

made two beautiful breaks to win by 11. At the time of writing it is rumoured that Gordon Rowlings will once again be playing in his National team for the matches to come.

William Ormerod played almost faultless and superbly accurate croquet to beat Mr. Trainor, who scored only two points in the whole match.

The fifth singles match provided David Curtis with very little opposition. Mrs. Dempsey shot into his game too often, and failed at her hoops, so he ran out an easy winner.

Our team now has a week's holiday in Wellington where we shall see some of the match between New Zealand and Australia. We shall also have some practice; and a day of friendly Doubles with partnerships formed between members of the New Zealand team and ourselves has been arranged for the end of the week. Care will be taken, though, to guard against our becoming too friendly with our charming "Kiwi" opponents and allowing them to beat us when we meet again on *opposite* sides the following week in Napier. BRYAN LLOYD-PRATT.

## SECOND TEST v. NEW ZEALAND

Played at Napier, January 31st - February 2nd, 1963

Results (English players named first)

### DOUBLES:

E. P. C. Cotter and J. W. Solomon bt Mrs. B. A. Jarden and A. G. F. Ross -3 +20 +8.  
Dr. W. R. D. Wiggins and Dr. W. P. Ormerod bt H. Ford and A. Stephens +14 +7.  
B. Lloyd-Pratt and D. W. Curtis lost to L. G. Middlemiss and John Prince +2 -4 -10.

### SINGLES:

J. W. Solomon bt Mrs. B. A. Jarden +7 -10 +6.  
E. P. C. Cotter bt A. G. F. Ross +17 +8.  
Dr. W. P. Ormerod bt L. G. Middlemiss +16 +12.  
Dr. W. R. D. Wiggins bt A. Stephens +15 +25.  
Miss E. J. Warwick bt H. Ford +4 +24.  
D. W. Curtis lost to J. Prince +9 -19 -20.

England beat New Zealand by seven matches to two.

All the matches were played in hot, still and glorious weather. The courts were fast and the interested crowd of spectators entitled them to expect a high standard of croquet. In the doubles, the play did not always reach the expected standard but there were some exciting matches. In the top game, the only lady playing on the three courts with 11 men, Jean Jarden, held her own and was first round to 4-back and continued to play well. Ross gave her good support and, with Solomon not at his best, the home team won the first game. Good play by Cotter and his partner quickly put the score level and after a tussle the English pair finally won by 5.30 p.m.

Ormerod played a fine game in the second match except for missing a few very short roquets. His daughter, Alison, aged four months, was watching him play for the first time and must have been very satisfied with his performance. Wiggins had an off-day and could do nothing right, while the New Zealand captain was similarly affected. Young Stephens was in good form but the English pair won in two games. The third match was a very protracted affair and at the end of the day each side had won a game by a narrow margin. The only player of the four to show good form was John Prince, aged 16, a pupil of Ashley Heenan, brought into the team for the first time. Playing with delightful easy style, he did all-round breaks and shot in from any distance when occasion required. The third game was played the next morning at 9 a.m. and New Zealand always had the game well in hand. Prince again played beautifully but neither Curtis or Lloyd-Pratt could get going, in spite of many chances.

The singles on Friday showed Cotter in splendid form for his first game with Ross. He led in the second but Ross got to 4-back with yellow and 3-back with red when Cotter made rover and pegged out one ball, leaving the other seven yards from the stick. Ross hit the long shot but stuck on 4-back on Cotter's ball.

Wiggins beat young Tony Stephens in the first game but was again off form and could do little right. However, fortunately for him, Tony was even worse! Nevertheless the Doctor found his touch in the second game and finished it off quickly.

The most interesting game was between Curtis and John Prince. In the first game Curtis played a good break to 4-back and Prince hit the lift shot and did the same. Curtis then continued to play well and went to the stick the but left the balls untidily after making rover, and Prince started an excellent triple peel doing 4-back but was too ambitious too early, and failed to make hoop 5, leaving Curtis together and enabling him to finish quickly. In the second and third games Prince played beautiful breaks and was well on top and won by 19 and 20.

