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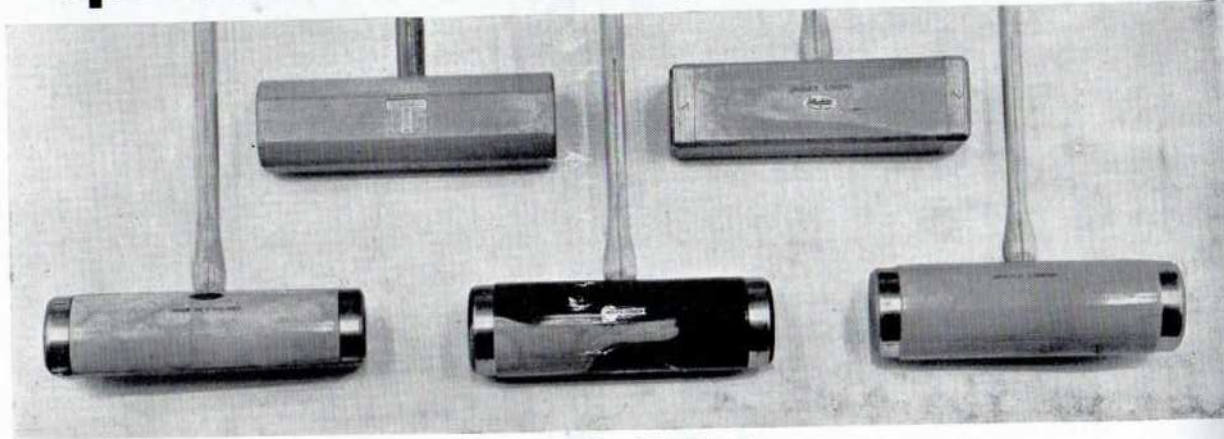
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In Our May Number—

NOTES by ROVER

BEGINNERS, PLEASE!

A QUESTION OF LAW

YOUR TURN TO PLAY

NOTES FROM THE CLUBS

BRIDGE

By E. P. C. COTTER

TOURNAMENT FIXTURES

1955

- May 2 Sidmouth. *Hon. Sec.*, Croquet Club, c/o. Cricket Pavilion, Sidmouth.
- " 9 Peel Memorials (Roehampton). *Secretary C.A.*, 4 Southampton Row, London, W.C.1.
- " 16 Brighton. *Hon. Sec.*, F. E. Corke, 60 Southwick Street, Southwick, Sussex.
- " 23 Inter-County Championships (Hurlingham). *Secretary C.A.*, 4 Southampton Row, London, W.C.1.
- " 28 Match Roehampton v. The Rest (Roehampton).
- " 30 Men's and Women's Championships and Gold Caskets (Cheltenham). *Secretary C.A.*, 4 Southampton Row, London, W.C.1.
- June 6 Ryde. *Hon. Sec.*, Miss E. Isaac, Flat 18, Osbourne Court, Cowes, I.O.W.
- " 6 Leamington Spa. *Hon. Secretary*, The Croquet Secretary, Guys Cliffe Avenue, Leamington Spa.
- " 13 Nottingham. *Hon. Sec.*, G. L. Bright, 15, St. Jude's Avenue, Mapperley, Nottingham.
- " 13 Woking. *Hon. Sec.*, Major J. W. Cobb, Farm Hotel, Woking.
- " 20 Buxton. *Hon. Sec.*, Mrs. D. Chorlton, 6 The Square, Buxton.
- " 20 Parkstone. *Hon. Sec.*, Mrs. L. H. Ashton, The Orchard, Parkstone.
- " 27 Compton. *Hon. Sec.*, C. J. Speer, 2 Dunvegan, Ditton Road, Eastbourne.
- " 27 Bedford. *Hon. Sec.*, Miss D. D. Steel, Kings Close, Biddenham, Bedford.
- July 2 Match, England v. Eire (Hurlingham).
- " 4 Croquet Championships (Roehampton). *Secretary C.A.*, 4 Southampton Row, London, W.C.1.
- " 4 Exmouth. *Hon. Sec.*, Miss A. E. Mills, Grey Friars, Budleigh Salterton.
- " 11 Budleigh Salterton. *Hon. Sec.*, L. G. Walters, 1 Braywick, Budleigh Salterton.
- " 18 Cheltenham. *Hon. Sec.*, F. Langley, Croquet Club, Old Bath Road, Cheltenham.
- " 25 Ladies' Field Cup and Silver Jubilee Cup (Hurlingham). *Secretary C.A.*, 4 Southampton Row, London, W.C.1.
- Aug. 1 Hurlingham. *The Games Secretary*, Hurlingham Club, London, S.W.6.
- to 11 All England Handicap Final Stages (Roehampton).
- " to 12 Challenge Cups and Gilbey Cup. Golf Croquet, Ascot and Delves Broughton Cups (Roehampton). *Secretary C.A.*, 4 Southampton Row, London, W.C.1.
- " to 20 Brighton. *Hon. Sec.*, F. E. Corke, 60 Southwick Street, Southwick, Sussex.
- " 22 Hunstanton. *Hon. Sec.*, Mrs. B. C. Perowne, 65 Victoria Avenue, Hunstanton.
- " 29 Parkstone. *Hon. Sec.*, Mrs. L. H. Ashton, The Orchard, Parkstone.
- Sept. 5 President's Cup and 2nd VIII (Roehampton). *Secretary C.A.*, 4 Southampton Row, London, W.C.1.
- " 19 Roehampton. *Games Secretary*, Roehampton Club, Roehampton Lane, London, S.W.5.
- " 26 Eastbourne, Devonshire Park. *Secretary C.A.*, 4 Southampton Row, London, W.C.1.
- Oct. 1 Match. Men v. Women (Devonshire Park).

NON-OFFICIAL FIXTURES

- May 9 Budleigh Salterton. *Hon. Sec.*, L. G. Walters, 1 Braywick, Budleigh Salterton.
- Aug. 29 Brighton. *Hon. Sec.*, F. E. Corke, 60 Southwick Street, Southwick, Sussex.
- Sept. 12 Cheltenham. *Hon. Sec.*, F. Langley, Croquet Club, Old Bath Road, Cheltenham.

Two

CROQUET ASSOCIATION NOTICES

The Annual Subscription of £1 10s. 0d. is due on January 1st. Cheques should be made payable to "The Croquet Association" and sent to The Secretary, C.A., 4 Southampton Row, London, W.C.1.

ELECTION OF ASSOCIATES

* * *

T. A. Chignell
Mrs. A. M. Daniels
Mrs. D. M. Owen
Mrs. K. M. Page-Phillips
Dr. R. B. N. Smartt
Mrs. R. B. N. Smartt
Mrs. I. M. Taylor
R. T. Warren
H. A. Way

* * *

LAWS OF CROQUET (1955)

Associates, 1s. 6d.
Non-Associates, 2s.

* * *

Brento Balls used for the Peel Memorials Tournament will be on sale at £3 per set, carriage 1s. 9d. Apply Secretary, C.A., 4 Southampton Row, London, W.C.1.

* * *

Associates who wish to become Referees may make their own arrangements with the necessary two Examining Referees to take the examination prescribed by the Laws Committee, or, in case of difficulty, they may send in their names to the Secretary, C.A. The names of the Examining Referees will be found in the Handbook of Laws.

* * *

ENTRY FORMS FOR TOURNAMENTS

Pads of 25 price 2s., can now be obtained from the Secretary, C.A., 4 Southampton Row, London, W.C.1.

* * *

It has been suggested that Associates who are not members of clubs, or who do not live within easy access to a club might like to be put in touch with others similarly situated. The Secretary would be pleased to publish names and addresses of such persons.

LORN C. APPS,

Secretary.

EDITORIAL PANEL OF "CROQUET"

Miss D. A. Lintern
E. P. Duffield
M. B. Reckitt
Rev. B. V. F. Brackenbury

Put to the Test

TWO months ago Len Hutton and his team regained that intangible honour, the "Ashes", for their country. A week or two before this the United States won back from Australia a more concrete distinction, the Davis Cup. We wonder how many among the millions who hailed—or lamented—these triumphs have ever heard of a third trophy, still in possession of an antipodean dominion—that presented some thirty years ago by Sir Macpherson Robertson of Australia. It is an interesting feature of the five contests for this handsome prize that it has been won in every case by the country on whose courts the matches for it were played. Next summer New Zealand is providing itself with the opportunity to create a new record in this respect. We in England are as delighted to welcome the initiative which is creating this opportunity as we are resolved to do our best to prevent it being successfully seized. We do not forget that our Open Championship is now held by the greatest of all New Zealand's players, and we do not doubt that Arthur Ross's triumph here will have fired his countrymen with the determination to emulate it. A Test Match against a country with players so keen and so numerous as this dominion can show is likely to take a deal of winning. But we are not without a measure of hope.

When test matches were last played here (in 1937) our leading performers were Col. du Pre, Charles Colman, J. A. McMordie, Robert Tingey and Miss D. D. Steel. Of these the first two are no longer with us; Mr. McMordie has been unhappily prevented by ill health from returning to the game; Mr. Tingey has been much away from our courts since the war, and Miss Steel now appears upon them all too seldom. It would seem as if almost a new team would need to be built up; and the experience and enthusiasm displayed by our leading referee and "master of the ceremonies", Sir Francis Colchester-Wemyss, supplied this time perhaps by our Vice-Presidents. Happily there is no lack of skill among our chief exponents of the game today, and our team may prove to be as strong as the notably successful one we were able to field in 1937. This is neither the time nor the place to speculate upon its membership; we have plenty of time in which to do that, and no doubt many of us already have some ideas of our own on the subject. We are informed that New Zealand is to send us a team of six players, and though no detailed discussion of the test matches has yet been entered upon, it may be supposed that we shall see more players competing on each side than has been previously the case in these contests.

We shall enter upon this struggle with our kinsmen from the other end of the world in no

tingo mood, nor is it any boastful spirit which encourages us to declare that "we've got the men, we've got the courts", even though we cannot yet add "we've got the money too". The team which we sent to represent this country in New Zealand half a dozen years ago was so nobly entertained that while we can hardly hope to rival such hospitality as was shown to them, we must surely do all we can to emulate it. This will call for the co-operation of all Associates, and the Council, will, we understand, have suggestions to make on the financial aspect of the matter in due course. But hospitality, while it requires economic support, involves something more than this, and we are confident that all here who are in a position to do so will be on the look out for opportunities to provide our visitors with personal memories of their stay here which will help them to carry back with them the happiest recollections of our lovely country and its people.

A secondary, but very important, aspect of the visit of a team from overseas is the opportunity it offers for all that is comprehended in the word "publicity". It will no doubt be a surprise to most people in this country to discover not only that Croquet is a game with a much wider following beneath the Southern Cross than it has here, but that those who play it there should care enough for it to send a team across the world to compete for an international trophy. We must see that as many as possible do make this discovery. A "test match" is "news" to a degree that no purely national contest can be, and it is hardly too soon to start spreading this news and creating as much public interest about it as we can. It is worth recalling that the last series of these matches played here coincided with a heartening increase in the number of Associates, the beginning of a recovery sadly arrested and reversed by the outbreak of war. We are now offered another chance, nor should we wait till next summer to start taking advantage of it. Our affiliation to the Central Council for Physical Recreation is already bearing fruit in the organisation with their aid of two demonstrations of Croquet at Watford (April 30th) and Woking (May 7th); these provide occasions for drawing in new adherents to the game and so enlarging the number of those who will be able to watch with some understanding what goes on when the test matches are played.

