

Club Profile

Ludlow College Croquet Club

Students have been knocking balls in desultory fashion around the Himalayan lawn at Ludlow College for four or five years, since croquet was introduced by a Principal nostalgic for a more gracious age and hopeful of giving the place a more Oxonian air. After all, the main building was once a Rectory and perhaps the ghosts of Victorian croqueteers still stalked their balls across the court or held furtive hands in the gazebo while locking away the croquet box.

Not any more: no Victorian cleric, alive or dead, could suffer for long the anguished and blasphemous oaths of today's players as they fight the vagaries of a court which boasts hills, holes, humps and hummocks. For Ludlovian croqueteers, after several years of cheerfully coarse croquet, decided, in July of last year, to form a club, affiliate to the Croquet Association, buy some decent equipment and, momentous decision, cut the grass more than twice a year.

It was an inevitable decision, for by now more than 80 people were playing regularly and the lawn was in use from 9 am until 5 pm every day of the Summer term and well into the Autumn. Within the College, seven separate competitions were being played, culminating in a Grand Finals evening at the end of July. To raise money for the venture, a 24-hour sponsored croquet match was held, raising nearly £200 and uncovering the most amazing secret of the lawn – at night it becomes perfectly flat. The suggestion that we become the first croquet club to play only at night was rejected on a show of torches. The £200 is long gone and money remains a most dire problem.

We found, straightaway, that we had a lot to learn about the rules! It had been suspected by many that, if you hit the peg accidentally your turn ended, and some insisted that you should start again at the first hoop; feet had to be dissuaded from resting on the striker's ball in the croquet stroke; everybody went through Rover the wrong way; we all thought it was a 6-hoop game (or had we, perchance, merely invented Short Croquet?). Ludlow College croquet was in a perilous condition. The weather, on the other hand, was marvellous and when term ended croquet did not, but went on throughout the holidays and most of the Autumn term. The only disappointment was the cancellation of the Boxing Day match, for by then the Victorian rector was making his voice heard upstairs and the ground had been rendered unplayable.

Before the season ended, though, we had a stroke of luck, being offered the use of an ancient bowling green, the second oldest in England indeed, where Henry VIII had rolled a few woods with Anne Boleyn. One in the eye for all those prudish Victorian rectors.



Menna Pugh and Dave Thomas enjoying a game at Ludlow

During the Winter we made contact with the West Midlands Federation of Croquet Clubs, received many offers of help, particularly with coaching, and entered a couple of teams in the Federation's League (Division II) for the 1985 season. At the same time, we put our names down for the National Schools Championship and three

of our players entered for the National Junior Championship. Pretty bold, eh? Thought a lot of ourselves, we did. But then, we'd had a lot of encouragement from the West Midlands clubs – Shrewsbury had come down to play us (and beat us) in 1984 and, in the cold, wet Spring, three members of the Wolverhampton club spent three hours in the pouring rain and green wellies showing us a few of the ropes. Later on, Stourbridge and Edgbaston made us welcome and gave advice unstintingly.

The Ludlow Croquet Badge



They soon regretted that! While our A-team contented itself with giving match experience to as many players as possible, Ludlow B made up of our three best players, were out for glory. And glory they got: only Wolverhampton have beaten them and they have won Division II of the League, with some weeks of the season left. It is not to be thought that long handicaps had anything to do with this, for the keen-eyed handicappers of the West Midlands pounced almost before a mallet had been swung in anger – nothing like being beaten by 21 points to get a handicapper's ballpoint out of his pocket!

Meanwhile, a third team, representing the College as a school, had been carving a path through the serried ranks of Public Schoolboys, on its way to the final of the National Schools Championship at Cheltenham, taking in on the way a friendly with Oxford University Croquet Club, whom they fought to an exciting draw, 3-all, winning 3 out of the 4 singles – after a magnificent lunch – to establish a moral superiority (after all, the fourth singles was won by an Old Ludlovian).



Stuart Packer and Dave Thomas playing double-banked on Ludlow's "Bowling Green" court against Shrewsbury

The Victorian rector would be quick to point out that we display too readily the sin of pride and, of course, next year, unlike other clubs, we shall have to start again with fresh players and maybe in 1986 we'll get the fall that so much pride deserveth. But it's been a wonderful first year and there's still that Final to play.

PETER DORKE

Next Issue



Tony Mrozinski refereeing a shot for Jill McDiarmid during the Woking Irish Week. Full tournament details and other special features in our next Issue.

Join our team of writers! Contributions welcome:

Articles . . . photos . . . Club News etc.

Vacancies for specialist writers –
International correspondents, gossip
columnists, coaches, historians, and
many more . . .

September 1985

Issue No. 181

CROQUET

Inside:
Tournament Reports
International News
Club Profile:
Ludlow College
Letters
Coaches Corner
PLUS All-Time Greats
Lord Tollemache

£1.50

Editorial

Should We Tell All?

During the past few years, the number of club tournaments has increased, and a number of new national tournaments have been introduced – for example, the Mary Rose, the National Junior Championship, the Home Internationals, and the Schools Championship.

This year has seen the introduction of the Selectors Invitation event and the development of the Universities Championship, as well as an International tour by the United States Croquet Association.

Add to all this the gradually increasing interest in Short Croquet, and it becomes apparent that the number of tournament reports and their associated results will soon far outstrip the capacity of this magazine to publish them. So what do we do?

Talking to people generally, I find that few give the results more than a desultory glance. However, there is a feeling that all results must be kept "for the record".

In fact, Brian Macmillan already makes copies of all results for the Handicap and Tournament Committees, and an extra copy could thus easily be filed in the CA Office for future historians. But even so, does it really matter for posterity if Mr "A", with a handicap of 9 beat Mrs "B", off 3, in an event below Regional level?

The publication of full results for each tournament is a relatively costly exercise, as the typesetting of results takes longer than straight-forward text, and checking the proofs is very time-consuming.

A Croquet "Wisden" available on subscription at the end of each season might be one answer or, as with orienteering, competitors might pay a supplementary entry fee if they wanted a xeroxed copy of the full results to be sent to them immediately after the event.

My own view is that we should try to publish a report on all tournaments. Such reports would naturally include a note on anyone who had done exceptionally well, and full results would only be given for National and Regional tournaments. Reports wherever possible would be supplemented by photographs.

However, before taking such a radical step as Editor, I would welcome the views of members, and indeed any alternative suggestions on how we might resolve this situation.

CHRIS HUDSON



... It's never too young to start!

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Other contributions other than tournament results and reports should be sent to the Editor. They will be much welcomed and acknowledged. Photographs (preferably black and white) should also be sent to the Editor.

All correspondence about non-delivery of "Croquet", changes of address, telephone numbers, handicaps or officials should be sent to the CA Secretary and **not** to the Editor.

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Club News and Tournament Results (1)

Southwick 30th May - 2nd June

Eastern Counties take the Inter-Counties Title

The late but very welcome arrival of the new sponsor, Anchor Foods, their most able PR agents, Granard Communications, and uninterrupted sunshine combined with Southwick's traditional hospitality and catering expertise to make the 1985 Counties a more attractive event than ever. Nine counties took part and, despite the late and disappointing withdrawal of Middlesex, a record number of the best players competed.

The Eastern Counties Team (L to R)
Back row:
Keith Wylie,
John Haigh,
Sarah Hampson
Mark Avery,
John Walters,
Front:
Martin French,
Don Gaunt



Eastern Counties emerged deserving winners with 7/8 although unable to field their full strength team for the opening days. Last year's champions, Surrey, repeated their squad format and finished an honourable joint second on 6/8 with Lancashire and Cheshire, the distilled version of the powerful Northern Counties team of earlier years. The only surprise of the week was the lack of impact made by Berks and Oxon until too late. The absence of Aspinall through summer flu and other regulars gave their early round opponents some unexpected successes.

Gloucester and Devon & Dorset returned again and provided tough opposition for everyone. Bedford and Midland Counties were a little weaker than in previous years and Sussex, the hosts in effect, deserve commiserations for a hardly deserved whitewash. As their captain, Roger Wood, explained afterwards, the problem lay in their lack of new young players. It would be fairer to say that the standard of play in the Counties, for so long regarded as an early season event, has shot up in recent years.

The sponsors were generous in distributing their new fruit syrup (the lemonade was most refreshing when chilled) and presented magnums of champagne to the winning team and to a rather surprised Steve



Lunchtime at Southwick during the Championship

Mulliner for his achievement of a TP and a TPO. The intention had been to make the "Man of the Match" award to the first person to achieve a quadruple. Whether this was a subtle hint that team success should occasionally be sacrificed on the altar of personal glory or a realistic assessment of the likely result of a good many Counties first breaks, we shall never know. Next year it might be more appropriate to put the award on the same basis as the Solomon Trophy, namely the most triples (or better) achieved by an individual.

STEVE MULLINER

Results:

1. Eastern won 7 matches
2. Lancs & Cheshire won 6 matches (15 games)
3. Surrey won 6 matches (14 games)
4. Gloucester won 5 matches (13 games)
5. Berks & Oxon won 5 matches (12 games)
6. Devon & Dorset won 3 matches (11 games)
6. Bedford won 3 matches (11 games)
8. Midlands won 1 match
9. Sussex won 0 matches

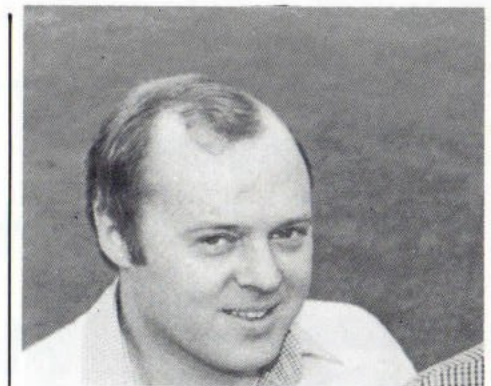
Cheltenham, 4th - 6th May

Colin Irwin wins the "Coles"

This was a tournament with never a dull moment (except possibly overhead, but even that was not so by the Monday), and especially if you were playing on court 6; frustrating, but not dull! Ask John Davis – he nearly turned violent by the end of the tournament when he thought he was going to have to play there again! It was impeccably (even immaculately) managed by means of the multi-faceted talents of Bernard Neal, a man not only ubiquitous but constantly changing his appearance – mostly he looked like Ian Maughan, nearly as often like Deborah Latham, and occasionally even like his wife Liz!

Apart from actual play, there was much to keep people entertained. For instance, David Peterson's personal croquet statistics record book caused much interest; in his game on court 8 against Robert Prichard he made his 500th point in open play at Cheltenham, a feat which drew an enormous burst of applause from the spectators (all carefully rehearsed by Robert) that startled players as far away as court 5. John Walters' ever-changing pullovers and mismatching fluorescent pink and yellow socks were also pretty good entertainment value. But I think the prize for originality must go to the somewhat unorthodox arrival of one of the players on Monday morning, when Richard Hilditch and Nick Hyne emerged from the clubhouse carrying David Peterson's voluminous kit bag apparently packed to capacity. "What's in there?" rose the startled chorus. "Keith Aiton," said Martin Murray airily – and, sure enough, on arrival at its destination, the bag was unzipped and Mr Aiton climbed out. Different...

Back in the throes of play, the first round produced little to remark on, save that Laurence Latham and Ian Vincent, the only two players who in five attempts had never got to the second round, both finally succeeded. Once there, Laurence very nearly threw the seeding into disarray by only narrowly failing to beat Dave Foulser, and Phil "Plate" Cordingley very nearly pipped John McCullough at the post, while our shy, retiring friend Mr Hilditch, carrying the familiar colours of chocolate and orange, just failed by a couple of lengths to overhaul top rated Eric Solomon. Nevertheless, by the third round all the seedings had



Colin Irwin: a formidable opponent when behind

proved justified.

This round and onward were played as best-of-three matches. Keith Aiton was quickly beaten through twice failing to TPO (Robert Prichard later took community revenge by TPO-ing Keith!), thus putting John McCullough in the semi-final with Eric Solomon, who managed to win through against Dave Foulser's tenacity. This quality was never more evident than in the second game, where Dave came from one and one against peg and rover to win +1, and he derived some small comfort from this being the first game he had ever taken from Eric in

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Budleigh Salterton,

13th-18th May

Some cancellations and a clash of fixtures found this event slightly undersubscribed, but players enjoyed the absence of pressure and being able to play in a 'Y' Doubles.

Though there had been heavy rain in other parts of the country, this year we had none, and it was warm and sunny for most of the time. This meant pleasant playing conditions and fast lawns, these showing a good recovery from last year's drought damage under the ministrations of Charles Smith, the lawns manager, and Chris, the groundsman. Twenty-two visitors were welcomed, many old friends among them; there was a contingent of seven from neighbouring Sidmouth, which was well represented in the prize list.

Run as an American Tournament, in six blocks of similar handicaps; the games were keenly contested many being won by small margins - about a third went to time. Two of the early ones deserve special mention, both in 'A' Block.

Susan Wiggins had got round to six and Rover, leaving her husband, Bobbie, a very long shot to get in. But this he did, and collecting the other two balls from inconvenient places, proceeded to make the necessary twelve points, going out after peeling his partner ball through Rover. Altogether a very pleasing display of expertise.



The main Clubhouse at Budleigh, photographed during the Home Internationals

The game between Ray Stevens (2) and Paul MacDonald (3) ended with much drama and such a round of applause for winner and gallant loser as is rarely heard at croquet. Ray was trailing, with clips on one-back and Rover while Paul had both on the peg. Time was called as Ray was making one-back. He then went round with very accurate play, peeled and pegged out his red to get a lead of one.

However, when leaving yellow four feet from the peg, though he had left black on the South boundary he had not left blue as far away as he had intended. Paul hit in with blue, sent yellow to the East boundary and pegged out to equalise. Ray shot to within a foot of the peg, but Paul pegged out as firmly as if his ball had been one foot away instead of nearly fifty!

The two doctors in A Block, Don Laney and Bobbie Wiggins, each had five wins and one loss, but Don had six more points so went into the final. This he won, a notable achievement by a player in his fourth season, his opponent, Arthur Rowlands was in his sixth, and had won six games out of six in his block. In the final Don was in devastating form and earned his ten point

win by more accurate hitting in.

C and D Blocks were won by Sidmouth players, a much improved John Hatherley having to work hard to beat Fred Moores plus six on time.

The last blocks were won by McBurnie Wood, the new Budleigh secretary, and Michael Davis of Sidmouth. Mac, another much improved player, was too strong for Michael in the final.

The 'X' Doubles were won for the second time by Bobbie Wiggins and Peter Danks. Their opponents in the final, Paul and Pat MacDonald, started off well, but Paul's shooting deteriorated unaccountably, and in spite of impeccable play by Pat, who got to Rover, they lost by eight points. Pat Tunmer was manager for the 11th year in succession, this time assisted by Marjorie Crozier, wife of the new Croquet Chairman, Bert. Bert is one of six new referees appointed after a two-day course held recently at Sidmouth by Bernard Neal.

The Club ladies provided most attractive meals, and many expressions of appreciation were heard.

C.W. MARSHALL

RESULTS

Budleigh Salterton: 13th-18th May

Handicap Singles

BLOCK A:

5 wins: Dr D.R. Laney (3) +45, Dr W.R.D. Wiggins (1/2) +39;

4 wins: Mrs W.R.D. Wiggins (0);

3 wins: I.P.M. MacDonald (3) +26, F.H. Newman (3) +6;

1 win: D.M. Bull (4);

0 wins: R.S. Stevens (2)

BLOCK B:

6 wins: F.A. Rowlands (5) +68;

5 wins: Mrs F.H. Newman (4) +34;

4 wins: Mrs I.P.M. MacDonald (5 1/2);

3 wins: W. Broad-Thomas (5);

2 wins: Mrs W.A. Scarr (5);

1 win: P.K.L. Danks (5 1/2);

0 wins: Mrs C. Bagnall (5)

Play-Off: Dr Laney beat Rowlands +10 and won the Godfrey Turner Challenge Cup.

BLOCK C:

5 wins: F.T. Moores (7);

4 wins: H.J. Crozier (7);

3 wins: Dr C.L. Greenbury (5 1/2);

2 wins: Dr W.R. Bucknall (6 1/2);

1 win: Mrs E. Tunmer (6 1/2);

0 wins: W.A. Scarr (6)

BLOCK D:

4 wins: J.C. Hatherley (8);

3 wins: Mrs C.W. Marshall (10) +25, R. Vincent (7) +9;

2 wins: Mrs E.M. Pursey (8), Mrs E. Grant (10);

1 win: Mrs H. Cruden (8)

Play-Off: Hatherley beat Moores and won the J.K. Brown Memorial Trophy.

BLOCK E:

5 wins: J. McBurnie Wood (11);

3 wins: A.W. Harding (12) +19, E.G. Kitchenier (11) +12;

2 wins: R. Forth (10), Miss K. Holroyde (12);

0 wins: Mrs R. Vincent (11)

BLOCK F:

4 wins: M. McF. Davis (12) +54, Miss M. Hardman (12) +23;

3 wins: Mrs D. Iredale (16);

2 wins: W/Cdr T.N. Silk (12), Mrs W. Broad-Thomas (13)

Play-Off: McBurnie Wood beat Davis +14 and won the L.G. Walters Long Handicap Challenge Trophy.

Club News and Tournament Results (2)

The Daldry Cups "X":

Handicap Doubles, 3 1/2 hr time limit, 3rd hoop start.