In the third day's play, Solomon and Mrs. Jarden had a great battle. In the first game, after in and out play, Solomon completed his triple (with some adventures) and pegged out one ball. The lift was missed and he won by 17. At the start of the second game three balls were together on the east boundary when Solomon hit them with the fourth ball but failed to make the first hoop. Mrs. Jarden was at rover and peg with Solomon at 6- and 4-back but he hit the lift and got to 2-back where he failed and Mrs. Jarden levelled the score. Their final game was played before a thrilled audience, as both the other matches had finished. Solomon was not having the best of luck and was struggling to hold his breaks. Mrs. Jarden was first away to 4-back and Solomon hit the lift and joined her there. Mrs. Jarden went from 1- to 3-back with attempted triple. Both players did peels and looked like winning but broke down at rover. Mrs. Jarden's breakdown was the more costly and Solomon won in a thrilling finish. Good shooting by both players made the result uncertain till the end.

Ormerod always had his match well in hand against Middlemiss who was sticking in hoops. There was a lot of in and out play and although Middlemiss shot in on several occasions, he was not able to make breaks. The start of the second game was unusual in that Ormerod went round to 3-back on the third turn, having placed his first ball by the stick and then hit the half-court tice laid by Middlemiss. He failed to get the rush on the ball by the stick, but hitting it hard, it cannoned off the stick up to the first hoop. From then on the game never lived up to its opening promise.

J. Warwick played H. Ford and was always leading in the first game but missed her peg out and put the other ball out. Ford shot in and did a good 3-ball break but failed at 4-back on the lady's ball and that finished that game. In the second game J. Warwick played well, did two all round breaks and was for stick with both balls with Ford at the first hoop. He shot in and made two hoops before the match was over. E. J. WARWICK

## ROEHAMPTON LEAGUE

Arising out of the activities of the Roving team last year, the above has now been formed. The Clubs in it will play one match against each other home or away, or home and away at the same time. Each team will consist of a minimum of four players, each match minimum of two games and all players must participate, two points for win, one for draw with level play except anyone with official C.A. handicap of six or below will give that number of bisques whether in doubles or singles, e.g. if two, will give four, if five give one, etc. All matches must be played within 14 days of dates which have all been fixed between May and July. Clubs taking part are Westminster School, Cottage Laboratories, Parsons Green, Beechams, Heathfield, Barnes, Mullards and Roehampton.

How about your Club starting something similar? D.C.C.

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Price 1s.

# CROQUET

The Official Organ  
of The Croquet Association

## EDITORIAL

This special issue has been prepared in order to keep Associates up to date with how our team have been faring in New Zealand. It includes the results and accounts of our first three Test Matches and of the Match against South Island. The remaining matches will be reported in the normal April issue. We are indebted for the accounts to Bryan Lloyd-Pratt and Joan Warwick who in the midst of a demanding itinerary have given nobly of their time to keep us supplied.

In the matches played so far, our representatives have fully lived up to their home reputations but, although we were more than hopeful of the results they would achieve, we could hardly

have anticipated the comfortable margins by which they would prevail.

As we go to press, we learn that we have won the Fourth Test Match against Australia. This means that the MacRobertson shield can be said to be virtually ours. We should have to lose our remaining two matches by overwhelming margins, with Australia also beating New Zealand, for Australia to win the series. On the form so far displayed this seems highly improbable.

We have received much evidence from members of the team of the warm welcome they have received wherever they have played, and all are most appreciative of the hospitality and good fellowship that abounds in New Zealand.

