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THE CROQUET GAZETTE

Number 155

SPRING 1980

The Official Organ of the Croquet Association

Patron: Her Majesty The Queen

Chairman's Report 1979 - 80

In recognising the influence and contribution of Maurice Reckitt to Croquet almost throughout this century, it is inevitable that we should consider in this report matters on a larger scale than just the details which occupied Council over the last year (which can be found in the published extracts of its meetings). The end of a decade, too, suggests that the Chairman should extend his brief and try to analyse the major changes which have occurred in that period in the hope of assessing the Association's present situation more clearly and sensing the direction in which developments are taking us. But in setting myself such a task, would that I had Maurice's fluency with words, his keen perception and his wealth of experience!

Ten years ago Council decided to accept its first government grant. There can be no doubt that that was a sound financial decision. The pittance given to the Secretary before then was derisory and, although his salary now is by no means adequate for the services we receive from him, it is one which enables us to employ a Secretary rather than rely, as we had, on virtually unpaid help. The substantial subsidy of the travelling expenses of our test teams, too, has been of very great benefit.

The acceptance of the grant carried with it the obligation to strengthen the foundations of the game in this country. Coaching and development plans were devised and development officers appointed. Initially there were substantial achievements: ailing clubs were revived; new clubs were formed; and many experienced players accepted the need to take a responsible attitude to coaching and encouraging new members. But there has been no dramatic increase (hoped for by some, feared by others) in, for instance, the number of Associates, and latterly many clubs are beginning to show signs of weakness. In the last few years we have lost momentum and it is time to renew our efforts. The Conference last December showed there was a keen interest amongst Associates to re-create a positive attitude to development, and the initial response to Lionel Wharrad's invitation for clubs to mount their own membership drive has been most heartening. One might therefore dare to be a little more optimistic for the immediate future. Certainly Council intends to encourage these efforts in whatever way it can: recently it allocated £1,000 to help the membership campaign and, with a longer-term view of development in mind, re-established the post of Development Officer.

A lesson we must learn from the last few years is that we must never become complacent with our situation. Despite exceptional instances to the contrary, croquet players do grow older, and examples of clubs growing older and dying with them are far too numerous for comfort.

Many Associates feared that the acceptance of the government grant would lead to the Croquet Association, and Croquet itself, losing its individuality by closer association with the C.C.P.R., Sports Council and other sports. After ten years I can perceive no such insidious tendencies. The only instance I can recall where Council has experienced outside pressures (on a South African issue) was one in which constraints would

have been present whether we received a grant or not.

Of course radical changes have taken place, but these have largely been determined by changing economic and social conditions affecting us all in our everyday lives. The most noticeable is the rise in popularity of weekend tournaments: in 1970 there were 10, in 1980 there are 29, including a number of open events which are a relatively recent innovation. Contrary to what one might expect there has also been a significant increase in the number of week tournaments, from 25 in 1970 to 31 in 1980. But how long will all these week-long events continue to exist? Associates are finding it increasingly difficult to meet the cost of travel and accommodation, and there are certainly many like myself who could not afford to go away to such an event. This year some clubs are trying to adapt the pattern of the traditional week tournament - it is surely better to experiment in this way than for a club to lose both a prestigious event and a valuable source of income.

Tournament competitors have changed too. Ten years ago the "tournament circuit" still existed, sustained by a group of players who formed the core of the croquet world. Those players did an immense amount for Croquet. They were colourful individuals who enhanced the tournaments they graced and maintained the highest standards of play. Through their knowledge of croquet and its players, and with their conversation, they also performed an invaluable task: they made Croquet a tightly-knit and distinctive world. Maurice was pre-eminent amongst them and with his death we are forced to acknowledge the end of the era which they had continued for so long. One of our most urgent tasks should be to try to find ways of maintaining our cohesion and identity now that their influence has disappeared. The Gazette ought to be a powerful factor in achieving this, but is it possible for the Association nowadays to produce a journal which can do this job effectively?

Throughout the decade there has been an undercurrent of change which is likely to prove the most radical in the long-term development of the Association. At one time the Association's main (and, one is tempted to say, only) function was to organise tournaments and their associated trappings. Nowadays the organisation of tournaments, though still an essential part, is less important because it is only one of many tasks performed by the Association. A good indicator of this is the handicapping system. At one time it was exceptional to have one's handicap altered outside a tournament. Now club recommendations are commonplace and the regulations have been altered to reflect this. The change, then, is one of a shift of emphasis from tournaments to clubs.

This is, of course, largely due to the development scheme. In furthering it, the Association naturally has to work with and for clubs - not just those promoting tournaments, but all registered, and even non-registered, clubs. The growth in number and importance of inter-club matches has also contributed in this direction. If the tendency continues then Associates should be aware that the relationship between the and individual members is liable to change. How much longer can individuals expect to receive personal service from the

C.A. Office (rather than through their own club) as though from Robert Jackson's? How much longer can the C.A. expect individual players (rather than their clubs) to see the need to support the Association? When the organisation of the C.A. meant the organisation of tournaments, competitors saw clearly the need to support the Association by subscribing to it. What of the future?

Roger Bray

In coming to the end of my period of office, I am in the unique position of knowing the tremendous amount of work which many individuals, particularly members of Council, perform on behalf of the Association, and which has made my task so light and easy. Perhaps I may be forgiven for mentioning only three by name: Richard Rothwell and Alan Oldham who bear the brunt of the Association's administration, and Betty Prichard who resigned as Editor during the year. To these three and to very many others we are deeply indebted.

R.W.B.

The Secretary & Editor.

The Secretary of the Croquet Association is Mr R.F. Rothwell. The Hurlingham Club, London, SW6 3PR. Tel: 01-736 3148.

The Editor of the Croquet Gazette is Mr D.R. Foulser. 61 Hales Road, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire. GL52 6SL Tel: Cheltenham (0242) 580295 (Home).

All Contributions other than tournament results should be sent to the Editor. They are not acknowledged but are most welcome. Please send EARLY — do not wait for the deadline. **All Tournament results** to be sent to the Secretary C.A. but **all tournament reports** to the Editor

All Correspondence concerning non-delivery of Gazettes or incorrect addresses must be sent to the SECRETARY C.A. and **NOT** to the EDITOR.

Deadline

Copy for the Spring Issue of the Gazette must reach the Editor not later than SATURDAY June 28th

EDITORIAL

By the time you read this Gazette the 1980 croquet season will be upon us and I wish you an enjoyable and successful one.

It is essential for the C.A. to publish the Gazette regularly and within a few weeks from the submission of copy to the printers. The Gazette is the most important form of communication within the Association in that it not only provides a direct link between the C.A. and Associates, but it also enables players to learn of the feats and opinions of their fellows, so it is effectively the life-blood of croquet in Britain. For some years now there have been delays in publication and the first three issues of 1979 vividly highlighted the point. In the circumstances, a positive effort is being made to bring about changes in the Gazette which, it is hoped, will lead to a more efficient production.

Tournament accounts and results occupy a substantial part of space during a year's four issues. The results are extremely complicated to typeset, since they involve many changes in type. As an experiment, results of 1980 tournaments will be reported in full in the Winter issue (and, if necessary in the following Spring 1981 issue) with only basic results and fuller reports (including as many of the competitors' names as possible) in the Summer and Autumn issues. In addition there is to be a change of format for knock-out tournament results (N.B. not American, etc.). The format used for many years has shown the results round by round but the new format will present the results of every game in an order which reflects their

importance in the eventual outcome of the competition and which eliminates all unnecessary repetition of names. I do not propose to describe the new format in any detail as it will be apparent once the coming season's results are published but basically the order of results will be as follows:— first the games won by the eventual winner will be given in the order in which they were played; secondly, the games won by the losing finalist will be given in the order in which they were played; then all the games won by the losing semi-finalists. However as with most proposals for change, there is a snag! The disadvantage is that preparation of copy for the printers is more complicated and to combat that hurdle new tournament result sheets have been designed and distributed to all Tournament Secretaries.

Last season Tournament Secretaries made many errors when recording results for submission to me and I therefore ask you all to note the following points:—

1. Send results to C.A. Office (Hurlingham) with covering blue form providing details of persons responsible for completion of result sheets and for the report;
2. Send report to me, also with the covering blue form mentioned above;
3. Use CAPITAL letters in players' names on result sheets, and in report if Handwritten. Please have results and reports typed if at all possible;
4. On result sheets please insert full surname, initials and handicap (if a handicap event) when player's name first appears in each event but in all subsequent references insert surname only plus Miss or Mrs if appropriate. If two players of the same sex with the same surname are in an event then show their initials throughout;
5. Use separate sheets for Draw, Process and Marraige (Reg. 20D) if appropriate and clip together;
6. Use one sheet for top half and another for the bottom half if there are more than 32 competitors;
7. Please check that all details are properly and accurately completed before submission;
8. Please forward results and reports as soon after the event as possible.

The new format for printing results is estimated to save about 20% of space in the Gazette which will allow for the inclusion of reports of week-end tournaments which are now increasing in importance. Will all Clubs endeavour to make reports of all tournaments as interesting as possible and at the same time not include praise of the catering as space just cannot be afforded for this. Most will agree that the catering at the majority of tournaments is admirable but few wish to read about it — the Gazette is there to describe the play itself.

Lastly, I should make it clear that although most tournament results will not be shown in full in the Summer and Autumn issues, this will not apply to the most important events in the Calendar such as the Men's and Women's Championships, the Open Championships, the Ladies' Field Cup and the three 'Eights'.

D.R.F.

Handicapping procedures

The following are the up-to-date Handicapping Procedures which are required to be published annually in the Spring Gazette.

New Handicaps

A handicap is obtained either from:

- a) A Club Handicapper, or a committee of members, appointed by the Club to allocate handicaps. A Club Handicap will not necessarily be accepted for play in a C.A. Calendar Fixture Tournament: or,
- b) the Tournament Handicapper of a C.A. Calendar Fixture (including weekend tournaments) who will be on the list of

Authorised C.A. Handicappers, appointed by the Handicap Co-ordination Committee of the C.A.

A player entering a Calendar Fixture Tournament who has not obtained a C.A. handicap may request the Tournament Handicapper to apply his Club Handicap, or, in the absence of any such handicap, will be given a starred handicap.

A starred handicap can be varied during the tournament but not in an event in which the player has already taken part.

At the end of the tournament the Tournament Handicapper will allocate a handicap, remove the star and advise the player and the C.A. Secretary. (see Regulations 22 & 23).

Alterations in Handicaps

Handicappers may recommend increases or reductions in Handicaps. (see page 19 of the Winter Gazette.)

Handicap alterations recommended by Tournament Handicappers resulting from play in Calendar Fixtures (including weekend tournaments) take effect immediately.

The Player concerned is notified of his altered Handicap before he leaves the tournament and is handed an official card showing the alteration. This he must show to the Manager of any tournament which he may enter. He should also inform the Handicapper(s) of his own Club or Clubs.

It is the duty of a player to ascertain before leaving a tournament whether his handicap has been altered.

COMPETITORS ARE REMINDED OF THEIR RESPONSIBILITY FOR PLAYING AT THEIR CORRECT HANDICAP UNDER REGULATION 11.

Handicap alterations recommended by Club Handicappers will also take effect immediately.

Increases in Handicaps

As well as an increase in handicap being made by Handicappers as set out above, an increase may be obtained by a player applying to his Club Handicapper or to a Tournament Handicapper.

A Handicapper is not permitted to alter his own handicap.

Notification to the Croquet Association.

Both Club and Tournament Handicappers should inform the Secretary of the C.A. of new and altered handicaps as soon as possible on the Handicap listing form supplied by the Secretary.

Approval of Handicaps

New handicaps and alterations as advised to the C.A. are submitted to the Handicap Co-ordination Committee for approval.

The Handicap Co-ordination Committee in the exercise of their powers may request the Handicapper concerned for further evidence supporting an alteration.

The Handicap Co-ordination Committee has power to vary any alterations in handicaps which in their opinion call for modification and is empowered to make a review of handicaps at the end of each season.

Appeals

A player who disagrees with a Handicapper's decision has the right of appeal to the Handicap Co-ordination Committee.

Appeals against decisions of the Handicap Co-ordination Committee may be made by individuals through the Secretary of the C.A. to the Handicap Appeals Committee, whose decision will be final.

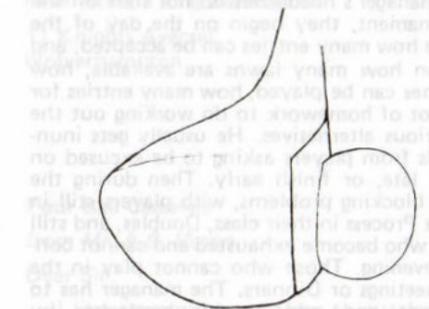
R.A. Godby
Chairman, Handicap Co-ordination Committee.

ROVER NOTES

To Strike or to Stroke

It is now ten years since Patrick Cotter last played in the President's Cup. Only a small percentage of players stay in tournament croquet for more than twenty years, so nearly half to-day's players never saw him in action; which is a pity because there has never been a better stroker of the ball. His long shots were wonderful to behold, gliding as though along a groove, and he condemned the boosting of hoops: "Avoid any hard hitting or upward motion of the mallet, for both these errors destroy the secret of a hoop shot — a forward rolling ball." (Tackle Croquet this Way 1960). It was the mastery of touch and tactics which fascinated Cotter: "I don't call that Croquet," he commented after being beaten by Freddie Stone, who was a legendary hard hitter. It may have been the influx of exuberant young men who hit so hard — and so often — that they ignored "tactics" which disenchanted Cotter with croquet, or it may have been slower lawns. Once when he was close to the peg he missed a two foot roquet, prior to pegging out: "I cannot play on these slow lawns" he grumbled. Cotter was the quickest of breakmakers, not because he ran but because he always had all balls under control. He thought that the game would be improved if the turn ended when the roqueted ball was sent off the court in the same way as when a ball goes off in a croquet stroke.

