

THE CROQUET GAZETTE

ISSUE 265

JANUARY 2000

HOT OFF THE PRESS

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A Bibliography

Specialist Books and Pamphlets Complete to 1997

COMPILED BY DAVID DRAZIN

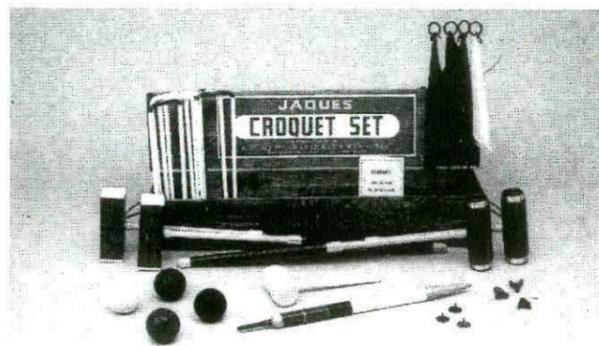


CROQUET
A Bibliography

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DAVID DRAZIN



OAK KNOLL



John Jaques II won a place in sporting history - and a Gold Medal - for introducing croquet into England at the Great Exhibition in 1851. His display there attracted such wide attention that the game speedily became the vogue and over the years developed into the absorbing sport enjoyed by so many world-wide.

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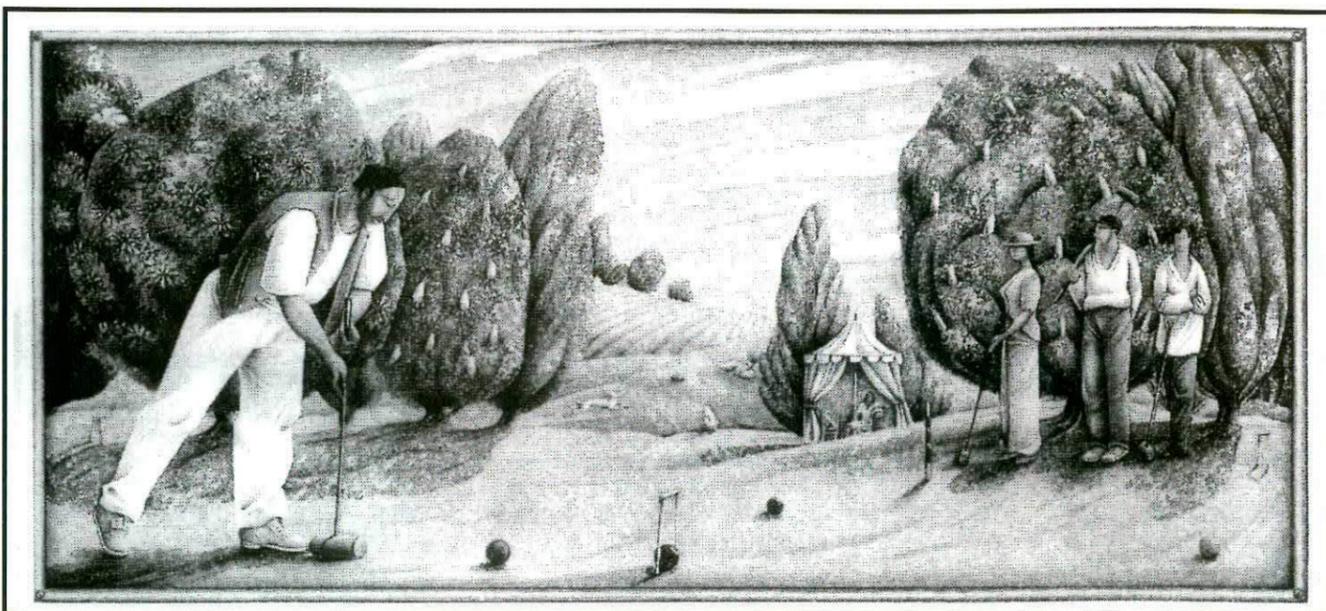
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Publication Details

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Specific Questions & Queries

Specific questions or queries should be sent direct to the relevant CA official, e.g. Laws questions to the chairman of the Laws Committee.

Copy Details

General copy and contributions should be sent direct to the editor. If they are sent on floppy disk please ensure they are in 'text' format. If sent via email please place the contribution in the body of the email, or if an attachment is necessary please ensure that it is in 'text' format. Typed work or clear handwriting is also acceptable. Please note that email contributions should be sent directly to the editor and not posted to the Nottingham list.

Photographs are always required. Both black and white or colour prints can be utilised as well as slides. Please detail on the reverse of all photos the subject of the picture, and if you require the photographs to be returned please include your address on the reverse.

Tournament Results & Reports

Tournament results should be reported on the tournament return sheet. These have been issued in a bid to make the reporting of events and the administration of the rankings easier. Please ensure that the forms are used and that all relevant details are submitted.

Tournament reports should be written and sent to the editor within a maximum of FOURTEEN DAYS of the completion of a tournament. Failure to comply with this guideline will result in reports failing to be published.

Delivery Queries

Queries regarding delivery of the Gazette to members should be directed to the Secretary of the Croquet Association and not to the Editor.

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THE CROQUET GAZETTE



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Front Cover: The cover story - David Drazin finally completes part 1. of his croquet bibliography.

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Disclaimer

The opinions expressed in the Croquet Gazette are those of the editor and contributors. The Croquet association is not responsible for statements other than those clearly defined as being made on behalf of the Croquet Association.

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VISIT THE CROQUET ASSOCIATION WEB SITE @ <http://www.croquet.org.uk/>

EDITORIAL

As I write this the November (better late than never) issue has just been dispatched to the printers, and I already have the January (hopefully back on schedule) issue running around my desk. The croquet season couldn't seem to be further away with snow falling and the howling northerly winds whistling at every door and window. However by the time you receive this issue of the Gazette your thoughts too will be moving in the direction of the new season.

Speaking of things new, the nice people at the Croquet Association have furnished me with a new computer to produce this and future issues of the Gazette. Alas, it is a PC and I do miss my old and very temperamental Mac but my contributors will be relieved to hear that they can now send me files in whatever format they wish. As well as this the advances made in software, evening classes permitting, should liven up the layout.

As I said in the last issue there are to be at least two new regular features in each issue, and hopefully more. Ideally I would like to give all of the regular features their own identity and page so that they can be accessed quickly. There will be a full page dedicated to coaching and coaching matters in each issue to be provided by members of the Coaching Committee. The majority of this material will be repetitions of previously published material - no point in trying to reinvent the wheel. If you have a specific area you would like to be covered get in touch with Bruce Rannie (see contacts page 3) and let him know what you want. We will then do our best to supply it. If on the other hand you have a tip that you wish to pass on to others pass it on to either Bruce or myself for publication.

The second of the new features is to be a physiotherapy/sports injury clinic. Hopefully this will help players to look after any problems they may already have, or even better, prevent them in the first place.

Hopefully the MacRobertson Shield is going well, we may even, technology permitting, have some details in this issue. If not, and you have an internet connection, point your browser to <http://www.croquet.org.nz/macrobotson.html> to keep up to date with the event.

Gail Curry



CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN

This issue's column is a rather sad one, I'm afraid, because over the last few months I have seen or heard of the loss or serious illness of a number of well-known and less well-known croquet players. I am not singling out any particular person because the loss of anyone, famous or not, diminishes us all. There are, I am sure, many ex-players who have played the game in the past and contributed their part to our game, who retired from playing many years ago. They often pass away unnoticed by us. So to all who have suffered loss, my condolences. To all who are unwell, my good wishes.

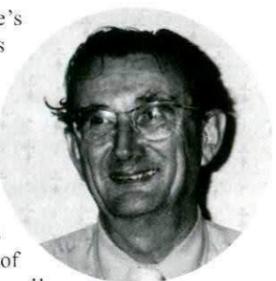
Less sadly, but a loss nevertheless, is the loss to Council of Bill Lamb.

Bill has decided that he wants a rest from the rigours of Council work, although he is in fact continuing on Laws. I first really got to know Bill many years ago when I took an Ipswich team up to Hull for a friendly match. Our association has continued since then, always constructively if sometimes abrasively! Bill has been a past Chairman of Council and played a great part in the process of sweeping away the dead hand of bureaucracy from it. Lately we seem to be in agreement more and more - Is Bill mellowing or am I?

By the time this column comes out, not only will Christmas be over, but we shall be into the new Millennium. May I therefore wish everyone a somewhat belated Happy New Year (although as I write this it hasn't happened yet!). I hope that none of you were bitten by the millennium bug. The Tournament Committee have been working hard on a new programme of events. You will see from the fixtures book when it comes out (I fear that due to illness there may be a delay, hopefully not too long) that there is a considerable offering of millennium events both in Association and Golf Croquet. Please do your best to support these events.

As I have mentioned golf croquet, it is worthwhile mentioning that this coming season sees a real initiative by the CA to promote the game, both in the traditional manner and in the new, exciting WCF format. If you have not played the game before - have a go. You could be pleasantly surprised.

Don Gaunt



NEWS & INFORMATION

The world's oldest sports and games manufacturer moves to Edenbridge

John Jaques and Son Ltd have led the world in creating and manufacturing traditional games for over 200 years and to mark the start of the new millennium have moved operations to "The House of Jaques" Fircroft Way, Edenbridge, Kent, where a new showroom was opened to the public and trade on 1st December, 1999 by world motor-racing champion, John Surtees.

Jaques are renowned for introducing many favourite games currently being enjoyed by people of all ages. Amongst these were Croquet in 1851, Table-Tennis, under the name Ping Pong in 1890 as well as many well known indoor table games including Happy Families, Snap, Ludo, Snakes and Ladders, and Tiddly Winks. Their Staunton Chess sets are also favoured by top players and have become collectors' items in their own right.

In order to develop the company further and aid global distribution, John Jaques are moving from their existing site at Thornton Heath near Croydon, and have purchased their new building and converted premises into offices, warehousing and a plush showroom. The move has also opened a door for new staff as the company expands and forges ahead into the next millennium. "We are proud to have opened the House of Jaques in Edenbridge. We chose the location for our established family-run business as it offered our company scope to expand, new employment



Managing Directors, Emmett, Clare and Ben Jaques in the new showroom at Edenbridge

opportunities and a big step forward for the company at the start of the new millennium. We are using local companies for transport, printing, signs, display systems, supplies and maintenance etc. and this ensures that generation of revenue for other local businesses." commented Chris Jaques, Managing Director.