## FIRST TEST v. NEW ZEALAND

Played at Dunedin, January 10th - 12th, 1962

Results (English players named first)

### DOUBLES:

E. P. C. Cotter and J. W. Solomon bt Mrs. B. A. Jarden and A. G. F. Ross +23 +26.  
Dr. W. R. D. Wiggins and Dr. W. P. Ormerod bt H. Ford and A. Stephens +8 +26.  
Miss E. J. Warwick and D. W. Curtis lost to Mr. and Mrs. L. G. Middlemiss -13 +2 -1.

### SINGLES:

E. P. C. Cotter bt Mrs. B. A. Jarden +23 +9.  
J. W. Solomon bt A. Stephens +26 +21.  
Dr. W. P. Ormerod lost to A. G. F. Ross -2 +16 -3.  
Dr. W. R. D. Wiggins bt H. Ford +17 +8.  
Miss E. J. Warwick bt Mrs. W. L. Martin +2 +9.  
B. Lloyd-Pratt bt Mrs. L. G. Middlemiss +19 +14.

England beat New Zealand by seven matches to two.

The greatest surprise so far has been Australia's decisive win over New Zealand by six matches to two with one unfinished at Invercargill a week before our contest reported here.

The English team, travelling by different routes and arriving at different times, were fully assembled by Monday, January 7th. We were granted the courtesy of the courts at Montecillo Club which has a beautiful setting high upon a hill that commands a superlative view of Dunedin harbour and the majestic hills around the bay. Most of us felt after a few days' practice in glorious sunshine that we were in the best possible form for the ordeal to come.

Doubles day, Thursday, January 10th, was favoured with hot sun; and the perfect courts of the Tainin Club, surrounded with, literally, hundreds of keen, knowledgeable, and most appreciative spectators, made a great impression on all of us, especially on those who had not played before in this part of the world.

The Cotter-Solomon combination, as the score suggests, was in its most sparkling and irresistible form on the fastest of the three courts. In the first game Mrs. Jarden, the New Zealand Number One player, only had a chance and a half, and none at all in the second game. Her partner, Arthur Ross, never took croquet during the whole match.

and equipment by Jaques, of course

The Doctors had a rather "in and out" tussle in their first game against Herbert Ford, the opposing Captain, and Tony Stephens, their nineteen-year-old Number Two player; but they played almost faultlessly in the second game to win by 26.

The third Doubles match afforded occasional amusement to some spectators, but tactical blunders were made by both sides and the play was below an international standard.

In the Singles Patrick Cotter was not seriously challenged by Mrs. Jarden in their first game, but the second was far less one-sided: had it not been for a careless and unforeseeable breakdown with her second ball by the New Zealand lady at 3-back, and for the success of our Captain's inspired, desperation pass-roll approach to the rover hoop from A baulk with a lift pending, that game would probably have gone the other way. Mrs. Jarden is a very upright "front style" player who, like our own Mrs. Rotherham, has an exquisite touch and is beautifully accurate: she is clearly capable of beating anyone.

John Solomon gave very little to Tony Stephens in their match, and on the very few occasions when the young New Zealander did obtain the innings he failed to make much of his slender opportunities. The second game was enlivened by John's execution of a "straight triple" that included a freak peel of the rover hoop from the North boundary.

Arthur Ross's narrow victory over William Ormerod was the most exciting highlight of the series. William was playing his usual effective if somewhat inelegant croquet, but all the spectators, and even William himself, were delighted to find the New Zealand veteran, who has represented his country since the 1920's, playing with his old accuracy, determination, and tactical brilliance. He won the first game through William pegging out his forward ball when the other was for the rover hoop. William won the second game fairly easily—some of Mr. Ross's hoop strokes were letting him down here. The third game provided a magnificent and thrilling display from both sides. William had reached the peg and 4-back when Arthur Ross hit the dying lift shot, and, in a superbly picked-up break reached 4-back. The lift was narrowly missed and he got to the peg, peeling his partner ball through 4-back en route and pegging out William's forward ball. William made 4-back but failed to obtain the innings afterwards, although his last shot was a valiant jump over the 4th hoop when his ball bounced unluckily over both the opposing ones behind it.

