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CROQUET

THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE CROQUET ASSOCIATION

PRICE 3s.

Number 99

CONDITIONS OF PLAY 1968

The following conditions of play will apply to all Tournaments throughout the 1968 Season, and will not be published in any subsequent edition of "Croquet".

GENERAL CONDITIONS AND INFORMATION

The following conditions apply to all tournaments advertised below unless specified to the contrary in any advertisement:—

1. The tournament will be played under the Laws of Association Croquet and the Regulations for Official Tournaments.
2. The Tournament Committee reserves the right to refuse an entry without giving a reason. In particular, entries will not be accepted in excess of the capacity of the lawns.
3. If there are very few entries for an event, the Manager may play it on the American system, even though otherwise advertised.
4. Hoops will be 3¼" wide. Jaques "Eclipse" balls will be used.
5. Flat-soled footwear must be worn on the lawns.
6. In C.A. tournaments no leave will be granted before the draw has been made. Application for leave on the first day will be considered immediately after the draw by the Manager or a deputy authorised by him. Leave on other days may be given by the Manager only. In other tournaments leave may be granted by the Manager or his authorised deputy, if the needs of the tournament permit.

7. Entries for C.A. tournaments must be made on Official Forms and must be accompanied by the entrance fee (which includes levy) and any Tribute due. Tribute is payable at the rate of 25s. per tournament or 12s. 6d. for one event only, for all Calendar Fixtures, Official or Non-Official, by all except those competitors paying the standard rate of subscription (i.e., 50s.) and Junior members or others playing in their first tournament. It is helpful if entries for other tournaments are made on the Official Forms. In any case entrants should give the address and telephone numbers if possible which will find them during the tournament: entrance fees and any Tribute due must be paid before the draw.

8. Winners of Trophies will hold them for one year or until next competed for, whichever period is shorter.

9. (i) Play will normally commence at 10 a.m. each day, but the Manager may arrange an earlier start if he feels it desirable.
- (ii) All competitors must report 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.

10. Competitors will be made Honorary members of the Club for the duration of the tournament.

THESE CONDITIONS APPLY TO ALL TOURNAMENTS EXCEPT WHEN OTHERWISE STATED.

C.A. PUBLICATIONS

Abridged Handbook, 1968-1970	6/-	Instructions to Beginners	1/-
C.A. Handbook, 1964	5/-	12 Hints to Beginners	1/-
Know the Game. Croquet	3/6	2nd Edition of the Laws incorporating all amendments to date. Price 3/6— Associates	2/6
Simplified Laws. E. A. Roper	1/6		

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It has been written by an experienced competitor in first-class tournaments and is introduced by John Solomon.

When the first edition appeared in 1961 this magazine reviewed it as follows:

"This very useful little book . . . a remarkable bargain at the price . . . The book can be confidently recommended not only to beginners but to middle bisquers who haven't bothered latterly to refresh their minds on some of the basic book-work of the game."



EDUCATIONAL PRODUCTIONS LTD. East Ardsley, Wakefield.

The book is available from all good bookshops and sports dealers and costs only 3/6.

Calendar Fixtures 1968

April	13 - 15	Cheltenham (American non-official)
"	19 - 22	Hunstanton (American non-official)
May	6 - 11	Budleigh Salterton
"	13 - 18	Peel Memorials—Roehampton
"	20 - 25	Southwick (non-official)
"	28 - 31	Inter-Counties Championship—Hurlingham
June	1 - 3	Hunstanton (American non-official) (Provisional)
"	1 - 3	Cheltenham (American non-official)
"	3 - 8	Ryde
"	8 - 15	Carrickmines—Championship of Ireland
"	10 - 15	Challenge & Gilbey
"	14 - 16	Nottingham (Week-end)
"	17 - 22	Compton
"	21 - 24	Woking
"	24 - 29	Parkstone
July	1 - 6	Budleigh Salterton (non-official)
"	8 - 13	Budleigh Salterton
"	15 - 20	Men's & Women's Championships—Roehampton
"	22 - 27	Open Championships—Hurlingham
"	29 - 3	Colchester
"	29 - 3	Cheltenham
Aug.	5 - 14	Hurlingham
"	16 - 18	Cheltenham (American non-official)
"	17 - 24	Carrickmines—Championship of Co. Dublin
"	19 - 24	Nottingham
"	26 - 31	Southwick
"	30 - 2	Chelmsford & Colchester—week-end
Sept.	2 - 7	Southwick (non-official)
"	2 - 7	Hunstanton
"	9 - 13	President's Cup—Hurlingham
"	9 - 13	Chairman's Salver—Nottingham
"	9 - 13	Surrey Cup—Cheltenham
"	9 - 13	Ladies' Invitation Event
"	16 - 21	Parkstone
"	(Date not confirmed)	All England Finals
"	20 - 22	Cheltenham (American non-official)
"	23 - 28	Roehampton
"	30 -	Devonshire Park
Oct.	12	1st week: September 30th—October 5th
"		2nd week: October 7th—October 12th
"	18 - 20	Cheltenham (American non-official)

HANDICAP ALTERATIONS AT END OF 1967 SEASON

C.A. MEMBERS

G. Birch $\frac{1}{2}$ to 0.
M. Murray 1 to $\frac{1}{2}$.
D. W. Archer $2\frac{1}{2}$ to $1\frac{1}{2}$.
A. J. Bucknell $3\frac{1}{2}$ to 3.
Miss L. H. Smith 5 to $4\frac{1}{2}$.
Miss E. M. Brumpton 5 to $4\frac{1}{2}$.
C. W. Haworth 6 to $5\frac{1}{2}$.
Dr. G. Quayle 6 to $5\frac{1}{2}$.
F. B. Stephens 7 to $6\frac{1}{2}$.
W. Haynes 8 to $7\frac{1}{2}$.
Mrs. E. L. Richardson 8 to 7.
Dr. H. M. Browning 10 to 9.

NON-C.A. MEMBERS

Mrs. E. W. Ward 8 to 7.
Mrs. M. Cherry 11 to 10.
C. T. Greenwood 12 to 10.
G. Henshaw 12 to 10.
Mrs. E. Chamberlain 14 to 12.

C.A. Notices

It is with deep regret that I have to inform you that, owing to the ill-health of her husband, Mrs. P. D. Showan has had to give up her duties in the C.A. Office. For four years we have worked together in complete harmony, and it is a great wrench to lose her. The Council and all members of the C.A. owe her their sincerest thanks for her hard and efficient work for the betterment of croquet. We all sympathise with her in her time of trouble, and send many good wishes for her husband's speedy recovery.

There is also to be a change of printer for the magazine which in future will be printed by The Seven Corners Press, Onslow Street, Guildford, Surrey, under the direct supervision of Mr. K. G. Davies. Mr. Davies was in charge of the magazine at the Holmesdale Press for many years, and both Mr. Townsend as Editor, and to a far lesser degree myself, found him an efficient and at all times a courteous man to work with. We hope that Associates will note a pleasant improvement in the magazine in future.

In all probability this is the last year Roehampton Club will hold C.A. Tournaments; I hope that everyone will make every endeavour to make them a success.

The Tournament on June 3rd-8th is a very special one for the Ryde Club as it is their Golden Jubilee. This once-flourishing Club has fallen upon hard times, and I would urge all Associates who possibly can to try to support this Tournament which is always a most enjoyable one.

During the course of the 1968 season, C.A. teams will endeavour to arrange to play any Club that asks for a match.

A new abridged handbook with list of members and addresses will be on sale at this Office shortly—price 6s.

A revised book of laws is also due to be published before April.

Associates are reminded that subscriptions were due on January 1st. Please send yours NOW and avoid extra work for the Office.

Mrs. J. A. McMordie, Hon. Secretary, Parkstone Club, asks Associates to note that her daughter's initials are Miss M. D. McMordie.

Advertisements for Tournaments must reach this Office six weeks before the 1st of the month of issue.

Tournament results and reports should reach this Office by the Wednesday following the Tournament.

Prospective entrants to the Women's Championship should particularly note that this event, for the first time, will be played as Draw and Process.

V. C. GASSON,

Secretary, Croquet Association, Hurlingham Club, S.W.6.

NEW ASSOCIATES

R. M. Milne	28 Roseneath Place, Edinburgh.
Miss L. E. Holt	Duntisbourne Abbots, Cirencester, Glos.
J. H. Campbell	3515 Stonewall Road, Jackson, Michigan 49203, U.S.A.
R. D. C. Smith	Magdalen College School, Brackley, Northants.
Dr. G. Quale	Graythorne Grange, Stretton, Burton-on-Trent.
H. T. Steptoe	336 Oriental Parade, Wellington C 4, New Zealand.
Mrs. W. M. Stone	Flat 5, 66 New Church Road, Hove, Sussex.
Mrs. N. G. Anderson	23 Christchurch Avenue, London, N.W.6.
Mrs. Wm. G. Baer II	243 Old Gulph Road, Haverford P.A., U.S.A.
I. G. Balding	P.O. Box 102, Split Rock Road, Syosset 791, Long Island, N.Y.
A. E. Thomas	3 Sandown Flats, 317 Wessel Street, Arcadia, Pretoria, South Africa.
H. C. Green	Tudor House, Haynes Church End, Bedford.
M. Brougham	Lunar Bay Hotel, Arbroath, N.B.
A. Ryan	82 Canford Cliffs Road, Poole.
Dr. Gerald Laurence	Crag Fell, Budleigh Salterton.
Mrs. G. R. Steel	Sutton Mead, Moretonhampstead.
Mrs. D. K. Tilly	160 Ravenhurst Road, Devon.

AGENDA, A.G.M.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT
THE HURLINGHAM CLUB
ON MONDAY, MAY 27th, 1968, at 2.30 p.m.

- Minutes of Meeting held May 31st, 1967.
- Report and Balance Sheet.
- Election of Hon. Treasurer.**
Mr. A. J. Oldham retires and offers himself for re-election.
- Election of Members of Council.**
The following retire by rotation and offer themselves for re-election:
D. C. Caporn.
A. D. Karmel.
Miss A. D. Lintern.
E. A. Roper.
Dr. W. R. D. Wiggins.
Col. D. M. C. Prichard.
There are, therefore, three vacancies to be filled.
- Resolution to appoint Auditors and to agree their remuneration.
- Any other business.
- Vote of thanks to the Chairman.