The new showroom at Edenbridge is open, Monday to Friday 9.00am to 5.00 pm. Here virtually all products from their extensive range can be seen.

NEW COMMERCIAL AGENT REQUIRED

The CA is looking to appoint a new Commercial Agent in succession to Brian Macmillan who is retiring because of ill health.

The duties of the Commercial Agent will be:

- * to buy, sell and arrange delivery of croquet-related merchandise;
- * to sell advertising space in The Croquet Gazette and other CA publications;
- * to explore other commercial activities that might benefit the CA and its members.

Brian Macmillan has created a substantial enterprise selling a wide range of goods to members and non-members, and he has shown there is the potential for significant further growth. Current turnover is over £50,000 per annum. Presently commercial activities are based at Hurlingham but the CA is prepared to consider alternative proposals. Remuneration is negotiable but will be based on results.

Enquiries should be addressed to the Chairman, Don Gaunt, 5 Rosedale Avenue, Stonehouse, Gloucestershire GL10 2QH, telephone 01453 822507, e-mail dongaunt@compuserve.com.

Inter-Counties 2000

Anyone wishing to make themselves available to play for their county team in this years event should contact the appropriate county team organiser listed below:

Avon	Ray Ransom	0117 9682255
Bedfordshire	Howard Bottomley	01525 374697
Berkshire	Joe King	01189 481004
Channel Islands	Tony Le Moignan	01534 484800
Cheshire	Brian Storey	0161 9416696
Devon	Brian Smith	01395 516652
Dorset	Les Butler	01202 386441
Essex	Michael Heap	01708 728136
Glamorgan	Chris Williams	029 20462268
Gloucestershire	Ian Maugham	01242 234737
Hertfordshire	Nigel Gray	01462 436430
Kent	Dennis Shaw	01323 646242
Lancashire	James Hawkins	0151 7242140
Middlesex	Tom Browne	0181 788 1365
Northamptonshire	Brian Hallam	01604 765647
Northumberland	David Magee	01452 700353
Nottinghamshire	Graham Fowler	01332 864889
Suffolk	Steve Comish	01394 385551
Surrey	George Noble	0181 940 1427
Sussex	Dr R Wood	01424 210632
Warwickshire	Martin Granger Brown	0161 9280530
Yorkshire	Peter Thompson	01296 630927

STOP PRESS.....

Will all CA Coaches please watch out for the questionnaire coming shortly?

The Coaching Committee is attempting to update the register of active coaches, and your help is sought.

The weather forecast for the weekend varied with the forecaster. The most optimistic was rain and wind on Saturday and rain or frequent heavy showers on Sunday, so, after floods last year at Wrest Park, most players arrived in the Pennines prepared for the worst.

16 finalists, listed below, had played in their own clubs, in varying numbers of rounds, and had been successful in their area final in their own region early in September. This year there were 306 entries from 25 clubs and to achieve a place in the national final was a great achievement in itself.

Name	Club	A/Final	Hcp	Games won
Abdul Ahmad	Pendle	Pendle	11	7/10
Penny Crowe	Cheltenham	Bristol	9	8/10
Andrew Davies	Woking	Southwick	3.5	9/10
Susan Davies	Parsons Green	Southwick	8	8/10
Chris Frost	St Albans	Harrow	11	6/10
John Gibbons	Watford	Harrow	2.5	7/10
Jonathan Hills	Colchester	Wrest Park	7	5/10
Nigel Hind	Winchester	Harrow	1.5	7/10
Barney Lewis	T'bridge Wells	Southwick	9	3/10
James Mackay	Dyffryn	Bristol	4	6/10
Robin Morgan	Bowdon	Pendle	16	8/10
David Owen	Hurlingham	Southwick	8	5/6
Derek Powell	Letchworth	Wrest Park	8	4/10
David Scott	Dyffryn	Bristol	10	8/10
Robert Staddon	Letchworth	Wrest Park	12	7/10
Barbara Young	Bury	Pendle	16	8/10

The format was American. Four blocks of 4 on Saturday and play off blocks of 4 on Sunday. The manager had watched the sun setting behind Pendle Hill by 7.15pm that week and decided that the three hour time limit would just enable three rounds on Saturday without pegging down. He was however chastised for not allowing pegging down in one game which finished in the gloom. Unusually each block was scheduled for one lawn (double banked) each day; the theory being that players would settle down quicker and precious time would be saved, but some competitors would have preferred the more usual lawn rotation.

Notwithstanding the forecast, Saturday started bright breezy and warm and play started in good conditions promptly. The random draw had produced an interesting spread of handicaps in the blocks.

- A) 1.5, 8, 11, 12
- B) 4, 7, 11, 11
- C) 8, 9, 16, 16
- D) 2.5, 3.5, 8, 9

Block A. Four of the six games were very close, but David Scott made his mark early by beating Nigel Hind +24 and Sue Davies +22 although he had to fight hard for a narrow victory over Robert Staddon +5T.

Block B. Bigger margins in this block with clear wins by Abdul Ahmad over James Mackay (+17) and Jonathan Hills (+19) and Chris Frost over Jonathan Hills (+22)

Block C. No whitewashes here although Robin Morgan beat David Owen +14, all the other games in this block were pretty close, but Barbara Young scraped three wins on time to secure a place in the play-offs.

Block D. John Gibbons showed his superiority again this year, still playing with confidence, although Derek Powell pushed him to the limit (+1T) and Barney Lewis just failed against him (+4) but John ended the day bidding for the Trevor Williams Cup for the second year running.

ALL ENGLAND HANDICAP FINAL

Pendle,
18 - 19 September 1999

Most players seemed to enjoy the first day and those whose yield was a thin number of wins, took their consolation in the sumptuous meals at the club and the tournament supper hurriedly arranged at the Moorcock Inn on the wind swept moors above the town, overlooking Pendle Hill.

Each block winner entered the play-off procedure on Sunday to determine the Champion. Three other play off sections comprised second, third and fourth places respectively. The leaderboard looked like this on Sunday morning.

- 1) David Scott 3wins +51
- 2) Abdul Ahmad 3wins +37
- 3) John Gibbons 3 wins +16
- 4) Barbara Young 3 wins +10

After heavy overnight rain the lawns were damp but soon dried in the strong wind. We were still fortunate with fine weather. Both semi-final games promised to be tight. David Scott and Barbara Young had a dire struggle and David eventually won +5T. Most of the games they enjoyed without the nuisance of double banking, as the double bankers had retired to the pavilion after 80 minutes, Abdul having demolished John the holder +26, with such sweet accurate breaks that surprised both players.

Most of the other play-off games in the morning were pegged out just two going to time. In section 2 Barney Lewis beat Robin Morgan +18 and Nigel Hind beat Chris Frost +5. In section 3 James Mackay beat Sue Davies +7 and Derek Powell beat Penny Crowe +7T. In section 4 David Owen beat Andrew Davies +4 and Jonathan Hills beat Robert Staddon +8.

Lunch and rain came at the same time and so the final play-offs were soaking wet, but the lawns are free draining and play continued in waterproofs. The play-off for third place between Barbara young and John Gibbons, Barbara won by +18 with the help of her 13.5 bisques which John just could not overcome.

The two finalists, Abdul Ahmad and David Scott, seemed to have great respect for each other so extreme caution set the standard of play, until Abdul found himself trailing by 8 hoops, with the innings but not much prospect for a break. Rumour has it that David Hopkins, who was at Colchester at this moment winning the All England Golf Croquet event, had been coaching Abdul in long hoop running, the way the Egyptians do it. Abdul, of Egyptian origin, must have decided that the time had come to test the new skills. The next three consecutive hoop running positions can only be described as suicidal, by those watching in the pouring rain with the wind exerting immense lateral force on his mallet. He ran each of them with panache. That was the turning point of the game and Abdul closed the gap. As time approached with David for 2-back and penultimate and with Abdul in the same position, David had opportunity to shoot at Abdul's balls, close together at hoop 2 from near hoop 1, but he chose to shoot at his own ball near corner 3 and missed. In Abdul's time turn he had a reasonably easy take-off to David's balls and corner cannon to penultimate and scored the hoop. David's last shot missed and Abdul won +1T.

At tea, Colin Scholes, the Pendle Club Chairman, presented the Trevor Williams Cup to Abdul and the New Zealand Tray to Betty Brierly, a Pendle founder member and thanked John Beech for managing the tournament. Colin also congratulated all the finalists on a tremendous achievement and thanked them for the friendly spirit of fierce competition which prevailed throughout the weekend.

SPORTS INJURIES FOR CROQUET PLAYERS



By Bob Burnett, Dip RGRT, MSCP, SRP Chartered Physiotherapist

Bob Burnett is a Chartered physiotherapist who has specialised in sports injuries at his Private Practice in Southport for the past 20 years. He has been playing Croquet for three and a half years, is currently handicap 3.5, a Grade one coach and an assistant referee.

In this series of articles he will be outlining the most common injuries affecting croquet players, their management and treatment. They are not written for medics and do not contain a lot of detail. Their purpose is to give the non-medical player an insight into what may be wrong and the course of action to be taken. It must be remembered however that if diagnosis is unsure or if symptoms persist a medical opinion should be sought.

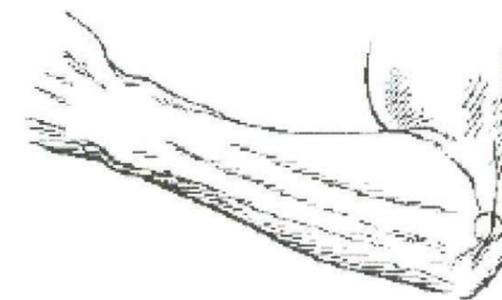


fig. 1
Outer aspect of arm and forearm showing position of lateral epicondyle.

1. TENNIS ELBOW

Pathology

Tennis elbow is a condition, despite its name, that has very little to do with the elbow joint. It is a name which describes the number of separate conditions which manifest themselves as an inflammation of the common extensor tendon origins on the lateral epicondyle of the humerus. (fig. 1) This inflammation is brought about by over use and strain of the muscles on the back of the forearm caused, in the main, by the actions of the wrist. It is characterised by pain and tenderness over the outside of the elbow with pain often radiating down the back of the forearm.

Any actions of the forearm which involve gripping and rotation cause discomfort and pain. These actions include taking lids off jam jars, turning doorknobs, pouring water from the kettle, wringing out the washing, 30 yard rushes, etc.