Is it because the lawns are slower that so many players now hit excessively hard? It would be interesting to know just what effect it has on a croquet ball to be struck with such strength. Dr Parker sent in a photograph (from Dunlop Sports Company) showing how a golf ball is compressed when driven; below is an outline tracing of this photograph. The golf ball expands quickly but a croquet ball is more rigid and if hit with a 3½lb mallet after a golf-type swing could it ever regain its proper shape? One thing is certain: croquet balls do not come in the same category as women, spaniels and walnut trees. Instead of appearing to take it out on their balls to compensate for an indifferent lawn — or indifferent play — some lusty hitters might find it more rewarding to be, like Cotter, "more amorous of their strokes".



Fun with Figures

Have you ever wondered just how many different situations can confront a croquet player when he steps on the lawn.

First let us take the clip permutations. Assuming 13 different locations for each clip we have 28561 cases. To marry this up with all the permutations of ball positions is difficult and arbitrary. May we suppose that, judged by where any ball actually is, a different position arises if the ball is a full yard square areas (shades of Lord Tollemache) and this gives 858 to the fourth power. Multiplying these together (balls times clips) we have the staggering figure of 15,478,275,078,064,656. (Even worse than a telephone account reference)

Even worse than telephone account reference

This includes many situations which are mirrors, inversions or transpositions of others but on the other hand excludes ball in

hoop situations and does not allow for the lawn itself — from short and dry to wet and long. If you felt that most players should rely on hitting anything within 7 yards you could have five times four 7 yard squares (in each of which one or more of the balls might be) yielding 160,000 permutations. We could trim the clip figure to 20,736 by assuming 12 effective clip positions on the argument that there would not be a clip on the peg, normally, until one or other clips were beyond hoop 1. The product of these then becomes a mere 3,317,760,000 possibilities facing you. Quite staggering even if fanciful figures and I hope that all players would know exactly what to do in each of these predicaments.

Of course these figures are not so massive as at Chess, but of course chess players only have to do the thinking and can deftly move a piece to the proper square. Croquet players have to do the "thinking" and then do the actual "doing".

The Tournament Ogre

All sports are a means of relaxation and enjoyment in ones leisure hours, and nothing is so relaxing as being able to play in a friendly match at one's own club. To choose a nice warm sunny day, phone up a friend and arrange a friendly game. Choose one's own lawn, start in one's own time, stop for coffee, stop for drinks when the bar opens, stop for lunch, carry on in the afternoon, and when one feels tired to retire to the bar, and dinner. What a wonderful feeling.

But come the tournament. The whole aspect of the game changes. It becomes a battle of skill, wits, and tactics. Hovering over it all is the Manager, the Headmaster, the Prison Warden with his book of rules and regulations. Standing there with his whip in his hand, forcing one to play from early morning till late in the evening, daring anyone to leave the lawns for lunch or a cup of tea. Telling you just where to play and when, and for how long.

Does this Ogre take the pleasure out of Croquet?

Who is this Ogre! How many players would be prepared to take on this awesome task with all its responsibilities. No manager enjoys having to chase up players. He wants them all to enjoy playing the game. But he does have the onerous task of seeing that the tournament runs smoothly and finishes on time on the last day. The manager's headaches do not start on the first day of the tournament, they begin on the day of the Draw. He has to decide how many entries can be accepted, and this must be based on how many lawns are available, how many hours a day games can be played, how many entries for each event. He has a lot of homework to do working out the order of play plus various alternatives. He usually gets inundated with phone calls from players asking to be excused on certain days, to start late, or finish early. Then during the tournament come the blocking problems, with players still in several events, Draw & Process in their class, Doubles, and still in the X or Y. Players who become exhausted and cannot continue to play in the evening. Those who cannot play in the evenings because of meetings or Dinners. The manager has to accept these diversions and add to his headaches by rearranging the programme.

Who are the OGREs? The Managers or the Players?

The manager does all he can to keep things running smoothly in favour of the players, and they should help to ease his problems by trying to understand the difficulties and by operating with his endeavours.

The average weekly tournament consists of 5 events (3 on Draw & Process) 1 Doubles (single games) and the handicap (X & Y). The average player enters 3 events. With up to 32 entries this means a minimum of 5 games and a maximum of 16 games per player. From 32 to 64 entries means a minimum of 5 games and a maximum of 20 games per player. Therefore the continual winners must play between 3 and 4 games per day. Since half the players get knocked out in the first round, and another quarter in the second round. Most players think in terms of having from 5 to 12 games during the week, which averages out at from 1 to 2 games per day. For them a pleasant leisurely tournament. What they do not seem to realise is that those who continue to win games and have from 16 to 20 games to play, must get through 3 or 4 games per day, so that

not only they, but their opponents must be available to continue playing.

All this may seem to be a lot of hot air, but to condense it into one sentence. All players who enter more than 1 event in a tournament MUST be prepared to play up to at least 3 games per day.

PLEASE SPARE A THOUGHT FOR THE OGRE!

Roving Eye

From my Postbag, New Zealand.

Fantastic croquet at the North Island Championships... Paul Skinley won the Men's Championship and the New Zealand Championship. The Christchurch tournament produced the highest standard ever remembered. The top players cannot wait to play England again — they wish it was every 3 years instead of 4. Most of them practise 6 hours a day. Joseph Hogan is to study for the priesthood and will shortly be entering a monastery for that purpose.

Paul Skinley has had trouble with his ears and will be having an operation — but not till the end of the season.

Bob Jackson is trying for an octuple peel. He has a practice room at home where he has fixed up a leather strap which he has to hit four times running from 7 yards before he will eat his evening meal. Luckily his wife plays croquet too — otherwise the strap might have a different use.

Cliff Anderson is making a Television Series, each programme on croquet will last 15 minutes.

A set of balls now costs \$140 (about £65).

Laurence Latham married Deborah Wentworth on 15 March 1980. It is unfortunate that the couple have no club in the immediate vicinity of Wellington, for Deborah has already been seen playing Golf Croquet at Budleigh Salterton, and expresses interest in learning the proper game.

There is a major alteration in the timetable of this year's **Open Tournament at Colchester on July 7-10 and 11-12**: the Open Singles will be played on the Friday and Saturday only. The two days' intensive play (with opportunity for friendly games) should suit those who cannot afford much time for tournament croquet and provide excellent practice for those who intend to play in the Open Championships the following week. Cheap accommodation is available. The earlier part of the week is in traditional format but contains a new event for handicaps 1 or over. If competitors wish to leave after Thursday it may be possible to complete their events on that day, but for those wishing to remain throughout the week games for all handicaps will continue until Saturday.

CORRESPONDENCE

Is it Too Easy?

from Mr I.H. Wright

Dear Sir

The letter from Bryan Sykes caught my eye and it echoes my own feelings that croquet at the very top is too easy. I know of several best-of-three matches which have been over in a total of fewer than fifteen turns, with, of course, the loser not taking croquet at all. Even at our more lowly level up here in Scotland one player drove fifty miles each way from Glasgow to meet the same player on two occasions and lost both games in the sixth turn. Understandably, he felt that his time could have been more profitably spent!

The suggestion in Bryan Sykes's letter to give contact whenever a player goes through 1-back and 4-back in the same

turn would tend to make triples more important and therefore people would become more adept at them. To give contact whenever the first ball is through 1-back would mean that the sextuple would be used much more often — there is evidence of this in New Zealand. To substitute 3-back for 4-back would just mean that quadruples would be practiced; they are, after all, a form of delayed triple.

I think that the answer has to be to make the break itself more difficult. This raises a problem as it is already difficult enough for high and middle bisquers — and lower! So the problem, as I see it, is to make the break more difficult in a range of events which would attract the really good players — the Eights, the Opens, The Men's and Women's Championships, for instance.

I have been experimenting along these lines this winter, and have had some experimental hoops made up. The first one was made of 1" dia. uprights, and I found very little difference from the standard 5/8". The next one has 1 1/2" uprights and it is an entirely different kettle of fish. As I had hoped, the diameter of the upright causes the ball to bounce quite differently and it is very difficult to "rattle" through. Also you have to be much more directly in front of it to run it at all. This means that approach strokes have to be much better, and approaching it from directly behind is a lot more difficult. At present, even with President Cup hoops, a good hoop runner can get away with surprisingly bad hoop approaches. One disadvantage of such wide hoop uprights is that wiring becomes very much easier, so I am now waiting for a third hoop made from 1 1/4" uprights. These hoops, incidentally, are made from tubes, and are surprisingly light. They are also much more rigid.

Once I have decided which are best for an extended test I hope to have a set available for demonstration when the CA come up to Edinburgh to play us in June and you will then have a chance to see what you think of them.

I think that the advantage of these will be that even the best players will break down more frequently, and so the innings will change hands more often, but because they are good they will quickly get breaks established again and so games should not drag on too long.

17 Greycoran,
Sauchie, Clackmannanshire.

Yours sincerely,
I. Howard Wright

Correction to Roehampton Tournament dates

from Stephen Mulliner

Dear Sir,

Would all players who have entered or are considering entering the Roehampton Open week-end shown in the Fixture List as being due to take place on Saturday and Sunday August 30-31st, please note that this was a clerical error of mine and that the Tournament will in fact be played the previous week-end on 23rd/24th August.

My apologies for any inconvenience caused.

3B Regent House,
Wellington Place, London NW8.

Yours sincerely,
Stephen Mulliner.

A Croquet Machine?

by Mr. F. Fraser Ross

Sir,

The reprinting of the April 1960 article on split shots by J.W.S. and the comments on it by Miller and Thorpe in "Croquet and How to Play It" (1966) suggest that it would be interesting to construct a croquet machine.

One that reproduced all the ways a player handles a mallet would be expensive, but one that swings a mallet from a

"shoulder" with a variable force applied at points down the handle seems practicable. Height of mallet from the ground and position of striker's ball in relation to dead centre could be investigated.

Before I make such a machine I must look up the article in **Engineering**, June 1962, and I should be glad of comments and suggestions by members.

Barbrona

Coppice Lane

Reigate

Surrey

Yours sincerely,

F. Fraser Ross

Mallet Repairs

Dear Sir,

I note with interest the letter from Mr McCullough regarding mallet repairs. It is very expensive to introduce repair items on to a production line as it disrupts the flow of production. Instructions have to be issued of what has to be done, and this is just as costly for the one off as issuing instructions of a hundred mallet heads. With the consequence the manufacturer will generally refuse to undertake small repairs, but is willing to replace a shaft or complete head.

The only way to get minor repairs done is to put them in the hands of a local craftsman who has the appropriate materials and tools. Generally the damage is confined to the striking surfaces and brass bindings, and as mallet heads come in different sizes special facings and rings have to be made up to suit. Refacing by cutting back the head is not to be recommended as the balance and weight are affected, it is much better to reface with nylon or other plastic material which has a similar density, and probably better wearing quality than the original wood.

Anyone wanting mallets repaired can contact me, but I have rather a long waiting list.

11 Knights Avenue
Wolverhampton

Yours sincerely,
Ken Townsend

Four Ball Cannons

from Mr. A.C. Mason

Dear Sir,

I like attempting solutions to puzzles, so here is my idea of how to handle a four ball cannon.

I assume that all balls are in the fourth corner, and that black, who is for the 1st hoop elects to play. He places his ball in contact with yellow in line with Hoop 2. Then red is placed in contact with yellow and about 1 inch from black. Blue is placed in contact with red and the line between blue and red is to Hoop 1. Strike black hard, aiming between Hoops 1 and 5, so that yellow travels to near Hoop 2. Red will travel only a short distance towards Hoop 1 and blue a good deal further in the same direction stopping say 5 yds. from Hoop 1. Black takes croquet from red sending red towards the peg and getting a rush on blue for Hoop 1. Black now has a four-ball break. I have only been able to try the cannon gently on the carpet, but the secret seems to be the direction in which black is struck; if it is struck more in the direction of Hoop 5 then red will travel much farther and blue less far.

12 Collingham Green,
Little Sutton,
South Wirral.

Yours sincerely,
A.C. Mason.

from Mr. A.G. Lenfestey

Sir,

In 1975, I saw a perfect 4-ball cannon carried out by Keith Ross at the Nottingham Tournament. This was from the second corner, to obtain a perfect break starting at the first hoop for his striker's ball.

I have endeavoured to reconstruct his play. I do not remember the exact lie of the balls after his first stroke, but they must have been in the general areas indicated on Fig. 2.

Fig. 1 shows the placing of the balls and line of aim for a good firm stroke with follow-through. Balls 2 and 4 will both travel quite a distance on a good, fast lawn — say 10 yards or more. Ball 3 will not go so far as the other two balls. Depending upon its final position, either a split roll or a thick take-off should put it near Hoop 2, while the striker's ball 1 gets position for a rush on ball 4 to the first hoop. The break follows.

This general approach could be adopted for other situations, and merits practice to become familiar with exact ball placings and line of aim in relation to final positions of balls 2, 3 and 4.

Whilst it may not always be possible to get an immediate break going, it can always be used to get all the balls away from the corner or yard-line, and hopefully into positions helpful to a later break.

65, Codsall Road,
Wolverhampton.