RETURN OF ATTENDANCE AT COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS, 1967/68

	Laws	Tournament	Finance and General Purposes	Publicity	Council	Total Attendances	Total Possible Attendances
Dr. W. R. D. Wiggins, Chairman (ex-officio, all meetings)					5	5	10
L. E. W. Stokes-Roberts, Vice-Chairman (ex-officio, all meetings)		1			3	4	10
A. J. Oldham, Hon. Treasurer (ex-officio, all meetings)			2		5	7	10
I. C. Baillieu	1				5	6	6
G. Birch		1			3	4	6
Dr. C. A. Boucher					2	2	5
D. C. Caporn		1	1	1	4	7	9
Major J. H. Dibley		1	2		5	8	9
G. Victor Evans			1	1	3	5	8
A. D. Karmel		1			4	5	6
Miss D. A. Lintern		1	2	1	5	9	9
Prof. B. G. Neal		1		1	5	7	7
B. Lloyd-Pratt				1	5	6	6
Lt.-Col. D. M. C. Prichard	1	1			4	6	7
A. A. Reed					4	4	6
J. M. Rivington	1		2		3	6	8
E. A. Roper	1	1			2	4	7
Mrs. E. Rotherham			1		4	5	6
R. F. Rothwell			1		5	6	6
J. W. Solomon	1	1	1		5	8	9
S. S. Townsend			2	1	4	7	8

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND TRIBUTE, 1968.

- Subscriptions.
 - Standard rate: £2 10s. 0d.
 - Reduced rates: (a) Junior Members £1 10s. 0d.
(b) Golf Croquet Only, and Non-Tournament Members £1 10s. 0d.
(c) Overseas Members £1 1s. 0d.
- Life Membership £35 0s. 0d.
- Tribute.

Tribute is payable by non-Associates who enter any Tournaments in the list of Calendar Fixtures published in "Croquet" except the All England Handicap, the Longman Cup and the Inter-Counties Championship, at the following rates:

 - 25/- per Tournament, or 12/6 for one event only per Tournament.
 - 10/- per Evening, Week-end, or other Short Tournament, or 5/- for one event only per Tournament in this category.

NOTE.

- Evening Tournaments are those which start at 4 p.m. or later and which do not last longer than one week.
- Week-end and other Short Tournaments are those which do not exceed four days' duration.
- Regarding category (b) above, the words "one event only" apply both to the player and to the Tournament itself, that is to say a non-Associate entering one event only in a multi-event Tournament is liable for Tribute at 5/-; and if a Tournament consists of one event only the liability of each non-Associate entrant is 5/-.
- Players are reminded of the once-for-all benefit by which no Tribute is payable by a non-Associate entering a Calendar Fixture for the first time.
- Levy is payable by all competitors in Official Tournaments and forms part of the entry fee charged. The rate is 3/6 per event. Provided an Official Tournament is held, every club is entitled to include in the List of Calendar Fixtures one Unofficial Tournament free of any levy. In the respect of a second and all subsequent Unofficial Tournaments, half levy is payable, i.e. 1/9.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The past year has been a very significant one for Croquet players in that it was our Centenary and our beloved Queen visited us at Hurlingham. Those fortunate enough to be present will always remember the great occasion. This meant a great deal of work by your Council, who spared no pains to ensure the success of the day, which it was to such a high degree.

The toughest job fell upon the C.A. Office as the All England Handicap, successful as it was, meant a great deal of hard work. It has had its toll in some degree—illness has hit us this winter. Mrs. Gasson, our hard-worked Secretary, was off for a time and returned to work before she should have done; also Mrs. Shewan's husband has been ill and she has to be at home to tend him.

Rising costs are a great problem and cause concern to us sitting on the Council. In particular the rising cost of the magazine and the difficulties which have been experienced in producing it have caused concern particularly to our hard-working and conscientious editor and his assistant.

We are going to a fresh firm of printers, one member of whom was with the Holmesdale Press, who looked after us for so many years. This should help a great deal.

Arrangements for the forthcoming Test tour are well in hand. The zeal and energy of our President in this matter is wonderful indeed. It should be the best-ever organised tour.

Finally, a big thank you to the Council members for their help and co-operation during the past two years. Taking the chair was not nearly such a task as I imagined it might be. It is easier to run now, however, as meeting in great comfort at Hurlingham on a Saturday, more time and thought can be given to the agenda.

W. R. D. WIGGINS.

Extracts from Council Meeting, February 3rd, 1968

Correspondence.—Mrs. Gasson read a letter from the Roehampton Club saying after 1968 there would be no more London Tournaments held at Roehampton as the croquet lawns were to be cut to four. Prof. Neal was asked to draft a letter to be sent to Roehampton from the Council, expressing the great consternation they felt at this news. Miss Lintern explained the situation in detail.

Mr. Lloyd-Pratt's motion be a grant for the Hunstanton Club. Mrs. Rotherham seconded this and many councillors spoke very highly of the Club. Mr. Duffield proposed a grant of £20 should be given and the Treasurer agreed.

Editorial Panel Report.—Mr. Rivington, the Chairman, in presenting this stressed the need for economy over the magazine and continued to deal with the Committee's recommendations:—

- (a) That results should begin with semi-finals except for the Caskets and Open Championships.

This was **not** approved by Council who said Results should be published in full but Reports curtailed where possible. The following recommendations were approved:—

 - (b) **American Tournaments.** Only block winners and results of block play-offs to be published.
 - (a) **Advertisements of C.A. Tournaments.** Conditions of Play **not** to be published for President's Cup—Chairman's Salver,

(Continued on page 7.)

NOTES by ROVER

PICKING A TEST TEAM

This is a very favourite pastime enjoyed by followers of all the sports. Naturally, the team will have to be picked on current form, and our selectors, official and non-official, cannot be too precipitate. However, there is not that amount of time, for those who are to go must be given time to arrange their lives accordingly. There are few who could quarrel with the official announcement, which appears elsewhere in this issue, that the team will be picked at the end of the Open Championships on July 27th. But if interest is to be stimulated and tongues are to wag, the Associates should, so far as is possible, be taken into the confidence of the Council. Any amateur selector would first turn his attention to the contestants in last year's President's Cup. Then a question mark appears after the names of both Simon and Bolton. Both these players must be in the running, on form, but both are at the University. Will this fact prevent one or both of them from accepting an invitation to join the Team? Surely the answer to this question should be ascertained and publicised as soon as possible. It might even be that the answer to this question may be a determining factor in deciding whether to send four, five or six players. The Council should recognise that this decision is not simply a matter for themselves. The Council has decided not to vote any Council funds towards the expenses of the tour. In result it may be that the support which may be forthcoming from the Associates will determine the number to be sent. It would be disastrous if our best players were to be passed over from lack of means.

There is a further step which the Council might take that would help both the official and non-official selectors in the task before them. Prior to the proposed selection date, Solomon is likely to make only two public appearances, namely the Men's Championship and the Open Championship. There will probably be only a few other occasions when other probables will be competing and meeting other players of their own calibre. This is supremely unimportant in the case of Solomon for he must be accounted a certainty. What is important is to see how other aspirants fare against him and against each other. Assuming, as this Rover does for the moment, that neither Simon nor Bolton will be available, he thinks that the other leading players who stand out on recent past form are the remaining leading players in the 1967 President's Cup, namely Wylie, Ormerod and Aspinall; and this conclusion is fortified by examining the results for 1966. Who then are the players who might challenge one or other of them for a place in the first four or who might occupy a fifth or sixth place in the Team? Subject to health, the name of H. O. Hicks immediately springs to mind. Then there are the two remaining players in the 1967 Cup, namely Cotter and Neal. It is a little invidious to go outside this select band who were invited to play last year. However, there are undoubtedly players capable of springing a surprise in the Open Championship. But neither the Men's nor the Open is seeded. The form shown may be insufficient on which to base a reliable selection. The suggestion is that throughout the early part of the season the Council should stage trial matches on Saturdays or Sundays or over the full week-end. There is no reason why players who cannot make the trip should not be used as trial horses. Surely this would add to the interest of the season and foster the spirit of competition—the stuff of which a Test Player is made.

THE EDITOR ON "CROQUET"

This page is traditionally devoted to notes under the pseudonym of Rover so as to enable a non-official viewpoint to be expressed in these pages. But as the subject matter of this Rover note is "Croquet", the Editor thinks that he should speak with his own voice. The Council has now engaged new printers to produce the further issues of "Croquet"—see C.A. Notices on page 1—and Associates may well wonder what the future has in store for them. In the first place it will not solve the economic problem of keeping within the budget and at the same time publishing full results, reports on results and sufficient other material to make some interesting reading. All future issues are to be restricted to 12 pages. The Editorial Panel had suggested to the Council that Championship results should be printed in full and other results only from the semi-final onwards. The proposal was rejected by the Council who wanted the results of all official Tournaments to be printed. The Council accepted the Editor's undertaking that only in the last resort would he fail to print these results. It seems to the Editor, however, that the real distinction should not be between official Tournaments and non-official Tournaments but rather between weekly Tournaments and week-end Tournaments. This decision, to make it practicable, must mean that the results must be compressed into a smaller space. The Editor devoutly hopes that there will be no

repetition of the microscopic print in which appeared the results of the Roehampton and Devonshire Park Tournaments. This reduction in size, produced by photography, was never sanctioned. The printers were instructed to reduce the size of the print so that it corresponded with the blocked results of Eights Week and the reductions in handicap, as both appeared in the October, 1967, issue. The last October issue was of 16 pages. The next October issue will be of 12 pages. If any Associate cares to measure the space occupied by results in the last October issue it will be seen that some action must be taken. It may be possible to run the results right across a page and to print titles and initials only on the first occasion in an event when the name appears. The issues in which the congestion arises are the July, August, September and October issues.

What features will then appear in future issues? It is hoped that "Notes" from Clubs will appear again, and two such Notes appear in this issue. Questions and Answers were squeezed out in October and there was only one column of Rover notes. It is hoped that this will not re-occur. Further, it is hoped that there will be room for correspondence and reports of special matches. In this issue there is printed the conditions for the MacRobertson Trophy. The Editor hopes that there will be a Rover Note on this in the next issue, and possibly—maybe this is a wishful thought—there will be room to publish short letters from correspondents on these conditions which have led to England being about to send a team across the world for the third time since the war. It is hoped to make "Croquet on the Move" a regular feature. Lastly, it is hoped to have a corresponding feature for longer BISQUERS. Professor Neal has written such an article in this issue. And having so said, the Editor must now patiently await complaints, especially if some of the items promised above are squeezed out through lack of space.

CONDITIONS OF COMPETITION FOR THE MACROBERTSON SHIELD

THE TROPHY.

- (a) The Trophy shall be known as "The MacRobertson International Croquet Shield".
- (b) The Trophy shall be open to competition by teams representative of their respective nations.
- (c) For the purposes of these competitions nations shall be defined as those Sovereign Independent States which are members of the British Commonwealth of Nations.*
- (a) The Trophy shall be held by the winning nation for the time being.
- (b) The holders shall be responsible for the costs of transit of the Trophy after ceasing to hold it.

COMPETITIONS.