The croquet player with the Standard grip on the mallet is more likely to suffer tennis elbow on the top arm. Players in the Solomon grip may suffer the condition in either arm, or both!

Management and treatment

The management and treatment of the condition depends largely on two factors, how bad it is and how long it has been present. It is important to

get an accurate diagnosis before embarking on any treatment regime if other than conservative treatment is needed. The person carrying out this treatment will be able to give you a precise diagnosis.

As a rough guide, bend your elbow to right angle, clench your fist with your palm downwards and with your other thumb pressed over the point shown in figure 1. If it hurts, it's tennis elbow!

Acute tennis elbow will often resolve spontaneously providing a sufferer abstains from the actions that cause pain. However, spontaneous resolution may take anything from a couple of weeks to a couple of years and most sportsmen are reluctant to wait that long. On the other hand, a condition that has become chronic, and ignored, becomes far more difficult to cure and may in the end require surgery.

There are a wide variety of treatments available and which is most suitable will depend on individual pathology.

In the first instance abstinence from aggravation should be tried for a week or so. If this proves to be impossible a tennis elbow band should be worn when doing any work with the muscles of the forearm. This is as simple strap about an inch and a half wide worn around the top of the forearm. Most sports shops will sell these, with a simple Velcro fixing, relatively cheaply. Don't

be tempted to spend lots of money on overly elaborate versions, they all to the same job.

If there is no improvement, physiotherapy in the form of ultra-sound and other techniques should be undertaken, perhaps in conjunction with a hydrocortisone injection.

If this is unsuccessful what is known as Mill's manipulation may be performed, although it is important that this is done by a competent practitioner.

For stubborn cases immobilisation may be required either in a sling, or plaster of Paris.

If all else fails referral must be made to an orthopaedic surgeon who will decide whether surgery of one form or another may be required. Surgery gives good results and should be followed by a regime of progressive rehabilitation.

It is important, following successful treatment, that the player's technique is examined to eliminate any bio-mechanical faults or to make any adjustments that may be needed, for example; increasing the diameter of the mallet shaft and thereby opening the grip slightly. This will help to prevent a possible recurrence of the condition.

Next issue - Frozen Shoulder

THE CROQUET ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at the Hurlingham Club on Saturday 16 October 1999

Present: JW Solomon (President)-in the Chair
WHA Arliss (Chairman of Council)
Dr RW Bray (Treasurer)
AJ Oldham (Vice-President)
PWP Campion (Secretary)
and 49 Associates

Apologies were received from Jeane Ackermann, Tom & Judy Anderson, Hugh & Veronica Carlisle, Sue Davies, Judge Michael Evans, Colin & Chris Irwin, Roger Jackman, Bernard & Liz Neal, Brian Teague and Lionel Wharrad.

OPENING ADDRESS

The President welcomed all those present to the Meeting and thanked them for their support.

1. MINUTES

1.1 The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 17 October 1998 were signed as a true record of that Meeting.

2. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

2.1 The Chairman presented his report to the Meeting. (This was published in issue 264, November 1999.)

3. ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR TO 31 DECEMBER 1998 AND TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer presented the Accounts for the year to 31 December 1998, and gave a brief report. He expressed his thanks to the retiring Secretary who had proved such a strength over the last three years.

The Accounts were approved nem. con.

4. ELECTION OF HON. TREASURER

There being no other nomination, Dr RW Bray was duly re-elected as Treasurer.

5. ELECTION OF AUDITORS

It was proposed by Don Gaunt and seconded by Hamish Hall THAT Messrs Morgan, Brown and Spofforth be re-elected as Auditors. Carried nem. con.

6. ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Messrs WH Arliss, HM Hall and IPM MacDonald having retired by rotation under Rule 2, Mr JL Wankling, who had been chosen to fill a casual vacancy, having retired under Rule 16, and there being one further unfilled vacancy, the number of vacancies on Council was five.

Messrs WH Arliss and HM Hall sought re-election under Rule 7A(a)(i), and Mr PWP Campion had been proposed by Mr DJF Gurney and seconded by Mrs J Oades.

There had been no further nominations, no election was necessary, and the meeting declared these three persons elected to Council.

7. MOTIONS OF THE COUNCIL

Motion 1:

'That the Rules of the Croquet Association (October 1999 edition), a copy of which has been circulated to all Resident Associates, be adopted to replace those currently in force.'



John Solomon, President of the Croquet Association, presents Susan Edwards of the Cheltenham Club, with the Steel Bowl. (Photo by Eileen Magee.)

Carried by 282 votes to 4.

Motion 2:

'That all Clubs registered with the Croquet Association on 1 January 2000 shall be entitled to immediate membership of the Association en bloc.'

Carried by 283 votes to 3.

Quiller Barrett, who had chaired the working party which had drafted the revised Rules, thanked the meeting for their support, and asked that the names of the members of the working party should be placed on record. They were

Quiller Barrett (Chairman), Judy Anderson, Roger Bray, Michael Evans, David Magee, Alan Oldham, David Openshaw, Bruce Rannie.

9. BENEFACTORS' BOOK

The Secretary read the names in the Benefactors' Book.

10. PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

The President announced the awards and made the presentation of the Apps Bowl to Deiniol Morgan (Bath) as the most improved male player and of the Steel Bowl to Susan Edwards (Cheltenham) as the most improved female player of 1998.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Elizabeth Williams (Dyffryn) voiced her concern at the rejection by Council of the design of the new Association logo after it had apparently been accepted and brought into use. After some discussion the President



John Solomon, President of the Croquet Association, presents Deiniol Morgan of the Bath, Cheltenham and Wells Clubs, with the Apps Memorial Bowl. (Photo by Eileen Magee.)

expressed the hope that Council would give further thought to the matter in the light of the points that had been raised.

12. PRESIDENT'S CLOSING ADDRESS

'For as long as I can remember, one of the prime objectives of the CA has been to attract new members, and that is clearly a very worthy objective.'

I first joined the CA in 1948 and there were at that time something over 500 members. Clearly during the war there was a great loss of members which exaggerated the gradual decline that had taken place throughout the 30s. For years during the 50s, 60s and early 70s the number stayed pretty static at about 600.

I forget the exact year but I believe it was around 1980 that, for the first time, a sensible article was published in the Evening Standard, which included the address and phone number of the CA, and there was a minor explosion - in fact you could call it a major one in our terms - because the office was besieged with enquiries and we had to take on temporary staff for about a month to cope with this and send out the information packs that were prepared. As a result membership shot up to about 2000 and remained close to that figure for some years; it now stands at about 1600. The reason for the increase was unique and we might well say 'Why don't we organise another similar article and we should get a similar result?' I am not convinced that we would get a similar result, and of course it is not easy to persuade influential publications to publish just what one wants.

Whilst any attempt to increase the membership of the CA is laudable, there is another approach which we should not lose sight of, and that is to try to increase the membership within each club. If we can do that the CA membership will eventually benefit, because there is always a percentage, if only 10 or 20%, who will eventually join the CA.

Now I know that every club is constantly trying to attract new members, and it is a very hard and often unrewarding task. I would express the hope that the Council could consider producing posters, perhaps in two or three designs, which clubs could use. I believe this has been done

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in the past, and indeed they may even now be available. Last year Southwick was particularly successful, gaining, I believe, 38 new members, and this year I think about a dozen have joined. I asked Diana Brothers, the membership Secretary, how this had been achieved but she was unable to pin it down to any specific factor. A number of initiatives had taken place, posters, articles in the local press, keeping local Councils advised, getting listed in Councils' leisure activities, and so on.

Another useful activity has been to invite local companies, substantial ones usually, to an evening when 20 or 30 of their employees come to have an hour or two on the courts followed by a supper or BBQ, and this is of course good for the club profits. Southwick have done this for a number of years with American Express, whose base is nearby, and with Rotary Clubs and similar bodies. None of this may be new to all of you and perhaps you have been doing this sort of thing for years.

The point I wish to make is that there is no attempt to teach them Association croquet. They are invited to play golf croquet for the obvious reason that they can learn to play it after 5 or 10 minutes explanation, and although they are unlikely to play it well they will have fun, which is the important thing.

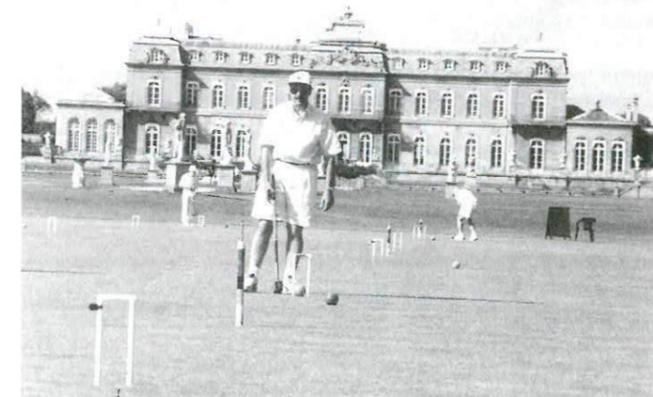
For many years, indeed for as long as I can remember, the CA has taken little or no interest in golf croquet. The annual golf croquet championships have been almost grudgingly kept in the calendar, and there have been some individuals who have been violently opposed to any promotion of that game. They are entitled to their view, but we cannot ignore the fact that since the first World Golf Croquet championships three years ago nearly every other country has promoted their own golf croquet championship, and these have created much increased interest and coverage by the media. Last week at Leamington we had four television companies filming and interviewing competitors and officials.

I am convinced that we should not be shy about promoting golf croquet. Of the 38 new members at Southwick last year, all of whom started by playing golf croquet, the majority now also play Association croquet. So I make this suggestion to clubs in the hope that they will be successful in their recruitment.

I would like now to thank all those members of Council who give up so much of their time in the interests of the game, and in particular Bill Arliss who had a tremendous workload during his time as Chairman, in which he has been supported by the Vice-chairman and chairmen of committees. We are very grateful to them. I would also like to add my thanks to Paul Campion for his years of service as Secretary, a duty he has discharged with tact, understanding and efficiency.

And finally I want to thank all of you who have demonstrated your interest and support for the game by your attendance here today."

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 12.15pm.



Rod Ashwell in play at Wrest Park. (Photo by John Bevington.)

PROPOSAL FOR NEW EDITION OF THE LAWS OF ASSOCIATION CROQUET

By Ian Vincent, Chairman, CA Laws Committee.