These matches will be a test not only of the skill of our representative players, but of the interest, the co-operation and of the active enthusiasm of every member of our Association. May it be a test which each of us will pass with honours.

Three

THE death of Lord Tollemache has deprived Croquet of perhaps its most colourful personality. "Tolly" was much less well-known to post-war players of the game than to an earlier generation, and there are not many left now who can remember what a magnificent stroke player he was when at his best. But it is perhaps as a theorist that he will be longest remembered. Assertive, dogmatic, intolerant—yes, all these and at times perhaps something even less easy to bear; but no one ever knew his subject better or was more worth while listening to when he was holding forth upon it. Though his voice is silenced now, his books have still much to teach us. Neither the laws of the game nor the rulings of authority earned much respect from him when they did not commend themselves to his judgment, and he could be a sore trial to Managers. But underneath the surface crust of vehemence and egotism lay a generous and warmhearted disposition, and he was ever as swift to praise as he was to criticise. And even when one differed from—or tired of—his opinions, his passion for the game remained an inspiration such as Croquet can ill afford to lose.

* * *

The stories told about this unique and dynamic figure are naturally numerous, and many even of the "tallest" ones are in fact true, though they would be barely credible if told of anyone else. One incident at which we were present might perhaps have happened to anyone, yet it is somehow the more amusing for his being the hero of it. Those who competed at the Lewes tournament, of happy memory, may recall that the courts stretched away from the pavilion into the distance, and beyond them lay fields where oxen grazed. "Tolly", who in those days loved nothing better than a chance to referee, hearing a loud, if muffled, sound wafted towards him from this direction, leapt down the pavilion steps, and almost disappeared into the blue. Some time later he came back much more slowly than he had set out. "Was it an interesting point?" we asked him. "Be damned to that," replied the crestfallen referee, "it was a — old cow."

RYDAL CROQUET CLUB

THE Rydal Club, which we illustrate on our cover this month came into being in 1932. It was something of an experiment to open a club so far north with conditions of soil and texture of grass so different from that of those in the south. Only two courts were laid down at first, but when it was decided in 1935 to hold an official tournament, three more were temporarily added on the adjoining cricket pitch. In spite of very uneven ground the tournament was a success, thanks largely to the encouragement given by the entry of a few first-class players from the south. After that two more full-sized permanent courts were laid down, and tournaments were held in each year till 1939, to which came such distinguished

Four

We give details elsewhere of the changes in the Rules of Association which have been passed by the Council, by the requisite two-thirds majority, and which will now be presented to the body of Associates at the Annual General Meeting. Here, once more, they must be passed by a two-thirds majority before they can come into force.

We publish, too, a brief account of the informal meeting of Associates which was held at the end of January to discuss possible changes in the Rules and to hear further suggestions. The fact that so few attended this meeting, that no one, who could not do so, responded to the Council's invitation to send suggestions in writing, is, we hope, an indication that either all are satisfied with our present constitution, or have such confidence in the council that they are content to leave any revision of the Rules in the hands of their governing body. We did hear it suggested that had this meeting been held in the summer many more Associates would have been present. A moment's thought will surely make it clear that all the work, necessitated by such a revision, could only be undertaken in the winter months, when the council and its sub-committees have the time to devote to it. We hope Associates are duly grateful to the council for the time they so willingly give to Croquet during the winter. We think a special word of thanks is due to such a provincial member as, for example, one who in this case must have travelled from his home on the south coast to London and back on at least four occasions in connection with this one matter alone of Rules revision.

* * *

Those of our readers who study the Council minutes will find that it has been decided that the Year Book is to be re-named the Croquet Association Handbook and is no longer to be printed annually. We understand that in future the Handbook will appear every two or three years. This seems to us to be a wise measure of economy, though many will regret not being able to refer each year to the list of Associates, their addresses and their handicaps.

players as Mrs. Apps, C. W. R. Hodges, G. D. R. Tucker and others. Great assistance was given by the late Francis Dewsbury who came over every week from Sedbergh more than 20 miles away.

Since 1939 it has not been possible to hold an open tournament, but the members keep the game going with tournaments and gymkhanas among themselves. If any Associates should visit the Lake District during the croquet season they should certainly make a point of spending a day at the Rydal Club in its delightful setting. They would receive a warm welcome from the secretary, H. R. Hulbert, to whom we are indebted for much of the information contained in this article.

by The Rev. G. F. H. Elvey

WHAT fun to be on the lawn again! When I first start Croquet after the winter, I always feel that the mallet is very clumsy and the balls very big, but happily this feeling soon wears off.

Now last season we talked about mallets, and style, and strokes, and, of course, without a proper implement, a reasonably good style, and some knowledge of the strokes, no progress at all can be made; but now the time has come to try to put whatever has been learned into effective use. It must always be remembered that good Croquet does not consist in playing a few brilliant strokes, but in co-ordinating a great many reasonably good strokes so as to make progress in a game, and progress in a game, of course, is a matter of making breaks.

Bell-ringers, and one first-class croquet player is also a first-class bell-ringer, tell us that with five bells some 120 changes can be rung, but with six bells the possibilities for practical purposes are almost limitless. No doubt, however, to do the best with five bells requires a great deal of skill even though theoretically simple. So in Croquet the three-ball break requires a great deal of skill, but has not the endless possibilities of the four-ball break. A really well-played three-ball break is one of the most highly skilled achievements in Croquet. Nevertheless the theory of the three-ball break with its very limited possibilities is infinitely more simple than that of the four-ball break. So, instead of starting to talk about the four-ball break, I am, contrary to the custom of the croquet books, going to begin with the three-ball break. By the bye, you would not find it at all a bad scheme to get hold of a flat piece of cardboard, or "three-ply" about 24 inches by 18 inches, and mark out a "lawn" on it. Then get small counters coloured Blue, Red, Black, Yellow, and in the evening, or on wet days, you can study the theory of breaks, etc., with ease. Of course, on the lawn in actual play, or at practice, things do not usually go according to plan, but if you have not got a plan, they don't go at all; therefore to have break methods carefully planned in your mind is very important indeed.

To start with, I am not going to go into the niceties of the three-ball break, all that kind of thing must come later. What I want to drive home are the basic essentials.

I will remember that when I started to play Croquet, before I had seen any Tournament play, before I had read any book on the game, when in fact I knew practically nothing about it, I yet somehow or other got hold of the idea, that the thing to do was to send a ball on to the next-hoop-but-one, so as to have it ready for use in due time. I need hardly say that my breaks, if such they can be called, came to a quick end. Nevertheless I recommend my pupils today to get that basic idea firmly into their heads. Think about the next-hoop-but-one and send a ball on to it to be ready for you.

Let us see how it goes. Put Blue and Yellow somewhere on the baulk line behind the first hoop. Put Red near the First Hoop. Now croquet yellow to the Second Hoop and go to Red at the First Hoop. I have in mind those useful counters and their board. I see the Yellow counter in front of Hoop 2, and I see the Blue and Red counters in front of Hoop 1. The advantage of the counters is that there is no sticking in hoops, and no bad strokes to be re-played, and so you can give your undivided attention to the theory of the break. And believe me, unless you have a thorough grip of the theory of the breaks, even if you are so fortunate as to pick off games now and then by brilliant execution, you will never be a worthwhile player. So to get the theory of the breaks well into your heads, I thoroughly recommend the counters and the board.

Now Blue makes Hoop 1 off Red. Then Blue croquets Red to Hoop 3, and goes himself to Yellow at Hoop 2. You must understand that when I say "Blue makes Hoop 1 off Red" it covers the following strokes. Blue roquets Red. Blue approaches the First Hoop, sending Red just beyond it. Blue runs the First Hoop. Blue roquets Red. This explanation at every Hoop would be tedious beyond words, and so we cut it all out, and just say: Blue makes the first hoop off Red.

We have then Red at Hoop 3, and Blue by Yellow at Hoop 2. Blue makes Hoop 2 off Yellow, then sends Yellow to Hoop 4, going himself to Red at Hoop 3.

Blue makes Hoop 3 off Red, then sends Red to Hoop 5, going himself to Yellow at Hoop 4. Blue makes Hoop 4 off Yellow, then sends Yellow to Hoop 6, going himself to Red at Hoop 5. Blue makes Hoop 5 off Red, then sends Red to Hoop 1-back, going himself to Yellow at Hoop 6. Blue makes Hoop 6 off Yellow, then sends Yellow to Hoop 2-back and goes himself to Red at 1-back. By this time the theory of the Three-ball Break should have become so clear, that it is surely unnecessary for us here and now to follow Blue's progress the rest of the way round.

I cannot too strongly impress upon my pupils the extreme importance of getting into the mind the idea of having a ball ready at the next-hoop-but-one. This, of course, makes the difference between a croquet player and a mere banger about of balls on a lawn. The one has in his or her mind a plan for real progress; the other, if there is a plan at all, merely tries to pick off a point or two, as opportunity offers.

Now, having mastered the theory of the Three-ball Break I want you to try what you can do on the lawn. You won't go far. If you do manage to pick off two or three hoops, you can congratulate yourself on having done well.

I seem to hear some first-class player, who may have glanced at these notes just for fun, saying in his heart, "What on earth is the good of

Five

talking to beginners about the theory of the Three-ball Break?" Just wait a minute and my method will become clear.

To me in my earliest croquet days, when as already said, I had somehow got hold of the next-hoop-but-one-idea, came wonderful enlightenment. I got hold of a little book on Croquet by the late Lt.-Col. Needham in which I read of the Four-ball break, and I realised that the next-hoop-but-one-system which was difficult to the point of impossibility for a beginner, became infinitely easier and indeed possible with the help

Your Turn to Play

OUR readers have asked us to give them some practical instruction in croquet tactics. We therefore propose to give two problems or exercises in this column each month for our readers to solve. To add a little spice to the fare we offer, we propose to make this a competition in which points will be awarded for the solutions that are submitted. Every competitor should choose a pseudonym. This should be written on a sealed envelope containing the name of the competitor. This envelope will not be opened till the end of the season so that Tactician will not know the identity of the competitors. The latter must be sure that their competition replies are also clearly marked with their pseudonyms. These replies should be sent by the 15th of each month to Tactician, c/o The Secretary, C.A. A list of the competitors (i.e., by pseudonym) will be published every month showing the number of points each has received. At the end of the season a prize of two guineas will be awarded to the winner. If there is a sufficient number of competitors a second prize may be given. If, on the other hand, too few compete Tactician reserves the right to discontinue the competition. Competitors must be of handicap 2 or over.

Work out the problem on the croquet lawn or on a table at home with bits of paper to represent hoops and balls. This is quite easy. Tactician has himself used a table measuring only 18 inches by 12 inches and torn up little bits of paper and set out a court in a very few minutes. It is good fun and good practice. Try it.