- (a) Competitions shall be held from time to time provided that not more than one competition be held in any one year commencing 1st of March.
- (b) Competitions shall be held according to the Laws of Association Croquet in force at the time in the country where the competition is to be held.*
- (c) Delete.*
- (d) Delete.*
- (c) The venue of a competition shall be that country which issues a challenge or alternatively by mutual agreement. In default of agreement the venue shall be decided by lot drawn at the Headquarters of the Croquet Association amongst the entrant nations, exclusive of the nation in whose country the competition was last held and exclusive of any nation which is entering the competition for the first time.*
- All challenges shall be addressed to the Croquet authority in the country of the nation holding the Trophy for the time being. Simultaneously a copy shall be forwarded by each challenger to the Croquet Association and to the Croquet authorities of every nation which has previously played in the competition, at least six months before the 1st of September, if the competition is to be held between the months of October and March or the 1st of March if the competition is to be held between the months of April and September. Each nation entering shall at least three months before the date of the first Test Match indicate by letter or cable to the Croquet Association the number of players it proposes to include in its team (c.f. Clause 9). The Croquet Association shall be the sole judge of the regularity of any challenge, and shall notify the holder accordingly who must defend or forfeit the Trophy.*

5. (a) Each competition shall consist of three Test Matches but that number may by mutual agreement be increased to five.
- (b) Depending on the number of players in the teams (c.f. Clause 9) a Test Match shall consist of 4, 5 or 6 singles and 2 or 3 doubles matches, that is to say with teams of 4 there shall be 4 singles and 2 doubles—with teams of 5 there shall be 5 singles and 2 doubles—and with teams of 6 there shall be 6 singles and 3 doubles.
6. The winning nation shall be the one which wins the greatest number of Test Matches, except when more than three nations are competing (see Clause 7). Each Test Match shall be decided by the winning of a majority of matches, but if the result of the series of Test Matches shall be a tie the nation which wins the greatest number of individual matches during such series of Test Matches shall be the winner and if the result is then still a tie the nation which wins the most games during such series of Test Matches shall be the winner, and if the result is then still a tie the nation which scores the greatest number of points during such series of Test Matches shall be the winner. If the teams shall consist of 4 players and the result of a Test Match shall be a tie on individual matches the winner shall be that side which similarly wins the greatest number of games or points.*
7. If there are three nations competing, each nation shall play a series of three Test Matches against each of the other two nations; if two nations have then won the same number of Test Matches they shall play one final Test Match to decide which is the winner. If more than three nations are competing they shall be drawn on the "Bagnall-Wild" system and a series of three Test Matches shall be played in each round.

PLAYERS.

8. (a) In order to qualify for a nation a player shall either:—
 - (i) have been born in that nation's country, or
 - (ii) have been domiciled there in the past for not less than eight years consecutively, or
 - (iii) have been domiciled there for three years immediately preceding the season of the competition.
- (b) A player who has once represented a nation shall only be qualified to represent another nation if he is domiciled in the latter and has been so domiciled during the three years immediately preceding.
9. (a) A team representing a nation shall consist of 4, 5 or 6 players at the option of the visiting nation provided that:—
 - (i) In the event of there being more than one visiting nation the wishes of the nation desiring the smallest number shall prevail.
 - (ii) The number constituting a team shall be fixed at least one calendar month before the date of the first Test Match.*
- (b) If a team is unable through unavoidable disability to field the agreed number of players, including any previously nominated reserves, the teams shall be equalised by the withdrawal from the opposing team or teams of the appropriate number of players.*
- (c) If a team is unable through unavoidable disability to field more than half the agreed number of players, including any previously nominated reserves, they shall forfeit the match. If the contest cannot be completed the state of the competition at that time shall decide the winner. If the state of the competition be level that nation unable to field more than half the agreed number of players shall forfeit the series if there are two nations competing, or if more than two nations are competing they shall withdraw from the series.*
10. A captain, who may be a non-playing captain, for each competing team shall be appointed three clear days before the commencement of each Test Match.*
11. The names and order of play and partnerships of all competing and reserve players shall be notified by each captain to the Croquet authority of the country where the Test Matches are being held at least three clear days before the commencement of a Test Match. The order of play for singles matches shall be the order of merit based on current form.*
12. (a) Individual members of the teams may be varied during the competition but not during a Test Match without the sanction of the captain or captains of the opposing team or teams. Provided that in the event of the unavoidable inability of any player to continue play during a Test Match a reserve player, previously nominated, may fill his or her place in the team in any subsequent match during that Test Match; but where a player is for any reason unable to continue playing in a match in which he has commenced to play, that match goes by default, the defaulting side

scoring any game and points already made, whilst the other side scores two games.*

- (b) An individual member shall not play in any one Test Match more than one single and one double match.
13. The Croquet authority of the country in which the Competition is to be held shall allocate the courts on which the matches are to be played and appoint Assistant Referees to be available for each court. The home nation shall appoint a Referee for the Competition and each visiting nation shall appoint one representative to co-operate with him by jointly adjudicating on all appeals which may be made from the decisions of Assistant Referees. Such representatives may be varied between matches, or, in the event of unavoidable disability, during a match with the agreement of the other competing nations. In the event of an equality of voting the Referee shall have a second or casting vote.*
14. These conditions shall only be altered by mutual agreement between the Associations of those countries who have in the past competed for the Trophy, excepting any country which has not competed during the previous 20 years.*

* Denotes alteration of existing conditions.

CROQUET ON THE MOVE—NEW LEAVES

The key to winning a match often lies in a sound leave. This month we will be looking at some leaves used in Advanced Play after completing a break to 4 Back.

The "modern classical" leave was pioneered in the early 1950s:—

Blue (for 4 Back) On E. Boundary 4 yards from Corner 4.
Black (for Hoop 2—peeled through Hoop 1) 2 yds. S. of Blue.
Red (for Hoop 1) 3 yds. E. of Peg.
Yellow (for Hoop 1) 1 yard S.W. of Hoop 2.

However, I feel compelled to look for other leaves. No leave should ever be used exclusively, and a major drawback of the above is the easy pick up for the opponent if he hits the short lift.

Advanced Play leaves should satisfy four main conditions:—

- (a) The short lift shot is discouraged.
- (b) The Triple Peel is threatened.
- (c) The Safest Shot is as long as possible.
- (d) A Simple 3 Ball Break could follow cornering by the opponent.

Here are four leaves, all examples of finesse and requiring extreme accuracy in placing. (It would be best to make a diagram of these.)

Leave 1. **Blue** (for 4 Back) On E. Boundary 5 yds. from Corner 4.

Black (for Hoop 1) 2-3 yds. S. of Blue.
 (These positions apply to Leaves 1-4.)

Red One Inch N. of Hoop 5—wired from S. Boundary but rushable to within 2 yds. of Hoop 1.

Yellow 2 yds. S.W. of Hoop 2.

Leave 2. **Red** $\frac{1}{2}$ -1 in. N. of Hoop 1 wired from S. Boundary.

Yellow 1 yd. N.W. of Hoop 2.

Leave 3. **Red** Position as for leaves 1 or 2.

Yellow In the middle of Hoop 2, rushable to Hoop 1.

Leave 4. This is the most difficult leave, best when Black is for Hoop 2.

Red In jaws of Hoop 2.

Yellow 4 yds. W.N.W. of Hoop 2 almost wired from Red.

To effect **Leave 1**, try to position Red before making 2 Back, and perfect the position later.

Leave 2. Croquet Yellow in position for leave after making one back—Black and Red must be near 2 Back.

Perfect Red's position after making 2 Back, and rush Black to 3 Back.

Leave 3. Yellow and Black should be near 1 Back when that Hoop is made—Red at 2 Back.

Perfect Yellow's position into Hoop 2 after making 1 Back then:—

- (a) If Red's position in leave 1 is required, rush Black down the lawn, croquet Black 1 yard S.E. of Hoop 5 and make 2 Back off Red. Then rush Red N. of Hoop 5, try and perfect Red's position before making 3 Back off Black. But if necessary tidy the position after rushing Black to E. Boundary when 3 Back is made.
- (b) If Red's position in leave 2 is required, rush Black to 2 Back after making 1 Back, and proceed as in leave 2 above.

For **leave 4**, Yellow and Red should be near 1 Back when that Hoop is made—Black at 2 Back. Place Red in jaws of Hoop 2, after making 1 Back, rush Yellow down the lawn, and make 2 Back off Black, 3 Back off Yellow. Try and croquet Black towards Hoop

2 before 3 Back is made. After making 3 Back off Yellow try for a forward rush to Hoop 2. Perfect Yellow's position, and rush Black to E. Boundary and lay up. If no forward rush was obtained on Yellow after 3 Back, lay up Blue and Black near Corner 2, leaving Yellow near Hoop 4.

(Note.—No Peel on Black through Hoop 1 was made during the break.)

There are two other leaves which I think are excellent for present day conditions, especially during "Eight's Week".

Leave 5. **Blue** (for 4 Back) On E. Boundary 8 yds. from Corner 4.

Black (for Hoop 1) 4 yds. S. of Blue.

Red and Yellow Cross-Pegged—1-2 yards each from Peg, and ideally in line with Corners 1 and 3.

This Cross-Pegged leave is often condemned, but in my opinion is an excellent leave psychologically and tactically. The short lift is discouraged, as is Cornering, and a Triple Peel need not be a delayed one. However the opponent plays, the pick up is relatively easy.

Leave 6. Finally here is a defensive leave which often pays dividends when no control was possible during the first break.

Blue and Black—as in leave 5.

Red—close to Peg—preferably 1 yard E.

Yellow—near W. Boundary level with Hoop 2.

If Blue and Black are left 5 or 6 yards apart the opponent is in a quandary. Whether he declines the lift, or shoots and misses, a powerful leave can follow with no lift to concede. Thus

Here is a mental exercise for you!

W. P. ORMEROD.

CROQUET ON THE MOVE : NEW OPENINGS

I believe one's opening tactics should be influenced by the amount of play that the opponent and oneself have had previously during the day. Most players are not quite so confident of hitting a tice first thing in the morning as they would be after a close game or two. It is difficult to say, if given the choice, whether to play first or second: the third ball has the advantage of the first shot at the tice, if there is one, whereas the fourth ball has more immediate scope if it hits than the third. Let us consider what strategies are available for the second player.

