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DATES OF IMPORTANT EVENTS

May 23—27	HURLINGHAM	Inter-County Championships
May 30—June 4	CHELTENHAM	Men's and Women's Championships
July 2	HURLINGHAM	England v Eire
July 4—9	ROEHAMPTON	Open Championships
July 25—30	HURLINGHAM	Ladies' Field Cup
Aug. 11—20	ROEHAMPTON	Challenge and Gilbey Cups
Sept 5—10	ROEHAMPTON	President's Cup

For dates of other events see calendar on page 2

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In Our June Number—

REPORT OF ANNUAL MEETING

BEGINNERS, PLEASE!

A QUESTION OF LAW

YOUR TURN TO PLAY

NOTES FROM THE CLUBS

TOURNAMENT RESULTS

BRIDGE

By E. P. C. COTTER

TOURNAMENT FIXTURES

1955

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

NON-OFFICIAL FIXTURES

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

Two

CROQUET ASSOCIATION NOTICES

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

* * *

ELECTION OF ASSOCIATES

Miss I. Base
Mrs. D. Boulton
Mrs. F. H. N. Davidson
Anthony Jennings
V. Leleux
Mrs. A. M. M. Leveson
H. L. Ormerod
Mrs. C. A. Purdy
Mrs. E. Whitehead

* * *

LAWS OF ASSOCIATION CROQUET 1955

Correction to list of official referees:

R. F. Rothwell

The Secretary regrets that this name was omitted from the list.

* * *

THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS

In view of the General Election, the Council desires it to be known that those concerned in this competition may rest assured that matches will be so arranged that all competitors will be free to register their votes, and in the case at any rate of players coming from outside the metropolitan area, will have concluded their matches by Wednesday evening. This is rendered possible by the fact that the nine courts which will be provided this year at Hurlingham enable six matches a day to be played, though of course not every team will necessarily be concerned in every round.

Collectors of teams are asked to warn their players that owing to the holding of the Annual General Meeting on the afternoon of Tuesday, May 24th, it will probably be necessary for play to continue on that evening to a later time than that advertised.

MAURICE B. RECKITT

Chairman of the Tournament Committee

* * *

LAWS OF CROQUET (1955)

Associates, 1s. 6d.
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LORN C. APPS,

Secretary.

EDITORIAL PANEL OF "CROQUET"

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

Reflections on a Calendar

THIS number will reach its readers just as play in our long list of "Calendar Fixtures" begins. For twenty-three consecutive weeks there will be a tournament somewhere, though on May 23rd, membership of a County team will be needed to enable a player to compete, and on September 5th, a yet more exclusive qualification will be required. Otherwise there is something each week open to everyone; and even at the championship meetings there are "consolation" events designed to attract those who may not expect to go far in the major competitions. June is a particularly favoured month, the aspirant to honours being offered a tempting alternative each week.

While this Official Calendar may seem to compare unfavourably with the hundred fixtures which figured in the C.A. programme in the years just before World War I, it cannot be said that players today lack opportunity or incentive for competitive croquet. Indeed visitors from the antipodes, where croquet players far outnumber those in this country, often express surprise at the quantity of fixtures here, and have been known to hint that we might value and enjoy our tournaments more than we do if there were not so many of them. However this may be, there is of course a geographical reason for the larger number of such gatherings in this island than are practicable in countries where far greater distances separate croquet centres from each other. It is astonishing to an English reader to learn, for example, of the many hundreds of miles which players from every state in Australia cheerfully travel each year to their national tournament, so delightfully described as a "Carnival". Londoners who may be wondering if they will exert themselves to journey to Cheltenham for the "Caskets" this year, should surely be incited by this example to display what will be a much less exacting manifestation of zeal for the game.

The motives which lead people to engage in collective enterprises are diverse, and often more complex than they themselves appreciate. For example, while no one should doubt that genuine piety was a primary incentive to many medieval pilgrims, no reader of the *Canterbury Tales* can suppose it to have been the only one. Why do we enter for croquet tournaments? If the answer is "ambition", what is the object for which we strive? To win a prize; to get our handicap reduced; to improve our game? These are all perfectly legitimate objectives, though perhaps some are more praiseworthy than others. But many of us enter for tournaments with further considerations in our minds: to meet old friends and to make new ones; to accustom ourselves to unfamiliar conditions; to increase our zest for the game by playing it in fresh surroundings; even to recall happy memories of the past. A tournament has so much to offer to all of us that we should surely be thankful that our Calendar provides us with so many of them.

But perhaps the greatest value of tournaments is that, rightly regarded, they provide a stimulus

to that most important of all croquet qualities, concentration. Casual knock-ups can be good fun and provide opportunities to try out what we would hardly venture upon in serious games, but too much of this sort of play can easily do us more harm than good. It allows us to forget that the primary purpose of all serious sport is to come a little nearer to perfecting what we set out to do. For this, concentration is the first essential. Every first-class player of any game, however great his natural genius for it, knows this. "My ambition", Maureen Connolly said recently, "is to perfect my tennis. Then I will always win my matches. I scarcely realise who my opponent is. I see the ball coming and my whole mind is given to the job of hitting it to the desired spot." The editor of *British Lawn Tennis*, commenting on these remarks by one of the greatest natural geniuses who ever hit a ball over a net, points out the significance of this order of priorities. Victory is seen not as an end in itself but as a *consequence* of doing the right thing at the right moment. And the opponent is seen quite objectively, less as an obstacle to doing this right thing than as providing the opportunity for the doing of it. If this can be said of lawn tennis, where the adversary has such large power to frustrate one's intentions, how much more does it apply to Croquet, where when one is on the court he has none. Let the high bisquer bear this in mind when next he has to tackle someone whose reputation is even more likely to defeat him perhaps than any exercise of skill that the "tiger" may display.

For skill, necessary as it is that we should always be aiming to increase our command of it, is not everything. Harry Hopman, perhaps the greatest team captain in the history of lawn tennis, has declared of that game that it is "40 per cent skill and 60 per cent character, temperament and brain." Surely this is at least as true of Croquet as it is of any other sport, and perhaps more so. We cannot go very far at this game—or any other—without reasonably good stroke production, but this alone will not win events for us. "Character and temperament": this means not only refusing to surrender to "nerves" when in a tight place or the courage to go out for a big chance when that is the best way of saving a situation. It means keeping one's head when one is in front no less than when one is behind, and not attributing to bad luck adversities which a little thought will enable us to trace to our own mistakes. At Croquet, honesty with oneself is most assuredly the best policy. While as for "brain"—was there ever a game which cried out so clamantly as ours for the exercise of intelligence and ingenuity, and cried out so often in vain?

Such are some of the thoughts which cross the mind of a player who competed in his first tournament just fifty years ago, and has never lost his zest for these contests since. As another season opens he wishes all competitors the success which comes much less from good luck than from good management—of one's strokes, of one's tactical problems, but most of all perhaps of oneself.

Three

NOTES by ROVER

THE re-appearance of the Hurlingham Club on our cover, its urbane facade contrasting strongly with the rural setting of the Rydal lawns which appeared there in April, is as appropriate as we hope it is welcome. For it recalls the fact that the club is the scene later this month not only of the Inter-County Championship, but of the Annual General Meeting of the Association. This pleasing conjunction has the valuable effect that it makes it easy and natural for many at any rate of our provincial players to attend the gathering at which Associates are afforded an annual opportunity to take a share, if they wish to do so, in the handling of the Association's affairs. As these Notes have to be composed before the time expires for the sending in of motions, we cannot foreshadow what items on the agenda are likely to provoke the greatest interest. In any case Associates will be asked to approve the new set of Rules to the drafting of which so much attention has been given by the Council during the past winter, and they will doubtless wish to have the latest news of the visit of the New Zealand team, now definitely fixed for next year. But one feature of particular interest can with reasonable certainty be foreseen. Our President has kindly promised to be present on this occasion, and surely many Associates will want to avail themselves of the opportunity to meet and listen to so distinguished a speaker as Sir Compton Mackenzie. It would be even more surprising than it would be disappointing if there were not a good—perhaps a record—gathering at Hurlingham on May 24th. The meeting is due to start promptly at 2 o'clock.