In line with the laws revision process set out on p8 of issue 263 (September, 1999) the CA Laws Committee have drafted a new edition of the Laws of Association Croquet, incorporating the changes agreed at the last International Laws Meeting (ILM) and taking account of the voluminous discussion on the internet and other drafts since then, in particular that by Peter Olsen.

It is predicated on there being a companion volume provisionally entitled "Official Rulings on the Laws of Croquet", which will include commentary and, where necessary, interpretations and rulings, supported by examples. This follows the recognition that it is impossible to word the laws in such a way as to cover all possible circumstances and to eliminate the possibility of misinterpretation.

The draft has been circulated to representatives of the other ILM countries (Australia, New Zealand and the USA), in the hope that it, after any amendments agreed, will be approved by the ILM during the forthcoming MacRobertson Shield.

The procedure for approving new or revised Laws for use within the CA's domain is set out in Rule 27(a) of the Croquet Association. Notice is hereby given that, at its December meeting, Council took the first step by authorising the Laws Committee to submit a new edition for approval at a subsequent Council meeting, to come into effect on a date to be fixed. Providing that agreement is reached at the ILM, it is intended to seek approval at the Council meeting scheduled for 25th March.

Although a large number of detailed changes of wording are proposed, there are very few changes that will affect more than a tiny minority of games in practice and many, if not most, games will be totally unaffected. The main benefit will be to referees and players who read the laws, who will hopefully find them easier to understand and apply.

The proposed changes are summarised below in three sections: those that affect games free from error or interference; those that affect treatment of errors or interference; and purely drafting changes. Once the ILM representatives are happy with the full text, it will be made available on the CA web site, or, by sending an A5 sized sac, from the CA office.

1. Changes that may affect games without errors or interference

a) The replacement of balls on the yard line is simplified. If other ball(s) interfere with replacement, a ball is now replaced as near as possible on the yard line to where it would have been put in their absence. This, a change agreed at the last ILM, avoids the need for the current special provisions for balls near corners.

b) A ball is now wired from another if it has to pass through a hoop to hit it. This is to avoid a difficult test in the case where the striker's ball is close to, but not in, the jaws of a hoop and the target ball is at the other end of the court.

c) The definition of a ball coming to rest, and hence the end of a stroke, is simplified, to be "when its position does not appear to change for an appreciable period and, if its position is critical, it has been agreed or adjudicated upon". Taking up the stance for the next stroke or indicating that the turn has ended will no longer be sufficient conditions; the former is open to abuse and the latter is considered unnecessary.

d) A stroke may now be played before the previous one has ended, provided that its outcome is not affected (usually only a problem with fast players on fast courts!). This is to regularise what is accepted practice.

e) A ball may now cause other balls to score points before coming to rest after being pegged out. This is a logical extension to the change in earlier revisions that allowed it to displace other balls after hitting the peg; at

one time, it immediately became an outside agency.

f) Moving a ball to place it for a croquet stroke at the start of a turn no longer commits the striker to playing that ball. This simplifies the wrong ball law, which currently has a special provision for this error, and avoids the striker being inadvertently committed to playing a ball when arranging a cannon at the start of a turn.

g) Mallets may no longer be changed between turns, except in the case of damage. This is to avoid the possibility of abuse when claiming a lift at the start of a turn, or of the game developing into one where players need caddies!

h) Semi-advanced play has been abolished, due to lack of use, but a lift and contact variant of 14pt advanced play, which is the one now advocated, has been added.

2. Changes that may affect treatment of errors and interference

a) The striking period now starts when the mallet has passed or leaves the striker's ball on the last backswing, or at the start of the forward swing if there is no backswing. This avoids accidental disturbance of a ball while casting (swinging the mallet over it) being considered a fault and reflects this having become common in recent years.

b) Replacement of balls after a fault may be waived under all circumstances, not just when a ball goes off in a croquet stroke. This is to prevent the striker benefiting from replacement of the balls after committing a fault, thus removing any incentive to deliberately commit a fault if the stroke is unsuccessful.

c) There is now a limit of claims of the third stroke of the turn for wrongly taking a lift or playing a ball from other than baulk. The current requirement to forestall before the stroke was played is felt to be unfair to the outplayer.

d) The option of interchanging the balls after taking croquet from the wrong ball is removed. This is to avoid the striker benefiting from the error in certain rare situations and simplifies the law.

e) If, within the limit of claims of that and similar errors, the turn ends for another reason, the striker is not allowed to resume after the balls are replaced. This is to prevent a minor error shielding the striker from the normal consequence of a bad stroke or more serious error.

f) Taking croquet from a dead ball (i.e. one that croquet has already been taken from since the start of the turn or running a hoop) is now a fatal error, and hence must not be forestalled. Again, this is to prevent the striker benefiting if this rare error is committed when the adversary is not present to forestall it before the next stroke but one.

g) The striker may be entitled to a replay if a ball has been interfered with by the adversary or an outside agency. This is an equitable measure which reflects the increase in double banking giving the striker relief if, for instance, he took off to get a rush on a ball, only to have it replaced some distance away before he could take the rush!

h) Hoop points scored while playing with the wrong ball or when not entitled count for the ball that physically scored them if the error is not discovered within the limit of claims. Bisques taken in those circumstances are therefore not restored. This is to prevent discovery of an error long after its limit of claims from invalidating hoops subsequently scored.

i) The limit of claims for playing when misled is increased to the end of the game. This is to avoid the confusion surrounding the current law and provide relief for the innocent party in circumstances where the current

limit of claims is too short.

j) It is a fault to attempt to hit a ball by dropping or throwing the mallet. This is to prevent another possible abuse.

k) Allowing the ball to retouch the mallet is also exempted when making a roquet, and both this and the existing exemption is widened to include any additional contact between mallet and striker's ball caused by a roqueted ball. The former rectifies an anomaly, the latter is to cover the case where the mallet hits the striker's ball for a third time because the striker's ball has hit the roqueted ball again (imagine playing a hard rush with a third ball just behind the ball to be roqueted).

l) Special damage may be repaired as an alternative to moving the balls to avoid it. This regularises common practice.

m) The striker's turn does not end if it is discovered before the adversary has played a stroke that he had quitted the court prematurely. This is to correct the anomaly that a striker who prematurely quits the lawn while his adversary is absent cannot continue the turn when the adversary returns and points out his error.

3) Principal drafting changes

a) There is some reordering. The outline of the game now comes first. Detailed specification and tolerances for equipment are moved to the regulations. Definitions required for several laws, including those of a turn, stroke and states of a ball, are moved to the start of the laws of ordinary singles play. The numbering of the core laws, 9-21, has, however been retained.



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b) Some terminology has changed. The terms "live" and "dead" have been introduced; "condoning" of errors has been dropped (due to confusion with waiving, they are now just "not discovered before the limit of claims"); the process of putting the balls back, cancelling points, etc., after an error is known as "rectification".

c) The error laws have had major work done on them. In particular, errors (which are mistakes by the striker) are more clearly distinguished from interferences (which are not).

d) Sub-titles have been added for clarity and consistency.

CA NEWS

MARKETING & PUBLICITY

by Tony Fathers, Chairman CA Marketing Committee

The main thrust of our efforts is to obtain more playing members for CA Clubs. Since there are over 120 CA Clubs and only one (hard pressed) CA Office it will be obvious that only supported by the hard work of CA clubs and their members will our efforts be successful.

Before I come to our two new initiatives I will briefly review two existing things which can help all clubs to recruit new players. These are:-

i) The Carpet

An indoor carpet, size 18 ft by 24 ft operational in the site of 24 ft by 30ft, is available-

-in the south via Bill Arliss (Tel: 01273 728204)

-in the North via Liz Nisbet (Tel: 01661 843278)

Bill astounded me by telling me that his club Southwick has obtained 20 new members by a one-day exhibition of Croquet on this carpet in a shopping mall in Brighton. OK so most clubs are not as big as Southwick, but we could all do with an extra half dozen members, and this seems a tried and tested method of getting new members. Because the carpet is supplied in rolls 6 ft wide it is possible to collect and transport the carpet in an ordinary estate car. So no huge transport cost!

ii) Publicity Booklet

The seminar which Liz Williams held at Leamington was a great success. Those CA Clubs which did not send a delegate can still profit from the seminar by sending for the booklet 'Public-Relations Seminar' by Elizabeth Williams. Orders, with a cheque for £15 for the cover cost of the booklet including postage, to CA (cheques payable to 'Croquet Association'). Liz gave her services free so all receipts go to help CA finances.

With our Childline initiative next year there will be a lot of opportunity for publicity so that clubs may well find the booklet of timely investment.

This brings me to the two major new initiatives for next year. Both are designed to achieve new playing members for CA clubs across the land. They are:-

1.) Childline

2.) The Oldie

Childline

Following an article about croquet in the Daily Express, Childline, a free national helpline for children in trouble or danger, contacted us. We have agreed that the year 2000 will be a year of co-operative endeavour between the two organisations. Highlight of the year will be National Croquet Day on 7th May 2000. On this day the idea is that every CA Club will hold an

open day inviting the public to come and try the sport. No charge will be made, though everyone will be invited to make a donation to Childline.

The targets are, nationally,
-500 new players of croquet at CA Clubs
-£15,000 for Childline in support of local counselling centres.

The Oldie

We have agreed a deal with the Oldie. This has the following elements:-

a) Two full advertisement pages in the November issue, one in the magazine itself, one in the Christmas supplement, both under the challenging headline of "Anyone for croquet?" The purpose of these two pages is not so much to achieve new members for CA Clubs now, as to get the idea of Croquet in the minds of Oldie readers; so that they are more receptive to a further efforts in April.

b) Two further full advertisement pages in the April issue, one a repeat of the "Anyone for croquet", the second a pitch for CA Clubs to advertise their presence. The April issue will also, in addition, feature an editorial article about croquet.

So, why the Oldie? Because 'The Oldie' is particularly focused on our target group: the over-fifties. Sure if we want quality of player we have to catch them young (Robert Fulford who seems to have been around for so long it still only 29!); but if we want quantity of new players playing our sport then it's the active retired we have to go for.

The Oldie is a monthly magazine with a circulation of 42,000. 67% of their readership is over 55. The Oldie has a particularly high reading and noting factor, 79 per cent of readers spending more than 45 minutes reading the magazine, denoting true quality readership. So we are hopeful that this Oldie campaign will not just generate more interest in croquet but help to recruit more people playing Croquet in CA clubs.