Here are the first two questions. The accompanying diagram shows you where the balls are on the court. Now with the balls in these positions Black has to play and is for the second hoop. How can Black most easily establish a four-ball break? (Note that Red is a yard line ball and that Yellow is one yard from the 3rd corner spot on the east boundary.)

And here is a second question. Using the same diagram suppose this time that again Black has to play, but is for 4-back, and Blue is for the peg and Black has one bisque in hand. How can Black most easily finish the game in one turn?

an of additional ball, i.e., the middle-ball or stepping-stone-ball of the FOUR-BALL BREAK.

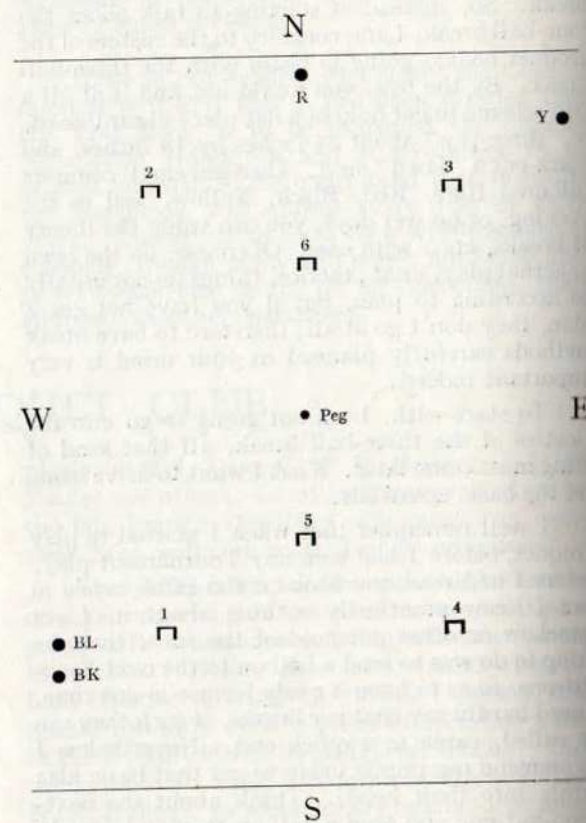
I want you therefore to think of the four-ball break as nothing more and nothing less than the three-ball break made easier by the introduction of that useful "Jack-of-all-trades" the middle-ball or stepping-stone-ball whichever you like to call it.

Next time, I hope to discuss the four-ball break in detail, and later on we shall come back to the three-ball break.

by Tactician

You are required to make a list of all the shots in order which Black should make. Readers should notice that the most important words in the questions are "most easily". Every shot that Black makes should be as easy as possible. The solution which contains the fewest difficult shots will probably earn the most points. Tactician will publish in our next issue what he considers is the correct solution of these problems and will also set two more exercises.

One final word. The competition is intended for all bisquers of two and over. We think we may well see some high bisquers at the head of our list of competitors.



THE 1955 SEASON

REFERENCE was made in our April number last year to that rather mysterious phenomenon the "solar cycle," and it was explained how this affected the fixtures of our "Official Calendar". This is the last season in the present cycle in which the days "go backwards", so that the regular features of our croquet year occur at their earliest possible dates; thus the Peel Memorials begin as soon as May 9th, and everything will be over at Devonshire Park by October 8th. In 1956 we shall "go forward" again, but as that will be a Leap Year, to the extent only of six days, not seven.

New Features

There are only two new features in our prospective season of any importance, but these are of a character to demand some attention here. One of them is not actually new but is a reversion to pre-war practice: the playing of the Men's and Women's Championships at a provincial centre. In 1936 these championships were "conflated" with the most historic of all C.A. trophies, the Gold Medals, and the competition for these had been played at one of the principal provincial clubs for more than a decade before this, beginning at Cheltenham in 1924. They were played for again here in 1932; at Leamington, Lewes and Windlesham also on two occasions; and once at six other places outside the metropolis, the last of these being Buxton in 1939. When Croquet revived after the war inquiries showed that no provincial club was anxious—and hardly any were equipped—to provide a venue for so important a tournament. So the fixture was allotted to Hurlingham, where it remained till last year when, for reasons explained in these pages a year ago, the two championship weeks were "swopped over," the earlier one taking place at Roehampton.

Too Centralised

These facts are recalled to suggest to Associates that what cannot fail to be a controversial decision is at least not so revolutionary a one as might at first appear. The Council is fully aware that much may (and no doubt will) be said against it. It is unhappily the case that some of our finest players may be not only reluctant but literally unable to leave London to play in this event, and it is particularly regrettable that this is true of both the present holders of the titles. On the other hand, the Council has to take note of a view widely held within the Association that the principal events in our Calendar have tended to become too much centralised in London, and that it is time that the provincial clubs were given back a share in them similar to that which they enjoyed before the war. Just as some metropolitan players

do not care to travel far afield for their tournaments, so there are provincial Associates who dislike London, find meals and accommodation there expensive, and travel to and from the ground exhausting. This is clearly not the place in which to take sides in this discussion, but it may perhaps be suggested that those who have urged the case for "the provinces" should surely spare no effort to appear at Cheltenham on May 30th. For it is only if they do so that that case is likely to be successfully pleaded on any future occasion.

Second Eight

The other unusual feature in our programme is indeed an innovation, being the introduction of a "Second Eight" to be played contemporaneously with the President's Cup at Roehampton. The decision to introduce this competition arises from recognition of the fact that the "Best Eight" has tended to become something of a close corporation in recent years, and of the kindred circumstance that players with handicaps around scratch or a little below, of whom there are now a considerable number, have rather a thin time nowadays. They cannot—or at any rate for the most part do not—hope to go far in Opens without encountering what looks like irresistible force—and generally proves to be an irremovable obstacle—in the shape of one of our leading masters of the game, so that they are left with too little to hope for and no attainable target at which to aim. But to reach the "Second Eight" will now be a reasonable ambition for one who finds himself "out of B's". The introduction of this competition (in which the contenders will not be subjected to the ordeal of the 3 11/16th hoop) necessitates the transference of the Creyke Cups to another week, and these will now be competed for at the Roehampton tournament a fortnight later.

Irish Visitors

There is little else that is new to record. An interesting feature of the season will be the visit of a team from Ireland which will play a match against an English team at Hurlingham on July 2nd, and its members will, we hope, remain to compete in the Open Championships at Roehampton in the following week. The match between Roehampton and "The Rest" will take place at this club on May 28th. Both these fixtures provide especially good occasions for Associates to which to bring any of their friends whom they are anxious to "convert" to the game. Exhibition games, followed by tuition for any spectators who are interested, are being arranged at Watford and at Woking on two Saturdays—April 30th and May 7th—in connection with the Central Council for Physical Recreation, and should provide most

valuable opportunities for the gaining of new recruits from these areas. One further small "innovation" is to be noted. The Association Plate is not this year to be subject to the restrictions involved in Variation B, but will, like the Championship for failure in which they "console" us, give opportunity for "all the lifts".

Finally, a word about tournament referees. As was explained in our last number, "intervention" in the more drastic sense will now give place, where necessary, to "warning". All referees on the list at any tournament will have the power to "warn". But the Council feels that this is an

appropriate moment to suggest to the referee of each tournament that not only is he under no obligation to put every individual referee who may happen to be present on his list, but that it will often be wiser for him to be more selective in this respect that has come to be the custom. The matter is one entirely for his discretion, and there is an additional reason now why he should be careful in the exercise of this prerogative.

MAURICE B. RECKITT,

Chairman, C.A. Tournament Committee

A QUESTION OF LAW . . . by Lex

WE like to see innovations and experiments for they are a proof of life and growth. It is, therefore, with much interest that we see the addition of a Golf Croquet event in one tournament programme. We would like to see the club who would be brave enough to stage an unofficial tournament on small lawns measuring 24 by 30 yards instead of 28 by 35 yards. We suggest that games would be shortened but would still be long enough. Some "A" players have said that the game would be too easy. We are not convinced. There would be the real advantage of either adding another event to the programme or reducing the number of days' play. There are some who advocate long weekend tournaments, which would begin midday on a Friday and finish on the following Monday at 5 p.m., enabling businessmen to be back at work on Tuesday morning. We think that the combination of a

weekend tournament on small lawns would be an experiment worth trying.

Can you answer the following?

1. Blue takes off from Black and in doing so hits Yellow and goes off the court. Does Blue's turn cease?
2. A player tried to strike his ball lying against a wire. He hit the wire and only shook the ball. Is he allowed to make the stroke again?
3. Can a bisque be taken after a foul?
4. Black roquets Blue which comes to rest in contact with Yellow on the lawn. May Black move Blue and/or Yellow in placing them for the subsequent croquet stroke?

Answers on page 17.

Bisqueur and Bisquette

How adequately paint those joyous hours,

When we two played together on the green,
And blithely smote each other; careless too,

That one of us should be all black and blue;
Saw red, in mimic fury and attacked,

With here and there at times a yellow streak
Of cowardly withdrawal and retreat?

The hoops we ran! The sun and shade's incline!
When she was seven and a half and I was nine.

Perchance we'll meet again in years to come;
More staid and earnest: run our hoops with care;

Or, shyly hide in corners, having learned
The danger of proximity; and, maybe,

I shall then be one and a half, and she,
Keeping her distance in the same degree,

A cypher men call scratch. Ah! Woe is me!
Ever remembering the year divine,

When she was seven and a half and I was nine.

J.

BEGINNER'S LUCK

by WESTON MARTYR

UNTIL the summer of 1954 my sports had been ocean-yacht-racing and archery, and croquet appealed to me no more than croquet.

I have a contempt for boasters, but, in order to add emphasis to what follows, it is necessary for me to say that I was by no means a rabbit at those sports. And now, to even things up, I have to state that, until this year, I have been an ignorant ass and an intolerant fool in thinking that croquet was merely a bumblepuppish game on a par with tiddlywinks. May the Gods forgive me!

I became aware of what an ass I was in the following manner. I joined the Budleigh Salterton Tennis and Croquet Club because it had an archery range. For four years, as I passed through the Club grounds on my way to shoot in my bow, I observed, with scorn and derision, a number of poor creatures wasting their time, knocking coloured balls about the lawns. I pitied them. In the summer of this year the Club held a Croquet Tournament and I heard that some of England's foremost players were to perform in it. I thought it might be amusing to watch their antics.

On the first day I watched a tall stranger playing one of our best players who, I was informed was "Minus 2½", whatever that meant. The stranger allowed our man to get in about half a dozen long shots, all told, while he himself achieved upon the lawn intricate patterns of obvious efficiency. I said, "I don't know anything about croquet; but I do know when I'm seeing a difficult piece of work being beautifully and effortlessly executed by an artist." For the next five days I watched the Cracks playing, while Major Stone explained to me what they were doing—and I began to see a light. I said to myself: "Billiards plus Chess. Skill plus Brains. There's a lot more in this game than meets the uninstructed eye. This is SOMETHING!"