* * *

A visit to the Riviera, brief as it must necessarily be in these days, calls to mind that during the twenties and thirties there were three centres on this alluring coast to which croquet players went out year after year and at which they often stayed month after month. Sir Francis Colchester-Wemyss at Costebelle, W. H. Lyall at the neighbouring Hyères, and A. E. Madge at the more distant Menton, were among the most prominent of those who took charge of the game at these resorts; and down to 1931, the winter of the "economic crisis", there were three "Calendar Fixtures" annually, at one or other of which the C.A.s Riviera Gold Medal was regularly competed for. Are those days for ever fled? One would naturally have resigned oneself to thinking so. Not only the eight courts at Costebelle but the very hotel itself ceased to exist about five years before World War II, and we believe the same is now true of the Golf Hotel at Hyères. But on a recent visit to Menton, "Rover" discovered a magnificent new club-house replacing the humble pavilion of pre-war days at the Tennis Club, and he was informed by a leading citizen that the local Committee had it in mind to start Croquet there again.

* * *

Surveying the scene last visited 18 years ago, one noticed that the handsome club-house had

encroached upon the "northern" (geographically the southern) end of what was generally regarded as the best court—though it must be admitted that "best" is a somewhat misleading term in this connection. Grass has to be grown as it were *ad hoc* on the Riviera every winter, and the result can hardly be described as turf as we in this country understand it. The areas which formed the two remaining courts, however, are not otherwise occupied and could no doubt be made available for Croquet again if there were any assurance that enough players would come out from England to make the experiment worth while. Admittedly, the outlook in this respect does not seem very bright. Those who can afford the time and money for a Riviera holiday could not, with the restricted travel allowances in operation, stay very long, even if they desired to do so. Nor is it easy to see how, without a croquet secretary resident throughout most of the winter months, the game could be effectively organised. But croquet players have learnt in recent years not only to be thankful for small mercies but to be expert at exploiting slender opportunities. If any sort of encouragement were to reach headquarters from Associates as to their desire and intention to go to Menton next winter with Croquet in mind, no doubt the Council would find the appropriate means to pass on such encouragement to those on the spot who might be prepared to provide the facilities for realisation of this ambition.

* * *

Somebody once shrewdly remarked that the crucial moment for a new periodical was the day of the publication of its second number. *Croquet* having successfully survived its first season, is now publishing the second number of its second one. The task of the Editorial Panel does not become easier as time goes on, for not only is it more difficult to find fresh themes, or at any rate new ways of treating old ones, but the few who have so generously contributed to these pages may reasonably suggest that it is time that some others took a hand. With this plea we should sympathise, and we do earnestly ask our readers to consider whether it is not time that more of them became writers also. We cannot believe that the literary abilities of so numerous a body as our Association are confined to the dozen contributors who have so far expressed themselves in these pages. Even if modesty restrains ambition—though probably unnecessarily—anyone with a point to make can, and should, send in a letter. Finally, there may well be some who, while not feeling competent to contribute a feature themselves, have clear ideas of something they would like to see in this journal which has not yet appeared here. If they have, we hope very much they will tell us about it, and should the idea seem a good one we will do our best to see that it is carried out. Let all Associates remember that this is *their* paper, and—to adapt a familiar invitation—if they don't see what they want in the window, let them ask for it inside.

Beginners, Please!

A MATTER OF PRINCIPLE

by The Rev. G. F. H. Elvey

IN my last lesson I drew your attention to the fact that progress in Croquet depends on trying to make provision for the next-hoop-but-one. Sometimes the only thing that we can do is to pick off one point. To do so is better than nothing, and if it happens that it is a hoop on a tricky bit of ground difficult to approach, we are sometimes very glad to have surmounted the obstacle, even if we can do nothing more at the moment. But this sort of thing should be exceptional not habitual.

Now, granted that provision for the next-hoop-but-one is all important, what are the principles governing its achievement? I cannot possibly insist too strongly on the fact that successful break-making is based on definite principles. Breaks have to be built up, and it is surprising how, with knowledge of the principles involved, they can be built up seemingly out of almost nothing.

A player will sometimes say with much irritation, "I played splendidly last week. I made lovely breaks, but this week I cannot do anything!" It might not be courteous, but the answer to this should probably be:—"You thought you were playing well last week, because you were physically exceptionally fit, eye and hand were working perfectly together, and though you gave yourself a lot of difficult strokes they came off! But you did not play your breaks properly, and this week as eye and hand are not in quite such good form, you cannot get on. But if you were accustomed to build your breaks on correct principles, you would still be able to get on, even if "croquetically" you were slightly off colour.

Now what about the basic principles of break-making? I do hope you have made that board that I suggested in my last article; but if not, that you will make one without delay, and get the necessary counters—blue, red, black, yellow. I have had a good deal of experience of trying to do so, and I have found that when I try to teach these principles on the lawn, it is apt to become a matter of practising strokes, rather than learning principles; but on the board, strokes do not affect us, and so we can give our whole mind to principles.

From now on, I am going to assume that the board and counters are to hand. Please draw a line from hoop 5 to hoop 2 and on to where it crosses the boundary. Place the Red counter on the line between hoop 5 and hoop 2 about one inch from hoop 2 (on the lawn this would mean that Red was a yard or more from hoop 2). Now look at that line very carefully. We will say that you are for hoop 2 and you want to make quite certain of getting right in front of it, and only a foot from it. To be sure of this you want to rush Red up close to the hoop. Yard-and-four-feet approaches are not good enough for certainty! Now to be sure

of getting Red up close to the hoop, you want to get your ball—which we will call Blue—on to that line—on the board about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch from Red and an inch and a half from the hoop. The rush will then be straight and easy. For the sake of clarity, put the letter H on that point half an inch from Red and one and a half inches from the hoop. If you consider the situation carefully, you will realise that it is much easier to get to H from any point on or near the line than from anywhere else. Even if Blue is on the boundary side of the hoop, and you have to take off past the hoop to get there, it is easier than from some place a long way from the line, and if you are on the line between Red and hoop 5 it is the easiest position of all. In my little book on Croquet I have called the croquet-stroke previous to the actual approach, the preliminary-approach. So we can put it this way:—it is all important that you should make your preliminary-approach from a point on or near that line. And so if you are Blue, and you are going to take croquet from Black to get to Red. It is all-important that you first rush Black on to, or as near as possible to the line, which we call the RUSH-LINE.

You see I have been trying to teach you, as simply as possible, that basic principle of break-making—The Rush-Line Theory. It is a principle laid down by that greatest of all croquet tacticians—Mr. C. D. Locock—many years ago.

Now the moment you have sent a ball on to the next-hoop-but-one you have got to consider where its rush-line is, and think about getting on to it for the preliminary-approach.

At this point we will start a four-ball-break with the counters. Your ball is Blue. Black is somewhere near the middle of the board, Yellow is at the first hoop. Blue is near the middle of Baulk A with a rush on Red towards Black.

Look at your Yellow-first hoop rush-line. Your preliminary approach must be made on it. So—rush Red towards Black, send Red to the second hoop, and get a rush on Black on to the Yellow—first hoop rush-line. Then an easy stop-shot, with perhaps a little split in it, will send Black towards the middle of the ground, and Blue will be running up the rush-line towards Yellow. In this case the Yellow counter. Even when I speak in terms appropriate to the lawn, I want you still to stick to the counters and the board.

As you make hoop 1, try for a rush up the ground, so that as you croquet Yellow to hoop 3, you get a rush on Black on to the Red-second-hoop-rush-line. (The line that you marked on the board to start with.) Leave Black somewhere in the middle of the ground, taking off to get a perfect rush on Red for hoop 2. Make hoop 2 off Red, then croquet Red to hoop 4, taking great care to get a

rush on Black, so that you can rush it on to the Yellow-third-hoop rush-line. Now we must consider for a moment the position of Yellow. If Yellow has run beyond hoop 3, say somewhere between the hoop and the B Baulk Line, you must get a rush on Black to the boundary, so that you can return it to the middle of the ground, as you come up the rush-line behind Yellow for hoop 3. On the other hand, if Yellow is short of hoop 3, you can keep Black in the middle of the ground, and take-off along the rush-line to Yellow for hoop 3.