Yours faithfully,
A.G. Lenfestey

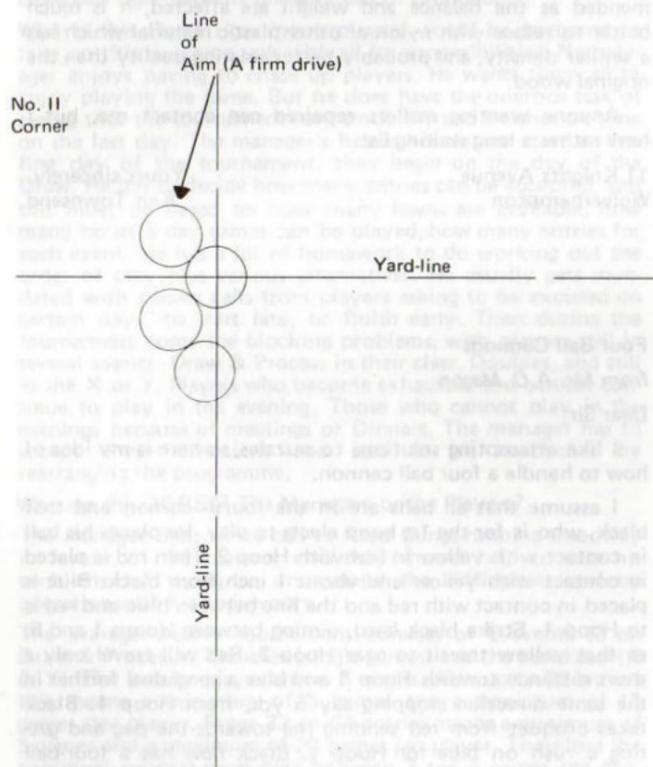


Fig. 1. Ball placing for a 4-ball cannon from the 2nd corner.

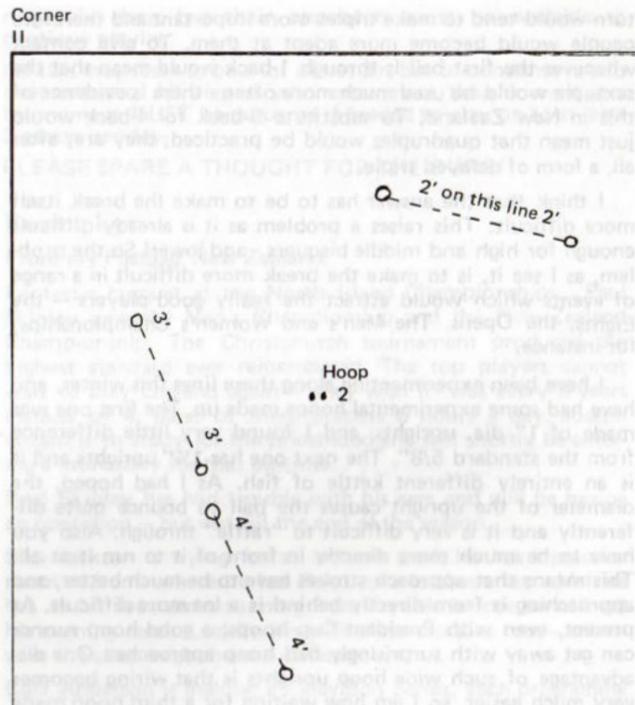


Fig. 2. Approximate positions of balls 2, 3 and 4 after cannon shot. (Ball 1 is in hand)

Inter-Counties

from Mr. K. Schofield

Dear Sir,

I am hoping to form a 2nd division starting 1981 with teams of 4 players.

The idea is to assist Counties who feel not strong enough (numerically or otherwise) to get started.

It is not intended to alter the 1st division (except in so far as promotion and relegation may be necessary) but it is possible that where 2 or more Counties at present merge, one may wish to set up separately — provided the others can sustain a team of 6.

If initially 4 Counties competed this would entail 4 lawns for 3 days and maybe Budleigh (Devon) could accommodate and take part.

Readers' views and word from interested Counties would be appreciated.

4 Boucher Road,
Budleigh Salterton, Devon.

Yours faithfully,
Ken Schofield

Poor Reports

from Mr. H.O. Hicks

Sir,

Latterly in my opinion — a few of the tournament reports have been poor, and also inaccurate — I feel that it might improve the standard, if the writers were to give their name, or initials.

Dares Farm
Colyford
Devon

Yours faithfully,
H.O. Hicks

Point of Interest

from Mr. J.H.J. Soutter

Dear Sir,

I thought it might be of interest to readers of the Gazette to note that Jim Townsend's obituary of Maurice Reckitt in the Times was the first entry of "This England" column of the New Statesman (reproduced below). It did not strike me as being particularly amusing or absurd myself.

13 Ancastle green
Henley-On-Thames Oxfordshire

Yours sincerely,
John Soutter

This England

S.S.T. writes: The death of Maurice Reckitt removes the last bridge between the croquet of before and after the two world wars. — Obituary in The Times (J.R. Soames)

Clubs Near and Far

Points from the Spring Meeting of the Federation of Northern Croquet Clubs

Mrs Nell Tyldesley and Mrs Pat Hague won the Burscough Indoor Doubles Tournament. Since there is no other known indoor tournament this makes them world champions!

Arising out of the initiative taken by Mr Lionel Wharrad on club recruitment, all the clubs present undertook to run a recruitment drive. Mr Andrew Collin showed some new style croquet posters which were received enthusiastically. It was felt that better publicity for croquet could be obtained through the news media by announcements of important events followed up by results of tournaments. Rather than individual league match results it was agreed that a league table at the end of the season would make a greater impact. A new club in Harrogate is now definitely established.

The East Riding Croquet Club which now has excellent lawn facilities were hoping to organise a major event in 1981 with an invitation to the New Zealand team when they are in England. With this and the Northern Championships it is hoped to put croquet in the north firmly on the map.

A.C. Mason

Bentley

Bentley has pegged out with an unusual success — Frank Stanley-Smith, their youthful and energetic Hon. Secretary, achieved his 90th Birthday on 4th February.

In secret, the Club Members arranged a champagne buffet-luncheon in his honour at the Chairman's House. When Frank arrived, with his wife Rita, he was expecting merely to have a meal with the Chairman and his wife. Instead, he found every member of the Club waiting to greet him and to wish him well.

Once the initial shock had worn off, Frank settled down to enjoy himself, making a spirited response to the toast to his continued good health. He was much amused by his birthday card, signed by all the members, which was addressed as follows:

Mr. Frank Ninety-Tomorrow
Croquet Lodge,
Peg-out Lane,
Rover-by-Peel.
Bisqueshire.

It was a memorable occasion for everyone — but especially so for Frank because of the respect and affectionate regard which all his members showed for him.

Woking

Please note that the draw for our tournaments from 5-13 July will take place at 5.00 pm on Saturday 21st June and not on Sunday 22nd June at the Club.

REMINISCENT ROQUETS

reprinted from Croquet Gazette dated January 19th, 1922.

The Diseases of Croquet.

(From our Medical Correspondent).

There are not wanting those who attribute the desire to play croquet in itself to a morbid condition of mind and body. It need hardly be here stated that such an opinion is treated by those best qualified to judge as beneath serious attention. None the less, there are morbid processes associated with the game that require the highest medical skill in treatment, and of these by far the most important is

PARALYSIS AGITANS

Synonyms. — The Dithers or Twitters; the Needle etc., etc.
Definition. — An acute infectious fever, occurring endemically, sometimes epidemically; characterised by a gradual or sudden onset followed by a period of acute palpitation with frigidity of the lower extremities and marked elevation of the wind.

History. — The disease has been well recognised since the introduction of tournament play, and no player can claim to have a natural immunity, though after repeated attacks a high degree of resistance may be acquired, sufficient at least to mask the disease so that it is hardly recognisable.

Causation. — Although a specific organism has not yet been isolated we may assume that the virus is a potent one, exhibiting a great range of malignancy. It has often been attributed to long exposure to shock in trains and motors, insomnia, neuritis of one or both arms, lack of food and even to climatic conditions, or previous severe ill-health, which has left no other obvious impairment of the faculties. There is, however, abundant evidence that the assumption of such factors as material is unwarranted.

Symptoms. — These are varied and may appear very gradually. The senses are all affected. The earliest signs appear to be visual. Thus, the object ball, instead of being struck full, is faintly grazed on one side, and the hoops appear to be distinctly smaller than the diameter of the ball. As the disease develops the object ball, though quite near, appears out of range, and is missed altogether. At this point a slightest unlooked-for movement of an object outside the court or unexpected noise cause intense irritation provoking a disordered speech of a distressing character. The gait is soon affected and has been likened to that of the young of the common cat (*Felis vulgaris*) when walking on a heated stone surface. As the disease progresses the patient becomes morose or garrulous, calling attention to various incidents wholly irrelevant in order to mask the true nature of his complaint, his pathetic efforts being obvious to the most ignorant onlooker. The final stages are reached with complete paralysis of mind and body, the only rational remnant of healthy functioning of the grey matter being in the expression of a fixed determination to abjure the game completely.

When four players are engaged the disease has a distinct tendency to become more marked, and its paralysing effects may at times reduce all the players to complete incompetency and thus give great anxiety to the management.

The writer has noted a curious hallucination, not recognised in the text books, that is commonly associated with even the milder forms of the complaint. It is that the sufferer is only capable of observing the *negative* balance of fortune that falls

to his lot and the *positive* amount that his opponent obtains, whereas any positive amount falling to himself is considered to be due to his own efforts, while even a large amount of the opposite falling to his opponent seems outside his range of observation.

Treatment.— It is only natural that for such a widespread malady a host of remedies has been suggested, and we only attempt to give the most common.

External.

- a. *Dress.*— Particular garments as to fabric and colour are sometimes supposed to confer immunity.
- b. *Amulets of all kinds have their advocates.*
- c. *Balls.*— The colour of the balls is to some an important matter. Red and Yellow, on the whole, being considered less liable to be affected by the virus.
- d. *Mallets.*— A few players have been so convinced that the mallet may become infected that they have actually destroyed a particular implement at the end of a game.
- e. Others consider that the application of chalk (white, or preferably blue) is sufficient to prevent this source of infection.

Internal.

- a. *Tobacco* stands easily first in popularity.
- b. *Alcoholic infusions* of malt, hop, barley or juniper, either taken neat or diluted.
- c. *Drugs.*— Aspirin, the bromides, strychnine attract a few mostly of the female sex.
- d. *Chewing Gum.*— There is some evidence that this is efficacious, but sufficient trial has not been made to justify a pronounced opinion.
- e. *Inoculation.*— In our view the most successful results are obtained by a careful study of the unusual characteristics of infectivity that the disease presents. Where two players only are engaged the amount of virus which is developed is rarely strong enough to influence more than one player. (Where more than two are playing this does not hold— *vide supra.*) The disease is highly infectious, and it appears justifiable to endeavour to pass on the disease to the opponent. If this is done there is invariably a rapid improvement in the first sufferer's condition. Hence the importance of suppressing the symptoms as much as possible while endeavouring to pass on the disease to the unsuspecting contact.

Sufficient attention has not yet been paid to the bacteriological side of the disease to warrant any hope of a successful vaccine or serum in the near future.

'FELKE.'

Practice Makes Perfect?

reproduced from the *New Zealand Croquet Gazette* —
November 1979.

It is about this time of the year some of us experience our most exasperating stage of the season's croquet. We are keen, refreshed after the winter break, and eager to show what we can do on the court, yet nothing seems to go right - yet the harder we try the worse we become.

The basic fault is really quite simple. Following the winter break, all those muscles and reflexes associated with stroke-making have become 'rusty' and, before we can play well, they have to be put in working order once again.

How to do it? The old story. . . practice!

Co-ordination of mind and matter determines the success of all stroke play, and before advanced play is attempted, co-ordination practice should be carried out.

Have you ever wondered why the play of some of our leading players appears to be so effortless? The main reason is

that the successful minus player never attempts a stroke until he has it clearly in his mind what he intends doing. Even the seemingly casual hit off the boundary has some purpose behind it. Do you, for example, use your opening stroke of the match to 'test' your judgement of the court's surface? Or do you, when you go to B baulk to open play, carry your ball, or run it up the court with the side of your mallet? If you did the latter it could give you some indication as to the type of court, its pace and even reveal inequalities, as you do.

Practice, to be of value, must be with a purpose. At the beginning of the season, don't just start haphazardly to practice this or that stroke. Firstly, concentrate on mallet control. Spend five minutes a day just swinging your mallet. Get the feel of it, get to know it, master it - familiarity with your mallet gives you confidence. This practice can be done in the two or three weeks immediately preceding the opening of the season so that you can get straight out on to the court. First thing on the court is to brush up on ball control, which means knowing exactly how to hit a ball to make it go a SPECIFIC distance. If you don't know where you're going how do you know the correct way to hit the ball to get a certain result? Fundamental stroke play is formed by habit; bad habits make for bad stroke play.

Individual practice need not be monotonous if you plan it. Perhaps some of the following exercises employed at the beginning of the season may be of help to you. Incidentally, never commence with croquet strokes. There is a fundamental difference between hitting a single ball and hitting two balls in contact. The first thing is to master hitting the single ball.

EXERCISE 1. Take four or more balls to corner one and, placing each in turn on the corner spot, hit them out to hoop 1. At first concentrate on getting the balls within 18in. of the hoop, but as you loosen up, concentrate on placing the balls exactly in front of the hoop. The important thing about this exercise is to have a definite spot in mind. A little practice will see you placing each ball in turn on this spot - in fact, you should roquet the previous ball off the spot. Having done this part of the exercise, play the balls back towards corner 1, concentrating on placing the balls within the corner square. Variety in this exercise is obtained by starting from corner 1, and hitting the balls to hoop 1, from there to hoop 5, from there to hoop 4, and on to corner 4. Having done that, reverse the route back to corner 1. Later, change the route by going direct from corner 1, to in front of hoop 5.

