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NOTES by ROVER

Fifty years on

A welcome visitor to the final day of the County Championship was Mr. Longman. The ill-health which he has recently experienced may have the effect of depriving our senior vice-president of celebrating an interesting 'jubilee'. For it was exactly fifty years ago that 'Willy', playing in the Championship (there was only one in those days), rose above the horizon as a star of the first magnitude. The reporter of this event in the old *Gazette* observed that 'Mr. W. Longman created the greatest surprise of the meeting by defeating Mr. C. Corbally and Mr. H. Corbally in successive rounds'. In view of the prestige of this famous patronymic—and the younger brother was not far behind the older in skill—and of the fact that Mr. Longman's handicap at this time was 2½, this statement was clearly no exaggeration. It is illustrative of the situation at the top of the game half a century ago, with the large number of brilliant players then competing (there were 45 entries in the Championships in this year) that even this feat was not sufficient to win such a giant-killer a place in the 'Best Ten', an honour that did not come to him until 1914. But it came to him on no less than twenty occasions after this, and he heads the list of those invited for our 'Masters' Tournament', Miss D. D. Steel being runner-up with a score of 19. Space does not suffice to tell the tale of the many notable achievements of this fine all-round player, but as we admire the skill of our best contemporaries, it is well to remember that 'there were great men before Agamenmon'.

Time remembered

Associates who have bought and read the new Laws booklet will by now have learned with relief that the changes are unlikely to affect them more than a handful of times during the course of a season. Perhaps the one which some of the less expeditious players are more likely to encounter concerns the altered conditions regarding the closing stages of timed games. This was very much to the fore in Counties week and it must at once be said that the change was welcomed on all sides. Hitherto the Regulations had provided that when time was called the game finished at once, with two provisos, that the striker could complete a stroke for which he had already begun to take aim, and that if the two sides were equal the next point scored decided the issue.

Under the new Regulations, when time is called, the competitor in play will complete his turn and the opposing side has one more turn. This alteration has the merit of eliminating the sometimes unseemly sight of a player whose side is behind cavorting round the court hoping to snatch a valuable point before the call of time. Equally to be welcomed is the fact that the in player whose side is in front with a minute or so remaining can no longer by lack of expedition in play deprive the opposing side of a further opportunity of a turn. There was more than one game in the County Championships where the new Regulation operated to give a different result from what would have been the upshot of the old and even the losers conceded the merits of the alteration.

Winning the Hard Way

The sensational match between Captain Stoker and John Solomon in the Men's Championship is described elsewhere, but it is impossible in any mention of it not to pay tribute to the splendid steadiness of the gallant winner throughout his contest with a man more than 45 years younger than himself, a quality he maintained in the next round against Cotter. As was remarked last month, the victor still seems to advance *pari passu* with his years. But the match is mentioned here on account of an issue of considerable interest which was raised by it and which was much debated at the time. The brilliance and enterprise of the loser on this occasion are possibly as great as have ever been displayed on a croquet court and are a joy to us all to behold. No one who knows John should—and very few, we believe, would—suppose that he attempts his more spectacular feats with the least desire to 'show off', an expertise of the existence of which we are all well aware. It is the challenge of the supremely difficult thing to which he is ever eager to rise, and he has reached a point now when this means even more to him than championship titles. Nevertheless, it can be, and at Roehampton it was, argued that players ought not to risk the falsification of results by aiming at—or at any rate persevering with—feats success at which has ceased to be reasonably probable. There are some who feel that such audacity does something to depreciate the standing of championship events. None of us want to see our finest exponents intent only upon victory, but we do want to feel sure that the best man wins and imposes no unreasonable handicaps upon himself in his attempt to do so.

A series of surprises

In a Caskets Week when scarcely a day was without its surprises the names of Captain Stoker and Isobel Roe must inevitably be mentioned. The Captain's feats are referred to above and the former submariner can look back on the week with abiding satisfaction. Miss Roe's win was in the nature of a turn up for the book: it was her first appearance in the Women's Championships and with three former winners in the field her chances at the outset were not thought to be very great. As the week progressed her game visibly improved and in the final against Joan Warwick her shooting was little short of phenomenal in the later stages and was the prime means of her victory. A new star in the female croquet firmament is much to be welcomed and it will be interesting to see how she fares in the Ladies Field Cup for which she must surely be invited. The years to come should see many renewals of her encounter with Joan Warwick.

Congratulations to Hollweg and Miss Mills, winners of the Mixed Doubles Championship, who were among the less favoured couples but who combined well throughout the week. Although none of the games in this event stretched to the unconscionable length of some last year, the quality in general was not what ought to be expected from players of top class ability.

TOURNAMENT FIXTURES

1961

- July 10-15—**Budleigh Salterton.** *Hon. Sec.*, Maj. G. F. Stone, Lawn Tennis & Croquet Club, Budleigh Salterton.
- „ 17-22—**The Ladies Field Cup (Southwick).** *Secretary C.A.*, The Hurlingham Club, S.W.6.
- „ 24-29—**Cheltenham.** *Hon. Tourn. Sec.*, Croquet Club, Old Bath Road, Cheltenham.
- July 31 to Aug 5—**Open Championships (Hurlingham).** *Secretary, C.A.*, The Hurlingham Club, S.W.6.
- Aug. 7-16—**Hurlingham.** *Games Secretary*, The Hurlingham Club, S.W.6.
- „ 12-19—**Dublin.** *Hon. Sec.*, Mrs. O'Reilly, Ballynamote, Carrickmines, Co. Dublin.
- „ 17-26—**Challenge & Gilbey Cups, Ascot & Delves Broughton Cups (Roehampton).** *Secretary, C.A.*, Hurlingham Club, S.W.6.
- Aug. 28 to Sept. 2—**Southwick.** *Tourn. Sec.*, Miss M. J. Daldy, 10 Lansdowne Road, Hove 3.
- „ —**Hunstanton.** *Hon. Sec.*, Mrs. J. A. Clarke, 49 Northgate, Hunstanton.
- Sept. 4-9—**Parkstone.** *Hon. Sec.*, Mrs. McMordie, 4 Overbury Road, Parkstone, Dorset.
- „ 11-16—**President's Cup (Hurlingham), Surrey Cup (Roehampton).** *Secretary C.A.*, The Hurlingham Club, S.W.6.
- „ 21-23—**All England Handicap. Area Finals (Roehampton).** *Secretary C.A.*, Hurlingham Club, S.W.6.
- „ 25-30—**Roehampton.** *Games Secretary*, Roehampton Club, Roehampton Lane, S.W.15.
- Oct. 2-14—**Devonshire Park (Eastbourne).** *Secretary C.A.*, Hurlingham Club, S.W.6.

NON-OFFICIAL

- July 4-7—**Budleigh Salterton.** *Hon. Sec.*, Major G. F. Stone, Lawn Tennis & Croquet Club, Budleigh Salterton.
- Sept. 4—**Southwick.** *Tourn. Sec.*, Miss J. Daldy, 10 Lansdowne Road, Hove 3.
- „ 18—**Cheltenham.** *Hon. Tourn. Sec.*, Croquet Club, Old Bath Road, Cheltenham.

LAWS—ADDENDA & ERRATA

- Page 3. After Law 34(c), insert:
“(d) Interference with ball that has made a roquet”.
- Page 10. In Law 4(a), line 14, for “cannot in the same Stroke” read “cannot thereafter in the same stroke”.
- Page 19. In Law 29(c), line 2, for “to take roquet” read “to take croquet”.
- Page 21. In Law 32(a) (xi), first line, omit the words “at rest”.
- Page 21. In Law 32(b), penultimate line, for “under Law 31” read “under this Law”.
- Page 22. In Law 34(b) (ii), line 3, for “deneral” read “general”.
- Page 22. In Law 34(c), for the words “Law 33(b)” read “Law 34(b)”.
- Page 26. In Law 41, second line, for the words “Law 39” read “Law 40”.
- Page 26. In Law 42, penultimate and last lines, for “Laws 35 and 36” and “Law 35” read “Laws 36 and 37” and “Law 36”.
- Page 35. In Regulation 3(a), insert a full stop after the words “after the Tournament” in line 6 thereof.

Two

CROQUET ASSOCIATION

NOTICES

The subscription of £1 10s. 0d. due on January 1st, 1961, should be sent to the Secretary, C.A., Hurlingham Club, London, S.W.6. A number of subscriptions are still outstanding and it would assist the Secretary considerably if they were promptly paid.

It would also be appreciated if Associates who tender Subscriptions, Entry Fees, etc., when they see the Secretary away from her office would use an envelope and enclose a slip giving name and particulars of the payment.

* * *

The following publications are available from the Secretary, C.A., Hurlingham Club, S.W.6.

Croquet Association Handbook, 1960/61, 4s. 6d.
The new edition of the Laws, 2s. 6d. (Non Associates 3s. 6d.) All Associates are strongly advised to purchase the new Laws.