I got hold of a mallet and balls and, retiring to a secluded corner, I tried for a week to hit what I aimed at. At the end of another week I was hitting what I aimed at—including the empty space between the hoop wires. Then Colonel Cave came along and watched me for a while. He then began to chuckle. "It would be a good joke," said he, "if you entered for our Doubles Championship next week, with Humphrey. Why don't you?" I said, "Because I don't even know the rules of this game. Who is this Humphreys anyway?"

"Oh, he's quite a croquet-player," says the Colonel. "In that case," I answered, "he won't want an absolutely raw beginner as a partner. The notion's absurd and I'll have nothing to do with it." "I have an idea," went on the Colonel, "that it might amuse him to have a 14-bisquer as a partner. And it doesn't matter you knowing less than nothing about the game. All you need do is just what your partner tells you." I said, "You're pulling my leg, Colonel. Forget it!"

The Colonel grinned. He showed me how to do a fine take-off and departed, laughing. I practised fine take-offs for four days, when the Colonel reappeared and said, "I've heard from Humphrey and he says he'll be glad to have you as a partner." I said, "You're a wicked old soldier. You're trying to make a laughing-stock of this old sailor. But I'm not playing." But the Colonel said, "The show starts in two days, so you can't back out now and let Humphrey down. He'd not have time to get another partner. I've put your name on the entry list and the fee's ten shillings."

When I met my partner at the start of the first match I was horrified to see he was the artist I had watched perpetrating miracles against our "Minus 2½" man. I said, "I must tell you I've never played a game of croquet in my life. I'll be nothing but a burden on you. I don't even know the rules, so you'll have to watch me like a hawk all the time. And you'll have to tell me every blessed thing you want me to do. I'm sorry." And that man said, "Don't worry, partner. I'll be glad to help you all I can and I'm sure we'll do famously." A nice man.

And what a partner! His tactics were perfect. He would perpetrate a complicated series of strokes all over the lawn which were totally incomprehensible to this rabbit, but which always resulted in my ball sitting comfortably in front of it's hoop, with his ball in the best position to help me run it. After all that, of course, I felt it would be a shameful waste not to run it. So I did.

Since I was a young man I have commanded my own ships and I am not used to taking orders from anyone. I obeyed my partner's orders though, implicitly. He knew how to give orders. He would say, "Take off fine and land your ball on this blade of grass. *This* blade, not this one." Well, if you know exactly what a man wants, and you want to do it, you can do it.

Yes. I and my partner got along nicely. We had one little disagreement though. When I was for 2-back and my partner was still for the 1st hoop, I found myself, after running the hoop, in a good position to peel my partner through it. I said, "Look here, Boss; here I am, almost round, but you haven't started yet. You'd better pull up your socks. I'll peel you through this hoop and get you going." But he wouldn't hear of it! In fact, he seemed scandalised by my proposal. He told me what he wanted me to do next and then walked away to a group of spectators, and he must have told them a funny story, or something, because they all burst into roars of laughter. I felt a bit miffed and I ran 3-back with such vim that my ball finished up in front of 4-back—but my partner wouldn't let me run it! As this was the second time he had refused to let me collect an easy point for our side I sat down in a huff. I mean to say—I had obviously got a partner who was determined to lose the game. I said to myself, "It isn't good enough. I've had it. Next time he

tells me to take a turn I'll refuse. Let *him* get on with it."

However, I need not have worried. My partner did not ask me to play again. He hit in himself; went right round to 4-back, peeled me through it, did the same at the last two hoops and pegged both balls out.

That's how I won my first game of croquet. My partner and I carried right through to the Final, when we met Colonel Cave and Mrs. Rotherham. The Colonel said, "Hey! Just you remember I got you to enter for this as a joke."

BRIDGE by E. P. C. Cotter, *British International*

AHAPPY 1955 at Bridge and at Croquet! To start the first article of the year here is a hand which was played against me recently in a duplicate match. North was dealer and NS were vulnerable. After two passes South bid 4 spades, West doubled and all passed. Here are the NS hands.

S—K, 9.
H—X, X, X,
D—7, X, X, X.
C—10, 9, X, X.

N
W E

S
S—A, Q, J, 8, X, X, X.
H—A, Q, J.
D—X, X.
C—X.

West led CK followed by CA which South ruffed. He then led one of his two diamonds. This is the first point to notice. He tries to get an idea about the hand and at the same time to hope a heart will be led. I, sitting East, won the diamond but did not oblige with a heart. I returned a diamond. A third diamond was ruffed by South. Now it is clear that South can make his contract if East has the King of hearts but he needs TWO ENTRIES to finesse hearts twice and has only one. But wait—there is another possible entry in the 9 of trumps by finesse. This play risks going two down but is the only way to make the contract. So South led a spade, finessed the 9 and led a heart for a winning finesse, another spade to the King, another heart finesse—4 spades doubled. Nicely played! Would you have done the same? Not really difficult, but it needs thought and courage.

Here is another very recent hand from championship play. East dealt with the score EW vulnerable and the bidding was:—

E	S	W	N
No	No	1S	Dble.
2S	4H	Dble.	Redble.

Don't you go and beat us—and spoil it, or you'll make me think you don't know a good joke when you see one."

But I do know a good joke when I see one. I'm looking at one now. It's a Silver Cup on my mantelpiece, and the joke is on its plinth, where it says, "Winners 1954. H. O. Hicks and Weston Martyr."

I have now given up those childish sports, ocean-racing and archery. From now on I intend to devote myself to the most difficult and delightful game in the world—CROQUET.

These were the hands:

S—10, 9, X, X.
H—Q, 6, 3.
D—A, 10.
C—A, K, J, 6.

S—A, K, J, X, X.	N	S—Q, X, X, X.
H—A, J, 5, 4.	W E	H—9.
D—K, 6.	S	D—X, X, X, X.
C—X, X.		C—X, X, X, X.

S—
H—K, 10, 8, 7, 2.
D—Q, J, 9, 7, 5.
C—Q, 10, 4.

West opened SA which I ruffed with the H2, and led a small diamond finessing the 10. Then the Ace of diamonds dropped West's King and a small club was led to my 10. I then led H7 to dummy's Queen and East dropped the nine. Now trumps were abandoned and I returned to my hand with CQ and continued with diamonds on which West discarded three spades (it does him no good to ruff) but I ruffed the last diamond in dummy and then ruffed dummy's last spade. The position now was:

S—
H—6.
D—
C—A, K.

S—	N
H—A, J, 5.	W E
D—	S
C—	

S—
H—K, 10.
D—
C—4.

Now I led the club and West's end played and I must make my King of hearts for a valuable redoubled over-trick.

Note that even if East's singleton heart is not the nine, trumps *must be abandoned*. The enemy can make three trump tricks and welcome but the contract is safe. Another lead of trumps wrecks the contract—try it and see!

[Copyright]

Notes from the Clubs

THE compiler of these notes finds it very difficult in this month of March, with snow covered lawns, to think of Croquet at all. Yet perhaps when our readers see these notes they will have already played their first game of Croquet, warmed and encouraged—we hope—by spring sunshine.

We hear that at HURLINGHAM certain levelling has been undertaken so as to make it possible to provide nine lawns for tournament play when that number is required. The extra three lawns are, of course, usually tennis courts but should have a good surface and prove most valuable. The Club held a very successful croquet dinner at the August tournament last year. They do not intend to hold a dinner this year, but they give timely notice that one will be held in August, 1956, when the croquet committee hopes that the New Zealand test team will be their guests.

We hear that the CHELTENHAM Club will open on April 14th, when the committee expect their lawns to be in good condition. The Club has a busy season before it, for besides its own tournaments which attract a large entry, there is to be staged on the Club lawns this year the Men's and Women's Championships. This is the first time for some years that this meeting has been held in the provinces. It is expected that it will be well supported and that a number of well-known players will be competing.

In view of the fact that exhibition games of Croquet are to be staged at Watford early this season, we think the following account of the CASSIOBURY Club will interest our readers.

A Croquet court was provided in Cassiobury Park by the Watford Corporation in 1937, largely due to the enthusiasm of the Mayoress who, although not a player of the Association Game herself, was, nevertheless, very anxious that Watford should be in the forefront in providing opportunities for all kinds of outdoor sport for its residents in its very lovely park.

The Mayoress advertised in the local press for people interested in Croquet and very soon gathered round her a small band of novices who, knowing nothing of the game, made up for their ignorance by their enthusiasm. They endeavoured to teach themselves by having a book of rules placed on the grass verge and consulting it at every stroke to learn "what to do next"!

During the first season progress was slow and laborious, but in the following year several members of the Croquet Association living locally gave wholeheartedly of their knowledge and experience, so that initial enthusiasm was welded into keen interest to become expert and the Cassiobury Croquet Club was born. In course of time membership increased and a second court was laid down by the Corporation in 1939.

The Cassiobury Croquet Club is extremely fortunate in being able to avail itself of these two courts which have been provided and are maintained by the Corporation. As a result, the annual membership subscription is only 30s. per

head of which 25s. is handed over to the Corporation and 5s. retained by the Club.

Members of the public have the right to play at any time but experience has shown that if they wish to play, they prefer to join the Club.

The BUDLEIGH SALTERTON Club is approaching the new croquet season in great heart. They have a pleasing increase in the number of playing members and several new recruits.

Old friends of the Club will be interested to learn that one of the old lawns, not used since the war, is now being brought back into play. During the winter much returfing and levelling has been undertaken to improve what our correspondent describes as the "famous (or infamous) Budleigh boundaries."

We would draw our readers attention to the unofficial tournament to be held in May. Certain innovations have been made which should make this an attractive week.

The Club is also introducing this season a new competition, a handicap doubles American Tournament, in which handicaps of 5½ and under must partner handicaps of 6 and over, and vice versa.

The SUSSEX COUNTY Club is starting its summer season on April 16th. During the winter the lawns have been successfully treated for the worms which were so troublesome last season. Visitors and members alike will welcome the news that the Club has acquired a new lawn sweeper to deal with the leaves which fall on the three westerly lawns. The groundsman has been busy repairing the shelters, damaged by winter storms and getting everything in order for the new season. The Club has still further increased its numbers by the addition of eight new members.

ROEHAMPTON Club held its annual general meeting on 19th February. It was decided to hold all the Club competitions under similar conditions to last year. It is hoped to open the lawns for play on April 8th. Miss D. A. Lintern, the Captain, presented her report of the past season and was cordially thanked for her untiring efforts. She remains Captain in the coming season, Mrs. Turketine is the new Chairman.

The PARKSTONE Club hopes to open its season on 18th April. Meanwhile the courts are having much attention and have been treated with worm-killer. Work has also been undertaken to help drain lawns 4, 5 and 6, which always had a tendency to remain wet. A ditch has been dug under the north bank which should be of considerable help in this respect. There are prospects of a further increase of membership.

The HUNSTANTON Club is holding a week-end tournament this month. As entries close on April 10th we would advise our readers to study the Club advertisement at the end of this issue. The Club held a very successful tournament last April and deserve support for this venture held so early in the season.

OBITUARY

THE LORD TOLLEMACHE

In the early years of the present century, when life for many people was gay, interesting and hopeful, there was a coterie of young players in Cheshire playing on private lawns and those of that North Country "Hurlingham" the Hooton Park Club. Among these was Tollemache. When playing in an Open Double in 1910 against the writer and his partner, Tollemache, not then a first-class player, created considerable amusement by announcing early on in the game: "I am going to triple peel you and peg you out!" which intention he duly put into effect, winning the game for himself and his partner.