The exercise is excellent for regaining one's touch and stroke co-ordination at the beginning of the season. A conscientious half-hour a day for a fortnight at the beginning of the season will bring its rewards in later match play.

EXERCISE 2. Have you realised that the hoop-running stroke is exactly that employed in exercise 1? The only difference (and, some say, a big one) is that you have the hoop to go through. It is most important that hoop practice be organised if a success is to be made of hoop running. Firstly, commence by playing the balls through the hoop from 6in. to 8in. dead in front. Later the range can be increased, but one should never commence hoop practice from two to three feet away for three reasons:—

- 1) In a match you should not have to do it from that distance.
- 2) You are not merely making the hoop but also are going to place the ball on a certain spot on the other side of the hoop, and
- 3) If you can hit the ball straight from 12in., rest assured you can do it from 36in.

A good measure to start from is the length of a mallet head from the middle of the hoop. From this distance on either side put at least 24 balls through the hoop. Having done that, measure out the mallet head length from the centre of the hoop

and then a mallet head length either to left or right from that spot. This should bring you on to an angle of about 40 deg. from the hoop. Now practice angle-hoops, always being careful to observe the same angle on the other side of the hoop. Having done this, try the converse angle on the same side of the hoop. The odds are that when you first do this, you will find hoop running from this angle difficult. This is because a slightly different perspective is involved. It will come right with practice. The main thing to remember is that you are going through the hoop to a definite point.

EXERCISE 3. We can now carry this simple ball stroke a stage further to the roquet-stroke (don't confuse with croquet-stroke). Place one ball on the corner spot and another 6in. immediately behind it in line with the hoop 1. Now practice roqueting the ball to a given point in front of hoop 1. I might add, straight rushes are rarely successful for the first week of practice. But you should persevere with this stroke because it teaches you judgement that is invaluable in all precision strokes. Having hit the balls out to hoop 1, practice the same roquet shot to place the balls in the corner square. Incidentally, as in exercise 1, you may continue the roquet-route from corner 1. to hoop 1. to hoop 5. to hoop 4. to corner 4. and back. But whatever you do, give each stroke the concentrated attention it deserves.

The main thing to remember in all these exercises is that you are doing things with a purpose. The vague hit somewhere in the direction of hoop 1 is valueless as practice. Remember that strokes are formed by habit, and if you take the care at practice you should, you will find that in games you are automatically applying that concentration to your play that will ensure success. Don't overdo the practice. These exercises are essentially 'limbering up' ones for the season ahead. They can also be used to retrieve 'lost' form during the season.

Variants of these exercises include rolling both balls out to hoop 1, stop-shooting the ball out to hoop 1, and pass-rolling out to the hoop from the corner. But, as I mentioned before, know what you are going to do.

Organised practice brings results.

A CROQUET GRADING SYSTEM

In the beginning....

Over the last two years considerable effort has been expended on, and much thought given to, the construction and use of a system for grading "A" class croquet players (1). This was motivated not by a desire to establish who are the best players (whatever that might mean) but rather to provide a reliable and objective indicator of who are the most SUCCESSFUL performers in games played under advanced rules. It was felt that for a variety of reasons the handicap system, which anyway does not address itself directly to this problem, was not fulfilling this role; and it appeared that - to take just one pertinent example - the selectors of the invitation eights might welcome such a measure of current success, encompassing all games played under advanced rules in tournaments and under match conditions.

The disadvantages of the handicap system as a measure of success in advanced play are many. Apart from the obvious facts that handicaps are assessed on both open and handicap games, and that they provide only a very coarse grading (there are for example only twelve possible handicaps between 2 and 3½), there are two major shortcomings which must be noted. Firstly, handicaps are often adjusted on the basis of a single outstanding tournament; a player, who may have performed sufficiently well in winning an Opens to have been reduced to ½, may then continue at his typical and more modest standard of 1½. Handicappers are inevitably unduly selective in the evidence they bring to bear on their decisions, so the handicaps they award may well not indicate typical standards of per-

formance. Secondly, handicaps of players in the "A" class are rarely changed once they reach a stable level, even though there may be wide fluctuations in their performance from season to season. It is commonplace for people to play at least a *bisque* worse than their handicap for much of the season, but to maintain it by occasional evidence that it is justified by their abilities. In other words, handicaps are highly insensitive to changes in form from month to month or even from one season to the next, and so again provide little evidence on which to base judgements about a player's current level of success.

It is precisely these problems which this grading scheme has been designed to overcome. It not only takes into account every game played under advanced rules in official tournaments (and many games played under match conditions besides), but is also affected by each of these games. A player's grade, once initially established, is determined by a method in which judgement plays no part; and varies throughout the season according to his fluctuating fortunes and the difference between his current grade and those of his opponents.

The system explained

Though the precise interpretation of the grades must be handled with care, the method by which a grade is calculated is essentially straightforward. The reader must first of all be introduced to some simple (though by no means immediately obvious) ideas, so that the framework within which the system operates can be understood.

First of all, anybody can win any game. In Open croquet, there is no such thing as a certainty. Any player in the "A" class, because he can regularly go round in a turn, is capable of beating any other - though often not with any great regularity! This being the case, it is convenient to think of the result of such a game as being the outcome of a statistical process to which probabilities can be assigned. The greater is the difference in ability between two players, the greater is the chance that the better of the two will win; though this probability may be very close to unity (which would indicate certainty), it will never QUITE reach it.

Secondly, a requirement for any grading scheme is that it is consistent. Anticipating a little, grades can be thought of as representing probabilities or - more correctly - past success rates; from them it is possible to calculate odds. If Alan's calculated success rate against Bill is 3:1 say, and Bill beats Colin at odds of 2:1, then Alan's chances of beating Colin ought to work out at 6:1. This property, known as transitivity, is essential if a grading system is to work properly; for if Alan's odds against Colin do not work out as 6:1, then grades reflecting the odds Alan plays Bill plays Colin will not be correct for the direct match Alan plays Colin.

This may seem a little technical, which it is; but it has at least one implication which is distinctly practical, namely that a player's choice of events (and therefore of range of opponents) should not be able artificially to distort his grade. For consider what could happen if the scheme produced grades which were such that Alan's calculated odds against Colin would work out at 8:1 if Alan and Colin played only against Bill (still with success rates of 3:1 and 1:2 respectively). If this were the case, Alan would appear on paper to be more likely to beat Colin than was in fact the case; his grade relative to Colin would therefore be raised artificially because they had both played only against Bill. It can surely be accepted that this distortion should not arise; a player's grade should not be influenced unfairly by who his opponents happen to have been.

Though both the methods of grading originally suggested (2) approximate to this condition of transitivity, neither satisfies it exactly: the odds implicit in the grades they produce inevitably result in slight inconsistencies, though these are insignificant for all but large grade differences. The second of the two schemes additionally ignores certain games (those where the grade difference exceeds 50 and the higher grader wins),

which is also to be avoided if possible. The system has now been altered so that these slight imperfections are no longer present, and is based on a LOGARITHMIC scale of points; the scale has been chosen so that the resulting grades differ only marginally from those which have been calculated using the earlier methods of grading. The odds on the higher grader winning a game are now as follows:

Grade difference	Odds
0	1:1
10	about 3:2
20	about 5:2
30	about 4:1
50	10:1
100	100:1

The operation of the system is simple. After every game, a player receives POINTS which depend on the result of the game and the difference between his grade and that of his opponent; these points are added to his grade (subtracted from it if he has lost) to give his GAME SCORE. His opponent's points are equal in number to his, but are subtracted from his grade (added to it if he has won). The scores of each player's twenty most recent games are then averaged, to give their new grades. These new grades are taken forward to their next games; and so it goes on.

The points are based on 50 for games between players of equal grade, and become progressively smaller the more predictable the result. Thus if David on 140 beats Ted on 90, David has only 16 points (15.8 to be more exact) added to his grade, to give him a game score of $140 + 16 = 156$; this is averaged with his 19 previous game scores to give his new grade, 142 say. Ted's game score on the other hand is $90 - 16 = 74$. Had David lost (as he occasionally will), he would have lost 158 points and so had a game score of $140 - 158 = -18$; while Ted's score would have been $90 + 158 = 248$. Thus David benefits less by winning than he suffers by losing, as befits his past record of success - which is why his grade is high in the first place. Incidentally, the ratio between these "expected" and "unexpected" points gives the odds on the game, $158:15.8 = 10:1$ in favour of David; with a grade of 140, he would have to beat Ted on 90 ten times out of eleven for his average game score to be 140 and so stay at the same grade.

This figure of twenty game scores used in the calculation of the new grade is to some extent arbitrary, but it does serve two useful purposes. Firstly, it tends to reduce the extent to which a single result can alter someone's grade. Even the most successful players occasionally lose; but with this averaging, there is a good chance that the occasional defeat will not suddenly transform their grade, which would give a quite misleading impression. Secondly, it means that grades are not simply records of a single day's play, but will reflect the successes of two or three months. Again, this helps to eliminate the possibility that grades will be misleading.

Clearly, grades calculated in this way may represent a different period of time for different players. To counterbalance this, the grading program also calculates a grade based not on a player's twenty most recent games but on his performance throughout the season. This gives a different, but equally useful, measure of his success.

Players who do not have a grade are initially assigned one on a handicap-related scale; this soon adjusts to its correct value. The system tends to move grades towards their correct level, so any errors which DO slip in (like an incorrectly assigned initial grade, or an error in calculation) are soon corrected. The choice of initial grade is therefore not critical. A grade of 100 approximates at present to a handicap in the region of plus two. Grades generally lie within about 30 of this, though they have to date been recorded as high as 200 and as low as 45 and could conceivably diverge even further from the "base" of 100. What the grades mean

Grades reflect RATES OF SUCCESS. The importance of

this single statement cannot be over-emphasised, for it is this aspect of the grading system which can perhaps most easily be forgotten or misunderstood. They DO NOT reflect ability, brilliance, consistency, skill or adventurousness any more than they reflect a player's age or the length of his mallet. It must immediately be added that some of these attributes may well be closely correlated with grades; but only because these other qualities may regularly lead to success.

Having established this point, and so reassured those who are sure that Fred is a better player than George even though George has a higher grade (they may well be right), a second - and more subtle - point must be made. Grades REFLECT rates of success; they do not unambiguously MEASURE them, as one might be led to think. The reason for this is simple: grades can be wrong (though, as noted earlier, they will tend to be corrected automatically). If a grade is wrong, it will not only affect that particular player: any player whose game scores include one resulting from a match against this opponent will be slightly wrong too; thus a fortuitous or disadvantageous series of opponents could distort a player's grade. Though this effect is likely to be small, it must be remembered that it exists; undue significance should not therefore be read into small grade differences - say less than +5.

Some simple illustrations of these points will indicate the sort of pitfalls which are to be avoided. Firstly, if Alan's grade is higher now than it was a year ago, this does not mean that his play has improved. He may have become more successful (relative to the average player of advanced games), but that is all that the change in his grade can tell us. Secondly, if Alan's grade was 3 below Bill's last year and is now 6 higher, this does not mean that he has got better than Bill; it does not even mean that he has become more successful relative to Bill: the change is really too small to read much into. Thirdly, if a new "graded" player's grade is much higher after his first twenty games, this too does not necessarily mean that he has become much more successful. New grades should always be looked upon as strictly provisional, and should not be given much weight until the grade stops changing rapidly. Indeed, any rapidly changing grade should be interpreted with care.

All comments so far have been about the past: how successful a player HAS BEEN. It would be potentially more interesting if grades could give us information about the actual probabilities underlying the games played: if you like, the "correct" grade.

To avoid confusion, a brief analogy is useful here. Suppose we toss a coin twenty times and find that it scores 12 heads and 8 tails; this gives odds of 3:2 on a head. However, the odds underlying the tossing of a fair coin are by definition 1:1. We might well ask if the experimental odds of 3:2 tell us anything about the underlying odds, e.g. are they in fact 1:1? We really want to know what odds we would come up with if we were to repeat the tossings indefinitely, without actually doing so. Similarly with grades: if Alan wins 12 games against Bill and loses 8, his grade will be 110 to Bill's 100. Does this enable us to say anything about what would happen if these games were to be repeated again and again, without actually having them played?

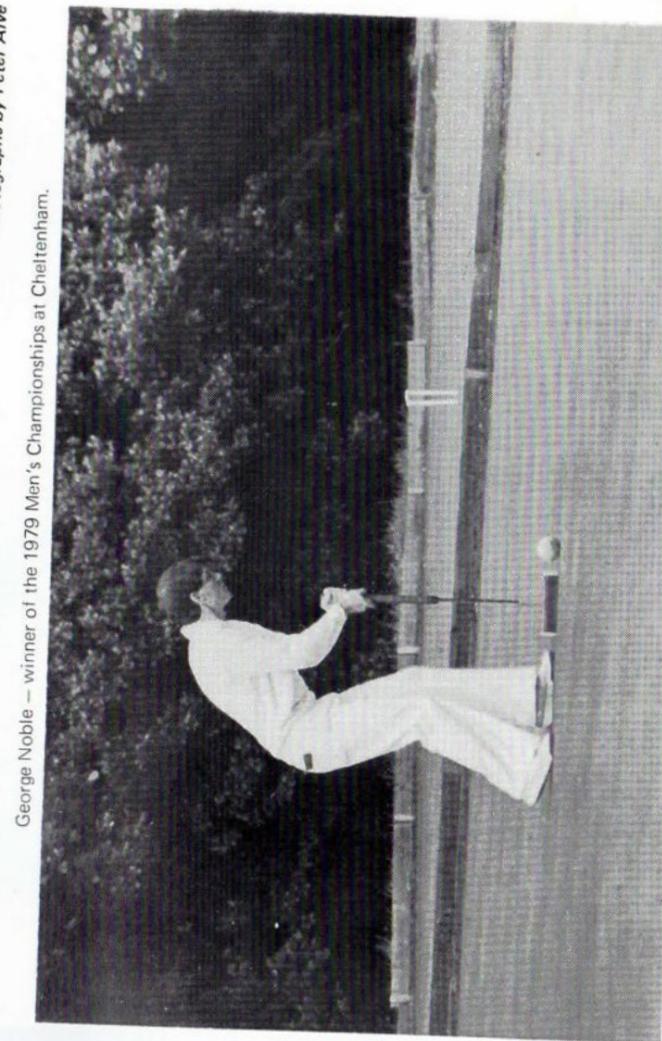
This sort of problem is tackled with the help of statistical theory. Statistical analysis of grades IS possible, but unlike the coin-tossing example cannot be exact. This is because of various technical differences between the types of events concerned, and need not be discussed here.