Suppose Blue opens to the east boundary somewhere between hoop 4 and the fourth corner. If you have warmed up, a good idea is for Red, say, to shoot at Blue as William Ormerod explained last time; then, if successful, you can roll both Blue and Red to near the peg. I think this puts too much stake on the outcome of the next turn, played with, say, Black. If Black hits, he has the best chance of a run to 4-back with a three-ball break that you can give him. If Black misses, then you have it with a four-ball break—too much white or black, not enough grey. Less decisive either way is for Red to lay a double short tice, thus: croquet Blue right along the east yard-line to about eight yards from the third corner-spot, then measure the actual distance and send Red off exactly the same distance from the first corner. Now even if Black does hit one of the tices, he will be hard put to remove the other and clear partner from baulk especially if he is starting up from cold, still using the choke. A short miss by Black may well render him psychologically upset, and, as in golf, psychology has a large say in the final result. If neither of you has had much or any play that day, quite a good plan is for Red to leave a tice about two feet west of the sixth loop. If this turns out to be wired from the third corner, so much the better. Whatever will Black do? On the court this causes much pondering. Black dare not shoot at Red from anywhere except the third corner, which makes it further, and only then provided a miss on the left leaves him far from the first corner. In such a case Yellow should shoot at Black even if it is double the length of a shot at Red for two reasons: an immediate chance of a break would otherwise not present itself; and it may be convenient for Yellow to land up nearer Red in the second corner, rather than further in the first corner, if Yellow misses. A gentle shot by Black at Red needs no comment, so he may join about five yards apart, surely not closer? Then, according to his mood, Yellow will shoot at Red from either the west end of "B" baulk or a position calculated to leave himself in the first corner if he misses.

Now suppose Blue, playing first, takes a similar position near the second corner. Red may lay an interesting tice correspondingly along the east boundary, say ten yards, but he should finish slightly less than one foot out from the yard-line, because opponents who open near the second corner have a habit of shooting gently or at an angle at such a tice. That will now be decidedly dangerous, for Black's going off leaves a tasty louble with Red. But on the other

hand Black may well finish near the fourth corner. Do not place Yellow way out from the third corner and play to Red, leaving a nice target for Black if you miss. It is better to be patient and put Yellow about three yards due south of the third corner. The tice is now seven instead of ten yards, yet you still guard the corner.

Now a few words about not quite such an orthodox opening, but a very attacking one: Blue travels to an inexact place between, and roughly in line with, the first and second hoops, slightly nearer the first, with the idea that wherever Red goes next Black will shoot at Red with a fair possibility of a three-ball break. The best defence to this is to play Red to the east boundary, about fourteen yards from fourth corner, leaving the furthest shot for Black. If Black shoots from "A" baulk and misses on the right, it is safer for Yellow to shoot at the pair than if Black missed on the left, the danger being Yellow finishing in the fourth corner and allowing Black an easy rush for corner cannon, a danger neglected by many players in defence. You may have noticed that throughout this discussion Black has really had an "off" day with his shooting. Unfortunately this doesn't always happen, but the number of different analysable situations increases very rapidly (at chess there are 400 different ways in which white and black can make their first move). As explained in the previous article, with Blue near the fourth corner, Black puts the tice near the second hoop, leaving Yellow no happy shot. So I come to the conclusion that the best tice is not necessarily the one which lures the third player away from his partner.

G. N. ASPINALL.

CONSTRUCTIVE BISQUE-TAKING

The front page of the December, 1967, issue gave an excellent example of the way in which a bisque can be used constructively. The theme is continued here.

Consider first Blue and Black, a 12-bisquer, confronted by a -2 player who is fully capable of picking up breaks from difficult positions and going round in two turns. To have any chance of success he must use his bisques to **play in the same way** and to give Red and Yellow very few free shots which, if hit, will lead to breaks.

Suppose that early in the game all clips are on Hoop 1, Red is near the peg, Yellow is on the East boundary a few yards from Corner IV, and Black has approached Hoop 1 off Blue but cannot run the hoop. To lay up by the hoop would be to court disaster, for if Yellow should hit Red an all-round break would almost certainly ensue. A bisque must be taken, and the unthinking player might take position for the hoop with the last shot of the turn and then run the hoop on the first stroke of the bisque turn. But with no pioneer at Hoop 2 the further outlook is bleak.

Instead, Black should use his last shot to go off the East boundary just South of Yellow. The bisque is taken, Yellow is roqueted gently, and then croqueted to Hoop 2 as the pioneer while Black approaches Red. This ball, the pivot ball, is croqueted, Black takes off to Blue by Hoop 1, and this hoop is then made, leaving a perfect position for the 4-ball break.

The essential feature of this manoeuvre is that the hoop is made **after the third roquet of the bisque turn**, so that full use can be made of the bisque to establish a good position.

The player of Blue and Black, in receipt of 14 bisques, should be prepared to expend even the majority of these bisques to take Black round and to lay up for his second turn. **The 4-ball break, once established, must be maintained.** The probability is that during the course of the break the position will deteriorate, and the player should look for opportunities of regaining full control by expending a bisque.

For example, suppose that after making Hoop 2 off Yellow, this ball is sent towards Hoop 4 as the pioneer but finishes several yards short, while Black goes 5 yards short of the pivot ball Red. Blue is well placed at Hoop 3. Black is unlikely to hit Red if a firm shot is taken, and a miss will be disastrous, since two bisques will then be needed to resume. Black should not trickle aimlessly to the pivot ball Red before taking a bisque but should use the opportunity of tidying up the position, and in the last stroke of the turn play a yard North of Red. The bisque is taken, Red is roqueted near Yellow, and in the croquet stroke is sent as the pioneer to Hoop 4, while a rush is obtained on Yellow towards the peg. After Yellow is roqueted into position as the pivot ball, Hoop 3 is made off Blue and the break proceeds under control.

In this tidying-up process the pioneer and pivot balls were interchanged; the player should always be alert to the possibilities inherent in this manoeuvre. **It is essential whenever things go wrong not to play the last stroke of the turn without pausing to think how the bisque can best be used.**

A game between a high and a low bisquer, played in this way, often draws more spectators than an encounter between two "Eights" players. The fascination, of course, lies in the almost endless possibilities involved in the use of the bisques.

The situation when two players of about the same handicap, say +14 and +10, are involved, is quite different, since there are not enough bisques to enable a break to be set up and maintained. How much more interesting such games would be if each player was entitled to his full number of bisques; breaks could be then made by both players in the manner just described. This **full-bisque system** has everything to commend it; high bisquers would be encouraged to make breaks and their games would thereby become much shorter. Even more important is that this type of handicap play enables players to improve very rapidly. It is to be hoped that a Tournament Committee will be moved to offer an event run on this system.

B. G. NEAL.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

The question is whether Blue has a shot on Black by reason of the fact that the peg may be obstructing a shot directed against the left side of the Black ball. An examining referee places a trial ball against the right-hand side of the peg and a second trial ball against the left-hand side of Black. He then removes the Black ball and asks the following question.

Examiner: I have satisfied myself and I ask you to assume that the trial balls are correctly placed. Does the fact that I have removed the Black ball prevent you from giving a correct answer and, if so, why?

Examinee: I am only concerned with the relative positions of the Blue ball and the two trial balls. If the sun were behind Black, shining in the direction of the trial ball, Black would cast a shadow over the trial ball. In that case the removal of Black could sharpen the outline of the trial ball. In any case its removal allows me to concentrate on my task which is to ascertain whether the trial ball by the peg is perceptibly to the left of the other two balls.

Examiner: Assuming that I am a player dissatisfied with your decision, can I appeal?

Examinee: You cannot appeal on a question of fact. You cannot appeal against my eyes, but you can appeal against my head. If I had placed the trial ball against the right-hand side of Black (it has happened) you could appeal because I would patently have misdirected myself on a question of law as to what was the appropriate test. One can only appeal on a question of law.

Examiner: Yes, Regulation 3(a) says so in so many words. But is this entirely accurate?

Examinee: No, Regulation 4(k) gives a right of appeal against a discretionary penalty imposed under that sub-regulation.

Examiner: That is true, and on the well-known rule of construction that express words always override general words, Regulation 4(k) would override Regulation 3(a). The contradiction is unfortunate and should be corrected in any redraft.

Amendments to the Laws and Regulations

1. A new sub-law has been added to Law 14 to clarify the position when a ball is notionally knocked out of a hoop which it is in the course of running. How can this happen? Let it be assumed that Red is for 3 Back and Black is for the 4th hoop. Red is played into position on the croquet stroke, putting Black just behind the hoop. In the continuation stroke, Red sticks half way through the hoop. Black now plays very gently and roquets Red, leaving it still in the jaws of the hoop. Black takes croquet, attempting to run the hoop and drive the Red ball backwards. Assume now that Black makes a fault by crushing. Then the balls are replaced and the striker may elect to play Red. But if he does so he is deemed to have made a roquet and the ball becomes in hand and only gets its new position on the Court when the striker gives it a new position under Law 18(a). The object of this amendment is merely to clarify the Law.

2. Regulation 8(c) has been abolished, and this is the end of the provision enabling a side to claim an extra half hour.

WHAT WERE YOUR CHANCES?—1967 by Gordon Slater

One exceptionally miserable day at Cheltenham last Easter, relieved to desert the court and seek refuge in the locker room, I happened to be looking through some old copies of "Croquet." Among these appeared a feature which I am resurrecting in this

article—a review of the results of handicap games, arranged in a table according to success.

This has two purposes: first, it reflects the effectiveness of a handicap system, and second it reflects the distribution of the various handicaps among tournament players. Croquet lacks any significant body of statistics to support the claims of the many who discuss the game; while it would perhaps be too much to envisage a Croquet Wisden, I hope that some figures can help our understanding of the structure of the game today.

The present analysis is a record of all games played under the conditions of handicap singles play reported in "Croquet" during 1967. This includes restricted handicap events, American tournaments, and club matches. For the purposes of the survey a walk-over was excluded, as were games where one player retired, but wins on time were recorded. Four handicaps do not appear in the tables: 4½, 8½, 9½, 10½; no games were played by anyone at these handicaps. The remainder are arranged in two lists which I shall deal with separately.

Table I indicates the results achieved by handicaps where less than ten games were won and lost during the season; these results are excluded from the main table on grounds of unreliability, but are given here for the interest of the people concerned.

The heart of the survey lies in Table II; this gives the "Top 28" remaining handicaps in order of success. Several points of interest emerge from these figures. First of all, it is a tribute to the effectiveness of our handicappers that all but seven of the handicaps lie between the limits of 40% and 60%, the ideal result under a perfect system being presumably 50%. This degree of uniformity is remarkable when one considers that the ability of players is constantly changing and it is impossible to be accurate all the time. Indeed, the top handicaps are those levels at which most improving players are found—it is interesting to note that the winner of the Centenary Handicap was, aptly enough, a 5— and so it is natural that these players should enjoy more victories before the handicapper catches up with them.

The problem of the high-bisquers, who with the notable exception of 11, figure largely at the bottom of the table, might be solved by abolishing the "halves" in the middle-handicap range and extending the lower limit from 16 to 20.

The position of minus players is also interesting. Despite the protests which are sometimes heard about handicap games being unfair to the top class, the fact is that all minus handicaps except -1 are in the top half of the table, and -1½ reaches second place with 63% wins. This illustrates the weakness of the bisque system in the higher levels because of the inequality of opportunity carried by an extra turn for a minus player compared to a medium-bisquer. There is really nothing that can be done about this; it must be accepted as an inevitable consequence of the nature of the game.