And finally please remember that

- The Childline initiative
- The Oldie initiative
- The carpet
- The PR book by Liz Williams

come, courtesy (and effort!) of the CA. Put another way, without the CA none of this would have happened. Forgive this puff for the CA, but we are working hard on behalf of all CA croquet clubs.

CA TROPHIES

By Derek Trotman, Chairman, Tournament Committee

Since the changes in the constitution and Council procedures agreed at the October meetings the responsibility for CA trophies has been passed to the Tournament Committee. Although this appeared to be a logical action the handover has revealed the large workload involved. Not only do the CA already own some 90 trophies but the increase in Golf Croquet tournaments requires the purchase of yet more trophies before the 2000 season.

We are indebted to Alan Oldham and the late Derek Caporn for the work they did in producing a new catalogue and photographic record of our trophies. Their work however showed how unwise it is to rely on holders to arrange for their names to be engraved on trophies as variations in letter size, shape and depth have spoilt some cups. For this reason Council decided that all trophies must be returned to the Office for the engraving to be undertaken by an approved engraver. The resulting logistics involved in ensuring that trophies are at the correct venue for presentation, are subsequently engraved and are returned to the CA office prior to the next tournament are considerable and in an attempt to reduce this to a reasonable level it has been decided that commencing with the 2000 season all holders of CA trophies will be requested to return them to the CA office by the 1st April 2001, after which they will be engraved and held in store until the event is next played. Anyone who would be prepared to help with this task and serve on the Trophies sub-committee is asked to contact the CA Secretary who will supply them with further details.

Mention has been made of new trophies and I would wish to acknowledge the generosity of the following members who have donated trophies to the CA for specific events:

Paul Campion - A Shield for the Champions of Inter-Counties 2nd Division.

John Beech - Cups for the Open Golf Croquet Doubles Championship.

We also have to thank Alan Pidcock for making a series of specially framed croquet prints available for presentation to the winners of the Open Championship, the President's Cup and the Ladies' Barlow Bowl.

The Delves Broughton Cup which has been in store for some years is to be brought back into use and together with a new plinth suitably inscribed will be used for the new 'Open Golf Croquet Championship', due to be played for the first time at Southwick in June.

Another trophy is to be obtained for presentation to the winner of the 'Over 70s Championship' now played as a regular part of the Veterans Tournament. It is also intended to present medals to all the finalists of the 'All England Handicap Championship'.

COACHING

by Bruce Rannie, Chairman, Coaching Committee

Becoming a registered coach

If you wish to qualify as a CA coach, it can be done through a mixture of learning, practical coaching, and assisting in Federation or CA sponsored courses.

Golf Croquet Coaches

The CA is developing Golf Croquet Coaching Materials, and the Golf Croquet Committee intends to set qualification levels for CA accreditation during 2000.

Club Coaches - Introducing People to Croquet

The CA is developing standard material, based on the CA Coaching Manual, for use by Club Coaches in introducing beginners to the various games of Croquet. Details of the recognised qualification will be sent to all CA Member Clubs during 2000.

Grade I Coaches - Taking Players through the Next Steps

Prospective Coaches at Improvers or Bronze level should initially contact their Federation Coaching Officer via their local Croquet Federation. The Coaching Officer will arrange a Coaching Seminar and will arrange training locally. In addition, attending an Improvers or Bronze Course as an Assistant Coach to be assessed. The fee is set by the Federation, to which the cheque should be made payable.

The Lead Coach will make a recommendation (based on satisfactory performance as an Assistant Coach at one or more courses) to the Coaching Committee for approval of the student as a Grade I Coach, or will recommend additional learning to develop the necessary skills. Prospective Grade I Coaches should have a handicap of less than 14, and have a good working knowledge of the Laws of Association Croquet. Only Associates will be entered onto the CA Register of Coaches, and receive the Grade I Coach's badge.

Grade II and Grade III Coaches - Developing the Tournament Player, and the Advanced Tournament Player

Prospective Coaches at Silver or Gold Level should contact the CA Coaching Committee to seek placement as an Assistant Coach on a Silver, Silver/Gilt or Gold Course.

Prospective Grade II Coaches should have had at some time a Handicap 6 or below, and be a qualified Assistant Referee. Prospective Grade III Coaches should have a handicap 1 or below, and be a qualified Assistant Referee. The fee for the Grade II or Grade III assessment is £13.

Qualified Grade II and Grade III Coaches are entered onto the CA Register of Coaches, and receive the appropriate Coach's badge.

COACHING IN 2000

After the success of the Croquet Association Coaching Courses in 1999, the Coaching Committee has organised a similar programme this year. As our responsibility is to set and improve playing standards at all levels, we have organised weekend Coaching Courses, covering both Handicap and Advanced play, from Gold to Improvers. This is the best way to start the summer, and sets the scene for your improvement throughout the season. Full details are in the new Fixture Book, and are also available from your local Club or Federation.

CA Gold Course

Following the appreciation given to Steve Comish after the 1999 course, we have arranged another Gold Course, open only to Associates. The Handicap Range is usually 1 to 5, but, as before, those with the appropriate skills who want to learn the techniques will be accepted.

The aim is to equip you for all facets of the Advanced game, including openings, leaves / contacts, and how to complete Triple Peels and therefore qualify for the Gold Merit Award (first Triple Peel, winning the game). This intensive CA Course covers triples in all their forms for two full days, including TPO.

You will be already be a reasonably experienced Advanced Player, now wishing to climb the Rankings and win Advanced Tournaments. It will be on 6-7 May at Wrest Park, price £42, and Steve Comish and Ian Burrige will be there to show and tell.

CA Silver and Silver/Gilt Courses

The two types of Silver Course cover the next level of training. These are arranged also by the Croquet Association, and are open only to Associates. Both of these were run successfully in 1999, and are being repeated this year to give a full range of coaching.

The first is the Silver, for which the Handicap Range is 6 to 11. The aim of this course is to equip you to gain your Silver Merit Award (12-point break, without bisques, winning the game). It teaches break management and hygiene in the Handicap Croquet game, and concentrates on how to compete when giving away bisques. It covers leaves, and the endgame, with Rover Peel and Double Peel being included.

You will be an experienced improving Handicap Player, wishing to continue developing in Handicap Tournaments, and used to spending time practising and learning new skills. The course will be at Southwick on 6-7 May, and the lead coach is Bryan Teague, one of our most experienced coaches at this level. The fee is £32, and any follow-up day later in the summer would be £16.

The second one is the Introduction to Advanced Play (Silver/Gilt) Course, also open only to Associates. The Handicap Range is 4 to 9.

The aim of this course is to equip you to start to play the Advanced Rules game seriously. It covers the Advanced Rules with leaves and contacts. It reinforces break management and hygiene, concentrating on the different principles of the start, and early consideration of the leave. It covers the endgame, with Rover Peel and Double Peel being included. The Triple Peel will be introduced to show how it fits into the game, but there is no expectation that you will attempt one in competition at this stage.

As you can see, there is an overlap with the Silver Course, but for this one, you will be wishing to win games in Advanced Tournaments, and will therefore practise the new skills learnt here.

This year's course is on 29-30 April, price £40, at Bristol, again with Ray Ransom, and other experts in the Advanced game.

Whichever direction you are wishing to go, better Handicap results, or breaking seriously into the Advanced game, one of these intensive courses will make a big difference.

Handicap Ranges Exceptions

If you are outside the handicap ranges specified for the CA course you fancy, you may still be considered for inclusion if you have the written

approval of your Club Handicapper or the Federation Coaching Officer, certifying that you are likely to reach the required standard for the Course. The final decision on whether anybody is accepted onto a Course lies with its Lead Coach, who will take into account the requirements of all participants, and the aims of the Course.

FEDERATION COURSES

Bronze

Two Federations have arranged Bronze Courses, open to Associates, and to any player who is a member of a Club affiliated to any Federation. The Handicap Range is usually 12 to 18.

The aim of this course is to equip you to gain your Bronze Merit Award (10-hoop break, with bisques, winning the game). It teaches the shots and tactics necessary to complete four-ball breaks in the Handicap Croquet game, and includes use of bisques in beginning a break, during the break, and on concluding the break.

You will have already competed in several singles games, either in Clubs or in Tournaments, and are now prepared to practise techniques, and learn new skills.

Both courses are priced at £20, on 15-16 April at Nailsea, with Peter Dyke, and on 6-7 May at Southwick, with David Collins. Other experienced CA coaches will be assisting these experts.

Improvers

There is an Improver Course arranged by the South East Federation at Southwick on 29-30 April. This is also open to Associates, and to any player who is a member of a Club affiliated to any Federation. The Handicap Range is usually 18 to 24. The aim of the course is to help you make progress after the induction course at your Club. It teaches basic techniques, understanding of strokes, the Laws and etiquette of Croquet, tactics, and break play in the Handicap and Short Croquet games.

Much of this material may be covered in larger Clubs as they encourage and support new players, but this Course is aimed at those who cannot get such local help, or who want the formal, concentrated teaching such a course gives. The Federation Course is intensive - the material is covered in two full days - and it is based on the CA standard approach.

You will be encouraged to consider taking part in competitive or tournament play following completion of the course, and it is a good pre-season refresher if you are starting your first or second full season.

The course is priced at £18, and the Lead Coach is Bryan Teague, one of the CA's best coaches at this level.

All of these courses offer a one-day follow-up session later in the season to reinforce lessons learnt and covering problems you have found putting the theory into practice. Follow-up courses are at the same venue, and are half the price of the original course.

Other Materials

The CA is also preparing formal courses for Golf Croquet, and material to bring all Coaching of beginners in Clubs onto a standard base. The CA Coaching Manual is available from the CA Office, price £10 plus postage, and this contains all the relevant material. The Committee's plan is to enhance this into modules, so the Club Coach can pick and choose according to the different levels the players have reached, to make sure nobody is left behind, and that the rapid improvers keep up their progress. Details of how you can get your Club Volunteer Coaches registered will be sent to all Member Clubs during the summer.

In the meantime, there is lots of reading available from the CA Office, with "Know the Game", "Skills of the Game" and the many Coaching books for the improving player to choose from. There's no need to wait for the sunshine - apply for a course and be two bisques ahead of the rest!