In the years that followed, Tollemache became more and more interested in the game, changed from side to centre play, attained the status of a first-class player, and produced one of the most elaborate and comprehensive books on our game ever written. In it, as was to be expected, he advanced new ideas, and especially the theory of "side" as applied to Croquet.

When the Hooton Park Club came to an end, Tollemache gave his support and interest to the Bowdon Club, for the Tournament at which he used to entertain large house-parties at Peckforton Castle. His guests always praised him as a most excellent host, and carried away many happy memories of these occasions. As a matter of fact though forceful in manner and somewhat intolerant of opposition, he was an extremely kind man, and ready to do a good turn as opportunity offered.

As was the case with C. L. O'Callaghan, after the 1914-1918 war, Tollemache was never the same as a player. He still played magnificent strokes, was one of the greatest experts in playing a three-ball break ever seen on a lawn, but he was no longer the confident, formidable first-class player that he had been prior to 1914. Yet as late as 1935 he was third in the President's Cup, and in 1937 won the Doubles Championship with the late Sir Gerald Burke.

Though with the passing of the years, he seemed to lose his nerve as a croquet player, he certainly did not lose it in other respects, for when in September, 1940, most people having no obligation to remain, left Eastbourne, nothing would make Tollemache leave his home right on the front. But—though he escaped injury from enemy action—he had a severe operation during the war which took a heavy toll of his strength.

After the war his interest in Croquet revived, he wrote another book on the game, and gave a substantial sum to the Victory Fund, ear-marked for the Compton Club, to get it going again. Stepping into the breach, and personally addressing the Eastbourne Corporation Entertainments Committee, he saved the Devonshire Park Tournament. It should be added that in achieving this, he had the invaluable help of Lady Tollemache, who had gained much respect and honour in Eastbourne for her courageous and self-sacrificing work as Chairman of the local branch of the Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Families Association.

Tollemache was a strong advocate of the form of Croquet known as the "Clip Game," and it was impossible to convince him that it was destructive to the tactics and interest of Croquet. On his prowess as an extremely keen Bridge player the writer has no competence to comment.

When ill health prevented Tollemache from attending Council Meetings as an elected member, he received the well-deserved honour of being made a Vice-President of the C.A. He had a strong, vigorous personality, and a special gift for putting his ideas over in a manner that made them strike home. These notes would be incomplete if they did not contain the remark that throughout his long croquet career, his strokes were not only beautifully executed, but always irreproachably clean.

He will certainly be missed, and especially of course by those who knew him both as a great player, and also as a kind friend. We offer deepest sympathy to Lady Tollemache in her loss.

Twelve

MR. A. H. SMITH

It is with great regret that we have heard from South Africa of the death of Mr. A. H. Smith, O.B.E., O.St.J., at the age of 85. Mr. Smith was always a keen supporter of the game and had been a member of the Croquet Association since 1929.

MISS M. L. BARWELL

We greatly regret to announce the death of Miss Mildred L. Barwell on February 20th last. She had been a member of the Croquet Association for many years. We express our sympathy to her sister, Miss Gertrude Barwell, and her many friends in Malvern.

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL 1954-55

It is with deep regret that the Council has to record the death of several well-known members of the C.A. during the past year, notably of Mr. L. F. C. Darby, and in the early part of 1955, of one of the Vice-Presidents Lord Tollemache.

The present position as regards membership is that during 1954 five Associates died and thirty-one either resigned or failed to pay their subscriptions and that fifty-two new Associates were elected.

The visit to this country of the New Zealand Champion, Mr. A. Ross, aroused great interest and his achievement in winning the Open Championship was popular both in England and in Australia which he visited on his return journey to New Zealand.

The new magazine *Croquet* has been very well received, and many letters of commendation have come from home and overseas readers. The Secretary has evidence that some new Associates have been attracted through this medium.

Once again the Council desires to express grateful recognition of the Services of all those who whether by acting as Managers, Referees or Handicappers, or as Hon. Secretaries of Clubs have assisted in the promotion of tournaments during the last season. The Council's thanks are especially due to its Secretary of the Association, Mrs. L. C. Apps, who has given such unstinted service during the last twelve months.

Solution to December Puzzle

1	S	A	N	D	I	F	O	R	D	O
6	G	L	E	S	O	P	W	I	T	U
9	N	N	D	I	B	L	E	Y	H	B
16	I	A	R	E	C	K	I	E	A	L
19	S	L	E	P	E	E	T	L	N	E
26	L	G	V	E	L	T	L	D	S	
27	E	N	O	L	P	I	R	O	I	T
31	V	E	R	E	K	L	A	W	C	O
36	E	L	A	I	V	A	P	A	K	
40	L	L	E	E	R	E	F	E	R	E

Alterations to Rules of the C.A.

As recommended by the Council

1. Objects of C.A.

Rule I (a) Delete "Croquet, authorised by the Association" and substitute "Association Croquet and Golf Croquet".

2. County Unions

To be abolished. Consequential alterations:—
Rule I. Delete para (d). Re-letter paras (e) and (f) as (d) and (e).
Rule II. Delete para (c).
Rule VI. Delete para 3.
Rule XVIII. Delete present rule.

3. Management and Control

Insert "(I)" at commencement of rule.
Add after para (I):

(2) Any member of the Council, other than one elected under 1(b) above, who does not attend at least half the meetings to which he has been summoned during any year without (a) leave of absence or (b) an explanation satisfactory to the Chairman, shall be deemed to have resigned his membership of the Council and shall not be eligible for re-election for a period of twelve months.
Rule V. Add at end "but shall not be eligible for membership of Standing Committees."

4. Notices

Rule III line 1. Delete "one month's" and substitute "35 days". Line 2. Delete "the C.A. Gazette" and substitute "the Official Organ of the Croquet Association (hereinafter referred to as *Croquet*) or by post."
Rule IV line 2. Delete "the C.A. Gazette" and substitute "*Croquet* or by post". Line 5. Ditto.
Rule V line 1. Insert "(See Rule VII(b))" after "on due notice".
Rule VI—1. (a) (ii). Delete "31" and substitute "28".

1. (b) (iii). Delete "14" and substitute "10".
1. (b) (iii) lines 1 and 2. Delete " , with the *Gazette* calling such Meeting".
Para 4. Delete "Tuesday" and substitute "Saturday".
Rule VII (b) line 5. Delete "the C.A. Gazette" and substitute "*Croquet*".
Rule XIV line 7. Ditto.
Rule XV line 3. Ditto.
Rule XVI line 4. Ditto.
Rule XXI lines 6 and 7. Delete "the C.A. Gazette fourteen or twenty-one days before the Meeting, as the case may require" and substitute "*Croquet* or by post".

5. Procedure
Rule VII (a) line 5. Delete "All" and substitute "Contested elections shall be decided by ballot and all other".
Rule VII. Delete para (c).

6. Hon. Treasurer
Rule VII (b) line 1. Add "or Hon. Treasurer" after "President".
Rule VIII. Add the following as a fresh paragraph: "Should there be a vacancy in the office of Hon. Treasurer owing to death or resignation during any year the Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee shall act as Hon. Treasurer for the remainder of that year."

Rule XXVII line 2. After the word "Treasurer" add the words "or in his absence by the Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee".

7. Casual Vacancy
Rule XII. Delete present rule and substitute: "Any casual vacancy occurring in the Council during any year shall be filled at the next Annual General Meeting".

8. Local Clubs
Insert the following as new Rule XVIII.
LOCAL CLUBS
(a) Every Club with adequate facilities for playing Croquet may apply to be placed on the Register of Croquet Clubs kept by the Association.
(b) Every such registered Club shall be entitled to nominate one of the existing Members of the Council as its representative.

9. Prizes
Rule XXIII. Delete "Note-" and re-align.

10. Subscriptions

Rule XXIV (a) line 2. Delete "£15 15s." and substitute "£21".
Line 5. Delete "10s." and substitute "15s."
Insert fresh paragraph as follows between the second and third paragraphs:
"An Associate under the age of 21 years on 1st January in any year shall pay a subscription for that year of 10s. only."

A meeting of Associates was held at 4 Southampton Row, on January 26th, to consider these proposed changes. The meeting was attended by the following nine Associates Mrs. Beaton, Mrs. Collins, Miss Carlyon, Mrs. Heley, Miss Lintern, Mrs. Nickisson, Mrs. Thom, Mrs. Turner and Mr. E. P. Duffield. Mr. Longman presided and was supported by all the members of his sub-committee.

Mr. Longman gave a brief explanation of the proposed changes and invited criticisms or suggestions for further changes. No proposals were forthcoming and as no Associate had sent any communication by post to the secretary for consideration the Chairman declared the meeting closed.

Notes on Alterations to Laws

1954-55

Associates will find that most of the changes in the laws are of a very minor character.

In Law 27 the deletion of the words "for all purposes including the scoring of points", is intended to make clear that though the *stroke* is a foul the *turn* has been taken and any *bisque* that has been used, is lost.

The slight alterations in the wording of Law 31(c) make it clear that several turns on either side might follow before A realised that B had misled him by failing to place his clip correctly. Now, in whatever turn A finds this to be the case, he can claim the right to replay any part of that turn again if he makes the claim before the second stroke of B's next turn. In Law 36 (b) the adding of the words "or partner's" prevents the stronger player in doubles from making breaks with both balls if the foul were not claimed in time. As it had been suggested that a marking disc on the lawn might interfere with a stroke it was decided not to add to Law 38(f), but to make it clear under Instructions to Referees that any player may require a referee temporarily to remove such a disc.

The Council has decided to discontinue the appointment of Intervening Referees. In order, however, that the Laws may be strictly observed an alteration in Regulation 15 (concerning duties of tournament referees) has been made. Any assistant referee now has the power to warn competitors whose play is not strictly in accordance with the Laws. If this warning is ignored, such assistant referees should report the matter to the tournament referee who can take action as described under 15(f). A letter will be sent to all tournament referees drawing attention to these changes in Regulation 15, and asking them to be selective in the choice of assistant referees. Players are reminded that they may not call on a referee who is not listed as an assistant referee.

The attention of players is drawn to the paragraph under the heading "Questionable Stroke" on page 21, dealing with etiquette. The Council considers that a referee should always be called to watch a player who intended to play a jump shot close to a hoop when running it. "A" class players are particularly requested to take note of this.

M.M.R.

CORRESPONDENCE

To the Editor, *Croquet*.

Dear Sir,

When attending a reunion dinner at H.M.S. "Vernon", Portsmouth, I noticed, from the Ward Room Officers' Mess, a well kept lawn, used as a Croquet Court.

It was amply flood-lit but the setting was of the "Two-peg" vintage!

Yours faithfully,

G. R. BALD, Capt. R.N.

(We understand our correspondent sent H.M.S. "Vernon" a copy of *Croquet*. We trust that he sent a copy of the Laws of Croquet as well.—Editorial Panel.)

Thirteen

Council Meeting Minutes

(At the request of many Associates we are glad to publish the minutes as fully as space permits.)

