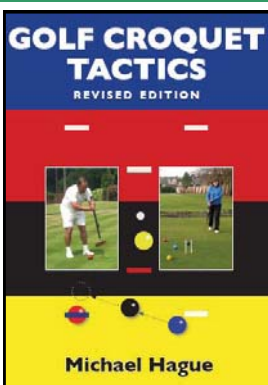
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