12 Hints to Beginners, 1s. 0d. A very valuable booklet which contains much useful information.

Entry forms for C.A. Tournaments. Pads of 25 price 2s. 0d. Competitors are reminded that they must use the official entry forms when entering for C.A. tournaments.

* * *

OLD EQUIPMENT

Clubs wishing to dispose of old equipment, such as mallets, balls, etc., are invited to insert small advertisements in *Croquet*. The cost is very moderate.

Write to the Secretary, C.A.,
Hurlingham Club, S.W.6.

* * *

NEW ASSOCIATES

Miss G. V. Pirie
R. C. Thorne
Lt.-Col. T. F. Laverty
Mrs. E. C. A. Meares
C. J. E. Dashwood
Mrs. C. Black
Miss C. Hardy-Boyle
Lt.-Col. R. L. de Brisay
W. C. I. Gillespie

* * *

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V. C. GASSON,
Secretary.

CROQUET AS COMEDY

by Maurice B. Reckitt

It is the fixed conviction of the British public that there is something inherently comic about Croquet. Whenever the game receives any notice in the popular press it is either assumed that this is so, or it is laboriously explained to incredulous readers that Croquet can, after all, be taken quite seriously by sensible people. But will the public ever be persuaded to give up what is by now almost part of our folk lore? Many men are sincerely devoted to their mothers-in-law, find nothing absurd in ordering a kipper for breakfast, and can pass through the sober town of Wigan without splitting their sides with laughter. But should a comedian mention one of these things, he seldom fails to evoke the expected response from his audience. As with Croquet, tradition insists that they are somehow funny.

Those of us who know what Association Croquet (to give it its formal title) really is, are well aware that it is as serious and exacting a game as golf or billiards. Yet a good deal that is amusing can and does happen at or in connection with it, and having been playing around the tournament 'circuit' now for fifty years, I can recall some memories of this sort which may possibly divert the readers of this journal.

When I came into Croquet as a boy half a century ago there certainly seemed to be more odd and idiosyncratic characters playing the game than we find amongst us now. The most extravagant figure of all was a certain Miss H—, who drove (or more precisely was driven) round the country in a battered old motorcar, in which it was rumoured she slept (though what happened to the chauffeur on such occasions was not revealed). Arrayed in an odd collection of garments, she would drive up to the ground sounding the horn fortissimo and presently alight, sometimes smoking a pipe, and generally leading a black cat on a chain, which she would attach to the wire surrounding the court. Her subsequent movements were quite incalculable. The first time I played her I was putting the clips on the first hoop when I fortunately looked up just in time to see her whirl her mallet round her head and take a slashing drive at the hoop. Had I not jumped aside just in time the ball would certainly have laid me low.

Perhaps the most colourful personality among the 'high ups' of pre-war Croquet was the famous Lord Doneraile. 'Donnie' of course served our Association in many valuable capacities and did a great deal for the game. But he did like to have his own way and would resort to all sorts of stratagems to get it. This was particularly the case at Hurlingham, where he aspired to rule supreme and neither the C.A. Council nor any club committee found it easy to circumvent him. His lordship was not an early riser and seldom appeared at any tournament before midday. On at least one occasion he was found to have surreptitiously altered the times of all the games at Hurlingham he wanted to witness from 10 a.m. to 12.0 by re-marking the score cards, and this without a word to the tournament manager. 'Donnie' took an almost proprietorial interest in what he always insisted on describing on the schedule as the 'County Matches', rejecting the term 'championship', and once actually came to blows in the C.A. office with another somewhat opinionated member of the Council over the

preparation of this document. He had strong views on how the counties should be described; 'Lancaster' and 'Chester' had always to be so named. Another of his lordship's idiosyncrasies was his refusal ever to accept a florin, a coin which he regarded as totally 'unEnglish' and part of a wicked design to displace our traditional pounds, shillings and pence in favour of the decimal system.

Many good stories could be told of our famous managers and of the rivalries between some of them. Two such were Col. Brooke, who presided at Roehampton, and E. S. Luard, of Ranelagh and Devonshire Park, Eastbourne. Each would delight to take you aside and explain what a sad mess the other was making of his job, though in fact both performed it notably well. But Luard did appear to get a little confused at times. A lady at Devonshire Park, asking when she would next be required to play, met with the rejoinder, 'I've no idea'. 'Will you know after lunch?' she then inquired. 'I never know anything after lunch', replied Luard, and with memories of the famous lunches held upstairs in the pavilion there in the twenties, one is not surprised by this confession.

Col. Brooke, though always generously distributing 'bulls-eyes' to lady players, was something of a martinet and very strict about punctuality on court. In one year, when Ascension Day fell in Peels week, a very devout (and rather eccentric) lady asked for leave off to attend divine service on that morning. 'Brookie' would have none of this; 'If I want you then and you're not here you're liable to be scratched'. But go she did. It so happened that another player attended the church at which this competitor was worshipping and heard the lady muttering to herself throughout the service 'liable to be scratched'. Whether in fact her devotion exacted its price history does not relate.

The 'playing manager' has often found himself in difficulties, and at a large tournament his task may become almost impossible. One such at a big west of England fixture was once engaged in a doubles match when towards evening his court became surrounded by an ever increasing crowd of players anxious to know when they would be wanted to play on the following day. The manager, finding his task in fact unmanageable, at last lost his temper with these interruptions altogether and shouted out to the eager inquirers, 'the whole darned lot of you go away and come at 10 o'clock tomorrow'. And with this they had to be satisfied.

No doubt many good stories could be told of referees but I can only remember a few examples. A player attempting a difficult hoop had the decision—after a good deal of hesitation—given against him. Accepting this graciously enough, he nevertheless asked the referee the reason for it. 'Well', came the reply, 'I was a bit doubtful, so I looked round the court and saw you were a good deal ahead, so I thought it fairer to give a chance to your opponent'. I was myself once taken aback when having walked the full length of Devonshire Park in heavy rain in response to the cry of 'referee', the player declared quite seriously, 'I won't have you, you're too much a friend of my adversary'. She had to 'have me' all the same!

Three

Another functionary much in the public eye in former days was the Official Handicapper. Not for him the possibility of taking refuge from complainants behind the anonymity of a committee. Most players like to be reduced, but there are exceptions to this. The Association lost the services of its most famous Handicapper, C. D. Locock, after a lady struck him with her umbrella at Ranelagh in protest against being taken down; this was too much for the gentle Locock who resigned his post forthwith. Another curious case was that of a certain colonel who held that his correct handicap was 1 and that it should never be altered. When he won an event and was reduced to scratch he thereupon resigned from the C.A. Induced after some years to return (I think after a general raising of the handicap level), he soon won another event, was again reduced, and again resigned.

The right use of bisques raises endless problems, especially in doubles, but the most curious way of which I ever heard of solving these occurred at a tournament at Buxton. Two very high bisquers were playing together and of course receiving numerous bisques. It was noticed that though both players were equally in need of these, yet it was always the same player who took them. Someone asked the other lady why this was so. 'Oh, it's quite fair,' she replied, 'my friend paid the entrance fees for us both on the condition that she might take all the bisques'.

Many of us find our ambitions at Croquet thwarted by what appears to be a malign fate, but the most singular explanation of non-success which I ever heard was given to me by a jaunty fellow who took the game less seriously than most of us. 'You've got a good handicap,' I said to him, 'why don't you go further at tournaments?' 'To tell you the truth, old man,' he replied, 'I get on all right against men, but I can't do any good against women. If they're good lookers I haven't the heart to beat 'em, and if they're ugly I scratch to 'em.' I wonder if any of his lady opponents realized this or guessed into which category they fell!

Notes from the Clubs

Cheltenham

The Club Trophies Tournament opened on Saturday, 6th May. Mr. Jackson won the Championship for the 5th year in succession, though he was closely challenged by Mrs. Daniels. Mr. Thorp, in only his second year at the game, won the "B" Levels. Miss Sessions, also a beginner, won the "C" Handicap. Miss Wilkinson, an old campaigner, playing on 11½ bisques, won the Club Handicap, surely a record for a long bisquer.

The Whitsun American Tournament was ably managed by Miss Roe. We like to think it was a great success. It attracted six visitors from as far afield as Hurlingham and Roehampton, which is a sign that these Bank Holiday fixtures are popular with players who cannot afford the time for the normal week's tournament.

The two principal Golf Croquet Tournaments will be held on 9th July and 10th September starting at 2.45 p.m. Other evening tournaments starting at 6 p.m. are also arranged, as Golf Croquet is popular with non-regular players.

This Club is not alone in being forced to raise the subscription to £8, to keep pace with the rising cost of wages.

Mr. Colls has had to resign as Secretary owing to pressure of work and his probable return to Canada. Mr. Thorp has kindly agreed to take over this office.

Owing to incessant rain, visitors last year found the lawns very heavy. They will be glad to hear that they are fast this year, and some players have found it difficult not to go off!