Minutes of a meeting of the Council held at 4 Southampton Row, on Thursday, November 18th, 1954.

The Chairman welcomed the newly co-opted members of Council: I. C. Baillieu, F. H. Fisher and Dr. G. L. Ormerod.

A letter was read from Mr. N. L. Bright tendering his resignation from the Council for reasons of health. This was accepted with regret.

The Secretary reported receiving a letter from Mr. Kirk-Greene. As this was relevant to matters considered by the Laws Committee it had been read at their recent meeting. In view of this and of a request from Mr. Elvey that it be read at the next Council meeting when he hoped to be present, it was agreed to defer reading it to the Council.

Mr. Reckitt asked if he might make a brief statement about the 1956 Test Matches against New Zealand. The Committee appointed to deal with this matter had met, but were unable to make progress until certain details were available. He asked, on behalf of the Committee if the Chairman of the Council would write to the Secretary of the New Zealand Croquet Council:

1. To confirm the challenge for 1956.
2. To ask the number of members of their team.
3. The number of Test Matches they wished to play, in this connection stating our preference for five.
4. To ask the contemplated dates of arrival and departure of their Team. The Chairman undertook to do this.

Mr. E. P. Duffield gave notice of motion: "That future Selection Committees be more clearly advised as to the extent to which their selections should be based upon past achievements as distinct from current form."

Report of the Laws Committee. This was presented by the Chairman of the Committee, and agreed as to amendments to Laws 27, 28, 31(c), 36(b), 39(c) and 46(h), and Regulations 15(a) and (e). It was also agreed that the Chairman should write to Referees of Tournaments drawing their attention to these changes in the Regulations and asking them to exercise discrimination when appointing Assistant Referees.

Report of the Tournament Committee. This was presented by the Chairman of the Committee who explained it in some detail. There was some discussion on the venue for the Men's and Women's Championships Meeting, and on a majority vote it was decided to adopt the recommendation in the Report. With regard to the second competition to be played at Roehampton during the week of the President's Cup, a suggestion that there be a restriction as to handicap was not approved. The Report was accepted without amendment.

Motion by Brig. A. E. Stokes-Roberts:

- "1. To select a representative of the C.A. to serve on the Central Council of Physical Recreation.
- "2. To select a representative of the C.A. to serve on the Games Advisory Committee of the C.C.P.R.
- "3. To consider the advisability of making an annual subscription to the C.C.P.R."

On the proposal of Mr. Reckitt seconded by Mrs. Reeve, Brig. Stokes-Roberts was appointed to serve on the Central Council of Physical Recreation, and on the Games Advisory Committee. It was also agreed that a donation of £2 2s. be sent to the C.C.P.R. in 1955.

Motion by the Rev. B. V. F. Brackenbury: "To consider the time and date for an informal meeting of Associates to be held to deal with the alterations of the Rules and all questions arising therefrom." He proposed the following programme:—

- "1. That the special Committee appointed to re-draft the Rules and Standing Orders should report to the Council on December 9th.
- "2. That a notice should be put in the December magazine inviting Associates to attend a meeting on January 26th, to discuss the proposed alterations.
- "3. That the special Committee should report on the result of this conference, to the Council at their meeting on March 3rd.
- "4. That the amendments as then agreed should be published in the April number of the magazine and placed on the agenda for the Annual General Meeting."

This proposition was seconded by Major Dibley and agreed.

Motion by J. W. Solomon: "That every club affiliated to the C.A. shall have a representative on the Council." Mr. Solomon explained his proposal. After some discussion Mr. Duffield proposed as an amendment: "That every affiliated club shall be invited to nominate one member of the Council who shall be its recognised representative."

Mr. Solomon accepted this as the substantive motion. This was seconded by Mr. Evans and agreed.

Minutes of a meeting of the Council held at 4 Southampton Row, on Thursday, December 9th, 1954.

In the absence of Col. Adams the Chair was taken by the Rev. B. V. F. Brackenbury.

The Chairman spoke of the active interest taken by the late Mr. Darby in the affairs of the C.A. and enumerated his services, particularly in the revival of the Eastbourne Tournament. All present then stood in token of respect to his memory. A letter from Miss Darby, thanking Col. Adams for his letter of sympathy on behalf of the Council, was read.

A letter from Mr. L. Kirk-Greene relating to an incident at the Eastbourne Tournament was read. The Chairman explained the circumstances and read his personal letter to Mr. Kirk-Greene on the subject. The letter having already been considered by the Laws Committee, no further action was thought necessary. A letter from Mr. A. Robinson of the Carrickmines Club accepting the challenge sent for an Irish Team to come over in 1955. The challenge was accepted, and the date selected was July 2nd.

Mr. W. Longman gave notice of motion: "Provided it leads to economy in printing I propose (a) that Standing Orders of the Council be omitted from the Year Book and that a supply (say 250) be printed for the use of the Council, copies to lie on the table at each meeting.

(b) That the Rules of the Association be printed and bound separately from the Year Book. That a copy of the Rules be given to every Associate and to every new Associate on election, and that additional copies be supplied if required by any Associate for the sum of 1s. or 1s. 6d.

(c) That the present price of the Year Book omitting Standing Orders and the Rules of the Association be maintained.

Editorial Panel Report. Mr. Brackenbury, reported that the cost of printing the magazine in 1955 would be £15 per month more than in 1954, and that the advertisement income might be decreased by £60 in the year. Thus with the full subsidy of £475 from the C.A. there would still be a deficit of £160 which must be met by economies. This could be done by reducing the magazine to 20 pages and economising in the production of photographs for the cover.

Motion by Mr. E. F. Duffield: "That future Selection Committees be more clearly advised as to the extent to which their selections should be based upon past achievement as distinct from present form." Mr. Duffield said there had been divergence of opinion as to what period of time should be taken into account when considering the merits of players, and instanced figures produced last season in one case starting from the selection date, and in the other from the end of the President's Cup competition, which produced different results. He also referred to the possibility of an out-standing player from overseas arriving late in the season, to whom neither of these sets of statistics could apply. After discussion the motion was lost. The Chairman pointed out that by this rejection the Council did in fact leave the selection of the best available eight players to the discretion of the Committee.

Report of the *ad hoc* Committee appointed to revise the Rules and Standing Orders (printed elsewhere in this issue).

The following were nominated to fill the casual vacancy on the Council: Mrs. H. F. Chittenden, Mrs. R. C. J. Beaton.

Annual General Meeting, 1955. The Chairman pointed out that the only choice of venue, and date, lay between Roehampton on Tuesday, May 10th, and Hurlingham on Tuesday, May 24th. After discussion a vote was taken which showed a majority in favour of the A.G.M. being held at Hurlingham.

Minutes of a meeting of the Council held at 4 Southampton Row, on Thursday, January 6th, 1955.

A letter from the Secretary of the New Zealand Council was read in which preliminary details about the proposed team for the Test Matches in 1956 were given. Mr. Reckitt undertook to draft the reply.

Mr. Brackenbury reported for the Editorial Panel that he had not been able to come to terms with the Proprietors of *Lawn Tennis and Badminton*.

The Council Meeting was then adjourned and a Special Meeting of the Council under Rule XIV was held.

On the proposal of Dr. Wiggins seconded by Mr. B. H. Wiggins, the alterations to the Laws together with alterations to Reg. 5(a) in the Finance Committee Report were confirmed.

The ordinary meeting of the Council was then resumed.

Brig. Stokes-Roberts reported on his arrangements with the C.C.P.R. for exhibition games, and asked if players to take part in them could be nominated. It was proposed by Mr. Wiggins seconded by Mr. Duffield, and agreed that they should be invited by the Publicity Committee, and that so long as no expense was incurred the sub-committee of the Publicity Committee should have full power to make all arrangements.

The proposed alterations to Standing Orders, deferred from December 9th, were discussed and agreed, as well as consequential alterations on page 19 of the Year Book.

Mr. Longman moved: "That provided it leads to economy in printing (a) That Standing Orders of the Council be omitted from the Year Book and that a supply (say 250) be printed for the use of the Council, copies to lie on the table at each meeting.

(b) That the Rules of the Association be printed and bound separately from the Year Book. That a copy of the Rules be given to every Associate and to every new Associate on election and that copies be supplied if required by any Associate for the sum of 1s. or 1s. 6d.

(c) That the present price of the Year Book omitting Standing Orders and the Rules of the Association be maintained."

Permission was given to amend (a) to read "that a supply be made available." As amended this was seconded by Mr. Reckitt and agreed.

(b) This was seconded by Major Dibley and agreed.

(c) This was seconded by Col. Clarke and agreed. Mr. Reckitt moved: Addition to Rule V—"but shall not be eligible for membership of Standing Committees." This was seconded by the Rev. B. V. F. Brackenbury and after discussion carried.

The Rev. B. V. F. Brackenbury moved: Alterations to Rules (1) Rule VI after (a) add the following: "No member of Council who has served six consecutive years (excluding years of office) shall be eligible for re-election for 12 months after his normal year of retirement."

(2) Rule VIII—Add "a candidate for the office of Hon. Treasurer must be proposed by an Associate and his name published in *Croquet*."

(3) Rule XII—"Any casual vacancy occurring on the Council during any year shall be filled at the subsequent Annual General Meeting."

(1) This was seconded by Col. Clarke. After considerable debate Mr. Longman proposed as an amendment "that two members of those due to retire in any consecutive year shall not be eligible for re-election. Choice to be by lot." This was seconded by Mr. Solomon put to the vote and lost. The original motion was then put and also lost.

(2) Mr. Wiggins said, that if it was desired that the name of any candidate for the office of Hon. Treasurer should be published in *Croquet*, the simpler course would be to amend Rule VII(b) by adding the words "or Hon. Treasurer" after the word "President." This was accepted by Mr. Brackenbury and agreed by the Council.

(3) This was seconded by Mr. Reckitt and carried.

ANSWERS

1. No. Blue ball was in hand after hitting Yellow.
2. No. The intention was to hit the ball so a stroke has been made.
3. Yes.
4. No. It is only on the yard line that balls in contact may be moved.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Croquet Association will be held at the Hurlingham Club on Tuesday, May 24th, 1955, at 2 p.m.

AGENDA

1. Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting.
2. Report and Balance Sheet.
3. Election of Hon. Treasurer. Mr. D. E. Buckland retires from the office and offers himself for re-election.
4. Election of eight members of Council for a period of three years. The following retire by rotation and offer themselves for re-election: Col. C. C. Adams, E. P. Duffield, G. V. Evans, Mrs. E. Reeve, E. P. C. Cotter, Brig. A. E. Stokes-Roberts, J. W. Solomon, Mrs. H. F. Chittenden.
5. To consider, and, if approved, confirm a revision of the Rules of the Association as recommended by the Council.
6. Any other business.

Notes:—

Rule VI. Election of Council. (a) Candidates for election shall consist of (i) Members of the Council retiring under Rule 11 (a) and offering themselves for re-election. (ii) Associates duly proposed and seconded by two other Associates of whose candidature notice in writing shall have been received by the Secretary at least thirty-one days before the date of the Annual General Meeting.