Finally, I would like to say that any comments on the survey, on ways of improving the method of compilation, or suggestions for extending the field of such surveys, will be very welcome. I cherish the hope that the knowledge that "Big Brother is watching you" will not intimidate but rather encourage players, and produce even more interprising, winning croquet; and I wish that everyone could be "No. 1" in next year's charts.

TABLE I: Handicaps excluded from Table II because of unreliability.

H'cp	Won	Lost
- 5	3	2
- 4	10	4
- 3½	2	2
13	0	11
14	15	9
15	6	18

TABLE II

Place	H'cp	Won	Lost	% Wins	Place	H'cp	Won	Lost	% Win
1	5	115	65	64	15	9	57	58	49.5
2	-1½	19	11	63	16	-1	37	39	48.6
3	3½	71	44	62	17	5½	33	35	48.5
4	-½	27	17	61	18	1	52	57	47.6
5	½	65	43	60.1	19	1½	62	70	46.9
6	11	39	26	60	20	3	50	57	46.7
7	-2½	39	27	59	21	7½	14	16	46.6
8	0	33	25	57	22	4	77	97	44
9	-3	56	44	56	23	6	64	86	43
10	-2	31	26	54	24	12	47	67	41
11	2	54	49	52.4	25	8	58	85	40.5
12	2½	64	59	52	26	6½	29	43	40.2
13	4½	18	18	50	27	10	57	89	39
14	7	92	93	49.7	28	16	11	27	29

(Extracts from Council Meeting—continued from page 2.)

Surrey Cups and Ladies' Invitation Events—but each player to receive a duplicated copy of the Conditions.

(b) **Other C.A. Tournaments.** A note to be included in the advertisement "Conditions as in 1967" (published in "Croquet" No. 93, April, 1967).

Report on Australian Challenge.—Mr. Reckitt, Chairman of the Test Team Tour, said that a recent letter from Australia giving venues and full particulars was, in the opinion of his Committee, very reasonable. It was felt important that six players should go if possible—and by August this must be decided.

Extracts from Council Meeting, March 2nd, 1968

Accounts and Balance Sheet.—Passed unanimously. (Proposed by G. Birch, seconded by R. F. Rothwell.)

Finance and General Purposes Committee recommendation that Captains of County Teams should collect £5 from their teams to help pay for the lawns was passed with the amendment that the groundsmen's money should be taken out of this.

Mr. Townsend told Council he was very happy to recommend putting "Croquet" in the hands of Mr. K. G. Davies, of Seven Corners Press. They have requested that anyone writing articles or reports should put any Croquet term in capital letters.

Annual General Meeting on May 27th, 2.30 p.m., at the Hurlingham Club.

OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT ON THE TEST TOUR

Associates will be aware that arrangements are in preparation for the despatch of a team from this country to take part in a Test series in Australia for the MacRobertson Trophy, of which England is at present the holder. Our players will arrive in West Australia on January 27th next year and will take part in a State Match in Perth on the last three days of the month. They will then proceed to Adelaide where the first Test matches will be played against both Dominion teams and a second match against New Zealand. After this they will travel to Melbourne on February 14th, where the remaining three Tests will be played, and the whole series completed by the end of the month. After this, State Matches will be played at Sydney (March 3rd-5th) and Brisbane (March 7th-9th). From the latter city the team will return home.

It is expected that the selection of six members of the Test Team will be made as soon as possible after the conclusion of the Open Championship on July 27th. There are good grounds for hoping that a fully representative team will be sent, but the claims upon the funds of the Association are now such that it is not advisable that any drain upon them should be made to help defray the expenses of the tour. While it is expected that some of those invited to join the team will be able and willing to bear a substantial proportion of the expenses involved, others may not be. In view of this an application has been made for a grant from the Sports Council, but the success of this appeal can by no means be guaranteed.

This being so, it may well be that an appeal for what can perhaps be best described as "A Freewill Offering" will shortly have to be made to Clubs and individuals who are in a position and would desire to respond. In doing so they would help to secure that the very best team would become available to represent this country and so sustain the high reputation which England has earned throughout the Croquet-playing world.

M. B. RECKITT,
Chairman of Test Tour Committee.

THE 1968 SEASON

By HOPE ROTHERHAM

This season we are back to normal, after the excitements of the visit of Her Majesty the Queen last season, which none of us present at Hurlingham that day is ever likely to forget.

In a season of pretty good weather, on the whole, it was sad the sun did not shine on that great day, but at least the rain stopped in time. The rooks are building high, which I am told is an infallible sign of good weather this year—let's hope so.

The Calendar fixtures for 1968 are much as usual, with one notable exception, in that the Men's and Women's Championships are to be played the week before the Open Championships instead of the week after the Inter Counties Championships as before. The reason for this is because men who teach or young men at schools and universities are not free during the old date, and it was felt the Men's Championship was not, therefore, representative of the best men available.

Another alteration is that the Women's Championship is to be played as Draw and Process instead of a best of three event. This

I feel to be a very retrograde step and a debasing of a Championship event; but the sad fact is that the entry was very small, and it is hoped more women will enter under this scheme. I also hope that women will achieve a higher standard of play, so that the Ladies' Field Cup can be put back in the Calendar again and the Championship be restored to a best of three event. This means that Clubs must coach new players, or those players who show an aptitude for the game, so as to raise the standard of women's play.

This alteration in dates clashed with the dates of the Cheltenham and Colchester Tournaments, both of whom most kindly altered their dates to the week after the Open Championships instead of the week before. There are other minor alterations, so please look at the list of Calendar Fixtures in the Magazine before deciding on the Tournaments in which you wish to play.

The Eastbourne (Devonshire Park) Tournament will be run on the same lines as last year, and once again a separate entry form for each week, please.

It has not been found possible to fit the Golf Croquet events in to any Tournament, so this will lapse this year.

May I wish you all a happy season—good and improving Croquet, good weather, and a realisation of what a splendid and absorbing game this is.

OBITUARIES

MRS. H. DE LA MOTHE

The name of this lady will be known to scarcely any associates today, but she was a player of such quality over a period of nearly 20 years that her death on December 29th last year cannot go unnoticed in these pages. Noel Gilchrist had a singularly graceful style and so much enterprise and natural talent for the game that she came to the front very quickly, and this at a time when the standard of women's Croquet was as high as it had ever been, before or—even more definitely—since. Her first notable win was of the Women's Gold Medal (virtually a championship event in those days) in 1911, and she was to win it on four future occasions between 1921 and 1926, on the last two of these under her married name. It was under this name also that she and Miss D. D. Steel—her principal rival—joined forces to become in 1927 and 1928 the only pair of their sex who have ever won the Open Doubles Championship.

It was as Miss Gilchrist, however, that in 1921 she won the Women's Championship, and it was in the following year that she made the first of three consecutive appearances in the "Best Ten". In 1923 she looked like winning this competition when the writer of this note created a good deal of disappointment by beating her in the last game of the series, necessitating for her a play-off against Miss Steel. This she lost, but in 1924 she won another play-off (against F. W. Ward) to capture the trophy. Perhaps no more admired figure of her sex has ever appeared on our courts.

M. B. R.

MR. A. K. PRIDAY

Though Kenneth Priday, whose death occurred just before Christmas, was not a member of the C.A., nor did he play in tournaments, he was a very popular and helpful member of the Cheltenham Croquet Club.

He served on the committee, of which he was Vice-Chairman during his term of office.

His kindly personality will be greatly missed.

CAPTAIN W. VAUGHAN JENKINS

The older generation of Croquet players will be sorry to hear of the death in January of Captain W. Vaughan Jenkins. He joined the Bristol Croquet Club when the Bath Club closed down during the war. He played in the President's Cup in 1938. He won the West of England Cup outright at Bath and afterwards presented it to the Bristol Club. He is remembered at Bristol for his exceptionally neat style and his amusing anecdotes of Croquet between the wars.

CAPTAIN W. A. T. SYNGE

On January 27th, 1968, eight months after the death of his wife, Marjorie, Capt. W. A. T. Syngé died from an illness aggravated by his tragic loss from which he never recovered.

In the space of less than a year Southwick has lost two very good players and two very good friends.

Capt. Syngé, who was born in Liverpool in 1893 and educated at Charterhouse, joined the King's Liverpool Regiment, from which he retired in 1928. In 1936 he entered the Federation of British Industries and during the Second World War he served in the R.A.F. Intelligence. He married Marjorie Pike in 1920 and leaves two sons.

Capt. and Mrs. Synge had little Croquet experience until they joined us in 1964. Up to 1931 they had played a good deal of Country House Croquet, mainly at the family home in Essex, but for over 30 years they had little opportunity of play. It was all the more remarkable, therefore, that in so short a time they reached such a high standard of play.

The Editor regrets the following deaths have been reported: Mr. M. Spencer Ell, Dr. H. J. Penny and Mr. W. B. Franklin. Obituary notices will appear in the next issue.

NOTES FROM THE CLUBS

RYDE

It will, we hope, interest Associates to read briefly the history of our Club. The original meeting to inaugurate the Club met on July 19th, 1906, and Mr. George Fardell presented the scheme which was adopted, to level the ground of Play Street Lane and build a pavilion, thus restarting the Club that had existed on the Mead Ground where there were only two tennis courts and one small croquet lawn.

The courts were eventually open for play on July 13th, 1907, and the occasion was celebrated with a garden party for 300 people, enlivened by the Band of the 1st Royal Fusiliers.

The first open croquet tournament was held in the week commencing June 26th, 1908. By taking into consideration that no tournaments were held during the years of the two wars, our Open Tournament this year will be our Jubilee, namely our 50th.

We are endeavouring to make this one the most successful and memorable of all, with a record number of entries. To enable us to accomplish this we sincerely hope that we shall have with us many of our friends who have supported our tournaments in the past by their presence and, above all, to make new friends who have never come to play Croquet before at our Club on its five lawns. To these we say do come if you can. Not only will you be warmly welcomed but you will also have the opportunity of seeing the fine scenery and beauty spots of the Island at their best in the month of June—an opportunity which should not be missed. So do please come.

There will be a Sherry Party in the Club House on Wednesday, 5th, at 6 p.m., to which all competitors are cordially invited.

The Member of Parliament for the Isle of Wight, Mr. Mark Woodnutt, has kindly consented to present the prizes at the close of the tournament.

Owing to the Whitsun holidays it is advisable to book accommodation and car ferries (where applicable) as soon as possible.

SOUTHWICK

Southwick has really gone to town for the 1968 season. Very conscious of recent criticisms of the courts, the Committee enlisted the services of a turf expert at the end of last season. He reported that the courts had deteriorated through no fault of the groundsman but because of the need for more up-to-date equipment. A case of "give him the tools", in fact. The Club then bought a large motorised scarifier which has been and will be in regular use and will, we are assured, work wonders on the soft thatch which over the years has formed below the surface of the lawns. A new motor mower has also been purchased which will mean quicker and closer cutting of the courts.