1st Round:

Mr & Mrs I.P.M. MacDonald (8 1/2) bt F.A. Rowlands & Mrs C.W. Marshall (14) +1(T); Mrs Wiggins and Mrs Grant (10) bt J.C. Hatherley and Miss M. Hardman (18) +2(T); Mr & Mrs W.A. Scarr (11) bt Dr Laney and Mrs Bagnall (8) +5; Dr C.W. Marshall & Mrs H. Cruden (19) bt Mr & Mrs R. Vincent (18) +5(T); Dr W.R.D. Wiggins & P.K.L. Danks (6) bt W/Cdr T.N. Silk & Mrs E.M. Pursey (18) +12; Dr W.R. Bucknall & R. Forth (16 1/2) bt D.M. Bull & Dr C.L. Greenbury (9 1/2) +10; J. McBurnie Wood & Mrs Pegg (22) bt R.S. Stevens & A.W. Harding (14) +1(T); Mr & Mrs F.H. Newman (7) bt F. Moores & Miss Holroyde (18) +14

2nd Round:

Mr & Mrs MacDonald bt Mrs Wiggins & Mrs Grant +13; Mr & Mrs Scarr bt Dr Marshall & Mrs Cruden +6; Dr Wiggins & Danks bt Dr Bucknall & Forth +3; McBurnie Wood & Mrs Legg bt Mr & Mrs Newman +13

Semi-Finals:

Mr & Mrs MacDonald bt Mr & Mrs Scarr +15; Dr Wiggins & Danks bt McBurnie Wood & Mrs Legg +3(T)

Final:

Dr Wiggins & Danks bt Mr & Mrs MacDonald +8

The Daldry Cups "Y": Handicap Doubles, 2 3/4 hr time limit, 5th hoop start.

Semi-Finals:

Rowlands & Mrs Marshall bt Dr Laney & Mrs Bagnall +1; Stevens & Harding bt Bull and Dr Greenbury +11

Final:

Rowlands & Mrs Bagnall bt Stevens & Harding +14

Colchester: 11th-12th May

This tournament at Colchester was under the reliable management of Robin Hobbs, and he provided everyone with a true Swiss competition - eight games in 2 days!

Mark Avery, with 5 wins, led the field at the end of the first day on which 13 triples were completed, but on Day 2, Phil Cordingley caught him up and beat him in the last round with a fine triple peel.

This gave both of them 6 wins and Phil therefore won the tournament under Regulation 16(d) (ii). MARK AVERY



Phil Cordingley, who just beat Mark Avery at Colchester

RESULTS

Advanced Play:

6 wins: P. Cordingley (winner),

M.N. Avery;

5 wins: I.D. Bond, J.E. Guest,

M. Murray, M.E.W. Heap, J.O. Walters,

A.J. Mrozinski;

4 wins: D. Peterson, D.L. Gaunt,

J.R. Hilditch;

3 wins: N.G. Hyne;

2 wins: R.M. Hobbs, Mrs J. Neville-Rolfe,

L. Wharrad;

1 win: J. Haigh.

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International

The USCA Tour Great Britain win the Nottingham Test

Civic Reception

The USCA team arrived from the West Midlands on Thursday afternoon, for introductions and a brief knock-up between showers. They were given directions to the Council House, a few hundred yards from their hotel (though I may have been a bit optimistic!), for a reception that evening by the City Council. Jack Osborn, the American Captain, duly arrived to meet the platform party beforehand, which came into the main reception area about half an hour later. The Mayor spoke a few words, to which Jack replied by thanking him, but regretting that his welcome would be lost to the rest of the team, who had failed to arrive. As he was speaking, they suddenly appeared, with an entrance worthy of a Hollywood Gala night. Jack's speech, free drinks and, for the visitors, the chance to meet the Sheriff of Nottingham in person, made the evening, though there was nearly a diplomatic crisis at the end. A small group were invited up to the "leader's room" for further refreshment, but it soon transpired that we had been hijacked by the (Conservative) opposition; an emissary from the Mayor's parlour had to come to ask for his guests back!

Match against Nottingham Club

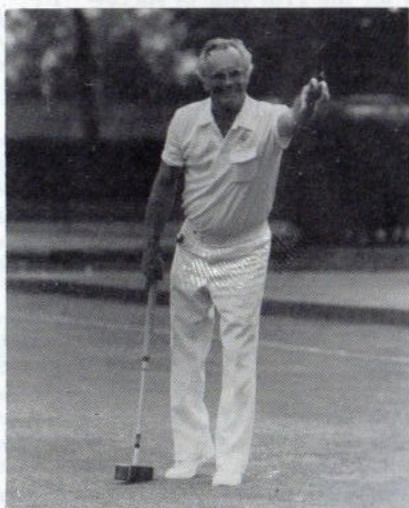
Friday dawned wet for the serious business, a match against a Club team, but dried up by lunchtime. The sun brought a television crew along; Central TV's studios are just down the road, but they had been hoaxed by a non-existent croquet match 3 weeks before, so were understandably suspicious. The crew insisted on trying to film the Death family finishing off their lunch, but were eventually persuaded outside for some sensible interviews.

Nottingham won the three morning doubles, but the visitors won a third of the afternoon singles. Jim Bast played two excellent 3-ball breaks to beat Ian Vincent, after Ian had pegged out one of his balls with his other left in Rover (a tactic which he had forbidden his doubles partner to adopt in the morning!). Kiley Jones flew in to Heathrow and was driven up the M1 in time to play in the third session, but was understandably not at his peak.

The Test Match

The CA and two national flags were flying on poles improvised from stop boards lashed to the railings in a stiff breeze for the International on Saturday. The first game to finish also saw the shortest miss of the

weekend: Keith Aiton, playing for Great Britain for the first time, failed to reach a ball 3 inches away after peeling penultimate at Hoop 6! Steve Mulliner and Eric Solomon were equally dominant, but Jim Bast and John Osborn took the first game off David Openshaw and Keith Wylie after David had also missed after Hoop 6 on a laid triple peel. The home side eventually won the match, but only after a tense finish to the third game.



Jack Osborn:
Captain of the US team



Keith Aiton, playing for Great Britain for the first time



Jim Bast, who completed the first triple peel for the Americans

Keith Aiton continued his barnstorming progress with a +26 triple peel in the afternoon, followed closely by Eric Solomon, who was unfortunate in rushing his peelee on to the peg from behind Rover. Ray Bell got off to a good start against Steve Mulliner, but could not keep Steve out. Kiley Jones might have done better had he been able to run the first hoop against Nigel Aspinall, but the occasion and jet lag were too much for him. The loudest applause of the day came at the end, when Jim Bast took the first game off Keith Wylie with a standard triple peel, the first by a member of the USA team, which saved them being pegged down for the evening's dinner.

An overnight thunderstorm left the lawns

barely playable, a disappointment after the work put in by the park groundsmen, but a cloudless sky got the cameras clicking, with the Rhododendrons just coming into bloom. The adjourned singles both went in Great Britain's favour, as did the remaining matches, with the exception of Kiley Jones beating Keith Wylie in straight games. The effect of different Laws on tactics was obvious: the Americans probably surpassed us in certain areas of stroke play, but often came to grief by attempting a marginal hoop where we would have retired to fight another day. Switching codes in the reverse direction is even more traumatic. Your correspondent now knows what a 24 handicap beginner feels like when being coached, after partnering Ray Bell in a game played to American rules: I had no idea what I was being asked to do when told to play some shots! I'm glad we do not have to hit balls nine inches from the boundary from the middle of the court without sending them off!

There were disappointingly few spectators, though those who did come showed some interest. That apart, the weekend appeared to go successfully and the arrangements may be of interest to the clubs chosen to stage MacRobertson Shield matches next year. One thing is certain – the Americans who stayed at home will scarcely know what has hit them when their team return!

IAN VINCENT

Results

USCA v. Nottingham Club: 24th May

All matches single games, level Advanced Play, Association Laws.

J. Bast & J.R. Osborn lost to G.W. Noble & I.G. Vincent -14; R. Bell & J.C. Osborn lost to E.J. Davis & P.J. Death -15; Mr & Mrs E.A. Prentis lost to G.K. Taylor & C.G. Hopewell -13.

Bast bt Vincent +2; J.C. Osborn lost to Davis -14; Bell lost to Noble -5; E.A. Prentis bt Death +1(T); J.R. Osborn lost to Taylor -21; Mrs D. Prentis lost to Hopewell -24.

Bast lost to Davis -19; K. Jones lost to Vincent -14; J.C. Osborn lost to Death -11; E.A. Prentis lost to Noble -16; J.R. Osborn bt Hopewell +1; Bell bt Taylor +17.

Nottingham won by 11 matches to 4

USCA v. Great Britain: Nottingham 25th-26th May

All matches best of 3, level Advanced Play, Association Laws (USCA names first).

J. Bast & J.C. Osborn lost to K. Wylie & D.K. Openshaw +7 -21 -5; K. Jones & E.A. Prentis lost to G.N. Aspinall & K.M.H. Aiton -26 -20; R. Bell & J.R. Osborn lost to S.N. Mulliner & E. Solomon -26 -26.

Bast lost to Wylie +24(TP) -2 -19; Jones lost to Aspinall -26 -26; J.C. Osborn lost to Openshaw -13 -15; Bell lost to Mulliner -16(TP) -9; Prentis lost to Aiton -26(TP) -22; J.R. Osborn lost to Solomon -24 -18.

Great Britain won by 14 matches to 1.



17-year old Kiley Jones. Flew over to play for the US Test team

Other Tour Results

USCA v. Wales: Hurlingham, 31st May

Bast & J.C. Osborn beat C. Prichard & J.R. Hilditch +5; J.R. Osborn & Bell lost to D. Croker & D. Peterson -23; Mr & Mrs Prentis lost to R. Prichard & K. Jones -19.

Bast bt Hilditch +5; J.C. Osborn lost to Peterson -19; Bell lost to Croker -14; E.A. Prentis lost to K. Jones -14; J.R. Osborn lost to R. Prichard -24; Mrs Prentis lost to C. Prichard -22.

Bast bt Peterson +26; J.C. Osborn lost to Hilditch -22; Bell lost to Jones -15; E.A. Prentis lost to Croker -23; J.R. Osborn lost to C. Prichard -22; Mrs Prentis lost to R. Prichard -24.

Wales won by 12 matches to 3

USCA v. England Select:

Hurlingham, 1st June

Bast beat D.K. Openshaw +17; Bell v. M. Avery (Result not recorded); J.C. Osborn bt J.O. Walters +8; E.A. Prentis lost to Mrs M. Collin -24; J.R. Osborn bt Miss J. MacLeod +17; Mrs Prentis lost to J.R. Mann -19.

Bast & J.R. Osborn bt Openshaw & MacLeod +4; Bell & J.C. Osborn lost to Avery & Walters -14; Mr & Mrs Prentis lost to Mann & Mrs Collin -14.

Result: USCA 4, England Select 4

Irish team visits USA



The Irish team that visited America in March, beating the United States by 13-11 in a closely fought match at the Palm Beech Polo & Country Club. (L to R) Back: John McCullough, John Rose and Carl von Schneider. Front: Miles McWeeney, Fred Rogerson and Colin Irwin

The USCA v. West Midlands Federation: Edgbaston 22nd May

In the morning, singles games were played between players from each team with the same ranking. In the afternoon, the top player from one side played the second player from the other side and so on. All games were played under Association Laws, Advanced play without time limits, but all were double-banked.

Despite the apparently convincing win for the Midlands, the match was much closer than the score suggests – the large number of single figure wins bears that out. A number of the games took a surprisingly long time (two of the morning games lasted about three and a quarter hours) despite the easy conditions of play – slow, easily managed lawns.

Some of the Midlands players commented that they were struck by the slightly unconventional tactics of the American players – they did not always do what conventional wisdom suggested should happen in a given situation. Their accuracy in running and willingness to attempt long hoops might well be a spin-off from the deadness problem in the American game.

A certain tactical lack of caution was well illustrated by the West v. Prentis game in which West quickly reached 4-back and peg with Prentis hardly having started. Eventually by dint of repeatedly good shooting, Prentis went round with both balls and pegged out West. However, he then gave West so many free shots that West (of course!) eventually hit in and won...

As for media coverage, the Edgbaston Club placed posters around Birmingham, whilst the Federation dealt with other areas. BBC TV came down from Pebble Mill and interviewed Jack Osborn and then stayed around to film some of the play; the resulting 5 minutes coverage in "Midlands Today" was, on the whole, well done and sensibly presented. Pre-match publicity was given by Birmingham's "Daily News" and the Birmingham Post carried a report of the match one day, and then pictures of the

Croquet in Tenerife

This February my wife and I spent a very pleasant 3 weeks in the Canary Island of Tenerife. I had seen in a brochure that the British Club in Puerto De La Cruz had a croquet lawn, so one day we went to investigate. Tenerife is a triangular volcanic island about 70 x 70 x 40 miles with a 12,000 ft mountain in the middle. The 60 mile ride from our hotel in the south took us over the top and on the way we passed an amazing variety of scenery.

Our hotel was in a virtual desert, complete with cacti and scrub. As we climbed we passed into pine forest which thinned out at about 6,000 ft into volcanic ash and lava flows. At the top it is very barren indeed with the snow-capped peak of Mt Teide dominating everything. Descending the other (northern) side we passed through more pine, then deciduous forests. Outside Puerto the climate is sub-tropical with palm trees, mangoes and miles of banana plantations.

The British Club is rather difficult to find.

US team a couple of days later.

The event itself attracted a considerable number of spectators who wandered in and out during the day's play.

After the match was over, a short demonstration was given of the American game with Jack Osborn talking the spectators through a short doubles game with one American and one local player on each side.

Socially the event was a great success. The visitors chose not to play on the Tuesday (they spent the day sightseeing in Winchester, Oxford and Stratford) but did meet some of the Edgbaston players for drinks in the evening and insisted on taking us for dinner. On Wednesday evening, the US team were the guests of the West Midlands Federation at a dinner held in a private room at Michael's Restaurant close to the Edgbaston Club. The visitors were presented with some Stourbridge produced glassware as keepsakes and in turn presented members of the local team with USCA buttonholes and lapel stickers.

The whole event went off well and for me personally, it was a great pleasure to meet such warm, friendly people. I do hope they are all able to return at some stage.

We were delighted to be able to hold this fixture at Edgbaston, and it has provided a great shot in the arm for the game in the Midlands.

RAY JONES

RESULTS

(USCA names first)

J. Bast lost to K.E. Jones -5
R. Bell bt A.J. Girling +9
J.C. Osborn bt P.D.B. West +14
T. Prentis lost to S. Hare -6
J.R. Osborn lost to J. Potter -7
Mrs D. Prentis lost to M. Tompkinson -6

Bell lost to Jones -7
Bast lost to Girling -16
T. Prentis lost to West -2
J.C. Osborn bt Hare +11
Mrs Prentis lost to Potter -8
J.R. Osborn lost to Tompkinson -14

It is a stiff one mile climb from the harbour, and is not prominently signed. The buildings are similar in style to Southwick clubhouse. There are tennis courts, bowling greens and yes! one tiny croquet lawn. It is, I'm afraid, a poor little thing about two-thirds the length, and half the width of a normal lawn. It is also very uneven.

Nevertheless, having got this far, we borrowed some equipment and had a couple of hours knock-around. After all, ANY croquet in February is better than none! Apparently one of the bowling greens was available for croquet but was not used enough. The few people who were there were very friendly and for a few pounds you can become a temporary member. This would only be worth it if you were staying in Puerto. As we were 2 hours away we did not.

So I'm afraid that serious croquet is not available in Tenerife at the moment, although a bit of out of season practice is. Perhaps when I retire...

DON GAUNT

International

Club News and Tournament Results (3)

The "Coles" continued from page 3. their six meetings. Meanwhile, some of the main highlights of the tournament were displayed by Mark Avery (pardon the pun, Mark!), who won in straight games against Martin Murray to face the wonderful white wellies of Colin Irwin, he having defeated last year's winner, Andrew Hope.

Honours were even after the first two games, but then Mark put Colin into his 'favourite' position – behind, one and one against penult and rover. Well, a NID result, as they say! With black and yellow pegged out, blue for rover and red for penult, Mark ran rover and missed the peg. Colin ran penult and took position; Mark trickled to the peg; Colin ran rover and, presented with a target of peg and three-quarters of a ball, opted for wallopping the peg.

John McCullough was faced with an undemanding semi-final – virtually all he was given to do was to watch Eric Solomon go round +22 (TP) and +26 (TP), thus missing out on the chance of an all-Irish final.

With everyone apparently suddenly realising that the prize for a completed sextuple was still unclaimed after five years, there was a rash of sextuple attempts on the Monday, plus a septuple try from Mark Avery in the third play-off. The goblet remained unclaimed, but Mark did go on to finish in third place. Another interesting situation arose when Martin Murray and David Croker both failed sextuples but by virtue of the attempts completed an entire open game in which no lifts were conceded by either player. (Don't ask me how they did it – ask them!)

The final of the Swiss – or Swiz, depending no doubt on how you were playing! – was contested by Andrew Hope and Eddie Bell (he of the startling red cap that imprints itself on the retina if you stare at it too long). A doughy tussle, eventually won by Andrew.

Meanwhile, Eric Solomon and Colin Irwin were engaged in a dour final. Eric narrowly took the first game but, no doubt inspired by the brilliant sunshine and the sight of the trophy, strategically placed by the edge of the court, Colin fought skilfully to come from behind yet again and take the second. In the third the investment of going with the Irish team to America earlier in the year told, and Colin won convincingly +24 (TP). Thus he was the man to step up and receive the trophy from Coles, the sponsors, at the prize-giving. Eric was not quite as prepared when it became time to present him with his runner's-up bottle of champagne etc, causing much amusement with his dash from the changing-room, but he later popped the cork in fine traditional manner (it landed on court 8, and Martin leaped out with his mallet and rushed it back to him!). The final applause was equally as warm as the uncharacteristic sunshine that bathed players and spectators as this ever enjoyable tournament came to a close. Do you suppose someone forgot to tell the chap who organises the weather that it was a bank holiday...?

D.E.L.



Eric Solomon (right) Runner-up in the "Coles" pictured with Steve Mulliner

Colchester Spring Weekend 25th-27th May

Don wins, while Mark peels!

My first feeling when asked to write about the weekend tournament at Colchester was one of horror. I scarcely ever remember a name, seldom remember a face, and have the greatest difficulty in remembering what happened, even if I saw it myself. What I am left with at the end of the tournament is a confused medley of impressions. Some of these were of the croquet; some of the people; and some of the hats. (Gracious heavens! The hats!)