Assume that all has gone well—and happily with the counters things can be made to go well! Rush Yellow to hoop 3, make hoop 3 off Yellow, and then you will have a choice. You can either croquet Yellow to hoop 5, or—you can croquet it to hoop 6, getting a rush on Black towards Red at hoop 4. You can then with an easy stroke put Black to hoop 5 going yourself to Red. This stroke should be made on the Red hoop 4 rush-line. You then rush Red to hoop 4, make the hoop off it, and then croquet it into the middle of the ground, taking care to get on to your Black hoop 5 rush-line.

Now what are the pros and cons of this procedure? In favour, after you have made hoop 3, you are in a very good position for placing Yellow exactly right for hoop 6, and if you get a good rush up the ground, you should be all right for hoops 4 and 5. But, and there is a But, for a short time you lose your fourth ball, so that if anything does go wrong, you have not the same chance of a tidy

A QUESTION OF LAW . . . by Lex

NOT long ago we heard a request made for an authoritative definition of the term "shepherding" as used in Croquet. As we have said before, not without provoking comment, Lex speaks with no legal authority on the subject of the laws of croquet. As his views are merely an expression of opinion he would be much interested to hear whether his readers agree with his interpretation of this term "shepherding".

Well, of course, the very word suggests a loving care for the ball which does not like to let it go. A shepherded shot is one in which the striker's ball in a croquet shot is guided to its destination—generally a few inches for a hoop—by a series of gentle taps or pushes—taps so gentle as not to be audible—pushes so delicate that the mallet never seems to lose touch with the ball. The only indication of the shepherded shot is the *increase* of pace of the striker's ball, when of course according to all the laws of nature it should decrease in speed.

Perhaps our readers will agree with this description and yet ask where is the rule that states that this is a foul? The answer we suggest is contained in rule 26 (d) and (e). Those who think shepherding is legal misinterpret 26 (d). In a croquet shot, as soon as the two balls have lost

up. On this ground I know one first-class player, who is a splendid tactician, to be very much opposed to this method. So in spite of its attractions, my advice to an inexperienced player is: after hoop 3 send Yellow to hoop 5, carefully getting a rush on Black to be sure of the rush-line on Red waiting at hoop 4. I would remind you that if Red has run beyond hoop 4, you must rush Black beyond the hoop also.

Make hoop 4 off Red, send Red to hoop 6, getting a rush on Black to the Yellow hoop 5 rush-line. Make hoop 5 off Yellow, croquet Yellow to hoop 1-back getting a rush on Black to the Red hoop 6 rush-line. Now note that after making hoop 6, you have to send Red to hoop 2-back. So as you get your rush on Red, you must leave Black happily on your left, so that when you have made hoop 6, you can croquet Red to hoop 1-back, getting a rush on Black on to the Yellow 1-back rush-line. Note that in approaching hoop 6, it is usually best to put the assistant ball to the left.

From now on progress in the homeward way will be exactly similar to the outward journey.

In closing this lesson, I would say this. I am afraid the pupils who have done me the honour to read my advice, will be absolutely sick of the very words rush-line. But even if you are weary of hearing about it, I bid you never to get tired of practising it, because it is the essence of successful break making. Players who carefully observe it are on the way to improvement; those who disregard it are on the way to stagnation.

contact with one another, according to 26 (e) no push is permissible—even though when the stroke was started the balls were in contact and according to 26 (d) a push is legal. We suggest that on this interpretation of law 26 (d) and (e) to shepherd a ball is illegal. We hope our readers will comment on this for we believe it to be a matter of some importance.

Can you answer the following?

1. A ball reaches the playing side of its hoop by going through from the non-playing side leaving an edge between the uprights. Can the hoop be run?
2. Blue aiming at Red and Yellow in contact, roquets Yellow but takes croquet from Red. Is this a foul?
3. May a player remove the top section of the peg?
4. A moving ball, after running its hoop, is interfered with by a playful dog. Has the striker any redress?

Answers on page 10

Guests and Hosts

AT the beginning of a new croquet season, the thoughts of those who were lucky enough to go out to New Zealand in 1950, turn back to the season out there and to recollection of the wonderful hospitality they received throughout the whole of the tour. In view of the coming visit of the New Zealand Test Team to this country, it may perhaps be of interest to hear of a few of the highlights of our tour.

The ship docked early in the morning, at Wellington, and we were met by at least a dozen New Zealand players—several of whom had travelled many hundreds of miles from the South Island—for the occasion. Morning tea had been arranged in a restaurant and we were then taken to our hotel. A luncheon party took place at another hotel where we were presented to the officials of the New Zealand Croquet world. The programme of our tour had been most carefully mapped out for every day of our four months' stay and we found that the plan was for us to tour both Islands, stopping at various places en route. These visits were to last two or three days and we were either to be the guests of local players or hotel accommodation had been booked for those who preferred to be independent. After four crowded days in Wellington—crowded with both croquet and parties, giving us a foretaste of what was to come—we started off on our travels.

During our visits to the various places we played many exhibition matches at the different clubs and wonderful sight-seeing expeditions had been arranged for our pleasure—all expenses being borne by the local croquet clubs. The laden tables at these clubs where we were given lunches and teas had to be seen to be believed!

A trip by launch in the evening—supper on board—at Whangarei in the North Island—a visit to the glow worm caves at Waitomo—an evening entertainment by Maoris at Rotorua—coach drives through the marvellous scenery in the bush—to mention only a few—are trips which stand out in my memory.

Wherever we went arrangements had been made for our comfort and welfare, and sometimes this even included free transport. The result of all this organisation saw that we never felt as if we were strangers in a strange land with nowhere to go. Indeed, hospitality was often offered to us in private homes.

Space only permits me to refer briefly to the lavish dinners and parties that were given for us after each of the Test Matches, whether we won or lost! I can but mention in passing the number of presents and souvenirs of all sorts that were showered upon us.

I think, however, that I have said enough for people over here to realise what a strenuous effort we must all make in 1956 to return a little of the hospitality so freely given to English players in New Zealand.

W. ASHTON

By this time next year it will not be long before the team from New Zealand reaches our shores and the struggle for the MacRobertson Trophy will be in full force. This is perhaps a good time to revive memories of the English Team's visit in 1950-51.

It was a full programme. From the start, we were whisked off the ship, some to hotels, others to houses of friends, and within two hours we had assembled for lunch as the guests of the New Zealand Croquet Council. During five days in Wellington, we visited nine clubs and gave exhibitions at eight of them. Everywhere we were entertained to morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea, and we realised that, so far as Croquet—and meals—were concerned, we were in for a busy time.

Then off on our travels. Up the West Coast of the North Island, we visited nine towns before reaching Auckland. Some we stopped at en route from one town to another, for lunch, a quick exhibition and off again. During those 12 days I myself, played 14 games and we went 3,000 feet up a mountain, and visited two of the three famous Waitomo Caves. After the 1st Test Match at Auckland, we went 100 miles North by car to Whangarei and then South, down the East Coast to Wellington again, and the 2nd Test. The highlights of this stretch were the remarkable hot springs and geysers at Rotorua, with rocks of vivid green, yellow, red and grey, boiling mud, geysers shooting a hundred feet in the air, hot springs in the middle of cold streams, crystal clear pools full of trout that can be fed by hand, and a swimming bath with water so hot, that cold water must be added to make it cool enough to swim in.

And so by plane to the South Island, where the round of entertainment, exhibition games and sightseeing trips continued uninterrupted. Mount Cook and the Franz Joseph Glacier, Christmas Day spent on the beach in Christchurch and the 3rd Test at Dunedin.

All these are easily remembered, what of the other things? The kindness of the people who put us up. The wonderful cream cakes that were there for every meal—hard to get used to after years of rationing. The genuine interest that greeted us everywhere. Mayors welcomed us at most towns. The full story cannot be told.