However, it is interesting to note that the little statistical analysis which HAS been carried out suggests that grades do not give a very precise indication of the probabilities underlying players' results. It seems to be the case that croquet players' standards of performance differ insufficiently (given the number of games they play) for statistical analysis to be able to provide much guidance for grades less than 10 or 15 apart; the only way in which this could be established would be by actual successes - or lack of them - and not by changes to the system.

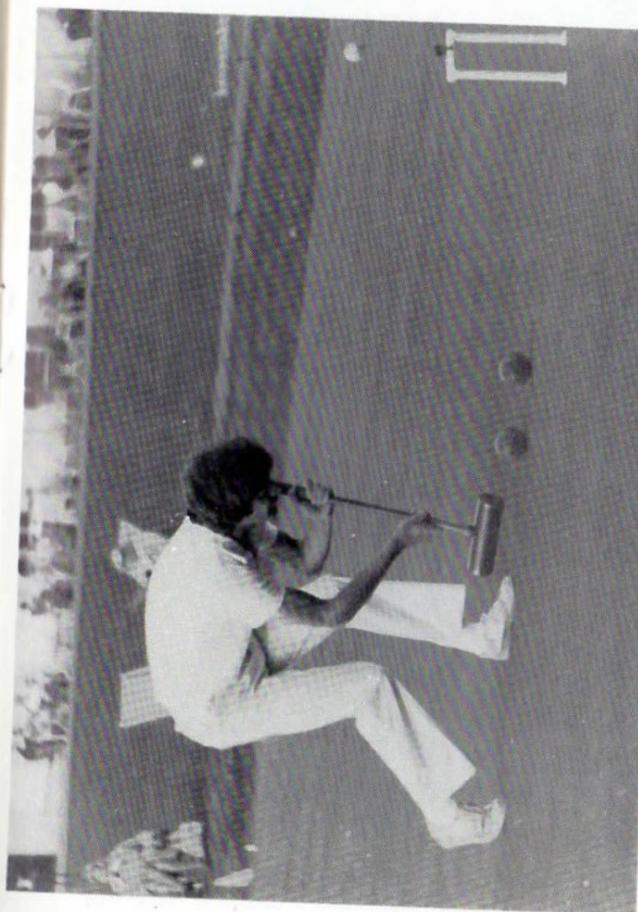


Paul Hands at Hurlingham. He played in the President's Cup for the first time in a few years and was runner-up in the Men's Championships.

Photographs by Peter Alwe

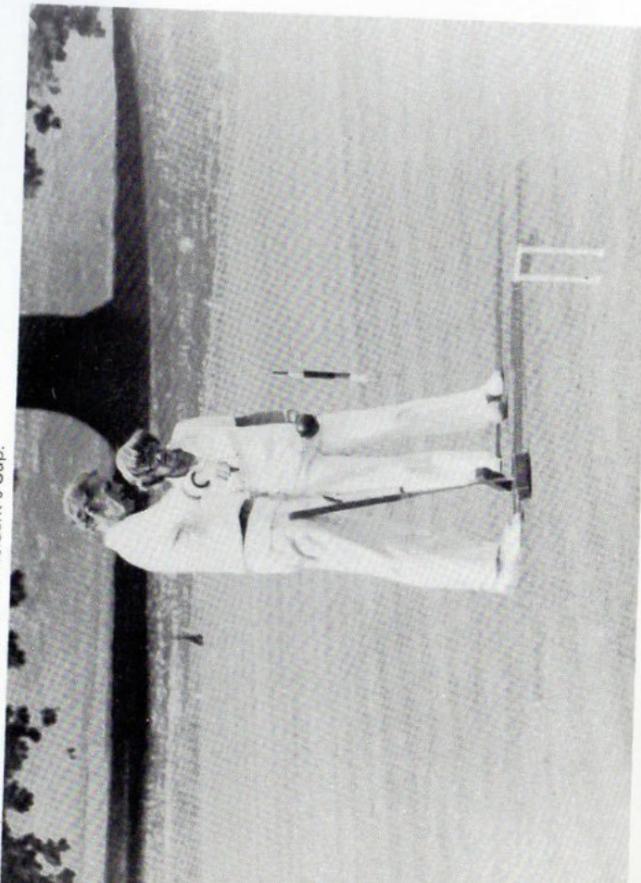


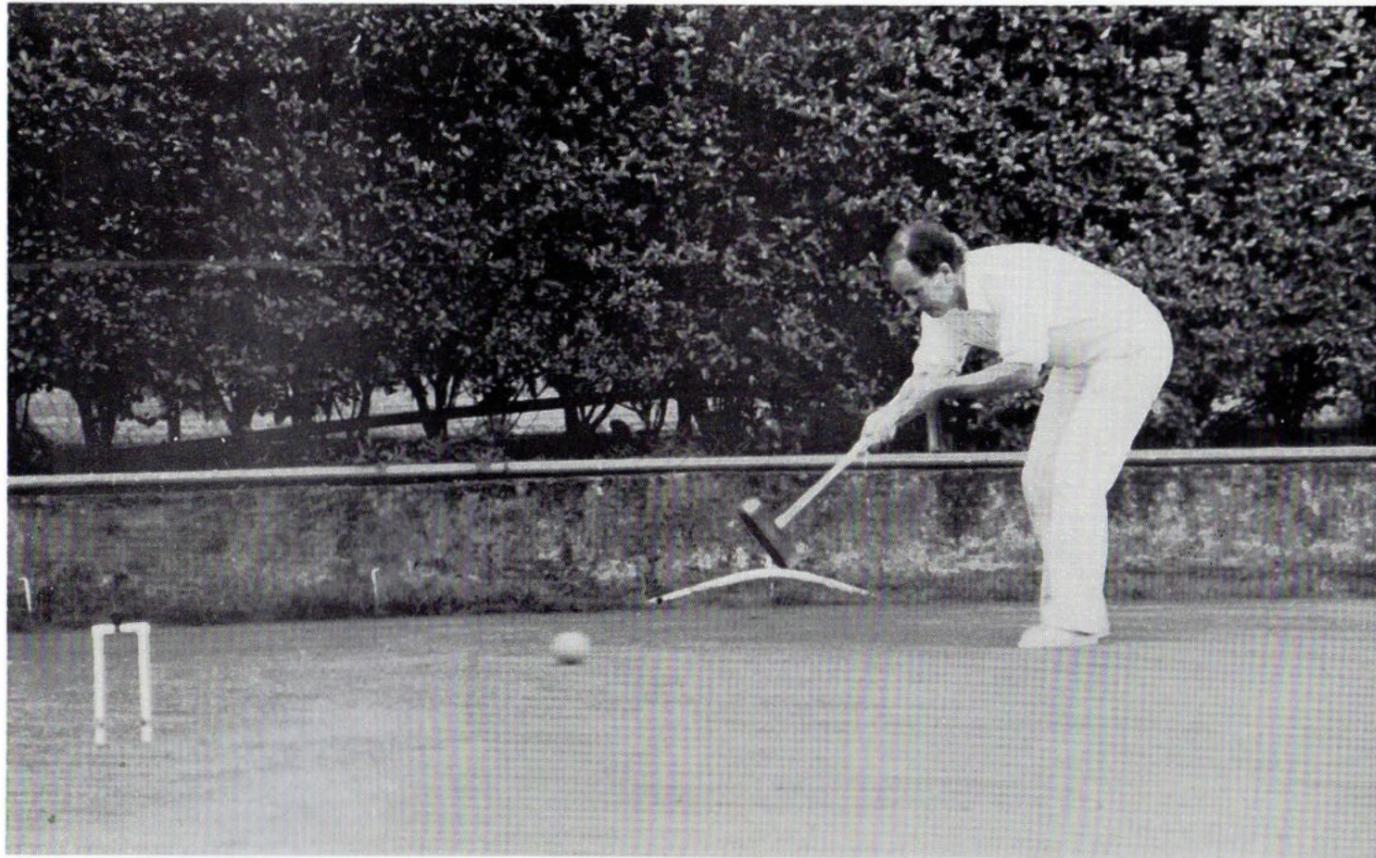
George Noble - winner of the 1979 Men's Championships at Cheltenham.



David Openshaw who won the Open Championships without losing a single game. He was also a member of the last British Test team and came 3rd in the President's Cup.

Bernard and Liz Neal consulting during the Hurlingham Doubles in 1978. Bernard won the Open Doubles in 1979 with Stephen Hemsted, and was also runner-up in both the Open Championships and President's Cup.





John Phillips at Roehampton in an All England Handicap Area Final the day after he won the 1979 Chairman's Salver.



Eric Solomon who won the President's Cup in 1979 upon his first appearance in that event.

Bill Gladstone at Parkstone in June 1979.



Photographs by Peter Alvey



Photographs by Peter Alvey

Graeme Roberts winning the Association Plate at Hurlingham with Michael Stevens watching him from the tent.



Some scenes from the Northern Championships revived in 1979

Above left: Alix Fotiadi in action in the Bowdon Handicap. Alix was runner-up in the last Northern Championships held at Buxton in 1956 when it was won by the late Ron Faulkner.

Above right: A tense moment! Eddie Bell (Tournament Referee) and John Bowman keep an eye on a shot by Barry Keen, Tournament Secretary Chris Hudson observing from the boundary.

Below: Mrs Faulkner presenting the Faulkner Cup to the winner of the Northern Championships – David Foulser with runner-up Barry Keen and Manager Chris Hudson nearby. David was also runner-up in the Chairman's Salver in his first appearance in an invitation eight.



Photographs by Gavin Richardson

Thus if we have a complaint on this score it should if anything be against the players, who obviously do not play enough or perform with sufficient reliability! And finally...

This grading scheme makes no claim to be a perfect answer to the problems noted in the introduction. There are no doubt many improvements which can be made to it; time and experience alone may suggest some changes which at present do not seem to be necessary. However, we do believe that in its present form it goes at least some way towards meeting the main shortcomings of the handicap system as a measure of success in advanced games. It is to be hoped that players themselves will welcome the system; if it does become accepted that a high grade carries at least some of the status of a low handicap, this might even help to relieve the apparently inevitable downward pressure on handicaps, to the benefit of all players and handicappers. If nothing else, grades may at least provide a further topic - if one were needed - of clubroom conversation, and a source of friendly rivalry.

Foot-note.

(1) Principally by Steve Mulliner (who originated the idea and who has been laboriously calculating grades by hand ever since) and Graeme Roberts (who has recently written an elegant computer program which does the calculations and sorts the results into a convenient form).

(2) Gazettes of Spring 1978 (No. 147) and Autumn 1978 (No. 149)

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40.	N.J. Davren	115
41.	J. Evans	115
42.	P. Newton	115



The original CHAMPIONSHIP CUP
Last won by A.H. Spong 1880, 81 & 82

LATEST GRADES

Details of the first 40 by current grade as at 20th October 1979.

1.	D.K. Openshaw	175
2.	E.W. Solomon	171
3.	M. Murray	168
4.	A.B. Hope	165
5.	B.G. Neal	160
6.	G.N. Aspinall	159
7.	T.O. Read	158
8.	M.E.W. Heap	157
9.	S.N. Mulliner	156
10.	K.F. Wylie	155

Minutes of the Special General Meeting

Held at the Hurlingham Club on Saturday 8th March 1980

The President, Mr. E.P. Duffield, took the chair. There were present Mr. J.W. Solomon and Dr. W.R.D. Wiggins, Vice-Presidents, and 34 Associates.

The President paid tribute to his illustrious predecessor, Maurice Reckitt. Both Mr. Duffield and Dr. Wiggins spoke movingly of the man who had done more for Croquet than anyone in its history. As a general principal it was dangerous to use superlatives to describe a person but Maurice, clearly transcended such barriers. In all aspects of the game, as advocate, administrator, character and player, he had made an indelible mark. All Associates present stood in thankful silence for his immensely rich and full life.

Dr. R.W. Bray, on behalf of the Council, proposed the alteration to Rule XV1 of the Association tabled in the agenda (published in *The Croquet Gazette*, No. 153, Page 1) which was approved unanimously.

Extracts from Proceedings of the Council Meeting, 8th March, 1980.

1. Committee Reports:

a) **Editorial Board:** The Chairman, A.J. Oldham, outlined recent improvements which MLM Mailings Ltd. had introduced in their production of the Gazette. Given the considerably faster printing of the Winter issue the Board had decided to continue with MLM Mailings for 1980 subject to their maintaining the improved service in future issues.