Early impressions were of Richard Hilditch pounding about Lawn 3, slamming balls through hoops with carefree abandon, involved in a more than usually complicated situation as he attempted a sextuple peel at the same time as Mark Avery, double banked on the same lawn, attempted a triple. Richard, I observed, had a different adjective in use every day: on Saturday, if memory serves, it was "dour"; on Sunday "immaculate"; on Monday "lovely".

A gruelling match on Lawn 2 between Don Gaunt and Reg Girling attracted much attention. Reg took an early lead and got both his balls round before Don had scored a point. Then Don hit in and took first one ball, then the other round. With one of Don's balls pegged out Reg ran rover but left himself with a hampered shot about which he could do nothing. Don promptly hit in with his remaining ball from the east boundary and won the match.

On Sunday, I was engaged in playing a humble four ball break on Lawn 2, when I noticed that every time I attempted to send a pioneer to the next hoop Mark Avery was there, a group of three balls round him. I slowed down my play a good deal, and, making some enquiries of the enthralled spectators, discovered that he was attempting a sextuple. I abandoned the lawn and settled down to watch. He came very close to bringing it off – failing only when he had peeled and run rover to gain a position from which he could peg out.

Victory in the tournament went to Don Gaunt when he won his sixth successive match. Nobody else by this stage was capable of winning more than five. It remained for his seventh opponent, Danny Palmer, to inflict on him his only defeat. Danny thus won for himself a share with

Ray Jones, Sarah Hampson, and Martin Kolbuszewski in the second prize.

The weather, after a good start on Saturday, became a little dour on Sunday and Monday. The lawns were immaculate. The hospitality was lovely.

DAVID RUSCOMBE-KING



Richard Hilditch in a "dour" mood and on the offensive!

RESULTS Cheltenham "Coles" Tournament: 4th to 6th May

Advanced Play

1st Round:

*E.W. Solomon bt E. Bell +24; J.R. Hilditch bt A. Palmer +9; L. Latham bt E. Jackson +8; *D. Foulser bt E.J. Davis +16; *K. Aiton bt P.L. Smith +7; D. Moorcraft bt P.M. Johnson +3; P. Cordingley bt G.K. Taylor +8; *J. McCullough bt D. Croker +8; *M. Avery bt D. Peterson +14; D. Cairns bt R.D.C. Prichard +13; N. Hyne bt G. Roy +16; *M. Murray bt B. Weitz +23TP; *C.J. Irwin bt S. Lewis +25; J. Walters bt J. Meads +15; I. Vincent bt B.G. Neal +1; *A.B. Hope bt J. Toye +14

* Denotes seeded player

2nd Round:

Solomon bt Hilditch +5; Foulser bt Latham +4; Aiton bt Moorcraft +24; McCullough bt Cordingley +6; Avery bt Cairns +17; Murray bt Hyne +14; Irwin bt Walters +15; Hope bt Vincent +18

3rd Round:

Solomon bt Foulser +4, -1, +11; McCullough bt Aiton +23, +23; Avery bt Murray +5, +15; Irwin bt Hope -26TP, +17, +12

Semi-Finals

Solomon bt McCullough +22TP, +26TP; Irwin bt Avery +16, -13, +1

Final:

Irwin bt Solomon -1, +11, +24TP

Play-off for 3rd place:

Avery bt McCullough +4, +23

Swiss Competition:

6 wins: A.B. Hope

5 wins: E. Bell, D. Foulser, R.D.C. Prichard, J.R. Hilditch;

4 wins: P. Cordingley, K.M. Aiton, J. Meads, D.J. Croker, M. Murray, I.G. Vincent, J.O. Walters, J. Toye;

3 wins: L.V. Latham, B.G. Neal, D. Cairns, N.G. Hyne, D. Peterson, G.E.P. Jackson;

2 wins: G.K. Taylor, P.M. Johnson

Colchester: 25th-27th May

RESULTS Seven-round Swiss Handicap Singles

6 wins: D. Gaunt

5 wins: Miss S.G. Hampson, R. Jones, M. Kolbuszewski, D. Palmer

4 wins: A.J. Girling, R. Rosden, R. Hall, J.R. Hilditch, D. Ruscombe-King, Mrs R. Stanley-Smith, J. Walters

3 wins: Miss J. Assheton, M. Avery, R. Girling, Mrs B. Gosden, Mrs J. Neville-Rolfe, R. Welch

2 wins: G. Gallett, C.B. Sanford

1 win: J. Haigh

0 wins: J. Williams

Cheltenham, 13th-18th May

Peel Memorials:

The Lathams equal the Riggalls' record

Following in the footsteps of the Riggalls in 1966, Laurence and Deborah Latham between them won both the Men's and Women's Bowls in the Peel Memorials this year at Cheltenham.

This is only the second time since the "Peels" were instituted in 1898 that a husband and wife have won the two competitions in the same year.

Congratulations to them both!

RESULTS

Cheltenham – The Peel Memorials: 13th-18th May

The Peel Memorial Silver Challenge Bowl: Handicap Singles (Men)

DRAW

1st Round: D.H. Moorcraft (½) bt B.G.F. Weitz (½) +23

2nd Round: J. Exell (6) bt R.F. Wheeler (4) +7(TP); P. Darby (7) bt R. Burnell (3½) +2; M. Kolbuszewski (1½) bt S. Thomas (8) +4; Moorcraft bt C. Duckworth (3) +9; P. Dwerryhouse (6½) bt J. McLaren (3) +11(T); S. Hoole (2) bt J. Sturdy (4) +8; G.E.P. Jackson (0) bt W.R. Bawden (5) +13; L.V. Latham (½) bt Gt Capt R.S. Ryan (7) +12

3rd Round: Darby bt Exell +2; Kolbuszewski bt Moorcraft +9; Hoole bt Dwerryhouse +8; Latham bt Jackson +13

PROCESS

1st Round: Wheeler bt Ryan +13

2nd Round: Moorcraft bt Wheeler +5; Kolbuszewski bt Sturdy +7; Burnell bt Dwerryhouse +19; Duckworth bt Jackson +5; McLaren bt Exell +21; Thomas bt Bawden +19(T); Darby bt Hoole +19; Weitz bt Latham +8

3rd Round: Kolbuszewski bt Moorcraft +24; Duckworth bt Burnell +19; Thomas bt McLaren +7; Weitz bt Darby +4

Two Life Variation

1st Round: Darby bt Hoole +15; Latham bt Weitz +7; Thomas bt Duckworth (who retired on the peg)

Semi-Finals: Kolbuszewski bt Darby +18; Latham bt Thomas +20

Final: Latham bt Kolbuszewski +12



Deborah and Laurence Latham with the "Peels" Bowls

The Peel Memorial Silver Challenge Bowl: Handicap Singles (Women)

DRAW

1st Round: Mrs R. Stanley-Smith (5½) bt Mrs E. Neal (5) +12(T); Mrs I. Moorcraft (10) bt Mrs J. Cima (12) +22; Mrs Warren (7) bt Mrs K. Turtle (16) +6; Mrs G.D. Harris (6) bt Mrs M. Langley (8) +11; Lady Bazley (4) bt Mrs E. Weitz (3½) +9(T); Mrs L.V. Latham bt Mrs E. Prichard (w.o.)

2nd Round: Mrs V. Finn (13) bt Mrs G.M. Bawden (8) +3(T); Miss E. Arkell (5) bt Miss J. Wraith (11) +13; Moorcraft bt Stanley-Smith +13; Harris bt Warren +15; Latham bt Bazley +7; Mrs I. Dwerryhouse (6½) bt Miss P. Shine (7) +14; Miss I.M. Roe (6) bt Mrs K. Wheeler (3) +8; Mrs K. Yeoman (4) bt Miss D. Barber +15

3rd Round: Arkell bt Finn +7; Harris bt Moorcraft +17; Latham bt Dwerryhouse +20; Roe bt Yeoman +12

PROCESS

1st Round: Bawden bt Dwerryhouse +4(T); Barber bt Stanley-Smith +6(T); Wheeler bt Wraith +13; Finn bt Shine +18; Yeoman bt Neal +19; Arkell bt Roe +8

2nd Round: Dwerryhouse bt Warren +4(T); Barber bt Weitz (w.o.); Langley bt Wheeler +9; Moorcraft bt Prichard +9; Finn bt Turtle +5(T); Bazley bt Yeoman +4(T); Harris bt Arkell +12; Cima bt Latham +13

3rd Round: Dwerryhouse bt Barber +19; Langley bt Moorcraft +12; Bazley bt Finn +7; Harris bt Cima +14

Two Life Variation

1st Round: Langley bt Roe +13; Latham bt Dwerryhouse +21; Arkell bt Bazley +1

Semi-Finals: Harris bt Langley +13; Latham bt Arkell +22

Final: Latham bt Harris +6

The New Bristol Clubhouse

The new clubhouse at Bristol next to the old clubhouse that will eventually be replaced as the development work is completed

Club News and Tournament Results (4)

The Lady Murray Memorial & Surrey Challenge Cup: Handicap Doubles

1st Round: R. Burnell & Lady Bazley bt J. Exell & Mrs Warren +10; J. Sturdy & Mrs G.D. Harris bt C. Duckworth & Mrs K. Yeoman +12; G.E.P. Jackson & Mrs V. Finn bt Mr & Mrs P. Dwerryhouse +22; Mr & Mrs L.V. Latham bt P. Darby & Mrs Stanley-Smith +18; J. McLaren & Miss J. Wraith bt Mrs E. Weitz & Miss P. Shine +3(T); Mr & Mrs D.H. Moorcraft bt Mrs H. Handley & Mrs K. Wheeler +13; S. Hoole & Mrs M. Langley bt B.G.F. Weitz & J. Thomas +5; R.S. Ryan & Mrs E. Neal bt M. Kolbuszewski & J. Turtle +1

2nd Round: Burnell & Bazley bt Sturdy & Harris; Jackson & Finn bt Mr & Mrs Latham; McLaren & Wraith bt Mr & Mrs Moorcraft +1(T); Ryan & Neal bt Hoole & Langley +7

Semi-Finals: Burnell & Bazley bt Jackson & Finn +4(T); Ryan & Neal bt McLaren & Wraith +8

Final: Burnell & Bazley bt Ryan & Neal +9

Final of "Y": Duckworth & Yeoman bt Weitz & Thomas +2

Open Handicap Singles: (33 entries.

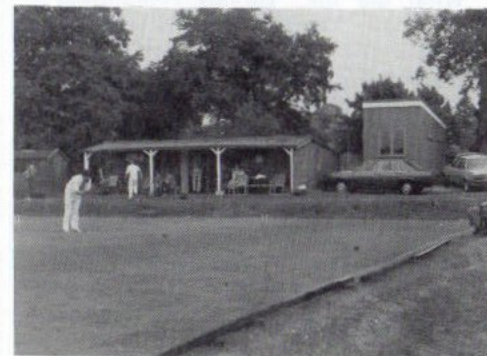
Played as 7 blocks of 4 and 1 block of 5)

Play-off between block winners

1st Round: Duckworth bt Mrs E. Weitz +18; Miss Roe bt Mrs Warren +5; B.G.F. Weitz bt R. Burnell +11; L.V. Latham bt J. Exell +17

Semi-Finals: Duckworth bt Roe +11; Weitz bt Latham +14

Final: Duckworth bt Weitz +19



Carrickmines: 27th May to 1st June



Gerard Healy. Winner of the Championship of County Dublin

Championship of County Dublin: Advanced Play

DRAW:

1st Round: R.J. Leonard bt T.N. Browne +18; G. Healy bt M. McWeeney +25

2nd Round: F. Rogerson bt Mrs B. Leonard +22; C. Gamble bt R.J. Leonard +24; G. Healy bt S. Williams +19; C. von Schneider bt N.D. Browne +17

Semi-Finals: Rogerson bt Gamble +12; von Schneider bt Healy +16

Final: Rogerson bt von Schneider +3 (TP)

PROCESS:

1st Round: N.D. Browne bt Mrs Leonard +19;

Rogerson bt von Schneider +23

2nd Round: Leonard bt N.D. Browne +6; Healy bt Gamble +11; McWeeney bt Rogerson +3; Williams bt T.N. Browne +10

Semi-Finals: Healy bt Leonard +25; Williams bt McWeeney +15

Final: Healy bt Williams +4

FINAL: Healy bt Rogerson

Boxwell Cup: Handicap Singles

1st Round: N.D. Browne (5½) bt P. Thornton (7½) +8; G. Healy (0) bt Mrs McWeeney (11) +20; D. Beatty bt S. Williams (4½) +9

2nd Round: Rogerson (2) bt T.N. Browne +20; N.D. Browne bt Mrs Leonard (6) +7; Healy bt C. Gamble (2) +6; Beatty bt R.J. Leonard (6) +21

Semi-Finals: Rogerson bt N.D. Browne +12; Healy bt Beatty +21

Final: Healy bt Rogerson +6

Duff Matthews Cup: Level Play (6 bisques & over)

1st Round: P. Thornton (7½) bt R.J. Leonard (6) +6; D. Beatty bt Mrs McWeeney (11) +11; T.N. Browne (6) bt J. McAuley (8) +8

Semi-Finals: Mrs Leonard bt Thornton +17; T.N. Browne bt Beatty +3(T)

Final: Mrs Leonard bt T.N. Browne +1(T)

Coronation Cups: Handicap Doubles (Total 6 bisques & over)

Semi-Finals: N.D. Browne & Mrs A.N. Browne (19½) bt C. Gamble & R.J. Leonard (8) +2(T); Mrs B. Leonard & T.N. Browne (12) bt Mrs McWeeney & S. Williams (14½) +10

Final: Mrs Leonard & T.N. Browne bt Mr & Mrs Browne +8

Your Letters

The New Gazette

Dear Sir,

Congratulations on the publication "Croquet" - about all that is lacking is "Spot the Ball"! However, I do feel strongly about the dreadful (modern, I presume) style of some of the tournament reports that is becoming fashionable. Cutlets, Riggalls, Wharrads, etc., MAY be comprehensible to most of the present tournament players, but they mean nothing to our associates overseas.

The 1984 OPENS reports I find particularly difficult to translate to my South African croquet friends - I wonder what Australia, New Zealand and America made of it. Now we have a similar style report of the Southport Open weekend (page 8).

As this is the official organ of the CA, might we not plead for a basic English report, that can be understood worldwide, and presumably 100 years hence.

Sarah Hampson,
Hunstanton.

Dear Sir,

What did the "various committees", referred to in the Editorial, find unacceptable about the Gazette? Perhaps it would have been more courteous for the Council to have consulted the members rather than automatically tampering with a respectable tradition.

In any case, if this change is to be accepted (I hope other members will write in protest) it is not consistent with the new broom to designate what I believe to be Issue 2 as Issue No. 180!

Jeremy C.S.F. Smithies
Bath.

Dear Sir,

I am a little disappointed that my copy of 'Croquet' only arrived this morning, 2nd July making it a month late, having been posted on the 29th June.

I am an Associate for the sake of publications; if the Gazette is going to be so late it will be of little use.

H.F. Thake
Coventry.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

I am anxious to produce a magazine that will appeal to all members of the CA, both current and potential.

All comments on the format, presentation, or content of "Croquet" will therefore, be most gratefully received.

Chris Hudson

Short Croquet

Dear Sir,

What I believe is needed in an alternative game of croquet is:

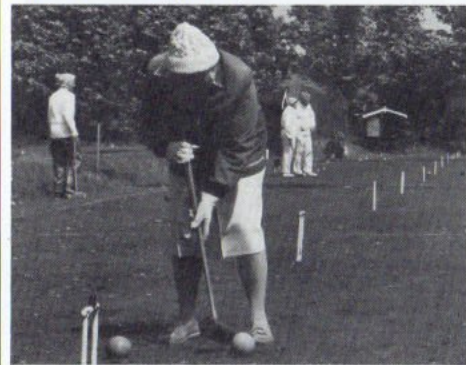
- (1) the game should not last as long as the present Association game
- (2) it should be played on a smaller court
- (3) it should be more easy to understand
- (4) the turns should be shorter
- (5) there should be the opportunity to hit one's opponent away to keep him out of the game.

Short croquet does help in items (1) and

(2). However, if anything, it is even more complicated to understand than Association Croquet, particularly with mandatory peels. I would like to suggest the following game, which I believe might provide a more easy to understand and popular game.

Court Layout

The court would measure 24 yards by 16 yards and be laid out with the corner hoops 8 yards from the northern and southern boundaries and 6 yards from the east and west boundaries. (This makes the hoops much closer together).



A Short Croquet tournament in progress at Woking...

Rules of Play

Players are allowed to roquet each ball only once per turn, irrespective of whether they run hoops during that turn. Players turns do not end if balls are hit off the edge of the court. Any ball hit off is returned one mallet head's length from the edge.

As in Short Croquet, the game will be fourteen points.

By restricting the number of roquets this should encourage the more spectacular shots, such as attempting long hoops and large split rolls. Although it will be possible to make an all round break (helped by the closeness of the hoops) it will be very difficult. The game will tend to proceed in comparatively short breaks with long range shots at opponents balls.

I would be interested in members' reactions to these rule modifications. I believe that they would make the game much easier to understand and would make it more spectacular for spectators. In addition, it would concentrate the play into a smaller area, making it easier to televise.

Charles Townsend
Frinton.

The late Dudley Hamilton-Miller

Dear Sir,

For the record, surely the one and only reason as to why the late lamented D.J.V. Hamilton-Miller rejected being made a referee was wholly due to his very frail back, the burden of which virtually put a stop to his performing in that capacity.

To suggest, however, as has actually appeared in print, that it was a "ploy" to preserve, the more readily, concentration upon his own game in competitive croquet, is a myth which should be dismissed as a total travesty of the truth.

Noel O. Hicks
Peterborough.