Continued on page 18

1999 COACH OF THE YEAR

By Bruce Rannie, Chairman, Coaching Committee



The picture shows Don Gaunt, Chairman of Council, presenting the 1999 Coach of the Year Certificate to David Collins, of the South East Federation, at the December Council Meeting. Bruce Rannie, Chairman of the Coaching Committee of the Council, is also

pictured. David is the latest in a line of significant names to be elected Coach of the Year - previous winners include Don himself, Tim Haste, a previous champion of Coaching in the CA, and Clare Heritage, for her many years of contribution in East Anglia.

David was elected the 1999 winner of this award at the recent meeting of the Coaching Committee, after being nominated by his South East Federation for all the work he does for the clubs and players there, including the very successful Summer School, run each year, most recently at Southwick. In addition he is Secretary of the Coaching Committee, doing sterling work in helping arrange the national CA courses, as well as the Bronze and Improvers Courses in his own Federation. David is a well-accepted coach at all levels from beginner to Silver, and is assisting the Committee in bringing the CA Coaching material up to date.

Nominations for Coach of the Year may be made by any Federation, through the Coaching Officer, or by the Council Members on the Coaching Committee, and the criteria for selection cover the quality and amount of contribution made by the nominee to coaching all forms of croquet anywhere in the CA's domain. Selection is made at the November meeting of the Coaching Committee, which comprises at least two members of Council, and the Coaching Officer from each of the nine Federations. So, if you think that there is a suitable candidate for the award in 2000, please ensure that your Federation Coaching Officer knows of the reasons for nomination, makes the nomination, and attends the meeting to make the case for election. Meantime, our congratulations go to David, with thanks for all the work he is continuing to do to improve standards of play, and coaches themselves.

READING MATTERS

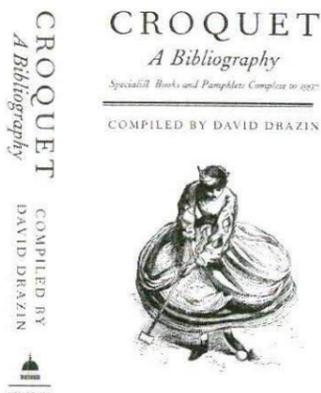
Croquet A Bibliography - Specialist Books and Pamphlets Complete to 1997 Compiled by David Drazin.

Published by Oak Knoll Press, New Castle, Delaware, 1999. 507 pages.

Reviewed by Tremaine Arkley

When I started collecting croquet fine art in the early 1980s I also started purchasing many early and contemporary first edition books and pamphlets. There were some informal lists to be found in a few current books and periodicals. Those lists were small and to me seemed within the reach of a collector interested in preserving the history, through the literature, of croquet. Lucky for me, in those early days I was contacted by David Drazin.

Collectors are a special breed; compulsive, driven and obsessed on the subject of interest. We collectors do not know how to stop, and live in fear of where this passion of ours will carry us. After some early discussions David and I realized that our interests in preserving the history of our sport were in two distinct areas; mine fine art and his printed materials. We would not be competing against each other! The relief I felt is hard to describe. Not only did I not have to worry about a competitor in my specialised field of fine art, I no longer felt compelled to buy or identify every book, pamphlet and magazine in the world



relating to croquet. Ultimately in David I found a good friend and fellow collector who was interested in preserving our history. He has done the croquet world a great service with this croquet bibliography.

Drazin's book, based on his extensive research, is the comprehensive definitive worldwide bibliography of our sport. The first section covers books and pamphlets, 437 pages worth. The works described here receive complete bibliographical descriptions together with historical and analytic notes. The second section records patents, the third other books and pamphlets thought to exist and the last other putative patents. Three indexes are included; titles, authors and other contributors, and publishers and printers. A 10 page Introduction provides the reader with a well documented explanation of the usages, scope and arrangement, abbreviations and symbols and a reference bibliography.

The earliest entry is *Rules of The New Game of Croquet* by Isaac Spratt. Despite its date of

publication given as August 2, 1853 and three known references to it, it has yet to be seen.

In 1864 Jaques published their first rule book: *Croquet: The Laws and Regulation of the Game*. Drazin then lists in detail the next 16 editions up to the last one published in 1890.

Except for Walter Jones Whitmore's *Croquet Tactics* published in 1868 most of the early books were on the rules, the rules and more rules (sound familiar?) except for an occasional music sheet for piano-forte and/or voice.

The 20th century items take up over 300 pages and are filled with a variety of entries from books of caricatures, general interest, rules, to high level advanced tactics.

Looking up Lord Tollemache's 1947 volume, *Modern Croquet: Tips And Practice* reminded me of what Keith Wylie said to me in a letter dated May 19, 1992.

"I am interested in some of your remarks about croquet books. I find Tollemache's 1947 book quirky, bordering on the eccentric. You may find his "mental approach" illuminating - and if so I should add that you are in good company. I seem to remember Wiggins, or it may have been Reckitt, quoting Tollemache with approval in the Gazette 20 years or so ago. Unfortunately I am no authority on such things, having usually been hopeless at controlling my own emotions."

Going through the 437 pages of this section is like reviewing the history of the game through the literature—all of the major writers; including Prior, Jaques, Pritchard, Osborn, Lillie, Tollemache, HF Crowther-Smith, and Solomon. For many of us it will bring up vivid memories.

The second section lists all the Patents of Invention Related to the Game of Croquet. The first in 1862 was for a croquet marker and mallet by John Jaques. By 1880 36 patents were issued in both USA and Great Britain, mostly for

equipment; including balls.

In 1914 Bentley Lyonel John (Lord) Tollemache received a patent for *Improvements In And Relating To Croquet Hoops*. In 1996 a Canadian patent was issued for *A Directional Means For Determining The Line A Ball Should Take When Struck By A Club* by In Ju Kim.

It is easy to enter a book in a list but Mr. Drazin went beyond a cursory examination of his subject and applied the highest scholarly standards. For example: Arthur Lillie's *The Book Of Croquet: Its Tactics, Laws & Mode of Play*, first edition 1872. The next four entries under that title; first edition variant [1872], Revised issue [1873], Cloth binding [1874], and Second (abridged) edition [1895]! This kind of thorough scholarship is evident throughout the book.

Another example: *Croquet And How To Play It* by Arthur GF Ross. The first edition was published in 1930 in Wanganui, NZ and reported in *The Croquet Association Gazette* (10 May 1930, page 66) but has never been seen. Drazin went on to document the second edition, 1933, an unpublished German translation of the second edition, 1936 and the last edition published in 1947.

Did you know that Maurice B Reckitt wrote *Croquettes* in 1967, pen pictures from the past of some great figures in the game? Though unpublished, it is thought that this work was originally intended by the author for publication in 1967, to coincide with the CA's celebrations of the centenary of the Open Championships. The CA retains the copy, bound by a paper fastener.

One of my favorites, *Notes On Croquet: And Some Ancient Bat And Ball Games Related To It* by RCA Prior, 1872, I once described it to Keith Wylie as croquet's most esoteric book. His response in a letter to me:

"I wonder whether you have come across a cyclo-styled slim volume from South Africa, produced in about 1970, by (I think) someone called either Ward-Petley or Ward? He had, it seems, had a technological training (and had some naval rank), but by the time he wrote produced this oeuvre he must have been gaga. (Good job I wrote mine before senility set in.) His attempts to explain how croquet balls behave is incoherent and hilarious. The book was sent to the CA for review (which I wrote for the Gazette circa 1971 - I disown the ignorant editorial gloss of "Visitors" for "Visiters" if you find the review) but I think the copy itself got lost. There may be some floating around South Africa, unless they have been thrown away for the rubbish that they were."

Maybe we will read about this slim volume in Drazin's second volume. A future volume, by Drazin, will include other books and pamphlets both fiction and non-fiction, periodical literature and literary works in other media.

Anyone interested in the game and history of croquet should buy this book. It is already a classic.

The book is available priced £60 inc UK P&P from: David Drazin, Roefield, The Green, Croxley Green, Rickmansworth, Herts WD3 3HJ

CA CLUB EVENTS 1999

INTER-CLUB

Round One

Cheltenham 4, Ipswich 3
Sussex County 4, Hurlingham 3
Northampton 4, Leicester 3
Harrow Oak 4, Guildford & Godalming 3
Bowdon 6, Wrest Park 1
Surbiton 4, Woking 1

Round Two

Cheltenham 6, Sussex County 1
Northampton 4 Bristol 3
Harrow Oak 2 Nottingham 0
Surbiton 6 Bowdon 1
Semi-finals
Cheltenham 7 Nottingham 0
Surbiton 5 Harrow Oak 2
Final
Surbiton 4 Cheltenham 3



The victorious Surbiton Inter-Club team, pictured left to right at Cheltenham: Terry Burge, Stephen Mulliner, Robert Fulford and Chris Farthing. (Photo by Eileen Magee)

Inter-Club Final

Report by Stephen Mulliner

SURBITON BEAT CHELTENHAM 4-3 AT CHELTENHAM ON SUNDAY 3 OCTOBER 1999

Objective pre-match assessments might have suggested scorelines of 5-2 or 6-1 in Surbiton's favour given its -7.5 bisquing potential. In the event, the issue was very finely balanced and depended on Terry Burge hitting the peg from Corner 2 when Paul Smith was laid up to go out from rover and peg in the next turn. Justice was probably done, but only just and Surbiton could have had no complaints if things had gone the other way.

Results (Surbiton names first)

RI Fulford & SN Mulliner beat DR Foulser and DL Gaunt +17tp (F)
Fulford lost to Foulser -25tp
Mulliner beat Gaunt +11
TR Burge beat DJ Magee +14
CJ Farthing lost to PL Smith -25
Burge beat Smith +3
Farthing lost to Magee -8

Cheltenham's Lawns 4 and 5 were not quick but could not be trifled with. Paul Smith led the way for Cheltenham with a careful three-break

win over an out-of-touch Farthing and Surbiton needed the doubles to draw level. Mulliner went to 4b on turn 5 after a rare tice opening and Fulford surprisingly failed to get away on a triple not once but three times, once declaring a fault on himself when running hoop 3. Foulser also reached 4b but, in a subsequent turn, missed a shortish roquet on Fulford's ball when arranging a leave. This fourth opportunity was grasped by the World Champion who completed a delayed triple. Burge and Magee were exchanging hoop failures on a regular basis. This was not really surprising as both preferred ambitious roll-up attempts to the next hoop from almost anywhere rather than a more cautious leave-making strategy. Eventually, Burge got a grip and gave Surbiton the lead 2-1.