The Editor was authorised to experiment with changes in the Gazette format including fuller accounts of tournaments, especially open weekend events, delaying the publication of most results until the Winter issue and changing

the format of knockout tournament results (to save space). It was hoped that the Summer and Autumn issues would be produced more quickly and be less of a burden for the Editor.

b) Publicity and Development Committee: There had been a very encouraging response to the request to Clubs to organise a membership drive this year. However relatively few Clubs were contemplating door-to-door leaflet campaigns which had been advocated by the Committee. The Committee would offer leaflet blanks (which could also double as posters) to Clubs at a reduced price, and hoped to be able to help with the cost of overprinting and possibly other expenses.

c) Finance and General Purposes Committee: The audited accounts for 1979 were accepted. It was agreed to keep the subscription rates, levy, tribute and entry fees for C.A. tournaments for 1981 unchanged. Hire rates paid to Clubs for staging C.A. events in 1981 would be increased from £2.00 to £2.50 per lawn per day for lawns, and from £1.50 to £2.00 per set per week for balls. There would also be an increase in charges made to new Clubs which borrowed croquet equipment from the C.A.. Council agreed to a surcharge of £1.00 on the subscription rates of Irish based Associates who did not pay their subscriptions by Sterling Draft or on a bank in England, to cover the cost of handling Irish currency. A further £500 was allocated for the membership drive in 1980, thus making a total of £1,000.

d) Tournament Committee: Since only 7 teams had entered for the Inter-Counties Championship all games would be played at Hurlingham.

2. Development Officer: Council agreed to seek the appointment of a Development Officer who would relieve the Secretary of all duties concerned with the Publicity and Development Committee's business. The Chairman of the Committee, L. Wharrad, stressed that one individual could not possibly undertake all aspects of development work. His main function would be to act as a catalyst. The Committee hoped that groups of Clubs would form regional federations, following the examples of the Midlands and the Northern Clubs. This would be of great assistance to the development of Croquet and the work of the Development Officer. The two existing federations had shown the strength that can be derived from mutual support and the participating Clubs had benefited considerably from their association. The Development Officer should also be concerned to establish a much wider and closer contact with all media.

3. Alterations to Regulations: The alterations to regulations 11(b) and 23 (d) published in the Winter Gazette (No. 154 page 19) were ratified and under Rule XIV became Law forthwith.

4. Croquet Equipment: A sub-committee, under the Chairmanship of Prof. B.G. Neal, was set up to supervise and test developments in the manufacture of Croquet equipment. Presently various investigations are being undertaken to improve the design of croquet balls.

5. Formal Business: The deaths of J. Blair, Mrs D.F. Caporn, D.L. Lackie, Major R.R. Penney and the Rev. W.W.L. Rookes were recorded with deep regret. In reference to the death of Maurice Reckitt, Council decided to simply record its total indebtedness to his unique contribution to Croquet. Council elected 26 new Associates and noted 19 resignations. The Annual statistics showed that there were 723 and 77 Overseas Associates on 26th February. But these figures included 82 and 52 respectively who had not yet paid their 1980 subscriptions. Comparison with previous years was not easy since the figures for this year were based

on a different time of the year, but membership seemed to be roughly static apart from some 54 Overseas Associates who had been struck off for non-payment.

6. A History of Croquet, written by Lt. Col. D.M.C. Prichard, was now in the hands of the publishers, Cassells. Although no firm decision to publish had yet been reached, the projected publication date was Spring 1981. Council noted the terms of Maurice Reckitt's Will in which he hoped that his bequest would be used for the writing and publication of such a book, any surplus being used for the furtherance of the British participation in the MacRobertson Shield contests

ATTENDANCES AT COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS 1979/80.

Dr R.W. Bray, Chairman	*C4, T2, F2, P2, Ed2.	Total 12/13
R.A. Godby, Vice-Chairman,	*C4, T2, F2, P2, Hcp2, S2, Ed3.	Total 17/17
A.J. Oldham, Treasurer,	*C4, T2, F2, P2, Ed3.	Total 13/13
G.N. Aspinall,	C4, T2, S2, Ed3.	Total 11/11
Mrs E.E. Bressey,	C4, F2, P2, Hcp1.	Total 9/10
D.C. Caporn,	C4, T1, F2, P1.	Total 8/10
Mrs H.B.H. Carlisle,	C2, T2, F0, P1, Ed2.	Total 7/13
A.J. Girling,	C3, T1, P2.	Total 6/8
D.J.V. Hamilton-Miller,	C3, Hcp2, S2.	Total 7/8
A.B. Hope,	C3, F2, P2, Ed2.	Total 9/11
Mrs W. Longman,	C3, T2, P1.	Total 6/8
G.B. Martin,	C3.	Total 3/3
Mrs B. Meachem,	C3, P1.	Total 4/6
Prof. B.G. Neal,	C3, P0, Hcp2.	Total 5/8
T.F. Owen,	C2, T2.	Total 4/6
Lt. Col. D.M.C. Prichard,	C4, T2, S2, Ed2.	Total 10/11
C.B. Sanford,	C4, F2.	Total 6/6
K.S. Schofield,	C4, T1.	Total 5/6
E. Strickland,	C4, T1, F1, P2.	Total 8/10
Dr. G.K. Taylor	C3.	Total 3/4
S.S. Townsend	C4, F2, Hcp2, S2.	Total 10/10
Mrs N. Tyldesley,	C3.	Total 3/4
L. Wharrad,	C4, F2, P2.	Total 8/8
Dr. R.F. Wheeler	C3.	Total 3/3

Attendances at ad hoc Committees are not included.

*Denotes Ex-officio all Committees except Handicap Co-ordination and Selection Committees.

Key: C denotes Council, F - Finance and General Purposes, T - Tournaments, P - Publicity and Development, Hcp - Handicap Co-ordination, S - Selection, Ed - Editorial Board.

Secretary's Notes

New Associates

- S T. Griffith, Clements Meadow, Cross Lane, Marlborough, Wiltshire.
- S Andrew G. Sykes, 22 Sydney Buildings, Bath, Avon, BA2 6BZ
- S J.F. Pollard, 75 Dorchester Road, Oakdale, Poole, Dorset. BH15 3QZ
- S Mrs. S.N. (Sarah) Mulliner, 3b Regent House, Wellington Place, London. NW8 7PG Tel: 01-586-1537

Deaths

- James Blair (former Associate: Hurlingham)
- D.L. Lackie

Resignations (since 1.12.79)

Miss M.G. Anderson, Miss L.M. Bishop, Mrs E.G. Brown, Mrs C.J. Ceasar, F.W. Carpenter, Miss M. Cleveland-Smith, C. Diamond, Mrs L.L. Duveen, Miss E.E.H. Fisher, Miss L.J. Ibbett, Mrs D.L. Lackie, Mrs N. Lewty, Mrs D.M. Linstead, Mrs I.C. Meredith, Miss J.K. Samuel, C.M. Slack, B. Slater, Mrs D. G. Whitehouse, Mrs D.H.C. Whiteman.

Referees

The following names were inadvertently omitted from the list on page 5 of the 1980-1981 Directory:

M.G. Pearson
Dr. B.C. Sykes

The following name was inadvertently omitted from the list of new referees in the Winter Gazette - R.H.C. Carder.

Alterations in the Clubs

Belfast Boat Club	(not Rowing Club as in new Directory)
Bretby	Telephone number of Secretary (B. Purcell) is now Derby (0332) 769560.
Edgbaston	Telephone number of Secretary (Miss M. Curtois) 021-427-2289.
Sidmouth	New Secretary: R.C. Case, Garth, Knowle Drive, Sidmouth, Devon. EX10
Southwick	New Secretary: Mrs E.A. Jackson, 23 Ashcroft Close, Shoreham-by-Sea, Sussex, BN4 6YR Tel: (0273 592714).

Laws Course

A laws Course will be held at the Nottingham Club over the weekend 10th/11th May for potential Referees. Subject to numbers it may be possible for the referees' Examination to be taken during the course. Application to the CA Secretary.

Courses for High and Medium Bisquers

On application by Clubs the C.A. will arrange to conduct courses for medium and high bisquers during the summer on mutually acceptable dates, either mid-week or at week-ends.

Subscriptions

At the time of writing (3rd March) - quite a number of annual subscriptions remain to be paid, due on 1st January. Rates for 1980 have been raised as follows: Standard £7.00, Reduced and Junior £3.50, Overseas £4.00 (for payment by bankers draft, British Postal Order or through a bank in England). Those wishing to pay by Bankers Order will be sent a form on application to the Secretary.

Directory 1980-1981

The new 1980-1981 Directory is now available from the C.A. office, price £1.50 post free.

During the currency of this edition a series of Amendment Sheets will be issued in duplicated form by the Secretary to enable holders to keep their copies up-to-date. For the series £1.50 post free. Overseas by Air Mail £2.50.

C.A. Office Telephone

A telephone recording machine has now been installed on the C.A. Office telephone (01-736-3148) which records incoming messages when the office is unattended. Incoming messages must be limited to 30 seconds, so please keep your message short and concise.

University Match

The annual match Cambridge v Oxford will be held at The Hurlingham Club on Monday 9th June.

Closing Date

Club Secretaries please note that the closing date for entries and fees for the All-England Handicap is 21st May.

Longman Cup

(see sheet for details including dates for completion of rounds)

Inter-Club Championship

(see sheet for details including dates for completion of rounds)

Inter-Counties Championship

Entries: Bedfordshire, Berks and Oxon, Middlesex, Midland Counties, Northern Counties, Surrey and Sussex.

Although only 7 Counties have entered (Eastern Counties cannot field a team) play will still continue until lunch time on Friday with each team in turn sitting out a round.

Handicap Alterations

Alterations made since those published in the Autumn (No. 153) Gazette and up to publication of the new Directory are not shown. Those below are those made since the Directory was published and are all Club recommendations: -

Budleigh Salterton

A.J. Cooper ½ to 1

Edgbaston

Miss J.E. Assheton 9 to 8
R. Croston 12 to 11

Ingatstone

L.A. Coombs 9 to 8

Sidmouth

R.A. Pierce 8 to 7

Southwick

J.H. Bowman 6 to 4
D.H. Bull 4½ to 4
Lt. Col. Mallinson 6 to 5½
Mrs Mallinson 5½ to 4

LONGMAN CLUB TEAM CUP 1980

1st Round

To be played by 11th May

Bristol v Coal research (Cheltenham). Roehampton v Parsons Green.

2nd Round

To be played by 1st June

East Riding v Ellesmere. Bowdon v Southport & Birk. Chester v Stourbridge. Walsall v Wolverhampton. Bath v Bristol or Coal Research (Chelt). Cheltenham v Oxford University. Harwell v Bretby. Edgbaston v Nottingham. Ryde v Southwick Compton v Woking. Roehampton or Parsons Green v Hurlingham. Wrest Park v Harrow Oak. Hunstanton v Colchester. Colworth v Ingatstone. Reigate Priory v Phyllis Court. AWRE Aldermaston v Maidenhead.

3rd Round

To be played by 6th July

4th Round

To be played by 3rd August

Semi-Final

To be played by 7th September

Final

To be played by 5th October

INTER-CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP 1980

1st Round

To be played by 1st June

Heley Club v Cheltenham 2. Wrest Park v Southport & Birkdale

2nd Round

To be played by 22nd June

Reckitt Club v Chelt. 1. Southwick v Compton. Harrow Oak v Phyllis Court. Hurlingham v Heley or Chelt. 2. Wrest Park or Southport & Birkdale v Hunstanton. Nottingham v Colworth. Roehampton v Bowdon. Colchester v Woking.

3rd Round

To be played by 20th July

Semi-Final

To be played by 31st August

Final

To be played by 5th October

CROQUET CROSS FIGURE PUZZLE

Two Teams ABCD play EFGH in a LONGMAN CUP match 3 doubles and 2 singles.

Morning (1) AC play EG. (2) BD play FH. Afternoon (3) AB play EF (4) C plays G. (5) D plays H. A very close match only 7 points overall between winners and losers. Length of all games and times are in MINUTES. There is no time limit and each game takes between 3 and 3½ hours.

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Total length of 3rd 4th & 5th games.
4. Same figures as 17A. But in different order.
7. Time each player spends over lunch.
8. Time each player spends in bar during lunch break.
10. Points scored by Din 5th game.
12. Total length of 1st & 2nd games.
14. Two times points scored by F & H in 2nd game.
15. Length of 3rd game.
17. Total points scored all players.
18. Total points scored in 3rd game.
19. Total points scored in 2nd game.
20. Length of 2nd game.
23. 8 times 33 across.
26. 1/2 length of 2nd game
27. 20 more than total points scored by winning team.
29. Total points scored in 1st & 2nd games.
30. Total points scored in 1st game.
31. 1/2 length of 4th game.
33. Total points scored by EG 1st game BD 2nd game EF 3rd game C 4th game.
34. 3 times length of 3rd game.

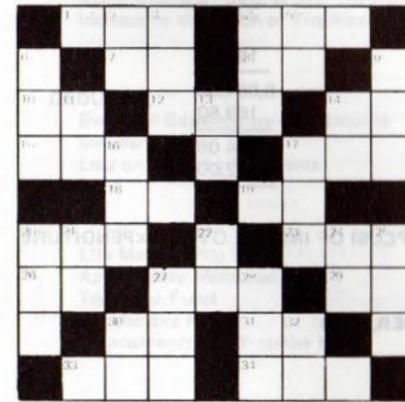
CLUES DOWN

- 2. 4 more than total points scored in 4th & 5th games.
3. 12 less than 1 across
4. Length of 1st game.
5. Twice points scored by D in 5th game.
6. Same figure 3 times.
9. Total length of all games.
11. Midday break. 7A & 8A.
13. Total points scored in 4th & 5th games.
14. 1/10 of the length of 1st game (2 clues same answer)
14. 2 less than points scored by H in 5th game.
16. 3 times length of 2nd game.
17. 8 times points scored by BD in 2nd game.
20. Average time for each game (1/5 of 9 down)
21. 4 times AB score in 3rd game.
22. Points scored by AC in 1st game.
24. 1/3 total points scored by winning team.
25. 100 more than 28 down.
27. Length of 5th game.
28. Length of 4th game.
30. 2 times points scored by G in 4th game.
32. A perfect square.