Wanted: Unmilled Balls

Dear Sir,

Colchester Croquet Club has two sets of the unmilled balls which Jaques produced some few seasons ago. Sadly we are unable to use them as both sets are missing the blue ball.

Can anyone anywhere offer us an unmilled blue croquet ball, or alternatively would any club be interested in our yellow, red and black?

Pat Hetherington
Colchester.



... and Short Croquet being played in the Pavilion Gardens at Buxton

The TPO

Dear Sir,

Leslie Riggall in his letter in Issue No. 179 says that the TPO is a tactical error. I hope that this does not become Riggall's Second Law! I should like to redress the balance by suggesting that at certain times the TPO is a tactical necessity. I am principally concerned with A Class play, but I should mention that just such a time was the occasion of the handicap doubles game referred to in Leslie Riggall's letter.

That seems self evident to me, but just in case you nodded in agreement with his assessment of "suicidal manoeuvre", I would ask you to think of the number of breaks you have ever seen made in a handicap doubles game, and hopefully you will realise that the number of balls on the lawn does not matter. What is far more important is the immense advantage to be gained by leaving the higher bisqued opponent stranded.

Turning to A Class play, I would like to suggest that the TPO is needed when playing a strong opponent. With your opponent already round to 4-back you should always bear in mind that he is just one hit away from winning, while there are four balls on the lawn. If you can manage the TPO then he will have to hit in and keep hitting in if you play the 3-ball game properly. Of course, if you are the type of player who throws a party every time he makes a peel, then you should probably be content to plod round to 4-back. If, however, you are the type of player who expects to finish in the "next turn" which Leslie Riggall very generously gives you, then I think you ought to attempt the TPO.

I should stress that this is only my opinion, so I do not expect to hear, or read, any references to Aiton's Law in the future! However, if you are a good A Class player and I happen to see you lose after not attempting a TPO, then although I might say "bad luck" I'll be thinking "bad tactics".

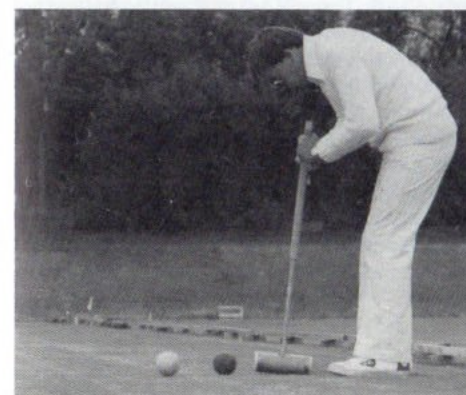
Keith M.H. Aiton
Nottingham.

Schools Tournament

Dear Sir,

May I congratulate the CA on the concept of the Inter-Schools competition. I would never have believed it possible, but croquet has caused quite a stir at Queen Elizabeth's, even though we have nowhere to play properly, and has produced at least one committed player who began in April and whom we will be seeing in the handicap events in the Northerns next month!

May I make a few observations on the format of the Inter-Schools? First the idea of allowing a former pupil to play, that was mooted last year, would not really be in the spirit of the competition: perhaps a member of staff OR a former pupil...



Andrew Bennet

Secondly, although I know it is difficult to rank or seed the players if there are no official handicaps, it might be useful to require team captains to present their players in order of strength. Thirdly, what about giving team captains the option to agree to play full-bisque games? If neither team understands bisques, this need not cause any complications, but if they do, it would encourage the making of breaks. At the beginner level, games without bisques can last a very long time and do not give the participants a true idea of the game. We played full bisques in a friendly I arranged against King's Chester, and it led to a much better game.

I should also like to say how much I approve of the new-look Gazette and, in response to your appeal for sub-editors, offer my services.

Andrew Bennet
Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School,
Blackburn

Is Croquet Dangerous?

Dear Sir,

In a recent bar discussion, when it was discovered that several members of the group had given up tennis, rugby and other games because of injury, our conversation turned to injuries in croquet.

Only one person could recall hearing of a serious injury, when a player was so frustrated by a bad shot, he threw his mallet into the air. The mallet landed on his nose, breaking it.

I wonder if anybody else recalls any incidents resulting in injury in this most gentle of sports?

Kevin Carter
Beenham, Berks.

The Clousseau Club

Dear Sir,

The Clousseau Club is intended to fulfill for Durham University the role played by the Reckitt and Henley Clubs for Oxford and Cambridge Universities. Membership is open to any former or present students at the University of Durham (including King's College, Newcastle) at a subscription of £5 per annum or £40 for life.

The Club will issue an annual magazine to all members, arrange social gatherings and matches with other clubs, as well as the usual notifications of General Meetings.

The main aim of the Club is to promote the playing of Association Croquet, both for sport and recreation at the University of Durham and amongst Club members. I sincerely hope all eligible will take out subscriptions to the Clousseau Club. The Secretary is Ian Sims, St Aidan's College, University of Durham, Durham DH1 3LJ.

Paul Hetherington
Durham University.



Croquet at Durham on Palace Green in front of the Cathedral

Publications from Headquarters

Laws & Regulations The full Laws of Association and Golf Croquet, and the Regulations for tournament play. Price: £2.00 (£2.00) P&P 17p

Basic Laws Gives all the Laws necessary for beginners. Price: 50p (£1.00) P&P 13p

Commentary on Laws by Col. Prichard. Explains and amplifies the Laws. Price: £1.00 (£2.00) P&P 50p

"Know the Game. Croquet" Straightforward guidance on how to play the game. Price: £1.00 (£1.25) P&P 24p

"Croquet" by John Solomon. Fully comprehensive book on all aspects of the game. Reprinted in 1983 by public demand. Price: £5.00 (£6.00) P&P £1.20

"History of Croquet" by Col. Prichard. A well illustrated, complete and interesting book on the history of the game. Price: £6.00 (£8.50) P&P £1.20

Twelve Hints for Beginners A useful booklet for beginners. Price: 60p (£1.00) P&P 13p

CA Directory (1985) Complete list of names and addresses of Associates and Registered Clubs. Free to all Registered Clubs. Extra copies supplied on request. Price: £3.00 (£25.00) P&P 40p

CA Fixtures Book (1985) Full details of all tournaments and events for the season. Free to all full Associates and Registered Clubs. Extra copies supplied on request. Price: £1.50 (£3.00) P&P 40p

CA Handbook with amendments to date. Gives Officers, Rules, Trophies and Winners, etc. Price: 25p (-) P&P 20p

Your letters

Putting some zip into Croquet!

Dear Sir,

As someone who is unfortunately to be deprived of croquet for the first couple of months of the season, being in France (and they think they're civilised!), I took to thinking - a dangerous enough pursuit in itself - and hearing of the USCA tour this month, I came up with this possible, though improbable, solution to the question of television coverage.

The Americans have another game which resembles croquet in that it has an immense amount of standing about followed by exciting action, and that is American football.

What is important about American football is the way it is made into good television.

Imagine how lively a broadcast could be made by regaling the audience with all those useless statistics you get on American football broadcasts. For example, wouldn't it be useful to know what Ian Vincent's chances of making a roquet at varying distances are? Or of running hoops at awkward angles? (having earned himself the silent reproach for not getting into a good position with his approach shot). Or how much better or worse he plays after having garlic bread for lunch? Or even the loss of accuracy when rain gets on to his glasses? And maybe a "chalkboard" could be used on the replay to show what went wrong with the triple peel, with super-imposed arrows doing what the group in the pavilion steps have been doing for years, playing the shot perfectly.

The inter-club competitions could be enhanced if clubs adopted nicknames like Nottingham Outlaws, Bowdon Bombers, Southport Seagulls, etc. Perhaps even American football's use of players for specific jobs could be adapted, with the introduction of the hitting-in team, the rolling team, the hoop running team, etc.



"Nottingham Outlaws" Ian Vincent!

The alternative to this jazzing up of the game to make more of a television spectacle would be to have a radio test match special style commentary, with John Arlott telling the eager audience that even in long grass a roll is far less bother than a take-off, or Brian Johnson chattering about the pleasures of the tea interval and asking for comments on the game on lawn 5 from someone who just started eating a cake. And imagine what pleasure they'll get at Nottingham in describing the small boys jumping over the stream or admiring the rhododendrons.

Perhaps it's a little early to worry about how the programmes should be presented. If croquet gets on to television, we might even be able to persuade the French to take it up.
John Death
Redhill, Surrey.

Development

Applications Requested for Grants and Loans

Through the generosity of the Sports Council and our four sponsors, we have been able to provide a fund of £5,000 in the P & D budget for allocation to development projects.

This sum is not very large when the number of possible projects is considered, and we recognise that at best it can only be used for "pump-priming" activities to attract Grants or Loans from elsewhere.

To try to ensure a fair allocation of the fund, the P & D Committee has drawn up criteria for awarding Grants and Loans from its budget, and these criteria are given on this page.

Some of the money available this year has already been allocated, but Paul Stoker, Chairman of P & D, would like to receive applications for Grants and Loans from Clubs and Federations to cover the period September 1985 to December 1986.

To enable these requests to be considered at the next P & D meeting, all applications should reach him by 5th October, or as soon as possible thereafter.

Each application should contain a clear statement of the purpose for which the money is to be used, and a budget summary showing how the proposed project is to be financed. Particular emphasis should be placed on demonstrating how the project meets the Criteria laid down for Grants & Loans.

CRITERIA FOR AWARDING GRANTS & LOANS FROM P & D BUDGET

1. Development that qualifies for aid:

(a) Grants and Loans may be made primarily for capital projects that will result in new facilities. In addition, Loans may be made for the extension of existing facilities.

A combination of Loan and Grant may be made for any qualifying project.

No Grants or Loans will be made for maintenance or renewal purposes except in very special circumstances.

(b) No Grant or Loan will be offered to a single lawn club, or a new club being formed, unless the club committee or potential members can demonstrate a feasible plan that would enable the club to expand to at least 2 lawns within 3 years from the date of the application.

2. Conditions:

(a) Funds will only be allocated to organisations that have been successful in raising finance, a significant proportion of which must have been contributed by the members themselves.

(b) The CA must have seen and have continuing access to the club's accounts whilst the Grant-aided work is being implemented, or the Loan is outstanding.

(c) Repayment of any Loan over £500 and any interest thereon must be personally guaranteed by individual members of the organisation concerned, with no individual being responsible for more than 20% of the loan or £200, whichever is the smaller.

3. Priorities:

(a) Top priority will be given to funding the provision of new playing facilities.

(b) Within this constraint, priority will be given to:

1. Items in the Forward Plan.
2. Projects that will provide new income (membership) to the CA.
3. "Pump-priming" Grants that will result in major sums being donated from elsewhere.
4. Loans to assist new registered clubs.

4. Repayment of Loans:

(a) Loans will normally be repaid by annual instalments.

(b) In exceptional cases:

1. Repayments might be dependent on the additional number of members recruited to the CA as a result of the Loan.
2. The first instalment of the repayment of the Loan may be delayed for up to 3 years at the discretion of the P & D Committee.
3. The Loan may be interest free.

5. CA Administration:

(a) Guidelines for the allocation of Development Grants and Loans will be approved from time to time by the P & D Committee. Within these guidelines the Development Officer will recommend all Grants and Loans up to £1000, formal approval of which will be given by the Chairman of the P & D Committee.

(b) Grant and Loan applications will be discussed with the relevant Federation before any offer is made. Development work funded by the CA will be supervised by the Development Officer with the help of the local Federation if one exists.

Grants & Loans already made

Grants

Surbiton Croquet Club	£1000
East Midlands Development	£ 250
Eastern Region Development	£ 400
West Midlands Development	£ 500
Himley Croquet Club	£ 500
Southwick Croquet Club	£ 600

Loans

Surbiton Croquet Club	£ 500
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As Others See Us . . .

"The Times" Sporting Diary,
by Simon Barnes: June 1985

"As the Croquet Home International Tournament swings into full-blooded action at Budleigh Salterton this weekend, so the Croquet Association continues its revolution. No longer does the guardian of Association croquet regard the coarse croquet player of the suburban gardens as a pariah. In former times, proper croquet players have been rather over-determined to emphasise the divide between their own genuinely fascinating game and those of the hoi-polloi. But now the association is not only trying to encourage the back-garden players, it has devised a game especially for them: short croquet: a compromise between the proper game and the space available in people's back gardens.

Croquet has had several flirtations with television, which so far have come to nothing. But, with the association's new-found practicality and abandonment of elitism, the possibilities remain alive and in the heart of the Croquet Association the dream lingers that croquet will once more be the sport that has the power to enthral a nation."

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Telephone Chippenham 654319

Bristol Open Weekend: 17th-19th May

Whilst lacking the star names from last year's inaugural event, the second Bristol Open Weekend, held under the sponsorship of Hoddell Pritchard, proved a refreshing antidote to the FA Cup Final.

The top two blocks were won by Jerry Guest and David Peterson, both winning all their games. They were joined in the play-off by Nick Hyne and Dayal Gunasekera. David and Nick provided a semi-final highlighted by a series of improbable undertakings from David, whose failed sextuple on the opponent was converted to an attempted quadruple a couple of turns later. At several stages, he seemed to be scoring more points for his opponent than for himself, though he did run Hoop 6 from a position next to 5. Nick's slightly more orthodox approach enabled him to capitalise on several failed hoops to win by 7.

The second semi-final was being double-banked on the same lawn, but there was more interaction between the games than Jerry Guest might have liked. Already well behind Dayal, for whom a straight triple had come adrift, Jerry pulled a break together with Black, only to roquet White - true, it was a better placed pivot. He said he's never



Dayal Gunasekera wins Bristol Open Weekend

done it before! Alas this incident rather encapsulated Jerry's fortune in this game.

Meanwhile, Dayal was beginning to play with the elegance and control of which he is capable. He gave Nick little opportunity in the final. He took Red to 4-back on the fifth turn. Nick missed the lift but hit Hoop 4. Dayal's triple failed at 1-back (one peel done), which he ran after Nick missed a 12-yarder, and then cornered. Nick now took croquet for the first time, but as is the way of life, took-off short to Dayal's corner ball and missed the 8-foot roquet. Dayal finished in two turns.

The third place play-off provided consolation for Jerry who beat David convincingly.

Bristol is a very friendly club, the catering was splendid, and it boasts that variation of croquet played on Lawn 3. This is an entertaining but different game as the balls leap around in a way which would have thrilled Barnes Wallis. John McCullough's excellent management was interspersed with lectures on "deadness", but those who weren't paying attention at Southwick might have got lost. Thanks to him and all at the Club for a very good weekend.

P.S. Dayal's victory (unlike Manchester United's) did qualify him for a place in Europe - Holland, I believe.

P.L. SMITH

Club News and Tournament Results (5)

RESULTS

Bristol 18/19 May

Level Singles (Advanced Play)

BLOCK A:

4 wins: J.E. Guest +49;
3 wins: N.G. Hyne +21;
2 wins: F.I. Maugham +9;
1 win: P.M. Johnson -33;
0 wins: R.M. Allim -46

BLOCK B:

4 wins: D. Peterson +45;
3 wins: D.L. Gunasekera +33;
2 wins: P.L. Smith +3;
1 win: J.R. Hilditch -19;
0 wins: J.O. Walters -62

Play-Off:

Semi-finals: Hyne bt Peterson +7;
Gunasekera bt Guest +17;
3rd Place: Guest bt Peterson +19;
Final: Gunasekera bt Hyne +26

BLOCK C:

4 wins: B.J. Storey +26;
2 wins: J.R. Mann +17; D.J. Goacher -13;
1 win: B.G. Hallam -13; R. Race -17

BLOCK D:

4 wins: Dr M. Elder +36;
3 wins: D.R.T. Ruscombe-King +19;
2 wins: Major T.W. de M. Jeffrey -16;
1 win: R.W. Ransom -16;
0 wins: Mrs F. Ransom -23

Cheltenham, 25th-27th May

It is four years since I relinquished my membership of Cheltenham Croquet Club and it was therefore particularly pleasing to be back and competing with old friends.

Though my experience of croquet clubs is limited, there cannot be many over which such an atmosphere of calm reigns. Whether this is due to the members, the age of the club or its size, I do not know but it always has a most therapeutic effect.

The first day of the tournament dawned clear and warm, and play commenced promptly, despite entrants from as far afield as Worcester, Edgbaston, Bristol, Bath, Stourbridge, Reading, Nailsea, and South Africa. Dr Gary Gulligan had actually stepped off the plane that morning, caught a coach to Cheltenham and walked straight on to the lawns. He then proceeded to vanquish his opposition - obviously well rested after only 2 hours sleep the previous night.

Day 2 started warmly and ended wetly. At least it was warm rain. The play that day (and over the whole tournament really) was fairly average and at one point the discussion centred on what the bright green bushes were that bordered the lawns. No one seemed to know, and it reminded me of Colonel Wheeler - a marvellous character and supporter of the club who spent so many hours working on the shrubs and borders. No doubt he would have solved our problem. I am sure he is missed.

Day 3 proved still worse than Day 2, with unremitting rain throughout the day. Some responded by donning huge and multi-coloured hats, but Liz Neal's solution was to pour more sand down her mallet's hollow shaft. (Now we know why Professor Neal designed them thus).

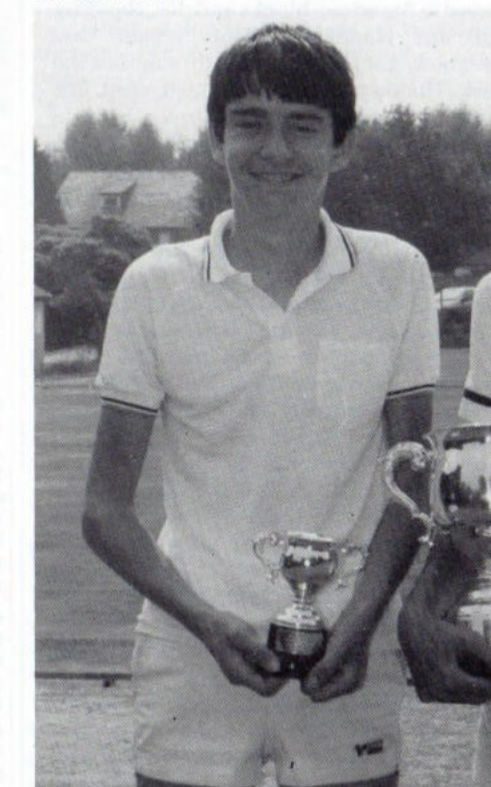
Not content with managing the entire tournament with characteristic Cheltenham efficiency, Betty Weitz also played in it. Bernard Weitz denied having had anything to do with it in case he got mentioned - hard luck Bernard.