Rule VII. (b) Any Associate desirous of proposing a candidate for the office of President or Vice-President or of moving a resolution at the Annual General Meeting except on a question arising out of the Report and Balance Sheet, must give notice thereof to the Secretary at least twenty-eight days before the date of Meeting in order that the same may be published in *Croquet*.

There are two vacancies on the Council in addition to the eight referred to in the Agenda. These vacancies are caused by the resignations of Mr. B. H. Wiggins and Mr. C. W. R. Hodges.

An amended Agenda will be published if necessary in the May issue of *Croquet*.

REPORT OF THE FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

We have considered the Balance Sheet and Income and Expenditure Accounts as prepared by the Auditors and recommend that they be adopted.

We recommend the following addition to Regulation 5(a):—"The C.A. levy on Golf Croquet events shall be 1s. for each advertised event."

We have also considered the reference from Council consequent on the decision to raise the annual subscription, and recommend rates as follows:—

- (a) Life membership, £21. Rule XXIV (a) line 2.
- (b) Associates joining after August 1st in any year, 15s. Rule XXIV (d) line 5.
- (c) Associates under 21 years of age, 10s. By suitable addition to Rule XXIV (a).
- (d) Tribute for non-associates 15s. or 7s. 6d. if playing in one event. Reg. 5 (a) lines 5 and 7.

We further recommend with regard to the Year Book:

- (a) That in view of the proposed alterations to the Rules of the Association in 1955, no Year Book be published this Year.
- (b) That in future it be re-named "The Croquet Association Handbook" and published every two or three years. Consequential alteration to page 19 para 3.

THE CLUB TEAM CUP (Handicap)

Presented by William Longman, Esq.

Committee.—The Tournament Committee of the Croquet Association.

Manager and Referee.—Secretary, Croquet Association.

Secretary.—The Secretary, C.A., 4 Southampton Row, London, W.C.1.

Holders—Hurlingham

Competitors must be members of the C.A. and of the Club for which they play. No individual may play for more than one Club during the Competition.

The teams shall normally consist of 4 players who will play 2 Doubles and 3 Singles. By mutual consent, however, the teams in any match may consist of 6 players. In this case the match will include as a minimum 3 Doubles which must be completed, and 2 Single games.

HANDICAPS. This Competition is to be played under C.A. Handicap. The gross handicap of any team of four players must be at least 12 bisques, or 18 bisques for a team of 6 players. The gross handicap of any pair in a team must be at least 6 bisques. Every Competitor must have a C.A. handicap of at least half a bisque.

To be played with the same general arrangements and conditions as hold for the All-England Handicap in so far as they apply.

Competing Clubs will play on mutually agreed grounds.

Full results of matches must be sent by the winning teams to the Secretary, C.A.

There are no entry fees.

Entries must reach the Secretary, C.A., by the **7th May, 1955.**

ALL-ENGLAND HANDICAP 1954

Winner 1954—S. S. Townsend (5½)

Committee and Secretary as for the Club Team Cup. Manager, Referee and Handicapper.—Miss D. A. Lintern.

Competitors must be members of the C.A. or members of a Registered Croquet Club. A member of the C.A. not being a member of a Registered Club must arrange to play at a Registered Club. A Competitor may not play in more than one Registered Club's Competition.

Preliminary Stage.—Club competitions to be finished by the 18th July. Clubs entering 16 to 31 competitors will be entitled to have two representatives in the Final Stages.

Final Stages.—The Club representatives will be drawn on the Bagnall-Wild System and will meet in London during a period extending over August 10th to 12th. The **Final Stages** of the competition will be played at Roehampton from August 10th—12th.

Qualification to hold a competition:—No Club with an entry of less than 4 competitors is eligible to be represented.

In any match of the Final Stages a competitor shall play on the C.A. Handicap that he would have been playing at in an Official Tournament.

Entry Fees.—Entry Fee for each Competitor 3s., to be paid to the Club Secretaries. 1s. of the Entry Fee will be retained by the Competitor's Club, and 2s. will be sent to the Secretary, C.A., by the Club Secretary.

The results of Club Competitions should be sent to the Secretary, C.A., to reach her not later than **July 18th.**

Matches of single games throughout.

Prizes.—Winner and Runner-up. The Tingey Trophies, others in last eight, Bronze Medals.

Eighteen

THE INTER-COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP CUP

will be played for at THE HURLINGHAM CLUB

Beginning on MONDAY, MAY 23rd, 1955

Committee.—The Tournament Committee of the Croquet Association.

Manager, Referee and Handicapper.—Mrs. L. E. G. Nickisson.

Secretary.—The Secretary, C.A., 4 Southampton Row, London, W.C.1.

Holders—Surrey

CONDITIONS.

1. The team for each County consists of three pairs, and the qualifications to represent a County are:—

a. Birth in the County, or

b. Present residence in the County of two years' standing, or

c. A previous residence in the County for an uninterrupted period of five years, other than as a pupil in a school or college.

d. No one is qualified to represent a County who has represented a different County in the year immediately preceding the competition unless he has previously represented that County, or except in the case of a County which has not competed during the past five years, or unless the County he has represented in the previous year is not competing.

e. An ordinary member of a registered croquet club, of not less than two years standing, not being invited to play for a County for which he is eligible, or being eligible for a County which does not enter a team may play for the County in which his club is situated.

2. A player living in a house other than as an owner or occupier shall only be eligible on satisfying the Council that he or she is *bona-fide* a resident in the County.

3. All qualifications must be accurately defined when the names of the teams are submitted.

4. Each County shall appoint a duly qualified Captain.

5. The collector of a team shall send to the Secretary, C.A., before May 8th, a list of the names of not more than eight players, from which the playing team of three pairs for any match must be selected, and the name of the Captain. In a match the players may be combined to form pairs in any manner that the Captain thinks fit, but the pairs must be arranged in the order of the joint amount of bisques, the lowest amount corresponding to the A pair, the highest to the C pair. The constitution of the team must be given to the Manager before any match. If in any match only two pairs from a team should be available for play, these pairs must be matched against the "A" and "B" pairs of the opposing team.

6. If the number of Counties entering is too large to permit each County to play all the others, they will be so drawn as to allow any County to play as many other Counties as time permits.

7. The winning County shall be that which wins the greatest percentage of matches played. In the event of a tie between two or more Counties the County which has won the greatest number of games shall be the winner. Provided that in the event of all Counties not being drawn to play the same number of matches the Manager shall have power, in the later stages of the competition, to withdraw matches unplayed which have no material influence on the result and substitute others if thereby an equal number of matches are ensured to the leading Counties. If there still be a tie, the Challenge Cup shall be held jointly.

8. Flat-soled footwear must be worn. Play will begin at 10 a.m. daily.

9. Entries must reach the Secretary, C.A., by May 2nd.

10. A limit of 3½ hours will be imposed on all games. Two rounds a day will be played. Play will not normally extend beyond 6.30 p.m.

11. Event to be played under Variation "B."

No Entrance Fees.

Hoops 3¼ in. wide, and Jaques' "Eclipse" Balls will be used. Nines courts will be provided.

THE PEEL MEMORIALS

will be played for at

THE ROEHAMPTON CLUB

On MONDAY, MAY 9th to 14th

Committee.—The Tournament Committee of the Croquet Association.

Manager and Handicapper.—V. A. de la Nougerede.

Referee.—T. Wood-Hill.

Secretary.—The Secretary, C.A., 4 Southampton Row, London, W.C.1.

EVENTS.

Open to Associates only.

1.—"PEEL MEMORIAL" SILVER CHALLENGE BOWL. HANDICAP SINGLES for men. Entrance Fee, 9s. 6d. This Event will be played under the "Two Life" system. Holder.—Col. C. C. Adams (—2).

2.—"PEEL MEMORIAL" SILVER CHALLENGE BOWL. HANDICAP SINGLES for women. Entrance Fee, 9s. 6d. This Event will be played under the "Two Life" system. Holder.—Mrs. H. J. Collins (4½).

3.—HANDICAP DOUBLES (Combined handicaps scratch or over). The Lady Murray Memorial Silver Challenge Cups. Entries must be made in pairs. Entrance Fee, 9s. 6d. for each person. Holders.—F. H. Fisher and Brig. A. E. Stokes Roberts (4½).

CONDITIONS.

Hoops 3¼ in. wide. "Brento" Balls will be used. At least seven courts will be provided.

The winners hold the respective Challenge Trophies for one year or until the next competition, whichever is the shorter period. Other prizes according to numbers of entries.

The Committee reserve the right to refuse any entry without assigning a reason and to decide any question that may arise.

Flat-soled footwear must be worn.

ENTRIES.

The Entries, accompanied by the Entrance Fee, for Events 1 and 2 must be sent to the Secretary, C.A., so as to reach her not later than the first post on **Wednesday, May 4th**, and for Event 3 by noon on **Tuesday, May 10th**

PLAY.

Play will begin at 10 a.m. daily unless otherwise notified.

Competitors must report themselves to the Manager on arrival.

Any Competitor who is not present, or is otherwise unable to play when called upon to do so, will be liable to be scratched.

DRAW.

The Draw for Events Nos. 1 and 2 will take place at 4 Southampton Row on **Wednesday, May 4th**, at 11 a.m.

SIDMOUTH

CROQUET TOURNAMENT

On Monday, May 2nd—May 7th, 1955

(Under C.A. Laws and Regulations)

Manager.—Miss A. E. Mills.

Referee and Handicapper.—H. O. Hicks.

Hon. Sec.—Croquet Club, Cricket Pavilion, Sidmouth.

EVENTS.

1.—OPEN SINGLES (CLASS "A"). ("Two Lives" system). Entrance Fee, 9s. 6d.

2.—LEVEL SINGLES (CLASS "B"). Open to players of 1—4½ Bisques. Entrance Fee, 8s. (Rule 44 suspended).

3.—HANDICAP SINGLES (CLASS "C"). Open to players of 5 Bisques and over. Entrance Fee, 8s.

4.—HANDICAP SINGLES. Open to all. Entrance Fee, 8s.

No competitor may enter for more than two events of Events 1, 2, 3, 4.

5.—HANDICAP DOUBLES (Unrestricted). Entrance Fee, 8s. each player.

6.—GOLF CROQUET. Handicap Singles. Entrance Fee, 2s. 6d.

CONDITIONS.

Entries for Events 1, 2, 3 and 4 must reach the Hon. Secretary, by first post on **Thursday, April 28th**. Entries for Doubles and Golf Croquet by midday **Tuesday, May 3.**

As only five courts are available, entries will be strictly limited. The Committee reserve the right to refuse any entry without assigning a reason.

Competitors must not leave the ground without finding out what time they will be required the NEXT day.

Competitors must wear flat-soled footwear.

Lunches and Teas will be provided on the ground.

BUDLEIGH SALTERTON

A CROQUET TOURNAMENT

(Unofficial)

9th MAY, 1955 and following days

(The Laws and Regulations of the C.A. will apply).

Manager and Handicapper.—Miss A. Mills.

Referee of the Tournament.—To be appointed.

Tournament Secretary.—L. G. Walters, Esq., Braywick, Budleigh Salterton (Tel. 333).