In addition, the pavilion and the cloakrooms have all been redecorated as tournament visitors will see for themselves. We hope there will be many of them this season. Particulars of the Spring Tournament appear in this issue.

CORRESPONDENCE

Dear Sir,

Your readers will, I'm sure, be relieved to know that this is the last of the letters relating to the vast chronicle—not very accurately described as a history—which I shall address to them. This is for the simple reason that this ponderous work is now concluded, and its seven files (or eight, if an accompanying series of Profiles entitled CROQUETTES be included) may be found on the shelves of the C.A. Office. Associates living in London may borrow any one of these by arrangement with the Secretary.

The work has taken six years to write, but would probably take even longer to read through should anyone be enterprising enough to attempt the feat.

Yours faithfully,
MAURICE B. RECKITT.

Assistant Editor's Note

Mr. Reckitt can rest assured that at least one player has read his vast work, and that is the undersigned. "Croquet" does not permit the space necessary to review this history in one article. An extract appears below and more will follow in later editions. This one concerns the Inter-County Championship, which is the first occasion in the season when Croquet devotees are mustered on the lawns.

THE INTER-COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

I'd thoughts of a tournament down in the South;
I'd hopes of departing from Wales;
But instead, I must own, I am down in the mouth,
'For the striker's opinion prevails.

Conditions on the railways may not have altered greatly since these lines were written, in the early 1900's, but conditions for the Inter-County Championship have altered dramatically.

One of the qualifications for participation then was the ownership of property, which led to controversy and was later abolished.

The Championship began in 1897 and lapsed in 1900, after four successive wins by Berkshire; perhaps their apparent invincibility discouraged other counties.

The most interesting feature of the early weeks of the season in 1908 was the revival of the Championship, which was greeted with enthusiasm. Ten counties ("London County" being one of them) appeared at Hurlingham, where it has been played ever since, without any break, in non-war years. The event was played as a knock-out, other events being provided for players eliminated in the earlier stages. Each county was represented by three mixed pairs, who all played each pair of the opposing team. The social desirability of this arrangement was assumed as almost axiomatic in those days, and it was not until the 'twenties that, in order to attract enough entries, the stipulation was withdrawn.

In 1912, Chairman of Council announced at the A.G.M. that "for the purpose of the Inter-County Tournament, the County of London had ceased to exist". The Gazette report of the competition declared that this was "in spite of its own protest and an Act of Parliament". This year there were 14 counties competing, and as there were "only" 15 courts available at Hurlingham it was found difficult—though somehow feasible—to play 13 rounds of an "American" between the teams in the five days allowed. The "panels" from which the captains might draw the sides for particular matches appear to have been unrestricted in numbers then. In one year Middlesex designated as many as 11 players and Bedford, Hampshire and Surrey ten—a practice which tended to produce somewhat capricious results.

Conditions in the 'twenties were unsatisfactory; there appears to have been no limit on the number of reserves allowed, Kent having as many as six, one of whom appeared on the list for Sussex.

Under the curious conditions then prevailing, nine counties appeared in 1923 to contest their championship. Bedford actually won all their eight matches, whereas Surrey only won six, but having won an equal number of 17 games were entitled to play a challenge match against Bedford, which they narrowly won.

The County Championship in 1926 was played under new conditions by which victory went to the team winning the largest amount of actual matches. A restrained letter about conditions allowing the fielding of an unlimited number of "reserves", and A, B and C teams being interchanged for tactical reasons, appeared in the Gazette.

Restrictive qualifications were enforced in 1927: two years present residence for those not born in a county, or ten years previous residence. The following year a great Thames flood broke over Hurlingham's containing wall and rose until it lapped the ground floor of the house, leaving the courts under 11 feet of water. Five months later, in cold and damp weather, competitors in the County Championship were glad to warm themselves at braziers round the ground, where workmen were busy repairing the damage. The lawns were considered greatly improved by the silt deposited on them.

In 1930, 11 teams entered, two of these being based on nations rather than on shires—Scotland and Wales. Surrey won for the sixth time in the last nine years, being hunted home by Suffolk. A crucial point was at last cleared up: a team captain was no longer allowed to give advice to the fellow members of his team. In a previous year, a medium bisqued "collector" claiming to be the county captain, though not himself in the side, had issued advice to a player of the "Best Ten" quality. At the conclusion of the game the outraged competitor left the ground—and did not reappear.

The County Championship in 1934 produced an entry of 13 teams and no less than 12 courts at Hurlingham were requisitioned for the competition. Conditions were slightly modified in 1937 and the number of players allowed on a county's panel reduced from nine to eight. Twelve teams entered and play continued each day until nearly 9 o'clock. This number entered again in 1938 and competitors became restive at the late hours. The next year, when 12 counties appeared to contest the Championship, a time limit of 2½ hours was introduced, not without controversy; but the players, captains, collectors and officials welcomed the change. Of the 66 matches, 46 were decided on the time limit, and of the 198 games only 55% were played out. After the war, in 1946, only five teams appeared—Bedford, Middlesex, Surrey, Sussex and Eastern Counties—and finished in this order.

JOCELYN SUNDIUS-SMITH.

ALL ENGLAND HANDICAP

COMMITTEE AND SECRETARY: The Tournament Committee and Secretary of the Croquet Association.

MANAGER, REFEREE AND HANDICAPPER: Miss D. A. Lintern.

GENERAL.—Competitors must arrange to play at a Registered Club. A competitor may not play in more than one Club's competition. Matches of single games throughout.

Club Secretaries are asked to notify the Secretary of the Croquet Association that they are entering their Club for the competition as early as possible and not later than April 16th, 1968, so that area finals can be arranged at Clubs most convenient to competitors.

PRELIMINARY STAGE.—Club competitions to be finished by August 12th, 1968. Clubs entering 17–32 competitors will be entitled to have two representatives in the Area Finals, and 33 and over, four representatives.

AREA FINALS.—The Club representatives will be drawn on the Bagnall-Wild system and will meet at their Area Clubs, the period extending over the week-ends of either August 24th/25th, August 31st/September 1st and September 7th/8th.

FINALS.—The Area winners will meet at the Roehampton Club on Saturday, September 14th, and on Sunday, September 15th, 1968.

QUALIFICATIONS TO HOLD COMPETITION.—A Club must have an entry of not less than four competitors to be eligible. In any match a competitor shall play on the Croquet Association Handicap at which he would have been playing in an official tournament.

ENTRY FEES.—Entry fee for each competitor to be paid to the Club Secretary, of which 2/6 to be paid to Secretary, C.A.; 1/- to be retained by the Club.

PRIZES.—Winner and Runner-up, the Tingey Trophies: the N.Z. Plaque to the Winner's Club.

Area Finalists: inscribed decorative plaques.

NOTE.—Dates must be strictly adhered to. **NO REMINDERS WILL BE SENT BY THE SECRETARY.**

LONGMAN CLUB TEAM CUP

(Handicap)

COMMITTEE: Tournament Committee of the Croquet Association.

MANAGER, REFEREE AND HANDICAPPER: Miss D. A. Lintern.

SECRETARY: The Secretary, C.A., The Hurlingham Club, S.W.6. Holder: Worton Hall.

Conditions of this Tournament will be found on page 9 of "Croquet" No. 93, April, 1967.

Entries must reach the Secretary of the C.A. by April 25th, 1968.

THE BUDLEIGH SALTERTON TOURNAMENTS, 1968

The UNOFFICIAL TOURNAMENTS will take place on May 6th to 11th and on July 1st to 6th.

In BOTH TOURNAMENTS there will be:

- An American Singles Handicap event: in May, in blocks arranged by handicap; in July, in drawn blocks.
- A Handicap Doubles Event in which no two players of 3 bisques and under may play together.

C.A. entry forms, with fees, must reach the Secretary by:

- Singles: May 1st and June 26th respectively (10 a.m.).
- Doubles: May 6th and July 1st respectively (noon).

Entrance fees: Singles 15/-, Doubles 8/-.

The OFFICIAL TOURNAMENT will be held on July 8th to 13th.

- Event 1. Open Singles, D & P. E.F. 16/-.
- Event 2. Level Singles, 1½ to 5 bisques: **advanced play**. E.F. 12/-.
- Event 3. Restricted Handicap Singles, 5½ bisques and over; 3rd hoop. E.F. 12/-.

No competitor may play in more than one of the above three events.

Event 4. Open Singles Handicap. E.F. 12/-.

Entries for the above events to reach the Secretary by 10 a.m., July 4th.

Event 5. Handicap Doubles: 3rd hoop, 3½ hours.

No two minus players may play together.

Maximum 27 pairs accepted. E.F. 10/-.

Entries to reach the Secretary by noon, July 8th.

ALL TOURNAMENTS

- The Laws, Rules, etc., of the C.A. shall apply.

- The Committee reserve the right to restrict or refuse entries.
- In the Official Tournament there will be an extra, starting on Friday. In the Unofficial, extras will depend on time, etc.
- Lunches, teas and bridge are obtainable at the Club.
- Full details are obtainable from the Secretary: Lt.-Col. G. E. Cave, Moorpark, Budleigh Salterton; Tel. B.S. 3447.

THE PEEL MEMORIALS

will be played for at the Roehampton Club, May 13th–18th.

COMMITTEE: Tournament Committee of the C.A.

MANAGER: Mrs. A. W. Skempton.

REFEREE AND HANDICAPPER: Miss D. A. Lintern.

SECRETARY: The Secretary of the C.A., The Hurlingham Club, S.W.6.

EVENTS

- PEEL MEMORIAL SILVER CHALLENGE BOWL. Handicap Singles for Men. Two-Life System. Entrance fee: 15/6. Holder: Brig. A. F. G. Forbes.
- PEEL MEMORIAL SILVER CHALLENGE BOWL. Handicap Singles for Women. Two-Life System. Entrance fee: 15/6. Holder: Mrs. B. L. Sundius-Smith.
- THE LADY MURRAY MEMORIAL SILVER CHALLENGE CUPS. Handicap Doubles. (Combined Handicap two and over.) Entrance fee: 11/6 each person. Entries should be made in pairs if possible. Holders: Miss B. Duthie and Mrs. M. H. Carrington. Conditions for this Tournament will be found on page 10 of "Croquet" No. 93, April, 1967, except that the draw will be on May 8th, not 10th.

BRIGHTON

ANNUAL TOURNAMENT (Unofficial)

Monday, May 20th, 1968, and five following days.

To be held on the lawns of the Sussex County Croquet and Lawn Tennis Club, Victoria Road, Southwick, Sussex.

MANAGER AND HANDICAPPER: E. A. Roper.

HON. TOURNAMENT SECRETARY: Mrs. W. A. Naylor, 60 Southwick Street, Southwick, Sussex, BN 4 4 TJ. Tel. Southwick 2720.