Thanks should go on behalf of us all to

those who were kind enough to make lunch and tea, and to those who (were) volunteered to push the coffee trolley round.

Finally; how nice to see the odd pair of opponents shaking hands. I have never understood the rationale for this peculiarly un-English tradition at Cheltenham.

SIMON CLAY



John Mann: Block winner at Cheltenham

RESULTS

Cheltenham, 25th-27th May Handicap Singles

BLOCK A:

6 wins: F.I. Maugham (2);
5 wins: M. Jackson (6);
3 wins: T. Vale (4);
2 wins: Dr D. Gagan (12) +20, Mrs M. Langley (8) -35;
Mrs R.F. Wheeler (3) -46;
1 win: Miss I.M. Roe (6½)

BLOCK B:

5 wins: J. Mann (3½) +83, Dr G.A. Gulligan (2) +20;
3 wins: Mrs M.J. Finn (13) +22, D. Clay (7) +9, P.M. Johnson (½) -21;
2 wins: Mrs T. Vale (8);
0 wins: Dr R.F. Wheeler (4)

BLOCK C:

5 wins: Mrs M. Warren (7);
4 wins: Dr B.G.F. Weitz (½), M.J. Finn (6), K.J. Hawkes (15);
2 wins: J. Potter (2½) -10; Major T.W. Jeffrey (7½);
0 wins: Mrs K.M.O. Wheeler

BLOCK D:

5 wins: P. Leach (7½);
4 wins: G.W.R. Goodwin (6), P. Darby (7);
3 wins: Mrs H. Handley (4), C. Snowdon (2½);
2 wins: L. Wharrad (1);
0 wins: Mrs E. Weitz (3½) -81

BLOCK E:

6 wins: S. Clay (3);
4 wins: G.V. Johnson (4);
3 wins: Mrs K. Whittall (15) 0, Mrs B.G. Neal (5) -27,
Mrs B. Harris (5)/Mrs E. Paish (14);
2 wins: J. Exell (6);
0 wins: Mrs K. Yeoman (4)

BLOCK F:

5 wins: J. Wurml (1½);
4 wins: Lady Bazley (4);
3 wins: K. Carter (6) +9, Gt Capt R.S. Ryan (7) +4,
Mrs C. Smith (3) -12;
2 wins: Mrs R. Gagan (10);
1 win: Mrs M.W. Harris (9)

11th June 1985

Club News and Tournament Results (6)

Parkstone: 3rd-8th June

The Tournament opened on Monday morning with blue skies and a hot sun. The weather did deteriorate during the middle part of the week but this did nothing to dampen the spirits or enthusiasm of those taking part. All three class events were played in American blocks and this, together with the Handicap events meant that everybody got plenty of play throughout the week. Thanks to excellent management, fine lawns and expedient play, the programme of matches was completed well to time and an extra handicap event was organised for those players who would otherwise have been mainly spectating.

The doubles started on Tuesday morning and it quickly became apparent that the pairing of Bobby and David Wiggins would be very difficult to beat. They reached the final on Friday morning without being unduly troubled to meet Les Butler and Cecil Weldon. David rapidly got his ball to 4-back, Bobby followed to rover and they ran out comfortable winners. Cecil had some consolation in the afternoon by winning the 'C' Class event, remaining unbeaten and showing great coolness in some close games.

The Wiggins family had a further success on the Saturday when Susan won the 'A' Class event which she had dominated throughout, beating John McMordie in the play-off. John had done well to reach the final in a fiercely contested block, putting out several players with much lower handicaps. The 'A' Class event also produced the shot of the week in the game between William Ormerod and Allen Parker. William attempted a straight triple, achieving the first two peels but failing a speculative cannon at rover before pegging out the forward ball. Allen got both balls to the peg and laid up behind rover, wired from William's ball on the North boundary. William then took the only shot open to him and ran rover with control to win the game in style, much to the amazement of those who had stayed late on Friday.

Saturday morning saw the return of warmer weather and started with the X Handicap final between Frank Shergold and Jeaffreson Greswell, both of whom had had good wins to get to the final. However, Frank, who had come close to winning the event on previous occasions, was in a determined mood to emerge the delighted winner. The 'B' Class level singles was won by Kay Yeoman who played steadily through out the week and beat an out of touch Mike Wilkins in the play-off. Mike recovered his form somewhat in the afternoon to take the Y Handicap against Beryl Saunders.

Thanks are due to William Ormerod, ably assisted by Margaret McMordie, to all the officials for running the events so efficiently and finally to the lady members who once again surpassed themselves in the provision of refreshments, contriving to make it a most enjoyable and friendly tournament.

MIKE WILKINS



Tyneside Croquet Club – still unbeaten at the end of June! (L to R) Syd Jones, Jim Taggart, Derek Trotman and Brian Thompson

RESULTS

Parkstone, 3rd-8th June

Open Singles

BLOCK 1:

3 wins: Dr J.A. McMordie +37, Dr W.R.D. Wiggins +34, F.L. Shephard +8;

1 win: L.S. Butler;

0 wins: Col E.L.L. Vulliamy

BLOCK 2:

4 wins: Mrs W.R.D. Wiggins;

3 wins: Dr W.P. Ormerod;

2 wins: Dr C.A. Parker;

1 win: B.P. Whitehouse;

0 wins: R.H.C. Carder

Play-Off:

Mrs Wiggins bt Dr McMordie +19

Open Singles: 4-8 Bisesques

BLOCK 1:

3 wins: Mrs K.G. Yeoman;

1 win: Air Cdre J.H. Greswell +21, Miss P.E. Parker -13;

0 wins: Mrs S.S. Cruden

BLOCK 2:

4 wins: M.J. Wilkins;

3 wins: D.C.D. Wiggins;

2 wins: P.J. Shephard;

1 win: Mrs B.R. Saunders;

0 wins: Miss A.R. Robertson

Play-Off:

Mrs Yeoman bt M.J. Wilkins +14

Handicap Singles: 9 Bisesques and Over

4 wins: G.C.H. Weldon (10);

2 wins: Mrs C.W. Marshall (10) 0, Mrs C.A. Parker (10) -13;

1 win: Mrs M.E. Rumsey (14) -17, Dr C.W. Marshall (11) -18

Cripps Memorial Cup: Handicap – Singles

1st Round:

Miss S. Cruden (8) bt Miss A.R. Robertson (8) +10; L.S. Butler (1/2) bt Mrs C.W. Marshall (10) +3; Dr J.A. McMordie (3) bt Mrs M.E. Rumsey (14) +19; Mrs W.R.D. Wiggins (0) bt P.J. Shephard (4 1/2) +7; Mrs K.G. Yeoman (4) bt Mrs C.A. Parker (10) +1(T); R.H.C. Carder (3 1/2) bt Col E.L.L. Vulliamy (3) +12

2nd Round:

Dr W.R.D. Wiggins (1/2) bt M.J. Wilkins (4) +12; Air Cdre J.H. Greswell (4) bt G.C.H. Weldon (10) +12; Dr C.A. Parker (1 1/2) bt Mrs Cruden +11; McMordie bt Butler +24; Mrs Wiggins bt Mrs Yeoman +18; B.P. Whitehouse (3 1/2) bt Carder +20; F.L. Shergold (1 1/2) bt Mrs B.R. Saunders (8) +22; D.C.D. Wiggins (7 1/2) bt Miss P.E. Parker (4) +9

3rd Round:

Greswell bt W.R.D. Wiggins +4; Parker bt McMordie; Mrs Wiggins bt Whitehouse +18; Shergold bt D.C.D. Wiggins +3

Semi-Finals:

Greswell bt Parker +11; Shergold bt Mrs Wiggins +26

Final:

Shergold bt Greswell +21

"Y" Final:

Wilkins bt Mrs Saunders +16

Summer Doubles Cups: Handicap – Doubles

1st Round:

M.J. Wilkins & Mrs C.W. Marshall (13) bt B.P. Whitehouse & Mrs K.G. Yeoman (8) +15; Dr W.R.D. & D.C.D. Wiggins (8) bt Mrs S. Cruden & Dr C.W. Marshall (19) +15; F.L. Shergold & Mrs B.R. Saunders (9 1/2) bt Mrs N.A.C. McMillan & Mrs E. Wilton (17) +9; Dr J.A. McMordie & Miss P.E. Parker (7) bt Mrs E. Asa-Thomas & P.J. Shephard +15

2nd Round:

Dr & Mrs C.A. Parker (11 1/2) bt Air Cdre J.H. Greswell & Miss A.R. Robertson +1(T); Wiggins & Wiggins bt Wilkins & Mrs Marshall +9; McMordie & Miss Parker bt Shergold & Mrs Saunders +14; L.S. Butler & G.C.H. Weldon (10 1/2) bt R.H.C. Carder & Mrs M.E. Rumsey (17 1/2) +9

Semi-Finals:

Wiggins & Wiggins bt Dr & Mrs Parker +17; Butler & Weldon bt McMordie & Miss Parker +8

Final:

Wiggins & Wiggins bt Butler & Weldon +11

Roehampton, 3rd-8th June

Colin Southern wins Ranelagh Gold Cup

Ranelagh Gold Cup:

Open Singles – Advanced Play

DRAW:

1st Round:

M.G. Pearson bt R.A. Godby +3; N.G. Hyne bt S.S. Townsend +16; F.H. Newman bt J. Haigh +3(T)

2nd Round:

J.E. Guest bt I.P.M. Macdonald +22; Hyne bt Pearson +25; J.D. Greenwood bt Newman +10; C. Southern bt A.V. Camroux +9

Semi-Finals:

Hyne bt Guest +24; Southern bt Greenwood

Final:

Hyne bt Southern +16

PROCESS

1st Round:

Greenwood bt Guest +2; Camroux bt Pearson +11; Southern bt Macdonald +17

2nd Round:

Greenwood bt Townsend +17; Camroux bt Newman +18; Southern bt Hyne +5; Haigh bt Godby +22

Semi-Finals:

Greenwood bt Camroux +26; Southern bt Haigh +15

Final:

Southern bt Greenwood +7

Play-Off:

Southern bt Hyne +1

Brooke Cup: Level Singles, 4 bisesques & over

DRAW:

1st Round:

Miss B. Duthie bt M.J.B. Haggerston +10; Mrs B. Mansfield bt Mrs I.P.M. Macdonald +11; Mrs F.H. Newman bt D. Jesson-Dibley +24

Semi-Finals:

Mrs E.E. Bressey bt Miss Duthie +11; Mrs Newman bt Mrs Mansfield +17

Final:

Mrs Newman bt Mrs Bressey +4

PROCESS:

1st Round:

Mrs Macdonald bt Mrs Bressey +11; Miss Duthie bt Jesson-Dibley +13; Haggerston bt Mrs Newman +7

Semi-Finals:

Mrs Macdonald bt Miss Duthie +4; Haggerston bt Mrs Mansfield +1

Final:

Haggerston bt Mrs Macdonald +6

Play-Off:

Haggerston bt Mrs Newman +20

Thorpe Cup: Handicap Singles, 9 bisesques & over

2 wins:

Mrs E. Grant (10)

1 win: Miss J. Wraith (11)

0 wins: Mrs W.G. Jones (9)

Trevelyan Cup: Handicap Singles

1st Round:

R.A. Godby (3) bt J.E. Guest (1) +8; Mrs E.E. Bressey (5) bt Miss B. Duthie (7) +5(T); J.D. Greenwood (1 1/2) bt Mrs E. Grant (10) +2; Mrs W.G. Jones (9) bt M.G. Pearson (3) (who retired on peg); S.S. Townsend (2 1/2) bt Miss J. Wraith (11) +12; J. Haigh (2 1/2) bt A.V. Camroux (1) +8(T)

2nd Round:

M.J.B. Haggerston (9) bt N.G. Hyne (1) +4; Mrs B. Mansfield (6 1/2) bt F.H. Newman (3) +1(T); Mrs Bressey bt Godby +5(T); Greenwood bt Mrs Jones +9; Townsend bt Haigh +6; Mrs F.H. Newman (4) bt Mrs W.J. Browne (5) (w.o.); I.P.M. Macdonald (3) bt D. Jesson-Dibley (6) +19; Mrs I.P.M. Macdonald (5 1/2) bt C. Southern (1 1/2) +1(T)

3rd Round:

Haggerston bt Mrs Mansfield +19; Greenwood bt Mrs

Bressey +2; Townsend bt Mrs Newman +16; Macdonald bt Mrs Macdonald +5

Semi-Finals:

Haggerston bt Greenwood +3;

Macdonald bt Townsend +19

Final:

Haggerston bt Macdonald +16

Creyke Cups: Handicap Doubles

(Total 4 bisesques & over)

1st Round:

Greenwood & Mrs J. Bonser (8 1/2) bt Southern & Miss Wraith (9 1/2) +10

2nd Round:

Mr & Mrs Newman (7) bt Haigh & Haggerston (10) +1(T); Guest & Mrs Bressey (6) bt Greenwood & Mrs Bonser +5; Godby & Mrs Grant (13) bt Camroux & Mrs Mansfield +16; Hyne & Mrs W.G. Jones (10) bt Mr & Mrs Macdonald +10

Semi-Finals:

Guest & Mrs Bressey bt Mr & Mrs Newman +5; Hyne & Mrs Jones bt Godby & Mrs Grant +3

Final:

Hyne & Mrs Jones bt Guest & Mrs Bressey +6

Hunstanton, 10th-15th June

Nick Hyne wins the Challenge Trophy – John Wood takes the

Gilbey Goblet

A Croquet Tournament is usually associated with blue skies, warm sunshine, the gentle hum of bees and afternoon tea on the terrace overlooking tightly mown lawns upon which figures in dazzling whites perform feats of skill with coloured balls.

The June tournament at Hunstanton could not have been further removed from this idyllic picture.

Most of the time the sky was grey, the wind gale force ten, accompanied by rain and hail, with temperatures constantly around 40 degrees. However, this chilling scene could not dampen the warmth of the welcome and general air of friendly co-operation metered out by all members of the Hunstanton Club.



Nick Hyne, winner of the Challenge Trophy at Hunstanton

The Manager, Sarah Hampson, the catering staff, too numerous to mention, Club officials all played their part in mounting a most successful tournament.

Special mention must be made of those responsible for the immaculate lawns, a feature which enabled play to continue with

a high degree of accuracy even in the most adverse conditions.

Play generally was of a high standard and I am happy to report that the major successes went to the younger element; a sign which bodes well for the future of the game.

Nick Hyne and John Walters each achieved a triple peel.

The Gilbey Goblet event was run to Swiss rules and in the Doubles event, there was an X and Y class; this guaranteed all entrants the maximum number of games over the five day period.

The Stevenson Cup (Handicap 10 and over) did not attract any entries, which is rather surprising having regard to the proximity of other clubs which must have playing potential in this category.

RESULTS

Roehampton Challenge Cup:

Open Singles, Advanced Play

DRAW:

1st Round:

J.W. Wood bt N. Hyne +24; J. Walters bt Miss S. Hampson +10; Mrs J. Neville-Rolfe bt I.P.M. Macdonald +5

Semi-Finals:

J. Haigh bt Wood +24; Walters bt Mrs Neville-Rolfe +13

Final:

Walters bt Wood +13

PROCESS:

1st Round:

Walters bt Haigh +24 (TP); Hyne bt Macdonald +25; Mrs Neville-Rolfe bt Wood +13

Semi-Finals:

Hyne bt Walters +18; Mrs Neville-Rolfe bt Miss Hampson (who retired on the peg)

Final:

Hyne bt Mrs Neville-Rolfe +23

Play-Off:

Hyne bt Walters +7

Council Challenge Cup: Level Singles

(2 1/2 to 6 bisesques)

DRAW:

1st Round:

Mrs J. Hetherington bt R. Gosden +5

Semi-Finals:

K. Campbell bt Mrs I.P.M. Macdonald +13; Mrs Hetherington bt Mrs R. Stanley-Smith +5

Final:

Campbell bt Mrs Hetherington +4(T)

PROCESS:

1st Round:

Mrs Macdonald bt Mrs Stanley-Smith

Semi-Finals:

Campbell bt Mrs Hetherington

Final:

Campbell bt Mrs Macdonald +8

Result:

Outright winner: Campbell

2nd place play-off: Mrs Macdonald bt Mrs Hetherington +5(T)

Reckitt Challenge Cup: Level Singles

(6 1/2 to 9 bisesques)

DRAW:

1st Round:

J. Short bt Miss P. Hampson +18; P. Derryhouse bt Mrs R.A. Gosden +18; H. Barnett bt S. Thomas +1(T)

Semi-Finals:

Mrs P. Derryhouse bt Short +2; Derryhouse bt Barnett +22

Final:

Mrs Derryhouse bt Derryhouse +2

PROCESS:

1st Round:

Mrs Gosden bt Mrs Derryhouse; Miss P. Hampson bt H. Barnett; Short bt Thomas

Semi-Finals:

Mrs Gosden bt Miss P. Hampson

Final:

Short bt Mrs Gosden +17

Club News and Tournament Results (7)

Play-Off:

Short bt Mrs Derryhouse +17

Handicap Doubles (Total 6 bisesques & over)

1st Round:

Mr & Mrs Macdonald (8) bt Mr & Mrs Gosden (12) +4;

Hyne & Short (8) bt Mr & Mrs Derryhouse +17; The Misses Hampson (11 1/2) bt Thomas & Haigh (10 1/2) +16;

Wood & Mrs Stanley-Smith (7 1/2) bt Campbell & Mrs Hetherington (10 1/2) +15

Semi-Finals:

Hyne & Short bt Mr & Mrs Macdonald +8; The Misses Hampson bt Wood & Mrs Stanley-Smith +10

Final:

Hyne & Short bt The Misses Hampson +9

Gilbey Goblet: Handicap Singles

played as a

Home Internationals

England win the Home International Championship

Budleigh Salterton, 15th & 16th June

For the second year running, the Home International Championship was contested by the four "home" nations in the conducive surroundings of the Budleigh Salterton Club. The recent local drought and proper attention to correct hoop setting made playing conditions appropriately testing for competition at this level.