Our moments of leisure were few. A day spent on a launch at Whangarei. Another to visit Stewart Island, and two days complete relaxation at Lake Wanaka. In the evening we kept to ourselves, except for the six or eight broadcasts we made. It all ended with a three weeks Championship Tournament with 300 entries using the courts of five clubs.

A wonderful experience to look back on. What can we in England do in return? It would be impossible to do more, but no effort must be spared to make our guests feel at home, to entertain them and to help them in every possible way.

J. W. SOLOMON

BEING a "Tweeny" myself, that is, a little better than a Rabbit and very much worse than a Tiger, I have been asked to express my views on Croquet in general and Tournament play in particular from the point of view of a 5-bisquer. This I gladly do, hoping that this short article may be of some help to other players of the same standard as myself. I suppose the first point that worries us is the question—"Why don't we improve more quickly?" Again and again we enter for a Tournament full of hope, only to find ourselves knocked out—perhaps by a higher bisquer—in the very first round. Apart from general "Tournament nerves", what happens to us? We played so nicely the other day in a "friendly", and just look at us this morning! Why is our play so erratic? I think the answer is summed up in the phrase—"lack of confidence and lack of practice." How many of us really practise our rushes, approaches and hoop running consistently? Then lack of confidence leads to lack of venturesomeness when we are playing in a Tournament. We say to ourselves—"I daren't fetch that ball from the boundary, which would be so useful to me, because I might mess up the whole thing and leave my opponent with the chance of a glorious break." We forget that we have probably got a bisque or two and that if we took one in that particular case we should find it invaluable—but, even if we haven't got a bisque, I think the old proverb—"Nothing venture, nothing win" should be more in our minds. The mention of "Bisques" makes me remark that I am sure that most of us don't use them properly—of course, if we did, we shouldn't have them! But, obviously, I find it much harder to give them than to receive them, and I feel that we ought to use different tactics in each case. But do we?

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

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

The President, Sir Compton Mackenzie, will preside.

AGENDA

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

Are we over-confident and think that we know so much more than our probably more careful and accurate high-bisqued opponent? *Per contra* we are generally so nervous of our "Tiger" adversary that we lose our heads completely and the bisques just go west one after the other! What a waste of opportunity! One of the greatest players said to me when I had ten or eleven bisques against him—"Of course I haven't a chance against you." Needless to say, he won! We really must put this panic of ours behind us and say firmly to ourselves—"This is a game that I can and will win." There is nothing more degrading to our Croquet character than to "go to bed with our bisques"—yet, how often does this not happen? Finally, "Tweenies" like myself are apt to be grossly careless in their strokes, and also try to attempt shots and hoops far beyond their capabilities—sometimes even beyond anybody's else's! This simply must not be done in Tournament play. We should take infinite care and patience even with the easiest stroke. To sum up, lack of practice, lack of confidence, careless play and ignorance of and stupidity in the use of bisques—these seem to be the salient faults of us "Tweenies". "I speak as one less wise," and many 5-bisquers may disagree with me completely. If they do, so much the better for them, but "them's my sentiments". One last word. Read a good book on the game and remember to put into practice what it tells you to do when you are *actually playing* out on the lawn. I generally forget what I have read when I am engaged in a game and at what a cost to my pride and progress!

N.B.—Could the expression "Tweeny" be adopted by the C.A. to describe a player in betwixt and between the Rabbits and the Tigers?

6. Motion by Mrs. R. C. J. Beaton:—

"To ask the Council to give consideration to the following proposal when selecting players for the President's Cup Competition; that the winner of the Open Championships, the runner-up and the two other semi-finalists be deemed to have qualified for selection."

7. Any other business.

Notes:—

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

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

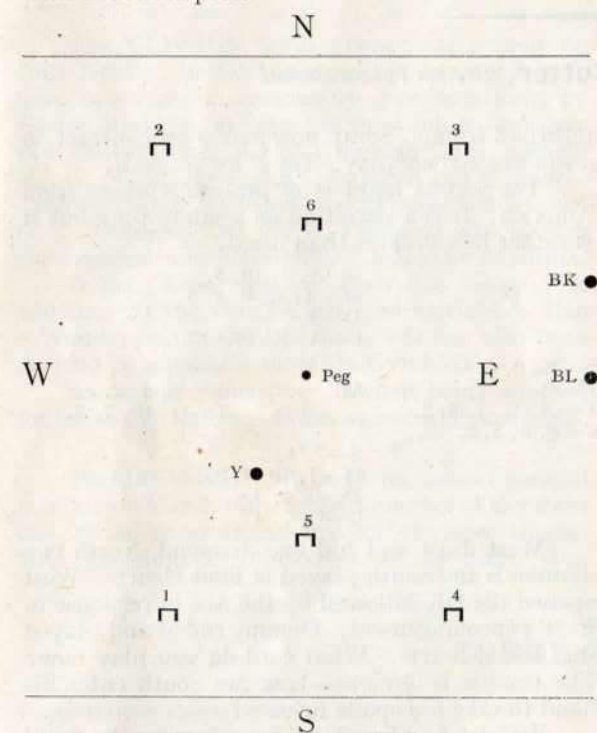
Brigadier J. S. Omond has been proposed by M. B. Reckitt and seconded by the Rev. B. V. F. Brackenbury to fill one of these vacancies.

Associates not being members of the Hurlingham Club, will be admitted free on production of their current membership cards.

AT the time of going to press Tactician has had a good number of entries for his competition. He takes this as a welcome indication that our readers are interested in the problems he has set. Indeed he expects that many more have worked out the answers, but it is quite another thing to set out the solution and send it to Southampton Row!

Since this feature of *Croquet* clearly does appeal to a number of our readers we give at the end of this article a solution to the April problems by Tactician, and meanwhile here are two more questions. Solutions to Tactician by May 16th.

Question I. In the accompanying diagram Black and Blue are yard line balls 3 yards apart. Red has just roqueted Black and is for the 4th hoop. Yellow is for the penultimate. Red now has to take croquet from Black. Enumerate the strokes in order that Red must make to finish the game with a double peel.



Question II (using the same diagram). Red has not started yet. Red and Yellow is a 2 bisquer—Black and Blue is handicap—1½. Blue started and has had one shot. Yellow laid a tice which Black ignored—going instead 3 yards wide of Blue. Red decides to use 1½ bisques to lay a break and go round to the peg. Enumerate Red's strokes in order up to and including the running of the 3rd hoop. Remember that every stroke must be the easiest possible under the circumstances.

To avoid any doubt on the subject, please note that any competitor with a handicap of 2 or over at the time when he first sends in a solution to these problems, who may subsequently be reduced below 2 will nevertheless remain eligible to compete.

Here, in the opinion of Tactician, is the best way of tackling the problems set out in the April number. Question 1:

Black has quite a reasonable chance of rushing his partner ball up to his hoop, the 2nd; indeed he had laid the balls where he did with this possibility in mind. But in fact he would not be likely to get very much out of this if it did come off, and if it didn't he would probably have to leave his partner out in the court, however he might try to lay the break, with the result that his opponent would be likely to get a free shot with one of his balls—possibly with either.

Much his best policy then is to rush Blue off the north boundary as nearly as possible behind hoop 2. He should then be able without difficulty to play a short split-shot along the boundary, sending Blue a yard or so into the court, but being careful above all to rush the Red into the 3rd corner. A short stop-shot will send the Red a little way into the court and obtain for him a rush on Yellow across the court in the direction of hoop 2. But if he is to have a really good chance of a break he ought to get a ball much nearer hoop 3 than the Red will now be. Let him therefore hit the Yellow not to hoop 2 but beyond it, as far as the boundary if he likes, then send it to hoop 3, stopping his own ball in front of hoop 2, which he next runs to the boundary. With care—and reasonable luck—he will find himself with a rush into the court on Blue. He should be able to get this ball somewhere midway between hoops 3 and 4. He then takes off to Red, sends it to hoop 4, getting a short rush on Yellow to hoop 3, and the break is established.