Fulford was quickly underway against Foulser and seemed to have a routine rush on partner to hoop 2 with a break laid when he missed it. Foulser grasped his chance and played solidly to 4b and, the lift being missed, extracted a standard triple which he played with no sign of nerves. 2-2.

On the same lawn, Mulliner had been keeping pace with him with another triple when a failed half-jump at rover left Gaunt in possession of all four balls. As Gaunt had already had a break to 2b (when a hampered roquet after 1b went wrong), he wisely elected to take his second ball

to the peg. Alas, 3b was the only hoop he under-approached and failure there gave Mulliner the opportunity to finish the game. 3-2 to Surbiton. Here endeth the (relatively) quick part of the match.

Farthing was still looking to be at less than his best and Magee made a good early start. At long last, Farthing gained the innings, ran hoop 1 and established a decent break. In an instant he looked much more like half of this year's Doubles Champions and the Surbiton team and crowd (G. Noble, travelling referee and gourmand, A. Thomas, travelling gourmand) began to feel that 5-2 was again a possibility. These pleasant thoughts were fairly promptly dashed when Farthing failed an angled 2b. Back to Burge/Smith where Burge was in robust tripling mode. A Burge triple is good value, a Burge delayed triple even better. Supporters and opponents alike are kept on the edges of their seats as the sequence of bold strokes flows on. Success teetered more than once but, at last, Tel ran rover with all peels done, rushed back to the peg, lined up from 4 yards and ...missed with the forward ball!!

Paul Smith now strode on like a man recharged and from 1 and 4 (not 4b), reached peg and rover with a succession of 2-ball breaks as Terry bombarded the peg from every corner on the court. His colleagues and opponents went off for Eileen Magee's excellent roast lamb and could have had a three-course meal with coffee and brandy as the battle raged. Eventually, as forecast about 90 minutes earlier by Roberto Fulfordis, seer in the stars and part-time croquet guru, Tel did make contact with the peg at the death and Surbiton regained the Inter-Club trophy for the first time since 1988. The elegant Magee (David) soon afterwards gained a deserved point for his side to leave the score at 4-3.

The trophy was presented and thanks given to Cheltenham for their hospitality, including an excellent lunch.

MARY ROSE

Round One

Pendle 4, Nottingham 3
Northampton 5, Bowdon 2
Hurlingham 4, Letchworth 3
Wrest Park 4, Colworth 3
Sussex County 5, Surbiton 2
Dyffryn 4, Bristol 3
Cheltenham 5, East Dorset 1

Round Two

Northampton 4 Pendle 3
Wrest Park 6 Hurlingham 1
Sussex County 4, Roehampton 3
Cheltenham 5 Dyffryn 2

Semi-finals

Wrest Park 6 Northampton 1
Sussex County 4 Cheltenham 2

Final

Wrest Park 4 Sussex County 3



After a long day's play, the winning Wrest Park team with the Mary Rose trophy gathered at 7.25pm for that all important photo. Lto R Rod Ashwell, John Wheeler, Eric Audsley, John Bevington and George Collins. (Photo by Eileen Magee)

SECRETARY'S SHIELD

Round 1

Walsall 4 Norwich 3

Round 2

Kingston Maurward w/o v Medway
Middlesborough 4 Zenmet 3
Ripon Spa Hotel 4 Bowdon 3
Walsall 4 Leicester 3

Semi-finals

Middlesborough w/o v Kingston Maurward
Ripon 5 Walsall 2

Final

Ripon 7 Middlesborough 0



The members of the winning Ripon team LtoR: Nigel Stanbridge, Andrew Hutchinson, Keith Smith, David Hopkins and Brian Hunt.

SECRETARY'S SHIELD

Ripon Spa Hotel 3rd October 1999

Report by A Ahmad

This year's event was held at the picturesque gardens at the Ripon Spa hotel. The hotel boasts two full lawns and a short lawn. The conditions were ideal. A mixture of sunny spells and very light scattered showers prevailed during the match. The lush lawns were on the slow side and the hoops were set generously for the contest. Middlesborough were blown away as they

lost 7 - 0. The match was as good as over by the end of the first session when Ripon, with the advantage of playing on home territory, led 3 - 0. During the lunch break the Teessiders must have wondered whether their decision to elect to play the match at Ripon was the correct one.

Middlesborough conceded bisques in all but one game which was played on level terms. They were overwhelmed by the abilities of all of the Ripon players to run long hoops accurately, and, make sizeable breaks consistently. The final three turns of the game that finished last epitomised the Teessiders difficulties:

Brian Hunt's penultimate innings consisted of a well controlled 13 point break without the assistance of a bisque. It included a penult peel and a narrow miss of the rover peel.

Walter Sander's last innings - demoralised. Opponent had one of his two allotted bisques standing. Ignored an obvious lift. Shot at opponent's balls near rover and missed. Brian Hunt's final innings - scored rover and used a bisque to peg out.

An excellent demonstration of flawless croquet by a 12 handicapper, who had previously played only two games this season.

The presentation ceremony was held in glorious sunshine. The shield was presented to David Hopkins by Derek Trotman, Chairman of the CA Tournament Committee. He congratulated Ripon Spa for holding a successful event and expressed a desire to return to the venue and play croquet the next time.

Results:

(Ripon names first) Brian Hunt & Andrew Hutchinson bt John Norris & Jeff Evans +8t; David Hopkins bt Geoff Taylor +10; Nigel Stanbridge bt Walter Sanders +4t; David Hopkins (8) bt John Norris +24; Nigel Stanbridge (12) bt Geoff Taylor (8) +17; Brian Hunt (12) bt Walter Sanders +18; Andrew Hutchinson (14) bt Jeff Evans (11) +23.

LONGMAN CUP

Round One

Bristol 4, Cheltenham 1
East Dorset 3, Zenmet 2
Sussex County 5, Guildford & Godalming 0
Roehampton 3, Hurlingham 2
Surbiton 3, Parsons Green 2
Colchester 3, Watford 2
Newport 4, Norwich 1
Bowdon 4, Stourbridge 1
Bury 4, Walsall 1
Tyneside 5, Belsay Hall 0

Round Two

Nailsea 3, Bristol 2
East Dorset 3 Dyffryn 2
High Wycombe w/o v Aldermaston & Berkshire
Blewbury 3, Sussex County 2
Roehampton 3, Surbiton 2
Woking 4 Compton 1
Wrest Park 3, Ealing 2
Medway 3, Reigate Priory 2
St Albans 3 Letchworth 2
Colchester 3 Harrow Oak 2
Hunstanton 5, Colworth 0
Ipswich 3, Newport 2
Bowdon 3, Leicester 2
Northampton 3 Nottingham 2
Bury 4, East Riding 1
Tyneside 5 Pendle 0

Round 3

East Dorset 4 Nailsea 1
Blewbury 3 High Wycombe 2



The members of the winning Medway team pictured at Cheltenham with the Longman Cup LtoR: David Tester, David Mundy, Paul Miles & Peter Highton. (Photo Eileen Magee)

Woking 3 Roehampton 2
Medway 3 Wrest Park 2
Colchester 3 St Albans 2
Ipswich 3 Hunstanton 2
Bowdon 4 Northampton 1
Tyneside 4 Bury 1

Round 4

Harwell (formerly Blewbury) 4 East Dorset 1

Medway 3 Woking 2
Ipswich 3 Colchester 2
Bowdon 4 Tyneside 1
Semi-finals
Medway 3 Harwell 2
Bowdon 4 Ipswich 1
Final
Medway 3 Bowdon 2

~ OBITUARY ~

Lt-Col. G E Cave (1902 - 1999)

Gerald Cave of Budleigh Salterton died in May 1999 aged 96. Following his retirement from the Army (RA) in 1949 Gerald rapidly became a prominent croquet player attaining a handicap of 0.5, at which level he was a stalwart member of the Devon team in the Inter-counties and a frequent visitor at Devonshire Park tournaments. He competed in the Surrey Cup (now Spencer-Ell) seven times, winning it in 1957 and 1959. With Mrs E Reeve he won the Mixed Doubles Championship in 1960.

In his later years he was the Manager for the President's Cup on a number of occasions.

Gerald Cave had a large physical presence and played vigorously with an incongruously short-shafted mallet; his temperament had a rather short fuse attached to it and this resulted in a number of 'memorable occasions' erupting on the croquet court. One recalls that if Gerald was faced with a potential crush shot in a hoop he might make such a good job of it that the ball would travel right down the court and nearly take the

hoop with it! The noise was unmistakable but was as nothing compared to the sound of his fury and frustration when the terrified referee declared the stroke to be a fault.

Gerald, post croquet, enjoyed bridge at the Budleigh Salterton Club and among his select circle of friends was recognised as a great gourmet, cultivating the practical arts of living well and being particularly skilled at making sloe gin.

So has departed another croquet character, of old who will long be remembered by those who had the good fortune to meet him.

A. J. Oldham

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GOLF CROQUET 2000

By Bill Arliss, Chairman Golf Croquet Committee

First of all may I thank everybody who helped with the survey on the WCF rules we used last season. In all we received the views of over 700 players. Whilst the majority favoured most of the WCF rules of play, there were approximately half who did not like hoop running in more than one turn aspect of these rules. Therefore to meet the wishes of the vast majority, the golf croquet committee decided that two formats of the game must be recognised. The committee felt that it would not be practical to continue with two separate sets of laws, issued by different bodies and that our only solution would be to issue a combined set of laws under the umbrella of the CA. This proposal has now been ratified by Council.

Effectively the new laws will follow the WCF rules almost completely on the normal mode of play but will also recognise an alternative version of the game in which hoops can only be run in one turn and jumps shots are not allowed. You may therefore ask why we are going to the trouble of issuing a separate set of laws if we are effectively going to follow the WCF method of play for major competition. The problem is that the WCF rules are written specifically for major championships and are intended as fully stand-alone rules. In practice most of our golf croquet events will be played under normal club conditions with limited refereeing facilities available, limited boundary space, players and committee who are most familiar with the association approach to the game etc. Our new law book will therefore only cover laws of actual play and all behavioural requirements as considered necessary, will be moved to a new Regulations for Tournaments. The accent on refereeing will return to the players themselves and the laws but will also include commentary to clarify complex points. The laws book will be available before the start of the new season.

We are also tackling the problem of referees specifically for golf croquet. At the beginning of January there was a meeting in London of a small number of qualified referees who are interested in golf croquet. They discussed how golf croquet events would be refereed in the future and how to set up training and qualification for golf croquet referees. A more detailed report on their discussion will appear in the next Gazette.