Hurlingham

Intending competitors for our August tournament should notice an important change affecting high bisquers. As some of these have in past years not had a game until late Tuesday or Wednesday we have provided that high bisquers will have leave until Wednesday or Thursday as described in the conditions, which will avoid their hanging about to no purpose earlier in the week. Some there are of course who enjoy being present in any case, whether they are likely to be called or not, and they are naturally as welcome as ever.

A striking feature of our internal competitions was the defeat of Patrick Cotter by Alex Karmel in our Open Championships. This is evidence of the rapid improvement of our limb of the law. We have just heard of his games against John Solomon in the Men's Championship where he came off the course beaten but unbowed.

Budleigh Salterton

The club was pleased with their members who represented the Devon team in the County Championships. They beat the holders, Middlesex, and only failed to win the Championship by a narrow margin.

The club competitions are in full swing and keeping all players busy on the seven courts in regular use. The new watering scheme has proved its success by keeping courts green which would otherwise have been very brown in the recent drought.

The coaching scheme is proving successful and a lot of players are taking advantage of the services of the coach for the week.

After 6 weeks of lovely sunny weather, rain came on the day of the "Ladies v. Gentlemen" match on June 10th. The men showed their superiority in the morning and led by 6 matches to 2 but the Ladies nearly drew level in the afternoon by winning 3 matches out of 4 and losing the other by only one point. The men ran out winners by 7 matches to 5. Congratulations to John Cooper and J. K. Brown who won both their matches for the men and Mrs. Rotherham and Mrs. Vincent who did the same thing for the Ladies.

Cambridge University

The Inter-University matches started this year are undoubtedly a very healthy sign for croquet. In this case the initiative came from Liverpool and the Cambridge club was very pleased to play them at Cambridge on 4th June. Four single games were played, Cambridge winning all four, and three of them easily.

However, although the Liverpool team were not very experienced, they were very keen and no doubt will improve rapidly. We were again much indebted to Mrs. Heley for the use of her lawn.

RESULT:—Cambridge won 4-0.

Roehampton

A Golf Croquet Match was played at Roehampton on Tuesday, 30th May, against a visiting team from Dulwich. Each team consisted of six players, who played three Doubles each. At the end of a very pleasant afternoon, the result was that Roehampton won by one game. We were pleased to welcome Mrs. Atfield, who came to watch the games, and joined the teams for tea in the Roehampton Restaurant.

The Men's and Women's Championships were played at Roehampton during the week 12th-17th June, and are reported elsewhere. On Saturday afternoon, when the finals were being played, there were a number of spectators, among whom were Mr. and Mrs. Longman. Everyone was pleased to see Mr. Longman making such a good recovery after his recent serious illness.

Croquet members will be sorry to hear that Mr. J. B. Gilbert, Chairman of the Croquet Committee, has been taken seriously ill with coronary thrombosis. He was playing very good croquet indeed as recently as the Inter-County Championships, held at Hurlingham from 30th May to 2nd June. He was unfortunately taken ill at home during the following Sunday, and has been removed to Hospital. The good wishes of all the croquet members was sent to him by the Captain, with some flowers, and we hope to be able to report in our next issue that he is making a good recovery.

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting was held at the Hurlingham Club on 29th May, 1961, at 4.30 p.m. Sir Compton MacKenzie and W. Longman were unable to attend and Rev. G. F. H. Elvey took the Chair.

Present

Col. C. C. Adams, Mr. & Mrs. S. M. Adler, I. C. Baillieu, Cmdr. G. V. G. Beamish, G. Blackett, Rev. B. V. F. Brackenbury, Mr. & Mrs. B. Caillard, D. C. Caporn, Mrs. H. F. Chittenden, Col. J. G. Clarke, Mrs. H. J. Collins, A. J. Cooper, Major & Mrs. J. H. Dibley, E. P. Duffield, Rev. & Mrs. G. F. H. Elvey, G. V. Evans, Miss E. E. Fisher, Mrs. V. C. Gasson, Mrs. K. Gray, Mrs. E. Haigh Smith, Mrs. P. E. Heley, N. O. Hicks, J. A. Hollweg, Mr. & Mrs. A. D. Karmel, Miss D. A. Lintern, Miss A. E. Mills, V. A. de la Nougerede, A. J. Oldham, Mr. & Mrs. T. S. Oliver, Miss H. D. Parker, H. C. S. Perry, Mr. & Mrs. M. B. Reckitt, Mrs. E. Reeve, E. A. Roper, Mrs. E. Rotherham, F. Stanley-Smith, Mrs. A. W. Skempton, Dr. R. N. B. Smartt, Mrs. G. W. Solomon, J. W. Solomon, Miss D. D. Steel, Col. & Mrs. F. E. Stobart, Capt. H. G. Stoker, L. E. W. Stokes-Roberts, Brig. & Mrs. Stokes-Roberts, Mrs. Sundius-Smith, Cmdr. & Mrs. G. W. Style, Mrs. M. L. Thom, Major & Mrs. R. Tingey, Major P. Villiers, Mrs. E. M. Wills, Miss E. J. Warwick, J. G. Warwick, Dr. W. R. D. Wiggins.

Apologies for absence

Sir Compton MacKenzie, Mr. & Mrs. W. Longman, D. E. Buckland, G. N. B. Huskinson, Mr. & Mrs. D. E. Jacob, Rev. Canon R. Creed Meredith, Brig. J. S. Omond, Dr. G. L. Ormerod, J. M. Rivington.

The Rev. G. F. H. Elvey presided in the Chair as Vice-President.

Minutes

These were taken as read, passed and signed.

Report and Balance Sheet

Brig. Stokes-Roberts, Chairman of Council said that at the Croquet Dinner last year he suggested three items which he considered of the highest priority:

- (i) That we should increase the number of Associates. We have enrolled over forty new Associates to date this year.
- (ii) That we should press on with the production of the new revised Laws. He was able to report that these Laws are now on sale and were to be brought into force for the Inter-Counties, beginning 30th May. There is to be a specially bound copy for presentation to Her Majesty the Queen, our Patron.
- (iii) That we should put our finances in a sounder position and he thought that would depend on the A.G.M. agreeing to the new rates of subscription. One other matter connected with finance is the ways and means of increasing the fund for the Overseas Tour. He hoped Clubs would run gymkhanas, dances, bridge Tournaments, etc., to help build up this Fund. He would like to see at least £2,000 collected. Here is another way four of you can help—there is someone who is willing to put up £20 if four people can be found to do the same and so produce £100.

The Brigadier went on to say that in Publicity we have achieved a certain amount of success with the press. The "Times" has restarted a review of the season of croquet as a regular feature, and this month's issue of the "Scottish Field" has a full six-page article profusely illustrated. The new Laws and Dr. Ormerod's book are both selling well.

The Tatler took a lot of photographs of the Inter-Varsity Match which we hope will become an annual event.

He ended his speech with a special word of thanks to the Secretary and called upon Mr. Duffield, Chairman of the Finance Committee to present the Accounts.

Mr. Duffield analysed a few details of the Accounts and stressed that the deficit at the end of the year was more than appeared, as last year there was a small profit, and this year, despite a gift of £132 from the Felixstowe Club, there was a deficit. The Report and Balance Sheet were passed.

Due to the resignation of D. E. Buckland, Capt. H. G. Stoker proposed and Mr. Reckitt seconded that Major-General Wilson-Haffenden should be Treasurer and this was carried.

The result of the Council ballot was announced. The eight regular vacancies were filled by the six retiring members who offered themselves for re-election, and two new members, Messrs. A. D. Karmel and J. A. Hollweg. As Mrs. Turketine resigned on leaving London last year and Dr. Ormerod resigned just recently there were these two vacancies also, but neither would carry the usual three years tenure of Office. Mr. Elvey asked that the next two highest voted for should fill these places. This was agreed and accordingly Col. F. E. Stobart and R. F. Rothwell were elected to Council. The new Council thus being:—

Brig. A. E. Stokes-Roberts, (Chairman), J. W. Solomon (Vice-Chairman), I. C. Baillieu, Rev. B. V. F. Brackenbury, Mrs. H. F. Chittenden, Col. J. G. Clarke, Major J. H. Dibley, E. P. Duffield, G. V. Evans, J. A. Hollweg, G. N. B. Huskinson, A. D. Karmel, Miss D. A. Lintern, Rev. Canon R. Creed-Meredith, Brig. J. S. Omond, H. C. S. Perry, M. B. Reckitt, Mrs. E. Reeve, J. M. Rivington, Mrs. E. Rotherham, R. F. Rothwell, Col. F. E. Stobart, Cmdr. G. W. Style, Dr. W. R. D. Wiggins.

Thanks were given to Capt. H. G. Stoker and Mrs. E. Haigh-Smith for their goodness in acting as Scrutineers.

It was agreed that a sub-committee should be set up to revise Rules 6 and 12.