On paper, England fielded arguably the strongest team to appear since the format of the tournament expanded, the immediate question being: would they be as imposing on grass? The formality of the draw did nothing to fuel the seeding debate, as England drew Wales, and Scotland drew Ireland for the third year in succession.

And so to play.

SATURDAY - England v. Wales

The top match featured the return of William Prichard for Wales against Nigel Aspinall. William, showing some signs of rustiness in his croquet strokes, nevertheless reached 4 back first in game 1, but failed to get going after the lift was missed. An exchange of breaks left William for peg and 4 back, and after laying up in corner III several times, he went out. Games 2 and 3 followed the same pattern of Nigel reaching peg and 4 back before spirited recoveries by William eventually failed, in the second game by sticking in an easy penult. An interesting choice of cannon from the east boundary, out of corner IV, fourth ball by peg, faced William in game 2. The simple wafer ensuring a good 3 ball break was rejected in favour of a "sausage" cannon promoting a ball to fifth, while going to the ball in the middle. The argument in favour of this choice presumably being that it makes the triple easier, although given the testing conditions perhaps a "bird in the hand" was the better line of play.



Ray Stevens, who managed the Championship, with the four team captains.

(L to R) Standing: Andrew Hope (Scotland) and Colin Prichard (Wales). Sitting: David Openshaw (England) and John Rose (Ireland). The Crystal Ball Trophy was presented by the sponsors, Frank Cooper Ltd.

Steve Mulliner won a close first game against David Croker by pegging out David's rover with the other ball for sixth. In the second David got going first, only to stick in fourth and not take croquet again. Steve's attempted straight triple failed when the peelee just struggled through 4 back, but the resulting ball in front of rover, ball in front of sixth leave ensured a smooth passage to victory when the lift was missed.

David Openshaw, Eric Solomon and Michael Heap completed a 5-0 victory with straight games wins over Colin Prichard, David Peterson and Robert Prichard respectively.



Members of the International teams lined up for the start

Scotland v. Ireland

The top match in this tie featured Martin Murray for Scotland v. John McCullough, and held added significance in view of the forthcoming rigours of Test Team selection. Martin got off to a flying start, as only Martin can, winning the first game without John taking croquet. This game was first to finish despite starting forty minutes late due to elastic band failure on the Scottish Team Bus. John had his chances in the second, but failure to capitalise on them ended in a relatively easy win for Martin.

An equally intriguing match on board 2 featured Andrew Hope and Colin Irwin, the latter relatively fresh and in high spirits following his win in the Coles. In the first game Andrew responded to Colin's early break to 4 back by reaching peg and 4 back himself. Colin regained the innings when Andrew got stymied after penult when going out on a 2 ball break. Andrew subsequently hit a long shot and good fortune left him joined up when a long return roquet after rover hit the sixth hoop. In the second game, a failed Hope triple led to a two ball ending with Andrew for a 3 back and Colin for peg. Coolness was not the word as Andrew went out on a two ball break.

Keith Aiton eventually triumphed in three games in a full blooded scrap with Gerard Healy. In the match of the Test Team Selectors, Rose and Bond apparently impressed each other, the former winning in straight games. Carl von Schneider provided Ireland's only success by beating Bill Spalding.

SUNDAY - The Final: England v. Scotland

Nigel Aspinall got England off to a good start by winning the first game +26. His first break was finally established by running fourth hard and hitting a ball six feet out of corner IV. This seemed an unnecessary risk in view of the fact that he had missed shorter roquets the day before. Game 2 provided the most interesting croquet of the weekend, for reasons both good and bad. After Martin reached peg (one peel) with his second ball, Nigel hit a short lift shot and employed 1 back tactics: break to 1 back, opponent

cross-wired at second (partner's hoop) and laying up in corner IV. Martin executed a good jump shot, too good as it turned out, since the striker's ball cleared both hoop and partner ball. Nigel went to the peg, peeling partner through 1 back and pegging out Martin's forward ball. He then, to the obvious delight of the less partisan spectators, forgot that contact was due and joined ten yards wide on the West boundary. Martin failed to get a good rush and took position at penult. Nigel joined, Martin ran penult but missed the subsequent shot. Two long shots later, Nigel finished.

A high standard first game between Hope and Mulliner was characterised by much counter hitting of long shots. Steve made the telling break by reaching the peg first with one peel, and went out when Andrew missed the lift. In the second, Steve voluntarily pegged out the forward ball with partner for penult and Andrew for 4 and 4 back. Incorrect tactics by Andrew of failing to leave the yard line, rather than the in-court, ball wired (so Keith Wylie tells me) went unpunished when Steve hit but stuck in penult. Despite Andrew getting in three or four times in the third game, Steve ran out an easy winner +26.

David Openshaw wrapped up overall victory for England by beating Keith Aiton in straight games. On a tricky lawn 8 David wisely adopted the tactic of playing his breaks with two pioneers at each hoop. On at least one occasion however, this was not enough, as he failed sixth after two bad approaches.

Eric Solomon employed his occasional tactic of going to the peg in the first break against Ian Bond. Ian failed to make progress from the contact, and Eric went out after Ian stuck in second on the following turn. Undeterred, Ian supplied Scotland's only win by taking the next two games.

England beat Scotland 4-1 to retain the title.

Ireland v. Wales

Ireland ran out easy winners of the third place play-off, beating Wales 4-1. Superior shooting proved decisive in the only Welsh win by William Prichard over John McCullough.

Finally, a few random impressions. England did prove as good on grass as on paper. The Welsh failed to emulate their relative success of last year, possibly due to the psychological handicap of having to wear the yellow, rather than the red, discs. The standard of play improved significantly on Sunday, once the players adjusted to conditions. The unanimous appreciation by the players of the conditions, support and setting provided by the Budleigh Salterton Club and its members. The grateful thanks of the CA to Frank Coopers for sponsoring the event, even though the purchase of their wares required a trek into town. The Scottish team's appreciation of the valet service provided by the English reserve.

PHIL CORDINGLEY



The Welsh Team: Back (L to R): Richard Hilditch, David Peterson and William Prichard. Front: Robert Prichard, Colin Prichard and David Croker

RESULTS

England beat Wales 5 matches to 0

G.N. Aspinall bt W. de B. Prichard -10, +7, +9
S.N. Mulliner bt D.J. Croker +8, +23
D.K. Openshaw bt C.H. Le Prichard +16, +23
E.W. Solomon bt D. Peterson +19, +17
M.E.W. Heap bt R.D.C. Prichard +17, +13

Scotland beat Ireland 4 matches to 1

M. Murray bt J.R. McCullough +26, +14
A.B. Hope bt C.J. Irwin +17, +1
K.M.H. Aiton bt G.P.N. Healy +12, -15, +7
I.D. Bond bt J. Rose +10, +10
W.M. Spalding lost to C.M. von Schneider -12, -12

England beat Scotland 4 matches to 1

Aspinall bt Murray +26, +2
Mulliner bt Hope +16, -3, +26
Openshaw bt Aiton +20, +18
Solomon lost to Bond +17, -13, -24
Heap bt Spalding +16, +16

Ireland beat Wales 4 matches to 1

McCullough lost to W. Prichard -13, -14
Irwin bt J.R. Hilditch +19, +23
Healy bt Croker +7, +8
Rose bt C. Prichard +3, +16
von Schneider bt Peterson +5, +22

Get Better - Quicker TAKING BISQUES

Setting Up a Break

A. Having Won the Toss

1. You win the toss and put your opponent in. He plays Blue to the 4th corner. You play Red to a point 3 yards South-East of the peg.
2. The most difficult position now is if your opponent plays Black to the second corner.
3. Assume he does. Then you shoot at Blue in the 4th corner with Yellow. Take a bisque if you miss.
4. Now you have to get a ball to the first hoop, and a ball to the second hoop to set up a 4-ball break. Take croquet off Blue, and with the croquet shot, make sure of getting Blue to the first hoop and Yellow as near as you can to Red in the centre.

5. (a) Yellow has a rush on Red to Hoop 2.

Rush Red to Hoop 2, take off to Black in the second corner. Roquet Black, and with your croquet shot, give Yellow a rush on Black towards Hoop 1. Take a second bisque, rush Black between Hoops 1 and 2, take off to Blue at Hoop 1, and you have a 4-ball break.

(b) Yellow has a rush on Red to Hoop 1.

Rush Red south of Hoop 1, then stop shot it to Hoop 2, and give yourself a rush on Blue to Hoop 1. Make Hoop 1, putting Blue beyond Hoop 1 so you can rush it to the centre. Take off from Blue in the centre to Black in the second corner, stop shot Black to Hoop 3, and go to Red at Hoop 2 to make that hoop. You then have your 4-ball break ahead of you.

(c) Yellow has no useful rush on Red

Roquet Red, and roll both balls to Hoop 2. Shoot at Black in the second corner. If you miss, take your second bisque. Put Black near the peg, and send Yellow to Red at the second hoop. Tidy up Red.

Take off to Blue at Hoop 1, and rush it to Hoop 1 before making the hoop. Your 4-ball break is waiting for you.

6. An alternative to 4 above would be to play Blue to the second hoop from the croquet shot in the 4th corner, and send Yellow to Red in the centre. If Yellow gets a rush on Red to Hoop 1, then take it, and you have a 4-ball break after going to Black in the second corner after making Hoop 1. However, if Yellow has no rush on Red to the first hoop, roquet Red, and take off to Black in the second corner. Put Black to Hoop 1, and send Yellow to Blue at Hoop 2. Take a bisque,

Coaching Aids available from Headquarters

CA Coaching Handbook

As well as giving suggested coaching programmes for players at all levels, this 50-page booklet covers recruitment, practice routines; tips for improving play, and the rules of alternative croquet games. A mine of information, gleaned from many players and clubs over the years and a "must" for club coaches. Price: £5.00 (£7.50) P&P 75p.

Coaching Film Strips

Seven coaching film strips and commentary available together on one Video film (VHS or Beta), complete with book containing details of each slide and commentary. Total running time approx. 105

Coaches Corner

and tidy up Blue. Then take off Red, and send Yellow to get a rush on Black to Hoop 1, and you have a 4-ball break.

B. Having Lost the Toss

1. Play your first ball, Red say, to the East boundary, a foot inside the corner. Your opponent then lays his tice with Blue say. You should then play Yellow to a spot on the East boundary level with Hoop 4 to make it as difficult as possible for your opponent to get a break going if he hits his tice with Black on the 4th turn.

2. Suppose he misses, and Black ends up near the second corner. Shoot at Red with Yellow, and hope to hit it, saving a bisque. Your object now is to get Red as near as possible to the first hoop. Split Red to Hoop 1, and Yellow towards Black in the second corner. Shoot at Black, and if you miss, take a bisque. Stop shot Black near to Hoop 2, and shoot at Blue. If you miss, take a bisque, and croquet Blue, having taken care to finish close to it if you missed it on your previous shot. Take off to Red at Hoop 1, getting Blue out a little from the boundary if you can. Make Hoop 1 with Red on the left side of the hoop if possible, and after making the hoop, rush Red across to Blue.

Stop shot Red to the centre, and get a rush on Blue towards Black. Rush Blue to the left of Black at Hoop 2, and then stop shot Blue to Hoop 3, going to Black at Hoop 2, giving yourself a 4-ball break.

3. If your opponent leaves a long tice, and you think he will miss it on the 4th turn, send Yellow a yard to the North of Red on the east boundary. If your opponent then misses his tice and sends Black to the second corner, cut rush Yellow as far as possible into the Court, say near the 4th Hoop. Take off to Black in the second corner, and roquet it. Take off to Blue and roquet Blue. Roll both balls to Hoop 1, hoping to take position with Red. If not successful, go back to Yellow near Hoop 4, to the right of it. Take a bisque, and rush Yellow over near Hoop 2. Take off to Black, and try to get a rush on it to the middle of the court. Roquet Black, and set up a rush if necessary by using another bisque. Rush it to the middle, then take off to Blue at Hoop 1, and you have a 4-ball break.
4. Note that, if your opponent hits his tice, at the end of his break (if he makes one) you will be very unlucky if you do not have a ball on the boundary at which you can shoot firmly, and take a bisque if you miss it. Then work out how, with two or more bisques, you can set up your break.

minutes. Price: £20.00 (includes film, book, and P&P). Please indicate type of film required when ordering.

NCF Coaching Booklets

Booklet 1 "The Coach in Action"
Booklet 2 "The Body in Action"
Booklet 3 "Safety & Injury"
Booklet 4 "Improving Techniques"
Booklet 5 "Mind Over Matter"
Booklet 6 "Planning & Practice"
Price £1.00 (£1.50) P&P 35p per booklet.

Video Films

Various video films on croquet are available on loan. Details on request.

National Championships

Cheltenham, 17th-22nd June

Mary Collin in fine form: Youngest Women's Champion since 1903 Steve Mulliner takes the Men's title

Unseeded, unsponsored and often unsung, this year however, the Men's and Women's Championships were certainly not uninspired. Although the sky remained overcast throughout the week, the 32 stout-hearted doyens of croquet staunchly refused to allow their games to be overshadowed, and finally emerged, whether victor or vanquished, at least unbeaten by the overwhelming, unseen multitude of adversaries which Cheltenham visited upon them.

Monday saw the first of several flying visits by defending champion Stephen Mulliner, on this occasion to play luckless Charles Barlow who had literally flown to be at the event – all the way from South Africa. Having drawn Andrew Hope in the first round of the 1984 Opens, one wonders whether Charles may look to New Zealand or Australia next year – for a more hospitable draw!

The effect of lunch on one's game is a phenomenon which may help or hinder, although often it is not the lunch but the accompanying refreshment which has the most profound impact on a player's ability. For Keith Aiton, in his opening match against John Wheeler, lunch might have caused him to take (or break?) the vows when he returned to the game to discover that the balls had apparently moved, and that he was now conceding a lift. Fortunately there was no need to question either his sanity or the strength of the Club beer, when it was discovered that the double-bankers were the ones to be refused any further service at the bar!

I am assured that the "demon" drink was responsible for neither of the following two incidents – David Foulser sticking in nearly every hoop of a mixed doubles match (it was later discovered that his black ball was so oversized that Paul Daniels wouldn't have been able to get it through), and Eddie Bell completely missing a 10 inch rush to the peg (he hit the subsequent 20 yard shot).



Steve Mulliner: 1985 Men's Champion

Men's quarter-finalists and mixed doubles players, Andrew Hope and David Foulser, managed to free themselves of the tournament by Wednesday afternoon, thus giving substance to the rumour that next year Men's and Women's may be organised as a weekend tournament. Despite their availability the aforementioned pair weren't taking part in the traditional non-croquet sporting activities, which on this occasion were – bowling (from any accessible, and often inaccessible, part of Cheltenham croquet club, to the peg on lawn 8, using Jaques eclipse balls – a good substitute for ordinary bowls) and tennis (in which Jan MacLeod beat the combined might of Nick Hyne and Keith Aiton 6-1 and Stephen Mulliner 7-5).

Earlier this year your reporter saw, for the first time at a croquet tournament, a presentation for "Man of the Match". However, I'm sure that few people would



Mary Collin: 1985 Women's Champion. Husband Andrew examines one of the Gold Caskets that come with the Doubles title!

disagree this week we saw a "Woman of the match". In the Aiton/Collin vs. McCullough/Ransome match, Keith Aiton managed to struggle round from 4th hoop to 1-back with a sextuple leave. Uncharacteristically John McCullough cornered, Mary Collin then proceeded to the peg on a 3-ball break leaving John's ball in the corner, meanwhile having one peel on Keith.

This was merely setting the stage for what must have been both the most talked about match, and the highpoint of the week. In Aiton/Collin vs. Openshaw/MacLeod the game began by the two ladies allowing David Openshaw to fail to progress beyond Hoop 2 before demonstrating their skills. First Mary went to 2-back, then Jan to 4-back. Keith failed to make any showing in this "Battle of the sexes" by missing the lift, but not to be outdone David missed the following 4-yard roquet. Perhaps inspired by a pep-talk with his captain, Keith went to the peg, only to have the 19 yard lift shot hit by Jan who proceeded to Rigall him. After a long, but not completely dour, struggle, Mary is for Rover and David for 4-back. Mary hits and, leaving Jan's ball on the Boundary behind 4-back, rushes David's ball on to the wire of Rover. Unfortunately, a second rush – of blood to the head! – causes her to fail to move David's ball sufficiently to be able to run the hoop, and so she retires despondently to the only place on the lawn that she can see, approximately level with the Peg on the East boundary. David uses his lift to take a wired rush behind 4-back, Keith instructs Mary to shoot for Rover, hoping that she'll miss and end up with a "lurk" on the south boundary. However, Mary has different ideas; she coolly runs Rover and hits the peg to win the game in a blaze of glory.

SHOCK!! HORROR!! In "sleepy" Gloucester croquet club. Finals day saw two unexpected visitors to the club; the new format cliché gazette and a publicity and development meeting – the only event which took longer than the women's final! In

the men's final Stephen Mulliner played well to beat Mark Avery and end the week having dropped only one game – to Phil Cordingley in the semi-final, where he had triples in both other games.

Mark is the youngest ever men's finalist. His good performance here, including a win over David Openshaw, suggests that the future might see him taking a few more records off John Solomon.