## FIRST TEST v. AUSTRALIA

Played at Christchurch, January 17th - 19th, 1963

Results (English players named first)

### DOUBLES:

E. P. C. Cotter and J. W. Solomon bt L. Mason and Mrs. M. Harrison +17 +14.  
Dr. W. R. D. Wiggins and Dr. W. P. Ormerod bt Mrs. H. Day and Mrs. E. Rudder -13 +23 +3.  
Miss E. J. Warwick and D. W. Curtis bt Mrs. W. P. Lewis and Lt.-Col. A. G. Saalfeld +6 -3 +16.

### SINGLES:

J. W. Solomon bt L. Mason +26 +6.  
E. P. C. Cotter lost to Mrs. M. Harrison -13 +2 -5.  
Dr. W. R. D. Wiggins bt Mrs. H. Day +1 +24.  
Dr. W. P. Ormerod bt Mrs. E. Rudder +14 +10.  
B. Lloyd-Pratt bt Mrs. W. P. Lewis +8 +10.  
D. W. Curtis lost to Lt.-Col. A. G. Saalfeld -3 +13 -7.  
England beat Australia by seven matches to two.

Our first Test v. Australia was played at Christchurch in glorious weather. While we felt deeply for all England's sufferings in the snow, we were having a lovely time in temperatures about 80°, with a pleasant, gentle, fresh breeze. The courts (or greens as we try to remember to call them) were not of such perfect texture as when we played N.Z. at Dunedin last week. They were very well marked out, with tight hoops and all the arrangements were perfect, as was only to be expected at the home town of Bill and Ada Kirk. A large, knowledgeable crowd watched the exciting games and were enthralled. The press gave excellent reports and the games were reported in detail on the 7 p.m. Sports News each day. The teams also appeared on the Television News at the opening ceremony, attended by the Mayor.

Bobby Wiggins achieved some fine strokes in his games against Herbert Ford, but the New Zealand captain was not at his best. Some of his play seemed very ineffective and the Doctor was given many more chances than should have been the case in a number four match.

Joan Warwick's protracted struggle against Mrs. Martin occupied the whole of the last day. Both ladies seemed overawed by the occasion, and the standard of play was disappointing. "They are playing just like us" was one comment that was overheard!

Bryan Lloyd-Pratt's win over Mrs. Middlemiss gave him some much needed confidence after his exceedingly unimpressive season on the English rain-sodden courts last year. Playing, luckily, on the fastest court, Bryan achieved some good accurate breaks. In the second game he conceded contact, but broke down rather feebly with his second ball at 2-back. His opponent, who incidentally had been cruelly unlucky with some of her long shots, got in and pegged him out. Bryan made 2-back from the contact and soon afterwards hit in, when Mrs. Middlemiss was by the 1st hoop, and went out in that turn.

New Zealand, then, only won two matches out of the nine, and both these victories were achieved by only one point and two points respectively (-1 in the third game of the Number Three doubles, and +2 in the first game of the Number Three singles). However, it would be foolishly optimistic (not to say unsporting) to hope or suppose that their team which has begun badly at Invercargill and Dunedin will continue to play below their best; and also next week at Christchurch we have to meet the victorious "Aussies". If, at the time of making this report, our chances seem reasonably bright, only the most rigorous self-discipline and continuing application will secure for us the final honours. The team is in good spirits and hopeful of eventual success.

We have been overwhelmed with kindness here on all sides, and at the delightful and lavish entertainment and supper party given most generously for us by the Otago Association before we set off for Christchurch, compliments were paid about the play which, even if they have made us temporarily swollen-headed, have also made us very proud of being sent out to represent England.

BRYAN LLOYD-PRATT.

In the top Doubles match, Cotter and Solomon were not at their best, finding it difficult to get their touch on the lawns but the opposition was not very strong.