Solution to cross figure puzzle.

If you have difficulty in getting started.

- 1. Length of games between 180 & 210 mins. 1 across is between 3 x 180 and 3 x 210 etc.
2. Since all games were finished 5 of the result figures must be 26.
3. Regroup clues on your working sheet, putting related clues together (e.g. 5 down 10 across and 14 down etc.)
4. Under 3 hours for whole puzzle is good going.



(see page 18 for solution)

With apologies to James Russell Lowell

The unhappy lot of Mr Knott
Who really was a Croquet clot
He pondered, dithered, thought, I wot
Without deciding "Shoot or not?"
His brow was feverishly hot
Which caused his game to go to pot
Laws he read but soon forgot
He talked a lot of tommy rot
And lost some 12 games on the trot

He really was a shocker

His sister who was christened Sue
Was really of a different hue
She knew exactly what to do
Whether black or whether blue?
Always had a plan in view
And quickly ran a hoop or two
With lovely strokes so crisp and true
What was best she always knew
Never made a shot askew
Lovely swing and carry through

Such good shots in her locker

Together such an illmatched pair
They absolutely got nowhere
She tried so hard to carry "frere"
Who wouldn't heed advice so fair
He'd hit the ball without due care
His "misses" were beyond compare
He stuck in hoops, I do declare
(Including hoops that were not there)
Which caused poor Sue to rant and swear

It drove her off her rocker

K.S.S.

The Hurlingham club

Though the club was originally founded in 1869 as a venue for pigeon shooting, it will chiefly be remembered as the first proper home of polo in Great Britain. Though polo is no longer played at Hurlingham, the club has a number of social and athletic activities and a large membership. We are here concerned with only one of those activities, croquet, for which six excellent lawns are provided.

Croquet was first played at Hurlingham in about the year 1900, and it was apparently in 1902 that the first Hurlingham Croquet Tournament was held. Within a very few years of that date Croquet Association events were regularly staged at Hurlingham. No account of Hurlingham croquet would be complete without reference to such names as those of Lord Doneraile and Sir George Murray: the latter so insistent on Players being punctual for tournaments and rebuking the late arrivals.

Lord Doneraile's chief concern was to see that the lawns were as good as they ought to be; always very insistent that they should be marked out with meticulous accuracy. Mowing and rolling was no easy matter in the early years of this century. The pony was often accused of making hoofmarks in spite of the boots it wore. With the advent of the motor mower this has ceased to be a trouble.

In the years just before the first war as many as thirteen lawns had to be prepared for a tournament. Now we have never more than eight. But these eight are in very good condition. Some people say the turf is as good as it is owing to the flood water from the Thames which covered them in 1928 and on receding left a deposit of mud. Be that as it may praise must really go to Hurlingham's expert groundsman, who with his staff, takes such interest in providing excellent croquet lawns for the various tournaments which are held at Hurlingham.

These tournaments make a visit to the club well worth while. The Croquet Association holds several events here. In May comes the intercounties championship and in July the open championships. In these events and in others, almost as important, first class players show how croquet really should be played.

Finally, Hurlingham holds its own club croquet tournament at the beginning of August in which any croquet associates may play. They will find themselves made very welcome at the club which accepts them as honorary members for the period of the tournament.



WOL.

**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1979**

Year to 31.12.78			
2,959	Subscriptions	2,974.50	
415	Affiliation Fees and Overseas Members	469.92	
569	Levy	733.31	
26	Tribute	19.50	
677	Sale of Books, Laws etc.	611.75	
652	Income from Investments (Net)	817.48	
-	Donations	233.65	
<u>5,298</u>			
10	Surplus (Deficit) on Tournaments	56.04	
<u>5,288</u>		<u>5,916.15</u>	
	Less: Expenses		
2,696	Magazine, less Income from Advertisements	3,008.80	
<u>2,592</u>		<u>2,907.35</u>	
	General Overheads		
	Office Rent, Lighting, Heating and		
799	Cleaning	917.00	
3,727	Staff Salaries	4,519.36	
136	Committee Travelling Expenses	163.62	
385	Postage and Telephone	415.00	
1,015	Printing and Stationery	1,110.42	
252	Insurance	264.91	
246	Sundry Expenses	335.37	
200	Audit and Accountancy Charges	230.00	
<u>125</u>	Maintenance of Office Furniture and	<u>128.88</u>	
6,885	Equipment	8,084.56	
147	Expenditure on Development Scheme (Net)	169.50	
<u>7,032</u>		<u>8,254.06</u>	
4,601	Development Grant	4,762.00	
<u>2,431</u>		<u>3,492.06</u>	
<u>£ 161</u>		<u>£ 584.71</u>	

INVESTMENTS HELD AT 31st DECEMBER, 1979

Nominal Value		Market Value
	QUOTED INVESTMENTS	
141.75	Drayton Premier Investment Trust Limited Ordinary Shares of 25p each	186.64 827
168.00	Midland Bank Limited Ordinary Shares of £1 each	345.83 571
550.00	Temple Bar Investment Trust Limited Ordinary Shares of 25p each	1,811.74 2,024
400.00	The New Throgmorton Trust Limited Income Shares of 25p each	478.75 312
218.15	3½% War Stock	115.50 63
2500.00	9½% Treasury Stock 1983	2,492.87 2,125
1500.00	12% Treasury Stock 1983	1,470.84 1,380
		<u>6,902.17</u> <u>£7,302</u>
	UNQUOTED INVESTMENTS	
10.00	Roehampton County Club £1 Shares	10.00
	Abbey National Building Society	3,750.00
	Britannia Building Society	6,099.86
		<u>£16,762.03</u>

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS AS AT 31st DECEMBER 1979

1978			
	FIXED ASSETS		
200	Office Furniture and Equipment at written down value	300.00	
7,000	Trophies, estimated to realise	10,000.00	
15,953	Investments, as per schedule attached	16,762.03	
<u>23,153</u>		<u>27,062.03</u>	
	CURRENT ASSETS		
956	Sundry Debtors and Prepayments	800.64	
646	Cash in Hand and at Bank	738.05	
<u>1,602</u>		<u>1,538.69</u>	
<u>24,755</u>		<u>28,600.72</u>	
	LESS: CURRENT LIABILITIES		
188	Subscriptions Received in Advance	290.33	
1,576	Accrued Expenses	2,283.98	
87	Taxation	136.75	
<u>1,851</u>		<u>2,711.06</u>	
<u>£22,904</u>		<u>£25,889.66</u>	
	Net Assets		
	Represented by:		
13,221	Accumulated General Fund, as at 1st January 1979	13,381.58	
161	ADD: Excess of Income over Expenditure for Year	-	
-	Increase in Valuation of Trophies	3,000.00	
<u>13,382</u>		<u>16,381.58</u>	
	DEDUCT:		
	Excess of Expenditure Over Income for year	584.71	
	Loss on Sale of Investments	73.92	
		<u>658.63</u>	
		<u>15,722.95</u>	
1,755	Life Membership Fund	1,955.00	
215	Apps Healey Memorial Fund	215.50	
506	Test Tour Fund	432.75	
5,384	Benefactors Fund	5,701.36	
1,662	Tournaments and Trophies Fund	1,862.10	
<u>£22,904</u>		<u>£25,889.66</u>	

R.W. Bray, Chairman of the Council
A.J. Oldham, Hon. Treasurer

We have examined the books, vouchers and other records maintained by The Croquet Association for the year ended 31st December 1979 and obtained such further information as considered necessary. To the best of our knowledge and belief the Accounts on pages 1 to 3 give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the business at 31st December 1979 and of the Deficit for the year ended on that date.

Kipling House
43 Villiers Street
London WC2N 6NJ
13th February, 1980

**NICHOLASS, AMES & CO.,
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS**

TREASURER'S COMMENTARY ON THE 1979 ACCOUNTS

The excess of expenditure over income amounting to nearly £600 is mainly due to the higher costs of producing the Gazette and maintaining the Secretary's salary at a proper level. The latter item in the accounts includes the National Insurance Contributions (13½% of salary) which the Association has to pay as an employer but, fortunately, 75% of the total salary bill is met by a grant from the Sports Council. There are a number of other minor increases in expenses this year as a consequence of the general inflation in the country's economy.

The deficit for the year was foreseen during 1979 and a budgetary forecast made; despite the effort that has been made, and will continue to be made, to ensure that expenses are con-

tained some increases are, I am afraid, inevitable. The higher expenditure expected in 1980 should however, be more than covered by the general increase in subscriptions, levies and entry fees which was effective from 1st January but in the longer term increased membership of the Association remains the best, if not the only way, by which further increases in subscription rates can be minimised.

The considerable increase in the price of silver has been recognised by an increase in the estimated realisation value of the Association's trophies.

The legacy which the Association is due to receive under the will of the late Maurice Reckitt will be dealt with in the accounts of the Association for 1980.

A.J. Oldham
8th March 1980

Solution to Croquet Cross Figure Puzzle

	5	9	5		2	5	1	
2		4	8		1	2		9
2	6		3	9	0		2	8
2	0	5		0		2	1	5
		4	6		4	0		
1	8	0		1		8	3	2
9	0		1	3	1		7	9
7		3	9		9	8		6
	1	0	4		6	1	5	

Prize List 1979

This list covers all events reported in The Croquet Gazette except for team events. The figures in parentheses indicate the handicap of a player at the beginning and end of the season, and any change that may have occurred. This list and these handicaps are not authoritative.

M,W,Mx,R — Men's, Women's, Mixed, Restricted; O,H,L,GC — Open, Handicap, Level, Golf Croquet; S,D — Singles, Doubles; B,C,D — Class; X,Y,Z — Tier; W/E, BW — Weekend, Block Winner.

A

- Adams, L. (2½, 1½) Roehampton OS1
- Adlard, R.E. (2) Cheltenham W/E IIA BW.
- Alford, R.S. (3½, 3) Colchester RLSB, HS
- Alvey, P.L. (3½, 1½) Roehampton Evening HSY, Hurlingham OS2, HSX, Spencer EII Cup =5.
- Anderson, Gavin (4) Edinburgh HSY
- Anderson, Mrs J. (11, 9) Wrest Park W/E I BW.
- Arthur, D.G. (9, 8) Himley W/E I HD.
- Asa-Thomas, Mrs E. (4, 3) Parkstone I RLSB, Cheltenham RLSB.
- Aspinall, G.N. (-3½) Hurlingham MHD
- Audley, E. (5) Wrest park W/E II BW.
- Avery, M.N. (14, 7) Hunstanton W/E II HS, Hunstanton HSX.
- Ayliffe, L. (5½) Cheltenham 5-day RHSB

B

- Bagnall, Mrs C. (5, 4½) Budleigh Salterton II RLSB, Budleigh Salterton W/E BW.
- Bardo, J.E. (3½, 2) Hurlingham RLSB
- Barnes, P.J. (5, 4½) Nottingham W/E III BW, Himley W/E I HD.
- Battison, S.S. (3, 2½) Southwick W/E BW, Woking W/E BW, Ryde W/E BW.
- Bell, E. (1) Spencer EII Cup =5.
- Berkeley, R.L.S. (10, 8) Cheltenham W/E IIA BW, Cheltenham W/E IIB BW, Cheltenham W/E III BW.
- Betts, A.J. (6½, 5½) Southwick II RHSC.
- Betts, G.H. (3½) Veterans HSY = 1
- Birch, G. (1) Ryde OS2
- Bishop, P. (4, 3) Ryde HSX, HD
- Blenkin, A. (8) Cheltenham W/E IIA BW.
- Blumer, G. (6, 5) Cheltenham W/E IIA BW, Cheltenham W/E IIB BW, Cheltenham W/E V BW
- Bolton, H.G.T. (1, 2) Budleigh Salterton W/E BW
- Bond, I.D. (2½, 1) Roehampton Evening OS1, Wrest Park W/E II BW Chairman's Salver =7
- Borrett, Cdr. G. (½) Devonshire Park II OD, Veterans OS1.
- Bottomley, H. (3, 2) Edgbaston W/E OS1, Himley II HS.