After a narrow victory against Sarah Hampson in the semi-final (+1 on time in the third game), Susan Wiggins continued to play well in the Women's final but she couldn't prevent Mary Collin from becoming the youngest winner of the Championship since Lilly Gower, in 1903. Mary also went on to win the mixed doubles with Keith Aiton in a final against Richard Hilditch and Sarah Hampson which, having started at 7.00pm, was thankfully shorter than her previous match!

The ladies also did well in the Du Pre this year, Jan MacLeod having victory just stolen away from her as Keith Aiton caught up to win +1 on time, and Veronica Carlisle marking up two excellent wins over Ian Bond and Richard Hilditch. The play-off, however, was between Martin Murray and David Peterson. The former won after conquering his famous inability to run Hoop 1 on lawn 8, thus breaking David's record of never having lost by 20, and continuing his own record of only ever winning the Men's Championship on even years and the Du Pre on odd years.

Finally, the thanks of all players goes out to Denis Moorcraft for managing, and to the Cheltenham catering team, the excellence of whose meals was proven when a group of burglars broke into the clubhouse one night, left all the booze but stole the next day's lunch.

J.O. WALTERS

RESULTS

THE MEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP: Advanced Play (Best of 3 games)

1st Round:

M.N. Avery bt D.H. Moorcraft +7, +25(TP); A. Berry bt I.D. Bond -4, +3, +5; D.R. Foulser bt N.G. Hyne +7, +4; D. Peterson bt Prof B.G. Neal -15, +8, +19; C.J. Irwin bt R.D.C. Prichard +7, +20; J.R. Hilditch bt W.O. Aldridge +19, +10; D.K. Openshaw bt Dr M. Murray +15, +9; K.M.H. Aiton bt J.A. Wheeler +21, +3; A.B. Hope bt F.I. Maugham +13, +24(TP); J.E. Guest bt P.L. Smith +3, +24; A.J. Collin bt L.S. Butler +13, +17; S.N. Mulliner bt C. Barlow +22, +21(TP); Dr B.G.F. Weitz bt J.O. Walters +25, -20, +3; P. Cordingley bt E. Bell -5, +11, +17; J.R. McCullough bt Dr W.R.D. Wiggins +10, +9; G.C. Roy bt L. Wharrad +14, +26(TP)

2nd Round:

Avery bt Berry +17, +14; Foulser bt Peterson +22, +15; Irwin bt Hilditch +26, +25; Openshaw bt Aiton +6, +26; Hope bt Guest +15, +24; Mulliner bt Collin +7, +8; Cordingley bt Weitz +11, +17; McCullough bt Roy +17, +24

3rd Round:

Avery bt Foulser +3, +17; Openshaw bt Irwin +5, +26; Mulliner bt Hope +12, +24; Cordingley bt Weitz +11, +17

Semi-Finals:

Avery bt Openshaw +17(TP) -3, +26; Mulliner bt Cordingley +25(TP) -1, +26(TP)

Final:

Mulliner bt Avery +10(TP) +26

THE WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP: Advanced Play (Best of 3 games)

1st Round:

Miss S.G. Hampson bt Mrs C.A. Smith +8, -11, +3; Mrs K.M.O. Wheeler bt Mrs K.G. Yeoman +3(T), -8(T), +3(T); Mrs B.G.F. Weitz bt Mrs G.D. Harris -5, +13,

+18; Mrs W.R.D. Wiggins bt Miss J. MacLeod +18, +8; Mrs E.A. Neal bt Mrs D.A. Wheeler +3(T), +4(T); Lady Bazley bt Mrs J. Neville-Rolle +10, +2(T); Mrs P.A. Hague bt Miss F.H. Arkell +3, +3; Mrs M.P. Collin bt Mrs H.B.H. Carlisle +15, +12

2nd Round:

Hampson bt K. Wheeler +6, +9(T); Wiggins bt Weitz +7, +13; Bazley bt Neal +25, +19; Collin bt Hague +4, +12

Semi-Finals:

Wiggins bt Hampson +17, -1, +1(T); Collin bt Bazley +14, +6

Final:

Mrs Collin bt Mrs Wiggins +3, -22, +8

THE MIXED DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIP: Advanced Play

1st Round:

Aiton & Mrs Collin bt Barlow & Mrs D. Wheeler +11; Foulser & Mrs Smith bt Hope & Mrs Hague +1(T); Maugham & Mrs Croker bt P.L. Smith & Mrs Warren +20; Dr & Mrs Wiggins bt Dr Murray & Mrs Yeoman +21

2nd Round:

Wharrad & Lady Bazley bt J.A. Wheeler & Mrs Harris +8(T); Openshaw & Miss MacLeod bt Dr & Mrs Weitz +2; McCullough & Mrs Ransom bt Guest & Mrs Neville-Rolle +6(T); Aiton & Collin bt Foulser & Smith +10; Maugham & Croker bt Dr & Mrs Wiggins +13; Hilditch & Miss S. Hampson bt Moorcraft & Mrs K. Wheeler +18; Prof & Mrs Neal bt Butler & Miss Arkell +12; Bond & Mrs Carlisle bt Mr & Mrs Irwin +2(T)

3rd Round:

Openshaw & MacLeod bt Wharrad & Bazley +23(TP); Aiton & Collin bt McCullough & Ransom +19; Hilditch & Hampson bt Maugham & Croker +21; Bond & Carlisle bt Prof & Mrs Neal +1(T)

Semi-Finals:

Aiton & Collin bt Openshaw & MacLeod +5; Hilditch & Hampson bt Bond & Carlisle +7

Final:

Aiton & Mrs Collin bt Hilditch & Miss Hampson +20

Buxton, 8th-9th June

Competitive croquet returned to Buxton after 30 years at the beginning of June. As part of the launch of the game of Short Croquet, an Open tournament was organised by the Northern Federation. Four half-size lawns were laid out in the attractive Pavilion Gardens adjacent to the Opera House. Three of the lawns were on the immaculate bowling green in front of the historic Old Hall Hotel, with the fourth on an immediately adjacent site, offering an inferior but still reasonable playing surface.

Fifteen players assembled on the first morning with weather more appropriate for March than June. Their handicaps ranged from -1/2 to 16, giving a good spread to test



Richard Hilditch thanks George Potter for making the arrangements...

the handicapping system of the new game. To give everybody the opportunity to work out their own tactics for the new game, Barry Keen organised a Swiss on the first day before the serious stuff started with a single-life knock-out on the Sunday for a Trophy presented by Bass.

On the first day, George Potter from Buxton, playing in his first tournament off 16, showed that if you do not know how difficult croquet is and you do not know how good the top players are, then winning is easy. There was much muttering about handicaps in the bar after the day's play, but the suggestion that George be reduced to 6 was ignored by the handicapper, although a card was produced before play started on the Sunday (dropped to 13!).

In spite of his reduced handicap, George still progressed in style to the semi-final including a victory over the Chairman of the CA according to the locals in the bar at the hotel! (I am not sure what Chris Hudson's views were on his apparent elevation to high rank).

Janet Assheton played consistently well all weekend and thoroughly deserved her place in the final against Richard Hilditch who eventually showed us all that George Potter could be beaten. In getting to the final, Richard had a much closer game than he might have expected against Barry Keen after pegging out one of his balls, with Barry on Hoop 3 with both balls and 2 peels to make. A hampered shot after hoop 5 when going out with his second ball cost Barry the game.

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... whilst the World's Press waits!

In the final, Janet met Richard in full spate and could not prevent him winning the first Short Croquet Open tournament ever played.

In the Swiss, Eddie Bell became the first ever player to peg himself out, thereby losing the game. He still had one more peel to make!

As an aside, readers might be interested in another minority sport which took place on the Sunday afternoon. Some 200 ducks were raced down the stream running through the Gardens. Two heats were held, followed by a final, with a prize of £25 for the winner. With over 100 spectators for this event, compared with a dozen or so for the croquet, it can be seen what the CA is up against in trying to promote our game. (By the way, the ducks were made of plastic, as found in babies' baths.)

BARRY KEEN

I would welcome views and comments on Short Croquet from those who have played it, for publication in "Croquet".

CHRIS HUDSON

Short Croquet

Club News and Tournament Results (8)

Compton, 10th-15th June

RESULTS

Open Singles: Advanced Play

DRAW:

1st Round:

L. Wharrad bt D. Harris +22; Dr W.R.D. Wiggins bt G. Borrett +17; E.C. Tyrwhitt-Drake bt Mrs P. Asa-Thomas +3

Semi-Finals:

Mrs W.R.D. Wiggins bt Wharrad +5; Dr Wiggins bt Tyrwhitt-Drake +26

PROCESS:

1st Round:

Mrs Wiggins bt Borrett +24; Wharrad bt Tyrwhitt-Drake +19; Harris bt Mrs Asa-Thomas +14

Semi-Finals:

Mrs Wiggins bt Wharrad (w.o.); Dr Wiggins bt Harris +5

Final (Lives Married):

Mrs Wiggins bt Dr Wiggins +7

Level Singles: (3½) to 7 bisques

DRAW:

1st Round:

Mrs M. Grout bt Mrs B. Tucker +1; Mrs Tyrwhitt-Drake bt D. Brown +14

Semi-Finals:

Shaw bt Mrs Grout +5; Mrs Tyrwhitt-Drake bt Mrs T. Wills +14

PROCESS:

1st Round:

Shaw bt Mrs Tyrwhitt-Drake +12; Mrs Grout bt Mrs Wills +11

Semi-Finals:

Shaw bt Mrs Tucker +21; Brown bt Mrs Grout +15

(Lives married):

Semi-Final: Mrs Tyrwhitt-Drake bt Brown +8

Final: Shaw bt Mrs Tyrwhitt-Drake +12



Susan Wiggins wins at Compton

Handicap Singles, 7½ bisques & over

DRAW:

1st Round:

Mrs A. Millns (½) bt Mrs B. Salmon (14) +9; J. Kellaway (9) bt E. Salmon (12) +4(T); Mrs M. Vale (8) bt Mrs M. Wharrad (9) +10; Miss B. Dennant (7½) bt Miss D. Harding (12) +5

Semi-Finals:

Kellaway bt Mrs Millns +8;

Mrs Vale bt Miss Dennant +14

PROCESS:

1st Round:

Mrs Wharrad bt Mrs Salmon +22; Kellaway bt Miss Dennant +3; Mrs Vale bt Mrs Millns +14; Miss Harding bt Salmon +10

Semi-Finals:

Mrs Wharrad bt Kellaway +7; Mrs Vale bt Miss Harding +11

(Lives married):

Semi Final: Kellaway bt Mrs Wharrad +4

Final: Mrs Vale bt Kellaway +20

Handicap Singles

1st Round:

J. Kellaway (9) bt Mrs Asa-Thomas (3) +14; Mrs B. Tucker (6) bt Mrs V. Tyrwhitt-Drake (5) +15; Mrs W.R.D. Wiggins (0) bt G. Borrett (2) +4

2nd Round:

Dr W.R.D. Wiggins (½) bt Miss B. Dennant (7½) +10; E.C. Tyrwhitt-Drake (2) bt R. Chappell (4) +18; Mrs M. Grout (6½) bt Miss D. Harding (12) +7; Mrs Tucker bt Kellaway +6(T); Mrs Wiggins bt Mrs T. Wills (5) +13; Mrs M. Wharrad (9) bt D. Harris (1½) +16; Mrs M. Vale (8) bt D. Brown (5) +11; L. Wharrad (1) bt D. Shaw (4½) +10

3rd Round:

Dr Wiggins bt Tyrwhitt-Drake +12; Mrs Grout bt Mrs Tucker +8; Mrs Wiggins bt Mrs Wharrad +23; Mrs Vale bt Wharrad +22

Semi-Finals:

Dr Wiggins bt Mrs Grout +20; Mrs Wiggins bt Mrs Vale +24

Final:

Dr Wiggins bt Mrs Wiggins +13

Kirk-Greene Bowls: Handicap Doubles

1st Round:

Mrs Wiggins & Shaw bt W. Philp & Mrs Wills +19; Mrs Vale & Miss Harding bt Harris & Moody +7

2nd Round:

Mr & Mrs Wharrad bt Mrs Asa-Thomas & Mrs Tucker +24; Mrs Wiggins & Shaw bt Mrs Vale & Miss Harding +15; Mrs Shaw & Borrett bt Mrs Grout & Mrs Millns +2; Mr & Mrs Tyrwhitt-Drake bt Dr Wiggins & Mrs Sinclair +5

Semi-Finals:

Mrs Wiggins & Shaw bt Mr & Mrs Wharrad (scr); Mr & Mrs Tyrwhitt-Drake bt Mrs Shaw & Borrett +5

Final:

Mrs Wiggins & Shaw bt Mr & Mrs Tyrwhitt-Drake +10

Compton Plate: Handicap Singles

1st Round:

Salmon bt Mrs Shaw +1(T); Miss Dennant bt Mrs Asa-Thomas +24; Borrett bt Mrs Wills +8; Harris bt Mrs Salmon +9; Mrs Millns bt Mrs Tucker +4

2nd Round:

Brown bt Salkmon +7; Miss Dennant bt Borrett +24; Harris bt Mrs Millns +13; Chappell bt Miss Harding +6

Semi-Finals:

Brown bt Miss Dennant +1(T); Chappell bt Harris +16

Final:

Brown bt Chappell +6

Bowdon, 14th-16th June

Once again, with a bottomless beer barrel and an interpretation of our own wine lake, players from all parts of the globe flocked to this most prestigious of events. Unfortunately as expected, it clashed with the Home Internationals and the strength of the entry was therefore depleted, but was well compensated by players making their debut in tournament play.

Inevitably the home grown players performed well on lawns which this year had plenty of grass but were quite bumpy in places. The notorious unforgiving tight hoops saw many changes on innings and sweaty finishes but as the competition progressed it became evident that Bill Aldridge was to repeat his performance of being a block winner whilst the other blocks were less easy to predict.

By the end of the competition notable performances had been seen from Mike Elder, Bill Lamb, and Peter Walters who eventually won their respective blocks and also David Maugham (following in his father's footsteps?) and Colin Wild.

15% of games played went to time, undoubtedly synonymous of the number of high bisquers who entered but two thirds of the entry were involved. Is this typical of most handicap tournaments? This did not however, deter five players who had their handicaps reduced and continued their fight

to minus five.

One of the most endearing qualities this cub reporter has always enjoyed about the game is its sportsmanship and seemingly never ending sea of happy faces, old and new, and it was nice to see that this competition upheld this tradition and made it what it was.

I should perhaps mention the weather... but then again, why should I?

BRIAN STOREY



Bill Aldridge keeping his end up at Bowdon

RESULTS

Bowdon Weekend 14th-16th June

Handicap Singles

BLOCK A:

5 wins: W.O. Aldridge (½);

3 wins: Mrs P.M.H. Lewis (12) +31, Mrs B. Sutcliffe (7½) +10;

2 wins: P. Stoker (2½) +7, Mrs E. Taylor-Webb (9) -25;

0 wins: Miss J. Hugall (16)

BLOCK B:

5 wins: Dr M. Elder;

4 wins: C. Wild (11) +37, M.H. Sandler (3½) +14;

3 wins: J.S. Maude (2½) +2, M. Gerrard (11) +20;

2 wins: Mrs L.J. Taylor (12);

0 wins: Mrs C.E. Irwin (6½)

BLOCK C:

5 wins: P.H.L. Walters (12);

4 wins: M. Wilkins (4);

3 wins: R.J. Smith (3½) +7, D. Watkins (16) -4,

S.E. Lewis (0) -24;

2 wins: A.F. Sutcliffe (2½);

1 win: Miss A.E. Dawson (11)

BLOCK D:

6 wins: W.E. Lamb (5½);

5 wins: B.J. Storey (2½);

4 wins: F. Maugham (16);

3 wins: K.M. McCombe (14);

2 wins: Mrs A. Rimmer (15);

1 win: C.B. Sanford (4½);

0 wins: C. Morrison (9)

Obituary: Mrs Nan Zinn

Ipswich and District C.C. record with sadness the loss of Mrs A. (Nan) Zinn who died in June this year. Nan and her sister Edith, who died a short while ago, were well known in East Anglian clubs and will be missed by many.

Nan spent last year with relatives at Hunstanton, but up to then despite eye and leg operations and being of an age that most of us could justifiably sit back and let others do the work, Nan was a regular player and active committee member. Without her work in the fifties and sixties there would probably not be a club at Ipswich.

Thank you Nan.

DON GAUNT

Edgbaston, 21st-23rd June

Edgbaston is an attractive area of Birmingham; it certainly attracted the clouds over this weekend. Various shades of grey appeared over the two and a half days, along with various types of rain - all nasty. The natives became very restless on Sunday morning, when this strange yellow blob appeared in the sky - there was talk of sacrificing one of the managers to appease the gods of rain, but luckily for them, normal weather was quickly resumed.

Ray and Ken Jones did a double act as managers, Ken managing to win the tournament! He was playing with plenty of panache (or was it Blue Stratos?), and demonstrated some of the finer points of well-controlled play. His last two opponents did not even get to take croquet (Ken did point out that he had set the hoops that day). In one of these he managed a fine rush-peel as part of an abortive triple, which was terminated by the inevitable missed roquet.

Given the consistent, perhaps easy state of the lawns, there were few triple peels about. All credit must go to Danny Palmer (current Apps Bowl holder), who completed the only one, his first in a match, despite being the highest handicapped entrant. This was against Ray Jones, Danny having to pick up the delayed triple from very little.

Several others had their attempts; Simon Clay (surely too good for a '3'), had three peels of a quad against Peter West. Tim Harrison had two of the three peels, then produced the customary 'A' class leave of four balls around rover, just a few feet apart.



Martin Kolbuszewski, complete with hat, steers by remote control

Most games were quite quick, only the one between Simon Clay and Martin French came close to a time limit. Simon was ahead, getting to 3-back and 4-back, when he had trouble with the force-field around 3-back; despite several attempted approaches, this was where he stopped. Martin finally got round to peg and rover, and promptly broke down. Ray Jones then imposed the only time limit of the weekend, so Simon and Martin decided they had better finish. Martin got in with the peg ball, so gently sent his partner-ball into the jaws of rover, then pegged-off the other ball. Simon then hit the totally wired ball in rover, from

15 yards! Although regaining the innings, 3-back still eluded him, and Martin hit the next long shot, to finish.