This is the most enterprising policy, but some players may naturally feel that it involves too much of a risk, since if the stop-shot sending Yellow to 3 does not succeed and Black fails to get position for 2, his opponent will be left much too short a shot, unless Black has been lucky enough to wire the two opponent balls by the 3rd hoop. With all this in mind the player may prefer to make sure (if he can) of the rush on Yellow to the 2nd hoop. His chances of a break now are not so good as in the former case, but he may still get one if he goes about the matter thus. Leaving Yellow well to the right of hoop 2, he runs the hoop to Blue, hits it and stop-shots it as far as he dares in the direction of hoop 4, being very careful however to secure a rush on Yellow either to hoop 3 or (better still) behind Red. If he does succeed in getting a rush right into Corner 3 he should be able to send Yellow beyond the hoop when getting his rush on Red. If all this comes off, a 4-ball break should result. Which of the two methods the player should adopt may well depend upon the particular shots in the making of which he has most confidence. There is much to be said for each alternative.

"Solution" of Question 2:

Black rushes Blue to somewhere near hoop 2—with a small split-shot sends Blue to penultimate and goes to Red—roquets Red—another small

split sends Red to 4-back while Black goes to Yellow—roquets Yellow and croquets it to the middle of the lawn, going to Red he takes a bisque and has an ordinary 4 ball break to finish—i.e., makes 4-back off Red and penultimates off Blue and rover off Red and returns via Yellow to Blue at the peg.

COMPETITION RESULT

Tactician is very glad to record the following marks awarded to 25 competitors. The maximum award for the first question was five marks and for the second question four marks. The second of the two questions will always be the easier and will carry one less mark.

Tactician would like to remind competitors that the shots suggested should always be the easiest possible under the circumstances and again that there is no merit in not taking a bisque if a player has an available one. Tactician lays great stress upon the importance of the use of the bisques at the right moment.

Tactician regrets that he cannot enter into correspondence with individual competitors.

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

HERE are two interesting hands from the past. The first was played in the Gold Cup Final of 1934. This was the deal:—

S—J, 9.			
H—A, J, 8, 3, 2.			
D—J, 10, 3, 2.			
C—A, 5.			
S—3, 2.	N	S—10, 7, 5.	
H—Q, 7.	W	E	H—K, 10, 9, 6, 5, 4.
D—A, K, 8, 5.		S	D—Q, 7, 6.
C—Q, 10, 7, 6, 2.			C—4.
		S—A, K, Q, 8, 6, 4.	
		H—	
		D—9, 4.	
		C—K, J, 9, 8, 3.	

In both rooms the final contract was Four Spades, South in each case showing his clubs as well as his spades. In Room I where we were defending my partner opened the DK and to the second trick led the HQ. The declarer discarded his losing diamond on the Ace of hearts and played Ace and another club. There was no way to prevent declarer from taking ten tricks whether I ruffed the second club or not.

In Room II, where our opposite numbers were NS, the opening lead was the same but the switch at trick two was to a trump. The declarer then pursued the same line with the club suit. East ruffed the second club and returned a trump and South lost two more tricks. It looks as if the defence caused the difference in result but in actual fact the declarer in Room II played badly. After the trump switch at trick two the *dead safe* way is to draw the trumps and be prepared to lose two club tricks if they break badly. Six spades, three clubs and one heart adds up to ten tricks but the declarer overlooked this. As a matter of fact, even by double dummy play the contract cannot be defeated. It is interesting to see what happens if at trick two West leads a *small* diamond for East to win with the Queen and East

April Competition Marks				
Competitors	Full Marks	Q1.	Q2.	Total
Flying Hackle	...	4	4*	8
Boxwood	...	4	3	7
Enterprise	...	4	3	7
B. I. Rite	...	4	3	7
Ignoramus	...	5*	2	7
Old Fagot	...	4	3	7
Bluerebky	...	2	4*	6
Eagerheart	...	3	3	6
Foot	...	2	4*	6
Candy	...	4	1	5
Reasoned	...	3	2	5
Glamstay	...	1	3	4
Gleaner	...	1	3	4
Virtuous	...	3	1	4
Lulu	...	2	1	3
Surtax	...	1	2	3
The Jay	...	1	2	3
Croquet Enthusiast	...	0	3	3
Boethos	...	0	2	2
Canary	...	1	1	2
Midland	...	0	2	2
Phil Jack	...	0	2	2
Sisyphus	...	1	1	2
Tortoise	...	1	1	2
Kim...	...	0	1	1

*Full Marks.

returns a trump. South now makes his contract on a squeeze and endplay. Try it for yourself.

The second hand is of pre-war vintage from America. It is a variation on a safety play but it is rather less obvious than usual.

S—A, J, 10, 5.			
H—A, K, 9, 8, 5.			
D—8.			
C—A, K, 10.			
S—K, 9, 6.	N	S—Q, 8, 3.	
H—6.	W	E	H—Q, 4, 2.
D—A, K, J, 9, 2.		S	D—Q, 10, 7, 5.
C—8, 6, 5, 2.			C—J, 9, 3.
		S—7, 4, 2.	
		H—J, 10, 7, 3.	
		D—6, 4, 3.	
		C—Q, 7, 4.	

West dealt and bid one diamond, North two diamonds and South played in Four Hearts. West opened the DK followed by the Ace in response to East's encouragement. Dummy ruffed and played the Ace of hearts. What card do you play now? The trouble is obvious—how can South enter his hand to take *two* spade finesses?

To trick four South led from dummy the small heart! This is a beautiful play. It is giving up a trick possibly unnecessarily (though not in this case) to ensure the contract. If the King of hearts is played to trick four good defence can prevent declarer from making his contract. He will be locked in the dummy and unable to avoid losing two spades. This is a very instructive hand. Go through the two lines of play and you will see what occurs. [Copyright]

ANSWERS TO 'LEX'

1. Yes, if the ball cannot be touched by a straight edge of the non-playing side.
2. No. Inadvertence.
3. Yes. Whenever it interferes with his stance or swing or for a jump shot.
4. Yes. The stroke may be played again (Law 43 (e)) but the point scored cannot be claimed if this course is chosen.

Notes from the Clubs

CROQUET members of the HURLINGHAM Club have said goodbye, with much regret, to Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Wiggins who have left London to live in Somerset. Mr. Wiggins was for some years the able chairman of the Club croquet committee. The Club is fortunate in having as its new croquet committee chairman Mr. I. W. Cheavin who is well known to all croquet players. The committee, too, has changed. We understand that a postal vote was recently held and that the following five members were elected to the new committee: Mrs. W. Longman, Captain H. G. Stoker, R.N., Mr. R. C. V. de Wesselow, Mr. D. E. Buckland and the Rev. B. V. F. Brackenbury.

The chairman is proposing that an informal general meeting of the croquet players should be held on Saturday, 21st May. After tea Mr. Cheavin will address the members and the latter will have an opportunity of discussing the various croquet activities of the Club.

The CLIFTON Club opened its season on 16th April. It did, however, prove possible to have one lawn in reasonably good condition by Easter Monday, in time for the Club to welcome two visitors from the Nottingham Club, namely Mr. G. N. Bright and Mr. J. Birch and to stage a doubles match. Clifton was represented by Dr. G. L. Ormerod and W. P. Ormerod who after a close contest were ultimately defeated by 10 points.

It has been decided that this season, in addition to the usual Club competitions a Men v Women match shall be held. It has also been decided to revive the monthly Gymkhana. As an experiment one lawn is being adapted for use as two half-size lawns as and when required.

The IPSWICH Club held its annual general meeting on March 16th, when a number of members met to make arrangements for the new season. Mrs. Josselyn, the president of the Club, very

kindly offered a prize for a Club handicap event. It was decided that all the other competitions of last season should be repeated.

We understand that several members of this Club intend to enter this season for tournaments for the first time. They will be very welcome wherever they decide to go.