EVENTS

- HANDICAP SINGLES (AMERICAN). The Jellicorse Cup. Fee £1. (Competitors will be drawn in blocks.)
- HANDICAP DOUBLES (X Y). Combined Handicaps not less than four. Fee 12/6. Extra Event, time permitting. Entries, on official forms, to reach the Tournament Secretary by first post on Thursday, May 16th. DRAW: The "Blocks" for Event 1 will be drawn on Thursday, May 16th, at 2.30 p.m.; Event 2 on Monday, May 20th, at 5 p.m. Request for leave should be notified on the forms. No leave will be granted later than noon on Monday, May 20th, unless the exigencies of the draw permit. Prizes according to entries. Eleven courts will be available. Luncheons and teas obtainable in the Canteen.

THE FIFTY-FIFTH SUMMER TOURNAMENT (Official)

Monday, August 26th, 1968, and five following days.

To be held on the lawns of the Sussex County Croquet and Lawn Tennis Club, Victoria Road, Southwick, Sussex.

MANAGER AND HANDICAPPER: Maj. J. H. Dibley, M.C.

REFEREE: E. A. Roper.

HON. TOURNAMENT SECRETARY: Mrs. W. A. Naylor, 60 Southwick Street, Southwick, Sussex, BN 4 4 TJ. Tel. Southwick 2720.

EVENTS

- OPEN SINGLES (Draw and Process). THE SUSSEX GOLD CUP, presented by the late E. R. Harrison. Holder: B. Lloyd-Pratt. Fee 15/-.
- LEVEL SINGLES (Draw and Process) (Law 36). Open to players handicapped ¼–3. Fee 15/-.
- HANDICAP SINGLES. THE FRANC CUP, presented by the late Mrs. H. Franc. Holder: C. G. Mayo. Open to players handicapped 3¼–6½. Fee 12/6.

4. **HANDICAP SINGLES. THE MONTEITH BOWL**, presented by the late G. C. Braithwaite. Holder: Norman Cox. Open to players handicapped 7 and over. Fee 12/6. (One event only of the above four events is available to competitors who may enter for three events in all.)
5. **HANDICAP SINGLES. THE MAURICE RECKITT BOWL**, presented by Mr. M. B. Reckitt. Holder: M. J. Bushnell. Fee 12/6.
6. **HANDICAP DOUBLES.** (No minus players may play together.) All games in this event start at Hoop 3 with a time limit of 3½ hours. Fee 10/-.

(The draw for this event will be made at 3 p.m. on Monday, August 26th.)

Entries, on official forms, to reach the Tournament Secretary by first post on Thursday, August 22nd.

The draw for Events 1 to 5 will take place at Southwick on Thursday, August 22nd, at 2.30 p.m.

Request for leave should be notified on the forms. No leave will be granted later than noon on Monday, August 26th, unless the exigencies of the draw permit.

Prizes according to entries. Eleven courts will be available. Luncheons and teas obtainable in the Canteen.

Free parking on the grounds. Bus service from Brighton every ten minutes. Train service to Southwick Station.

ANNUAL TOURNAMENT (Unofficial)

Monday, September 2nd, 1968, and five following days.

To be held on the lawns of the Sussex County Croquet and Lawn Tennis Club, Victoria Road, Southwick, Sussex.

MANAGER AND HANDICAPPER: Mrs. H. F. Chittenden.
REFEREE: E. A. Roper.

HON. TOURNAMENT SECRETARY: Mrs. W. A. Naylor, 60 Southwick Street, Southwick, Sussex, BN 4 4 TJ. Tel. Southwick 2720.

EVENTS

- OPEN SINGLES** (Draw and Process). **THE ABBEY CHALLENGE CUP**, presented by the late Maj. W. H. Abbey. Holder: H. A. Green. Fee 15/-.
- LEVEL SINGLES.** (Law 37.) Open to players handicapped 3-6. Fee 10/-.
- HANDICAP SINGLES.** Open to players handicapped 6½ and over. Fee 10/-.
(Competitors may only enter for one of the above events.)
- HANDICAP SINGLES (X Y). THE DOUGLAS JONES CUP**, presented by the late Lady Douglas Jones. Holder: G. F. Hallett. Fee 12/6.
- HANDICAP DOUBLES.** Combined handicaps not less than 4. All games in this event start at Hoop 3. The draw for this event will be made at 5 p.m. on Monday, September 2nd. Fee 10/-.

Entries, on official forms, to reach the Tournament Secretary by first post on Thursday, August 29th.

The draw for events from 1 to 4 will take place at Southwick on Thursday, August 29th, at 2.30 p.m.

Request for leave should be notified on the forms. No leave will be granted later than noon on Monday, September 2nd, unless the exigencies of the draw permit.

Prizes according to entries. Eleven courts will be available.

Luncheons and teas obtainable in the Canteen.

THE INTER-COUNTIES CHAMPIONSHIPS

will be played for at the
HURLINGHAM and ROEHAMPTON CLUBS
May 28th-31st inclusive

COMMITTEE: The Tournament Committee of the C.A.
MANAGER: Miss D. A. Lintern.
ASSISTANT MANAGER: Mrs. M. L. Thom.
REFEREE: J. G. Warwick.

Holder: Eastern Counties.

CONDITIONS.—As in 1967 (published in "Croquet" No. 93, April, 1967), but amended as follows:

Entries to reach the Secretary by March 1st, 1968, and names of players to reach her by May 14th.

CHELTENHAM

AN AMERICAN HANDICAP SINGLES TOURNAMENT

(Unofficial)
will be held in the Club grounds
over Whitsun week-end, JUNE 1st to 3rd inclusive
Guaranteed minimum of five games. Additional event according to entries.
Entrance Fee: £1.
Entries to reach Tournament Secretary not later than first post Wednesday, May 29th.

HUNSTANTON, NORFOLK

WHITSUN AMERICAN TOURNAMENT

(Unofficial)
JUNE 1st, 2nd and 3rd
Handicap Singles in blocks according to handicap. (Entries limited to 18.)
Come and enjoy a week-end by the sea. Entry Fee: £1.
Entries, please, by May 25th to the Secretary, Mrs. A. N. Rolfe, Weathercocks, Heacham, Norfolk.

RYDE

FIFTIETH ANNUAL OPEN CROQUET TOURNAMENT

will be held on
MONDAY, JUNE 3rd, 1968
and following days
at the
**CLUB GROUND, PLAY STREET LANE, RYDE,
ISLE OF WIGHT**
(Telephone: RYDE 2095)

COMMITTEE: Croquet Committee of the Club.
MANAGER AND HANDICAPPER: Major J. H. Dibley, M.C.
REFEREE: Rev. Canon R. Creed Meredith.
HON. SECRETARY: Miss K. A. Wade, 10 Partlands Avenue, Ryde, I.o.W. (Telephone: RYDE 2512.)

EVENTS

- ISLE OF WIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP.** Open Singles. The Challenge Trophy. Draw and Process. Present Holder: G. Birch. Entrance Fee: 12/6.
- LEVEL SINGLES (Class B). THE CHAPMAN CUP.** Open to players of 3 to 7 bisques. Entrance Fee: 10/-. Present Holder: Miss M. Bryan.
- HANDICAP SINGLES (Class C). THE HUTTON CUP.** Open to players of 7½ bisques or more. Entrance Fee: 10/-. Present Holder: Mrs. G. Wood.
No player may enter for more than one of the above events.
- HANDICAP SINGLES (X Y). X — THE DIBLEY CUP.** (Events.) Entrance Fee: 12/6. Present Holders: (X) Mrs. R. A. Simpson; (Y) Mrs. A. S. C. Ross, The Benet Cup.
- HANDICAP DOUBLES. THE BIRCH CUPS.** Restricted to combined handicap of 2 and over. Commencing at No. 3 Hoop. Time limit 3½ hours. Entrance Fee: 10/- each player. Present Holders: Mrs. R. A. Simpson and Mrs. H. Oxley.

Entries for Events 1 to 4, together with fees (and C.A. Tribute of 25/- where payable), must reach the Hon. Secretary by first post on Thursday, May 30th, 1968. Entries for Doubles, Event 5, close on the ground at 2 p.m. on Monday, June 3rd. The draw for Events 1 to 4 will take place at the Club Pavilion on Thursday, May 30th, at 3 p.m.; for Doubles at 3 p.m. on Monday, June 3rd. Five lawns provided. **LUNCHEONS AND TEAS** provided in the Pavilion. A No. 6 motor bus from the Pier sets down passengers at St. Michael's Avenue close to the ground.

HOTELS.—Spencer's Inn, Squadron Hotel and Yelf's Hotel (all in Union Street), Osborne Hotel, Ryde Castle Hotel, The Esplanade, and Dean House Hotel, Dover Street—these three facing the sea.

CARRICKMINES CROQUET AND LAWN TENNIS CLUB

CHAMPIONSHIP OF IRELAND TOURNAMENT

SATURDAY, JUNE 8th, TO SATURDAY, JUNE 15th, 1968
Hon. Secretary, Croquet Committee, Carrickmines Croquet and Lawn Tennis Club, Carrickmines, Co. Dublin.

EVENTS

- CHAMPIONSHIP OF IRELAND.** Silver Salver (Perpetual). Open. Entry fee 15/-.

- STEEL CUP** (Perpetual). Level Singles. Open to players of 3½ bisques and over. Single games. No lifts. Entry fee 10/-.
- GREEN CUP** (Perpetual). **Handicap** Singles. Open to players of 6 bisques and over. Single games. Entry fee 10/-.
- FOUNDERS' CUP** (Perpetual). Handicap Singles. Entry fee 10/-.
- STONEBROOK CUPS** (Perpetual). Handicap Doubles. Combined handicap to be not less than 2. Entry fee 10/- each player. A time limit may be enforced in this event.

All competitors are eligible for the above two events.
Entries will close on Tuesday, June 4th, at 6 p.m., and the draw will then take place.

Play will start at 10 a.m. on Saturday, June 8th. Competitors who are Irish residents must be available then.

Competitors from overseas will not be required for play until Monday, June 10th, at 10 a.m. All competitors must be ready to play when required by the Manager.

The Committee reserve the right to refuse any entry without assigning a reason.

They also reserve the right to transfer entries from any event to a similar event if circumstances warrant.

THE CHALLENGE CUPS

THE GILBEY CUP and the **SUPPLEMENTARY CUPS** will be played for at the **ROEHAMPTON CLUB** on **MONDAY, JUNE 10th, to SATURDAY, JUNE 15th, 1968**
COMMITTEE: The Tournament Committee of the Croquet Association.

MANAGER AND HANDICAPPER: Mr. J. B. Gilbert and Mr. D. C. Caporn.

REFEREE: To be appointed.
SECRETARY: The Secretary, C.A., The Hurlingham Club, S.W.6.

Open to Associates only.
AMERICAN HANDICAP SINGLES in blocks according to handicap (3-hour time limit). Entrance Fee: 25/-.