EVENTS

1.—AN AMERICAN TOURNAMENT (Handicap). Played in blocks according to handicap. It is hoped to arrange four blocks and guarantee each player a minimum of five games. Winners of blocks will play off. Tournament winner holds the Godfrey Turner Challenge Cup. The winner of the longest handicap block holds the L. G. Walters Long Handicap Challenge Trophy. (Note: The long handicap block ONLY will play shortened game under Rule 12 (d) except in the semi-final and final. Entrance Fee, 12s. 6d.)

2.—HANDICAP DOUBLES (Knock Out). Handicap limit 6 bisques. Entrance Fee, 5s. each player.

An extra event if time and entries permit.

Entries for Event 1 must reach the Secretary not later than first post Wednesday, 4th May. Entries for Event 2 must reach the Secretary by 10 a.m. Tuesday, 10th May, and the draw will take place at 2 p.m. that day.

COFFEE, but NOT LUNCHES, will be available at the club house. Teas, a licensed bar, and bridge rooms will be available as usual.

Six Courts will be available.

The Official Tournament will be held week beginning July 19th.

HUNSTANTON

UNOFFICIAL WEEKEND TOURNAMENT

APRIL 16th to 19th

An AMERICAN TOURNAMENT on handicap in one or two sections according to entries. All players to be available for full day's play on 16th, 17th and 18th.

Entrance 7/6 for club members, 15/- non-members. Entries to Mrs. Perowne, 65 Victoria Avenue, Hunstanton, by April 10th.

Special terms are offered at the Golden Lion Hotel.

Nineteen

BRIGHTON

ANNUAL SUMMER CROQUET TOURNAMENT VICTORIA ROAD, SOUTHWICK MONDAY, MAY 16th—21st, 1955

Committee.—The Croquet Committee of the Club.
Manager and Handicapper.—Major J. H. Dibley.
Referee.—N. Oddie.
Hon. Secretary.—F. E. Corke, 60 Southwick Street,
Southwick, Sussex.

EVENTS.

- 1.—OPEN SINGLES. "THE ABBEY" CHALLENGE CUP. Presented by W. H. Abbey, Esq. Entrance Fee, 8s. 6d.
Draw and Process, Variation "B".
- 2.—HANDICAP SINGLES. Entrance Fee, 8s.
- 3.—HANDICAP SINGLES. "X.Y." Entrance Fee, 8s.
- 4.—HANDICAP DOUBLES (Unrestricted). Entrance Fee, 8s. each player.
All games to start at No. 3 hoop in Event No. 4.
Competitors may enter for 3 out of 4 Events.

ENTRIES.

Entries with Fees for Events 1, 2 and 3 must reach the Hon. Secretary by the first post on **Thursday, May 13th**. Those for Event 4 may be made on the ground up to 2 p.m., **Tuesday, May 17th**.

Non-Associates (except members of the S.C.C. and L.T. Club) pay a tribute of 10s. to the C.A. (5s. if they enter in only one Event); but on becoming an Associate any tribute paid in the current year is credited against the subscription.

The Committee reserves the right of refusing any Entry without assigning a reason.

THE DRAW.

The Draw for Events 1, 2 and 3 will take place at Southwick on **Thursday, May 12th**, at 2.30 p.m. Event 4 on **Tuesday, May 17th**, at 2.30 p.m.

PLAY.

Play will commence at 10 a.m.
Players coming from a distance requiring leave should notify it on their Entry Form. No leave will be granted later than 12 noon **Monday**, unless the exigencies of the Draw permit.

PRIZES.

According to Entries.

Standard Setting and Jaques' "Eclipse" Balls will be used.

Flat-soled footwear must be worn.
Competitors will be made Hon. Members of the Club during the Tournament.

Ten Courts will be available.
Light Luncheons and Teas will be obtainable.
Motor Bus Service from BRIGHTON every 10 minutes.
Train Service to Southwick Station.

Free Parking for Cars on the Ground.

LEAMINGTON SPA

AN OPEN CROQUET TOURNAMENT will be held on the CLUB GROUND on MONDAY, JUNE 6th to 11th, 1955

Manager, Handicapper and Referee.—Miss A. E. Mills.
Hon. Secretary.—The Croquet Tournament Secretary,
Guys Cliffe Avenue, Leamington Spa.

EVENTS

- 1.—OPEN SINGLES. Two Life System. The Midland Challenge Cup. Entrance Fee, 9s. 6d.
 - 2.—HANDICAP SINGLES. 2½ bisques and over. Challenge Cup. Entrance Fee, 8s.
- Players may only enter for one of the above.
- 3.—HANDICAP SINGLES. Open to all. Challenge Cup. Entrance Fee, 8s.

4.—HANDICAP DOUBLES. Unrestricted. Challenge Silver Salvers. Entrance Fee, 7s. each player.

At least two prizes will be given for each Event.

All Challenge Trophies to be held by the winner for one year, or until the next official tournament.

CONDITIONS

Entries with entrance fees must reach the Hon. Secretary by the first post Thursday, June 2nd. Entries for Event 4 may be made on the ground up to 2.30 p.m., Tuesday, June 7th.

Draw for Events 1, 2 and 3, will take place in the Club House at 2.30 p.m., Thursday, June 2nd.

Equipment by Jaques.
Five Courts will be provided.
Play will begin at 10.0 a.m. unless otherwise ordered.
Every competitor shall wear such flat-soled footwear as cannot damage the courts.

Bridge, a licensed bar, teas.
Hotels: Manor House, Regent, Clarendon; Private Hotels: Alkerton, Arden, Desmond, The Oaks, Lathire, The Spa.

BUXTON

THE NORTH OF ENGLAND TOURNAMENT The Pavilion Gardens, Buxton Monday, June 20th—25th, 1955

Manager, Referee and Handicapper.—Miss D. D. Steel.
Hon. Treasurer.—J. Hunter, Old Hall Hotel, Buxton.
Hon. Secretary.—Mrs. D. E. Chorlton, 6 The Square, Buxton.

Committee.—Croquet Committee of the Buxton Club.

EVENTS.

- 1.—OPEN SINGLES. North of England Challenge Cup. "Two Lives." Final—Best of three games. Variation B. Entrance Fee, 10s. 6d.
- 2.—LEVEL SINGLES. "Class B." Open to players of 3 bisques and over. Law 44 suspended. Entrance Fee, 7s. 6d.
- 3.—HANDICAP SINGLES. "Class C." Open to players of 8 bisques and over. Entrance Fee, 7s. 6d.
- 4.—HANDICAP SINGLES. Unrestricted. "X.Y." Entrance Fee, 9s.
- 5.—HANDICAP DOUBLES. Unrestricted. Entrance Fee, 7s. 6d. each player.

CONDITIONS.

First and Second Prizes will be awarded for each Event in addition to Silver Trophies.

Non-Associates pay a tribute of 10s. to the C.A. when playing in an Official Tournament, or 5s. if competing in one Event only.

The Management claim the right to cancel any Event advertised should there not be sufficient entries. Six Lawns will be provided and Jaques' Balls and equipment will be used.

Morning Coffee and Afternoon Tea obtainable.
Flat-soled footwear must be worn.

ACCOMMODATION.

A list of Hotels and Boarding Houses will be sent on application to the Hon. Secretary.

PLAY.

Play will commence at 10 a.m., unless otherwise stated.

ENTRIES.

Entries, made on the official form, and accompanied by the Entrance Fees, should reach the Hon. Secretary by Saturday, June 18th (excepting for Event 5, Entries for which close on Tuesday, June 21st).

THE DRAW.

The Draw for Events 1, 2, 3 and 4, will take place on Saturday, June 18th, at 8 p.m. The Draw for Event 5, on Tuesday, June 21st, at 5 p.m.

DIRECTORY OF CLUBS

Bedford—Hon. Secretary, Miss D. D. Steel, King's Close, Biddenham, Bedford.

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

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

Blackheath (Blackheath Park)—Hon. Secretary, Mrs. E. M. Gordon, 7 Pond Road, Blackheath, S.E.3.

Bowdon—Hon. Secretary, Mrs. M. Curnick, Corwar, Hazelwood Road, Hale, Cheshire.

Budleigh Salterton—Hon. Secretary, L. G. Walters, Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club, Budleigh Salterton.

Buxton Croquet Club—Hon. Secretary, Mrs. M. Dean, 7 Bath Road, Buxton.

Carrickmines Croquet and Lawn Tennis Club—Hon. Sec., Capt. J. H. Wilson, Littlegate, Carrickmines, Dublin.

Cassiobury (Watford)—Hon. Secretary, Miss B. Hurst, 97 Mildred Avenue, Watford.

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

Cheltenham—Hon. Secretary, Major R. D. Marshall, Cheltenham Croquet Club, Old Bath Road, Cheltenham.

Clifton and County Croquet Club—Hon. Secretary, Miss L. Newman, 60 Hampton Park, Bristol 6.

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

Compton (Eastbourne)—Hon. Secretary, C. J. Speer, 2 Dunvegan, Dittons Road, Eastbourne.

Crouch Hill Recreation Club (85a Crouch Hill, N. 4)—Hon. Secretary, Mrs. E. G. Simmonds, 7 Crouch Hall Road, Crouch End, N.8.

Dulwich Croquet Club—Hon. Secretary, Mrs. N. L. Baker, 23 Roilscourt Avenue, London, S.E.24.

East Dorset Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club (Parkstone)—Hon. Secretary, V. A. de la Nougerede, East Dorset L.T. & Croquet Club, Salterns Road, Parkstone, Dorset.

Edinburgh Croquet Club (Lauriston Castle)—Hon. Secretary, J. R. Spence, 11 Stanley Road, Edinburgh 6.

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

Ferranti Staff Recreation Club—Crewe Toll, Edinburgh—Hon. Secretary, A. W. Dawson.

Folkestone L.T. and Croquet Club—Hon. Secretary, Mrs. W. A. Traill, 9 Bath Court, Clifton Crescent, Folkestone.

Heathfield (Lyford Road, London, S.W.18)—Hon. Secretary, W. Goodrich, 25 Crockerton Road, S.W.17.

Hunstanton—Hon. Secretary, Mrs. B. C. Perowne, 65 Victoria Avenue, Hunstanton.

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

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

Littlehampton Croquet Club—Hon. Secretary, H. T. Heming-Johnson, Rosemary, Fitzalan Road, Littlehampton.

Northern Lawn Tennis Club (Croquet Section) Didsbury, nr. Manchester—Hon. Secretary, W. Brownsword, 488 Wilmslow Road, Fallowfield, Manchester.

Norwich—Hon. Secretary, Mrs. Edmund Reeve, Sutton Lodge, Ipswich Road, Norwich.

Nottingham Croquet Club—Hon. Secretary, A. O. Taylor, Woodville House, Sherwood, Nottingham.

Oxford University Croquet and Lawn Tennis Club—Hon. Secretary, H. S. Clemons, 7 Marston Ferry Road, Oxford

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, P. T. Allen, 53 Swanmore 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.

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, F. E. Corke, 60 Southwick Street, Southwick, Sussex.

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

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

Woking Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club—Hon. Secretary, Major J. H. Cobb, Farm Hotel, Woking.