The FOLKESTONE Club opened at the Pleasure Gardens grounds on April 10th. The croquet lawns, we are told, have immeasurably improved since last year and the Club looks forward to a successful season and an increase in membership.

On 23rd May, Mr. H. O. Hicks has promised to visit the Club. The members anticipate being given a demonstration as to how croquet really should be played. The secretary hopes that any who are interested in the game and are in the neighbourhood at this time will make a point of visiting the Club.

Later in the season the usual Club competitions will take place on lines similar to those of last season.

In our December issue we were so pressed for space that we were unable to include the following paragraph under the BEDFORD Club news. We are glad to add it now. Our Bedford Club correspondent wrote: "The Club was founded in 1904 and 1954 was therefore its jubilee year, which fact may perhaps be allowed as an excuse for looking back over the past. The gold medal tournament was held at Bedford in 1909, when many famous players took part including K. H. Izard and C. L. O'Callaghan. W. B. Jessop, a member of the Club, was Chairman of the Council from 1901-1906. Another fine player in his day was Tom Dickson, and, of course, few have equalled the record of Miss D. D. Steel in the years between the two world wars."

CORRESPONDENCE

To the Editor, *Croquet*.

Dear Sir,

I think your readers may be interested in the following letter sent to me, as secretary of the Budleigh Salterton Croquet Club. We do not lack enthusiastic support in South Devon.

Yours faithfully,

L. G. WALTERS

To the Hon. Croquet Sec., B.S.L.T. & Croquet Club.

Sir,

Last summer I belatedly discovered the most fascinating and difficult game on earth. After wasting 70 years of my life playing other games I decided to make up for lost time, so I practiced Croquet from Dawn to Dark each day.

I was looking forward to passing an enjoyable Winter of Healthful Exercise of Mind and Body on the

Club Lawns, when, at the end of November, I found to my horror, that the Lawns had been desecrated. The Hoops had been uprooted and stored away!

I, of course, protested, but was informed that "Croquet is not played during the winter" as the weather is unsuitable.

This, Sir, is a Paltry Excuse, and also Pure Nonsense. All last Summer the weather would have daunted a Polar Bear in a Diving Suit, but did it for a moment stop any croquet player from playing the game? Of course NOT.

I therefore, propose that in future the Club Lawns be kept open all the year round. Further, let Flood-lighting be installed, so that play may continue after dark!

I shall be obliged if you will put these proposals before your Committee.

I am, Sir,

Yours truly,

"SKIPPER"

Eleven

LEAMINGTON SPA

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

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

EVENTS

- 1.—OPEN SINGLES. Two Life System. The Midland Challenge Cup. Entrance Fee, 9s. 6d.
- 2.—HANDICAP SINGLES. 2½ bisques and over. Challenge Cup. Entrance Fee, 8s. Players may only enter for one of the above.
- 3.—HANDICAP SINGLES. Open to all. Challenge Cup. Entrance Fee, 8s.
- 4.—HANDICAP DOUBLES. Unrestricted. Challenge Silver Salvers. Entrance Fee, 7s. each player.

At least two prizes will be given for each Event.
All Challenge Trophies to be held by the winner for one year, or until the next official tournament.

CONDITIONS

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

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

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

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

RYDE

37th ANNUAL OPEN CROQUET TOURNAMENT
At the CLUB GROUND, Play Street Lane, Ryde,
I.O.W.

Monday, June 6th—11th, 1955

Committee.—The Croquet Committee of the Club.
Manager and Handicapper.—Major J. H. Dibley, M.C.
Referee.—To be appointed.
Hon. Secretary.—Miss L. Isaac, Flat 18, Osborne Court, Cowes, I.O.W. (Tel.: Cowes 870).

EVENTS

- 1.—ISLE OF WIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP. Open Singles. The Challenge Trophy (Present Holder, H. O. Hicks). Draw and Process. Variation B. Entrance Fee, 8s. 6d.
- 2.—LEVEL SINGLES (Class B). The Chapman Cup. Open to players of 3 bisques and over. Entrance Fee, 7s. Final best of 3 games. Present Holder, Miss E. Walker.
- 3.—HANDICAP SINGLES (Class C). The Benest Cup. Open to players of 6½ to 9 bisques. Entrance Fee, 7s. No present holder.
- 4.—HANDICAP SINGLES (Class D). The Hutton Cup. Open to players of 10 bisques or more. Entrance Fee, 7s. Present Holder, Mrs. O. E. Bostock. No player may enter for more than one of the above events.
- 5.—HANDICAP SINGLES (X.Y.). The Dibley Cup. Entrance Fee, 8s. Present Holder, V. A. de la Nougerede.
- 6.—HANDICAP DOUBLES. Unrestricted. Open to all. Entrance Fee, 8s. each player. A time limit of 3½ hours will apply to this event.

Should time permit there will be an extra event.
Prizes.—Two for each event if sufficient entries.
Entries.—For Events 1-5, together with fees and C.A. Tribute of 15s. where payable, must reach the Hon. Secretary by first post on Friday, June 3rd. Entries for Doubles (Event 6) close on the ground at 5 p.m. on Monday, 6th June.

Draw.—The draw for events 1 to 5 will take place at the Club Pavilion at 3 p.m. on Friday, June 3rd. For Doubles at 6 p.m. on Monday, June 6th.

Play.—Will commence at 10.30 a.m. on Monday, June 6th, and at 10 a.m. or earlier on following days. Players not present when called on to play will be liable to be scratched.

General.—Six lawns provided. Standard setting. Luncheon and Tea provided in the Pavilion. A motor bus from Pier sets down close to the ground. Flat-soled footwear must be worn.

Hotels.—Spencer's Inn and Yelf's Hotel both in Union Street. Guest House (specially recommended), Mrs. Taylor, 78 Pellhurst Road, Ryde, I.O.W. (300 yards from Club.)

NOTTINGHAM

CROQUET CLUB
Highfields University Boulevard
ANNUAL TOURNAMENT

Will be played during the week commencing Monday
JUNE 13th, 1955

(Under the Laws and Regulations of the Croquet Association.)

Manager, Handicapper and Referee.—Miss D. D. Steel.
Chairman of Committee.—Mrs. J. R. Elliott, M.B.E.

Hon. Tournament Secretary.—G. N. Bright, 15 St. Jude's Avenue, Mapperley, Nottingham (Tel. 61965).

An Assistant Referee will be appointed on the ground under Reg. 15 (a).

The Tournament will include the following

EVENTS

- 1.—"ROBIN HOOD" GOLD CUP HANDICAP CHALLENGE TROPHY. Entrance Fee, 9s. 6d. Presented by the All England Croquet Association for Associates only.
- 2.—OPEN SINGLES (Draw and Process). Variation B of Law 44. Single games. The final of this event will be the best of three games, time permitting. Regulation 13 (a and b) will be applied if considered advisable. Entrance Fee, 10s. 6d. CHALLENGE BOWL.
- 3.—HANDICAP SINGLES. 5 bisques and over. Single games, Law 44 suspended. Entrance Fee, 9s. CHALLENGE BOWL.
- 4.—HANDICAP SINGLES ("X.Y."). Entrance Fee, 9s. 6d. Winner of "X"—CHALLENGE TROPHY. Winner of "Y"—CHALLENGE TROPHY.
- 5.—HANDICAP DOUBLES. Single games. Entrance Fee, 7s. 6d. each player. Unrestricted. TWIN CHALLENGE TROPHIES.

(All Entry Fees include C.A. Levy Charges.)
First and Second Prizes will be given in each Event.

CONDITIONS.

Entries for Events 1, 2, 3 and 4, should reach the Hon. Tournament Secretary, not later than Friday, June 10th, accompanied by a cheque. Entry Forms for the Doubles Event may be deferred until Tuesday, June 14th. Play will begin at 10 a.m. daily or earlier.

Leave or absence may be arranged on application to the Manager. No leave will be permitted after 2 p.m. on the opening day.

Players must present themselves punctually and must not leave the ground without permission previously obtained from the Manager.

Lunches and Teas will be served each day in the Pavilion at moderate charge.