Mr. Solomon rose and said he was presenting the Motion of Council on raised subscriptions as fully set out in April *Croquet* for ratification.

Mrs. Dibley stressing that she was voicing her own ideas only said she thought it would have been better to put everyone's subscriptions up to £2 or £2 10s. Mr. Elvey then said that if the Croquet Association were to continue there were three essentials:

- (i) New recruits—nothing must be done to discourage them.
- (ii) We must not discourage old members who play only in their own Clubs and might resign if their subscriptions were raised.
- (iii) If our Association is to go on it must have adequate funds, and croquet would be in a poor way without the Association.

Mr. Elvey described the Motion as a most courageous attempt by the Council to meet the situation and he asked members to pass the Resolution unanimously.

Mr. Karmel then proposed an amendment in place of Canon Creed Meredith who was unable to be present:—

"While one member is paying the full subscription of three guineas for additional members of the same family and household the subscription shall be 30s. such additional members to enjoy full rights of membership as if they were paying three guineas, except that they shall not be entitled to copies of *Croquet*. But this rate of reduced subscription does not apply to Life membership".

Mr. Karmel presented an Amendment on behalf of Dr. Ormerod:—

"That the rate of Junior members shall be 20s. with all privileges, as long as they are under the age of 21 or undergoing full time education".

Mr. Elvey said the Council were willing to accept both amendments, they were seconded by Mr. Oliver and passed.

The resolution with amendments was then put to the Meeting and passed unanimously.

Report on the Triangular Test Tour

Mr. Reckitt said that having won the Trophy in 1956 it was enormously important that we should send the best possible team overseas to defend it. This team would be selected directly after the playing season ends and there would be a minimum of 7 players, *all on an equality*; from these the Captain would select his team for each Match.

It had been decided in Council that the Selectors for the Test Team would be the Test Tour Committee, consisting of M. B. Reckitt, Brig. A. E. Stokes-Roberts, J. W. Solomon and Miss D. A. Lintern, added to the Selectors elected for the Invitation Events this year.

The team would arrive in New Zealand about January 1st, 1963, and the first Match would be played against New Zealand at Dunedin on January 15th. They would work from South to North of the Islands finishing at Auckland, where it is hoped that they will stay on and play in the Dominion Championships.

The Vice-President welcomed Mrs. Wills, New Zealand Secretary, and said how glad we always were to welcome our friends from New Zealand. Mrs. Wills thanked the Council for inviting her to the A.G.M. and also for being so co-operative and accepting the Itinerary sent without any question. She was looking forward to meeting our Team over in New Zealand.

Any other business

The Brigadier told the Meeting that Mr. Ian Baillieu had spent long hours revising and re-framing the Laws. While he was away he had considerable correspondence with us and the Dominions. Apart from so many man-hours devoted to this project, he had disbursed considerable sums on secretarial work and postage, but when asked for an account would accept nothing. The cost of employing a legal expert for so long would be astronomical. We are indeed grateful for his generosity and as a mark of our appreciation and thanks the Chairman proposed that Mr. Baillieu be elected an Hon. Life Member of the Croquet Association.

In seconding this Motion Mr. Solomon said the efforts of New Zealand and of our own special Committee had been considerable, but the Laws could not have gone through without Mr. Baillieu and we all feel an immense debt of gratitude for his work.

Mr. Baillieu thanked the Council for the honour they had done him.

Mr. Solomon proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Elvey for so ably presiding over the meeting.

LAWS

I. C. Baillieu (*Chairman*)

E. P. Duffield, J. A. Hollweg, A. D. Karmel, Rev. Canon Creed Meredith, H. C. S. Perry, M. B. Reckitt, J. M. Rivington, Mrs. E. Reeve, Lt.-Cmdr. G. W. Style, Dr. W. R. D. Wiggins.

FINANCE & G.P.

Lt.-Cmdr. G. W. Style (*Chairman*)

Rev. B. V. F. Brackenbury, Col. J. G. Clarke, Major J. H. Dibley, E. P. Duffield, G. V. Evans, Miss D. A. Lintern, H. C. S. Perry, Rev. Canon Creed Meredith, Lt.-Col. F. E. Stobart.

HANDICAP APPEAL

Dr. W. R. D. Wiggins (*Chairman*)

Mrs. H. F. Chittenden, A. D. Karmel, Mrs. E. Reeve, Mrs. E. Rotherham.

TOURNAMENT

M. B. Reckitt (*Chairman*)

Rev. B. V. F. Brackenbury, Mrs. H. F. Chittenden, Major J. H. Dibley, Miss D. A. Lintern, H. C. S. Perry, Mrs. E. Reeve, J. M. Rivington, Mrs. E. Rotherham, R. F. Rothwell.

PUBLICITY

M. B. Reckitt (*Chairman*)

Major J. H. Dibley, G. V. Evans, J. A. Hollweg, Brig. J. S. Omond, J. M. Rivington, Lt.-Col. Stobart, Lt.-Cmdr. G. W. Style, G. N. B. Huskinson, Miss D. A. Lintern.

GOLF CROQUET

Miss D. A. Lintern (*Chairman*)

Col. J. G. Clarke, G. V. Evans, Brig. J. S. Omond, R. F. Rothwell.

To celebrate the new laws

On 25th May, the Chairman of the C.A., Brigadier A. E. Stokes-Roberts, was responsible for a gesture typical of him and very much appreciated by those who participated. It was to have a cocktail party at the Hurlingham Club to celebrate the publication of the New Laws of Croquet. Some 70 Associates were present and particularly noteworthy was the inclusion among the company of some who had travelled many miles for the occasion. Among others we saw Sir Miles Graham from Nottingham, Major Abbey and Lady Ursula from Wiltshire, Commander and Mrs. Style from Sussex. It was, of course, fitting that most of those responsible for reshaping the new Laws were present, Ian Baillieu, John Solomon, Bobbie Wiggins and, of course, Maurice Reckitt, without whom no croquet function is complete. William Longman's recent illness prevented his attendance but Mrs. Longman brought welcome news of his good recovery.

Mrs. Stokes-Roberts, who has herself recently become an Associate, ably supported the Brigadier and contributed to a very successful evening.

HUNSTANTON

We have been asked by several of our friends from other Clubs to hold a Croquet weekend in July, and we have arranged to have an "At Home" on July 15th/16th, when visitors will be very welcome. Inter-club matches and competitions will be arranged. Please let the Hon. Secretary know if you can come.

Questions and Answers

Question: Is it necessary, for *croquet players* as well as referees to obtain and study the New Laws carefully?

Answer: Yes, indeed, because the whole set-up is completely different and although there are not many major changes in the actual laws there are many smaller points which one should know, especially in the "limit of claims" ignorance of which may make a great difference to players.

Question: Does the word "foul" appear in the laws now?

Answer: No, it has been changed to the word "fault" chiefly to please the Dominions. Law 32 includes all these and one should especially note Law 32(a)(xii) which is definitely a fault and must be treated as such but note 32(b)1, "If during a *Croquet stroke* the turn would have ended under Law 19(e)" (the striker's ball *having been sent off the court*), the adversary has the option of having the ball replaced or the ball off the Court just replaced on the boundary and the turn ends in either case. M.M.R.

SOUTH AFRICAN OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS

The South African Open Championships were held at Pretoria from the 17th to 22nd October, 1960.

SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIP THE BELCHER CUP

The Croquet Association Silver and Bronze Medals
(16 Entries)

FIRST ROUND

Miss M. I. Simkins bt Mrs. Stewart by 20.
Miss E. Risley bt Mrs. McFadzean by 22.
Miss Jones-Bateman bt Miss M. Chick by 1.
Mrs. Saunders bt Mrs. A. Pons by 1.
Mrs. Gray bt Mrs. F. Bull by 6.
Mr. G. Neaves bt Mrs. B. Hough by 1.
Mr. F. Hough bt Mr. C. Gillespie by 18.
Mrs. P. Arbuthnot bt Mrs. H. Neaves by 20.

SECOND ROUND

Miss M. I. Simkins bt Miss E. Risley by 10.
Miss Jones-Bateman bt Mrs. Sanders by 9.
Mr. G. Neaves bt Mrs. Gray by 22.
Mrs. P. Arbuthnot bt Mr. F. Hough by 17.

SEMI-FINAL

Miss M. I. Simkins bt Miss Jones-Bateman by 20.
Mr. G. Neaves bt Mrs. P. Arbuthnot by 2.

FINAL

Mr. G. Neaves bt Miss M. I. Simkins by 21 and 16.

DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIP LADY STEELE SILVER SALVER (8 Pairs)

FIRST ROUND

Mr. C. Gillespie and Miss Jones-Bateman bt Mrs. Saunders and Mrs. Pons by 17.
Miss E. Risley and Miss M. Chick bt Mrs. H. Neaves and Mrs. F. Bull by 16.
Mr. and Mrs. F. Hough bt Mrs. P. Arbuthnot and Mrs. McFadzean by 13.
Mrs. Stewart and Mrs. Gray bt Mr. G. Neaves and Miss M. Simkins by 3.