To match the increased popularity of golf croquet, the 2000 golf croquet programme has been considerably enhanced with upgraded and new competitions. The existing national championships for the Ascot and Ranelagh Challenge Cups has been moved to a larger venue at Nottingham, so that we can now accommodate 20 players in the singles and ten pairs in the doubles finals. The Inter-Counties Golf Croquet tournament will return to Wrest Park, but will be held over two days. The format used will guarantee at least nine games for all teams. Two totally new competitions have been introduced, an Inter-Club competition based upon the format of the present association Inter-Club event plus a new Open Championship

which this season will be held at Southwick. This new Open Championship will include both singles and doubles titles plus a consolation singles and already we have had interest shown from a number of overseas players.

This coming season will also see the staging of the WCF World Championships in Egypt in October and naturally we want to send a strong team. Selection for this event will not as in the past be based totally on the internal championships but on all events played on a level basis. To help with the selection, a ranking system is being set up on the same basis as association croquet and the results of all qualifying games will be used. As well as the CA sponsored competitions, this will include all level play from the new golf croquet tournaments that are being organised by our clubs. So Tournament Secretaries please ensure all such results are sent to the CA office or directly to me as I shall initially be running the system. Our actual team selection will be made by a new Selection Committee, chaired by the Chairman of the CA Selection Committee but comprising four golf croquet players nominated by the Golf Croquet Committee.

TOURNAMENT REPORTS

Tyneside Tournament, 21 - 22 August

By L. Tibble

Prologue: In the grounds of Exhibition Park near the city centre are two very nice lawns with substantial clubhouse and all mod. cons which once served as a ladies' bowling club. Now, the ladies of the club decided to relocate (best not ask why) and the offer to take over the lawns was taken up the Tyneside Croquet Club.

Act One, First Day: In the first round games, a good win for Mike (Hammer of the English) Hammelev who made fewer mistakes than his opponent (me, a.k.a. the English). Dave Carpenter, playing with his new millennium mallet, struggled to find his true form and Roger Schofield gave us all an exhibition of stalking the ball (well, we were, after all, in Exhibition Park). Feeling decidedly under the weather from all the medicine he had taken the previous night to subdue his cold and playing with his old mallet, Malcolm O'Connell soldiered on in relentless style, never to be seen without his box of man-size tissues. Sue was obviously waiting for the first signs of Malcolm's symptoms before declaring an outbreak. End of Act One, with no losses for Gail or Malcolm.

Act Two, Second Day: Malcolm's game against Lionel was notable for the seemingly inept start to his break which went roughly like this - poor rush from east boundary, the ball in the middle of the lawn is now unrushable and the only other ball is near hoop 2 just in from the west boundary. Horrendous croquet stroke to get to this ball but no rush to hoop 1. The cut-rush goes to hoop 2 instead. Aside to David Carpenter at this point, "It wouldn't surprise me if, after all this comedy of errors, he pulled off the pass-roll approach to hoop 1!" And guess what! Yep! That's right! That's what he did and then went on convincingly to win the game - no more comedy. Gail continued to find her form and Malcolm was her next victim. Beatrice went shopping and Sue took Lionel for a row on the boating lake, much to the amusement of the mums, dads and kiddies all around the lake. Gail continued in fine form for the rest of the day and remained undefeated.

Make sure you book early for this one next season; Tyneside's secret is out!

Bristol B Level Weekend, 21 - 22 August

By Deborah Latham

"We like B Levels - we enter them whenever we can" said one player and, on the evidence of Bristol's inaugural B Level Weekend (to add to its advanced and handicap weekends), I can understand why. Credit to Ray Ransom for both suggesting and managing. The knockout main event with subsidiary Swiss ensured a minimum four games and a possible five or even six if you made maximum use of the Swiss or got through to the best-of-three final.

In the semi-finals, Terrey Sparks was pitted against Niall Carter but succumbed to what one spectator euphorically dubbed "Niall's style", while James Mackay's attack was forced back by the meticulously inexorable advance of Louise Bradforth. Louise seemed to have the gift of inspiring erstwhile opponents for, after she had despatched them into the Swiss, both Paul Watson and James achieved their Gold Awards. Also in the Swiss, Latham (Mrs) played Latham (Mr) - a concept which managers usually have more difficulty with than we do - Latham (Mrs) won. After the final round, Bob Scott, James Mackay and Alison Thursfield shared the leader board with four wins from six.

Back in the main event, in the first game of the final Niall forged ahead to 4-back and rover, leaving Louise the task of going from 2 to peg out in the turn during which time was called. Niall then had to play blue, hitting the black which was in the jaws of 4-back with his lift, but the jaws of penult snapped shut on him and Louise won + 1ot. Her careful, steady approach gave Niall little opportunity in the second game and she won + 25.

It was therefore her privilege to become the first winner of what Frances Ransom has cryptically christened the "Goncalo Alves (a.k.a. Zebra, Locust or Tiger)" Trophy.

Cheltenham Level Weekend, 28 - 30 August

By Deborah Latham

Please excuse staccato style - impossible do justice all contributors to tournament inside 300 word report limit without excluding superfluous connectives. Sunny, warm, often humid. Format three blocks, Hands ladder, level advanced, no time limits, Wharrad turns, minimum six games to qualify for prizes.

Worcestershire block (7 to 12) - winner Penny Crowe; second, also prize for most 9-hoop breaks, Gordon Weir (also prodigious 4-back peel from near first hoop!)

Herefordshire block (3.5 to 6) - winner Colin Snowdon (100% record); second David Ruscombe-King (12-hoop 3-ball break, third turn, first game); third Bill Sidebotham.

Prize for most 12-hoop breaks James Mackay (also four peels of quintuple - at handicap 4.5). Kevin Garrad, from the Isle of Man, pegged out both balls in single stroke, rolling from south boundary, unaccountably

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The Manor House, 1 Barn Croft, Penwortham, Preston PR1 0SX

declined to demonstrate skill second time

Gloucestershire block (- 2 to 3) - winner, also prize for most TPs, Kris Chambers; second David Foulser; third Michael Blackwell. TPs also from Chris Williams, David Foulser though dry conditions not conducive.

Prize for quadruple and sextuple unclaimed, taken into custody of manager Roger Jackman. Lunches (excellent, h & c) Dab Wheeler, and all our best wishes to Roger, much missed.

Hope have captured flavour of tournament and most notable feats of prowess in minimum numbers words. Great fun, enjoyed.

(I knew you could do it! Ed.)

Hunstanton Annual Tournament, 28 - 31 August

By Celia Pearce

Once again the sun shone brightly over the lawns of Hunstanton as everyone gathered to participate in four days fun and frolics. It was good to see that the meeting of old friends was joined by some up and coming youngsters from the host club and two Antipodean players. The hospitality was as warm as the weather and the organisation ensured that everyone was able to enjoy a good number of games. The tournament was ably run by Martin Kolbuszewski who succeeded in combining his effective and relaxed management with an equally triumphant performance on the lawns winning the C Block. The idea of performing two tasks at once was emulated by George Noble who acted as an examining referee while winning the A Block and David Haslam who, having passed his assistant referee's exam, went on to win the main handicap event in a nail-biting final. The tournament was also a great success for David Tutt who achieved his first tournament triple peel to the delight of the crowd. David Waterhouse won the D Block as well as a well-deserved handicap reduction in the process as did Celia Steward who won the B Block.

Ryde Handicap Tournament 3 - 5 September

By Christine Bourn

The Club was fortunate to have another tournament blessed with fine weather. It is rare to look across the lawns in September and see only one player preferring trousers to shorts.

In view of the wide handicap range, Philip Kennerley managed the event as a Swiss. Some tournaments are full of cliff-hangers; some appear to run themselves. Happily for the manager, but less so for this correspondent, the latter proved to be the case.

It soon became evident that the two local rapid improvers, Roy Tillcock and Nick Minns (playing in his first CA tournament), were likely to be among the prizes. Despite spirited attempts by Deiniol Morgan from Bath (who only beat John Bourn narrowly after pegging out their forward balls and challenging him to a one-ball finish) and Philip Kennerley, the winner was decided during the game between Roy and Nick. Level on time, Roy's greater experience (of both tactics and post-time tension) led him to the classic "plus one on time" result. He was the eventual tournament winner with five victories and, although Deiniol, Philip and Nick all won four times, Nick's particular combination of results gained him the runner-up position.

Members of the Ryde Club always extend a warm welcome to "overseas" visitors to their tournaments and look forward to seeing old and new faces next year.

ASSOCIATE DEATHS

The Croquet Association regret to inform members of the deaths of the following members:

Irvine Smith - Nottingham CC
John Sinimonds - Parkstone CC

AROUND & ABOUT



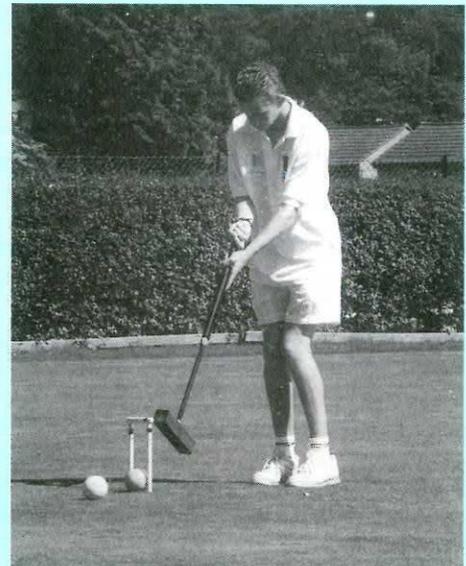
Chairman's Salver competitors Ed Cunningham, David Harrison-Wood, Don Gaunt, Phil Cordingley, David Goacher, Jeff Dawson and Terry Burge pictured at Southport. (Photo by Don Williamson.)



Louise Bradforth in play at Bristol on her way to winning the 'B' level in August. (Photo by Deborah Latham.)



Longman Bowl competitors Heather Pritchard, Di Williamson, Alison Thursfield, Gene Mears, Audrey Whitaker and Diana Brothers.



Kristian Chambers in play at Cheltenham. (Photo by Deborah Latham.)



'Breaks' at Hunstanton. Members watch the Eastern Championships LtoR Jenny Waterhouse, Sarah Hampson, Beryl Gosden & John Christmas. (Photo by Sarah Hampson.)



Lionel Tibble & Su Stenhouse entertain the crowds at Tyneside between games.