The second Doubles was very exciting, the English pair meeting tough opposition from Mrs. Rudder and Mrs. Day, whose steady play won them the first game before our two Doctors settled down. Wiggins and Ormerod then won the second game in great style, William doing a straight triple but failing at the stick. The third game looked like a runaway for England, with two good breaks finishing on 4-back and penultimate with the opponents on the first hoop. However, the ladies recovered well and after William had failed in a peg out, Bobbie put his own ball out. The ladies crept up to rover and stick and were about to finish, when William hit the stick from the South boundary at his sixth attempt!

Curtis and Warwick had a marathon struggle against Lt.-Col. Saalfeld and Mrs. Lewis which took 12 hours to complete. The English pair did good breaks in the first game but the Australians crept up and only lost by 6. The second game looked like an English victory but Lt.-Col. Saalfeld caught up and after a thrilling finish just scraped home. The English pair again made the pace in the third match and won by 16.

So a very satisfactory first day was concluded with England leading Australia 3-0.

The interest in the Singles played on the second day was concentrated on the match in which our Captain, Cotter, playing No. 2 on this occasion, lost to Mrs. Peg Harrison, a very reliable and experienced player from Victoria. Patrick was unable to get his touch on the lawns. He lost the first game and then had a fight in the second—he led but missed a short shot after penultimate—Peg got to the stick and pegged out Patrick's black ball. He hit in, made rover and lay close to the peg, wired from yellow which was

for rover. The lady hit blue with red from a distance and made rover but failed to peg out. Cotter went two feet from the peg and Mrs. Harrison attempting a cut rush to the peg, missed and lost the game.

The third game was also a thriller—Peg made two all round breaks and Patrick did a beautiful break as well. He then got in again and pegged out yellow while his black was for 3rd hoop. He got to 1-back before Peg hit in and made 4-back and penultimate. Patrick went to 3-back where he stuck. Peg took the lift, hit in and made rover and won the game for Australia.

Ormerod in the meantime played well against Mrs. Rudder, who was not in top form, except for good shooting.

Curtis started his match late against Lt.-Col. Saalfeld and he had another very long battle on court 1. After losing the first game by a narrow margin, he won the second well but after another marathon match of 12 hours, the older man lasted better than the younger one and finally wore him down to score Australia's second victory.

The third day's matches were again played in glorious weather and all the games were won by England, although there were some close struggles.

John Solomon beat Len Mason in the top match, the Australian having practically no play in the first game. John then continued

## MATCH v. SOUTH ISLAND

Played at Nelson, January 21st - 23rd, 1963

Results (English players named first)

### DOUBLES:

E. P. C. Cotter and J. W. Solomon bt G. Rowlings and E. Trainor +18 +10.  
Dr. W. R. D. Wiggins and Dr. W. P. Ormerod bt P. Rudolph and Mrs. A. Rawlinson +17 +17.  
B. Lloyd-Pratt and Miss E. J. Warwick bt Mrs. E. Todd and Mrs. C. McHerron +4 +9.

### SINGLES:

E. P. C. Cotter lost to G. Rowlings -14 +20 -11.  
J. W. Solomon bt P. Rudolph +22 +15.  
Dr. W. P. Ormerod bt E. Trainor +24 +26.  
Dr. W. R. D. Wiggins bt Mrs. E. Todd +22 +11.  
D. W. Curtis bt Mrs. H. E. Dempsey +21 +20.  
Miss E. J. Warwick bt Mrs. J. W. Biddle +3 +8.

England beat South Island by eight matches to one.

Although there was an absence of tension in most of the matches some of the play on the last day made up for the lack of excitement on the first two days.

Nelson is a charming resort in the North of South Island, with a beautiful bay and excellent beaches. As usual our team was most lavishly entertained by the local clubs and this, combined with the warm, sunny weather and the most friendly atmosphere, made our short stay an enjoyable and memorable one, marred only by the depressing reports in the newspapers of England's vilely arctic conditions. We all hope that by the time the special issue of the Gazette is published, the ice and snow will all have disappeared and that the burst pipes and other miseries will be a thing of the past.