SECOND ROUND

Miss E. Risley and Miss M. Chick bt Miss Jones-Bateman and Mr. C. Gillespie by 17.
Mr. and Mrs. F. Hough bt Mrs. Stewart and Mrs. Gray by 20.

FINAL

Mr. and Mrs. F. Hough bt. Miss E. Risley and Miss M. Chick by 12.

WANTED.—Second-hand mallets, hoops, and balls to provide a start for a new club. Mr. E. M. Holroyd, 45 Montem Lane, Slough, Bucks.

HANDICAPS CONFIRMED OR ALTERED BY THE HANDICAP CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE

June 17th, 1961

IPSWICH

D. W. Curtis 2½ to 1½.

HURLINGHAM RECOMMENDATIONS

A. W. Skempton 9 to 8.
Mrs. A. W. Skempton 12 to 11.
L. E. W. Stokes-Roberts 9 to 8.
N. M. Baldwin 8.
B. L. B. Caillard 14 to 12.

RYDE

G. Birch 1½ to 1.
Mrs. A. R. Brown 14 to 13.
Mrs. K. M. Lowein 15 to 13.

NOTTINGHAM

BEFORE PLAY
E. A. L. Sulley 12 to 10*.
AFTER PLAY
Miss E. C. Brumpton 7 to 6.
E. A. L. Sulley 10 to 9.
NON-ASSOCIATES
A. S. Bucknell 9 to 7.
Miss E. M. Brumpton 12 to 11.

SOUTHWICK

BEFORE PLAY
Mrs. Turketine 3 to 3*.
AFTER PLAY
Miss E. E. Bennett 9½ to 9.
W. H. Austin 8 to 6½.
Mrs. A. Topp 12 to 10.
Mrs. Naylor 13 to 11.
Miss H. D. Parker 3½ to 3.

SOUTHWICK RECOMMENDATIONS CONFIRMED

NON-ASSOCIATE
Major R. Driscoll 9 to 7.

ASSOCIATE
Mrs. W. A. Naylor 11 to 9½.

CHELTENHAM

Mrs. D. M. C. Prichard 10 to 10 (D 9).
Miss K. Sessions 11 to 10.
E. Sidwell 5 to 4½.

NON-ASSOCIATE
Miss L. Wilkinson 12 to 10.

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIPS

A. D. Karmel 1½ to 1.
Miss I. M. Roe 3½ to 2.
Capt. H. G. Stoker ½ to —½.

BUDLEIGH SALTERTON

Miss A. J. Cooper 7 to 6½.
G. R. Mills 7 to 6.

Canon A. W. Pym 2½ to 4½ (personal request).

COMPTON

Dr. H. R. McAleenan 10.

OBITUARY

C. F. BAILEY

The S.C.C. Club learnt with regret of the sudden death last month of an old member of theirs, C. F. Bailey. He left the Club several years ago, but some members will remember very pleasant games played with and against him. He was always a very keen and a charming opponent.

Miss L. HULTON

Miss L. Hulton, died peacefully in her sleep on the morning of May 22nd, 1961. Miss Hulton was a well-known figure of the Cheltenham Club. Her remarkable hitting and hoop-running were the strongest part of her game, had her tactics been as good, she would have been practicably unbeatable.

TOURNAMENTITIS

I wonder why tournament players are prone
To suffer from tension and stress.
I'm brimming with confidence; nerves I don't own,
I know that I'll meet with success.

The fellow I've drawn is a pitiful sight
Whose limbs uncontrolledly shake,
His normally ruddy complexion is white,
No odds on his chances I'd take.

The toss he has won and decides to go in
He speaks with a quavering voice,
I give him a friendly encouraging grin,
But inwardly how I rejoice!

My shooting is good, I connect with the tice,
Then gather the balls into court
And lay out a break, in a manner precise,
Which leaves me the rush that I sought.

It's straight for hoop one and is cleverly wired,
He's left with a shot that is long.
But something's amiss, for he's looking inspired,
Determined and suddenly strong.

My nerves are on edge, and with shame I could blush
For, though it's amazing it's true,
I notice with horror my beautiful rush
Is set out for yellow and blue!

The blighter goes round off the break that I laid,
He plays like a Reckitt or Hicks.
I shoot and I miss and the hopes I had fade,
He beats me by plus 26.

N.P.

ROEHAMPTON v. BRIGHTON

at Brighton, June 6th

SINGLES

L. Kirk Greene bt Major R. Tingey by 25.
Miss J. Daldy bt Miss D. Lintern by 5.
Mrs. R. Tingey bt Mrs. Chittenden by 8.
Col. E. Stobart bt Mrs. G. W. Solomon by 3.

DOUBLES

L. Kirk Greene and Mrs. Chittenden bt Major and Mrs. R. Tingey by 18.
Col. F. Stobart and Miss J. Daldy bt Miss D. Lintern and Mrs. G. W. Solomon by 13.
RESULT:—Brighton won 5-1.

CHELTENHAM

WHITSUN AMERICAN TOURNAMENT

No bisques were needed by the Cheltenham Club to bring their annual Whitsun weekend (American) tournament to a plus twenty-six success. The visitors from Watford, London, Leamington and Bristol enjoyed their weekend respite amidst the hospitality and beautiful surroundings and amenities of the club. The proceedings were brought to an end early on Whit-Monday evening with a speech by the President—Col. Daniels—and distribution of prizes by Mrs. Jackson. The deserving winners are listed below. Miss I. M. Roe managed very efficiently.

Played in 4 blocks.

"A" E Sidwell (6);

"B" and "C" Play-off Miss Ponsord (6½) bt Mr. Curtis (8)

"D" Miss Leonard (10).

Council Meeting Minutes

Minutes of a Council Meeting held at 4 Southampton Row on Thursday, March 2nd, 1961.

Present

Brig. A. E. Stokes-Roberts (Chair), I. C. Baillieu, Rev. B. V. F. Brackenbury, Mrs. H. F. Chittenden, Col. J. G. Clarke, Maj. J. H. Dibley, E. P. Duffield, Miss D. A. Lintern, Rev. Canon Creed Meredith, Brig. J. S. Omond, H. C. S. Perry, J. M. Rivington, Mrs. E. Rotherham, Lt.-Cmdr. G. W. Style, Dr. W. R. D. Wiggins and Mrs. V. C. Gasson (Secretary).

Apologies for Absence

Col. C. C. Adams, Rev. G. F. H. Elvey, G. V. Evans, Mrs. P. E. Heley, G. N. B. Huskinson, W. Longman, Dr. G. L. Ormerod, M. B. Reckitt, Mrs. E. Reeve and J. W. Solomon.

Minutes of meeting of 9th February

Cmdr. Style presented a new paper relating to subscriptions and it was agreed to adopt this and to erase the paragraph on subscriptions in the Minutes.

A correction—The vote in favour of increased subscriptions was 17-3, not 15 as stated. The Minutes were then signed by the Chairman.

Arising out of Minutes

The Chairman said Cmdr. Style had written a most instructive and informative article on the C.A. finance for the April *Croquet* and he would like particularly to associate himself with that article: that he proposed to take the Motion as a vote of confidence at the A.G.M. and if it were defeated he could no longer remain in the Chair to carry out a policy he considered to be disastrous.

Cmdr. Style proposed and Mr. Duffield seconded adding an addition as written to items 4 and 7 on his paper, and in item 3, last sentence erasing the first two words (on attaining) and substituting "In the year following the attainment of their majority," etc. This was agreed.

Questions

Major Dibley asked when the Annual General Meeting was fixed, and told May 29th, at Hurlingham Club at 4.30 p.m. He also asked what shortened games were agreed upon for Tournaments and was told all this was set out in Part V of the new Laws.

Notices of Motion

Motion by Canon Creed Meredith: "That this Council deems it competent for a member, in a minority on a Council decision which has to be ratified by the A.G.M., to voice his views at the A.G.M. without first resigning from the Council".

Report of Publicity Committee

This was presented by the Chairman. Item 1 on the report was Dr. Ormerod's book, and the Chairman felt the Laws should be coupled with this. With regard to the annual Croquet Review that used to be in *The Times*, by request Mr. Reckitt has written an article which this paper will publish at the beginning of the season, and this may be an annual event once more. The Council accepted the Publicity Report.

Re-draft of Laws

Part IV, Customs of the Game, Regulations 15 A—E and Laws of Golf Croquet were signed by the Chairman. It was decided Part V should be left exclusively to Mr. Solomon to review and that he could co-opt anyone to help him. Also that the Chairman should be authorised to sign these when ready without further reference to Council.

It was decided that if, owing to illness, Mrs. Reeve was unable to do the revision on the Regulations, Mr. Perry would do this.

Minutes of a Council Meeting held at the Hurlingham Club on April 6th, 1961.