Seven Lawns will be available and choice of Lawn will be determined by draw. Standard setting of the lawns, 3½ in. hoops. A Bridge Pavilion will be provided.

The Winners hold the respective Challenge Trophies for one year or until the next competition.

Flat-soled boots or shoes must be worn.

Ample Car Park accommodation is available. Buses pass the gates leading to the Club every few minutes, the route numbers being 4, 4a, and 5a, these may be boarded in the City Centre.

List of Hotels (Licensed and Unlicensed) will be supplied on application to the Hon. Tournament Secretary.

WOKING

THE 34th ANNUAL CROQUET TOURNAMENT

will be held on

THE CLUB GROUND, PINE ROAD, HOOK HEATH,
WOKING

On Monday, June 13th to 18th, 1955

Committee.—Mrs. B. C. Apps, Major J. W. Cobb, Brig. J. S. Omond, A. McClure Williams, T. F. Dalton and Mrs. M. F. MacArthur.

Manager, Referee and Handicapper.—Mrs. E. E. Turner.

Assistant Referees will be appointed under Reg. 15 (a).

Hon. Secretary.—Major J. W. Cobb, Farm Hotel, Woking.

EVENTS

- 1.—OPEN SINGLES. "Two Lives." Final best of three games. Variation B. The Club Challenge Cup. Entrance Fee, 10s.
- 2.—HANDICAP SINGLES. Open to players over two bisques. Challenge Cup presented by Mrs. H. T. Farris. Entrance Fee, 8s.
- 3.—HANDICAP SINGLES. "Two Lives". Entrance Fee, 8s. Unrestricted. The Challenge Bowl presented by the late Mrs. J. M. Miles.
N.B.—No competitor may enter for more than two of the above events.
- 4.—HANDICAP DOUBLES. Unrestricted. Entrance Fee, 8s. each competitor. All Entrance Fees include C.A. levy.

CONDITIONS

First and Second Prizes will be given for each Event, and semi-final prizes if sufficient entries.

Challenge Cups to be held for one year or until the next tournament, whichever period is the shorter.

3½ in. Hoops and Jaques' Eclipse Balls will be used.
Six Courts will be provided on the ground.

Such flat-soled footwear as cannot damage the Court must be worn.

TEA can be obtained on the Ground.

The Club Ground is 1½ miles from Woking Station.

Taxis can be obtained. Bus Service.

Accommodation.—Hotels: Albion, Wheatsheaf, Farm, Cotteridge and Heathside.

ENTRIES

Entries for all Events except No. 4 must reach the Hon. Secretary by first post on Friday, June 10th. Entries for No. 4 close on Tuesday, June 14th, at the Club, at 2 p.m.

THE DRAW

The Draw for Events 1, 2 and 3 will take place in the Pavilion on the Club Ground at 11 a.m. on Friday, June 10th.

The Draw for No. 4 at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, June 14th.

PLAY

Play will begin at 10.30 a.m. unless otherwise notified.

Players required on Monday will be notified. Competitors in Events 1 and 2 must be prepared to play on Monday. Any competitor unable to play when called upon to do so will be liable to be scratched.

PARKSTONE (East Dorset)

CROQUET TOURNAMENT

Monday, June 20th to 25th, 1955

(Under the Laws and Regulations of the Croquet Association.)

Committee.—Croquet Committee of the Parkstone Club.

Manager and Handicapper.—L. H. Ashton.

Referee.—Lt.-Col. F. E. W. Baldwin.

Hon. Secretary.—Mrs. L. H. Ashton, Tennis and Croquet Club, Saltern's Road, Parkstone, Dorset.

EVENTS.

- 1.—OPEN SINGLES. "Two Lives." For players of 2 bisques and under. Entrance Fee, 10s. DORSET SALVER AND HALSE CUP.
- 2.—HANDICAP SINGLES. For players of 2½ to 7 bisques inclusive. Entrance Fee, 8s. Prize, EVANS TROPHY.
- 3.—HANDICAP SINGLES. For players of 7½ and over. Variation H. Entrance Fee, 8s. Prize, COPE CUP.
- 4.—HANDICAP SINGLES. ("X.Y."). Unrestricted. Entrance Fee, 8s. Prizes, BISHOP CUP and EVANS ROSE BOWL.
- 5.—HANDICAP DOUBLES. Unrestricted. Entrance Fee, 8s. each player.

CONDITIONS.

Entries for Events 1, 2, 3 and 4, must reach the Hon. Secretary on or before midday Thursday, June 16th. Entries for Event 5 close on midday on Tuesday, June 21st. The Draw will take place at the Club on Thursday, June 16th, at 3 p.m.

Five or six courts will be provided and Jaques' "Eclipse" balls will be used. Standard 3½ in. hoops.

Play will commence at 10 a.m. (or earlier if necessary). Such flat-soled footwear as cannot damage the courts must be worn.

Lunch and Tea at the Club at moderate prices.

The Hon. Secretary will be pleased to help in finding accommodation if notified in time. Kindly send full particulars as to type required.

BEDFORD

Open Croquet Tournament

will be held at the CLUB GROUND
3 Kimbolton Road
On Monday, June 27th, and five following days

Manager, Referee and Handicapper.—Miss D. D. Steel.
Committee.—The Croquet Committee of the Club.

EVENTS.

- 1.—OPEN SINGLES (TOM DICKSON CHALLENGE CUP). Entrance Fee, 7s. 6d. Variation "B".
- 2.—HANDICAP SINGLES (STEEL CUP). For players of 4 bisques and over. Entrance Fee, 7s. 6d. Divided in two sections if enough entries.
- 3.—HANDICAP SINGLES. ("X.Y.Z.") Winner of "X" to hold Challenge Salver presented by G. H. Mason through the courtesy of the C.A. Open to all. Entrance Fee, 10s.
- 4.—HANDICAP DOUBLES. Combined Handicap not less than one bisque. (BARRON CUPS.) Entrance Fee, 7s. each player.

Two prizes will be given in each event.
Entrance Fees include C.A. Levy.
Five Courts will be provided.
Bridge and Tea will be available at the Club.

Play to begin at 10 a.m. each day.
 Leave till 2 p.m. Monday may be granted if asked for to competitors coming from a distance.
 Accommodation.—Hotels: Swan, Embankment, Bridge, De Parys Hotel and Lion.
 Entries for Events 1, 2 and 3 must reach the Hon. Secretary, Miss D. D. Steel, Bedford Croquet Club, Kimbolton-road, Bedford, by first post on June 25th, 1955, Draw at 5 p.m. same day.

CONDITIONS.

Hoops 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ in. wide. Jaques' "Eclipse" Championship Balls will be used.
 The winners hold the respective Challenge Trophies for one year or until the next competition, whichever is the shorter period.
 The Committee reserve the right to refuse any entry without assigning a reason and to decide any question that may arise.
 Every Competitor shall wear such flat-soled boots or shoes as cannot damage the Court.

BUXTON

THE NORTH OF ENGLAND TOURNAMENT

The Pavilion Gardens, Buxton
 Monday, June 20th—25th, 1955

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

EVENTS.

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

CONDITIONS.

First and Second Prizes will be awarded for each Event in addition to Silver Trophies.
 The Management claim the right to cancel any Event advertised should there not be sufficient entries. Six Lawns will be provided and Jaques' Balls and equipment will be used.
 Morning Coffee and Afternoon Tea obtainable.
 Flat-soled footwear must be worn.

ACCOMMODATION.

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

PLAY.

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

ENTRIES.

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

THE DRAW.

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

BUDLEIGH SALTERTON

A CROQUET TOURNAMENT

will be held on

THE CLUB GROUNDS

On Monday, 11th to 16th July, 1955

Tournament Committee.—Mrs. E. Rotherham (Chairman), Major G. F. Stone, Miss A. Mills, Col. D. W. Beamish, Mrs. C. E. Gatehouse, and G. Black, Esq.

Manager and Handicapper.—Major J. H. Dibley, M.C.

Referee of the Tournament.—Mrs. Edmund Reeve.

Hon. Secretary.—L. G. Walters, Esq., "Braywick," Budleigh Salterton (Tel.: 333).