- Bowie, E.M. (3½, 2½) Scottish C.A. W/E I HS, Edinburgh OS2.
- Bowman, J.H. (7½, 6) Devonshire Park I RLSB
- Browne, Mrs W. (11, 9) Roehampton RHSC
- Bull, D.M. (4½) Southwick III RLSB
- Butler, L.S. (1, ½) Parkstone I OS2

C

- Camroux, A.V. (1) Chairman's Salver = 7, Association Plate OS2
- Caporn, D.C. (4½) Southwick W/E BW, Hurlingham HSY
- Chadwick, Mrs I.L. (10, 9) Colchester RHSC
- Chandler, Dr. C.J. (10, 9) Southwick II RHSD, Southwick III RHSD RHSD
- Chappell, R.P. (6½) Veterans HD
- Chard, Mrs C. (16, 7½) Colchester W/E II HS, Cheltenham 5-day HD, Awarded Steel Bowl
- Coleman, A. (1½) Southwick W/E BW
- Collin, A.J. (10, 6) Northern RLSB, HSY
- Cormack, G.A.R. (14) Nottingham W/E II BW
- Cousins, C.H.J. (½) Spencer EII Cup 4
- Cox, Mrs N.W.T. (3, 3½) Veterans HSY = 1
- Cozens, P.V. (3) Nottingham OS2
- Crane, R.F.A. (3½) Cheltenham W/E IIB BW, Compton RLSB
- Crane, Mrs R.F.A. (12, 11) Compton RHSC
- Croker, D.J. (1, 0) Roehampton Evening HSX, Cheltenham OS2, Cheltenham W/E III BW, Chairman's Salver 3 Cheltenham W/E IV BW
- Croker, Mrs D.J. (8, 7½) Roehampton W/E =1

D

- Digby, G.S. (2) Challenge & Gilbey HSY
- Digby, Mrs G.S. (3) Challenge & Gilbey HD
- Drake, H.G. (2½) Devonshire Park I HSY
- Dwerryhouse, P.A. (12, 11) budleigh Salterton W/E BW
- Dwerryhouse, Mrs P.A. (11) Challenge & Gilbey RLSB

E

- Edwards, Mrs M.M. (7, 9) Budleigh Salterton II HD
- Evans, H.A.C. (10) Compton HD
- Exell, J. (16, 11) Cheltenham W/E IV BW, Cheltenham 5-day HD
- Exell, Mrs J. (10) Peels HD, Cheltenham W/E IIA BW, Cheltenham 5-day HD

F

- Foulser, D.R. (1½, 0) Cheltenham W/E I BW, Cheltenham W/E IIB BW, Northern OS1, Nottingham W/E II OS1, Chairman's Salver 2, Wrest Park W/E III BW, Cheltenham W/E V BW

G

- Gamble, C.A. (3) Carrickmines I HS
- Gardiner, E.L. (9, 8) Budleigh Salterton W/E BW, Himley W/E III RHSC
- Garrett, S. (6, 5½) Roehampton RLSB
- Girling, A.J. (2½) Wrest Park W/E IIB BW, Nottingham HD, Himley W/E III RLSA
- Godby, R.A. (0) Roehampton W/E =1, Budleigh Salterton II OS2, Chairman's Salver 6, Roehampton OS2, HD
- Godfree, D. (10, 9) Hunstanton RHSC
- Godsi, S. (8, 7) Roehampton W/E = 1
- Gooch, N.J. (4) Cheltenham W/E IV BW
- Gosden, J.D. (7, 4) Hunstanton W/E I HS, Peels HD, Southwick I HS, HDX
- Gosden, Mrs R. (13, 10) Roehampton HSY
- Green, H.C. (1) Veterans HSX, Spencer EII Cup 7, Doubles Championship 2
- Greenwood, J.D. (5½, 4½) Roehampton W/E = 1, Roehampton HSX, HD
- Grout, Mrs G.A. (9, 8) Southwick III WHSY

H

- Hallett, Rev. P.D. (1) Compton HD
- Hamilton-Miller, D.J.V. (1) Southwick III OS2
- Hampson, Miss S.G. (3) Hurlingham WHD
- Handley, Mrs H. (5, 4½) Cheltenham HD, Cheltenham W/E IV BW
- Hands, P.W. (-2) Southwick W/E BW, Men's Championship 2, Cheltenham W/E III BW, President's Cup =7
- Harral, B. (6) Wrest Park W/E III BW

- Haste, Dr T. (5½, 2) Wrest Park W/E I BW, Woking W/E BW, Ryde W/E BW, Budleigh Salterton W/E BW
- Hawkins, Miss I.M. (9) Devonshire Park I RHSD
- Hawthorn, M.M. (14, 12) Budleigh Salterton I HD
- Heap, M.E.W. (-2½) Colchester OS1
- Hemsted, S.R. (-1) Doubles Championship 1
- Henshaw, G. (5) Cheltenham W/E IV BW
- Hewitson, Miss H. (7½) Himley W/E III RLSB
- Hicks, H.O. (½) Carrickmines I OS2, HD, Colchester OS = 2, OD
- Hobbs, R.M. (14, 4½) Budleigh Salterton II HSX, HD
- Hoole, S.J.W. (10, 4½) Cheltenham W/E I BW, Peels MHS
- Hope, A.B. (-1½) Delves Broughton Cup GCD, Cheltenham 5-day HD, OS1
- Hopewell, C.G. (1½) Nottingham HSZ
- Hunter, A.G.M. (11) Edinburgh HSZ
- Hutcheson, G.A. (5, 4) Southwick III MHSY, Parkstone II RLSB

J

- Jackson, G.E.P. (-½) Nottingham W/E I BW, Du Pre Cup OS = 1, Budleigh Salterton II OS1, Cheltenham W/E III BW, President's Cup = 7, Cheltenham W/E V BW
- Joly, Miss F. (1, 2) Challenge & Gilbey HSX, Ladies' Field Cup = 5 Mixed Doubles Championship 2
- Jones, K.E. (5, 4½) All England HS2
- Jones, Dr. R.C. (6, 3½) Nottingham HD, Wrest Park W/E III BW

K

- Keen, B.A. (1) Southport & Birkdale W/E BW, Northern OS2, Bowdon W/E HS
- Kilpatrick, W.S. (10) Edinburgh HD

L

- Landor, F.J.R. (13, 3) Cheltenham W/E I BW, Southwick II HSX, Awarded Apps Bowl
- Leech, G.N. (4½, 4) Parkstone I HD
- Lewis, S.E. (8, 6) Northern HSX, HD
- Lisle, J.R.N. (13) Hurlingham MHD

M

- McCullough, J.R. (6½, 2½) Budeigh Salterton I RHSB, HD, Cheltenham W/E IIA BW, Nottingham HS, HSX, Cheltenham W/E III BW
- MacDonald, J.L. (7, 6) Nottingham HSY
- McLaren, J. (3) Cheltenham HSY
- McWeeney, M.B. (4½, 4) Carrickmines II HSY
- Mallinson, Mrs E.P.H. (5) Southwick III WHSX
- Marshall, Mrs C.W. (8, 9) Woking W/E HD
- Maude, J.S. (4, 3) Devonshire Park II RHSB, HS, HD, Roehampton Evening RLSB, Woking W/E BW
- Meachem, Mrs B. (1) Women's Championship WOS 1, Mixed Doubles Championship 1, Ladies' Field Cup 1
- Meads, J.D. (2) Carrickmines II HSX
- Meredith, I.C. (11) Cheltenham W/E V BW
- Milne, R.M. (2, 1½) Edinburgh HSX
- Moore, W.E. (0) Southwick II HSY
- Mulliner, S.N. (-1½) Roehampton Evening OS2, HD, Compton W/E II OS2, Hurlingham OS1, President's Cup = 4
- Murray, Dr M. (-1½, -2) Ascot Cup GCS, Delves Broughton Cup GCD, Mixed Doubles Championship 1, Du Pre Cup OS = 1, Wrest Park W/E II BW, Cheltenham OS1, President's Cup =4

N

- Neal, Prof. B.G. (-2) Cheltenham W/E II BW, Open Championship OS2, Doubles Championship 1, President's Cup 2
- Neville Rolfe, Mrs A. (2½) Hunstanton RLSB
- Newman, F.H. (7½, 6½) Ryde RLSB, Parkstone II HSY
- Newman, Mrs F.H. (11, 9) Ryde RHSC
- Nicholls, A.W.D. (7½, 5) Veterans RHSB
- Noble, G.W. (½, 0) Nottingham W/E I BW, Men's Championship MOS1, Spencer EII Cup 3
- Norton, F.V.X. (½) Edinburgh OS1, HD

O

- O'Brien, L.E. () Spencer EII Cup 8
- Openshaw, D.K. (-2) Cheltenham W/E I BW, Open Championship OS1, President's Cup 3
- Owen, T.F. (0) Devonshire Park I OS1, Devonshire Park II MOS2, Southwick III OS1, HD, Chairman's Salver =4, Mixed Doubles Championship 2
- Owen, Mrs T.F. (16, 14) Southwick III HD

P

- Parker, Mrs C.A. (15, 14) Parkstone I RHSC
- Parker, Miss P.E. (10, 7½) Budleigh Salterton II RHSC
- Perry, B.G. (-½) Challenge & Gilbey OS2

- Phelps, M.F. (3, 1) Southwick II RLSB, HD, Southwick III MHSX
 - Phillips J.G.C. (½, -½) Colchester W/E HS, Compton W/E II OS1, Chairman's Salver 1, Parkstone II HSX
 - Pierce, R.A. (9*, 8) Budleigh Salterton I RHSC
 - Prichard, C.H.LI. (-1½) President's Cup 6
 - Prichard, Mrs D.M.C. (1, 2) Hurlingham MxD, Ladies' Field Cup 4
 - Prichard, W.de B. (-2½) Hurlingham MxD
 - Pountney, C.G. (1½, 1) Southwick I HDY, Ryde OS1, Ryde W/E BW R
 - Rankin, Mrs M. (11) Southwick I HDX
 - Read, T.O. (-½) Carrickmines II OS1
 - Roberts, G.J. (0) Cheltenham W/E I BW, Association Plate OS1, Cheltenham W/E III BW, Chairman's Salver = 4
 - Roe, Miss I.M. (5½, 5) Cheltenham W/E IV BW
 - Rogerson, F. (14, 11) Carrickmines I RHSB, Carrickmines II RHSB, HD
 - Ross, J. (5) Cheltenham W/E V BW
 - Rothwell, R.F. (1½) Devonshire Park I OS2, HSX, Edgbaston W/E OS2
 - Rushbrooke, A. (6½, 5½) Budleigh Salterton II HSY S
 - Sanford, C.B. (4½) Cheltenham W/E IIA BW
 - Saunders, Mrs B. (15) Parkstone II RHSC
 - Scarr, Mrs W.A. (7, 6½) Southwick III RHSC
 - von Schmieder, C.M. (3) Carrickmines I OS1, Carrickmines II OS2, HD
 - Sheppard, P.J. (10, 7) Cheltenham W/E IIB BW, Parkstone I HSX, HD
 - Simpson, P.G. (10) Edinburgh RLSB.
 - Sisum, G. (10, 6½) Peels HS, Cheltenham RHSD, HD.
 - Solomon, Dr E.W. (-1, -2) President's Cup 1
 - Solomon, G.D.P. (9, 8) Hurlingham RHSD.
 - Smith, M.P.W. (6) Edinburgh RLSB.
 - Smith, R.J. (14, 10) Roehampton Evening RHSC, Wrest Park W/E III BW.
 - Smith, T.W. (4½) Nottingham W/E I BW.
 - Soutter, Mrs J.H.J. (7, 6½) Roehampton Evening HD, Cheltenham HSZ
 - Stanley-Smith, Mrs F. (8, 7) Challenge & Gilbey RLSB, HD.
 - Stevens, R.S. (1½) Challenge & Gilbey OS1
 - Stoker, P. (2½) Northern HD.
 - Straw, J.C. (9, 7) Nottingham RHSC, Nottingham W/E III BW.
 - Sundius-Smith, Mrs B.L. (½) Ladies Field Cup 3.
 - Sykes, B.C. (2½, ½) Cheltenham W/E I BW, Cheltenham HSX, Spencer EII Cup 1.
 - Sykes, Mrs B.C. (7½, 5) Cheltenham W/E I BW, Peels WHS, Cheltenham RHSC.
- T
- Tapp, M.J. (1½, 1) Hunstanton OS1, HD.
 - Tapp, S. (0) Hunstanton OS2, HD.
 - Taylor, Dr G.K. (1) Cheltenham W/E I BW.
 - Tompkinson, M.G. (4, 3) Wrest Park W/E I BW.
 - Tompkinson, Mrs M.G. (12, 11) Ryde HSY.
 - Townsend, S.S. (1½) Roehampton W/E =1.
 - Townshend, Rev. C.H. (6½) Southwick II HD.
 - Tucker, E.J. (-½) Devonshire Park MOS1, OD, Compton OS2, Veterans OS2, HD, Parkstone II OS1.
 - Turner, D. (4) Hunstanton HSY.
 - Turner, Mrs S.J. (5) Southwick I HDY.
 - Tyrwhitt-Drake, E.C. (½) Compton W/E I HS, Compton OS2.
- V
- Vincent, I.G. (1, ½) Nottingham W/E I BW, Nottingham W/E II OS2, Southwick II OS, Nottingham OS1, Spencer EII Cup 2.
 - Vulliamy, Col. E.L.L. (2½, 2) Budleigh Salterton I RHSA.
- W
- Waller, C.J. (5, 4½) Challenge & Gilbey RLSB.
 - Webb, Dr H.L. (12, 11) Carrickmines I HD.
 - Welch, R.A. (7½) Parkstone I HSY.
 - West, Dr. P. (10, 6) All England HS1.
 - Warrad, L. (3½, 3) Woking W/E BW, HD.
 - Wheeler, Mrs G.T. (½, 3) Women's Championship WOS2, Ladies' Field Cup =5.
 - Wheeler, J.A. (1) Wrest Park W/E III BW, Doubles Championship 2.
 - Wheeler, Dr. R.F. (5) Devonshire Park I HD, Nottingham W/E II BW, Hurlingham RLSB, Nottingham RLSB, Parkstone II HD, Nottingham W/E III BW.
 - Wheeler, Mrs R.F. (3, 2½) Devonshire Park I RLSB, HD, Hurlingham WHD, Ladies' Field Cup 2, Parkstone II OS2, HD.
 - Wood, D.E. (12, 9) Devonshire Park II HD.
 - Wraith, Miss J. (10, 9) Ryde HD.
 - Wylie, K.F. (-2½) Parkstone I OS1.
- Y
- Yallop, Dr. B.D. (2, ½) Compton OS1, HS.
 - Yeoman, Mrs K. (9, 8) Cheltenham 5-day RHSC.