Present

Brig. A. E. Stokes-Roberts (Chairman), I. C. Baillieu, Rev. B. V. F. Brackenbury, Mrs. H. F. Chittenden, Major J. H. Dibley, E. P. Duffield, Rev. Canon R. Creed Meredith, H. C. S. Perry, M. B. Reckitt, Mrs. E. Reeve, J. M. Rivington, Cmdr. G. W. Style, Dr. W. R. D. Wiggins and Mrs. V. C. Gasson (Secretary).

Apologies for absence

Col. C. C. Adams, Col. J. G. Clarke, G. V. Evans, G. N. B. Huskinson, W. Longman, Brig. J. S. Omond, Dr. G. L. Ormerod and Mrs. E. Rotherham.

Arising out of Minutes

Under "Raised subscriptions" it was pointed out that the question of the Tribute had been overlooked. It was finally agreed that the wording should be changed to "A tribute as fixed by the Council and Reg. 5(b)." Proposed by Mr. Rivington, seconded by Mr. Reckitt and unanimously agreed. Mr. Rivington and Cmdr. Style were authorised to bring this into effect in the galley proof.

After much discussion it was decided to leave the paragraph on Professionalism in the book, but delete the sentence "a player who has played for prize money".

The addition of a Regulation entitled "Pegged down game" was approved but the proposed deletion of (k) under Powers and Duties of a Manager, was vetoed and is to be retained.

A small Committee composed of the Chairman, Mr. Rivington and Mr. Baillieu was given power to fix prices for sale of Law books overseas.

Questions

Mr. Duffield asked if we had come to an understanding with New Zealand and Australia as to how many Regulations were to be in the Law books and was told that they were all to be included.

Mr. Perry asked if Rule 18 headed "Local Clubs" could omit the word 'local'. This was agreed.

Correspondence

The Chairman read the correspondence to and from the Queen, and it was decided to publish this in June *Croquet*.

The Secretary read a letter from Mrs. Longman saying her husband was ill with heart trouble. The Council asked the Secretary to write and express their sorrow and send all good wishes for a speedy recovery.

It was decided to make a Local Regulation (a) that so far as Tournaments held under the auspices of the C.A. are concerned, no referee on appeal may have the power to award a fault under Law 32. Accordingly it is contrary to etiquette to appeal on such a matter. Mr. Perry asked a question as to the auditors accounting of Tournaments and it was decided that a uniform method of Tournament accounting should be proposed by the Finance Committee.

Report of the Dominion Tour Committee

Mr. Reckitt, its Chairman, presented this Report and said that the following were the main points which had been discussed and certain recommendations would need ratification.

1. How the Team Selection Committee should be composed. It was suggested that the current Selection Committee for Invitation Events should be combined with the Dominion Tour Committee. When a Captain had been chosen he should be invited to join the Selection Committee. The first selections should be made as soon as the season was over. The Team should consist of 7/8 players, from whom the Captain should choose his team for Matches. Mr. Reckitt said that he was glad to say that from the preliminary replies there would appear to be enough good players likely to be available.
2. Finance. There must be a sum set aside for return hospitality. All monies available should be allocated to all players, with a rider added to the effect that if they felt able to surrender all or any part of this money it would greatly assist the team as a whole. Two members must go as plenipotentiaries to help the Manager revise conditions and regulations for the MacPherson Trophy with New Zealand and Australia.
3. Badges, blazers, etc. These must have the word "England" on them and the dates of the years any player had represented his country before. The Chairman said he had already been in touch with Lewin's, who were submitting designs. In discussing Selectors for Invitation events Mr. Reckitt said he thought it wise not to have any possible players on the Committee. Council accepted the Report.

Canon Creed Meredith's Motion

The Canon withdrew this motion.

Mr. Longman's Amendment to Mr. Solomon's Motion

As neither Mr. Longman nor Mr. Solomon were present it was decided to defer this motion until the next meeting.

The Chairman said that he had had a letter from Dr. Ormerod resigning from the Council, owing to difficulties in attending. The Council expressed their great regret.

INTER-COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

Hurlingham. May 30th—June 2nd, 1961

There was one county fewer competing this year than in 1960—due to Sussex failing to enter, an omission which we hope will be rectified next year. Their absence had the slight merit that all the matches were able to be played at Hurlingham, with no problems of transportation to and from Roehampton.

The event proved to be as exciting as any for many years and the issue was in fact not decided until the very last game of the tournament. Perhaps the critical moment was, however, 24 hours earlier. At 5.45 p.m. on Thursday heavy odds could have been laid on Devon winning the Championship for the first time; they had won their previous three matches, they had an easy match to come on Friday morning and were poised to beat Surrey, at 1 game each and a handful of points ahead in the remaining game, with minutes only remaining of the 3½ hour time limit. At this point, had the Devon pair had more time awareness and a consciousness of the risks attending their play, they could have certainly denied Surrey the spoils by scattering their balls to the boundary. However, in a laudable desire to finish the game, Devon being for peg and rover, Miss Mills tried for the rover and failed, Adams and Gilbert of Surrey being at this stage for 2-back and penultimate respectively. Adams then started his final turn, during which time was called, and by accurate and deliberate play not only went to the peg and pegged out but peeled his partner through the penultimate hoop. Surrey were, therefore, one point ahead with Devon, under the new Regulations, having one further turn. The long shot failing, Surrey won the match. The pity was that with the inclement weather of Thursday so few onlookers were present to see the spectacular finish.

By losing to Surrey, Devon had forfeited their chance since they could only stand to equal Surrey or Middlesex in matches but would in either case be behind in games won. The interesting situation prior to the last round, consisting of one match only, between Middlesex and Surrey, was that Surrey would be champions if they either beat Middlesex or, if losing, won one game out of the three. Middlesex, to retain the Championship, required to win all three games. The first game to finish was that in which Cotter and Solomon beat Hicks and Hamilton Miller, Solomon having got round early and Cotter following after one or two set-backs. In the second game Hollweg and Tingey for Middlesex were throughout ahead of Reckitt and Wiggins and were set to win, being laid for the peg, when Reckitt hit in across the lawn (reminiscent of a similar occasion in a game against Devon last year), and began to recover lost ground. Failing, however, after making 3-back, the balance swung back to Middlesex, who finished the game. All depended, therefore, on the third match where Miss Lintern and Townsend had maintained an early lead against the Surrey pair, Adams and Gilbert, and were 3 points ahead when time put an end to the game—and the Championships. Middlesex, were perhaps a little fortunate in having the opportunity thrust upon them in the last round but they seized their chance and so clung to the Championships for the fourth year in succession. If Surrey and Devon can, however, retain their same teams next year, we can well foresee a change of holder.

Among the many other interesting games during the week was the somewhat unforeseen victory of Della and Hill Bernhard against Solomon and Hollweg, the last named finding the fifth hoop an apparently unconquerable barrier to progress, and their win by Dibley and Chigwell against Cooper and Smartt. Hants and Dorset in fact did very creditably considering two of the first choices, Canon Creed Meredith and Mrs. Latham, had to cry off.

Eastern Counties were somewhat stronger on paper than in recent years and with a little more luck would have won more than 4 games.

The Oxon Berks and Bucks team contained gifted players who are nowadays rather out of match practice and they proved rather ready victims for their more match tight opponents.

For the record, the total games won by each county were: Middlesex 12, Surrey 11, Devon 10, Hants and Dorset 7, Eastern Counties 4, Oxon Berks and Bucks 1.

Mrs. Thom graced the Manager's tent efficiently and was as ever thoughtful in the prosaic but welcome matters of coffee and tea.

Analysis of Play

Middlesex won 4 matches; namely, against Eastern Counties 3-0, Hants and Dorset 2-1, Oxon, Berks and Bucks 3-0, Surrey 3-0, and lost 1 match to Devon 1-2.

Surrey won 4 matches; namely, against Devon 2-1, Eastern Counties 3-0, Hants and Dorset 3-0, Oxon, Berks and Bucks 3-0, and lost 1 match to Middlesex 0-3.

Devon won 4 matches; namely, against Eastern Counties 2-1, Hants and Dorset 2-1, Middlesex 2-1, Oxon, Berks and Bucks 3-0 and lost 1 match to Surrey 1-2.

Hants and Dorset won 2 matches; namely, against Eastern Counties 2-1, Oxon, Berks and Bucks 3-0 and lost 3 matches to Devon 1-2, Middlesex 1-2, Surrey 0-3.

Eastern Counties won 1 match, namely, against Oxon, Berks and Bucks 2-1, and lost 4 matches to Devon 1-2, Hants and Dorset 1-2, Middlesex 0-3, Surrey 0-3.

Oxon, Berks and Bucks lost 5 matches, namely to Devon 0-3, Eastern Counties 1-2, Hants and Dorset 0-3, Middlesex 0-3, Surrey 0-3.