Block winners will then be drawn on the Bagnall-Wild system and the winner, runner-up and the two 3rds will receive the Challenge Cups.

The runners-up in each block will be drawn on the Bagnall-Wild system and the winner receive the Gilbey Cup and the runner-up and two 3rds the Supplementary Cups.

It may be necessary to play some games at the Hurlingham Club but transport will be arranged as far as possible.

Entries must be received by the Secretary before 11 a.m., Tuesday, June 4th, and the draw will take place at the Croquet Offices, Hurlingham Club, London, S.W.6, at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, June 5th.

NOTTINGHAM

AN AMERICAN TOURNAMENT

(Unofficial)
will be held in the Club Grounds
from **FRIDAY, JUNE 14th, to MONDAY, JUNE 16th, 1968**
Handicap Singles

Competitors will be arranged in blocks according to handicap and the number of entries received.

Entrance fee 10/-.

Entries, which may have to be limited, by Wednesday, June 12th, to Tournament Secretary, Dr. M. Murray, Flat 5, 55, Park Road, Loughborough, Leics.

WOKING

PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE AMERICAN HANDICAP SINGLES TOURNAMENT

(Unofficial)
will be held at the Club at Hook Heath Road, Woking, Surrey from **FRIDAY, JUNE 21st, to MONDAY, JUNE 24th, 1968.**

Competitors will be arranged in blocks according to handicap. Guaranteed minimum of four games. Time limit of three hours. Entry fee 12/6. Entries by first post Monday, June 10th, to D. C. Caporn, 1 Pinelands, 12 Beechwood Avenue, Weybridge, Surrey.

If requested at time of entry, every effort will be made to grant leave to working players on the Friday and to complete their games by Sunday evening, and likewise for anyone playing at Compton on 17th and Parkstone on 24th.

ENTRIES MAY HAVE TO BE LIMITED, SO PLEASE ENSURE ENTRY BY SENDING IT IN AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE.

NOTE.—Four courts only will be provided, thus eliminating the poor fifth court.

COMPTON, EASTBOURNE

MONDAY, JUNE 17th, to SATURDAY, JUNE 22nd, 1968
MANAGER: Major J. H. Dibley, M.C.
REFEREE AND HANDICAPPER: H. C. S. Perry.
COMMITTEE: The Tournament Committee of the Compton Croquet Club.

EVENTS

- OPEN SINGLES** (Draw and Process). Challenge Cup. Holder: K. F. Wylie. Entrance fee 15/-.
- RESTRICTED HANDICAP SINGLES.** Limited to players with a handicap of 2½ or over. Entrance fee 11/6.
- HANDICAP SINGLES.** Challenge Cup. Holder: K. F. Wylie. Entrance fee 10/6.
- HANDICAP DOUBLES.** Open to pairs with a combined handicap of not less than 2 bisques. Games will start at the 3rd hoop. Time limit 3½ hours. No extra half hour. Entrance fee 10/- per player.
- THE COMPTON PLATE.** An Extra Event instead of the Y part of Event 2. This has been done at the Manager's request to allow him a little more room for manoeuvre. It has been devised so that all players can be sure of at least three singles. If there are still vacancies, players, who would otherwise be unemployed at the end of the week, will also be accepted. Entries will be taken only on the ground.

Players may not enter for both Events 1 and 2. Event 1 will be played under the Laws of Advanced Play.

Only the six Compton Courts will be used. Lunch and tea will be available at the Club and there will be a licensed bar.

Time Limits and Shortened Games. It is essential for the manager, and an advantage to most competitors, to know that a game started, when morning play begins, will be finished before lunch. Therefore it has been decided that play shall start at 9.45 a.m. each day and that all games shall have a maximum time limit of 3½ hours.

If further restrictions should prove necessary they will be applied in this order. (1) The first two rounds of the Big Handicap will be started at the 3rd hoop. (2) Games in Event 1 will be limited to three hours.

Entries to be sent to H. C. S. Perry, Hockington House, Willington, Eastbourne. Tel. Eastbourne 52656. No entries will be accepted after first post on Wednesday, June 12th, 1968.

The Draw will take place at the Club at 10.30 a.m. on Wednesday, June 12th, 1968.

PARKSTONE

(EAST DORSET) CROQUET TOURNAMENT

MONDAY, JUNE 24th-29th, 1968
COMMITTEE: Croquet Committee of the Parkstone Club.
MANAGER AND HANDICAPPER: Mrs. H. F. Chittenden.
REFEREE: The Rev. Canon R. Creed Meredith.
HON. SECRETARY: Mrs. J. A. McMordie, Yapton, Delhi Close, Parkstone, Poole, Dorset.

EVENTS

- OPEN SINGLES.** Draw and Process. Entrance Fee: 12/- Dorset Salver.
- LEVEL SINGLES.** Law 36 operates. 2½-6½ bisques inclusive. Entrance Fee: 10/- Evans Trophy.
- HANDICAP SINGLES.** For players 7-10 bisques inclusive. Entrance Fee: 10/- Cope Cup.
- HANDICAP SINGLES.** For players 11 bisques and over. Entrance Fee: 10/- Halse Cup. Starting at 3rd hoop.
The Manager reserves the right to combine Classes 3 and 4 if not sufficient entries.
No player can enter for more than one Event of Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4.
- HANDICAP SINGLES (X Y).** Unrestricted. Entrance Fee: 10/6. Bishop Cup and Evans Rose Bowl.
- HANDICAP DOUBLES.** Entrance Fee: 10/- each player. Combined Handicaps not less than 2. Starting at 3rd hoop.

CONDITIONS

Entries for Events 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 must reach the Hon. Secretary by mid-day, Thursday, June 20th.

Entries for Event 6 will close on Monday, June 24th. This Event will start on Tuesday, June 25th.

The Draw will take place on Thursday, June 20th, at 3 p.m. at the Club House.

Five or six courts will be provided. Play will commence at 10 a.m. or earlier if necessary, and players must be prepared to play up to 7 p.m.

Lunch and tea is provided by the Club at moderate prices.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS AS AT 31st DECEMBER, 1967

As at 31.12.66				
£		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
	FIXED ASSETS			
130	Office Furniture, at written down value			117 0 0
2,000	Trophies—estimated to realise			2,000 0 0
3,968	Investments, as per schedule attached			3,967 11 3
6,098				6,084 11 3
	CURRENT ASSETS			
109	Sundry Debtors and Prepayments	149 18 8		
568	Cash at Bank and in Hand	896 4 1		
677		1,046 2 9		
	LESS: CURRENT LIABILITIES			
10	Subscriptions Received in Advance	24 0 0		
260	Accrued Expenses	310 8 10		
13	Taxation	10 12 6		
283		345 1 4		
394				701 1 5
£6,492	Net Assets			£6,785 12 8
	REPRESENTED BY:—			
£			£ s. d.	
3,778	Accumulated General Fund as at 1st January, 1967		5,666 11 4	
	Add: Excess of Income over Expenditure for the year to 31st December, 1967, as			
384	per schedule attached		171 3 6	
1,504	Surplus on revaluation of Trophies		108 0 0	
—	Proceeds of Insurance Claim for lost Trophies		—	
5,666			5,945 14 10	
698	Life Membership Fund		712 0 0	
116	Apps Memorial Fund		115 10 0	
12	Dominion Tour Fund (Surplus)		12 7 10	
£6,492			£6,785 12 8	

REPORT OF THE AUDITORS TO THE MEMBERS OF THE CROQUET ASSOCIATION

We have received all the information and explanations which to the best of our knowledge and belief were necessary for the purposes of our audit. In our opinion proper books of account have been kept. We have examined the Balance Sheet and annexed Income and Expenditure Account which are in agreement with the books of account. In our opinion and to the best of information and the explanations given to us the Balance Sheet gives a true and fair view of the Association's affairs at 31st December, 1967, and the Income and Expenditure Account gives a true and fair view of the excess of Income for the year ended on that date.

3/4 Clements Inn,
London, W.C.2.

19th January, 1968.

NICHOLASS, REID, CORNEY & CO.
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1967

Year to 31.12.66				
£		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
	INCOME			
1,223	Subscriptions			1,227 5 0
74	Affiliation Fees and Overseas Members			92 9 0
100	Donations			57 15 0
358	Levy and Tribute			321 12 6
254	Sale of Books, Laws, etc.			208 16 10
111	Dividends from Investments (Net)			121 3 4
2,120				2,029 1 8
	LESS: EXPENDITURE			
399	Tournaments—Expenses	357 12 8		
	Deduct: Entry Fees, excluding Levy and Tribute included above	241 18 6		
296				115 14 2
103				
723	Printing of Magazine	823 8 8		
214	Deduct: Income from Advertisements	187 9 8		
509				635 19 0
612				751 13 2
1,508				1,277 8 6
	GENERAL OVERHEADS			
193	Office Rent, Lighting, Heating and Cleaning	206 4 11		
230	Staff Salaries	252 16 8		
127	Postages and Telephone	104 13 7		
225	Printing, Stationery and Publicity	96 11 6		
22	Insurance	32 2 11		
216	Sundry Expenses	142 4 9		
—	Net Cost of Centenary Celebrations	166 17 0		
47	Audit and Accountancy Charges	63 0 0		
49	Maintenance of Office Furniture and Equipment	28 13 8		
15	Depreciation	13 0 0		
1,124				1,106 5 0
£384	Excess of Income over Expenditure			£171 3 6

INVESTMENTS HELD AT 31st DECEMBER, 1967

INVESTMENTS HELD AT 31st DECEMBER, 1967		Quoted Investments		Cost	Market Value
Nominal Value		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£	£
	Associated Fisheries Ltd.—				
37 10 0	5/- Stock Units		146 4 10	73	
25 0 0	6½% Convertible Unsecured Loan Stock, 1977/82		24 10 0	19	
250 0 0	Bay Hall Trust Ltd.—10/- Ordinary Shares		399 3 6	950	
585 0 0	British Gas 4% Guaranteed Stock, 1969/72		490 8 0	507	
925 8 8	3% Funding Stock, 1966/68		793 2 8	902	
75 0 0	Midland Bank Ltd.—£1 Ordinary Shares		204 0 4	262	
163 0 0	Omnium Investment Co. Ltd.—5/- Deferred Shares		186 18 10	660	
	3% Savings Bonds, 1965/75—				
566 15 10	Held for General Funds	449 13 1			
872 5 5	Held for Life Membership Fund	698 0 0			
			1,147 13 1	1,094	
218 3 0	3½% War Stock—Held for Apps Memorial Fund		115 10 0	108	
			3,507 11 3	£4,575	
	Unquoted Investments				
10 0 0	Roehampton Country Club £1 Shares		10 0 0		
450 0 0	Bank Deposit—Midland Bank Ltd.		450 0 0		
			£3,967 11 3		