In the first Doubles match neither game was specially thrilling. The second Doubles were distinguished by good play from our two Doctors and from Mr. Rudolph. "Rudi" is a most dashing and often effective player who hits the ball as hard as (perhaps even harder than) our Major Stone. In both games Rudi made good breaks to 4-back, but Mrs. Rawlinson, the Dominion President of their Council, was off her game and failed to score a point in the whole match. Mrs. Rawlinson and the incomparable Secretary, Mrs. Wills, whom some Associates will remember from her visit

placidity and tried his triple but failed and let Len in. However, John soon recovered and his triple looked like materialising but nothing went quite right and his opponent made the most of his opportunities before John clinched the game.

Wiggins beat Mrs. Day in straight games after the first game appeared to have been won by the lady. She was for 3-back and 4-back before Bobbie got a chance. He caught up by good play and after a very thrilling finish finally won by 1 point after Mrs. Day wired herself from his balls when he stuck in the rover.

Lloyd-Pratt had a good game with Mrs. Lewis but always kept the upper hand and won in two games.

The Australians proved to be very charming opponents and played a sporting game. The English were naturally very glad to get such a good win, but the Australians have promised them a good fight in the next Test match!

The officials of the Canterbury C.A. showered us with many kindnesses. We had a very happy time in their lovely city at a good hotel, and playing croquet at their splendid club. The cocktail party at the finish of the match was a very pleasant social occasion, followed by a showing of films and slides by Mr. Abbott.

E. J. WARWICK.

to England in 1961 when she presented Mr. Hicks with the President's Cup at Hurlingham, have borne the brunt of their Councils' acting as hosts for an exceedingly arduous triangular Test series, and no words can possibly convey the vast amount of work that the two ladies have undertaken to see that everything runs smoothly.

The third Doubles were, alas, not a credit to our side. In the first game Bryan, disconcerted by the heaviness of the lawns, failed to get going after repeated chances, until Joan, who by playing much better had heaved her recalcitrant partner and herself to 3-back, got in, assembled a break, and said to Bryan, firmly, "I'm going to the peg. You must then pull yourself together and get out or we shall lose". As both opponents were then for the rover hoop this seemed all too probable. However, impelled by fear, Bryan did as he was told in the next turn. The following game saw the roles reversed. Bryan got round early on and Joan couldn't play; but as Mrs. Todd couldn't either, we ran out as winners more easily than we deserved.

The number Two, Four and Six singles, played on the second day, were distinguished by some good play by Bobby Wiggins in his first game, and by some excitement in John Solomon's second game against Mr. Rudolph. Rudi and John had both got to 4-back and John had broken down in his second break after having peeled his forward ball through one hoop. Rudi then embarked on a double peel of John's forward ball, and had this succeeded, he would have been able to have pegged out both his own and John's balls, and would probably have then won the game. However, this was not to be and by the end of the second day the South Island team had not won a single game.

Saturday saw the New Zealanders gain their only victory. Associates who remember Gordon Rowlings from his visit with their national team to England in 1956 will be glad to learn that he has fully recovered from the operation which had prevented him from taking part in their trials for the present New Zealand team and, in fact, it was he who, by defeating our captain, Patrick Cotter, scored their one win of this match reported here.

In the first game Mr. Rowlings went round with the fourth ball, Patrick missed the lift shot, his ball hitting the second hoop and staying there, but Gordon subsequently broke down at 3-back having peeled his forward ball through 4-back and penultimate. Patrick got to 4-back, but failed at the 4th hoop with his second ball, and after some in and out play Gordon hit a long shot with the ball for the rover, made that hoop, and laid up. Patrick got in again, but got cross-wired by the first hoop and Gordon then won by 14. The second game went, quite convincingly, to Patrick +20; but the third game found Gordon in excellent form, and he