Revival of University Croquet

The newly formed Cambridge University Croquet Club played its first match on Sunday, May 7th. This event, organised by Mr. David Curtis, who also led the opposing team, took place at Hunstanton by kind permission of that Club. Favoured with fine and bright weather for most of the time, six Singles and two Doubles were deftly fitted into the day, which, for some members of the University Team, was their first introduction to real competitive croquet. Cambridge, captained on this occasion by Mr. Derek Watson, have some accurate hitters and players, who, notwithstanding their inexperience, are capable of making useful breaks. An intelligent appreciation of croquet mechanics was also quite evident and it came as no surprise to learn that one at least of the new players was a snooker and billiard enthusiast. When their natural abilities are allied to a knowledge of tactics and the judicious use of bisques, they will be formidable opponents; as witness the progress Arthur Reed and Derek Watson have already made.

The latter set an example to his team by playing steadily and using his bisques wisely to beat Curtis, a task many of us find hard to do at the best of times. A newcomer, J. H. McLachlan, took advantage of his opportunities to win a quick game against Puxon by a large margin. None of the Cambridge players, however, seemed able to reproduce their form in the Doubles and their opponents were soon well ahead.

It is most encouraging to be told that at its inaugural meeting the University Club attracted an attendance of thirty to forty persons, who came, not to scoff but to learn. As to their enthusiasm, that of the members of the team has been made clear by their willingness to travel a long distance to play and by the fact that like all true croquet players, they came prepared for, but remained oblivious of, the typical English rain storm. One wishes that before long they might have their own ground in Cambridge. An invaluable and badly needed 'shop window' would thereby be created in surroundings which are outstandingly attractive. In the mean time, it is to be hoped that undergraduates will be seen again at other clubs and tournaments during the season; they can be sure of a welcome.

Not the least enjoyable part of the day in Hunstanton was the hospitality afforded by Mrs. Clarke and her helpers, who seemed determined to overwhelm both teams with tea, sandwiches and home-made cakes. To these ladies the thanks of all the players are due.

RESULTS

Mr. Curtis' players named first Singles

Mrs. E. Whitehead (14) lost to G. S. Pawley (14) by 7 on time. Miss S. G. Hampson (9) bt G. L. Johnson (14) by 7 on time. F. E. M. Puxon (9) lost to J. H. McLachlan (14) by 19. A. J. Oldham (6½) bt C. J. E. Dashwood (14) by 3. E. Whitehead (2½) bt E. A. L. Sulley (12) by 15. D. W. Curtis (2½) lost to D. R. Watson (7½) by 12.

Doubles

F. E. M. Puxon and D. W. Curtis (11½) bt C. J. E. Dashwood and E. A. L. Sulley (26) by 9 on time. A. J. Oldham and E. Whitehead (9) bt J. H. McLachlan and D. R. Watson (21½) by 10 on time.

Result of Match

D. W. Curtis' Team: 5 matches.
C.U. Croquet Club: 3 matches.

Gilbey Cup and Golf Challenge Cups

will be played for at

THE ROEHAMPTON CLUB

THURSDAY, AUGUST 17th, to SATURDAY, AUGUST 26th, inclusive

Committee.—The Tournament Committee of the Croquet Association.

Manager and Handicapper.—Miss D. A. Lintern and Miss Mills, assistant.

Referee.—Col. C. C. Adams.

Secretary.—The Secretary, C.A., The Hurlingham Club, S.W.6.

Open to Associates only

The Challenge Cups

1.—FIRST DIVISION. THE ROEHAMPTON CHALLENGE CUP (Open). Entrance Fee, 13s. This Event will be played on the "Two-Life" system. Holder, Major R. Tingey.

2.—SECOND DIVISION. THE COUNCIL CHALLENGE CUP. Open to Associates handicapped at 2½ to 5½ bisques inclusive. Entrance Fee, 11s. Level play. Matches of single games throughout. Law 44 partially suspended. Holder, Mrs. S. M. Adler.

3.—THIRD DIVISION. THE RECKITT CHALLENGE CUP. Open to Associates handicapped at 6-8½ bisques inclusive. Entrance Fee, 11s. Matches of single games throughout. Level play. Law 44 suspended. Holder, Mrs. F. N. H. Davidson.

4.—FOURTH DIVISION. THE STEVENSON CHALLENGE CUP. Open to Associates handicapped at 9 bisques or over. Entrance Fee, 11s. Matches of single games throughout. Level play. Law 44 suspended. Holder, J. E. Andrews.

N.B.—No competitor may enter for more than one of the above Events.

6.—THE "GILBEY" CUP HANDICAP SINGLES. This Event will be drawn in four blocks. "A", "B", "C", and "D" according to handicaps. Entrance Fee, 11s. Matches of single games throughout. To qualify for the "Gilbey" Cup the winner of "A" v. "B" will play the winner of "C" v. "D". Holders: The Event, F. H. Curtis; Block "A", Major R. Tingey; Block "B", Miss A. E. Mills; Block "C", J. E. Andrews.

7.—HANDICAP DOUBLES. Combined handicaps of 4 bisques or over. Entries should be made in pairs. Entrance Fee, 11s. each person. Matches of single games throughout. Holders: Mrs. R. Tingey and Mrs. F. H. N. Davidson.

8.—GOLF CROQUET SINGLES. THE "ASCOT" CHALLENGE CUP. Open to all. Entrance Fee, 6s. The competition will be played under the Official Rules of Golf Croquet. Played in two blocks according to handicaps: the winners of the blocks playing off to decide the winner of the Cup. Holder, Mrs. Davidson.

9.—GOLF CROQUET DOUBLES. THE "DELVES BROUGHTON" CHALLENGE CUPS. Presented by the late Sir Delves Broughton. Open to pairs with a combined croquet handicap of not less than 4 bisques. Entrance Fee, 6s. each person. The competition will be played under the Official Rules of Golf Croquet. Entries should be made in pairs. Holders, Major and Mrs. R. Tingey.

CONDITIONS

Hoops 3½ in. wide. Jaques' "Eclipse" balls will be used. Six courts will be provided. Flat-soled footwear must be worn.

ENTRIES

The entries accompanied by the Entrance Fees made on official entry forms, for Events 1 to 6, 8, 9, must be sent to the Secretary, C.A., so as to reach her not later than the first post on Monday, August 14th, and for Event 7 (in pairs) by 11 a.m. on Friday, August 18th. Competitors must give with their Entries, the address at which messages will reach them during the tournament.

DRAW

The Draw for the Challenge Cups and Gilbey Cup will take place at the Croquet Offices, Hurlingham Club, S.W.6, on Monday, August 14th, at 11 a.m. The Draw for Event 7 (Handicap Doubles) will take place at the Roehampton Club at noon on Friday, August 18th.

BRIGHTON

THE FORTY-EIGHTH
AUTUMN TOURNAMENT

MONDAY, AUGUST 28th and FIVE FOLLOWING DAYS

To be held on the Lawns of the Sussex County Croquet Club, Victoria Road, Southwick, Sussex.

(Under the Laws and Regulations of the C.A.)

Manager and Handicapper: Major J. H. Dibley.

Referee: E. A. Roper.

Hon. Tournament Secretary.—Miss M. J. Daldy, 10 Lansdowne Road, Hove, Sussex.

EVENTS

1.—OPEN SINGLES ("Two Lives" system). THE SUSSEX GOLD CUP presented by the late E. R. Harrison. Entrance Fee, 13s.

2.—LEVEL SINGLES (CLASS B). Law 44 suspended. THE FRANC CUP presented by the late Mrs. H. Franc. Open to players handicapped 3-5½ bisques. Entrance Fee, 10s. 6d.

3.—HANDICAP SINGLES (CLASS 3). THE MONTEITH BOWL presented by the late G. C. Braithwaite. Open to players handicapped 6 and over. Entrance Fee, 10s. 6d.

4.—HANDICAP SINGLES. THE MAURICE RECKITT BOWL presented by Mr. M. B. Reckitt. Entrance Fee, 10s. 6d.

5.—HANDICAP DOUBLES. Unrestricted. Entrance Fee, 10s. 6d. each partner.

All games in Event 5 to start at No. 3 hoop.

ENTRIES

Players may not enter for more than one of Events 1, 2 or 3. Entries on official forms please, for 1, 2, 3 and 4, must reach the Hon. Secretary by first post on Thursday, August 24th, but may close earlier if necessary.

THE DRAW

The Draw for 1, 2, 3 and 4, will take place at Southwick on Thursday, August 24th, at 2.30 p.m., and Event 5 on Tuesday, August 29th.

Post cards will be sent to all those required to play before noon on Monday.

PLAY

Play will commence at 10 a.m. and continue till 6.30 p.m. or later if necessary. Players coming from a distance, requiring leave, should notify it on their Entry Form. No leave will be granted later than 12 noon, Monday.

GENERAL

Standard setting, 3½ inch hoops and Jaques' "Eclipse" Balls will be used. Ten courts will be available.

Flat-soled footwear must be worn.

Competitors will be made hon. members of the Club during the Tournament.