Due to a last minute cancellation, we had to call on the services of A. Bye (first name unknown) to complete the draw. Unfortunately A. Bye was completely out-classed, and all the opponents had easy wins, without croquet being taken. There was thus some surprise when the handicapper failed to increase A. Bye's handicap.

Despite the weather, it was nice to play on the even lawns; the correctly-set hoops were something of a novelty. Don Gaunt was seen to be trying variations on his famous 'stranded giraffe' style, but this did not seem to harm his increasingly-successful play. Martin Kolbuszewski was sporting an unusually restrained hat - he felt his more customary adornments would need guttering, given the weather.

The inner man was satisfied by the excellent lunches provided by the ladies of the club's catering committee (hot soup being essential this June), and a tournament dinner was enjoyed by most contestants at a local Greek restaurant on the Saturday. A good, if damp, time was had by all.

MARTIN FRENCH

RESULTS

Edgbaston, 21st-23rd June

Seven-round Swiss, Advanced Play

7 wins: K.E. Jones;

6 wins: M. French;

5 wins: J.E. Guest;

4 wins: M. Kolbuszewski, D. Palmer, B. Hallam, D. Gaunt;

3 wins: S. Clay, T. Harrison, R. Jones, S. Hare, P. West, R. Race;

2 wins: A.J. Girling;

1 win: R. Wheeler

The National Scene

Inter Club (13 entries)

1st Round:

Bowdon 4 Colworth 1 (1 unfinished)
Cheltenham 4 Woking 1 (2 unplayed)
Worcester bt Colchester (w.o.)

2nd Round:

Roehampton 5 West Park 2
Harrow Oak 4 Bowdon 3
Cheltenham 5 Worcester 2
Nottingham bt Hurlingham (w.o.)

Mary Rose (25 entries)

1st Round:

Worcester 5 Budleigh 2

2nd Round:

Southwick 4 Aldermaston 2 (1 unfinished)
Roehampton 7 Hunstanton 0
Harwell 5 Colworth 2
Cheltenham(1) 4 Worcester 3
West Park 4 Parkstone 3
Hurlingham 5 Compton 2
Southport 5 Ipswich 2

3rd Round:

Roehampton 4 Southwick 3
Bowdon 7 Harwell 0
Cheltenham(1) 6 West Park 1
Southport 5 Hurlingham 2

Longman Cup (45 entries)

1st Round:

Bristol 5 Sidmouth 0 (Correction)
Edinburgh 3 Glasgow 2

2nd Round:

Tyneside 4 Durham University 1
Edinburgh bt Bowdon (w.o.)
Bristol 4 Oxford University 1
Ramsgate 4 Compton 1
Harrow Oak 3 Southwick 2
Roehampton 3 Parsons Green 2
Bretby 3 Colworth 2
Thomas Cook 4 Edgbaston 1
Colchester 3 Ipswich 2

Southport & Birkdale, 25th-28th May

RESULTS

Jubilee Tankard: Handicap Singles

BLOCK A:

4 wins: Miss A.E. Dawson (12) +52, G.K. Collin (3½) +15;

3 wins: J.D. Williamson (5½) +8;

2 wins: C.J. Irwin (-½) -8, Rev P.D. Hallett (1) -21;

0 wins: Mrs D.C. Dennett (13) -45

BLOCK B:

5 wins: Mrs M.P. Collin (2) +80;

4 wins: M. Suter (5½) +17;

2 wins: Mrs C.E. Irwin (6½) +17, Mrs C. Lewis (13) +1;

1 win: Mrs M. Aldridge (15) -31, J.D. Meads (1) -48

BLOCK C:

5 wins: P. Stoker (3) +99;

4 wins: M. Wilkins (4) +25;

3 wins: D. Peterson (½) -18;

2 wins: Mrs I. Moorcraft (10) -29;

1 win: Miss P. Lewis (12) -21;

0 wins: S.C. Naylor (16) -56

BLOCK D:

4 wins: B.J. Storey (2½) +54, W.E. Lamb (5½) +40, D.H. Moorcraft (½) +23;

1 win: Mrs L.J. Taylor (12) -12, Mrs A. Rimmer (15) -36, W.O. Aldridge (1) -69

Play-Off: Mrs Collin bt Miss Dawson +15, Storey bt Stoker +6;

Final: Miss Collin bt Storey +20

Binks Plate: Handicap Swiss

Winner (4 wins): P. Stoker;

3 wins: Dr T.J. Haste (0), J.D. Meads, B.J. Storey

2 wins: G.K. Collin, M. Suter, Mrs C. Lewis, Miss A.E. Dawson, Mrs L.J. Taylor;

1 win: M.J. Wilkins, Mrs A. Rimmer, Miss P. Lewis

All-Time Greats

Lord Tollemache: A giant of the past

Lord Tollemache, who died in 1955, was perhaps one of the most colourful personalities that croquet has ever known. He was a magnificent stroke player when at his best, whose strokes were always beautifully executed and scrupulously "clean". But it is perhaps as a theorist that he will be longest remembered.

Assertive, dogmatic, intolerant and at times perhaps, something even less easy to bear, no-one knew his subject better or was more worth while listening to when he was holding forth upon it. Neither the laws of the game nor the rulings of authority earned much respect from him when they did not commend themselves to his judgment, and he could be a sore trial to Managers. But underneath the surface crust of vehemence and egotism lay a generous and warmhearted disposition, and he was as ever swift to praise as he was to criticise. And even when one differed from – or tired of – his opinions, his passion for the game remained an inspiration.



Lord Tollemache: "Just do it my way!"

Tollemache was one of a number of young players in Cheshire at the turn of the century who used to play on private lawns and on the lawns of the North's own "Hurlingham", the Hooton Park Club. Playing in an Open Doubles in 1910, when he was not yet a first-class player, he created considerable amusement by announcing early on in the game: "I am going to triple peel you and peg you out!" which he duly did, winning the game for himself and his partner.

In the years that followed, he became more and more interested in the game, changed from side to centre play, attained the status of a first-class player, and produced one of the most elaborate and comprehensive books (1) on the game ever written. In it, as was to be expected, he advanced new ideas for the sequence game, dealt with the theory of "side" as applied to croquet, and included two chapters on the "either ball" game, then only a year old.

When the Hooton Park Club came to an end, Tollemache gave his support and interest to the Bowdon Club, during whose annual tournaments he used to entertain large house-parties at Peckforton Castle. His guests, who carried away many happy memories of the occasion, included many of the top players of the day who came to play in the Bowdon

tournament, and he was praised as an excellent host.

After the 1914-18 war, Tollemache was never the same as a player. He still played magnificent strokes, was one of the greatest experts in playing a three-ball break ever seen on a lawn, but he was no longer the confident, formidable first-class player that he had been prior to 1914. Yet as late as 1935 he was third in the President's Cup, and in 1937 won the Doubles Championship with the late Sir Gerald Burke.

During the 1939-45 war, he insisted on staying in his home on the front at Eastbourne when many others had already left for safer places, but although he escaped injury from enemy action, he had a severe operation during the war which took a heavy toll of his strength. After the war, his interest in croquet revived, he wrote another book (2) on the game, and gave a substantial sum to the Victory Fund, ear-marked for the Compton Club, to get it going again. Stepping into the breach, and personally addressing the Eastbourne entertainments Committee, he saved the Devonshire Park Tournament with the help of Lady Tollemache.

He was a strong advocate of the form of Croquet known as the "Clip Game", where the striker may not only play with whichever ball of his side he likes when he starts his turn, but he may also make a break for whichever of his own clips he likes, regardless of the colour of the ball he chooses.

When ill-health prevented him from attending Council meetings, he received the well-deserved honour of being made a Vice-President of the CA. As a contemporary remarked "He had a strong, vigorous personality, and a special gift for putting his ideas over in a manner that made them strike home". This gift is evident in his books, where much use is made of italics. Croquet owes a lot to him.

- (1) "Croquet" by Lord Tollemache. Published 1914 by Stanley Paul & Co., London.
(2) "Modern Croquet: Tips & Practice" by Lord Tollemache. Published by Strange the Printer Ltd, Eastbourne.

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Tel: 0207-542021 (H); 091-477 7242 (O)

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D.K. Openshaw Mrs D.M.C. Prichard



David Openshaw: New Championship Referee

New Referees

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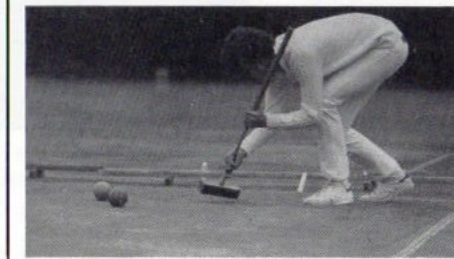
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Handicap Alterations

Wolverhampton Club
Mrs K.F.W. Townsend 12 to 10
Budleigh Salterton, 13th to 18th May
Mrs C. Bagnall 5 to 6½
M. McF. Davis 12 to 11
A.W. Harding 12 to 11
Miss M. Hardman 12 to 11
J.C. Hatherley 8 to 7½
Dr D.R. Laney 3 to 2½
J. McBurnie Wood 11 to 9
F.A. Rowlands 5 to 4½
R.S. Stevens 2 to 3½
Mrs D. Iredale 16 to 15
Mrs S. Legg 13D11 to 12D10

Cheltenham Club
M. Jackson 7 to 6
P. Leach 7½ to 7
Cheltenham: "Coles" 4th to 6th May
C.J. Irwin –½ to –1
M. Avery –½ to –1
Cheltenham: "Peels" 13th to 18th May
C. Duckworth 3 to 2½
Mrs G.D. Harris 6 to 5
Mrs D. Latham 8 to 6½
Mrs E.E. Turtle 16D14 to 15D13
S. Hoole 2 to 3
Wrest Park, 17th to 19th May
T.W. Anderson 2 to 1½
Dr C. van Griethuysen 8 to 7
G.C. McKenzie 10 to 9
W. Wortley 16
Ryde Club
Mrs S.B. Hudson 7½ to 7
H.B. Brownsdon 8 to 7½
Mrs M. Robinson 14 to 12
Hurlingham Club
Mrs A.W. Skempton 9
C. Morpeth 6½ to 6
Southport, 25th to 26th May
Mrs M.P. Collin 2 to 1½
Miss A. Dawson 12 to 11
P. Stoker 3 to 2½
Colchester, 25th to 27th May
D. Gaunt 2 to 1½
J. Williams 10 to 12
Mrs J. Neville-Rolfe 2½ to 3½
J. Haigh 2½ to 3
Woking Club Match
D.C. Wiggins – Before play 9 to 8
After play 8 to 7½
M. Young 12 to 10
Cheltenham, 25th to 27th May
Mrs J.P. Finn 13D11 to 12D10
M. Jackson 6 to 5
P. Leach 7 to 6
J. Mann 3 to 3
Mrs R. Guban (new) 10D8
Oxford University Club
D. Arbuthnott 11
A. Sedcole 11
D. Cohen 7
T. Russell 5½ to 3½
E. Brereton 6 to 5
M. Wormald 8 to 6
Durham University Longman Cup
S. Jones 16
B. Thompson 16 to 15
J. Taggart 16 to 14D13
Nottingham, 31st May to 1st June
C. Waterford 10
Dr F.L. Whittaker 11 to 9
P. Trafford 6 to 5
Parkstone, 2nd to 7th June
Dr J.A. McMordie 3 to 2½
D.C.D. Wiggins 7½ to 6½
G.C.H. Weldon 10 to 9
Parkstone, 6th June
R.F. Bailey 2½ to 2
J.G. Young 8 to 7
National Schools Championship
Ludlow College
N.M.I. Davies 16 to 13
D.J. Thomas 14 to 13
Compton, 10th to 15th June
Mrs T. Vale 8 to 7
Mrs H.G. Wills 5 to 6
Wolverhampton, 12th June
D. Spear 6½ to 6
Handicap Coordination Committee
G.F. Hallet 4½ to 5½
Roehampton, 3rd to 8th June
M.J.B. Haggerston 9 to 7
Carrickmines, 27th May to 5th June
N. Browne 6½ to 5½
J. McAuley 11 to 8
P. Thornton 8 to 7½
S. Williams 5 to 4½
Mrs E. McWeeney 13 to 11D10
Phyllis Court Club
J.E. Jones 11D9
I. Biggs 12D10
Hunstanton, 10th to 15th June
Prof K. Campbell 4½ to 4
J.A. Short 7 to 6

Bowdon, 14th to 16th June
M. Elder 7 to 6
W.E. Lamb 5 to 4½
P. Walters 12 to 10
C. Wild 11 to 9
B.J. Storey 2½ to 2
Wolverhampton v. Ludlow
S. Parker 14 to 11
D. Thomas 15 to 14
Cheltenham: Men's & Women's Championships
Mrs M.R. Collin 1½ to 1
L. Butler ½ to 1
Mrs E. Weitz 3½ to 4
Mrs K.M. Wheeler 3 to 4
Mrs D. Wheeler 3 to 4
Mrs K. Yeoman 4 to 5
Bristol Croquet Club, 29th to 30th June
J.R. Mann 3 to 2
Mrs R. Guban 10 to 9
D. Goacher 5 to 4½
M. Suter 5 to 5½
S. Jos 3 to 4



Mark Avery: Down lower still to –1

Nottingham, 28th to 30th June
B. Hallam 3 to 2½
Miss J. MacLeod 3 to 2½
T.D. Harrison 2½ to 2
R. Blackburn 10 to 9
Ryde, 17th to 22nd June
Mrs D. Erith 14 to 14D12
W. Casey 10 to 11
J.S.F. Thomas 8 to 9
M.A. Holford 2½ to 2
Edgbaston, 21st to 23rd June
D. Palmer 4 to 3½
Budleigh Salterton, 1st to 6th July
Dr C.J. Davey 15 to 12
H.G.T. Bolton 3 to 3½
T.D. Harrison 2 to 1½
J.C. Hatherley 7½ to 7
D. Ireland 15 to 13
Mrs K. Mapstone 5 to 6
D.G. Palmer 3½ to 3
Dr C.A. Parker 1½ to 2½
J.A. Short 6 to 5
J.H.J. Soutter 2 to 3
Mrs M.G. Tompkinson 6½ to 7½
Mrs K. Whittall 13 to 11
Woking, 29th June to 7th May
R.J. Smith 3 to 2½
D.C.D. Wiggins 6½ to 5
Mrs I.G. McDiarmid 9 to 8
B.P. Whitehouse 3½ to 3
Wrest Park, 5th to 7th July
F. Rogerson 2½ to 1½
Colchester, 8th to 13th July
J.G. Williams 12 to 12D10
D. Palmer 3 to 2
A. Gregory 6½ to 4
D. Reeve 11 to 8
R.A. Girling 2 to 1½
S. Cawdell 15 to 14D12
J.G. Williams 12 to 10
N. Carter 10 to 9
P. Elliot 12 to 10
Oxford University Club
E. Brereton 5 to 4
M. Wormald 6 to 5
D. Cohen 8 to 6
Wolverhampton Club
R. Weaver 7 to 6
T. Greenwood 8 to 7
Edgbaston Club
Mrs V. Worsley 9 to 11
R. Harvey 10 to 9
Southwick, 8th to 13th July
F.J. Exell 6 to 5½
J. Laurence 7 to 6½
Miss M.J. Loveys 13 to 12

CA v. Ireland, 8th to 9th July
D. Beatty 9 to 7
Budleigh Salterton Club
G. Iredale 16
T. Brand 16D14 to 14D12
H.J. Crozier 7 to 6½
Mrs S. Legg 13 to 10
J. McBurnie Wood 9 to 7½
R.E.G. Minter 14D12 to 13D11
Mrs K. Willoughby 15D14 to 15D13

New Clubs Registered

Welcome to . . .

St Andrews University Croquet Club
Secretary: Simon Gleeson, c/o Athletic Union, St Andrews University, Fife.

Queen Elizabeth's School, Blackburn
Secretary: Andrew Bennet, 53 Granville Road, Blackburn, Lancs. Tel: 0254-678969

Stonehouse Croquet Club
Plymouth, Devon. Secretary: B.R. Webster, 45 St Michaels Terrace, Stoke, Plymouth, Devon PL1 4DG. Tel: 0752-58582

Wellington Croquet Club Ltd.
Wellington, Somerset. Secretary: Miss E.M.A. Sutton, 6 Homefield, Wellington, Somerset.

Taunton Deane Croquet Club
Secretary: D. Collard, 9 Minster Close, Taunton, Devon. Tel: Taunton 53778

Buxton Croquet Club
The Pavilion Gardens, Buxton. Secretary: George Potter, Old Hall Hotel, Buxton, Derbyshire. Tel: 0298-2841

Himley Croquet Club
Himley Hall, Nr Dudley, Staffs. Secretary: Howard R. Stanley, "Penhelig", Wynne Crescent, Lower Penn, Wolverhampton, WV4 4SW. Tel: 0902 341238



Lawrence Whittaker (left), the Secretary of the new Club at Leicester

Falmouth Croquet Club
Western Terrace, Falmouth, Cornwall. Secretary: J. Hearle, 25 Florence Terrace, Falmouth TR11 3RS

Clousseau Association Croquet Club
Secretary: Ian R. Sims, St Aidan's College, Durham University, Durham, DH1 3LJ

West Sussex Federation of Women's Institutes
Croquet Section Secretary: Miss E.E. Plowright, Pendle Hill, Newhouse Lane, Thakeham, Pulborough, West Sussex RH20 3HQ. Tel: 09066-2473

Leicester Croquet Club
Victoria Park, London Road, Leicester. Secretary: Lawrence Whittaker, 61 Shanklin Drive, Leicester LE2 3QE. Tel: 0533-707396