EVENTS

- 1.—OPEN SINGLES. Draw and Process. The Colman Challenge Cup. Entrance Fee, 11s. 6d. *Except in the case of a bye, Competitors in this event will not be granted leave after 2 p.m. on Monday, 11th July.*
- 2.—LEVEL SINGLES (Class B). Single games, Law 44 suspended. The Longman Cup. Open to players of 1 to 5 bisques. Entrance Fee, 9s.
- 3.—HANDICAP SINGLES (Class C). Single games. Open to players of 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ bisques and over. Entrance Fee, 9s.
 N.B.—No competitor may enter for more than one of the above events.
- 4.—HANDICAP SINGLES. Single games. The Oliver Bowl. Open to all. Entrance Fee, 9s.
- 5.—HANDICAP DOUBLES. Single games. The Le Messurier Cups. Unrestricted except that no two minus players may play together. Combined handicaps scratch or over. Entrance Fee, 7s. each player.

Notes.—The above Entrance Fees include the C.A. Levy.

PRIZES

First and Second Prizes will be given in each Event, and two equal Third Prizes where Entries are sufficient.
 All Challenge Cups to be held for one year or until the next competition whichever is the shorter period.

ENTRIES

Entries, on Association Forms PLEASE, must reach the Secretary by the following dates: For Events 1, 2, 3 and 4, by the first post on Thursday, 7th July; and for Event 5 by 3 p.m. on Tuesday, 12th July, but the Committee reserve the right to close the lists earlier should they find it necessary to do so.

THE DRAW

The Draw for Events 1, 2, 3 and 4, will take place in the Cranford Club Pavilion, Exmouth, on Thursday, 7th July, at 11 a.m., and for Event 5 on Tuesday afternoon, in the Club Pavilion.

Luncheons and Teas at moderate prices. Bridge Rooms are available.

Standard Setting, 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ in. Hoops.

Play will commence each day at 10 a.m. or earlier if necessary.

Such flat-soled boots or shoes as cannot damage the court must be worn.

At least eight lawns will be provided.

DIRECTORY OF CLUBS

- Bedford**—Hon. Secretary, Miss D. D. Steel, King's Close, Biddenham, Bedford.
- Birkdale (Southport)**—Hon. Secretary, Rev. F. I. Denbow, East View, Liverpool Road, Rufford, Ormskirk.
- Birmingham (Edgbaston)**—Hon. Secretary, Dr. B. R. Sandiford, 150 Great Charles Street, Birmingham.
- Blackheath (Blackheath Park)**—Hon. Secretaries, Mrs. G. Christopherson, Bondicar, Blackheath Park, S.E.3, and Miss M. Willis, 3 Priory Lodge, Priory Park, Lee Road, Blackheath, S.E.3.
- Bowdon**—Hon. Secretary, Mrs. M. Curnick, Corwar, Hazelwood Road, Hale, Cheshire.
- Budleigh Salterton**—Hon. Secretary, L. G. Walters, Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club, Budleigh Salterton.
- Buxton Croquet Club**—Hon. Secretary, Mrs. D. Chorlton, 6 The Square, Buxton.
- Carrickmines Croquet and Lawn Tennis Club**—Hon. Sec., Capt. J. H. Wilson, Littlegate, Carrickmines, Dublin.
- Cassiobury (Watford)**—Hon. Secretary, Miss B. Hurst, 97 Mildred Avenue, Watford.
- Chelmsford and Mid-Essex Croquet Club**—Hon. Secretary, Miss G. Metcalfe, Yoredale, Finchley Avenue, Chelmsford.
- Cheltenham**—Hon. Secretary, Major R. D. Marshall, Cheltenham Croquet Club, Old Bath Road, Cheltenham.
- Clifton and County Croquet Club**—Hon. Secretary, Miss L. Newman, 17 Downs Park East, Bristol 6.
- Colchester**—Hon. Secretary, E. P. Duffield, Acland Lodge, Acland Avenue, Colchester.
- Compton (Eastbourne)**—Hon. Secretary, C. J. Speer, 2 Dunvegan, Dittons Road, Eastbourne.
- Crouch Hill Recreation Club** (85a Crouch Hill, N. 4)—Hon. Secretary, Mrs. E. G. Simmonds, 7 Crouch Hall Road, Crouch End, N.8.
- Dulwich Croquet Club**—Hon. Secretary, Mrs. N. L. Baker, 23 Rollscourt Avenue, London, S.E.24.
- East Dorset Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club (Parkstone)**—Hon. Secretary, V. A. de la Nougerede, East Dorset L.T. & Croquet Club, Salterns Road, Parkstone, Dorset.
- Edinburgh Croquet Club (Lauriston Castle)**—Hon. Secretary, J. R. Spence, 11 Stanley Road, Edinburgh 6.
- Exmouth Croquet and Lawn Tennis Club**—Hon. Secretary, Lt.-Col. C. S. Lazenby, The Club House, Cranford, Exmouth.
- Ferranti Staff Recreation Club**—Crewe Toll, Edinburgh—Hon. Secretary, A. W. Dawson.
- Folkestone L.T. and Croquet Club**—Hon. Secretary, Mrs. W. A. Traill, 10a Wiltie Gardens, Folkestone.
- Heathfield** (Lyford Road, London, S.W.18)—Hon. Secretary, W. Goodrich, 25 Crockerton Road, S.W.17.
- Hunstanton**—Hon. Secretary, Mrs. B. C. Perowne, 65 Victoria Avenue, Hunstanton.
- Hurlingham**—The Secretary, Fulham, S.W.6.
- Ipswich (Arboretum)**—Hon. Secretary, Miss Allen, 101 Constable Road, Ipswich.
- Littlehampton Croquet Club**—Hon. Secretary, H. T. Heming-Johnson, Rosemary, Fitzalan Road, Littlehampton.
- National Institute for Research in Dairying**—Hon. Secretary, Dr. K. G. Mitchell, Shinfield, Nr. Reading.
- Northern Lawn Tennis Club (Croquet Section) Didsbury, nr. Manchester**—Hon. Secretary, W. Brownsword, 488 Wilmslow Road, Fallowfield, Manchester.
- Norwich**—Hon. Secretary, Mrs. Edmund Reeve, Sutton Lodge, Ipswich Road, Norwich.
- Nottingham Croquet Club**—Hon. Secretary, A. O. Taylor, Woodville House, Sherwood, Nottingham.
- Oxford University Croquet and Lawn Tennis Club**—Hon. Secretary, H. S. Clemons, 7 Marston Ferry Road, Oxford.
- Reigate Priory Croquet Club**—Hon. Secretary, L. W. Buckley, St. Monica, Alma Road, Reigate.
- Roehampton**—The Secretary, Roehampton Club, Roehampton Lane, S.W.15.
- Rydal Croquet Club**—Hon. Secretary, Hugh R. Hulbert, Rydal Mount, Ambleside.
- Ryde Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club**—Hon. Secretary, P. T. Allen, 53 Swanmore Road, Ryde, I.O.W.
- Shepton Mallet**—Hon. Secretary, Mrs. G. F. Blandford, Field View, Shepton Mallet.
- Sidmouth Croquet Club**—Hon. Secretary, c/o. Cricket Pavilion, Sidmouth.
- Southsea**—Hon. Secretary, Miss E. M. Watson, 51 Salisbury Road, Southsea.
- St. Ives L.T. Club and Croquet Club**—Hon. Secretary, H. L. Branson, Ocean Breezes, St. Ives, Cornwall.
- Sussex County (Brighton) Croquet Club**—Hon. Secretary, F. E. Corke, 60 Southwick Street, Southwick, Sussex.
- Upton**—Hon. Secretary, E. Brighthouse, 27 Heath Road, Upton, Wirral.
- Warwickshire Croquet Club (Leamington)**—Hon. Secretary, The Warwickshire Croquet Club, Guy's Cliffe Avenue, Leamington Spa.
- Woking Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club**—Hon. Secretary, Major J. H. Cobb, Farm Hotel, Woking.