TRANSPORT

Green buses along the Brighton front leave the Palace Pier every seven minutes. The 9.30 bus arrives Southwick, Grange Road, 9.40 a.m. From Worthing bus service every quarter of an hour and train service to Southwick four times an hour.

BRIGHTON

[Unofficial]

An unofficial tournament will be held on

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 4th, and FIVE FOLLOWING DAYS

(Under C.A. Laws and Regulations)

Manager, Referee and Handicapper.—Miss D. D. Steel.

Hon. Tournament Secretary.—Miss M. J. Daldy, 10 Lansdowne Road, Hove 3, Sussex.

EVENTS

1.—HANDICAP SINGLES. 3½ bisques and under. Entrance Fee, 10s.

2.—HANDICAP SINGLES. 4-7 bisques. Entrance Fee, 10s.

3.—HANDICAP SINGLES. 7½-10 bisques. Entrance Fee, 10s.

4.—HANDICAP SINGLES. 10½ bisques and over. Shortened games, first hoop to two-back and peg. Entrance Fee, 8s.

5.—HANDICAP SINGLES. Entrance Fee, 10s.

6.—HANDICAP DOUBLES. Combined handicap not less than 5. All games start at number 3 hoop. Entrance Fee, 10s.

Entries, on official forms, please, for Events 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 must reach the Hon. Secretary not later than first post Thursday, August 31st.

Event 6 will be drawn at 2.30 p.m. Tuesday, September 5th.

Luncheons and teas will be obtainable in the Club canteen.

DIRECTORY OF CLUBS

A.E.R.E. Croquet Club—Secretary, Mr. D. Pepper, Chem.Eng.Div., Atomic Energy Research Establishment, Harwell, Didcot, Berks.

All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club—Church Road, Wimbledon, S.W.19.

Argideen Vale L.T. and Croquet Club—Hon. Secretary, Mrs. Barrett, Mount Prospect, Bandon, Co. Cork.

Barnes Sports Club—Hon. Secretary (Croquet Section), Mrs. M. E. Bernard, Lonsdale Road, Barnes, S.W.13.

Barnstaple—Hon. Secretary, Mrs. F. M. Hurley, Buena Vista, Barbican Lane, Barnstaple, Devon.

Benfleet—Capt. and Mrs. E. Bluelock, 10 Clarence Road, S. Benfleet, Essex.

Bentley (Brentwood)—Hon. Secretary, F. Stanley-Smith, Hatch House, Pilgrims Hatch, Brentwood.

Birmingham (Edgbaston)—Hon. Secretary, Dr. B. R. Sandiford, 150 Great Charles Street, Birmingham.

Bowdon—Hon. Secretary, F. H. Bruges, 21 Burlington Road, Altrincham, Cheshire.

Bristol Croquet Club—Hon. Secretary, Miss K. M. S. Ault, 10 Westbury Park, Bristol 6.

British Rayon Research Croquet Club—Hon. Secretary, E. M. Holroyd, 9 Lawrence Road, Hazel Grove, Stockport, Cheshire.

Budleigh Salterton—Hon. Secretary, Major G. F. Stone, Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club, Budleigh Salterton.

Cambridge Municipal Parks Croquet—Mrs. P. E. Heley, 40 Newton Road, Cambridge.

Carrickmines Croquet and Lawn Tennis Club—Hon. Secretary, Mrs. B. T. O'Reilly, Ballynamote, Carrickmines, Dublin.

Cassiobury (Watford)—Hon. Secretary, Mrs. Owen, 109 Cassiobury Park Avenue, Watford, Herts.

Chelmsford and Mid-Essex Croquet Club—Hon. Secretary, Miss G. Metcalfe, Yoredale, Finchley Avenue, Chelmsford.

Cheltenham—Hon. Secretary, W. H. Thorp, Cheltenham Croquet Club, Old Bath Road, Cheltenham.

Colchester—Hon. Secretary, E. P. Duffield, Acland Lodge, Acland Avenue, Colchester.

Compton (Eastbourne)—Hon. Secretary, C. J. Speer, 36c Upperton Gardens, Eastbourne, Sussex.

Crouch Hill Recreation Club (85a Crouch Hill, N.4)—Hon. Secretary, Mrs. L. Thorn, 26 Priory Road, N.8.

Dulwich Croquet Club—Hon. Secretary, Mrs. R. L. Lydall, 17 Woodbourne Avenue, Streatham.

East Dorset Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club (Parkstone)—Hon. Secretary, Mrs. J. A. McMordie, East Dorset L.T. & Croquet Club, Saltern's Road, Parkstone, Dorset.

Edinburgh Croquet Club (Lauriston Castle)—Hon. Secretary, Mrs. R. V. Hall, Rock House, Calton Hill, Edinburgh 7.

Exmouth Croquet and Lawn Tennis Club—Hon. Secretary, Lt.-Col. C. S. Lazenby, The Club House, Cranford, Exmouth.

Folkestone L.T. and Croquet Club—Hon. Secretary, Mrs. T. D. Key, The Prince's Hotel, Bouverie Road West, Folkestone.

Glasgow Croquet Club—Hon. Secretary, Mrs. R. MacA. Brown, 15 Clincarthill Road, Rutherglen, Glasgow.

Heathfield (Lyford Road, London, S.W.18)—Hon. Secretary, Mrs. M. Francis, White Cottage, 68 Lyford Road, London, S.W.18.

Hunstanton—Hon. Secretary, Mrs. J. A. Clarke, 49 Northgate, Hunstanton.

Hurlingham—The Secretary, Fulham, S.W.6.

Ipswich (Arboretum)—Hon. Secretary, Miss H. R. Allen, 101 Constable Road, Ipswich.

Lampeter—Hon. Secretary, D. Tansill, St. David's College, Lampeter, Cardiganshire.

Leamington Spa. The Croquet Secretary, Guys Cliffe Avenue, Leamington Spa.

Littlehampton Croquet Club—Hon. Secretary, Miss Hale, Elmer, St. Winifred's Road, Littlehampton.

Llandudno Croquet Club—Mrs. R. R. Williams, Eryl Fryn, Bodafon, Llandudno.

National Institute for Research in Dairying—Hon. Secretary, Dr. M. E. Gregory, Shinfield, Nr. Reading.

Northern Lawn Tennis Club (Croquet Section) Didsbury, nr. Manchester—Hon. Secretary, Palatine Road, West Didsbury, Manchester 20.

Norton Hall Club—Hon. Secretary, B. A. Neale, 86 Yarm Road, Eaglescliffe, Co. Durham.

Norwich—Hon. Secretary, Mrs. Edmund Reeve, Flat 2, Sandringham Court, Ipswich Road, Norwich.

Nottingham Croquet Club—Miss E. C. Brumpton, 72 Davies Road, W. Bridgford, Notts.

Oxford University Croquet and Lawn Tennis Club—Hon. Secretary, Mrs. Ronaldson, 66 Kingston Road, Oxford.

Parsons Green Sports and Social Club—Hon. Secretary, Croquet Section, Broomhouse Lane, London, S.W.6.

Peterhouse Croquet Club—Hon. Secretary, Peterhouse, Cambridge.

Reigate Priory Croquet Club—Hon. Secretary, L. W. Buckley, St. Monica, Alma Road, Reigate.

Roehampton—The Secretary, Roehampton Club, Roehampton Lane, S.W.15.

Rydal Croquet Club—Hon. Secretary, Hugh R. Hulbert, Rydal Mount, Ambleside.

Ryde Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club—Hon. Secretary, Comdr. J. Radford, R.D., R.N.R.(retd.), Leaholme, Appley Road, Ryde, I.O.W.

Shepton Mallet—Hon. Secretary, Mrs. G. F. Blandford, Field View, Shepton Mallet.

Sidmouth Croquet Club—Hon. Secretary, c.o. Cricket Pavilion, Sidmouth.

Southport—Hon. Secretary, Rev. F. I. Denbow, East View, Liverpool Road, Rufford, Ormskirk.

Southsea—Hon. Secretary, Miss E. M. Watson, 51 Salisbury Road, Southsea.

St. Ives L.T. Club and Croquet Club—Hon. Secretary, H. L. Branson, Ocean Breezes, St. Ives, Cornwall.

Sussex County (Brighton) Croquet Club—Hon. Secretary, Miss H. D. Parker, 4 Third Avenue, Hove, Sussex.

Upton—Hon. Secretary, E. Brighouse, 27 Heath Road, Upton, Wirral.

Warwickshire Croquet Club (Leamington)—Hon. Secretary, The Warwickshire Croquet Club, Guy's Cliffe Avenue, Leamington Spa.

Windsor Bowling Club (Croquet Section)—Hon. Secretary, Clinton Road, Penarth.

Woking Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club—Hon. Secretary, Croquet, c/o Club.

Wrest Park Croquet Club—Hon. Secretary, Mrs. J. Beard, c/o N.I.A.E. Wrest Park, Silsoe, Beds.

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